

# TEMPLE BETH EL

FALL RIVER, MASSACHUSETTS



97th Year

November 2024

Tishrei/Cheshvan 5785

No. 3

## Regular Service Schedule - In Person and Via Zoom

Morning Minyan (Monday & Thursday).....8:00 am

Friday Evening Services .....5:30 pm

Shabbat Morning Services.....10:00 am



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

*Pirkei Avot* (Ethics of our Ancestors), Chapter five, Mishnah 21, outlines milestones for learning: At the age of five, one should begin the study of the Bible. At the age of ten, the study of Mishnah. Those milestones prescribed around the year 200 CE required a high level of literacy. From medieval times on, the Jewish people were known as *am hasefer* or *anshei hasefer* (the People of the Book), both by us and by others. In *Pirkei Avot* 1:15 it's written: Shammai (as in Hillel and Shammai) said: make your (study of) Torah a fixed part of your day. In other words, read Torah every day. This centrality of learning, study, and literacy was addressed to the people as a whole (although, realistically in those days, primarily to males), not only to the intellectual elite.

Fast forward to November 2024. I recently read a short article in *The Atlantic* about the reading habits of current college and high school students, including those attending what we think of as "elite" institutions. The general thrust of the essay is that both the expectations and the reading habits of today's students have diminished significantly over the decades. Both high schools and now also colleges are assigning fewer books, less complete books, and shorter books in response, according to the article, to students' diminished attention spans. What will this mean in terms of their becoming responsible, informed and critical-thinking citizens?

I would expect, though I haven't researched it, that the introduction of the medium of television made people somewhat less likely to spend their leisure time reading than they did before the advent of television. The way we absorb information is different depending on how we are exposed to it. The experience of chanting the Torah out loud from a scroll is not the same as reading it in a conventional book form. The chanting from the scroll has an ancient, tribal, and obviously oral quality to it. Over 2,500 years ago, King Cyrus of Persia conquered Babylonia, where many of our ancestors had been taken into exile from the land of Israel. King Cyrus allowed our ancestors to return to the land of Israel from Babylonia and to rebuild the ancient Temple in Jerusalem. Upon the return from exile, Ezra instituted the public reading of the Torah on market days, which were Mondays and Thursdays. That's why if synagogues have weekday morning services, though not every weekday morning, they tend to hold them on Mondays and Thursdays – the traditional days of reading Torah in the marketplace. Hearing the chanting of the Torah is comparable to hearing the Iliad or Odyssey recited aloud. Those, too, were ancient texts meant to be chanted. Except no one knows how to anymore. We, on the other hand, have kept that tradition alive. Interestingly, there are numerous different traditions and musical modalities in which Jews chant the Torah and other Biblical texts depending upon where in the world we lived in previous centuries. However, the tradition of chanting from the scroll is universal in the Jewish world.

I remember watching a television show in the early 1960s where someone offered a quote regarding how much worse the current generation was compared to earlier generations. It sounded completely contemporary, but in fact was a quotation from Socrates. In the age before the printing press, my guess is that people had more prodigious memories. Books were much less readily available and accessible. In fact, in our own tradition, what we call the "Oral Torah" i.e. the Mishna and the Gemara (which together comprise the Talmud) were oral traditions for generations. The root of the word "Mishna" itself means to repeat through oral repetition. When I say that the Mishna was from the year 200 CE, that's referring to when it became a "sealed" text, no longer added to, and available in written form. The tradition tells us that it was passed on and studied orally for generations and the rabbis quoted in it are often from prior centuries.

In recent history it was much more common for people to memorize poems in school and to know quite a number by heart. Having those words, rhythms, and images inside us gave people a certain relationship with those poems that most of us probably lack today. Furthermore, the greater our vocabulary, the more nuanced our thinking will most likely be, the more in-depth we can analyze things. Already in the ancient world there was a tradition of scrutinizing ideas logically. If one reads Plato, for example, his dialogues are just that: discussions of philosophical issues analyzed through the form of discussion and disagreement. "Argument" in that context meant presenting differing opinions, not being angry with each other because we disagree over something. That is also the primary structure of the vast majority of the Talmud i.e. rabbis bringing arguments to each other, examining with great precision the components of each other's positions in order to arrive together at a convincing conclusion. I'm afraid that skill and that orientation is becoming a lost trait in our culture.

We see on college campuses people being shouted down or disinvited if students disagree with their opinions or positions, rather than hearing them out and discussing them. It seems that fewer and fewer college administrations have been willing to combat these proclivities on campus. Decades ago, the great literary critic, Harold Bloom, a professor at Yale, decried the tendency on college campuses to eliminate many classics from course syllabi if they had elements within them that didn't conform to the current intellectual fashions. Even if our ideas have changed over the centuries and decades, we still have a lot to learn from the great classics of literature.

When we begin reading the Torah portion on Shabbat, we begin with a *brakha*, a blessing, that says how it's a mitzvah to *engage* with the words of Torah – not necessarily to read them uncritically, but to engage with them – to find the meaning we can find in them. The words of Torah enable us to engage with our values, our beliefs, and our traditions and to ask difficult questions – about ourselves, about G'd, and about our world. They have been the lifeblood of our heritage even as times change and our understanding of life itself changes. They have inspired us to be deep readers and to be *am hasefer* (the people of the book).



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year 5785!

I would like to take a moment to update you on the process of moving to a new location. We have started the wheels turning, but we have decided to try to time our leaving with the exit of the People Incorporated preschool, which we expect to happen around this time next year.

I would like to thank our Spiritual Leaders, Rabbi Mark and Cantor Shoshana, who work hard to keep Judaism alive and well not just here at the Temple but in the greater Fall River Area. They are always looking for new ways to generate interest and help grow our community.

Thanks to our wonderful staff, Marie Twomey and Henry Parker, who keep our business running and the building safe. Thanks to Judy Morgenstern and Carleen Makowski for volunteering to help Marie in the office. Thanks to Libby Cohen and Sisterhood for all they do to make our events wonderful, past, present and future. Thanks to our board leaders. Leonard Lehrer, our vice president, has taken on the important role of Project Manager for the move. Thanks to Robert Falconero who, as Treasurer, is always looking for ways to improve the finances of the Temple. Thanks to Libby Cohen, our Secretary. Thanks to Elaine Weiss Reback who organizes the beautiful flowers for the High Holidays and other social events. Thanks to Nancy Seibert for overseeing the religious items and artifacts and for leading our services when needed. Thanks to Jeff Ginsberg for heading the committee to find a new location, and to Carleen Makowski for heading up the inventory team. Thank you to the many other people who have volunteered their time and expertise...there are too many to name. We will continue to look for volunteers over the coming year, so please let us know if you have some time to help.

Lastly, thank you to our Board of Directors and those serving on our various committees. We always appreciate your willingness to give of your time as we work to find the best path forward. We are always looking for new board members with fresh ideas. If you would like to be considered for our board, please let the office know next spring.

On behalf of the Board, I wish you all a happy, healthy, safe and prosperous new year. I hope to see many of you at upcoming services and special events.

*Rick Schwartz*  
President

## Sisterhood President's Message

As I sit here writing this, I can't help but reflect on the wonderful holiday season we just had the pleasure of enjoying here at Temple Beth El. The services were done to perfection, under the direction of Rabbi Mark and Cantor Shoshana.

We celebrated the "break-fast" together, and hope to continue this tradition for years to come. We enjoyed a wonderful movie with a Sukkot theme. Simchat Torah was celebrated with singing and dancing. There is plenty going on here, so show up and join in.

On Saturday, October 26th, we had the pleasure of celebrating Carleen Makowski's first call to the Torah. She did a perfect job reciting her *Aliyah*. A big Mazel Tov to her and her loved ones. Carleen sponsored a wonderful brunch, which followed the service. Working on this event was a labor of love. Carleen, Elaine Weiss Reback and I enjoyed what we were doing. We laughed, we chopped and we washed dishes. And we are ready to do it all again if the occasion arises.

On November 16th Sisterhood is sponsoring the "make a minyan" Saturday morning service and brunch. I'm asking all that can make it to please stop in and join us for an enjoyable social and spiritual experience.

Please mark these dates on your calendar, Monday, December 9, Tuesday, December 10 and Wednesday, December 11. We will be in the temple holding a book sale. Our library has many books of interest. So, bring a shopping bag and pick up some winter reading. All we ask is a modest donation. There will also be all types of kitchen items for sale. Again, a small donation is all we ask. Elaine Weiss Reback, Carleen Makowski, Leonard Lehrer, Jeff Ginsberg and I will be there to speak with you and walk you around. So, get your totes ready and come on in.

So until next month, stay safe and enjoy your life to the fullest.

*Libby Cohen*  
Sisterhood President

## LEADERSHIP

Mark Elber.....	Rabbi
Shoshana Brown.....	Cantor
Richard Schwartz.....	President
Leonard Lehrer.....	Vice President
Libby Cohen.....	Secretary
Robert Falconero.....	Treasurer
Libby Cohen.....	Sisterhood Pres.
William E. Kaufman.....	Rabbi Emeritus

## Service Schedule

**November 2024:  
Tishrei/Cheshvan 5785**

### Friday, November 1 (30 Tishrei)

Rosh Chodesh Cheshvan

Candle Lighting 5:21 pm

Shabbat Service 5:30 pm

### Saturday, November 2 (1 Cheshvan)

Rosh Chodesh Cheshvan

Weekly Portion: Noakh 10:00 am

### Friday, November 8 (7 Cheshvan)

Candle Lighting 4:13 pm

Shabbat Service 5:30 pm

### Saturday, November 9 (8 Cheshvan)

Weekly Portion: Lekh-Lekha 10:00 am

### Friday, November 15 (14 Cheshvan)

Candle Lighting 4:06 pm

Shabbat Service 5:30 pm

### Saturday, November 16 (15 Cheshvan)

Weekly Portion: Vayera 10:00 am

### Friday, November 22 (21 Cheshvan)

Candle Lighting: 4:01 pm

Shabbat Service: 5:30 pm

### Saturday, November 23 (22 Cheshvan)

Weekly Portion: Chayei Sara 10:00 am

### Friday, November 29 (28 Cheshvan)

Candle Lighting: 3:58 pm

Shabbat Service: 5:30 pm

### Saturday, November 30 (29 Cheshvan)

Weekly Portion: Toldot 10:00 am



The aurora borealis (Northern Lights) seen from Second Beach in Middletown, RI. What a show by Mother Nature!

## “Make a Minyan”

*Sisterhood Shabbat & Luncheon  
Saturday, November 16th*

Please mark your calendars and plan to join us either in the chapel or on Zoom. The service begins at 10 am, but please be sure to arrive before 11 am in order to be counted.

Plan to stay for the nice kiddush luncheon to follow, which is sponsored by Sisterhood.

December’s “Make a Minyan” will be Saturday, December 28th. It’s the 50th anniversary of Leonard Lehrer’s bar mitzvah, so please plan to join us to celebrate with Leonard and his wife Soili, who are also sponsoring the kiddush luncheon.

## Books, Books, Books for Sale! Mark your Calendars!

From Dec. 9th through Dec. 11th, Sisterhood will be in charge of helping to sell the many books in our vast library. We will be there from 10 am until 2 pm, all 3 days. There will also be other items for sale, such as kitchen goods. Donations appreciated. So, bring a shopping bag and spend some time looking around. You never know what treasures you might find!



## TEMPLE FAMILY

- Our sincere condolences to the family and friends of Jeffrey Entin.
- Mazel tov to Carleen Makowski on having her first *Aliyah*. She did a masterful job!

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### TBE News & Notes

November is the “fallow” month in between the fall Jewish holidays and Chanukah. Usually, this is the month during which we host a Ruderman Shabbaton Weekend, or at least a Ruderman Sunday program with a brunch. This year, with so much going on pertaining to preparing our building for our upcoming transition, we are taking the year off. However, don't miss the following upcoming events in our calendar:

**Saturday, November 16 is our “Make a Minyan” Sisterhood Shabbat!** All are welcome. Our Shabbat service in the chapel begins at 10 am, but even if you don't make it until 11 am, you will help to make the minyan. Kiddush luncheon to follow. No reservations necessary.

**Walking Tour of Jewish Beacon Hill & The Vilna Shul. Sunday, November 24:** Join us for this fascinating historic tour of Jewish Boston and a visit to the Vilna Shul! To register, you have to go to this site: <https://bostonbyfoot.org/tours/jewish-beacon-hill/> (the cost is \$33.00). Please speak to Rabbi Mark or Cantor Shoshana (or call the TBE office) if you are planning on attending. We plan to drive/carpool to the Lakeville commuter train station and take the train into Boston so as not to have to worry about Boston traffic or parking. The tour begins at 11 AM and lasts 2 hours. Wear comfortable walking shoes!

And **save the date** in December for our annual **Chanukah party!** It will be on **Sunday, December 29th**, beginning at 4 PM (at the rabbi's and cantor's home). Please stay tuned for the RSVP request in your email.



Two more bricks on our Tree of Life!  
In memory of Mike Morgenstern and Ken Littman

## IN MEMORIAM

### JEFFREY ENTIN

October 25, 2024 - 23 Tishrei 5784

*May his memory be for a blessing*



## SUNDAY AFTERNOON AT THE JEWISH MOVIES

**iMordechai:** A wistful portrait of an aging Holocaust survivor named Mordechai (Judd Hirsch) whose son (Sean Astin) drags him, kicking and screaming, to replace his decrepit flip phone with a shiny new iPhone. The switch not only changes Mordechai's telephonic experience, it also sets into motion a series of encounters that enrich his entire life, even as he pushes into his 80s. (Also featuring Carol Kane!) 2022. 1 hour 42 minutes.

The film for December, “Maestro,” is last year's biopic on Leonard Bernstein, will be shown on Sunday, December 15th at 2 pm. Save the date!

## IT'S OFFICIAL!

Carleen Makowski has officially become a member of our tribe. At this time, I want to welcome her to the Events Committee. She will be joining Cantor Shoshana Brown, Sylvia Eisner, Elaine Weiss Reback and myself. Carleen is a great help, and we all look forward to working with her.

*Libby Cohen*



Carleen and Libby



*Thank you for your donations received through Oct 25th*

### YAHREZEITS

For the yahrzeit of my beloved... Donated by:

Father, Dr. Hammond Bender	Susan Bender
Mother, Helene Bender	Susan Bender
Father, Louis J. Cohen	Anne Griffin
Mother, Freda Finkelstein	Joel Finkelstein
Mother, Paula Fox	Suzanne Finkel
Sister, Shelley Fox	Suzanne Finkel
Father, Sidney Fox	Suzanne Finkel
Father, Max Gold	Micki Gold
Brother, Jack Goldberg	Jane Goldberg
Husband, Henry Griffin Jr.	Anne Griffin
Mother, Esther Kaufman	Etta Kaufman
Father, Dr. Abraham Kaufmann	David & Karen Kaufmann
Brother, Stewart R. Kusinitz	Edith K. Getchell
Brother, Stewart R. Kusinitz	Enid K. Lomax
Husband, Stewart R. Kusinitz	Lisa Lundy
Mother, Rose Krasnow	Carol Schwartz
Brother, J.D. Lash	Gillian Perlinski
Brother, J.D. Lash	Alison Rode
Father, Joshua Lehrer	Leonard Lehrer
Father, Dr. Harry Levine	Alan Levine
Father, Dr. Harry Levine	Richard Levine
Father, Richard Levin	Toby Levin
Mother, Mildred Lider	Bruce Lider
Mother, Esther Meyerson	Anita Bolski
Father, Solomon Moss	Shirley Taradash
Mother-in-law, Ruth Novek Rodman	Meryl Novek
Father, Rabbi Samuel S. Ruderman	Ora Beth Levine
Grandfather, Ben Twersky	Jay Horowitz
Grandmother, Luba Twersky	Jay Horowitz
Wife, Carol D. Zalkind	Stanley Zalkind
Father Charles Zalkind	Debbie Zalkind Semine

### MAURICE ALPERT MEMORIAL ENDOWMENT FUND

In memory of my beloved grandfather, Maurice Alpert,  
and my beloved uncle, Carl Goodman

Sandra Alpert Pankiw

### BUILDING FUND

In memory of my beloved husband, Dennis Sokol, beloved  
parents, Dorothy & Jerry Gold, and beloved grandparents,  
Nathan & Irene Sokoletsky

Karen Sokol

### IDA & DAVID CHAVENSON SCHOLARSHIP FUND

For the yahrzeit of our beloved mother, Elsie Udovin, and our  
beloved grandmother, Sadie E. Smith

Judith Kosofsky

Barbara Udovin

### CAPITAL FUND

Wishing the Temple Beth El family a happy and healthy  
new year!

Gary & Leila Kosofsky

In memory of Kenny Littman

Michael Cole & Sherry Poucher

In memory of Sayre Litchman

Marilyn Sokoll

In honor of Carleen Makowski completing her conversion to  
Judaism.

Susan Bender

In honor of Carleen Makowski, our newest member.

Dr. & Mrs. Ronald Schwartz

For the recovery of my beloved grandson, Camden Nadeau

For the recovery of Elizabeth Taffel-Morecock

Sylvia Eisner

### BERNARD HOROWITZ

### BUILDING MAINTENANCE FUND

For the yahrzeit of my beloved father, Philip Dondis

Eli Dondis

### MORNING MINYAN FUND

For the yahrzeit of my beloved mother, Elizabeth Chebot

Bill Chebot

### SPECIAL GIFTS

Wishing everyone at Temple Beth El a year of peace!

Arthur & Barbara Sheer

### *High Holiday Flower Fund*

*Thank you to all who made donations to the Flower Fund!*

**Susan Bender**

*In memory of my parents, Dr. & Mrs. Hammond Bender*

**Tilden Bogus**

*In memory of Margot, Hyman & Sandra Bogus*

**Bill Chebot**

*In memory of my irreplaceable wife, Hummy*

**Libby Cohen**

*In memory of my parents, Armin & Rita Minkin*

**Joan Feldman**

*Mazel Tov to Elaine Weiss on becoming a Bat Mitzvah,  
and in loving memory of the Fleisher & Feldman families.*

**Carleen Makowski**

*In memory of Dr. Michael Makowski*

**Elaine Weiss Reback & Harvey Reback**

*For the yahrzeits of Sherman & Jeanette Weiss,  
loving parents, grandparents, great-grandparents*

**Rick Schwartz**

*In memory of Lester, Dorothy and Charles Schwartz*

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## CELEBRATING SUKKOT TOGETHER

Sylvia Eisner had an impromptu get-together in her Sukkah and on her deck to celebrate Sukkot on a delightful October evening.



## TEMPLE OFFICE

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Website: [frtemplebethel.org](http://frtemplebethel.org)

### OFFICE HOURS:

Monday - Wednesday - Friday, 9 am to Noon

### OFFICE CLOSED:

Monday, Nov. 11th - Veterans Day  
Thu & Fri, Nov. 28th & 29th - Thanksgiving



### ZOOM LINKS

Zoom links for regular and special services are now available on our website: [www.frtemplebethel.org](http://www.frtemplebethel.org)

### SNOWBIRDS

It's almost that time! Please let the office know when you plan to head to warmer climes so we can update your mailing address. And remember, if it takes forever to receive your bulletin in the mail, you can always read it on our website!

## SOUTH COAST MEMORIALS

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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,  
*Go to [www.frtemplebethel.org](http://www.frtemplebethel.org)*

## YAHREZEITS

11/3/2024 2 Cheshvan 5785  
Mildred Lider

11/4/2024 3 Cheshvan 5785  
Juliet Ann Goldstein

11/5/2024 4 Cheshvan 5785  
Dr. Hammond Bender

11/6/2024 5 Cheshvan 5785  
Helen Entin  
Leonard Freedman  
David Robbins  
Bernard Shuman

11/7/2024 6 Cheshvan 5785  
Benjamin Twersky

11/8/2024 7 Cheshvan 5785  
Jennie Robinson

11/9/2024 8 Cheshvan 5785  
Fannie Sobiloff

11/10/2024 9 Cheshvan 5785  
Bernard Hoffman

11/11/2024 10 Cheshvan 5785  
Anna Simmons

11/13/2024 12 Cheshvan 5785  
Betty Rosenberg

11/14/2024 13 Cheshvan 5785  
Marilyn Ehrenhaus  
Mary Gollub  
Lenora Goltz  
Eva Leviss  
Kenneth R. Resnick

11/15/2024 14 Cheshvan 5785  
Isidor Juda  
Bessie Kassler

11/16/2024 15 Cheshvan 5785  
Rae Gitlin

11/18/2024 17 Cheshvan 5785  
Lillian Feinberg  
Diana Hyman  
Erwin Juda

11/19/2024 18 Cheshvan 5785  
Dr. Irving Fradkin

11/20/2024 19 Cheshvan 5785  
Jacob Brown  
Lorraine Kaplan

11/21/2024 20 Cheshvan 5785  
Sylvia Feldman

11/22/2024 21 Cheshvan 5785  
Helene Bender  
Rose Freedman  
Hyman Edward Lepes  
Yetta Sludsky

11/23/2024 22 Cheshvan 5785  
Carl Feldman

11/24/2024 23 Cheshvan 5785  
Bessie Bolski  
Marion Horvitz  
Joshua Lehrer  
Joseph Simmons

11/25/2024 24 Cheshvan 5785  
Lawrence Howard Golding

11/26/2024 25 Cheshvan 5785  
Leo Greene  
Dr. David Greer

11/28/2024 27 Cheshvan 5785  
Harold Katzman  
Alexander Pankiw

11/29/2024 28 Cheshvan 5785  
Ada Gourse

11/30/2024 29 Cheshvan 5785  
Seymour Kevelson  
Alfred Kublin  
Carl Zeitz



Saturday, November 3rd!

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