

TEMPLE BETH EL

FALL RIVER, MASSACHUSETTS



96th Year

December 2023

Kislev/Tevet 5784

No. 4

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



Chanukiah in the Israel Museum, Jerusalem. Happy Chanukah!



SUNDAY AFTERNOON AT THE JEWISH MOVIES!

Sunday, December 19th at 2 pm

"MAKTUB"

for more information, see page 5

A message from our Spiritual Leader,
Cantor Shoshana Brown

Lights Flickering in the Darkness

As I write these words, on the Sunday after Thanksgiving, the TV news is on in the background, providing a continual update on the progress of the release of more hostages from Gaza into Israel. This grouping of hostages includes the seemingly-adorable little girl, Avigail Mor Edan, who turned four just a few days ago during her captivity. We have all seen her picture: a smiling face with two shining dark eyes, surrounded by a halo of brown curls. Her parents were slain before those eyes, and before the eyes of her older brother and sister, who managed to hide after their parents' murder and escaped being taken by Hamas.

The cruelty of the human beings who committed these crimes is unimaginable, as is the psychological wounding that this childhood trauma will inflict upon these three children growing up without their parents. Thank goodness they have each other!

Of course many thousands of children in Gaza have also been orphaned or killed, others wounded in body and surely also psychologically, during Israel's attacks upon Gaza. I understand that the main responsibility for all this damage falls not upon Israel, but upon Hamas, which began this round of unspeakable violence, and which has intentionally located their command-centers and weapons caches under or adjacent to hospitals, schools, playgrounds, mosques, etc. Perhaps Hamas calculated that Israel, having a much greater sense of the preciousness of innocent lives than Hamas, would not attack these places, *or* they hoped that Israel *would* attack these places, and that the subsequent outcry of the international community against Israel would help Hamas to glean more support and sympathy in the wider world. Certainly, they imagined, it would rile up the Palestinians on the West Bank, and, if all went according to plan, it would nip the Saudi-led accord of five Arab nations with Israel in the bud. Hamas, backed by Iran (not only a great enemy of Israel, but also of Saudi Arabia) could not abide for such a deal to go through.

No one knows what lies in the future for the children of Israel, Gaza, and the West Bank. They all deserve to grow up in peace and safety, with access to clean water, good schools, decent medical treatment, homes and families. Many are hoping that after this war is "over" (that is, when the violence ceases, even if there is never any official *surrender*), that something will change drastically within the makeup of Israel's government coalition, that

new personalities will replace those in power now, people who understand the necessity of working out a plan for the people of the West Bank and Gaza to live under self-rule as they develop the skills necessary to actually have their own state. How can this culture be transformed so that it directs its energy and resources towards good government rather than towards violence and hatred?

And who will convince the Israeli settler-movement that such a change will be a boon to *their own* children and grandchildren, that the whole region *could be* a prosperous and beautiful region for agriculture, tourism – if only they had peace? And a *permanent* peace will only come when the majority of the people who live in the region no longer feel that they have been wronged, treated unjustly, or ignored.

It is so hard to get human beings, corporately, to act in their own best interests! I don't know what the answer to all of this is, but as we light our Chanukah candles this year, we will both give thanks for the freedom of the Israeli and other hostages who *have* been released, and take heart from the message that these lights, flickering in the darkness, whisper to us: to never give in to despair, to keep working for a more perfect, just, and healthy world for *all* of God's children.

I hope to see many of you at our Chanukah party on December 10th, and I wish you all a happy and inspiring Chanukah,

**“Make a Minyan” Shabbat Service
with Torah Reading & Kiddush**

Please join us on Saturday, December 23rd at 10:00 am in the chapel or on Zoom. It has been wonderful to hear Torah chanted at these special services, and we can't do it without you! Kiddush-luncheon to follow!

The December “Make a Minyan” service will be held on Saturday, December 23rd. Please mark your calendars!

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

Friendly Visitor: 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.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As Steve is still in rehab while he recovers from his back surgery, we have given him a month off for his bulletin column.

He would like to thank all those who called, emailed, sent cards, flowers, fruit, and visited him at Clifton. His spirits are good, although he is getting antsy to get home, which is a sure sign that he is on the mend. We hope he is back on his feet soon!

I also wanted to let you all know that we have received a number of emails, phone calls and voice-mails from members of the local community. All of them made a point of saying they were not Jewish, but they stand behind Israel, they hope the conflict will soon be over, and we are in their thoughts and prayers. The sincere show of solidarity has been both encouraging and heartwarming.

A great big thank you to Karen Sokol, who recently made a generous donation in memory of her beloved parents, Dorothy and Jerry Gold. Her donation has been earmarked to sponsor our Shabbat kiddush through the end of next year, so if you come to our "Make a Minyan" services, plan to stay for a nice kiddush-luncheon.

We hired a new private security firm, Signal 88, just before the Ruderman Weekend, and we have been very impressed by their service. Not only are they reliable and professional, but they are now familiar with the detail and know just what to do during their shift. They are very cordial to our members, but always conscientious about keeping us safe. They even offer to walk people to their cars after the services. They are regularly scheduled for the Friday and Saturday Shabbat services, and any special events we have here at the Temple.

Please keep Ken Littman, our Board Member and longtime friend, in your prayers as he has been hospitalized and is working hard to gain his strength back. I know he has been missed at the Friday Shabbat services.

We also lost two more members this month, Shirley Meretsky, beloved wife of the late Charlie Meretsky, and Maxine Schenker, beloved daughter of the late Sidney and Selma Schenker and sister of Jeffrey Schenker. May their memory be for a blessing.

*Marie Twomey,
standing in for
Steve Silverman
President*

Sisterhood President's Message

Welcome to December, and with it comes Chanukah and winter. By the end of the month the days will start to get longer. I can't wait. I hate these days with little sunlight. Hopefully we won't be bogged down with too much ice and snow.

As we prepare to celebrate the festival of lights, we are reminded of the importance of religious freedom. We fellow Jews have to remain vigilant during this resurgence of antisemitism. It seems we are always fighting for our religious freedom. Chanukah was a major step forward in this fight.

This is the time when some of you will be heading to warmer climates. I wish you safe travels, and much enjoyment.

I want to wish our President, Steve Silverman, a speedy recovery. Can't wait to have him back at the helm here at the Temple.

So, until next month stay well.

*Libby Cohen
Sisterhood President*

*A note from United Neighbors of Fall River
thanking us for the food donations
during the High Holidays:*

Dear Friends at Congregation Beth El,

Grateful thanks to you for the generous donation of food for our emergency food cupboard. Your support means so much as we are working with so many new migrant families. Your unending support is so appreciated.

With gratitude,
Wendy Garf-Lipp

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

SERVICE SCHEDULE

December 2023: Kislev/Tevet 5784

Friday, December 1 (18 Kislev)

Candle Lighting 3:57 pm
Shabbat Service 5:30 pm

Saturday, December 2 (19 Kislev)

Weekly Portion: Vayishlakh 10:00 am

Thursday, December 7 (24 Kislev)

Erev Chanukah
Light 1st Chanukah candle

Friday, December 8 (25 Kislev)

Chanukah – First Day
Light 2nd Chanukah candle before Shabbat candles
Candle Lighting 3:56 pm
Shabbat Service 5:30 pm

Saturday, December 9 (26 Kislev)

Weekly Portion: Vayeshev 10:00 am
Chanukah – Second Day
Light 3rd Chanukah candle after 4:57 pm

Sunday, December 10 (27 Kislev)

Chanukah – Third Day
Light 4th Chanukah candle

Monday, December 11 (28 Kislev)

Chanukah – Fourth Day
Light 5th Chanukah candle

Tuesday, December 12 (29 Kislev)

Chanukah – Fifth Day
Light 6th Chanukah candle

Wednesday, December 13 (1 Tevet)

Rosh Chodesh Tevet
Chanukah – Sixth day
Light 7th Chanukah candle

Thursday, December 14 (2 Tevet)

Chanukah – Seventh Day
Light 8th Chanukah candle

Friday, December 15 (3 Tevet)

Chanukah – Eighth Day
Candle Lighting 3:57 pm
Shabbat Service 5:30 pm

Saturday, December 16 (4 Tevet)

Weekly Portion: Miketz 10:00 am

Friday, December 22 (10 Tevet)

Fast of Tevet
Candle Lighting 4:00 pm
Shabbat Service 5:30 pm

Saturday, December 23 (11 Tevet)

Weekly Portion: Vayigash 10:00 am

Friday, December 29 (17 Tevet)

Candle Lighting 4:04 pm
Shabbat Service 5:30 pm

Saturday, December 30 (18 Tevet)

Weekly Portion: Vayekhi 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:

Monday, December 25th - Bank Holiday
Monday, January 1st - New Years Day

If you are a snowbird and would like your address changed while you are away please call or email the office. Thanks!

ISRAEL EMERGENCY FUND

More thanks to those who made recent donations to the Israel Emergency Fund. So far we have raised a total of \$10,583. The money will go directly to the "Fund for Victims of Terrorism." The fund is a humanitarian effort administered by the Jewish Agency for Israel - North American Council that includes providing food for those who can't leave their homes, as well as assistance with evacuation and relocation.

If you would like to make a donation, please either send a check to Temple Beth El and write "Israel Emergency Fund" in the memo, or go to our website and click on the Donate button. The top choice is the Israel Emergency Fund. Thank you.

Sayre A. Litchman
Emergency Fund Chairman

TBE News & Notes

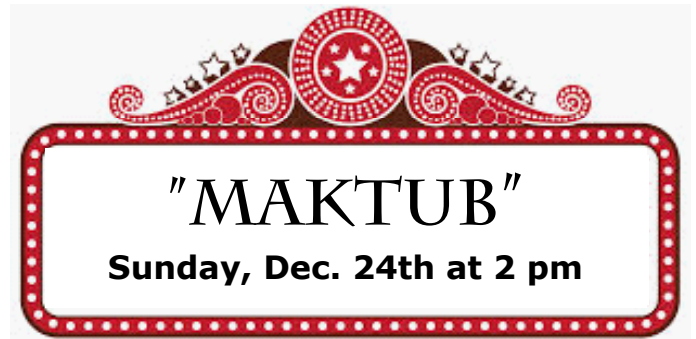
On page six of this bulletin you will find two photos of November's **Ruderman Lecture** event. Those of us who turned out to hear the Jewish music historian **Robert Cohen** talk about, and play samples of, Jewish music that had influenced American popular music found his talk fascinating. This was our first revival of the Ruderman Brunch and Lecture since before the pandemic. Thank you to all the Sisterhood/Events Committee members who shopped, set tables, etc. to make this event possible – and to Rick Schwartz who picked up our speaker from the train station in Providence and helped us out with technical issues. We hope that next year we will be back to full strength!

Rabbi Mark and I are looking forward to seeing those of you who have made your reservations at our home on December 10th for our annual **TBE Chanukah party!**

Our next **"Make a Minyan"** Shabbat service will be on Saturday, **December 23rd**. The service begins at 10, but even if you don't come until 11, when we get to the Torah service, you might just be the one to make the minyan! There will be a **kiddush-lunch to follow**. No need to RSVP, just come!

Last month's **Jewish film**, *The Angel*, about an Egyptian spy/double agent during time of the Yom Kippur War was quite fascinating; this month we turn to an **Israeli comedy** that was a huge hit in Israel, **Maktub** (see write-up in next column). In a way, the characters are a little like Dickens' Scrooge, so it seemed comically appropriate for this time of the year. Mark your calendars: we all need a laugh!

Finally, I want to **express my thanks** to a former TBE member, **Karen Sokol**, who grew up in Fall River. Karen has made a generous donation **in memory of her parents, Dorothy and Jerry Gold**, to sponsor our "Make a Minyan" kiddush luncheons right through the end of next year. Thank you, Karen! We hope you will make the trip down to join us sometime, or at least join us on Zoom!



SUNDAY AFTERNOON AT THE JEWISH MOVIES!

A deadly terrorist attack might seem like an unlikely starting point for a lighthearted comedy. But "Maktub," which became a hit in Israel, is set in a country (Israel) where that happens more than most would like to believe.

Chuma and Steve, two small-time gangsters who work for an organized crime-boss, have a life-changing transformation when they are the only ones left alive after the bombing of a restaurant where they have come to collect "protection" money. They subsequently decide to turn their energies towards making individual people's lives *better*, trying to fulfill the petitions of worshipers who write their dearest wishes out on slips of paper, wedging them in between the stones of the *Kotel* (the Western Wall).

"Maktub" is both hilarious and hopeful. Come, *and enjoy it with us during this darkest time of the year!* (1 hour, 40 minutes)

Temple Family

- Best wishes for the recovery of Steve Silverman, Ken Littman, and Arleen Bor.
- Our sincere condolences to the families of Shirley Meretzky, Maxine Schenker, and Miriam Klein, who passed away on October 3rd.

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



PROUDLY SERVING *our community*

Dignity[®]
MEMORIAL


WARING-SULLIVAN
HOME OF MEMORIAL TRIBUTE
AT CHERRY PLACE
178 Winter St.
FALL RIVER

508-676-1933 Waring-Sullivan.com

A Service Family Affiliate of AFS and Service Corporation International, 206 Winter St., Fall River, MA 02720, 508-676-2454.

Thank you for your donations received through Nov. 25th

YAHARZEITS

For the yahrzeit of my beloved...	Donated by:
Mother, Bessie Bolski	Milton Bolski
Mother, Bessie Bolski	Norm Bolski
Father, David Cohen	Meryl Novek
Father, Dr. Gerson Elber	Rabbi Mark Elber
Father, Carl Feldman	Gail Wilkinson
Father, Harry Finkelstein	Joel Finkelstein
Father, Dr. Irving Fradkin	Russell & Jane Fradkin
Mother, Rose Selick Freedman	Edythe Steinberg
Mother, Anne Feinberg Gregory	Jonathan Gregory
Father, Paul Horowitz	Jay Horowitz
Father, Erwin Juda	Joyce Juda
Grandfather, Isador Juda	Joyce Juda
Father, Dr. Abraham Kaufmann	David Kaufmann
Mother, Martha Kaufmann	David Kaufmann
Husband, Seymour Kevelson	Carol Kevelson
Father, Eric Lawson	Denise Lawson
Mother, Jeanne Lawson	Denise Lawson
Husband, Barry Novek	Meryl Novek
Mother, Yetta Sludsky	Paula Sultan
Parents, Rusty & Fishy Sokoll	Rochelle Sokoll
Husband, Dr. Barry Steinberg	Edythe Steinberg

BUILDING FUND

For the recovery of Ken Littman
For the recovery of Steve Silverman
 Robert Falconero

CAPITAL FUND

In honor of Temple Beth El
 Richard LeSavoy
For the recovery of my brother, Larry Meyerson
 Anita Bolski
For the recovery of Ken Littman
For the recovery of Steve Silverman
 Anita & Norm Bolski

MORNING MINYAN FUND

For the yahrzeit of my beloved, unequalled dear wife, Hummy
For the recovery of Steve Silverman
 Bill Chebot

SPECIAL GIFTS

In memory of my beloved parents, Dorothy and Jerry Gold,
to sponsor the Shabbat Kiddush through 2024.
 Karen Sokol

Below is an example of the responses we received after the Hamas attack on Israel.

Dear Temple Beth El,

I am a white heterosexual man living in Dartmouth who was raised in the Christian tradition.

I would like to express my concern and support for the temple and all the members. The events in Israel and surrounding areas recently are reasons to be sad and fearful. My wish for you at Temple Beth El is that you feel safe here in Fall River. My wish is for the violence in the middle east to come to an end soon. The lives lost on all sides is terrible.

Please know that I support all people connected to Temple Beth El, and all Jewish people here in the United States and around the world. I support you, I support the temple, I pray for hostilities to come to an end soon. I pray that all Jewish people here and anywhere in the world, feel safe to practice Judaism publicly and proudly without fear of persecution or violence.

Yours with a warm and strong hand clasp,

Philip S.



Pictures from our Rabbi Samuel & Tillie Ruderman Lecture featuring Robert Cohen. It was an enjoyable brunch and a very interesting presentation!

Thank you to Robert Cohen, Libby Cohen and Sisterhood for pulling everything together, Rick Schwartz for his technical assistance and to all who attended the event!

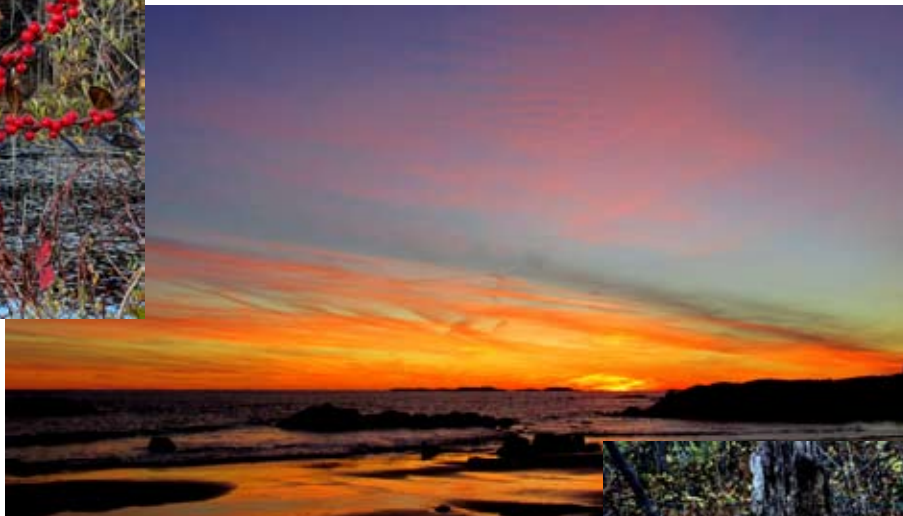


The bulletin of Temple Beth El (USPS-075-340) is published monthly from September to June for \$1.00 per year by Temple Beth El, 385 High St., Fall River, MA. Periodicals postage paid at Fall River, MA. POSTMASTERS, send address changes to Temple Beth El, 385 High St., Fall River, MA 02720-3348.

At 5 am on September 13th a truck driver, while attempting to back out of the Cumberland Farms across the street onto North Main Street, misjudged the size of his huge truck and crashed into and through the fence at our cemetery. He took down two pieces of fence, breaking them off the posts, and then, driving forward, completely mangled one section. Tommy Phillipovich, our cemetery guy, noticed it a few hours later and let us know. Although we were able to see the crash on our security cameras, the only thing we could identify about the truck was that it had a sleeper cab -- which ruled out the Cumberland Farms delivery drivers. Fortunately our insurance covered \$5000 of the \$7900 worth of damage. As you can see in the recent photo on the right, the fence was repaired nicely by one of the last wrought iron workers in the area. Thank you to Tommy for helping us with organizing the repairs.



Signs of autumn in New England; winterberries, mushrooms and a glorious November sunset.



IN MEMORIAM

SHIRLEY MERETSKY

NOVEMBER 15, 2023 - 4 KISLEV 5784

MAXINE SCHENKER

NOVEMBER 25, 2023 - 13 KISLEV 5784

MAY THEIR MEMORY BE FOR A BLESSING



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.org

YAHARZEITS

12/3/2023 20 Kislev 5784
James Sobiloff

12/4/2023 21 Kislev 5784
Edith Gold

12/5/2023 22 Kislev 5784
Hummy Chebot
Barry Novek
Daniel Schafler

12/6/2023 23 Kislev 5784
Alice Helfanbein
Elizabeth Beryl Waksler
Donna Ann Wolfson

12/9/2023 26 Kislev 5784
Henry William Juda
Phyllis Nerenberg
Samuel Rotenberg

12/10/2023 27 Kislev 5784
Herbert Fleisher
Shirley Resnick
Murray Rosofsky

12/11/2023 28 Kislev 5784
Ann Freedman
David Kotlen
Bernard Miller

12/12/2023 29 Kislev 5784
Ada Haims
Robert Lipson
Rose Tallman

12/13/2023 1 Tevet 5784
Sanford Litchman

12/14/2023 2 Tevet 5784
Sidney Fox

12/15/2023 3 Tevet 5784
William Gittelman
Milton Elis Raffel
Mary Seibert

12/16/2023 4 Tevet 5784
Isaac Schwartz
Jacob Yamins

12/17/2023 5 Tevet 5784
Sonja Calman

12/18/2023 6 Tevet 5784
Sarah Jacobson

12/19/2023 7 Tevet 5784
Dr. Myron Rubinstein
Selma Sokoll

12/20/2023 8 Tevet 5784
Howard Krasnow
Leon Nathan Malin

12/22/2023 10 Tevet 5784
Arthur Granovsky
Mathilda H. Raffel

12/23/2023 11 Tevet 5784
Arline Alpert
Robert Sokoll

12/24/2023 12 Tevet 5784
Sylvia Schneider

12/25/2023 13 Tevet 5784
Paula E. Shuman
Maurice Sludsky

12/26/2023 14 Tevet 5784
Nathan Silk

12/28/2023 16 Tevet 5784
Herman Gitlin
Bessie Gladstone
Frank Kosofsky
David Thaler

12/29/2023 17 Tevet 5784
Sophie Cohen
Louis M. Raffel
Milton Reiser

12/30/2023 18 Tevet 5784
Samuel Kay
Harry Spiro
Murray Taradash

12/31/2023 19 Tevet 5784
Dr. Samuel Sandler

2024

Clifton HEALTHCARE CAMPUS

Wilbur Avenue, Somerset, MA 02725

- Clifton Rehabilitative Nursing Center
508-675-7589
- Clifton Outpatient Rehabilitation Clinic
508-675-0329
- Clifton Assisted Living Community
508-324-0200
- Clifton Hospice Services
(a community hospice agency)
508-675-7583

Celebrating Over 60 Years of Dedication to Excellence

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.

508-673-0781

William "BT" Hathaway
Mike Roberts

