

THE BULLETIN OF

# TEMPLE BETH EL

FALL RIVER, MASSACHUSETTS



94th Year

May 2022

Nisan/Iyar/Sivan 5782

No. 9

Regular Service Schedule, both In-Person and via Zoom

Morning Minyan (Monday & Thursday).....	8:00 am
Friday Evening Services .....	5:30 pm
Shabbat Morning Services.....	10:00 am

## SUNDAY AFTERNOON AT THE JEWISH MOVIES

**"HANNAH ARENDT"**

**SUNDAY, MAY 22ND AT 2 PM**

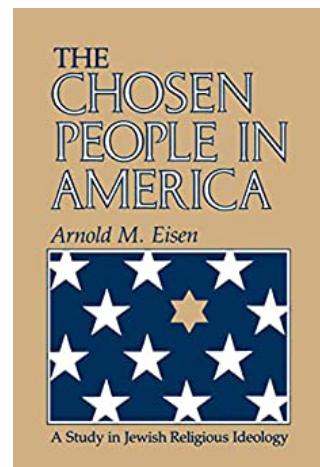
## Shavuot: June 4th through June 6th

Rabbi Mark and Cantor Shoshana will once again be offering a *Leil Tikkun Shavuot* (late night Jewish text-study) on the first night of Shavuot, Saturday, June 4th from 8 – 9:30 pm on Zoom.

What does it mean to be a Jew in America? One idea that American Jews have struggled with, which is traditionally near the core of Jewish religious language, is that of “chosenness.”

During our Shavuot Tikkun we will read and discuss selected texts from Arnold M. Eisen’s book “The Chosen People in America,” which surveys attempts of American Jewish thinkers to adapt the notion of chosenness to an American context. Through an examination of sermons, essays, debates, prayer-book revisions, and theological literature, Eisen traces the ways in which American rabbis and theologians—Reconstructionist, Conservative, and Orthodox thinkers—effected a compromise between exclusivity and participation that allowed Jews to adapt to American life while simultaneously enhancing Jewish tradition and identity.

Please join us for what should surely be a lively conversation!



## THE LAST KLEZMER: LEOPOLD KOZLOWSKI, HIS LIFE AND MUSIC: FILM SCREENING AND MUSICAL PRESENTATION

Yale Strom, Documentarian and Musician

June 12th  
2 pm at BCC  
See Page 7

PRESENTED IN COLLABORATION WITH TEMPLE BETH EL IN FALL RIVER.

## A message from our Spiritual Leader, Rabbi Mark Elber

I'm writing this on the day after Pesach 5782 has ended. It is the month of Aviv (spring) as it says in the Torah, the month also known as *Nisan* in the Jewish calendar. The moon is now waning, but the days are getting longer. On some days it even feels like spring; and that beautiful light green color of the newly budding trees, along with some white and pink blossoms, are making their annual appearance. At the same time, in sharp contrast to the feeling of rebirth embedded in spring, the war rages on in Ukraine and it is easy to feel helpless and even hopeless. We don't know how this critical situation will resolve and how decimated the population of Ukraine will be at the end of it. We see the devastation and destruction daily on the news. There's even talk of the unthinkable – the introduction of nuclear weapons into the conflict. Suddenly the potential mutual destruction that such weaponry could create may no longer serve as the deterrence it once was. We have been living in unpredictable and unprecedented times for some five years now with no end in sight. We are witnessing a modern equivalent of the Pharaoh of the Pesach story.

Yet we cannot afford to despair. We also cannot afford to look away from the challenges that confront us. Last month we resumed Temple Beth El's Sunday afternoon at the movies. Today we saw the film "Golda," an excellent biopic of the life of Golda Meir portrayed by Ingrid Bergman in her last cinematic role. The life of Golda speaks directly to the issue of confronting hardships in the face of great challenges. Golda was born in Kyiv in 1898, moved to Milwaukee, Wisconsin at the age of eight and made *aliya* in 1921. Golda was the Prime Minister of Israel from 1969 to 1974 which happened to coincide with most of the years I lived in Jerusalem. Coincidentally my neighbor my last two years in Jerusalem (1973 – 1975) made *aliya* with Golda in Milwaukee. This friend of Golda's from Milwaukee later became the personal secretary of Israel's first president, Chaim Weizmann. The story and experience of these early pioneers (*khalutzim* in Hebrew) repeatedly shows them not succumbing to despair but continuing to hold on to the hope of living in peace and freedom in a Jewish homeland. The title of Israel's national anthem, *Hatikvah*, means "the hope" referring to the 2,000-year-old hope to return to our ancient homeland and live there in self-rule and freedom. As Ben Gurion famously said: "to be a realist in Israel, you have to believe in miracles."

From the beginning of its existence as an independent state, almost every one of the wars Israel has

faced has caused the nation to feel as though its very existence was imperiled, particularly in the war of Independence, the Six-Day War and the Yom Kippur War. What other nation has the legitimacy of its very existence questioned? And yet on May 5th (or, more accurately, on 4 *iyar*) we will celebrate *Yom Ha'Atzma'ut*, Israel Independence Day. Israel will be 74 years old. One of the motifs that recurred throughout the film was that of Golda addressing some international body and always reaching out to her Arab neighbors and pleading for peace. She would mention how the region could truly thrive under conditions of peace, and could focus its resources on creating better and more prosperous lives for all the region's inhabitants, rather than putting so much of its resources into war and defense. I often wonder whether Arabs or Palestinians ever feel regret about not having accepted the U.N. partition plan of the land of Israel in November 1947. If they had accepted it, they would be celebrating their 74th year of independence, too. As Golda said (in the film and in real life): "Peace will come when they love their children more than they hate us."

*Yom Ha'Atzma'ut* is immediately preceded by *Yom HaZikaron*, Israel's Memorial Day. On this day the nation remembers the sacrifices of its citizens, which has always been the awful price of attaining and maintaining its independence. This juxtaposition of remembering our losses even as we celebrate our joy seems very consistent with our tradition. It reminds me of the breaking of the glass under the *chuppah*. As we say: even at our moment of greatest joy, we remember the destruction of Jerusalem and the brokenness of the world. There rarely seems to be achievement without toil, sacrifice, and even loss. Most of our holidays have embedded within them the theme of hope. Passover certainly does, with our liberation coming after centuries of slavery. I find it striking that Joseph, who dies in Egypt hundreds of years before the exodus, asks his people to promise to carry his bones back to the land of Israel for he is certain that G!d will remember them and bring them back eventually. That one verse in the Torah carries so much significance. Joseph cannot know when that day will come, but he believes that it will. He maintains the hope for a future redemption. Just as Joseph could not know what that future would look like, we cannot know how the very events we're living in the midst of will work out. However, our hope and vigilance in the face of challenges are essential for a better future outcome.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Now that life has gotten back to more or less normal, and I say that as today Dr. Fauci announced that the US is out of the Covid-19 pandemic phase, I am hopeful that we will see more people for our in-person services and other events. I would also like to see more people join the temple, as over the past two years we have sadly lost many more than we have gained. We can never replace the people, but we can fill their spots on our membership rolls. As I have asked many times since I became president, if you know of anyone who may be interested in joining, or coming back to the Temple, please let us know.

As most of you know by now, we lost Sumner Alpert in March. He was 95 years old and lived life to the fullest, despite having regular dialysis treatments for almost 25 years. Not only did dialysis not stop him, but it was not uncommon for him to go play golf after he finished! He was a member of the board for many years, and a solicitor for the Fall River United Jewish Appeal for decades. Our sincere condolences to his family, and his dear companion Joyce. May his memory be for a blessing.

Sumner made a very generous donation shortly before he passed away that has covered the cost to hire a police detail during Friday night services. We will continue this throughout the summer. We will reevaluate when the time comes, but we really do appreciate the extra measure of security. We are also installing some new alarms inside the building, but like many things these days, the actual equipment is on backorder. Security is always a topic at our board meetings, and we will continue to improve our security and systems as we move forward.

We have an interesting program coming up in early June as I'm sure you saw on the cover. We are collaborating with Bristol Community College's Holocaust and Genocide Center to present a film screening and performance by Yale Strom about Leopold Kozlowski, "The Last Klezmer." As we have all enjoyed the klezmer band that has performed at our Chanukah parties, we expect this to be an interesting program. See page 7 for all of the details.

*Steve Silverman  
President*

## LEADERSHIP

Mark Elber.....	Rabbi
Shoshana Brown.....	Cantor
Stephen Silverman.....	President
Libby Cohen.....	Secretary
William Chebot.....	Treasurer
Libby Cohen.....	Sisterhood Pres.
William E. Kaufman.....	Rabbi Emeritus

## *Sisterhood President's Message*

We are now starting the merry, merry month of May. The daffodils and tulips are starting to bloom. The earth is renewing itself. It's called the cycle of life.

I hope everyone had a nice Passover, and that you are all enjoying good health. At least now, things are going back to some sort of normalcy. This means we can get together with friends and family members. Oh happy days!

This month we celebrate Memorial Day! At that time, we give thanks to all those who gave their lives for our freedom. Many of our congregants and members of the Jewish community are veterans. Thank you for your service.

So, until next month, stay safe, happy and healthy.

*Libby Cohen  
Sisterhood President*

## Temple Family

- Our sincere condolences to the family of our long-time board member, Sumner Alpert.

## College Scholarships

Scholarships are available to all students residing in the greater Fall River area.



Applications are available in the Temple office and should be completed by the student and returned as soon as possible.

The Scholarship Committee must have scholarship applications in hand by June 15, 2022

## SOUTH COAST MEMORIALS

Cemetery Monuments and Lettering

### Jeffrey Weissman

Partner

59 Greenlawn Street  
Fall River  
Massachusetts 02720

(508) 676-0335  
(508) 730-7104 cell  
(508) 679-9704 fax  
jeffnjan11@comcast.net



**SERVICE SCHEDULE  
May 2022:  
Nisan/Iyar/Sivan 5782**

Sunday, May 1 (30 Nisan)  
Rosh Chodesh Iyar

Monday, May 2 (1 Iyar)  
Rosh Chodesh Iyar

Wednesday, May 4 (3 Iyar)  
Yom HaZikaron  
Israel Memorial Day

Thursday, May 5 (4 Iyar)  
Yom Ha'Atzma'ut  
Israel Independence Day

Friday, May 6 (5 Iyar)  
Shabbat Service  
Candle Lighting

Saturday, May 7 (6 Iyar)  
Weekly Portion: Kedoshim

Friday, May 13 (12 Iyar)  
Shabbat Service  
Candle Lighting

Saturday, May 14 (13 Iyar)  
Weekly Portion: Emor

Thursday May 19 (18 Iyar)  
Lag Ba'Omer

Friday, May 20 (19 Iyar)  
Shabbat Service  
Candle Lighting

Saturday, May 21 (20 Iyar)  
Weekly Portion: Behar

Friday, May 27 (26 Iyar)  
Shabbat Service  
Candle Lighting

Saturday, May 28 (27 Iyar)  
Weekly Portion: Bekhukotai

Sunday, May 29 (28 Iyar)  
Yom Yerushalayim  
Jerusalem Reunification Day

Tuesday, May 31 (1 Sivan)  
Rosh Chodesh Sivan

**TEMPLE OFFICE**

385 High St, Fall River, MA 02720  
Tel: (508) 674-3529 Fax: (508) 678-6735  
NEW E-Mail: [templebethel@gmail.com](mailto:templebethel@gmail.com)  
Website: [frtemplebethel.org](http://frtemplebethel.org)

**OFFICE HOURS:**  
Monday, Wednesday & Friday, 9 am to Noon

**OFFICE CLOSED:**  
Monday, May 30th - Memorial Day

**Fall River United Jewish Appeal, Inc.**

385 High Street, Fall River, MA 02720  
Tel: (508) 673-7791 Fax: (508) 678-6735  
e-mail: [fruja@comcast.net](mailto:fruja@comcast.net)

**Office Hours:** Monday & Thursday, 9 am to Noon

**Friendly Visitor:** Arleen Bor is ready, willing and able to visit the sick or shut-ins. Call the UJA office at (508) 673-7791 to schedule a visit.

**Senior Center:** (at the Fall River Jewish Home)  
Open 5 days a week for lunch...Kosher and delicious. For reservations/cancellations call the Nutrition Office at (508) 324-4619 or (800) 293-8943 before 1:30 pm on the previous business day before you want to reserve or cancel.



A red tail hawk at Sachuest Point National Wildlife Refuge, Middletown, RI. Taken by Marie's sister, Jean Myerson.

Lookout below!

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Clifton Assisted Living Community

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## TBE News & Notes

**Spring is here!** Anyone up for an **easy hike?** Though Mark and I have been living in Fall River for almost 9 years, we have still never visited **Mt. Hope Farm in Bristol, RI.** The farm is lovely enough to be a popular site for weddings, and historic enough to have a free historical app-guided tour along its 2.5 miles of flat, paved trails. We can enjoy the farm-and-bay landscape while learning about the history of the Pokanoket people, the Indigenous people of this land, and of their up-and-down relations with the English colonizers of the 1600's.

To join us on this hike, please meet at the Mt. Hope Farm parking lot on **Wednesday, May 18th at 10 AM.** As always, it is a good idea to wear sturdy shoes, a hat, sunblock, and wear or carry bug repellent, along with a small bottle of water. (If the weather is iffy, call me at home by 9:30 – don't want to print the # here, but you all have it – and I will let you know if we are still on.) *Mount Hope Farm is located at: 250 Metacom Avenue (Route 136) Bristol, RI 02809.*

Join us for a fascinating **film** about **Hannah Arendt** on **Sunday, May 22nd at 2 PM.** (see next column).

The holiday of **Shavuot** will be upon us at the beginning of June (beginning Sat. night, **June 4th** – through Monday night, **June 6th**). As we have for the last two years, Rabbi Mark and I will be offering a **Leil Tikkun Shavuot** (late night Jewish text-study) on the 1st night of the holiday, **Saturday night, June 4th from 8 – 9:30 on Zoom.** (Please see the cover for more information.)

**Save the Date!** "The Last Klezmer: Leopold Kozlowski, His Life and Music" film screening and musical presentation. **Sunday, June 12, 2-4 PM: at BCC.** Temple Beth El is co-sponsoring an event at the Bristol Community College Holocaust and Genocide Center. This is an in-person event – and it is free to the public. We really hope to get a good showing from our Fall River Jewish community.

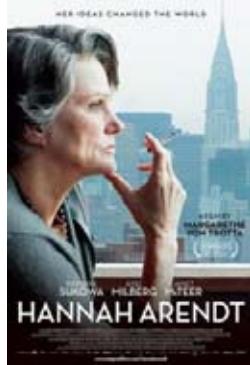


Yale Strom, the klezmer musician, historian and documentary film-maker, will introduce his 1994 documentary, and afterwards will offer a Q & A session about the film, as well as playing a short concert of live klezmer music for us. This will be our first in-person social event since the start of the pandemic – not to be missed! See page 7.

## "HANNAH ARENDT" Sunday, May 22nd at 2 pm

### SUNDAY AFTERNOON AT THE JEWISH MOVIES!

In 1961, the noted German-American philosopher of Jewish origin, Hannah Arendt, gets to report on the trial of the notorious Nazi war criminal, Adolf Eichmann. While observing the legal proceedings, Arendt concludes that Eichmann was not a monster, but an ordinary man who had



thoughtlessly buried his conscience through his obedience to the Nazi regime and its ideology. Arendt's expansion of this idea, presented in her articles for 'The New Yorker', would create her concept of 'the banality of evil' that she thought even sucked in some Jewish leaders of the era into unwittingly participating in the Holocaust. The result is a bitter public controversy in which Arendt is accused of blaming the Holocaust's victims. Now that strong willed intellectual is forced to defend her ideas in a struggle that will exact a heavy personal cost.

The German Film Academy selected "Hannah Arendt" for the Silver Lola Award for Best Film and Barbara Sukowa as Best Actress, and it was also chosen by the New York Times as a "Critic's Pick" in 2013. (1 hour, 53 minutes)

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*Thank you for your donations received through April 24th*

### YAHRZEITS

For the yahrzeit of my beloved...

Father, Rabbi Moshe Babin

Mother, Revelyn Baron

Mother, Annie Cohen

Mother, Edna Dashoff

Mother, Regina Elber

Son, Jonathan Entin

Mother, Miriam Horvitz

Father, Maury Kusinitz

Father, Maury Kusinitz

Father, Arthur Littman

Father, Foster Lowenthal

Parents, Rita & Armin Minkin

Parents, Miriam & Charles Reiser

Father, David Sacknoff

Father, Philip Sacknoff

Father, Jeffrey Schenker

Mother, Barbara Shore

Father, Richard Shuman

Husband & Father, Edwin Solup

Father, Seymour Sugarman

Wife, Janet Weissman

Father, Irving Zukroff

Mother, Irene Zwetchkenbaum

Donated by:

Miriam Babin

Edward Baron

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Harriet Lowenthal,

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Libby Cohen

Norm Reiser

Estelle Kluft

Gail Leftin

Jason Schenker

Nancy Shore

David Shuman

Beverly Solup & family

Nancy Wolk

Jeffrey Weissman

Zukroff & Koppel Families

Kevin Zwetchkenbaum

### MAURICE ALPERT MEMORIAL ENDOWMENT FUND

In memory of my beloved father, Sumner Alpert

Mimi Alpert Woodman

In memory of Sumner Alpert

Tilden & Candyce Bogus

Anita & Norm Bolski

Harriet Burak

Edith & Marvin Catler

Barbara Ennis

Elaine Feld & David Rubin

Milton Harr

Karen Lamkin

Sayre Litchman

Cynthia & Bill Marcus

Bill & Pam Richter, Emma, Alex, Theo & Rafi Gaudio

Marian "Merry" Richter (Security Fund)

Nancy Winokoor

### CAPITAL FUND

In honor of Anne Griffin celebrating a special birthday

Anita & Norm Bolski

In memory of Marcia Koven and Marilyn Wolfson

Iris Katzman

For the recovery of Estelle Handell

Iris Katzman

For the recovery of my sister, Lori Murphy

Beth-Ann Bark

## IN MEMORIAM

### SUMNER ALPERT

APRIL 10, 2022 – 9 NISAN 5782

MAY HIS MEMORY BE FOR A BLESSING



Wild lupines blooming in June in the Norman Bird Sanctuary, Middletown, RI - perhaps the site of our June hike?

### SNOWBIRDS

Please let us know when you return so we can update our files. At the rate we are going it might be warm here by July. Welcome back!



### Meaningful Services from a Trusted Friend Since 1893

Respectfully honoring the customs and traditions of the Jewish community, funerals are in strict accordance with Jewish Law.

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## SPRING 2022 EVENTS

### **THE LAST KLEZMER: LEOPOLD KOZLOWSKI, HIS LIFE AND MUSIC: FILM SCREENING AND MUSICAL PRESENTATION**

Yale Strom, Documentarian and Musician

PRESENTED IN COLLABORATION WITH TEMPLE BETH EL IN FALL RIVER.

Yale Strom, documentarian and musician, will screen his documentary "The Last Klezmer: Leopold Kozlowski, His Life and Music" followed by a Klezmer musical performance and discussion. This event is presented in collaboration with Temple Beth El in Fall River.

Sunday  
June 12  
2 P.M.  
Jackson Arts Center  
Main Auditorium



*Tell us you're coming!*

→ [tinyurl.com/bristolhgcjune12](https://tinyurl.com/bristolhgcjune12)



All students, employees and community members who are attending indoor events at Bristol must be fully vaccinated for COVID-19, as defined by the college's policy, or have a valid accommodation for COVID-19.

For more information, please visit [BristolCC.edu/visitors](http://BristolCC.edu/visitors).



FOR ACCESS, CONTACT:  
**Office of Disability Services**  
774.357.2955  
[ODSaccess@BristolCC.edu](mailto:ODSaccess@BristolCC.edu)

**BRISTOL**  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Our website is constantly changing, so be sure to check it out regularly. There are links to articles written by Rabbi Mark and Cantor Shoshana, updated service schedules and upcoming events. You can also see the bulletin there first, especially if you live outside the greater Fall River area! Go to [www.frjtemplebethel.org](http://www.frjtemplebethel.org)

## YAHRZEITS

**5/2/2022 1 Iyar 5782**

Norman Chebot  
Irving Smith  
Edwin Solup

**5/4/2022 3 Iyar 5782**

Annie Cohen  
Sylvia Cohen  
Ruth Filler

**5/5/2022 4 Iyar 5782**

Gilbert Nerenberg  
Irving Zukroff

**5/7/2022 6 Iyar 5782**

Estelle Hyman  
David Lash  
Melvin Lash  
Lillian H. Levin  
Seymour H. Sugarman

**5/8/2022 7 Iyar 5782**

Carlton Dubitsky  
Jason Sigal

**5/9/2022 8 Iyar 5782**

Irving Kline

**5/12/2022 11 Iyar 5782**

Annette Horowitz  
Armin Minkin

**5/13/2022 12 Iyar 5782**

Frank Feldman  
Harold Weiss

**5/14/2022 13 Iyar 5782**

Lew Jill  
Marjory Packer

**5/15/2022 14 Iyar 5782**

Emma Loeff Dondis  
Charles Reback

**5/16/2022 15 Iyar 5782**

Bessie Cohen  
Paul Greenberg  
Anna Kuperschmid

**5/18/2022 17 Iyar 5782**

Eleanor Lechan  
Dr. David Prial

**5/19/2022 18 Iyar 5782**

Leonard Osiason  
Steven B. Singer

**5/20/2022 19 Iyar 5782**

Shirley Stampler

**5/21/2022 20 Iyar 5782**

Lilly Grozen  
Phyllis Mechaber  
Isaac Soorkis

**5/23/2022 22 Iyar 5782**

Elaine Burt  
Melba Meister  
Hyman Pollock

**5/24/2022 23 Iyar 5782**

Patricia Brown  
Samuel Entin

**5/25/2022 24 Iyar 5782**

Joseph Bloski  
Paul Woltman

**5/26/2022 25 Iyar 5782**

Bennett Alpert  
Neil Roiter

**5/27/2022 26 Iyar 5782**

Allan Evans  
Samuel Gerstenzang

**5/28/2022 27 Iyar 5782**

Neil A. Hoffman

### EMAIL UPDATES

*Are you on our email list? If not, you are missing out on the latest news, updates, programs, links and Zoom services. Send us an email and we will add you to the list. If it's not for you, feel free to unsubscribe at any time! We will never sell your email address!*

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**Victoria Benevides**  
*Director, Admissions & Marketing*

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