

THE BULLETIN OF

TEMPLE BETH EL

FALL RIVER, MASSACHUSETTS



95th Year

November 2022

Cheshvan/Kislev 5783

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 |



SUNDAY AFTERNOON AT THE JEWISH MOVIES!

Sunday, November 13th at 2 pm

NORMAN LEAR: JUST ANOTHER VERSION OF YOU

for more information, see page 5

A message from our Spiritual Leader, Rabbi Mark Elber

The fall, as we all know, is the most intense season for Jewish Holidays. There is a sense of renewal that comes with it. It is not as though the challenges of the previous year vanish, but hopefully we can renew our commitment to always grow, no matter what circumstances we find ourselves in. Each of these holidays has its own message, beginning with the self-examination that hits high gear with Rosh Hashanah, and culminating with the celebration of Sukkot – a time when we are asked to be *akh sameakh* (only joyful). Sukkot is a biblically-mandated holiday which coincides with the final harvest of the year in Israel after our ancestors had reaped what they'd sown during the year. This too is a powerful message.

The ten days from Rosh Hashanah through Yom Kippur end a mere five days prior to the holiday of Sukkot. The High Holidays largely ask us to examine what we've sown, metaphorically speaking, in our lives and how we would like to better ourselves morally and spiritually, how to sow holier, more righteous seeds, if you will. Then, during Sukkot, we are commanded to rejoice over the blessings that we have harvested. At the same time, we are supposed to dwell (at least during mealtimes) in a Sukkah, a structure that is intentionally relatively fragile, embodying for us the vulnerability of our existence. So, we have this combination of cultivating a consciousness of the fragile nature of our existence coupled with the command to appreciate and rejoice in our lot. There are some who claim that the celebration of Sukkot was the model on which the Pilgrims based the November harvest holiday of Thanksgiving, having lived among Sephardic Jews in Holland before coming to North America.

Can we truly be commanded to rejoice? Can we find it in ourselves to focus on our blessings and not on the shortcomings we experience, or on the various disappointments that life can deal us? Sukkot ends with the holiday of Simchat Torah, during which we celebrate the completion of the yearly cycle of reading the Torah. On the same day that we conclude reading the entire Torah, we also commence anew from the beginning. Here too, as we begin the new cycle's annual journey through the Torah, we hope to gain new insights as we reread it during the course of the year. If we ourselves have grown during the year that has just passed, then we should perceive the Torah somewhat differently based on our own inner changes.

Not every year manifests the same amount of growth. During some years we grow much more intensively than in others. Usually when we're younger we change more dramatically year to year, not only physically, but emotionally and intellectually as well. Some years are more life-

changing than others. Change is challenging. There are changes that time forces upon us, and others that we try to inculcate in ourselves. I'm sure most of us have experienced how our sense of time itself usually changes with the years. When we're young, time moves more slowly, and most years are quite distinct from one another. At this point for me, days, weeks, months, and even years seem to fly by. It's hard to believe that we've celebrated ten High Holiday seasons at Temple Beth El already.

November this year is filled with the early Torah portions of Genesis – the basic origin stories of the Jewish people, starting with Abraham leaving his birthplace and going to a land that he did not know. He was not a young man, chronologically, when he left his original homeland. Yet he uprooted his life completely. Once upon a time that was a very unusual thing to do. People were not as mobile as they are now, and traveling significant distances was much more difficult. Many people, including quite a number of people in our congregation, pick up and leave for warmer climates like Florida or Arizona as they reach their golden years. Shoshana and I (along with Lev) packed up and left Long Island to come to Fall River, not knowing what we would find here exactly, not knowing that we would find such a warm community, many of whose members have an incredible attachment to both Temple Beth El and Fall River in general. Just today, after morning minyan, I heard beautiful first-hand descriptions of some of the great elements of downtown Fall River before the highway split the city. Those days cannot be brought back, but their memory can inspire the directions Fall River might take in the future.

We cannot know what the future holds for Fall River, for Temple Beth El, for the American Jewish Community, for Israel, for the United States for that matter, or even for ourselves. Certain things are in our hands, while others are clearly not. As Rabbi Hanina is quoted as saying in the Talmud (Tractate Brakhot 33b): "all is in the hands of Heaven, except the awe of Heaven." I think this is saying that many things are not in our control, but ultimately, we largely have free will over our emotions and actions. Will we challenge ourselves with change, striving to grow and learn new things? Most studies that I've read, claim that keeping our brains active with new experiences and learning new things (especially languages) keeps the brain healthy. Will we strive to be emotionally flexible? Will we value remaining open-minded, trying to listen to people whose opinions do not necessarily coincide with our own?

The Jewish people have remade themselves from time to time over the centuries. Many Jewish generations have feared that they may be one of the last. Nevertheless, we have remained dynamic and, though I share the anxiety about our future, I also believe that we have much life left in us.

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Sisterhood President’s Message

I would like to thank Touro Fraternal Association in Cranston, RI for generously supporting our congregation by once again offering to cover the cost of our police details during the High Holidays. This is the third year in a row that their organization has included us in this proactive grant program, and we truly do appreciate it.

We were sorry to lose Irma Feldman last month. Just shy of a year ago we lost her beloved husband Carl. They were both very active in the Temple community and in the Fall River business community. Irma owned the Merri-Card and Gift Shop, and Carl owned the Music Box. Irma was involved in our Sisterhood while Carl was a past president. Both were solicitors for the United Jewish Appeal. Needless to say, they will both be missed. Our sincere condolences to their daughters, Gail Wilkinson and Fran Haines, and their families.

On a happier note, I am pleased to welcome our newest members, Soili and Leonard Lehrer. They have recently moved to the area and are looking forward to being a part of our congregation. They have already attended services on Zoom, and plan to come to services in person soon. Between the Lehrers, Josh and Katherine Padwa and Nancy Horvitz Tobin, as well as several people who have shown interest in joining, you may see people you don’t recognize (either in-person or on Zoom). If so, please introduce yourself and welcome them!

It was so nice to have activity in the temple during the holidays. We would love to continue that by having more people come to in-person services. As was typical before Covid, our Friday evening Shabbat service is our most well-attended service. While Zoom has been a silver lining of Covid, everyone who comes in person truly appreciates “the real thing.” Keep in mind that the Locust Street door will be locked at the start of the service, but if you are late just ring both doorbells and someone will let you in.

*Steve Silverman
President*

We are now into the month of November, and that means we are preparing for Thanksgiving. Hopefully, this year we will enjoy a little more normalcy. With the pandemic calming down, people are anxious to start living and enjoying life again. I know I am.

Before we get to Thanksgiving, we will be celebrating Veteran’s Day on the 11th. Every year we honor the men and women who have served in the United States military. Thank you for your service.

I want to thank Rabbi Mark and Cantor Shoshana for the lovely job they did with the High Holiday services. They moved along nicely with the new prayer books. The flowers were beautiful, thanks to Elaine Weiss Reback. She worked very well with Red Velvet Florist for the bimah displays, and Araujo Farms for the mums on the front steps. My special thanks to those folks who donated to the Flower Fund.

Please keep an eye out for e-mails from the Temple. Any goings on, whether social or religious, Marie will keep you well informed. I hope to plan another get together in the near future.

So until next month, stay safe and healthy.

*Libby Cohen
Sisterhood President*

IN MEMORIAM

IRMA FELDMAN

OCTOBER 20, 2022 - 25 TISHREI 5783

MAY HER 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

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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, Nov. 11th - Veterans Day
 Thursday, Nov. 24th - Thanksgiving

SERVICE SCHEDULE

November 2022: Cheshvan/Kislev 5783

Friday, November 4 (10 Cheshvan)

Candle Lighting 5:18 pm
 Shabbat Service 5:30 pm

Saturday, November 5 (11 Cheshvan)

Weekly Portion: Lekh Lekha 10:00 am

Friday, November 11 (17 Cheshvan)

Candle Lighting 4:10 pm
 Shabbat Service 5:30 pm

Saturday, November 12 (18 Cheshvan)

Weekly Portion: Vayera 10:00 am

Friday, November 18 (24 Cheshvan)

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

Saturday, November 19 (25 Cheshvan)

Weekly Portion: Chayei Sara 10:00 am

Thursday, November 24 (30 Cheshvan)

Rosh Chodesh Kislev

Friday, November 25 (1 Kislev)

Rosh Chodesh Kislev
 Candle Lighting 4:00 pm
 Shabbat Service 5:30 pm

Saturday, November 26 (2 Kislev)

Weekly Portion: Toldot 10:00 am

Daylight
Saving Time
Ends

2022
6th
November



TBE News & Notes

Well, the *Yamim Nora'im* and the fall holidays of Sukkot and Simchat Torah are behind us. Thanks to everyone who turned out (or tuned in) both in person at the Temple and on Zoom for Simchat Torah - yes we did have a minyan! Since the pandemic hit us back in March of 2020, everything has seemed kind of blurry - but it felt like the first close to "normal" Simchat Torah in a long time, with marching and dancing with our Torah scrolls, and chanting from the end of the Torah and the beginning again, starting the new year of the Torah-reading cycle for the year.

We are small in numbers - but we are a dedicated group! A number of us enjoyed "hanging out" in the sukkah (thank you to Henry Parker and Tom Gregory for putting it up for us again this year) on the festival days, and Shabbat, of Sukkot. And Rabbi Mark and I enjoyed eating in our home sukkah - it seemed that the weather was especially nice for outdoor dining this year.

Thank you to all who donated canned or dry foods during the High Holidays. We have donated them once again to United Neighbors of Fall River, where the staff there make sure that this food gets to local families or individuals in need.

If you missed last month's movie, "Tel Aviv on Fire," you really missed a treat! It was quite an unusual, and very humorous, take on Jewish/Palestinian relations in the entertainment business.

I hope you will consider joining us for this month's movie: a documentary (part of the American Masters series) on Norman Lear. I saw this film on PBS, and it is just fabulous; I am looking forward to seeing it again with some of you! (see p. 5 for details)

The Events Committee of TBE is planning to do a deep-cleaning of our kitchen and vestry and we hope to hold a Hanukkah event next month (probably on 12/18, but stay tuned for details)...we all feel it is time for us to get our temple's social life and other activities back into the swing of things.

And on that note, I want to wish you all a Happy Thanksgiving!

Temple Family

- Welcome to our newest members, Soili & Leonard Lehrer.
- Our sincere condolences to Gail Wilkinson and family on the loss of her beloved mother, Irma Feldman.

Thank you for your donations received through October 20th

YAHARZEITS

| For the yahrzeit of my beloved... | Donated by: |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| Father, Dr. Hammond Bender | Susan Bender |
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| Mother, Esther Kaufman | Etta Kaufman |
| Dr. & Mrs. Abraham Kaufmann | David Kaufmann |
| Mother, Rose Krasnow | Carol Schwartz |
| Husband, Stewart Kusinitz | Lisa Kusinitz |
| Husband, Melvin Lash | Sheila Lash |
| Son, Jonathan "JD" Lash | Sheila Lash |
| Father, Richard Levin | Mark Levin |
| Father, Dr. Harry Levine | Richard & Wendy Levine |
| Father, Dr Harry Levine | Alan Levine |
| Mother, Phyllis Littman | Ken Littman & Family |
| Father, Solomon Moss | Shirley Taradash |
| Ruth Novek Rodman | Novek Family |
| Father, Rabbi Samuel Ruderman | Ora Beth Levine |
| Mother, Mildred Sherwin | Ferne Sherwin |
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BUILDING FUND

With gratitude to Rabbi Elber & Cantor Brown
Carole & Jerry Waksler

CAPITAL FUND

in honor of Temple Beth El nearing 100 years
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SPECIAL GIFTS

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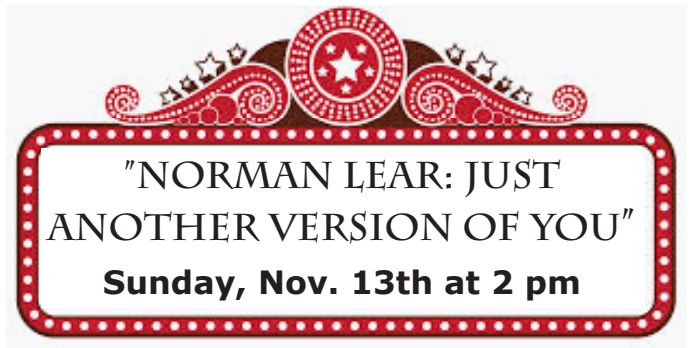
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SUNDAY AFTERNOON AT THE JEWISH MOVIES!

Norman Lear: Just another Version of You

Another great look at the life of an influential American in the American Masters Series: the man who introduced America to Archie Bunker and George Jefferson -- spurring social change through laughter -- gets his due in this creative and fascinating documentary. From his Jewish Connecticut roots to his Hollywood success, Norman Lear's life is explored in full. 1 hour, 30 minutes.

Where does your Tzedakah go?

All donations that go in the Tzedakah "box" at the Morning Minyan services, as well as all donations earmarked for the Morning Minyan Fund, have recently gone to the following charitable organizations, although others have been included in the past:

Anti-Defamation League
B'nai B'rith International
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
Fall River United Jewish Appeal
Yiddish Book Center

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(508) 730-7104 cell
(508) 679-9704 fax
jeffnjan11@comcast.net

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.

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

YAHRZEITS

11/1/2022 7 Cheshvan 5783
Jennie Robinson

11/3/2022 9 Cheshvan 5783
Bernard Hoffman

11/4/2022 10 Cheshvan 5783
Anna Simmons

11/6/2022 12 Cheshvan 5783
Betty Rosenberg

11/7/2022 13 Cheshvan 5783
Marilyn Ehrenhaus
Mary Gollub
Lenora Goltz
Eva Levis
Kenneth R. Resnick

11/8/2022 14 Cheshvan 5783
Isidor Juda
Bessie Kassler

11/9/2022 15 Cheshvan 5783
Rae Gitlin

11/11/2022 17 Cheshvan 5783
Lillian Feinberg
Diana Hyman
Erwin Juda

11/12/2022 18 Cheshvan 5783
Dr. Irving Fradkin

11/13/2022 19 Cheshvan 5783
Jacob Brown
Lorraine Kaplan

11/14/2022 20 Cheshvan 5783
Sylvia Feldman

11/15/2022 21 Cheshvan 5783
Helene Bender
Rose Freedman
Hyman Edward Lepes
Yetta Sludsky

11/16/2022 22 Cheshvan 5783
Carl Feldman

11/17/2022 23 Cheshvan 5783
Bessie Bolski
Marion Horvitz
Joseph Simmons

11/18/2022 24 Cheshvan 5783
Lawrence Howard Golding

11/19/2022 25 Cheshvan 5783
Leo Greene
Dr. David Greer

11/20/2022 26 Cheshvan 5783
Anna Zalkind

11/21/2022 27 Cheshvan 5783
Harold Katzman

11/22/2022 28 Cheshvan 5783
Ada Gourse

11/23/2022 29 Cheshvan 5783
Seymour Kevelson
Alfred Kublin
Carl Zeitz

11/24/2022 30 Cheshvan 5783
Doris Becker

11/26/2022 2 Kislev 5783
Ethel Bernstein
Frances Sokoll

11/28/2022 4 Kislev 5783
Harry Finkelstein
Anne Gregory
Paul Horowitz
Louis Weinstock
Donald Wiener
Myron Wilner
Lillian Woltman

11/29/2022 5 Kislev 5783
Neilson Caplain
Gladys Shapiro

11/30/2022 6 Kislev 5783
Ida Z. David

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