TEMPLE BETH EL



Fall River, Massachusetts

86th Year April 2014 Nissan 5774 No. 8

Regular Service Schedule



Morning Minyan (Monday & Thursday)	.8:00	am
First Friday Evening Service (1st Friday of each month)	.6:30	pm
Friday Evening Services (All other Fridays)	.5:30	pm
Shabbat Morning Services	10:00	am

SECOND NIGHT SEDER

Tuesday, April 15th 5:30 pm

Conducted by Rabbi Mark Elber & Cantor Shoshana Brown

FULL COURSE KOSHER FOR PASSOVER DINNER

Catered meal includes Roasted Chicken Presented by Sisterhood, Catered by The Butcherie

Members of Temple Beth El and Adas Israel Adults: \$25 Children under 12: \$10

RSVP Deadline: Friday, April 4th

Check Payable to: Temple Beth El 385 High St. Fall River, MA 02720

Tables for Family and Friends Available (Call the Temple if rides are needed)

Event Organizers: Libby Cohen and Beverly Solup Seating Arrangements: Fran Cohen

A message from our Spiritual Leader, Rabbi Mark Elber

Kishke Consciousness

The Jewish calendar is quite complex because it is essentially a lunar calendar adjusted to remain in sync with the solar year. Since the lunar year of twelve months would, over time, increasingly diverge from the solar year, leap years were incorporated in a specific pattern of seven leap years over the course of nineteen years. Our leap years, rather than adding one day, add an entire month – a second month of Adar immediately preceding the month of Nisan during which Passover occurs. The reason for this is that *Pesach*, Passover, has to fall in the spring according to the Torah.

This year, 5774, is a leap year - so you'll notice that despite the fact that Rosh Hashanah fell right after Labor Day, Pesach enters center stage the evening of April 14th. I would venture to guess that Passover is probably the most celebrated of Jewish holidays. People may not strictly observe the special dietary laws of not eating anything made with leavening (*chametz*) during Passover or may not go through the entire haggadah at their seder, but gathering together with family and/or friends during the first night or two of Passover is very widespread.

Personally, some of my most powerful Jewish experiences while growing up occurred during the Passover seders. It was one of the times when I felt the strongest presence of the Polish-Jewish world in which my parents grew up and which was forever lost. I heard it in the way my father chanted the haggadah and most of all in the way my mother sang the various songs sprinkled throughout the text. Their accents, their enunciation of the Hebrew with the Galitzianer pronunciation that they and their friends shared gave me a taste of a world so central to my identity that penetrated my being in a way that words themselves couldn't quite do. It was the melodies, the music of the words themselves, the music of my parents' accents, the tones of the Hebrew whose words I did not begin to understand until my late teens that spoke to my kishkes (my inner self), that I felt so deeply that even when I recall it now or try to sing it myself I feel choked up. Though we never spoke about it, I imagine the seders brought up a lot of intense memories for my parents too, since they had lost the families around whose seder tables they had gathered in Poland. But it must have offered some element of consolation to see the next generation treasure what was so precious to them. Of course, all this was lost on me at the time.

When I first entered Hebrew school at the age of eight and a half after having spent five weeks in Israel that summer, I learned to read the Hebrew

alphabet. It was finally going to be my turn to recite the Four Questions. I remember sitting alone in the car in Astoria, Queens waiting for my father to come back from visiting his patients in the hospital and practicing the Hebrew words over and over, trying to perfect them. Partially it was motivated by a perfectionist tendency, partially by the desire for approval, and partially by the yearning to participate, to be a little more mature. Every year my participation grew and I enjoyed the Seders more and more until the watershed experience of spending my junior year of college in Jerusalem and having my own seder with my apartment-mates. Each of us brought our experiences of Passover to the seder and shared our melodies, our thoughts, our responses to the haggadah and—just like the story about Rabbi Akiva and his friends mentioned early in the haggadah—we didn't finish until the sun rose. One of us--who had barely spoken the whole evening--chanted the Song of Songs at dawn.

Theories and theology can play an important role in people's lives, my own included, but the haggadah asks us to experience the exodus as though we ourselves were undergoing it *now*. Not merely to think about it, but to *experience* it: to taste the salt water and the bitter herbs, to eat the matzah just like our ancestors did, to give ourselves up to the songs and melodies, to imbibe the evening. The more we invest ourselves in it, I find, the more it reciprocates. Of the things that are asked in the haggadah, one implicit one is to enter the narrative with our *beings*, not merely our cerebrums – to seek what I like to call "kishke consciousness" – experiencing things *viscerally*.

Our rabbis understood the exodus from Egypt (*Mitzrayim*) not only to refer to the ancient history of our people, but also to refer to a present day exodus from the narrow, constricted places in our own lives (*meitzarim* – spelled the same way in Hebrew). There are always areas of narrowness, myopic vision, ways in which we need to grow into our greater selves. May this Passover be a liberating, joyous, and healthy experience for all of us. *Chag Sameach*! Happy Holiday!

P.S. Please consider joining our community Seder on the second night of Passover. Don't worry, we won't pull an all-nighter.

LEADERSHIP

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

When I look back at March, I smile when I think of all the goings-on here at Temple Beth EI, despite the wintry weather.

First, we hosted the event for the Azorean Jewish Heritage Foundation, which was a tremendous success from start to finish. Dr. Jose Mello's presentation about Sahar Hassamain synagogue was interesting and well-received by the nearly 500 people of various faiths who filled the sanctuary. We received outstanding press coverage, and I doubt that we could have paid for a better public image. We received many compliments, particularly from those who had never seen our gorgeous sanctuary. Thank goodness we set up the auditorium for the reception! People mingled and talked and partook of delicious pastries and other refreshments, many of which were traditional Portuguese favorites made in the kosher kitchen of the Fall River Jewish Home by Lisa Elie. While there are too many people to name in this column, I sincerely thank all those who helped make this event a resounding success, with a particular shout out to Anita Bolski, who took on the unenviable (and stressful) task of providing refreshments for an unknown number of attendees. Everything was fabulous.

The very next weekend we celebrated Purim in a way that we had nearly forgotten. It began with a wonderful service followed by a delicious brunch, but what made it extra special was the Purimshpiel put on by our Hebrew school students. It was created by Cantor Shoshana, with the help and direction of Linda Monchik. Not only was the skit well done and fun to watch (the kids were absolutely adorable), it was truly a mitzvah to once again have children celebrating their Jewish heritage in our Temple. Once again the Herald News covered the event, with a terrific write up. Please visit our website to see the article and the pictures.

I am pleased to report that we have just signed a new four-year lease with the City of Fall River to continue to house the Child Development Program. After many months of uncertaintity about the future of the school, the new lease was a welcome relief.

Next up is our traditional Second Night Passover Seder. Don't forget to RSVP by April 4th as the food is ordered from the caterer well ahead of time.

Lastly, please welcome our newest member, Daniel Schaffler. We expect to see a lot of him, and our spiritual leaders have already put him to work!

> Steve Silverman President

Sisterhood President's Message

Dear Members,

Spring is here, and all we need is for the temperature to rise to the occasion. It has been a long cold winter here in New England, but at last it's over. Now we are all busy preparing for Passover. That means cleaning cupboards and stocking up on matzos.

Those folks who were unable to join us for our Purim celebration missed a very lively morning. The service, under the direction of Rabbi Mark Elber and Cantor Shoshana Brown, was highlighted by the reading of the Megillah. This was followed by breakfast. I want to thank Norm and Anita Bolski and Beverly Solup for their help in making this happen. I'd also like to thank Judy Morgenstern and Marie Twomey for their help in taking the reservations and sending out the E-mail reminders. Now for the piece de resistance, the play. Cantor Shoshana and Linda Monchuck worked dilligently with the children of the Hebrew School, who in turn provided us with a very entertaining shpiel. As you can see it takes the work of several people to make these things happen. All we ask is that you show your support by attending.

We are in the process of planning our annual second night Passover Seder. The date is Tuesday, April 15th at 5:30 pm. Please plan on joining us. Reservations are a must for this event. The cost is \$25 for adults and \$10 for children 12 and under. Your check insures your reservation. Please RSVP by April 4th.

The next read for the Book Club is <u>The Book of Ages</u> by Jill Lapore. They will be meeting on Wednesday, April 30th at 10:30 am to discuss it. Hope to see all of you there.

So until next month, Shalom.

Libby Cohen Sisterhood President



SERVICE SCHEDULE

April 2014 Nissan 5774

Shabbat Service 6:30 pm Candle Lighting 6:56 pm

Saturday, April 5 (5 Nissan)

Weekly Portion: Metzora 10:00am

Friday, April 11 (11 Nissan)

Shabbat Service 5:30 pm Candle Lighting 7:03 pm

Saturday, April 12 (12 Nissan)

Weekly Portion: Acharei Mot 10:00 am Shabbat Hagadol

Sunday, April 13 (13 Nissan)

Search for Chametz (in the evening)

Monday, April 14 (14 Nissan)

Siyyum (Break-fast for the First Born) Eve of Passover First Seder

Tuesday, April 15 (15 Nissan)

Passover – First Day 10:00 am Second Night Seder 5:30 pm

Wednesday, April 16 (16 Nissan)

Passover – Second Day 10:00 am

Friday, April 18 (18 Nissan)

Shabbat Service 5:30 pm Candle Lighting 7:11 pm

Saturday, April 19 (19 Nissan)

Chol Hamoed 10:00 am

Monday, April 21 (21 Nissan)

Passover – Seventh Day 8:00 am

Tuesday, April 22 (22 Nissan)

Passover – Eighth Day 8:00 am Yizkor 9:00 am

Friday, April 25 (25 Nissan)

Shabbat Service 5:30 pm Candle Lighting 7:19 pm

Saturday, April 26 (26 Nissan)

Weekly Portion: 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 - Friday, 9 am to Noon

Office Closed:

Tuesday, April 15 – Passover First Day Wednesday, April 16, Passover Second Day Monday, April 21, Passover Seventh Day Tuesday, April 22, Passover Eighth Day

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

Office Hours: Monday & Thursday, 9 am to Noon

Friendly Visitor: Jackie Gedacht is ready, willing and able to visit the sick or shut-ins. Call the UJA office at (508) 673-7791 to schedule a visit.

Senior Center: (at the Fall River Jewish Home)

Open 5 days a week for lunch...Kosher and delicious. For reservations/cancellations call the Nutrition Office at (508) 324-4619 or (800) 293-8943 before 1:30 pm on the previous business day before you want to reserve or cancel.

Social Worker: We have a social service program for our community. If you are in need of the services of a social worker, call (508) 673-7791. Confidentiality will be respected.

Temple Family

- Welcome to our newest member, Daniel Schaffler.
- Our deepest sympathy to Charles Meretsky on the loss of his beloved brother, Stanley Merritt.

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Sisterhood Gift Shop

Passover is just two weeks away. We have wonderful new items—some make great hostess gifts—as well as some not quite as new but quite beautiful seder plates.

Lucite matzo boxes

New selection of seder plates

Matzo covers

Folding fabric matzo trays

New kipot (yarmulkes) are on the way—base-ball, football, multi-sports, plain suede, and knitted.

Please contact me to set up an appointment for any morning. Generally, I am at the Adult Ed class Monday from 10:30 to noon; I can meet with you before or soon after the class.

Hannah R. Evans Phone: 508-674-2505 Email: hannahbecky@comcast.net

A Note from the Kaufmans

We wanted the congregation to know that



Rabbi Kaufman has published a new book. This book, entitled <u>A Jewish Philosophical</u> Response to the New Atheists-Dawkins, Dennett, Harris, and <u>Hitchens</u> has been published by Mellen Press. This book was conceptualized in part through dialogues with Dr.David Greer, who is quoted in the book.

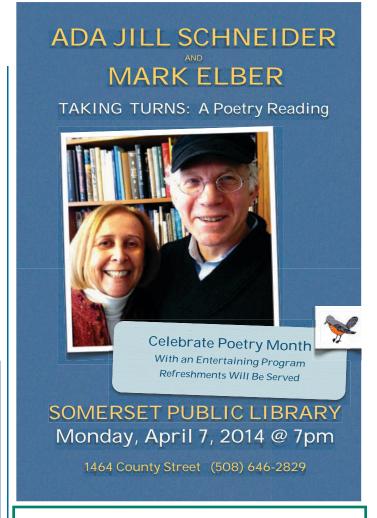
We hope to see you all soon.

Sincerely,

Rabbi William & Nathalie Kaufman

Special Thanks

Our heartfelt thanks to the following people, and doubtless many more, for their help in making the Sahar Hassamain Synagogue event such a success. The event committe included Anita Bolski, Hannah Evans, Emily Heeren, Judy Morgenstern and Steve Silverman. Behind the scenes we relied on Tom Gregory, George Haire, Carlton Smith and Marie Twomey. We also thank the members of the Azorean Jewish Heritage Foundation, including State Rep. Mike Rodrigues, Pedro Amaral and Paula Raposa. Thanks to Lori Cooney for all the great photos (see our website), and to Rabbi Mark and Cantor Shoshana for their dynamic leadership.



College Scholarships

Scholarships are available to all undergraduate students residing in the greater Fall River area with special emphasis on entering freshmen.

Applications are available in the Temple office and should be completed by the student and returned as soon as possible.

The Scholarship Committee must have scholarship applications in hand by May 31, 2014 (or when college finals have been completed).



1100 New London Avenue Cranston, RI 02920

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Adam G. Smith Director Michael D. Smith Director

Thank you for your donations received through January 23, 2014

YAHRZEITS

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

Mother, Marian Cohen Anne Griffin Wife, Alice Horowitz Jav Horowitz Father, Hyman Karp Glenda Goldberg Sylvia Eisner, Donald Parents, Rose & George Kessler

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Stewart R. Kusinitz **Mother, Edith Kusinitz** Mother, Edith Kusinitz Edith K. Getchell **Mother, Edith Kusinitz** Enid K. Lomax Mother, Ethel Liebmann Joy & Victor Field **Mother, Minnie Somer** Blanche & Norman

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CAMP RAMAH SCHOLARSHIP FUND

For the recovery of Irma Feldman For the recovery of Fishy Sokoll Bill Chebot

CAPITAL FUND

In In memory of Walter Anapol

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In memory of my beloved father, George Brenner

Linda Alexson

In memory of George Brenner

Anita & Norm Bolski

In memory of Normand Furoransky

Sheila & Mel Lash

In memory of Robert Lipson

Sylvia Eisner

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In memory of my beloved uncle, George Lucove

Donald Lucove

In memory of my beloved brother, Stanley Merritt

Charles Meretsky

In memory of Adelle Wiener

Gloria & Jerry Baskin

Anita & Norm Bolski

Fran Cohen & Joe Rosenfeld

For the recovery of Irma Feldman

Anita & Norm Bolski

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Judy & Steve Silverman

For the recovery of Aaron Lewis

Anita & Norm Bolski

For the recovery of Fishy Sokoll

Beverly Sokoll

MORRIS LEVINE ORGAN FUND

In memory of Lt. Col. Bertram Weiner

June Heiser

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For the yahrzeit of my beloved father, David Chavenson

Bob Chavenson

For the yahrzeit of my beloved father, William Shriberg

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In honor of Mary Carvalho for her many kindnesses

Annette Horowitz

In memory of Normand Furtoransky

Arlyne Dondis

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In For the recovery of Fishy Sokoll

Marilyn Sokoll

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For the yahrzeit of my beloved father, Henry Miller **Ruth Shand**

brick! TREE OF LIFE

Ongoing leaf in memory of Nehoma (Hummy) Chebot

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Celebrating Over 50 Years of Dedication to Excellence

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.

If you missed Purim at Temple Beth El...

...you really missed something special (so make sure that you don't miss it next year!). Rabbi Mark, Cantor Shoshana, and our new member Daniel Schaffler chanted from one of our special pieces from TBE's Judaica collection, an antique Megillat Esther scroll encased in silver—making it probably the first time the scroll has been chanted from in the congregation's memory. Many of our congregants also helped out, doing dramatic English readings of the story of Esther. There was a delicious Purim S'eudah (thanks to the Sisterhood), and our seven Hebrew School students passed out Mishloach Manot (bags of Purim treats, including hamentashen) to all present. But the highlight of our day was the Purimshpiel put on by our Temple Beth El Youth Group (which includes all of our seven Hebrew School students). The title of this year's play was Star Wars 5774: The Revenge of Shushan, with Zach Philips as the Narrator, Mason Theis as King Achashveirosh, Mattie Theis as Queen Vashti, Zoe Grajales as Queen Esther, Ian Grajales as "Obi-Wan Mordechai," Jonah Grajales as the king's faithful servant, and Lev Elber as "Darth Haman."

Thanks go out to Cantor Shoshana who initiated the play, Linda Monchik whose advice about putting on a play and whose help in directing it was indispensable, to all the parents and grandparents who supported the kids' efforts through taking them to many rehearsals, getting their costumes and props together, making signs, recording music—and especially to our students themselves! They are so excited, they are already thinking about next year's theme. What shall it be? "Hatman," "Pirates of Shushan," "The Adventures of Mordy Potter"...or the cantor's favorite idea so far: "Diary of a Wimpy King"?! Come back next year and find out!





For more pictures from the Sahar Hassamain Synagogue event, as well as links to Herald News articles and the Azorean Jewish Heritage Foundation website, please go to our website:

www.frtemplebethel.org





Yom HaShoah-Holocaust Remembrance Day

Community Service will be held Sunday, April 27th at 7:30 PM

At Tifereth Israel Congregation 145 Brownell Ave, New Bedford, MA 02740

Cantor Shoshana Brown and some of our Religious School students will be participating.

Please join us for this important event!

YAHRZEITS

4/1/2014 Nissan 1, 5774 David Freedman Arthur Littman

4/4/2014 Nissan 4, 5774 Dr. Maynard Burt Max Victor Silverman

4/5/2014 Nissan 5, 5774 Rose Dashoff Milton Lifrak David Sacknoff

4/6/2014 Nissan 6, 5774 Nathan Brush Barbara Shore Martha Saxe Sobel

4/7/2014 Nissan 7, 5774 Ethel Kravitz Leonard Levien

4/10/2014 Nissan 10, 5774 Murray Klein Harry Meretsky Philip Rubinstein

4/12/2014 Nissan 12, 5774 Bernard Goodman Maury Kusinitz 4/13/2014 Nissan 13, 5774 Dr. S. Benjamin Kaufmann Foster Lowenthal

4/14/2014 Nissan 14, 5774 David L. Gourse

4/15/2014 Nissan 15, 5774 Simon L. Dubitsky

4/17/2014 Nissan 17, 5774 Esther R. Lakin

4/19/2014 Nissan 19, 5774 Rabbi Moshe Babin Abraham Fradkin Max Simring

4/21/2014 Nissan 21, 5774 Melvin Belford Jacob Joseph Thaler Hyman Udovin

4/22/2014 Nissan 22, 5774 Edna Dashoff Fran Levien Morris Phillips 4/23/2014 Nissan 23, 5774 Rebecca Gerstenzang Geraldine Kesselman

4/24/2014 Nissan 24, 5774 Bessie Dashoff Susan Entin

4/26/2014 Nissan 26, 5774 Philip Sacknoff Stanley Scher

4/27/2014 Nissan 27, 5774 Dr. Israel Rudolph

4/28/2014 Nissan 28, 5774 Jack Resnick Isadore Saxe

4/29/2014 Nissan 29, 5774 Myrna Resnick Lillian Schwartz

4/30/2014 Nissan 30, 5774 Joseph Liebmann Debra E. Reiser



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PASSOVER CUSTOMS

The Rabbi will be the agent for the sale of your chametz which can be done either by mail or in person prior to Monday, April 14th by 10:30 am. Please see the reverse for the official form for selling chametz. Siyum Bechorim for first born sons, Monday, April 14th at 8 a.m. First born sons become exempt from the obligation to fast before Passover by attending the Monday service at which a Jewish unit of study is completed.

The principle of Jewish law involved is that one who engages in one mitzvah – completing a book of study and celebrating with refreshments – is exempt from the simultaneous performance of another mitzvah – fasting.

OBSERVANCE

The ceremony of removing leaven (Bedikat hametz) is to take place Sunday, April 13th, in the evening.

The Passover home atmosphere is created each year by the traditional practice of thoroughly cleaning the home in all its parts and by the removal of all chametz prior to Passover, both at home and when away.

FOODS DURING PESACH FORBIDDEN FOR USE:

Leavened bread, cakes, biscuits and crackers, cereals, wheat, barley, oats, rice, peas and all liquids which contain ingredients or flavors made from grain alcohol.

PERMITTED FOODS:

- a) Requiring no "Kosher for Passover" label: The following foods are permitted in unopened packages or containers: natural coffee, sugar, vegetables (except peas and beans), string beans being permitted.
- b) Fruits and those vegetables normally permitted for Passover use are permitted in their frozen state.
- c) If certified for Passover use by a Rabbinical authority: Matzah, matzah flour, Passover noodles, candies, cakes, beverages, canned and processed foods, milk, butter, cheese, jams, jellies, vinegar, wines and liquors, gelatin, relishes, salad oils, dried fruits, shortening are permitted if Rabbinical authority indicates that these items of food have been manufactured and wrapped free from contact with chametz. (Labels and tags marked "Kosher for Passover" are of no value unless they bear a Rabbinical seal.)

UTENSILS

Only dishes and utensils especially reserved for Passover should be used with the following exceptions:

- a) The silverware, knives, forks and spoons made wholly of metal, if used during the year, may be used on Passover if thoroughly scoured and immersed in boiling water. All table glassware is permitted after thorough scouring. Fine translucent chinaware, if not used for a year, is permitted.
- b) Metal pots and pans used for cooking purposes only (but not for baking) if made wholly of metal, though used during the year, may be used on Passover if first thoroughly scoured and immersed in boiling water.
- c) Utensils used for baking during the year cannot be used during Passover. (A dishwasher machine may be used for Passover after thoroughly cleaning it and running it through one cycle empty.)

Note: If you have any questions, please consult the Rabbi.

Temple Beth El 385 High St Fall River, MA 02720

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SELLING CHAMETZ

Jewish law prohibits owning or handling chametz during Passover. Thus all foods and beverages must either be