TEMPLE BETH EL

FALL RIVER, MASSACHUSETTS

91st Year April 2019 Adar II/Nisan 5779 No. 8

Regular Service Schedule

Morning Minyan (Monday & Thursday)	8:00	am
Friday Evening Services	5:30	pm
Shabbat Morning Services	10:00	am

COMMUNITY PASSOVER CELEBRATION

Thursday, April 25th, 5:30 pm sharp!

(Doors open at 5 pm)

Due to the timing of Shabbat, Temple Beth El's communal Pesach celebration will not be held on one of the traditional Seder nights of Pesach, but near the end of the Passover period, on Thursday, April 25th (the evening marking the beginning of the 7th day).

Enjoy a scrumptious catered chicken dinner (vegetarian option available by request).

Sing along to many of the Haggadah's greatest hits!

Adults: \$25; Children: 12 & under \$10 Your check is your reservation - **RSVP by April 15th**





Temple Beth El 385 High St. Fall River, MA 02720 (508) 674-3529 - templebethel@comcast.net

Guests are welcome!

COME CELEBRATE PESACH AT TEMPLE BETH EL!

A message from our Spiritual Leader, Cantor Shoshana Brown

A Prophet for Today

As we look forward to that one Jewish holiday which even the most assimilated Jews still have a connection to – Passover – I am asking myself how it is relevant to us today. The message that Moses brought to Pharaoh in the name of the God of his ancestors, "Let My people go that they might serve Me" – this was surely a radical message. Pharaoh was not in the business of letting people go.

Why is this holiday, even more than Rosh Hashanah or Yom Kippur, the most celebrated by Jews across the world? Why have so many proudly "non-religious" (along with "religious" and "traditional") Jews clung to it? Surely not because everyone loves matzah or horseradish.

I believe it is because everyone loves the idea of freedom – an idea we can get behind, a flag we can proudly wave before our Christian and other non-Jewish friends. "Passover is the holiday of freedom," we like to say. Even for Jews who don't have much use for the idea of God, nevertheless, everyone likes the image of Moses, God's prophet, who risked all to lead his people to freedom.

But however much we celebrate Moses, have you ever asked yourself: how would I have reacted if I had been there with him in Egypt? Yes, slavery was unpleasant. And yes, those plagues must have been pretty dramatic. But Egypt was grand, mighty, and seemingly invincible. Would I have believed Moses, would I have taken the risk of defying Pharaoh and all his chariots?

Today, as I write these words, March 15th, has been declared a day of "climate strike" - a day around the world when youth in various locations will protest the lack of action to stop climate change by staying out of school and demonstrating in public places. This movement was inspired by a 16 year-old Swedish girl, Greta Thunberg, who in Davos, Switzerland at the World Economic Forum, spoke about the urgent need for the grownups of the world to wake up and start doing something to prevent further planetary warming. I feel a particular connection to Greta because she, like our son Lev, is on the autism spectrum. Reading up on Greta online, I discovered that Greta and Lev were born just 11 days apart. While online, I also watched some videos of Greta speaking in various forums. She is a brilliant girl (speaking perfect English, not her native language), and, typical for people "on the spectrum," she does not mince words.

Here is a sample of Greta's message from the UN Climate Change COP24 Conference, which took place in Katowice, Poland in December 2018 (when Greta

was still just fifteen):

"...[W]e have to speak clearly, no matter how uncomfortable that may be. You only speak of green eternal economic growth because you are too scared of being unpopular. You only talk about moving forward with the same bad ideas that got us into this mess, even when the only sensible thing to do is pull the emergency brake. You are not mature enough to tell it like it is. Even that burden you leave to us children. But I don't care about being popular. I care about climate justice and the living planet. Our civilization is being sacrificed for the opportunity of a very small number of people to continue making enormous amounts of money. Our biosphere is being sacrificed so that rich people in countries like mine can live in luxury. It is the sufferings of the many which pay for the luxuries of the few.

The year 2078, I will celebrate my 75th birthday. If I have children maybe they will spend that day with me. Maybe they will ask me about you. Maybe they will ask why you didn't do anything while there still was time to act. You say you love your children above all else, and yet you are stealing their future in front of their very eyes.

Until you start focusing on what needs to be done rather than what is politically possible, there is no hope. We can't solve a crisis without treating it as a crisis. We need to keep the fossil fuels in the ground, and we need to focus on equity. And if solutions within the system are so impossible to find, maybe we should change the system itself."

It is a shame that so many people view the issue of climate change as "political," rather than an issue that science has already proven, a matter of the greatest urgency – if not for us, then for our children, grand-children and great-grandchildren. One of the most beloved lines of Jewish prayer is *l'dor vador*, which we sing in the closing blessing of the *kedushah* in the *Amidah*. It means "from generation to generation."

The Passover Seder's most important function is as a tool for teaching the next generation about God and the Exodus from Egypt. That is what haggadah means – "telling." If we truly care about the next generation – not just of Jews, but of the whole world – we will listen to this young prophet's message, telling us that it is urgent for the health of the next generation that we break free from our enslavement to fossil fuels. This may be a hard message to hear, but so was Moses'. If you have access to the internet, I urge you to google "Greta Thunberg" and listen with your own ears.

Wishing you all a Happy Passover,

Cantor Shoshana

President's Message

Just the other day we were discussing how quiet the office has been for the last month or so. All of that changed when vandals desecrated 57 headstones with anti-Semitic words and symbols at the Hebrew Cemetery in Fall River in mid-March.

I was honored to be able to assist Jeffrey Weissman, president of Adas Israel, who manages the Hebrew cemetery, in the aftermath of the vandalism. It certainly was a group effort. We had a great deal of assistance from Robert Trestan, the New England Regional Director of the Anti-Defamation League, who spent many hours on-site as well as behind the scenes, organizing and coordinating the vigil, and talking to law enforcement. Rabbi Mark and Cantor Shoshana took the reins on the vigil and responded to endless phone calls and emails. Mike Roberts, from Hathaway Funeral Homes, Jeremy Poster from Sugarman-Sinai, and Adam Smith from Shalom Memorial Chapel provided necessities for the vigil at their own expense. Judy and Marie handled countless phone calls and emails, and kept our website updated with the latest information.

What struck me most about this whole unfortunate incident was the overwhelmingly positive response of support and solidarity. As the news spread far beyond the Fall River area, we had phone calls and emails from people of all faiths from all over the country - and even one Muslim from Canada - who all expressed their disgust with this senseless act of vandalism. They also wanted us to know that they stood with us in solidarity, and offered to help in any way they could, whether it be sending a donation to offset the cleaning costs, attending the vigil, or bringing a bucket and brush to help clean the stones themselves.

Once again, Maya Angelou's words came back to me; "We are more alike, my friends, than we are unalike." It has been a humbling experience.

Thank you to everyone who has offered their support in one form or another. We have so much more strength when we stand together as one.

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

Welcome April, spring is here! This is the time of year we look forward to. The days are getting longer and temperatures are starting to rise. It gives me a lift knowing we have these days on our doorsteps.

We are now in the process of preparing for our annual Passover dinner. The event takes place on Thursday, April 25th at 5:30 pm. We will be serving a full course chicken dinner, or a vegetarian option. I hope to see all of you there. So mark your calendars, and don't forget to make your reservations.

In the near future, we will be setting the date for Sisterhood's annual paid-up membership luncheon. This is a wonderful afternoon of friendship and socialization. Ladies, you don't want to miss it. So watch your e-mail and bulletin for the latest information.

Now until next month, stay safe and enjoy your life. Happy Pesach!

Libby Cohen Sisterhood President

Sisterhood Gift Shop

Passover is fast approaching, and we have a variety of wonderful gifts from which to choose.

If you would like to browse our gift shop or if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

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

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SERVICE SCHEDULE

April 2019 Adar II/Nisan 5779

Friday,	April 5	(29 Adar	II)
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Shabbat Service	5:30	pm
Candle Lighting	6:57	pm

Saturday, April 6 (1 Nisan)

Weekly Portion: Tazria 10:00 am Shabbat Hachodesh Rosh Chodesh Nisan

Friday, April 12 (7 Nisan)

Shabbat Service	5:30 pm
Candle Lighting	7:04 pm

Saturday, April 13 (8 Nisan)

Weekly Portion: Metzora 10:00 am Shabbat Hagadol

Thursday, April 18 (13 Nisan)

Search for Chametz (in the evening)

Friday, April 19 (14 Nisan)

Fast of the First Born
Erev Passover
Candle Lighting 7:12pm
First Seder (Evening)

Saturday, April 20 (15 Nisan)

Passover – First Day 10:00 am Second Seder (Evening)

Sunday, April 21 (16 Nisan)

Passover – Second Day 10:00 am

Friday, April 26 (21 Nisan)

Shabbat/Yom Tov Service 5:30 pm

<u>Saturday, April 27 (22 Nisan)</u>

Passover – Eighth Day 10:00 am

Yizkor (approximately 11:40 am)

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 June 15, 2019.

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:

Friday, April 26th -- 7th Day of Passover

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: Arleen Bor is our "Friendly Visitor" and 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.



Scene at the Hebrew Cemetery in Fall River after vandals defaced 57 headstones with anti-semitic words and symbols. For more information, please see our website: www.frtemplebethel.org.



TBE News & Notes

As I write up these "news and notes" – right before Purim – we are all saddened and alarmed by the terrible massacre of Muslims at prayer in New Zealand. Thus Purim this year will have been (by the time you read these words) a frightening and timely reminder that hate and violence can wear many faces, and that no one knows who might be its next victim. Let us all make an extra effort in these times to see all people as full human beings, and treat all people we encounter with kindness and dignity.

And in this vein, I hope that many of you will continue to take advantage of our series of talks (which is open to the public), "Exploring the faith of our neighbors." As it happened, our first speaker, on March 26, was Mr. Martin Bentz, a Muslim outreach worker for Southeastern Massachusetts. (I am hoping that if I write here that "we had a great turnout for this event", my words will be true by the time you read these words.) Editor's note: We did!!!

If you would like to **visit Martin's mosque**, **Masjid Al Ehsan**, please note that his community is holding an **"Open Mosque Day"** on **Sunday**, **April 28th**, from 1-5 PM. The address is: 2 Cove Rd, South Dartmouth.

Here is the schedule of the remainder of the "Exploring the faith of our neighbors" series:

April 30th: Judaism: Rabbi Mark and Cantor Shoshana (bring a non-Jewish friend day!)

May 21st: Buddhism: Ms. Rochelle Sokoll, Buddhist practitioner, member of the Serlingpa Meditation Center of New Bedford

June 18th: the AME Church: the Rev. Darryl Malden, pastor at the African Methodist Episcopal Church of Fall River

All of these sessions will take place on Tuesdays at 1 PM in the Vestry of TBE; refreshments provided.

The **TBE Movie for April** will be one we have talked about watching for years, and now we are finally going to do it: "**The Ten Commandments**."

Please mark your calendars for our **TBE Yom HaShoah Service**, which will be held in the Vestry on **Wednesday**, **May 1st at 6 PM**.

Our annual **"Celebrate Israel" Sede**r (on the Friday closest to Israel's Independence Day) will be

held on **Friday, May 10th** at 5:30 (in lieu of our regular Kabbalat Shabbat service.)

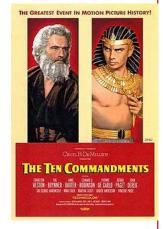
And finally, I apologize that I could not find room in the April calendar for **our first TBE Nature Walk of the season**...please mark your calendars for **Thursday**, **May 9th**, meeting in the Vestry at 9:15, destination – the **Norman Bird Sanctuary**.



Join us for this great post-Passover event! A

complete screening of Cecil B. DeMille's "The Ten Commandments." Yes, it is a long movie (3 hours and 40 minutes). Just like in the old days, we will be featuring an intermission with refreshments, so this will really be a special temple event.

When? Sunday April 28th. The show starts at 2 PM, with an intermission around 4 PM, and finishing



up at approximately 6 PM. If you have never seen this great classic (or even if you have), now is your chance!

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CAPITAL FUND

In honor of and appreciation for Beth Bark

Sylvia Eisner

With honor and all my love the birth date, March 7, for a marvelous Mom, Wife, Friend and Mentor Sheila Freedman

Frances Beth Freedman

In honor of Charlie Stampler celebrating a very special birthday

Anita & Norm Bolski

Connie & Martin Rabinovitz

In honor of Harvey Trieff

Shirley & Allen Taradash

In memory of Le'a Hass

Anita & Norm Bolski

In memory of Irene Kassler Jones

Anita & Norm Bolski Beverly Sokoll

Marie Twomey

In memory of Dr. Leonard Lechan

Gloria & Jerry Baskin Fishy Sokoll & family

In memory of Herb Solup

Allen & Shirley Taradash

For the recovery of Judy Berg

Judy & Steve Silverman

For the recovery of Marilyn Sokoll

Sandra David

LIBRARY FUND

In honor of the marriage of Anita & Norm Bolski's grandson Hannah Evans

WISH LIST FUND

In honor of Norm Bolski celebrating a special birthday Bill Chebot

SPECIAL GIFTS

In memory of Helen (Wernik) Kaliff and Gerald Richard Kaliff

Mae Glover

NEW BOOKS IN OUR LIBRARY:

The Kabbalah Master: A Novel

by Perle Besserman

Memento Park: A Novel

by Mark Sarvas

Pogrom: Kishinev and the Tilt of History

by Steven J. Zipperstein

Letters to My Palestinian Neighbor

by Yossi Klein Halevi

Thou Shalt Innovate: How Israeli Ingenuity Repairs the World

by Avi Jorisch

The Diamond Setter by Moshe Sakal

The Last Watchman of Old Cairo: A Novel

by Michael David Lukas

Holy Ceremony (An Ariel Kafka Mystery)

by Harri Nykanen

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Temple Family

Our sincere condolences to Tilden Bogus on the passing of his beloved sister, Sandy, and to Hannah Evans on the loss of her beloved sister, Irene Kassler Jones.

TAKING CARE OF EACH OTHER is what community is all about.



We're proud to serve our Jewish community with personal, compassionate care.



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OFF THE SHELF

Greetings Everyone and Happy Spring!

While the winter wasn't as bad as most, I am still hoping that it is over! The snowbirds must be thinking about winging their way back up to New England now. It's wonderful to watch the earth start to come alive with greenery again. New beginnings!

Thanks to donations to the Library Fund and Wish List, we received several new books over the winter. We also have three DVD's that were shown here at different events. So if you haven't been into the library recently, there is plenty to choose from! If you would like to check out a movie, please use that same method as you do for books - simply sign the card that is attached to the DVD and the date borrowed. Please do not forget to put the card on the desk so that we know who has borrowed any of the items in the library. The movies will be stored in their own section where all of the CD's are stored.

As a reminder, the library is open on Mondays when the Rabbi and Cantor have their class as well as any other time there is an event in the vestry.

Robin Fielding

NEW DVD'S IN OUR LIBRARY:

Carvalho's Journey: a documentary about Solomon Nunes Carvalho, one of the first photographers to document the vistas of the American West, 2017.

When Jews Were Funny: a documentary surveying Jewish comedy from the Borsht Belt to the present, written and directed by Alan Zweig, 2013.

Ahead of Time: The Extraordinary Journey of Ruth Gruber: this was the documentary we viewed last October during the Ruderman Weekend, telling the story of the amazing and remarkable journalist Ruth Gruber, who, living to the age of 105, witnessed almost all of the most important events (especially for Jews) of the 20th century – and wrote about them! If you did not see this last fall, you will want to check this out!

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.

UIA Clergy and Faith Leaders Respond to the Mosque Attacks in Christchurch, New Zealand

We, the undersigned members of the United Interfaith Action of Southeastern MA Clergy and Faith Leaders Caucus, hold our Muslim brothers and sisters, and all the people of New Zealand, in prayerful solidarity.

The recent attack in New Zealand on Muslims at prayer was grounded in hatred, racism, xenophobia and Islamophobia—none of which have a place in our world. We have become all too familiar with these acts as the tide of violence continues.

As people of faith, it is imperative that we unite in calling for an end to white nationalist, supremacist, and anti-immigrant views which sow fear and embolden these acts of terror. As we struggle with what concrete response we can make, it is urgent for us that American Muslims feel the support of their neighbors in the midst of this climate of hate. We therefore stand with and for our Muslim neighbors and invite all people of faith and goodwill to do the same.

We were all created in the image of God. There is no place for these ideologies and worse, actions, that stoke fear and hatred, seeking to keep us from recognizing our divine kinship one with another.

How can we counter such fear and hatred in our world today? We strongly believe that the answer may be found through education, goodwill attempts to reach out to our neighbors of all faiths and cultures, in becoming more familiar with one another, and working together for our common good.

Houses of worship should always be places of peace and safety. After the events of Charleston, Pittsburgh, Christchurch, NZ, and other sites, we can no longer take the safety of our sanctuaries for granted. This causes us deep sadness, but we will not let such acts of terror take away our commitment and courage to worship according to the dictates of our hearts.

We join together, all children of God, to oppose hatred with love, ignorance with understanding, fear with courage and compassion. Let us all work and pray for a world of peace and freedom for all.

Signed,

Mr. Martin Bentz • Rabbi Mark Elber and Cantor Shoshana Brown • Rev. Lise Hildebrandt • Rev. James Hornsby • Rabbi Raphael Kanter • Very Rev. Daniel Lacroix • Rev. Paul Langston-Daley • Rev. Susan H. Lee, Ph.D. • Fr. David Lupo • Rev. Bruce MacLeod • Rev. Donald S. Mier • Rev. Christopher Morck • Fr. Sudhir Nayak • Rev. Jordinn Nelson Long • Rev. John J. Oliveira • Rev. MaryAnn Purtill • Sr. Marianna Sylvester • Very Rev. Thomas Washburn • Fr. Richard Wilson • Mrs. Deborah Zane

For religious affiliations, please see this letter on our website: www.frtemplebehel.org.

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, espe-

cially if you live outside the greater Fall River area!

Go to www.frtemplebethel.org

YAHRZEITS

4/1/2019 25 Adar II 5779 Robert Starr

4/2/2019 26 Adar II 5779 Doris Rotenberg

4/5/2019 29 Adar II 5779 Rose Oscar

4/6/2019 1 Nisan 5779 Arthur Littman

4/7/2019 2 Nisan 5779 Edna Dashoff

4/9/2019 4 Nisan 5779 Max Victor Silverman

4/10/2019 5 Nisan 5779 Milton Lifrak David Sacknoff

4/11/2019 6 Nisan 5779 Barbara Shore Martha Saxe Sobel

4/12/2019 7 Nisan 5779 Rose Kessler Ethel Kravitz 4/15/2019 10 Nisan 5779 Harry Meretsky

4/17/2019 12 Nisan 5779 Bernard Goodman Maury Kusinitz

4/18/2019 13 Nisan 5779 Dr. S. Benjamin Kaufmann Foster Lowenthal

4/19/2019 14 Nisan 5779 Jerry Gold David L. Gourse

4/21/2019 16 Nisan 5779 Harold Morris

4/22/2019 17 Nisan 5779 Sybil Goldberg

4/24/2019 19 Nisan 5779 Rabbi Moshe Babin Abraham Fradkin Max Simring

4/25/2019 20 Nisan 5779 Revelyn Baron 4/26/2019 21 Nisan 5779 Melvin Belford Jacob Joseph Thaler Hyman Udovin

4/27/2019 22 Nisan 5779 Frances Levien Morris Phillips

4/28/2019 23 Nisan 5779 Rebecca Gerstenzang Geraldine Kesselman

4/29/2019 24 Nisan 5779 Hon. Aileen Belford Susan Entin







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