TEMPLE BETH EL



FALL RIVER, MASSACHUSETTS

97th Year October 2024 Elul 5784/Tishrei 5785 No. 2

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

HIGH HOLIDAYS & SPECIAL SERVICES

ROSH HASHANAH SERVICES - In Person & Live Streaming

First Day: Thursday, October 3rd at 10:00 am
Tashlikh at 4:00 pm: Meet at The Cove Restaurant Parking Lot
Second Day: Friday, October 4th at 10:00 am

COMMUNITY MEMORIAL SERVICE - In Person Only

Sunday, October 6th at 11:00 am at Temple Beth El Cemetery

YOM KIPPUR SERVICES - In Person & Live Streaming

Kol Nidre: Friday, October 11th at 6:00 pm Morning Service: Saturday, October 12th at 10:00 am (Includes Yizkor) Mincha/Ne'ilah/Ma'ariv: 5:00 pm - Light Break-Fast to follow.

SUKKOT - In Person & On Zoom

First Day: Thursday, October 17th at 10:00 am Second Day: Friday, October 18th at 10:00 am

SHEMINI ATZERET - In Person & On Zoom

Thursday, October 24th at 10:00 am (Includes Yizkor)

SIMCHAT TORAH - In Person & On Zoom

Erev Simchat Torah: Thursday, October 24th at 5:30 pm Simchat Torah: Friday, October 25th at 10:00 am

A message from our Spiritual Leader, Cantor Shoshana Brown

Beginning the New Jewish Year Together

Shanah tovah to all the Beth El community! It is a funny thing, this word shanah, "year," for it contains so many meanings, some of them seemingly contradictory. One meaning for shanah in its verbal form is "to change"; another is "to repeat"; a third is "to recite"; and a fourth is "to learn." We can see how repeating, reciting, and learning are connected. A young child learns the alphabet, for example by singing the A-B-C song, which utilizes the techniques of repeating and reciting in order to learn. But what about the meaning "to change"? And why is a unit of time – a year – linked with all of these meanings?

I think it is fair to say that most of us experience a year as both a *circle* and as a *line* extending indefinitely into the future. The New Year comes again; as does Yom Kippur; Chanukah; our birthdays, our anniversaries; Pesach, summer vacations, etc. We *repeat* the rituals and actions that we have acted out before. But inevitably, each year something is different. We have changed, the conditions around us have changed, we and our partners and children have grown older; perhaps someone dear to us has passed on...we never "step into the same river twice."

When I was a child, I looked forward to every new birthday, every upcoming holiday; as a young woman, I looked forward to beginning my career, to getting married; when pregnant, to the birth of my children. Even now, in my mid-sixties, I still have plenty of events to which I look forward. But at a certain point in life, we begin to look back. Of course not all parts of our past are nostalgia-worthy, but looking back gives us a chance to savor the best moments - moments of love, wonder, beauty, or excitement - and to learn something from the contemplation of our more painful or sad memories. Even the worst memories, while perhaps not treasure-troves of wisdom for us as we go forward, can at the least help us to be more empathetic to others when they are going through difficult times.

It is strange how the Torah, and the whole sum of Jewish tradition as far as I can tell, gives us so much instruction on how to live our lives – what we should do and what we should not do – but next to no answer on what the *purpose* of human life is. Yes, we are supposed to love God "with all our heart, with all our soul, and with all our strength," "to love our neighbor as ourself," and to seek justice in our society; we are commanded to honor our fathers and mothers, to provide for widows and orphans and the poor in our land, and to care for the land itself. (In the Hebrew Bible, this last commandment concerns primarily the *land of Israel*, but since we now know that the

fate of all lands on this planet are interconnected ecologically speaking, we can reasonably infer that this commandment should apply to caring for the whole planet.)

But what, I wonder, if I may be excused for speaking of God in such anthropomorphic terms, was God thinking when God created human beings, or this planet, or, for that matter, the whole universe? What is the point of it all? Is all of existence traveling, as it were, along a long highway towards some glorious destination, some dénouement which, when we finally "arrive" there, will make everything make sense?

The Torah does not tell us; the prophets do not tell us. It appears that, as long as the human race continues to exist on this planet, we will most likely never find the answer to this question. Nevertheless, I will not agree with *Kohelet* (the Hebrew name for the anonymous author of the Book of Ecclesiastes, which we read from during Sukkot) who cried: "vanity, vanity, all is vanity!"

Life is a mystery. So is suffering, joy, evil, love, and beauty. We don't know why we are here, but we do know that we can *choose* to make our lives more meaningful, more purpose-filled, more filled with *connection* to others and to nature; we can strive to make the world better for those who will live on after us.

I believe that all of these areas of concern are interwoven in the way that the holidays of the Jewish year play out, with each holiday or holiday season emphasizing a different theme. The upcoming "Days of Awe" - the Yamim Nora'im - bring us back to home base, to a place of reckoning with both the meaning of our personal lives, and with concern for the Jewish people overall. We may never know cognitively the reason for our existence, or for the existence of anything - but when we come together to pray, to sing, to stand before the "True Judge" as we imagine on these holidays, we just might experience something else: that we are accepted, that we are loved, that we are important pieces of this whole puzzle which is life. I feel very lucky to be Jewish, which comes with such a magnificent technology for navigating joy and sorrow, life and meaning. But it can't be done alone. We all need one another.

I look forward to seeing many of you in person during these upcoming Days of Awe, and for those who can only join us via Zoom, I do hope to see you sometime in person during the coming year. May it be a sweet, healthy and meaningful New Year for you all.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

May this coming year bring more joy and happiness to all.

The Temple is buzzing with a lot of great positive activity. Many things are developing to preserve the Jewish Community in Fall River.

In the meantime we continue to offer our regular minyan services on Monday and Thursday mornings at 8 am, and our Shabbat services on Friday at 5:30 pm and Saturday at 10 am. All services are available in-person and on Zoom. Please note that we have a security presence for the Shabbat services, and for the High Holidays.

Our website is regularly updated with the month's activities, and available now are the Zoom links for the various services and events. Check it out at frtemplebethel.org.

Further repairs to the building are still ongoing. We recently installed a new water tank for the boiler, and the granite steps on High Street have been caulked and cleaned.

Now we just need new members to join our congregation and in-person participation to increase. We still have the best deal for Jewish membership in the area, as well as the best clergy and staff!

Last month I was remiss in not offering our sincere condolences to Marcia Smith's family and friends, as well as to Andy Shulman and family on the loss of his beloved wife, Pat. Marcie was a long-time member, and a regular at social events and celebrations until her limited mobility kept her away. She will be particularly missed by her son, Bob. Pat Shulman was a relatively new member. She and her husband Andy joined so that she could be buried next to her beloved grandparents, Edward & Sadie Strolsky. Sadly, that happened much sooner than expected. May their memory be for a blessing.

Mazel tov to Carleen Makowski on completing her conversion! She has worked very hard over the last eighteen months and immersed herself in every aspect of Jewish life to truly become a member of the Jewish community. She will have her first aliyah at the Make a Minyan on Saturday, October 26th. Welcome to the tribe Carleen!

I hope to see many of you at our High Holidays in person this year. L'Shana Tova!

Rick Schwartz President

Sisterhood President's Message

As we prepare to usher in the year 5785, I want to wish all of you Shana Tova U'Metuka. This is the time of the year we try to get our spiritual and personal "ducks in a row." It's a good idea to set realistic goals, and work towards making them come to fruition. If you need to make amends with someone, do it now. This should be done by Erev Rosh Hashanah. The blowing of the shofar is considered a mitzvah, also hearing it blown is a mitzvah. So please come join us in our Temple and partake of this ritual.

At the conclusion of Yom Kippur we are preparing a "break-fast." Fresh coffee, cold drinks, fruit and sweet treats will be served. I hope to see you there.

On November 16th Sisterhood will be sponsoring a "Make a Minyan" Shabbat. Please plan on joining us for this special event.

On December 9th through December 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 three days. At that time there will also be other items for sale, such as kitchen goods. Donations will be appreciated. So, bring a shopping bag and spend some time looking around. You never know what treasures you'll find.

Don't forget the Flower Fund, which Sisterhood sponsors each year. Elaine Weiss Reback has already ordered the flowers, and I assure you they will be lovely. All donors will be acknowledged in the November bulletin.

So, until next month, stay well. Hope to see you all at the High Holiday services. Keep up to date by opening all emails from Marie and the Temple.

Libby Cohen Sisterhood President

High Holiday Flower Fund

It's not too late to make a donation to the Flower Fund! If you would like to make a donation toward the beautiful flower arrangements on the *bimah* for the High Holidays, please send your check to the Temple office made out to Temple Beth El Sisterhood and note "Flower Fund" in the memo. Include



a note if you would like to add a "Memoriam" for the November bulletin. Thank you in advance for your support, and many thanks to Elaine Weiss Reback for organizing and ordering the flowers.

Service Schedule

October 2024: Elul 5784/Tishrei 5785

<u>Wednesd</u>	<u>ay, October</u>	· 2	<u>(29</u>	Elul)		
Erev Rosh Hashanah						

Candle Lighting 6:06 pm

Thursday, October 3 (1 Tishrei)

Rosh Hashanah First Day 10:00 am Candle Lighting after 7:05 pm

Friday, October 4 (2 Tishrei)

Rosh Hashanah Second Day
Note - No Shabbat Evening Service
Candle Lighting
6:03 pm

Saturday, October 5 (3 Tishrei)

Shabbat Shuva

Weekly Portion: Ha'azinu 10:00 am

Friday, October 11 (9 Tishrei)

Erev Yom Kippur

Candle Lighting 5:51 pm Kol Nidre 6:00 pm

Saturday, October 12 (10 Tishrei)

Yom Kippur 10:00 am Yizkor

Wednesday, October 16 (14 Tishrei)

Erev Sukkot

Candle Lighting 5:43 pm

Thursday, October 17 (15 Tishrei)

Sukkot - First Day 10:00 am Candle Lighting after 6:42 pm

Friday, October 18 (16 Tishrei)

Sukkot – Second Day 10:00 am Shabbat Evening Service 5:30 pm Candle Lighting 5:41 pm

Saturday, October 19 (17 Tishrei)

Chol Hamoed Sukkot 10:00 am

Wednesday, October 23 (21 Tishrei)

Hoshanah Rabbah

Shemini Atzeret

Candle Lighting 5:33 pm

Thursday, October 24 (22 Tishrei)

Yizkor (approximately 11:45 am)
Erev Simchat Torah 5:30 pm
Candle Lighting after 6:32 pm

10:00 am

Friday, October 25 (23 Tishrei)

Simchat Torah 10:00 am Shabbat Evening Service 5:30 pm Candle Lighting: 5:31 pm

Saturday, October 26 (24 Tishrei)

Weekly Portion: Bereshit 10:00 am

CEMETERY HEADSTONE CLEANING

Last call for headstone and foot marker cleaning! Our cemetery landscaper, Tommy Fillipovich, has once again offered to pressure-wash the headstones and foot markers using a biodegradable cleanser that won't damage the stones or the surrounding grass. The results are impressive, with the headstones looking amazingly like new.

As setting up the equipment is time-consuming, Tommy has offered to do all of the pressure-washing in one day for a discounted price. Headstones will be cleaned for \$60 each, foot markers for \$15 each. In order to take advantage of the discount, we must receive your check no later than October 15th. We plan to offer the discount day each fall.

If you have any questions about this service, please call the Temple office at (508) 674-3529 or email temple-bethel@comcast.net.

"Make a Minyan" Shabbat Services - with kiddush lunch -

Please mark your calendars and plan to join us at the upcoming Shabbat services either in-person 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.

Saturday, October 26. Come join us as we begin the Torah all over again, as we chant from the story of Creation, *Bereshit*. **Saturday, November 16** will be our Sisterhood sponsored "Make a Minyan." Please join us!

TBE Nature Walk

Wednesday, October 30th:

Simmons Mill Pond, Little Compton, RI

We meet at 9:30 on the sidewalk outside the Locust St. entrance to TBE to carpool to location. Make sure to wear sturdy shoes with socks, a hat, and bring a small bottle of water. If you have questions about the hike, due to weather, or if you want to meet us at the location, you can call or text the cantor or call the office at (508) 674-3529.

PROUDLY SERVING our community



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TBE News & Notes

Well, the Jewish holidays are finally upon us! I know that announcements of TBE's various services are on the front of this bulletin, but I just want to remind you not to forget that we will hold **our annual Community Memorial service** in the TBE cemetery on **Sunday October 6 at 11 am**; also, I want to let you all know that following the end of the Yom Kippur Ne'ilah service there will be a **light break-fast** downstairs in our social hall. We hope you come to say hello!

Once again, we will have a **sukkah** on our property at TBE during Sukkot. Please join us on Shabbat morning Oct. 19, when we will enjoy kiddush with a light snack in the sukkah after services.

And speaking of Sukkot, don't miss our October Jewish film, *Ushpizin*, an award-winning Israeli movie that takes place on Sukkot (see description in the next columnbulletin). Sunday October 20 at 2 pm.

The call is out for **Saturday, October 26 for our next** "**Make a Minyan.**" This one is special because our newest fully-fledged member of the Jewish people, **Carleen Makowski**, is going to celebrate her new status by having her first aliyah to the Torah. Carleen does so much for our community — especially with her work on our transition/ TBE inventory team — we are so lucky to have her in our midst! Please join us in welcoming her, and in renewing our reading of the Torah (the Torah reading is **Bereshit**, the first portion of the Torah for the New Year).

The next TBE **Nature Walk** will be on **Wednesday October 30**. We meet by the Locust St. entrance, and will carpool to Simmons Mill Pond, in Little Compton (weather permitting). Let's hope for peak autumn colors! If you have questions, call Shoshana on her cell or call the office.

Head's up for a history walk in November: One of our members has highly recommended the Walking Tour of Jewish Beacon Hill & The Vilna Shul. There is a tour on Sunday, November 24, which I think would be a great activity for those of you who are up for it. (Rabbi Mark and I plan to do it.) 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 me (or call the TBE office) if you are planning on going, and we will try to work out some transportation arrangement.

And save the date of **November 16 for a Make a Minyan Sisterhood Shabbat!**

Finally, as always, deep thanks to all of you who are helping to make our High Holidays beautiful and meaningful...there are too many people to name specifically, but indeed, it takes a village. Every person makes a difference!



SUNDAY AFTERNOON AT THE JEWISH MOVIES

Oct. 20: Ushpizin: Moshe and Mali are broke and praying for a miracle. Suddenly they find an abandoned sukkah, Moshe is the beneficiary of charity, and two escaped convicts arrive to be their ushpizin – their specially-invited spiritual guests for the holiday of Sukkot. Winner of the 2004 Best Actor award at the 2004 Israeli Film Academy for writer-star Shuli Rand, directed by Giddi Dar. (1 hr, 32 minutes)



Cantor Shoshana visited the "Migration of the Elephants" exhibit on the Salve Regina campus in Newport last month.



Thank you for your donations received through Sept 23rd

YAHRZEITS

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

Mother, Belle Freedman
Father, Philip Goltz
Mother, Lillian Horvitz
Mother, Tobie Lechan
Father, Gerhard Lowenstein
Grandparents, Belle Lowenthal
& Otto Tallman, mother
Elayne Lowenthal
Father, John Jacob Freedman
Mother, Ethel Winokoor

Joyce Goldweitz
Barbara & Arthur Sheer
Sharon Steinberg
Norma Lechan
Ronald Lowenstein
Wally Lowenthal Davis,
Harriet Lowenthal,
Jill Lowenthal Brown
Edythe Freedman Steinberg
Charles Winokoor

MAURICE ALPERT MEMORIAL ENDOWMENT FUND

For the yahrzeit of my maternal grandmother, Ida G. Rothman, and my paternal grandmother, Lillian Silverman Alpert

Sandra Alpert Pankiw

CAPITAL FUND

In honor of Elaine Weiss Reback becoming a Bat Mitzvah

Ron & Claire Caplain Marilyn Sokoll Beverly Solup

In honor of Rabbi Mark Elber

Anonymous

In memory of Ken Littman

Marilyn Sokoll

BERNARD HOROWITZ BUILDING MAINTENANCE FUND

For the yahrzeit of my beloved father, Bernard Horowitz



Break Your Fast with Us!

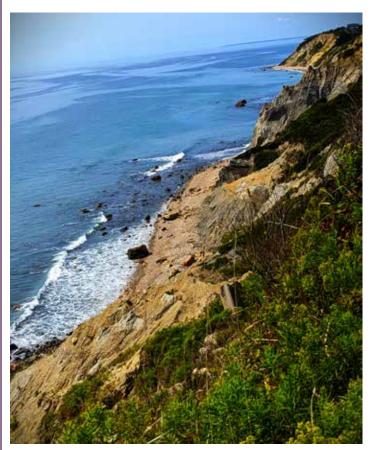
Please join us after the Ne'ilah service on Yom Kippur for a light "break-fast," a perfect opportunity to both mingle and nosh!

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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!





Mohegan Bluffs, seen while on a short visit to Block Island in September.



Fall River United Jewish Appeal Greetings for the New Year, 5785

Rosh Hashanah is a time of beginning, and as Jews we look forward to an opportunity to start again. In retrospect, we assess what we have accomplished and contemplate our goals for the year ahead.

Historically, we have rescued Jews from distressed lands, resettling them in Israel and America. We have cared for those in need in our local community, in Israel and in the rest of the world. The UJA has been involved in the effort to maintain local Hebrew cemeteries. We support Jewish life throughout our global Jewish community. *Tikun olam* is the concept of not only fixing the world but also improving it.

It is with great sadness that I recall the untimely deaths of Sayre Litchman, President and Atty. Kenneth Littman, Secretary. Both were *menschen* who generously gave of their time and effort to ensure the success of our organization. It is difficult to think of the UJA without these two people. My aspiration as the new UJA president is to maintain the standards that they set.

After the tragic events of October 7, 2023, the need to support the worldwide Jewish community has taken on a new sense of urgency. The citizens of Israel continue to suffer a tremendous loss. Throughout the world, antisemitism has come out of the shadows and into the mainstream. Here in the United States, our community is facing threats from white supremacists and others. The need to support the Fall River United Jewish Appeal is more vital than ever. Please donate generously.

In this spirit, the United Jewish Appeal's Officers, Directors and staff wish everyone a healthful, joyous and peaceful new year. *L'Shana Tova*.

For the Board of Directors,

Tilden Bogus, President Fall River United Jewish Appeal

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

<u>Friendly Visitor:</u> Arleen Bor is ready, willing and able to visit the sick or shut-ins. Please call the UJA office at (508) 673-7791 to schedule a visit.

TEMPLE OFFICE

385 High St, Fall River, MA 02720
Tel: (508) 674-3529 Fax: (508) 678-6735
E-Mail: templebethel@comcast.net
Website: frtemplebethel.org

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday - Wednesday - Friday, 9 am to Noon

OFFICE CLOSED:

Friday, Oct. 4th - Rosh Hashanah 2nd Day Monday, Oct. 14th - Columbus Day Friday, Oct. 18th - Sukkot 2nd Day Friday, Oct. 25th - Simchat Torah

ZOOM LINKS

Zoom links for regular and special services are now available on our website: 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!

SHANA TOVA!

The staff of Temple Beth El would like to wish all of you and your families a happy healthy and prosperous new year. And a special thank you to our fantastic office volunteers, Judy Morgenstern and Carleen Makowski. Shana tova!

Marie Twomey & Henry Parker

TEMPLE FAMILY

- Bill Chebot, Hannah Evans and Marilyn Sokoll would like to wish all of their TBE friends a very happy New Year! They all miss their TBE family!
- Congratulations to Carleen Makowski on recently completing her conversion to Judaism. Mazel Tov!

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

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.

Shoshana, updated service schedules and upcoming every You can also see the bulletin there first,

Go to www.frtemplebethel.org

YAHRZEITS

10/1/2024 28 Elul 5784 Maurice Alpert Donald Hyman

10/2/2024 29 Elul 5784 Marion Greer John Silverman Charles S. Zalkind

10/5/2024 3 Tishrei 5785 Mary Dolinsky

10/6/2024 4 Tishrei 5785 David Entin Jack Goldberg Aaron Monchik Mildred Sherwin

10/7/2024 5 Tishrei 5785 Frances Horvitz

10/8/2024 6 Tishrei 5785 Freda Finkelstein

10/10/2024 8 Tishrei 5785 Louis K. Horvitz Ruth Novek Rodman Milton Stern

10/11/2024 9 Tishrei 5785 Israel Lipson

10/12/2024 10 Tishrei 5785 Dr. Abraham Kaufmann 10/13/2024 11 Tishrei 5785 James Michael Friedman Abram Katz Hilda McVay

10/14/2024 12 Tishrei 5785 Muriel Feldman Michele (Shelley) Fox Charlotte Sandler

10/16/2024 14 Tishrei 5785 Gerald Goldberg Jonathan Lash Atty. Richard Levin

10/17/2024 15 Tishrei 5785 Ruth Shand

10/18/2024 16 Tishrei 5785 Dr. Harry Levine

10/19/2024 17 Tishrei 5785 Arlene Friedman

10/20/2024 18 Tishrei 5785 Miriam Klein Rabbi Samuel S. Ruderman June Zeitz

10/21/2024 19 Tishrei 5785 Suetelle Bernstein Linda Edgar Henry Griffin, Jr. Charlotte Litchman Sadie E. Smith 10/22/2024 20 Tishrei 5785 Esther Kaufman

10/23/2024 21 Tishrei 5785 Benjamin Horvitz Rose Krasnow Marilyn Radovsky

10/24/2024 22 Tishrei 5785 Dr. Gerson Elber Sarah Katzman

10/25/2024 23 Tishrei 5785 Carl Goodman Jack Leonard

10/26/2024 24 Tishrei 5785 Norman Cohen

10/27/2024 25 Tishrei 5785 Irma Feldman Solomon Moss

10/29/2024 27 Tishrei 5785 Elizabeth M. Chebot George Simon Luba Twersky

10/30/2024 28 Tishrei 5785 Sara Malin

10/31/2024 29 Tishrei 5785 Max Gold Stewart Kusinitz Joseph Zalkind

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