

TEMPLE BETH EL

FALL RIVER, MASSACHUSETTS



96th Year

Novemer 2023

Cheshvan/Kislev 5784

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 |

Get Ready to Celebrate!

TBE CHANUKAH PARTY - FOURTH NIGHT

When: Sunday, December 10th, beginning at 4 pm

**Where: The home of Rabbi Mark and Cantor Shoshana
(call or email the office if you need the address, and to RSVP).**

**Come and enjoy latkes, applesauce, a full dinner, Shoshana's famous apple cake, candle-lighting, and Chanukah songs.
Bring your own chanukiah (menorah) and candles if you like.**

Please RSVP by December 1st.



SUNDAY AFTERNOON AT THE JEWISH MOVIES!

Sunday, November 19th at 2 pm

"THE ANGEL"

for more information, see page 5

A message from our Spiritual Leader, Rabbi Mark Elber

As Shoshana and I were driving back on Sunday evening, October 29th from Burlington, Vermont at the end of Parents' Weekend at Champlain College, we were listening to a recording of a teacher of Israeli poetry that I try to listen to whenever I have the opportunity. The lecturer, Rachel Korazim, who lives in Yaffo, the ancient port city mentioned in the Biblical book of Jonah, which is on the northern border of Tel Aviv, was devoting three lectures on the person considered Israel's National poet, Chaim Nachman Bialik. Bialik lived from 1873 – 1934. He made *aliyah* (i.e., immigrated to the Land of Israel) in 1924 and lived there for the last ten years of his life.

Bialik grew up in the Pale of Settlement (the area where Jews were allowed to live in the western Russian empire that included parts of Lithuania, Poland, Ukraine, and neighboring areas). He was raised in an Orthodox Jewish home and was a serious yeshiva student. He studied in what was considered a "modern" yeshiva which meant that they didn't only study the Talmud, but also studied the *Tanakh* (the Hebrew Bible). Bialik, exposed to the Haskalah (the Jewish Enlightenment), began to distance himself from the Orthodox world of the yeshivah. At the age of 18, in 1891, he moved to Odessa, a great cultural center for Jews and non-Jews alike in the Russian empire and within the Pale of Settlement. There were many great Jewish writers there both in Yiddish and Hebrew such as Mendele Mokher Sforim (often thought of as the "grandfather" of Yiddish literature) and Ahad Ha'am (the founder of what's known as "cultural Zionism").

Bialik was a witness to the rise of political Zionism with the Zionist Congress founded by Theodore Herzl in 1897. He was thirty years old when the Kishinev pogrom occurred in 1903. The Kishinev pogrom, though far from unique, was maybe the most infamous pogrom of the 20th century, possibly because it made the newspapers world-wide including the New York Times. It occurred in April, with its immediate "catalyst" being a story in a Russian Kishinev newspaper claiming that the Jews had killed a Christian boy to use his blood for making matzah – the classic medieval "blood libel." This began a riot that lasted for three days during which mobs attacked Jews throughout the city of Kishinev, killed 49, seriously wounded 95 people, raped countless Jewish women, and left 1500 homes destroyed. A few months later, the infamous fabrication, "The Protocols of the Elders of Zion" which claimed that there was a secret Jewish plot to dominate the world, first appeared.

Bialik visited the Land of Israel in 1909 but didn't make *aliyah* until 1924. There were three great waves of Jewish immigration to the Land of Israel before Bialik came, each catalyzed by pogroms and/or crises. The First Aliyah occurred from 1881 – 1903, starting as a reaction to terrible pogroms in Russia beginning in 1881. Of course, not all Jews who left Russia went to Israel. In fact, many more went to the United States. Most Jewish immigration to the United States occurred from 1881-1914. Those pioneers who believed that the future of the Jewish people required a return to our ancient homeland created primarily agricultural settlements in the Land of Israel during the First Aliyah. Approximately 25,000 Jews comprised the First Aliyah. The Second Aliyah was largely catalyzed by the Kishinev pogrom and its aftermath and lasted from 1903 – 1914. The Jews coming in this wave, in contrast to the previous wave of immigrants, were mostly young, single people, many of whom shared a socialist ideology and a belief in the national redemption of the Jewish people in the Land of Israel. The first kibbutz (collective farm), Degania, was founded in 1909 on the shores of the Sea of Galilee. About 35,000 – 40,000 Jews immigrated in those years, among them David Ben Gurion, Israel's first prime minister.

The Third Aliyah occurred from 1919 – 1923 and was triggered by the Russian Revolution, the Balfour Declaration, the Russian Civil War after the Revolution, the end of World War I, and the pogroms in Eastern Europe that coincided with these events and were often results of these events (excluding the Balfour Declaration). About 35,000 Jews immigrated during these years. From 1881 until the foundation of the State of Israel in 1948, Jews were purchasing land upon which to settle. As I'm sure you all know, the foundational *raison d'etre* of the Zionist movement was the creation of a homeland and safe haven for the Jewish people. For those more ideologically oriented, its additional purpose was to create a new Jew, as the Zionist slogan went: "We went to the Land to build it and to *be rebuilt* by it."

Fast forward one hundred years to today. Some are calling what happened in Israel on October 7th a pogrom. Clearly the purpose was the slaughter of as many Jews as possible. This catastrophe touched the psyche of the entire nation. The country whose foundation was built upon the promise of providing a safe haven for Jews was suddenly the scene of the biggest massacre of Jews since the Holocaust. There has never been a time in Israel's seventy-five-year history when it has not felt that its legitimacy and very existence were questioned and even threatened.

Continued on Page 7

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I am writing my column early this month, as I will be out of commission for several weeks while recovering from back surgery. I am very fortunate to have so many people willing to help out leading up to and during my absence. Thank you!

Whenever I have lots of people to thank, I always worry I will forget someone. This year I did just that. Thank you to Charlie Winokoor for once again blowing the shofar for us during the High Holiday services. If I had been able to attend services this year I am quite sure I would have remembered, as I have always enjoyed the majesty of the shofar.

I look forward to next month's bulletin to see how people enjoyed our Ruderman guest speaker, Robert Cohen. Next year I plan to be there myself!

Please note that Rabbi Mark and Cantor Shoshana have once again graciously offered to host our Chanukah party at their home. Please be sure to RSVP for this event no later than December 1st. They need to be able to plan appropriately, not only for the food but also for the seating.

We continue to provide security for our Friday and Saturday Shabbat services, as well as any special events. We have hired a new security firm, and have been extremely pleased by their service. They are prompt, professional and most importantly, reliable. If you haven't met one of them yet, they park a well-marked car on the street, and wear business clothes with a "Security" jacket.

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

Hello November, the month of Veteran's Day and Thanksgiving. Right now, I'm busy finishing up the preparations for the Ruderman Lecture on Sunday, November 5th. I hope to see a lot of you folks in attendance. A lot of work goes into putting this event together. I want to thank the following folks in advance for all their help and support. First of all, Cantor Shoshana for finding the speaker, Rabbi Mark for his spiritual direction, Elaine Weiss Reback for helping with the decorations and setup, Carleen Makowski, a welcome addition, for coming onboard and helping with the setup, Robert Falconero for arranging the finances to make this all possible, Henry Parker for preparing the room for us and an extra big thank you to Marie Twomey who always goes above and beyond for us.

I would be remiss if I didn't send prayers to our counterparts in Israel. Those of us who attended the Sisterhood Shabbat were made aware that we dedicated the Kiddush to Israel. The folks who came seemed to enjoy the morning. We were able to do this with the help of Tom Gregory. It's a pleasure working with him. I am so lucky to work elbow to elbow with Elaine Weiss Reback. Your help with that morning did not go unnoticed. And last, but not least, thank you Rabbi Mark and Cantor Shoshana for helping bring this to fruition.

So, until next month, stay safe and be well.

Libby Cohen
Sisterhood President



Our latest TBE Nature Walk at Little Compton's Town Landing. Participants crowded in for this group-selfie: Harvey and Elaine Reback, Carleen Makowski, Rabbi Mark and Cantor Shoshana. A glorious day!

SERVICE SCHEDULE

November 2023: Cheshvan/Kislev 5784

Friday, November 3 (19 Cheshvan)

Candle Lighting 5:19 pm
Shabbat Service 5:30 pm

Saturday, November 4 (20 Cheshvan)

Weekly Portion: Vayera 10:00 am

Friday, November 10 (26 Cheshvan)

Candle Lighting 4:11 pm
Shabbat Service 5:30 pm

Saturday, November 11 (27 Cheshvan)

Weekly Portion: Chayei Sara 10:00 am

Tuesday, November 14 (1 Kislev)

Rosh Chodesh Kislev

Friday, November 17 (4 Kislev)

Candle Lighting 4:05 pm
Shabbat Service 5:30 pm

Saturday, November 18 (5 Kislev)

Weekly Portion: Toldot 10:00 am

Friday, November 24 (11 Kislev)

Candle Lighting 4:00 pm
Shabbat Service 5:30 pm

Saturday, November 25 (12 Kislev)

Weekly Portion: Vayetzei 10:00 am
Shabbat Service 5:30 pm



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, November 10th - Veterans Day (Observed)
Thursday, November 23rd - Thanksgiving

ISRAEL EMERGENCY FUND

Thank you to all who made special donations to the Israel Emergency Fund. So far we have raised a total of \$8,358. We have already sent off a check to the Jewish Agency for Israel, North American Council, and the money will go directly to the "Fund for Victims of Terrorism." The fund is a humanitarian effort 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.

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.

← High Holiday Flowers. Thank you Elaine Weiss Reback for all the work you do to beautify our building with flowers!

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Massachusetts 02720

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jeffnjan11@comcast.net



TBE News & Notes

Let me begin by thanking **Libby Cohen and the TBE Sisterhood** for sponsoring and preparing the lovely lunch which followed our recent "Make a Minyan" Sisterhood Shabbat service on October 21st.

Thank you's must also go out to all members of the **TBE Events Committee** (chaired by Sylvia Eisner), who worked diligently to make sure that our November 5th **Ruderman lecture and brunch** were delicious and a success.

So far, since we first began the push to make sure that the sound of the Torah being chanted would never fade from people's hearing at TBE – we have always succeeded in getting a minyan for our monthly **"Make a Minyan" Shabbat** mornings. In case you have not yet come in person, you should know that these Shabbat morning services with Torah readings are always followed by a communal **kiddush-lunch**. It is a nice way to get to know fellow members of Temple Beth El; and you are welcome to bring a guest or visitor! Please let the office know if you are coming in person (we will count you in the minyan if you come on Zoom, too, but alas, you will miss the lunch!), so that we can make sure to have enough for everyone.

The next two "Make a Minyan" Shabbat services will be **Saturday, November 18th** and **Saturday, December 23rd**.

Please see the front of this bulletin for details about our **December 10th Chanukah celebration**.

Of course we are all very consumed with **concern about Israel** and its defending itself against Hamas. To this end, Rabbi Mark participated in a service with Rabbi Colman Reboi at Taunton's Agudath Achim on October 18th, and both Rabbi Mark and myself (Cantor Shoshana) participated in a joint Tifereth Israel/Temple Beth El/ Agudath Achim service of prayer for Israel at T.I. in New Bedford on Monday, October 23rd. We appreciated the support of all of our members who were able to attend either or both of these services. Thank you.

Lastly, Rabbi Mark and I would like to thank Nancy Seibert for covering services while we spent a wonderful weekend with our son Lev at Champlain College in northern Vermont. And thank you to Jeff Ginsberg for reading my sermon on Friday evening, and to Rick Schwartz for all he does to keep things running smoothly.



SUNDAY AFTERNOON AT THE JEWISH MOVIES!

The *Hollywood Reporter* says of this film: "John Le Carré couldn't craft a more riveting spy thriller than the true-life tale of Ashraf Marwan, son-in-law of the Egyptian president Gamal Abdel Nasser and confidant of his successor, Anwar Sadat, who became a spy for the Israeli Mossad. Or perhaps a double agent secretly working for the Egyptians. The controversy remains to this day, and the story has been compellingly dramatized in the film *The Angel*, directed by Ariel Vromen...a fascinating tale, delivered with just enough suspense to make it engrossing without feeling over the top. The director ratchets up the tension slowly but assuredly, making excellent use of the atmospheric locations, including London and Cairo, and assuredly evoking the early-1970s time frame. 2018; 1 hour, 54 minutes.

Temple Family

- Our best wishes to Steve Silverman for a full recovery after his back surgery.

"Make a Minyan" Shabbat Service with Torah Reading & Kiddush

Please join us on Saturday, November 18th 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!

Thank you for your donations received through Oct. 25th

Yahrzeits

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

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| Father, Dr. Hammond Bender | Susan Bender |
| Mother, Suetelle Bernstein | Berna Haberman |
| Grandfather, Jacob Brown | Howie & Sheila Galitsky |
| Mother, Irma Feldman | Gail Wilkinson |
| Father, Leonard Freedman | Roberta Milstein |
| Father, Max Gold | Micki Gold |
| Mother, Lenora Goltz | Barbara Sheer, Ed Goltz & Family |
| Uncle, Carl Goodman | Sandra Alpert Pankiw |
| Husband, Henry Griffin | Anne Griffin |
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| Son, Alex Pankiw | Sandra Alpert Pankiw |
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| Grandfather, Ben Twersky | Jay Horowitz |
| Grandmother, Luba Twersky | Jay Horowitz |
| Father, Charlie Zalkind | Deborah Zalkind Semine |

CAPITAL FUND

- In memory of Frank Kosofsky
Gary Kosofsky
- In memory of Larry Levine
- In memory of Debbie Levovsky
Ron & Carol Schwartz

MORNING MINYAN FUND

- For the yahrzeit of my beloved mother, Elizabeth Chebot
- In memory of a dear friend, Vera Goodkin
Bill Chebot



A weathervane noticed by Cantor Shoshana while on a walk in Berkeley, CA. It is literally a fiddler on the roof!



Rabbi Mark received his "Massachusetts Book Award" on Oct. 24th at the MA State House. His award was presented by our own State Rep., Carole Fiola. It was a wonderful day - we are so proud of him!



Cantor Shoshana took a quick post-Jewish holidays trip to CA to see her daughter, Mira. They traveled down to Big Sur for two days. Such glorious scenery!

A picture sent in by one of our generous supporters, Jonathan Gregory, The photo was taken by one of his friends in Israel. It shows Ditzengoff Square in Tel Aviv. The sign says "We have no words" (for what happend on October 7th.) Candles were lined up all along the wall of the fountain.



Rabbi Mark's column continued from Page 2

Despite the fact that for the nine months prior to October 7th, Israel was very polarized over the judicial reform that Netanyahu's coalition was trying to bring about, from October 7th to the present the country has been incredibly united.

On October 10th, I attended an ADL conference on antisemitism in Boston which, of course, ended up focusing primarily on the war with Hamas. Included among the many speakers was Daniel Gordis, author of an excellent book called "Israel: A Concise History of a Nation Reborn." He was speaking to us from Jerusalem where he lives. Among the things he said was that Israelis could not tolerate a regime like Hamas at its doorstep and that though on October 10th there was still a lot of public sympathy for Israel, when the army goes into Gaza and the unavoidable civilian casualties start being seen on the news, things will get much more difficult for supporters of Israel in the diaspora. At the conference, there was a panel on anti-Israel and antisemitic incidents on college campuses which are continuing to mount. As of today, antisemitic incidents have apparently risen 400% since October 7th.

The people of Israel are in a state of shock right now. Because it's a very small country and a very intimate country where people are extraordinarily connected with each other, probably everyone knows someone who has lost someone or who was taken as hostage if it hasn't happened among their own friends and family.

Though Chaim Nachman Bialik never lived through the events of the Holocaust or ever saw the creation of the sovereign State of Israel, his words and life seem incredibly relevant these days. Throughout November our weekly Torah portions are all about the Patriarchs' and Matriarchs' lives in connection with the Land of Israel. Throughout the 4,000 years of Jewish history, the Land of Israel has always been our north star, so to speak. Israel needs our support now probably more than ever – financial support if we can afford it, political support, and moral support. We need to make sure our voices are heard.

Rabbi Mark

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Do you know your Hebrew name?

To all our TBE congregants: Rabbi Mark and I would love it if you could do a little research to find out the Hebrew name you were given as a child (it might be on a certificate from your bar/bat mitzvah), and also the Hebrew names of your parents. Perhaps in the next six months or so, if you are traveling, you could make a special stop to visit your parents' graves and snap a shot of their headstones and/or foot markers. If you cannot read the Hebrew, send the picture to the temple (because Rabbi Mark and I CAN read it). You might also be able to find these names on your and/or your parents' ketubah (Hebrew wedding certificate/contract).

Why do we want to know these names? First of all, it is traditional, when someone is sick, to pray for their *refuah* - their recovery - using their mother's Hebrew name (although we will use their mother's English name if that is all that is known); second, we use the father's and mother's name when calling people up to the Torah (an *aliyah*); third, you should know these names to pass on this family legacy to your children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

And lastly, someday your family will want to know your full Hebrew name ("So and so, son or daughter of so and so") for use on your headstone and for the cantor's and rabbi's recitation of the Memorial Prayer, *El Malei*.

Let your Hebrew names not be forgotten!

Thank you,
Cantor Shoshana

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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

11/1/2023 17 Cheshvan 5784
Lillian Feinberg
Diana Hyman
Erwin Juda

11/2/2023 18 Cheshvan 5784
Dr. Irving Fradkin

11/3/2023 19 Cheshvan 5784
Jacob Brown
Lorraine Kaplan

11/4/2023 20 Cheshvan 5784
Sylvia Feldman

11/5/2023 21 Cheshvan 5784
Helene Bender
Rose Freedman
Hyman Edward Lepes
Yetta Sludsky

11/6/2023 22 Cheshvan 5784
Carl Feldman

11/7/2023 23 Cheshvan 5784
Bessie Bolski
Marion Horvitz
Joseph Simmons

11/8/2023 24 Cheshvan 5784
Lawrence Howard Golding

11/9/2023 25 Cheshvan 5784
Leo Greene
Dr. David Greer

11/10/2023 26 Cheshvan 5784
Anna Zalkind

11/11/2023 27 Cheshvan 5784
Harold Katzman
Alexander Pankiw

11/12/2023 28 Cheshvan 5784
Ada Gourse

11/13/2023 29 Cheshvan 5784
Seymour Kevelson
Alfred Kublin
Carl Zeitz

11/15/2023 2 Kislev 5784
Ethel Bernstein
Frances Sokoll

11/17/2023 4 Kislev 5784
Harry Finkelstein
Anne Gregory
Paul Horowitz
Louis Weinstock
Donald Wiener
Myron Wilner
Lillian Woltman

11/18/2023 5 Kislev 5784
Neilson Caplain
Gladys Shapiro

11/19/2023 6 Kislev 5784
Ida Z. David

11/20/2023 7 Kislev 5784
Ida Appel
Francis F. Levin
Leah Reback

11/21/2023 8 Kislev 5784
Dr. Barry Steinberg
Miriam Lehrer

11/22/2023 9 Kislev 5784
Tillie Ruderman
Esther Weissman

11/23/2023 10 Kislev 5784
Edward Adaskin
Julius Grozen
Eric Lawson
David Nadien

11/25/2023 12 Kislev 5784
Sadie Katersky

11/26/2023 13 Kislev 5784
David Cohen
Ruth Levin

11/27/2023 14 Kislev 5784
Hattie Caplain

11/30/2023 17 Kislev 5784
Judy Berg
Sylvia T. Reback

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