

TEMPLE BETH EL

FALL RIVER, MASSACHUSETTS



95th Year

February 2023

Sh'vat/Adar 5783

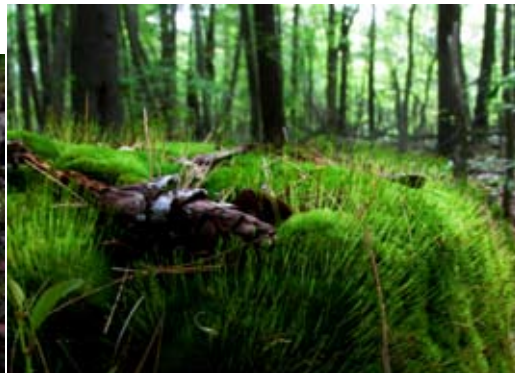
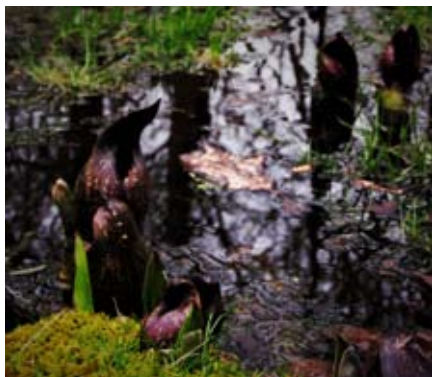
No. 6

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

Cantor Shoshana assembled this montage of nature photos all taken in our region (during the pandemic) in honor of the Jewish holiday of Tu BiSh'vat (this year on February 6th).

Happy Jewish Earth Day!



SUNDAY AFTERNOON AT THE JEWISH MOVIES!

Sunday, February 19th at 2 pm

"DIRTY DANCING"

for more information, see page 4

A message from our Spiritual Leader, Cantor Shoshana Brown

As I write this February column, near the end of January, Rabbi Mark and I are about to embark on a new adventure. We have been invited to teach as adjunct professors at Salve Regina University in Newport. The name of the course we are teaching is “Engaging the Jewish Experience.” This course had been taught some years ago by Rabbi Marc Jagolinzer, who, sadly, passed away in 2017. Since that time, there has been no introductory course on Judaism taught at Salve Regina. We hope that, in addition to giving the young people in our class an in-depth understanding and appreciation of Judaism, Jewish culture and Jewish history, we can also make a modest but positive impact in the wider world in our region.

Beyond whatever modest impact we might make, certainly the young people in our class will make an impact *on us*. For although the make-up of our Temple Beth El community at this time is overwhelmingly *senior*, it is important to be in touch with the mindset of the up-and-coming generation of young adults, should we begin at some point in the relatively near future to experience a fresh influx of younger Jewish families in Fall River – which hopefully will happen once the commuter rail line is up and running (which is forecasted to be in late spring/early summer of 2023). I certainly cannot say for sure that this will happen, or, if it does happen, how long it will take for younger Boston-oriented Jewish families, couples, or singles to realize that housing is much more affordable in Fall River than it is in the Boston area – but if/when it does happen, it would behoove us to be ready!

I also want to report back from the OHALAH (Jewish Renewal-associated Jewish clergy) conference that Mark and I attended from Jan 8-12 in Colorado. This was our first professional conference held *in person* since 2020 (we attended two on Zoom during the past two years). The theme for this year’s conference was “*Kol Korei BaMidbar – A Voice Calling in the Wilderness*.” What did that mean? There was a strong orientation in the conference towards issues having to do with the environment, and with how Jewish teachings and actions can address the climate crisis; and an orientation towards other issues that might be considered “prophetic” (since the prophets of the Hebrew Bible frequently experienced their calls in the wilderness) – issues related to social justice, to mental/emotional and physical health, to the health of the State of Israel, etc.

While at the OHALAH conference, Mark gave a “book talk” – a reading with discussion – of his book of poetry, *Headstone*. I participated in a plenary on *tikkun olam* (Jewish social action, “repair of the world”), accompanying a ritual of grieving for ongoing environmental degradation with a song called *Kinah l’Churban Gan Eden* (Lament for the Destruction of the Garden of Eden) – a lament sung in a manner similar to the way we sing Jeremiah’s lamentations (from the Book of *Eikhah*) on the 9th of Av. In this song, it is

Mother Earth herself who is weeping over the destruction of her “temple” – that is, her temple which was not just the Garden of Eden, but the Garden of Eden that the whole planet Earth once was. The song was composed by one of my most influential cantorial mentors, Cantor Richard Kaplan (z”l) who died during the pandemic of pancreatic cancer. It was my privilege to carry on his legacy – and one listener told me that it moved him to hear the song of Mother Earth finally sung by a woman!

Of course, if we want to do something to keep this Earth healthy and capable of sustaining human life (and the life of thousands of other magnificent species), it is not enough to sing songs – whether they be songs of grief, determination, or of hope. It is not enough to learn, teach, and/or direct our prayers to God for a solution to our planetary crisis. We have to begin to *change the way we live*, and to try to influence our government and the wider society to do things differently.

But changing the way we live is not easy, nor is *changing the way we think*. That is why it is so important to get in touch with how younger generations are thinking and living. They have the greatest stake of all in the future health of our planet, and they deserve to be listened to.

Alas, our vestry is still not ready for us to reinstitute the *Tu BiSh’vat* seder (this “Jewish Earth Day” holiday comes up this month on Feb. 6th) – but I am put in mind of one of the texts that we usually read at this observance:

There once was a man named Honi. He was walking along one day and saw a man planting a carob tree. Honi asked the man, “How long will it take for that tree to mature and bear fruit?”

The man replied, “Seventy years.”

Honi looked shocked as he asked, “How do you know that you will live another seventy years?”

“I don’t,” he answered, “but just as my grandparents and parents planted for me, I am planting this tree for the generations to come.” (Babylonian Talmud, Ta’anit, 23a).

Similarly, the sage Rabbi Yochanan ben Zakkai (who lived during the 1st century C.E.) is reported to have taught:

If you are [in the midst of planting a tree,] holding a sapling in your hand, and someone tells you, ‘Come quickly, the Messiah is here!’, first finish planting the tree and then go to greet the Messiah. (Avot d’Rabbi Natan 31b)

During this month of Shevat I would like to wish you all, along with our Mother Earth and all her forms of life, good health and happiness – may the Blessed Holy One bless us all, and show us the way to be good guardians of Creation,

Cantor Shoshana

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As I write my column we are looking at another storm that will mostly bring a lot of rain to our area. It is better than snow (there is no need to shovel rain), but that much rain will surely cause havoc in our leaky towers. We continue to make repairs where we can, and are talking about having a comprehensive assessment to see how best to move forward.

On a more positive note, things are going well with services, and we are waiting on an estimate to get the kitchen professionally cleaned so that we can once again host events in the vestry.

Please note that we will be having a Purim celebration on Monday, March 6th at 5:30 pm. It will also be on Zoom, but Purim is so much more fun in person. We hope you will consider joining us for the reading of the Megillah in the vestry.

Speaking of coming back to the temple in person, you will see in the next column that we are seeking your input about whether or not you would like to come to a Community Passover Celebration at the Temple, and also if you would be interested in joining a proposed Bridge Club. In both cases we would like you to call or email the office to let us know, the sooner the better. Thank you.

Lastly, I would like to extend our sincere condolences to Judy Kosofsky on the loss of her beloved husband, Frank. Despite living in Cranston, RI for over 50 years, they always kept their membership here at Temple Beth El. Frank was a true gentleman and strong in his faith. May his memory be for a blessing.

*Steve Silverman
President*

IN MEMORIAM

FRANK KOSOFSKY

JANUARY 9, 2023 - 16 TEVET 5783

MAY HIS MEMORY BE FOR A BLESSING

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

Hello everyone! I hope you are all well, and surviving these dreary winter months. Today it is raining once again, and it's supposed to mix with snow by rush hour. Hopefully tomorrow will be a drier day.

Things are quiet in the community for now. I hope to have more interesting things to report in the near future. Make sure to watch your e-mail. Marie is on top of keeping us informed with what's happening at the Temple.

So, until next month, keep warm and safe.

*Libby Cohen
Sisterhood President*

Community Passover Celebration?

We are trying to decide if we should plan to host a Community Passover Celebration this year. So our first question is, would you consider coming to the temple to join us? If the answer is yes, please call or email the office as soon as possible to let us know. The sooner we know if we have enough people to make it worthwhile for everyone, the sooner we can start planning! So call (508) 674-3529 (please leave a message if no one is available to answer) or email templebethel@comcast.net today!

Bridge Anyone?

Carole Waksler, one of our active members, is interested in forming a Bridge Club at Temple Beth El. If you would be interested in joining the club, or learning how to play bridge, please contact Marie in the Temple office to let her know. If there is sufficient interest we will discuss the details. The club would take place in the vestry on a weekday afternoon.

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SERVICE SCHEDULE

**February 2023
Sh'vat/Adar 5783**Friday, February 3 (12 Sh'vat)

Candle Lighting	4:45 pm
Shabbat Service	5:30 pm

Saturday, February 4 (13 Sh'vat)

Weekly Portion: B'shalakh Shabbat Shirah	10:00 am
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Tuesday, February 6 (15 Sh'vat)

Tu BiSh'vat

Friday, February 10 (19 Sh'vat)

Candle Lighting	4:54 pm
Shabbat Service	5:30 pm

Saturday, February 11 (20 Sh'vat)

Weekly Portion: Yitro	10:00 am
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Friday, February 17 (26 Sh'vat)

Candle Lighting	5:03 pm
Shabbat Service	5:30 pm

Saturday, February 18 (27 Sh'vat)

Weekly Portion: Mishpatim Shabbat Shekalim	10:00 am
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Tuesday, February 21 (30 Sh'vat)

Rosh Chodesh Adar

Wednesday, February 22 (1 Adar)

Rosh Chodesh Adar

Friday, February 24 (3 Adar)

Candle Lighting	5:11 pm
Shabbat Service	5:30 pm

Saturday, February 25 (4 Adar)

Weekly Portion: Terumah	10:00 am
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TEMPLE OFFICE

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E-Mail: templebethel@comcast.net
Website: frtemplebethel.org

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday - Wednesday - Friday, 9 am to Noon

OFFICE CLOSED:

Monday, Feb. 20th - Presidents' Day



SUNDAY AFTERNOON AT THE JEWISH MOVIES!

It is the summer of 1963, and the Houseman family is vacationing in the Catskills. 17 year-old Frances ("Baby") Houseman breaks through the traditional social barriers between guests and staff to become more than just a dance pupil to Johnny, the resort's dance instructor. A nostalgic look back at the era of the Borscht belt - with great dancing! (1 hour 45 minutes).

Temple Family

- Our sincere condolences to Bart and Joan Goldberg on the loss of his beloved brother, Richard.
- Our sincere condolences to Judy Kosofsky on the loss of her beloved husband, Frank.

SOUTH COAST MEMORIALS

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Thank you for your donations received through Jan. 23rd

Yahrzeits

For the yahrzeit of my beloved...	Donated by:
Daddy & Zaide, Abraham Becker	Winokoor Family
Husband & Father, Bob Chavenson	Chavenson Family
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Father-in-law, Murray Taradash	Shirley Taradash
Esther Weissman	Jeffrey Weissman
Husband, Myron Wilner	Marion Wilner
Father & Grandfather Simon "Zaide" Winokoor	Winokoor Family
Father, Bertram Yaffe	Robert Yaffe

Capital Fund

In honor of Bill Chebot's 95th birthday
Anita & Norm Bolski
Chavenson Family
Libby Cohen
Sue & Joe Paresky
In honor of Bernard Labush's special birthday
Bev Solup
In gratitude for the support from the TBE family
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Morning Minyan Fund

In honor of Bill Chebot's 95th birthday
Sheila & Howie Galitsky

Rabbi's & Cantor's Discretionary Fund

In memory of Murray Rosofsky
Paula Shaer

Special Gifts

In memory of my beloved husband, Allen Taradash
Shirley Taradash

TBE News & Notes

Things have been pretty quiet around Temple Beth El this winter. We have been getting some "large" crowds for **Kabbalat Shabbat** (Friday night) services – if you count everyone on Zoom – but we would **really love to see more of you at services in person!** Please consider, if you are in good health, joining us in the chapel for services either **Friday nights at 5:30 or Shabbat morning at 10:00** – or come to both! Of course you are always welcome at services on Zoom as well.

As you may have guessed, we will not be holding a Tu BiSh'vat seder this year, but **please do mark your calendar for our celebration of Purim on Monday evening, March 6th at 5:30 pm.** As with last year, you can also watch/listen to this service on Zoom, but Purim is so much better observed in person – please consider joining us for the Megillah reading that night in the vestry.

Our "**Sunday Afternoon at the Jewish Movies**" crowd has been markedly thinning recently. You have been missing some great films! Those of us in attendance this past month were in need of tissues for Spielberg's recent rendition of *West Side Story* – both because of its heartbreaking story, and because of the beauty of the music. This month we will dip into a classic from the 1980's (but set in the 60's), "**Dirty Dancing.**" Now I know that Valentine's Day is not a Jewish holiday, but who doesn't love a good romantic movie set in the Catskills? Please join us! The vestry will be warm and the handicap entrance is available!

Save the date (Wed. May 10th) for Rabbi Mark's "Book Walk," part of the South Coast Spring Arts Festival, which will include a 2-mile walk from the temple steps down to the corner of President and Highland Ave. (to the Jewish War Veterans memorial), and back to the temple, with stops along the way for Rabbi Mark's reading of poems at significant spots. This will take place from 4 – 6 PM, and I will remind you again as we get closer to this date!

I know people are wondering about the **possibility of a congregational Passover celebratory meal** (if not a seder) this year. At this point in time, I cannot say whether the kitchen and vestry will be ready for such a venture, nor whether enough people will be willing to leave their homes for a communal meal...we are just going to have to wait until March for further clarity on this issue. But **if you are interested in attending** a Community Passover Celebration in April, please let Marie in the office know, so that she can report the level of interest to our Board of Directors.

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.org

YAHARZEITS

2/1/2023 10 Sh'vat 5783
Normand Futoransky

2/2/2023 11 Sh'vat 5783
Clarence Calman

2/3/2023 12 Sh'vat 5783
Tylda Schwartz
Cilla Sobloff
Arnold Wolfson

2/4/2023 13 Sh'vat 5783
Maurice Calman

2/5/2023 14 Sh'vat 5783
Louis Freedman
Esther Mickelson
William Shriberg
Morris Wilner

2/6/2023 15 Sh'vat 5783
Margot Bogus
Adolph Feder
Cyril Hochberg

2/7/2023 16 Sh'vat 5783
Sandra Bogus
Abner Kravitz

2/8/2023 17 Sh'vat 5783
Jack Mickelson
Charles Novek

2/9/2023 18 Sh'vat 5783
Edith Gerlich
Ada Wolfson

2/10/2023 19 Sh'vat 5783
Mildred Trieff

2/11/2023 20 Sh'vat 5783
Lottie Bloom Sandler
Eugene Joseph Silverman

2/12/2023 21 Sh'vat 5783
Atty. Lloyd Belford
Dr. Ronald Schneider

2/13/2023 22 Sh'vat 5783
Seymour Filler
Martin Schlam

2/14/2023 23 Sh'vat 5783
Herman Bernstein
Bernice Hoffman
Charles Kane

2/15/2023 24 Sh'vat 5783
Morris Lepes
Dorothy Schwartz

2/16/2023 25 Sh'vat 5783
Simon Goldberg

2/17/2023 26 Sh'vat 5783
Dr. Jacob Helfanbein

2/18/2023 27 Sh'vat 5783
Samuel M. Schwartz

2/19/2023 28 Sh'vat 5783
Madeline Leonard

2/20/2023 29 Sh'vat 5783
Blossom Granovsky
Sidney Lechan
Hyman Lipshitz
Ida Woltman
Hilda Zaslow

2/21/2023 30 Sh'vat 5783
Dr. Harry Cooperstein
Nathaniel Dashoff

2/22/2023 1 Adar 5783
Regina Elber
Richard Shore
William Wolfson

2/23/2023 2 Adar 5783
Isaac Bolski
Joy Field
Hyman Karp
Rose Presser
Myer N. Sobloff

2/24/2023 3 Adar 5783
Max Jacob Packer

2/25/2023 4 Adar 5783
Bernard Chebot
Sadie Lovit

2/26/2023 5 Adar 5783
Clara Freedman
Irene Kassler Jones
Morris Levine
Charles Meretsky

2/27/2023 6 Adar 5783
Morris Haims
Edith Kusinitz
Philip Ostroff
Bertha Weinstock
Philip Zalkind

2/28/2023 7 Adar 5783
Adelle Wiener

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