



Regular Service Schedule

Morning Minyan (Monday & Thursday).....8:00 am
Friday Evening Services5:30 pm
Shabbat Morning Services.....10:00 am

Scenes from our Purim shpiel, a Purim tribute to Broadway:

“The Megillah’s Greatest Hits”

Thanks to our stars; Daniel Schaffer, Linda Monchik, Sylvia Eisner, Cantor Shoshana and Rabbi Mark. And an extra round of applause for Cantor Shoshana, who not only came up with the idea but also wrote most of the wonderfully clever lyrics! Please check our website to watch a video from the event, “Shoshanalot!”



A message from our Spiritual Leader,
Cantor Shoshana Brown
“*The Song Goes On*”

Having not read the book, *The Zookeeper's Wife* upon which the film (recently shown at TBE) was based, I was quite bowled-over by its poignant, lyrical (and true) story. Before any of the film's sad events began to unfold, I found my eyes watering up. I laughed to see a baby camel trot after the main character, Antonina, as she pedals her bike through the zoo grounds; was moved watching her cuddle young lion cubs; anxious as she struggles to clear the airway of a just-delivered baby elephant while its mother watches, clearly in distress. Although I am not one who loves animals more than people, nevertheless in this context – knowing that the Nazi invasion and the “Final Solution” are about to occur in Poland (the story's setting) – the innocence and vulnerability of these zoo animals pulled at my heartstrings in a peculiar way. How can this world be so extraordinary and so terrible at the same time? How has it come to be that these animals with their hooves, teeth, and claws, their tusks and sheer brute strength, are captives, and dependent on such puny creatures as human beings for their survival?

As a viewer, you feel distress when German aircraft begin bombing Warsaw, killing and maiming many animals, wrecking their cages and stalls, loosing tigers and lions into the city's streets. The incongruity of a tiger walking down a European city street says it all: everything is upside down, crazy, nothing is right. And eventually, as the zoo is emptied, it gains new residents: some 300 of Warsaw's Jews whom the zookeeper and his wife have come to realize are in even more danger than their four-legged charges.

By the time you receive this April bulletin, it will be Passover, and Yom HaShoah will be right around the corner (about this, see News and Notes). The date for Yom HaShoah, the 27th of Nissan, was fixed by the Knesset (Israel's Parliament) in 1959, after much discussion (its choice was controversial, since the month of Nissan is supposed to be one of joy). The Israeli government picked this date in order that the commemoration be close to the date of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising (the full name of Yom HaShoah being *Yom HaZikaron LaShoah V'haGevurah* – “Day of Remembrance of the Holocaust and of Heroism”). The uprising actually began on Erev Pesach, April 19th, 1943, when the Nazis began to liquidate the Warsaw Ghetto. It was the day before Hitler's birthday, and it is said that the German troops involved were determined to make this liquidation a kind of “offering” to Hitler for his birthday. Since Erev Pesach is a minor fast day in our calendar (the Fast of the First-Born), the Knesset considered fixing this date in the Hebrew calendar for remembering the Shoah, but its closeness to the Seder made that day impractical. Since Yom HaAtzma'ut had already been established as falling on the 5th of Iyar (the date in the Hebrew calendar corresponding to May 14th, 1948 when Israel declared its independence), there seems to have been a feeling that a date in between these two days (the date

of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising and that of Israel's declaration of independence) might somehow link the heroism of the ghetto's resistance fighters and the return of the Jewish people to national sovereignty.

From March to May (Adar to Iyar) we have a tumultuous chain of days, which begins with Purim (a holiday remembering when we came near to being annihilated during our Persian exile). One month later we celebrate our “festival of freedom,” Passover; approximately 2 weeks later we are thrown back into remembering the tragedy of the Holocaust (along with commemorating its heroes); and one week after that, in Israel, the fresher pangs of loss are keenly felt on Yom HaZikaron (Memorial Day), which as the sun sets on it, turns into the joy and celebration of Yom HaAtzma'ut (Independence Day). This tug-of-war on our emotions in the Jewish calendar is partly the result of the intertwining of the traditional religious Jewish calendar with the newer secular days that have been fixed since the Holocaust and the establishment of the modern Jewish state. But it is also the result of the vicissitudes of history, and in some measure, the paradox of existence: how can such beauty and goodness coexist with such cruelty and depravity in God's creation?

One of the most memorable scenes in *The Zookeeper's Wife* is that of the night of the burning of the Warsaw Ghetto – which coincided with Erev Pesach. One young girl who was among those hiding in Antonina's cellar asked if they might have a *seder* that night. And so we see Jews gathered around Antonina's and Jan's table, and hear this same girl chanting “*Mah nishtanah ha layla ha-zeh...*” – “How is this night different from all other nights?” – and then the camera cuts to the ghetto in flames, Jews of all ages, from the very old to babies, being shot in the streets, or forced to board cattle cars. The contrast between this teenage girl's beautiful voice, so clear and pure, singing a song associated with freedom and deliverance, with the scenes of evil being perpetrated not far away in the same city is heartrending.

While some may view the decimation of the Jewish people in the Holocaust as reason to reject a life of faith and commitment to Jewish practice (Why worship a God who cannot save us, or who *chooses not to intervene* against such evil?), that is not the only conclusion that can be drawn from the events of the last century. Some survivors of the Shoah, or, more likely these days, some who have studied and thought deeply *about* the Shoah, find that living and practicing a vibrant Jewish life, full of rituals, blessings, study and doing acts of justice (*tzedakah*) fills their lives with beauty, meaning and purpose. It is in fact this which “saves” us. Hitler wanted not only to strip individual Jews of life and dignity, but also to remove Jewish tradition from the face of the earth. Against the backdrop of Hitler's evil, what do we hear? A young girl singing “*Mah Nishtanah*.”

Hitler is gone, but the song goes on.

Wishing you blessings during these remaining days of Pesach, and into the spring!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Well, as the saying goes, March comes in like a lion...I'm just hoping it goes out like a lamb! After all of our nor'easters, some new leaks have appeared, but we are doing our best to keep on top of them. We got pretty lucky with the snow, although George might not agree after cleaning up from the storm that dumped a foot and a half of the white stuff on Fall River. C'mon spring!!

Thank you to everyone who helped put together our special Passover Shabbat celebration. As I write this it hasn't yet taken place, but I know how much work goes into making these events successful. I think everyone would agree that the hardest part is trying to guess how many people will show up who didn't bother to RSVP (or replied after the deadline). To those of you who always let us know, thank you! At any rate, thanks especially to Libby Cohen and our wonderful sisterhood, Cantor Shoshana and Rabbi Mark, George Haire, and all the rest who helped put this special event together.

I am delighted to welcome our newest members, Barbara Nelson and her husband, Frederick Cohen. They saw our plea for more members and decided to make a difference! As always, if you see them, or anyone else you don't recognize, please take a moment to welcome them and introduce yourself. One of the benefits of our wonderful Temple community is that everybody really does know your name!

I have attended several meetings about the upcoming benefit for our sister synagogue, Sahar Hassamain in Ponta Delgada, Azores. We are working on ironing out the details, and are planning quite a gala. More news will be forthcoming, but we are planning for a summer event.

Here's to a pleasant spring. I am looking forward to the vibrant colors that the warmer weather brings. The flowers are poking out through the snow, so it shouldn't be long now!

Steve Silverman
President

LEADERSHIP

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

Sisterhood President's Message

Is it actually April, friends? As I am sitting here writing this message, it is so cold I cannot believe spring is actually here. The temperature has not been above freezing for several days. We have just been treated to three "nor'easters", loaded with snow and torrential rain. I can hardly wait for it to hit 60 plus degrees, how about you?

I hope everyone has made their reservations for our Passover Shabbat dinner. We are planning an evening of good food and socializing. I'm looking forward to seeing all of you there.

On Monday, April 9th Mah Jongg afternoons resume. So ladies, bring your new card and be prepared to play. Dairy lunch at 12 noon, then the games begin.

There are several events being planned for the near future. Our annual paid-up Sisterhood luncheon is one of them. So please, watch your bulletins and e-mails. They are full of information.

So until next month, keep warm and stay safe.

Libby Cohen
Sisterhood President



Sunrise on New Year's Day 2018 from
the cliffs of South Beach, Little Compton

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SERVICE SCHEDULE

**April 2018:
Nissan/Iyar 5778**

Sunday, April 1 (16 Nissan)

Passover – Second Day 10:00 am

Friday, April 6 (21 Nissan)

Passover – Seventh Day 10:00 am
Shabbat/Passover Celebration 5:30 pm
Candle Lighting 6:58 pm

Saturday, April 7 (22 Nissan)

Passover - Eighth Day 10:00 am
Yizkor (Approximately 11:30 am)

Friday, April 13 (28 Nissan)

Shabbat Service 5:30 pm
Candle Lighting 7:06 pm

Saturday, April 14 (29 Nissan)

Weekly Portion: Shmini 10:00 am

Sunday, April 15 (30 Nissan)

Rosh Chodesh Iyar

Monday, April 16 (1 Iyar)

Rosh Chodesh Iyar 8:00 am

Friday, April 20 (5 Iyar)

Shabbat Service 5:30 pm
Candle Lighting 7:13 pm

Saturday, April 21 (6 Iyar)

Weekly Portion: Tazria-Metzora 10:00 am

Friday, April 27 (12 Iyar)

Shabbat Service 5:30 pm
Candle Lighting 7:21 pm

Saturday, April 28 (13 Iyar)

Weekly Portion: Acharei Mot-Kedoshim 10:00 am

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Monday - Friday, 9 am to Noon

OFFICE CLOSED:

Friday, April 6th - 7th Day of Passover



Please see "April News and Notes" on the next page for a synopsis of the movie.



Two of our newer members, Suzi Finkel & Rona Trachtenberg, have become good friends while "snowbirding" in Florida. Here they are after a rousing concert with the singing duo "Yonina" at Temple Sinai of North Dade. "The sanctuary was packed and the music was full of *ruack* (spirit) and good *kavanah*. There was much swaying, clapping, and smiles all around as the audience listened to original songs, Hebrew and English, that the couple created and we participated in some favorites we all knew and love. Suzi and I had a great time together and we look forward to getting together again for future Jewish cultural events, in the sunshine."

April News & Notes

"Caffeine and Conversations," our joint interfaith discussion group, **will be moving to the 2nd Tuesday of each month.** Due to low turnout in March (weather? flu?) last month's discussion was cancelled. Happily, you will have a second chance on **April 10th** to join in with the Rev. Matthew Stewart (and Rabbi Mark and Cantor Shoshana) to discuss "How can human beings know what is 'God's will'?" This event begins at 2 PM and is held in the downstairs meeting room of the Fall River Public Library.

Monday, April 9: Be sure not to miss: **"Taking Turns: A Poetry Reading by Mark Elber & Ada Jill Schneider,"** 6:30 pm at the Somerset Public Library.

Wednesday, April 11th: Please join us as we mark our TBE community's observance of **Yom HaShoah** (Holocaust Remembrance Day) at **5:30 pm** in the TBE sanctuary, refreshments to follow.

Friday, April 20th: We will once again mark Yom HaAtzma'ut with a **"Celebrate Israel Friday Night Seder."** The service/seder will begin at 5:30. No RSVP needed.

Sunday, April 22nd: Our TBE monthly **"Sunday Afternoon at the Jewish Movies"** will be moving to the time of **4 PM** this month (now that we are enjoying longer hours of daylight). April's film, **"Cadillac Records"** highlights (with some poetic license) the involvement of Polish Jewish immigrant **Leonard Chess**, who together with his brother Phil Chess, founded Chess Records in Chicago in 1950. Though the film does not deal overtly with Jewish themes, the astute viewer can see how a Polish Jewish immigrant, having fled persecution in Europe, would feel common cause with the African-American blues musicians whom he brought to fame. Since this story takes place during the end of the Jim Crow era and the beginning of the Civil Rights struggle, it seemed an appropriate choice for April, since April 4th marks the 50th anniversary of the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. Also – the music is irresistible! (SB)

Thursday, April 26th: Opening of the new **TBE Outing Club** season! Our first hike this season will be a trek to see the daffodils along **Newport's Cliff Walk** (weather permitting). We will meet in the vestry of the temple at 9:30 AM. Please speak to me, call or e-mail the office to let me know if you plan to come. (SB)

Sunday, April 29th: Stories and Civil Conversations. See next column for more info!



Daffodils in full bloom along Newport's famed Cliff Walk, Spring 2016. This will be the site of our TBE Outing Club walk on April 26th!



United Neighbors of Fall River, in association with Temple Beth El, the Church of the Holy Spirit, and the First Baptist Church of Fall River Present:

**Stories and Civil Conversations
On Sunday, April 29th, 1-3 PM**

This event includes lunch (at no charge) and features master storyteller (and pastor) Cynthia Maybeck

An ecumenical minister, the Rev. Maybeck is respected and admired as a spiritual storyteller by her storytelling colleagues. She is a member of the "League for the Advancement of New England Storytellers" and has basic certification in the Academy of Biblical Storytelling, the "Network of Biblical Storytellers."

We would love to have you join us at this event. Please RSVP by April 23rd to Wendy Garf-Lipp at wendy@unfr.org, or call (508) 324-7900, x 103, and leave a message that you would like to attend.

Thank you for your donations received through March 20, 2018

Yahrzeits

For the yahrzeit of my beloved...

Donated by:

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Mother, Ruth Levine	Anita & Alan Levine
Mother, Sadie Lovit	Nathan Lovit
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In honor of Charles Stampler celebrating a special birthday

Anita & Norm Bolski

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In memory of Dr. Martin Felder

In memory of George Hodosh

In memory of Max Horvitz

In memory of Sylvia Lechan

In memory of Dorothy Schwartz

In memory of Tylda Schwartz

For the yahrzeit of my beloved uncle, Max V. Silverman

For the yahrzeit of my beloved grandfather, Nathan B.
Silverman

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For the recovery of Doris Greenberg

For the recovery of Sheila Lash

Ann & Bob Chavenson

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In honor of Norm Bolski

In honor of Bill Chebot

In memory of Max Horvitz

In memory of Sylvia Lechan

In memory of Dorothy Schwartz

Sheila Freedman

ANNA & MORRIS LEPES Cemetery Fund

In memory of our beloved father, Morris Lepes

Ellen & Terry Shand & family

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In memory of Charles Lepow

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In memory of Dorothy Schwartz

Bill Chebot

Fran Cohen & family

Marilyn Sokoll

Howard Stone

In memory of Tylda Schwartz

Fran Cohen & family

Ellen & Terry Shand & family

Gail Wilkinson

SPECIAL GIFTS

In memory of our beloved wife and mother, Joy L. Field

Victor Field and Rachel Baker

WISH LIST

In honor of Norm Bolski celebrating a birthday

In memory of Dr. Martin Felder

In memory of George Hodosh

In memory of Max Horvitz

In memory of Sylvia Lechan

For the recovery of Dr. Harvey Reback

Bill Chebot



Announcing a Poetry Reading with Rabbi Mark Elber and Ada Jill Schneider on Monday, April 9th at 6:30 pm at the Somerset Public Library, 1464 County Street. Hope to see you there!

Book Club News

Due to inclement weather we had to cancel our March Book Club meeting, so on April 18th we will be discussing both "Morningstar: Growing up with Books" by Ann Hood, as well as the scheduled book for April, "The Interestings" All Sisterhood members are welcome to join us!

Apr. 18: "The Interestings"
by Meg Wolitzer

May 16: "Crossing to Safety"
by Wallace Stegner

Temple Family

- A warm welcome to new members Barbara Nelson & Frederick Cohen!
- Our deepest condolences to Ann Chavenson on the loss of her beloved brother, Glenn Shriberg.

Sisterhood Gift Shop

Spring is here and we are rapidly approaching the time of year filled with bar and bat mitzvahs, weddings and showers. We have a lovely assortment of gifts for any and all occasions, and if there is something specific you are looking for that we don't presently carry, please contact me and I will be happy look through my many catalogs.

Hannah R. Evans
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Senior Center: (at the Fall River Jewish Home)

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Bristol Community College Holocaust Center Events in April:

Thursday, April 5 at 4 p.m. - "Remnants: A Dramatic Presentation of Survivor Memoirs," presented by Hank Greenspan, Professor of Drama, University of Michigan. This presentation will be held at the BCC Jackson Art Center, 777 Elsbree St, Fall River, MA 02720, Room H-209

Friday, April 20 at 8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. - A conference on the T-4 Program – Nazi Treatment of the Disabled. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Michael Grodin, Director of Medical Ethics and Human Rights Program, Boston University. This presentation will be held at the BCC Jackson Art Center, 777 Elsbree St, Fall River, MA 02720, Room H-209.

Monday Mah Jongg

Our Monday Mah Jongg game will start back up again on April 9th. Be sure to put it on your calendar and plan to join us! C'mon spring!



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You can see the bulletin there first, especially
if you live outside the Fall River area! Go to
www.frtemplebethel.org

YAH RZEITS

4/1/2018 16 Nissan 5778

Harold Morris

4/2/2018 17 Nissan 5778

Esther R. Lakin

4/4/2018 19 Nissan 5778

Rabbi Moshe Babin

Abraham Fradkin

Max Simring

4/5/2018 20 Nissan 5778

Revelyn Baron

4/6/2018 21 Nissan 5778

Melvin Belford

Jacob Joseph Thaler

Hyman Udovin

4/7/2018 22 Nissan 5778

Frances Levien

Morris Phillips

4/8/2018 23 Nissan 5778

Rebecca Gerstenzang

Geraldine Kesselman

4/9/2018 24 Nissan 5778

Hon. Aileen Belford

Susan Entin

4/11/2018 26 Nissan 5778

Sally Cohen

Philip Sacknoff

Stanley Scher

4/12/2018 27 Nissan 5778

Leonard Levien

Dr. Israel Rudolph

4/13/2018 28 Nissan 5778

Lillian Goldsmith

Jack Resnick

Isadore Saxe

4/14/2018 29 Nissan 5778

Myrna Resnick

Lillian Schwartz

4/15/2018 30 Nissan 5778

Joseph Liebmann

Debra E. Reiser

4/16/2018 1 Iyar 5778

Norman Chebot

Irving Smith

Edwin Solup

4/18/2018 3 Iyar 5778

Annie Cohen

Marc Ginsburg

4/19/2018 4 Iyar 5778

Gilbert Nerenberg

Irving Zukroff

4/21/2018 6 Iyar 5778

Estelle Hyman

David Lash

Melvin Lash

Lillian H. Levin

Seymour H. Sugarman

4/22/2018 7 Iyar 5778

Carlton Dubitsky

Jason Sigal

4/25/2018 10 Iyar 5778

Jacob Dondis

4/26/2018 11 Iyar 5778

Annette Horowitz

Armin Minkin

4/27/2018 12 Iyar 5778

Frank Feldman

Harold Weiss

4/28/2018 13 Iyar 5778

Lew Jill

Marjory Packer

Sadie Sinman

4/29/2018 14 Iyar 5778

Emma Loeff Dondis

Charles Reback

4/30/2018 15 Iyar 5778

Bessie Cohen

Paul Greenberg

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