

# TEMPLE BETH EL

FALL RIVER, MASSACHUSETTS



95th Year

April 2023

Nisan/Iyar 5783

No. 8

## 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

### Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Memorial) Service

Monday, April 17th, at 6:30 pm in the chapel and on Zoom.  
Look for an email with the Zoom link as we get closer to the date.

### April Shabbat Service with Torah Reading

Saturday, April 29th at 10:00 am in the chapel and on Zoom.  
Please join us to make a minyan! Kiddush to follow!



### SUNDAY AFTERNOON AT THE JEWISH MOVIES!

Sunday, April 30th at 2 pm

**"THE FABELMANS"**

for more information, see page 4

### South Coast Almanac Walking Book Tour

Featuring Rabbi Mark Elber reading from his new book of poetry, "Headstone"

Wednesday, May 10th from 4 to 6 pm

Walk with Rabbi Mark through the historic Fall River Highlands,  
finishing in the Temple Beth El sanctuary!

Please see Page 7 for more information.



*Signs of Spring,  
courtesy of Cantor Shoshana*

Crocuses seen opening on recent  
stroll through Bristol, RI



Quince blossoms at  
8-Rod Way Park in Tiverton, RI

## A message from our Spiritual Leader, Cantor Shoshana Brown

### *Crisis in Israel: How Can We Help?*

Despite a significant rise in antisemitic feelings, openly-expressed beliefs, and actions in the United States over the last decade or so (with the 2017 Charlottesville rally of the “alt-right” shouting “Jews will not replace us” looming in many of our minds as the epitome of this phenomenon), nevertheless, Jews have flourished in this country. And we have *loved* America.

Thus as we prepare to celebrate our *getting out* from one country – Egypt – a less-than happy diaspora-situation, I want to pose the question: *what is it that we love about the United States?* Is it just that we were born here, that it is the only land we have ever really known as a home? Is it that this nation and culture have given us ample opportunities to establish ourselves in our work and in other ways as well: granting us and our children freedom and for the most part fairness and safety in the public square? Or does it go deeper than that? Do we love America because of its founding ideals, those inscribed in the Declaration of Independence, in the Constitution and the Bill of Rights? Do we cherish our American form of government: a democratic republic with strong checks and balances?

When the State of Israel was founded in 1948, its founders drafted and signed a Declaration of Independence, but for a number of reasons, never got around to creating a constitution. This partly had to do with the feeling that the many more people that were expected to immigrate to Israel should have a voice in its creation; but also with the fear that in the process of trying to draft a constitution, the cleavage between secular and religious parties would create too much disunity (with some of the religious parties saying that Israel already had a constitution – the Torah!). Nonetheless, I would venture to say that for the majority of *American* Jews, it has always been a point of pride for us to say that “Israel is the only democracy in the Middle East.”

Because of the democratic character of Israel, the United States and Israel have always been natural allies. But just as the United States is not a simple democracy (with our checks and balances and our Bill of Rights safeguarding civil liberties and minority rights), Israel, despite its absence of a constitution, has thus far functioned as a democracy with the checks and balances of its independent judiciary. With Jews making up about 74% of Israel’s population, it is vital that the rest of Israel’s population (21% Arab and 5% “other”) know that their civil and human rights will not be trampled upon by a change in the law which might allow a *majority* to impose its will upon their civil rights.

Likewise, secular, non-Orthodox (*and* liberal Orthodox) Israeli Jews do not want to have their rights to live freely taken away by ultra-Orthodox parties that have aligned

themselves with the party in power, holding it hostage to an ultra-Orthodox “wish list” of legislation. Thus the “crisis of democracy” in Israel today. Over the past number of weeks, hundreds of thousands of Israelis have been turning out again and again (Israel’s biggest demonstrations ever) to protest the proposed changes to the balance of power between Israel’s judiciary and its elected government, changes that would grant the ruling coalition the power to overrule the courts, even if their parliamentary majority wins by only one vote.

Israeli author **Yossi Klein Halevi** (with whom Rabbi Mark and I have both been in correspondence), was recently interviewed by **Judi Rudoren** (the *Forward’s* editor-in-chief) for her weekly online newsletter, her essay being titled: “What should American Jews do about the assault on Israeli democracy?” It is likely that Rudoren chose to talk to Yossi because he is well-known as a political moderate, someone who takes Israel’s security concerns especially seriously. “Yossi is a political centrist,” writes Rudoren, “and he is one of the most insightful people I know about all things Israel. He was there that Saturday night in Tel Aviv [in a recent protest where 80,000 Israelis stood in a heavy downpour for hours to protest the proposed legislative changes]... as he has been every week, the first street protests he’s joined since his bad old days as a right-wing radical.” (In his youth in the U.S. Yossi had been a member of the Jewish Defense League, founded by Meir Kahane.)

Yossi, on Zoom, tried to articulate the emotional effect protesting with tens of thousands of other Israelis had on him that night: “*I have never been so drenched in my life – and I have never felt so moved. It was one of the most powerful Israeli experiences, spiritual Israeli experiences, that I’ve ever had... Everyone was drenched to our underwear. And there was this sense of ‘We’re not moving.’ Suddenly, you looked around and you felt this sense of uplift.*”

When Yossi made *aliyah* to Israel (in 1982), it was during the first Lebanon war, a low point for the country in terms of divisiveness. But what is happening today, Yossi told Rudoren, is worse, with a government that poses “*an existential threat, no less than a military threat*” to the survival of the nation:

*“It’s taken a while, for understandable reasons, for American Jews to catch on, that what’s happening in Israel is not just another policy debate, but that this is a life-and-death issue for Israel.”*

I report Yossi’s words here with great sadness – and with trepidation, for I know that many of you will be upset to hear such sentiments. But Yossi is pleading with American Jews to neither turn away from Israel nor to close our eyes to what is happening and “see no evil.” He says that Israel needs committed diaspora Jews to be a part of this conversation. His final words to Rudoren were:

*Continued on Page 6*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

While we are disappointed that we felt unable to host a Passover celebration this year, we are heartened by some new events happening in person at the Temple.

One has already begun. Our newest member, Nancy Seibert, offered to chant Torah at our Shabbat services. As you know, that can only happen if there is a minyan, so it has been several years since we have chanted the Torah on Shabbat. Rabbi Mark and Cantor Shoshana were intrigued by the idea, so they got on the phone and asked people to attend a specific Shabbat service, either in-person or on Zoom. It worked, and a new tradition was born! For the next one we sent out an email, and we got a wonderful response -- we actually had more than a minyan in the chapel, as well as additional people on Zoom. One of our members told me, "The Temple felt like a synagogue should feel this past Shabbat, with people davening and breaking bread together."

Sylvia Eisner and Nancy Seibert have also been organizing a simple kiddush afterward, which brought back even more normalcy to Shabbat. The plan is to pick a Shabbat each month to continue this new tradition. Please plan to join us so we can always chant Torah on these special days. We are hoping to have another minyan on Shabbat morning, April 29th.

And please join me in welcoming Nancy Seibert to our congregation. Besides studying for the Torah readings she has been a regular attendee at our services, despite having to drive in from her home in Narragansett, RI. Welcome Nancy!

The other event we have in the planning stages is a celebration of Temple Beth El's 95th Anniversary. It is hard to believe that the 75th anniversary was twenty years ago. More news will be forthcoming, but we hope you will consider coming to the Temple to celebrate with us.

Lastly, I am happy to welcome in spring. Seeing the flowers blooming is such a wonderful sign of renewal. Happy Passover to all!

Steve Silverman
President

LEADERSHIP

- Mark Elber.....Rabbi
Shoshana Brown.....Cantor
Stephen Silverman.....President
Jeffrey Entin.....Vice President
Libby Cohen.....Secretary
Robert Falconero.....Treasurer
Libby Cohen.....Sisterhood Pres.
William E. Kaufman.....Rabbi Emeritus

Sisterhood President's Message

Well folks Spring is definitely here. The clocks have been adjusted, and the vernal equinox has been experienced. It's that time when the sun crosses the equator. It sure feels good to know the worst part of the cold weather is behind us.

Everyone is busy getting ready for Passover. It runs from the evening of Wednesday, April 5th to Thursday, April 13th. At this time we feast on lots of matzah, horseradish and gefilte fish. Each family has their own specialties that add to the festivities. If there are still young ones in your crowd you hide the matzah, and they all look to find it. But it's most important that we remember we are celebrating our exodus from the land of Egypt. This was a strike against slavery, and a stand for religious freedom. I wish all of you a safe and happy Pesach.

At this time we are looking to celebrate the 95th Anniversary of Temple Beth El. Watch your e-mails and bulletins for updates on this activity.

We need something upbeat to breathe even more life into our congregation. This should help to do the trick.

So until next month, stay well and safe.

Libby Cohen
Sisterhood President

Advertisement for South Coast Memorials, Cemetery Monuments and Lettering, featuring Jeffrey Weissman, Partner, with contact information and a tree illustration.

Advertisement for Dignity Memorial and Waring-Sullivan, Home of Memorial Tribute at Cherry Place, 178 Winter St., Fall River, with contact information and a Star of David.

## SERVICE SCHEDULE

**April 2023**  
**Nisan/Iyar 5783**

Saturday, April 1 (10 Nisan)

Shabbat HaGadol  
Weekly Portion: Tzav 10:00 am

Wednesday, April 5 (14 Nisan)

Erev Passover  
Fast of the First Born  
Morning Service (*siyyum* for first born) 8:00 am  
First Seder (evening)

Thursday, April 6 (15 Nisan)

Passover – First Day 10:00 am  
Second Seder (evening)

Friday, April 7 (16 Nisan)

Passover – Second Day 10:00 am  
Shabbat/Chol Hamo'ed Service 5:30 pm  
Candle Lighting 6:59 pm

Saturday, April 8 (17 Nisan)

Chol Hamo'ed 10:00 am

Tuesday, April 11 (20 Nisan)

Candle Lighting 7:03 pm

Wednesday, April 12 (21 Nisan)

Passover – Seventh Day 10:00 am  
Candle Lighting after 8:07 pm

Thursday, April 13 (22 Nisan)

Passover – Eighth Day 10:00 am

Friday, April 14 (23 Nisan)

Shabbat Service 5:30 pm  
Candle Lighting 7:07 pm

Saturday, April 15 (24 Nisan)

Weekly Portion: Sh'mini 10:00 am

Tuesday, April 18 (27 Nisan)

Yom HaShoah 6:30 pm  
(Holocaust Memorial Day)

Friday, April 21 (30 Nisan)

Rosh Chodesh Iyar  
Shabbat Service 5:30 pm  
Candle Lighting 7:14 pm

Saturday, April 22 (1 Iyar)

Rosh Chodesh Iyar  
Weekly Portion: Tazria-Metzora 10:00 am

Tuesday, April 25 (4 Iyar)

Yom Ha'Zikaron  
(Israel Memorial Day)

Wednesday, April 26 (5 Iyar)

Yom Ha'Atzma'ut  
(Israel Independence Day)

Friday, April 28 (7 Iyar)

Shabbat Service 5:30 pm  
Candle Lighting 7:22 pm

Saturday, April 29 (8 Iyar)

Weekly Portion: Akharei Mot-Kedoshim 10:00 am

## 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, April 7th: Passover - Second Day  
Wednesday, April 12th: Passover - Seventh Day



## SUNDAY AFTERNOON AT THE JEWISH MOVIES!

Growing up in post-WW2-era Arizona, young Sammy Fabelman aspires to become a filmmaker as he reaches adolescence, but soon discovers a shattering family secret, and explores how the power of filmmaking can help him see the truth.

If you didn't catch it in the theaters this past summer, here is your chance to see Steven Spielberg's semi-autobiographical bio-pic (loosely based on his own history of how he grew up to be a filmmaker).

Directed by Steven Spielberg. Nominated for 7 Oscars, 2023. 2 hours and 30 minutes.

The bulletin of Temple Beth El (USPS-075-340) is published monthly from September to June for \$1.00 per year by Temple Beth El, 385 High St., Fall River, MA. Periodicals postage paid at Fall River, MA. POSTMASTERS, send address changes to Temple Beth El, 385 High St., Fall River, MA 02720-3348.

*Thank you for your donations received through March. 24th*

### Yahrzeits

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

Mother, Helen Babin	Miriam Babin
Mother, Gloria Baskin	Laurie Baskin & Family
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Mother, Marian Cohen	Anne Griffin
Mother, Edna Dashoff	Gene Paranzino
Son, Jonathan Entin	Jeffrey Entin
Father, Louis Galitsky	Howie & Sheila Galitsky
Father, William Goldman	Margery Goldman
Mother, Thelma Greenberg	Rebecca Greenberg
Father, Morris Haims	Paula Rubin
Wife, Alice Horowitz	Jay Horowitz
Mother, Miriam Horvitz	Stewart & Susan Horvitz
Grandmother, Selma Juda	Joyce Juda
Parents, Abner & Ethel Kravitz	Matthew Kravitz
Mother, Lillian Lepas	Ronald Lepas
Father, Morris Levine	Julius Levine
Mother, Ruth Levine	Alan Levine
Mother, Ruth Levine	Richard Levine
Father, Arthur Littman	Ken Littman & Family
Mother, Sadie Lovit	Nathan Lovit
Father, William Meyerson	Anita Bolski
Mother, Rita Minkin	Libby Cohen
Mother, Helen Nulman	Sybil Michelson
Father, Louis Nulman	Sybil Michelson
Mother, Doris Rotenberg	Lisa Shapiro
Father, David Sacknoff	Estelle Kluff
Brother, Barry Schwartz	Ginny Lepow
Sister, Susan Schwartz	Ginny Lepow
Wife, Janet Weissman	Jeffrey Weissman
Father, Milton Weissman	Jeffrey Weissman

### CAPITAL FUND

In memory of Sheila Lash	Jeff & Susan Allen
	Mary Conner
	Jim & Sheila Salvo
	Sidney Winokoor
In memory of Dr. Michael Makowski	Carol & Ron Schwartz
In memory of Murray Rosofsky	Sidney Winokoor
In memory of Adele Stevens	Paula & Herb Rubin
For the recovery of Anita Bolski	Larry & Paula Meyerson

### CEMETERY FUND

For the recovery of Anita Bolski	Bill Chebot
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### IDA AND DAVID CHAVENSON SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In honor of Bill Chebot's 95th birthday	Bernice & Stuart Solup & Family
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### MORNING MINYAN FUND

For the yahrzeit of my beloved father, Louis Galitsky.  
Howie & Sheila Galitsky

### WISH LIST

In memory of Sheila Lash  
The Chavenson Family



### *Rabbi Mark took his poetry to the big city!*

On March 20th, Rabbi Mark participated in a poetry reading at Manhattan's KGB Bar (known for its poetry and literature readings). Mark read with fellow poet Jodi Bolz (on Mark's left in photo), also, by coincidence, a Jewish poet. This event was attended by many dear friends and supporters, such as Fall Riverite Nancy Shore, Rabbi Alvin Wainhaus (who has been several times to Fall River, including as guest speaker for a Ruderman Weekend), Abby Pariser (a friend from Long Island, and participant in our Zoom adult ed class), and a good sprinkling of longtime New York-area friends of Rabbi Mark, and Cantor Shoshana's brother and sister-in-law. A good time was had by all!

Rabbi Mark's book, "Headstone," is available on Amazon, or in the Temple office if you live locally. Just call or email ahead of your visit.

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Continued from Page 2

“We need American Jews in this conversation. When someone you love is in trouble, you don’t push them away, you draw them closer.”

[To see Rudoren’s full article with this interview in it, go to: <https://forward.com/forward-newsletters/looking-forward/539432/israel-protests-judicial-reform-democracy-halevi-yossi-klein-netanyahu/>]

You may be asking, “*But what can we do?*” **First**, you can read up on the latest news on Israel, trying to understand how the current government is trying to change Israel’s laws. I encourage you to read news from many different websites that represent different political points of view.

(One article that reflects the views of **15 Conservative Jewish organizations** in Israel may be found via this link: <https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/politics-and-diplomacy/article-732054.>)

**Second**, if you feel moved to do so, you can donate to organizations in Israel that are working to protect democracy and civil rights there (I don’t feel it appropriate here to suggest any one particular non-profit, but with a little internet-sleuthing, you can certainly find one or more!)

**Third**, if you have family or friends in Israel, talk to them, listen to them, ask how you can help.

Finally, here is a **prayer you can pray** at home any time (but especially, perhaps, at your Seder), and also with us together at TBE services:

*O Blessed Holy One, bless the State of Israel, with all its diverse peoples and faith communities. Guard it with Your love. Protect Israel against hatred, violence and war. Send forth Your light and Your truth to all of the nation’s leaders. May they walk in the paths of freedom, justice, and integrity; plant love and compassion in their hearts. May peace and justice flourish in the land, and may Israel and all her bordering nations be led to seek peace together for the good of all their peoples, indeed, for the peace of the whole world. (Amen)*

Wishing you all a sweet and liberating Pesach,

Cantor Shoshana

## Temple Family

- Please welcome Nancy Seibert to our congregation! She comes from Narragansett to attend services, and has been kind enough to offer to chant Torah.

## TBE News & Notes

I am sorry to report that the TBE Board and Events Committee have determined that we are still not quite ready to host a Passover-meal event at the temple this year. However, there are plans underway to hold a “welcome back” **95th Anniversary** event in May or June (Temple Beth El’s cornerstone having been laid in 1928). You will be hearing more about this soon!

We will be holding our **Yom HaShoah** (Holocaust Memorial) service this month on **Monday April 17th, at 6:30 pm** in the chapel – and on Zoom. Marie will be sending out an email with the Zoom link as we get closer to this date.

Please join us on **Sunday April 30th at 2 PM** in the vestry for the screening of Stephen Spielberg’s 2023 film **The Fabelmans**. Please see page 4 for more information.

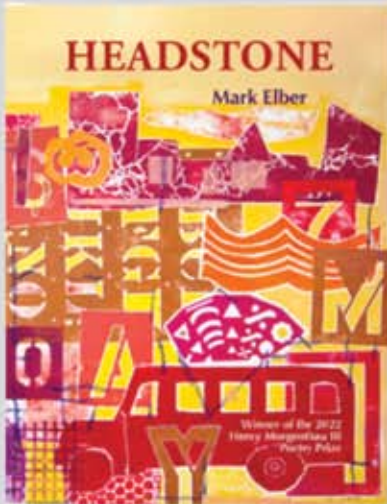
**Save the date!** Our own **Rabbi Mark will be leading a “book walk”** as part of a local-author book walk series sponsored by South Coast Almanac. We will meet on the steps of Temple Beth El on Wednesday, **May 10th at 4 PM**. Over the course of 2 hours, we will walk a little less than 2 miles along High St. and Highland Ave., pausing at various locations that to some degree relate to the subject matter of the poems in Mark’s book, **Headstone**. This is a new way of hearing authors read their own work in the great outdoors – if you are up for a local walk plus poetry, please join us (and bring a friend – this event is free and open to the public).

And on the subject of walking...Please contact our TBE office or me (Cantor Shoshana) directly if you have any interest in participating in our TBE Nature Walks. Last year we had so few takers, I am trying to gauge the interest before making any new plans for Spring walks.



The Israeli flag flies in the foreground with the Dome of the Rock in the background; Passover and Ramadan will overlap this year.

Next up for the South Coast Almanac  
Walking Book Tour:



## Mark Elber's *Headstone*

We're excited to embrace a collection of poems for the first time. Author Mark Elber will join us to read from his award-winning collection of poetry, *Headstone*. We'll walk around the Fall River Highlands with Mark, ending inside the sanctuary at the spectacular Temple Beth El to experience the stained-glass windows there at a magical time of day.

Wednesday, May 10  
4 to 6 pm  
Fall River Highlands



Free but registration is required:

[southcoastalmanac.com/walking-book-club](https://southcoastalmanac.com/walking-book-club)  
OR scan the QR code at right

Discover the  
South Coast!

Take a walk  
with us!



## Website

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.frtemplebethel.com](http://www.frtemplebethel.com).

# YAHARZEITS

4/1/2023 10 Nisan 5783  
Harry Meretsky

4/3/2023 12 Nisan 5783  
Raymond Brown  
Maury Kusinitz

4/4/2023 13 Nisan 5783  
Dr. S. Benjamin Kaufmann  
Foster Lowenthal

4/5/2023 14 Nisan 5783  
Jerry Gold  
David L. Gourse

4/7/2023 16 Nisan 5783  
Harold Morris

4/8/2023 17 Nisan 5783  
Sybil Goldberg

4/10/2023 19 Nisan 5783  
Rabbi Moshe Babin  
Max Simring

4/11/2023 20 Nisan 5783  
Revelyn Baron  
Jeffrey Schenker  
Irene Zwetchkenbaum

4/12/2023 21 Nisan 5783  
Melvin Belford  
Jacob Joseph Thaler  
Hyman Udovin

4/13/2023 22 Nisan 5783  
Morris Phillips

4/14/2023 23 Nisan 5783  
Rebecca Gerstenzang  
Geraldine Kesselman

4/15/2023 24 Nisan 5783  
Hon. Aileen Belford  
Susan Entin  
Richard Shuman

4/17/2023 26 Nisan 5783  
Sally Cohen  
Philip Sacknoff  
Stanley Scher

4/19/2023 28 Nisan 5783  
Jack Resnick  
Isadore Saxe

4/20/2023 29 Nisan 5783  
Myrna Resnick  
Robert Sonion

4/22/2023 1 Iyar 5783  
Norman Chebot  
Irving Smith  
Edwin Solup

4/24/2023 3 Iyar 5783  
Annie Cohen  
Sylvia Cohen  
Ruth Filler

4/25/2023 4 Iyar 5783  
Gilbert Nerenberg  
Irving Zukroff

4/27/2023 6 Iyar 5783  
Estelle Hyman  
David Lash  
Melvin Lash  
Lillian H. Levin  
Israel Sobiloff  
Seymour H. Sugarman

4/28/2023 7 Iyar 5783  
Carlton Dubitsky  
Jason Sigal

4/29/2023 8 Iyar 5783  
Irving Kline



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