

TEMPLE BETH EL

FALL RIVER, MASSACHUSETTS



97th Year

April 2025

Nisan/Iyar 5785

No. 7

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

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

June 18, 2025 at 7 pm

Formal vote for ALL MEMBERS in attendance In-Person or on Zoom

APPROVE or REJECT

**BEGINNING THE PROCESS OF SELLING
THE TEMPLE BETH EL COMPLEX in 2025**

Our new legal council, Brainsky-Levinson, advised us that there are specific Massachusetts laws that apply to non-profits planning to sell substantial assets, which in our case is the Temple Building Complex. The key legal concept is that the Congregation must approve or reject the sale, rather than just the Board of Directors. There are a number of steps involved. For each step the Board must Pre-Approve/Reject, and then the Congregation must Formally Approve/Reject at a Congregational meeting.

The first step is to approve “Offering the Building for Sale.”

On March 26, 2025 the Board voted unanimously in favor of beginning the sale process. The Board also approved a letter to be sent to the Congregation to explain the situation in depth, including the process of voting at the Annual Meeting. The letter will be sent out to the Congregation in May. A proxy form will be enclosed with the letter. Massachusetts law dictates that mail-in votes are not permitted. Only congregants in attendance (in person or on Zoom) at the Annual Meeting on June 18th may vote. For those who cannot or choose not to attend, they may fill out the proxy form and send it back to the Temple. The holder of the proxy, who must be a TBE member in good standing, MUST attend the meeting (in-person or on Zoom) in order to vote, and we MUST receive your proxy letter by a date in June to be determined. Your proxy will remain in effect for future votes unless you choose to cancel or change it. Those congregants attending the Annual Meeting, including those holding proxies, will then vote to Approve or Reject the motion of beginning the process of selling the Temple Beth El Complex during 2025. If the congregation votes to approve the motion to begin the sales process, the next step will be preparing for an auction.

If the motion is rejected we will have to go back to the drawing board, but this will have significant financial consequences for TBE funding. If Offering the Building for Sale is Approved, the Next Step will be a Board and the Congregational vote to approve the motion to accept or reject the sale price. More about that in the letter you will receive in May.

If you have any questions, I would be happy to answer them. Please call or email the Temple office.

Leonard Lehrer, Vice President

A message from our Spiritual Leader, Rabbi Mark Elber

We are entering the month of Nisan, the month of Passover, the month that, according to our tradition, is the month of our liberation from being slaves in Egypt, the first month of the year, and the time when our ancestors coalesced as a people. Passover and the seders (*sedarim* is the plural of seder in Hebrew) were always crucial times in the formation of my own personal identity.

I have very powerful memories of *sedarim* with my parents and a few relatives and friends. We always went through the entire *Haggadah* and sang a lot of songs from it. I remember when I started going to Hebrew school when I was 8½ years old and had just spent five weeks in Israel with my father's sister and brothers (along with my mother and brother) in Israel the summer before.

My father used to take me in the car when he went on house calls and to hospitals. I vividly recall sitting in the car waiting outside Forest Hills Hospital practicing the four questions (my parents called them the "*feer kashes*" in Yiddish). I must have wanted their approval very much because I kept practicing.

We used to hold one seder at home with some cousins and on the other night we would go to close family friends, the Levenshteins, in New Jersey. My parents met the Levenshteins in Bindermichel, the Displaced Persons Camp outside of Linz, Austria, where they (and my brother) lived from 1946-1949 after the war. My father was one of the DP camp's doctors. The Levenshteins had had two children before the war who didn't survive. Mrs. Levenshtein became pregnant during their time in Bindermichel, and my father helped her during a difficult pregnancy and delivered their baby daughter, Rella. They were like family to us.

About a year after moving to Fall River, I reconnected with Rella via the internet and the rabbi at Huntington Jewish Center whose eldest daughter married one of Rella's five children. Rella's son and Rabbi Kurshan's daughter live in Jerusalem, but I met him a few times in Huntington Jewish Center when they'd visit, having no clue that I was talking to Rella's son and his having no clue that I was at his parents' wedding in June 1969.

My strongest memories of my brother Erwin at a seder was at Rella's parents' house. After Erwin graduated college, he probably stopped going to *sedarim* – or at least those that went through the *Haggadah*. He did come to a seder of ours in Huntington in 2005 which was a thrill for me. When Erwin began

college at Franklin and Marshall in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, he was putting on tefillin daily and started and organized a Friday night service at school. For some reason, which we never discussed, when he began Tufts Medical School those things seem to come to an end.

As I'm sure you all know, Erwin passed away on February 26th (28 Shevat). It is very hard for me to imagine that this is true, even though I visited him for the last time about two weeks before the 26th in the memory care facility in Baltimore, Maryland where he lived the last year of his life.

Shoshana and I just returned late last night from the memorial service for Erwin at Baltimore Hebrew Congregation. As I write these words, I realize that we went to a *memorial* service – something that is about *remembering* – for my brother who had lost much of his memory, though I think he still knew who I was when I saw him this past February, and certainly did when I called or visited him on his 79th birthday this past November 12th.

I want to thank all those who reached out to send a condolence card, or a donation in Erwin's memory, and/or made a shiva call to our house. We deeply appreciate it. Community is a kind of enlarged family too. I'm sure most of us feel how important family is. I have been struck at how many times, when people speak at the funeral of their loved one, they mention the centrality of family. Nisan and its Passover celebrations are a pinnacle of family celebrations. Erwin, being six years older than I, was not only my big brother, but my mentor and almost a surrogate father, guiding me in my early years. This is what I wrote to him on his 79th birthday card this past November: "I could never thank you enough for being such an incredible brother. I can't imagine what my life would have been without all of your guidance, love and caring. You taught me so much, introduced me to so much, and nurtured me in a way our parents never could. I have a lifetime of memories I treasure."

As we sing at funerals and at memorial services: "Teach us to treasure each day..." Our days are truly a gift – as is our community.

Wishing you all a Happy, Healthy, and Sweet Pesach.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

First I would like to welcome Jacqui Hart, our newest member, to the tribe. We hope that Jacqui will become an active member of our congregation, bringing with her years of leadership experience and an upbeat, friendly attitude.

Next, I would like to welcome Carleen Makowski to the Board. As many of you know, Carleen has been very active in all aspects of Temple life, and we are delighted that she has joined the Board. I have appointed her to fill the late Jeff Entin's seat. We will be looking for two additional board members to join us in June.

Thank you to our incredible Board of Directors. As things are moving forward with planning the sale of the complex there has been much to do and many decisions to be made. We appreciate their time and effort as we make our way through these critically important times.

The Board convened in March and officially voted that the time has come to sell the complex. Now, you, as the members of our congregation, must decide in June to agree with the board or disagree. We have been blessed with the help of the Jewish Omni Fund and the rental of the school, but these financial assists are coming to an end.

We all want to preserve a Jewish presence in Fall River. If we sell the building and move to a more affordable location we can keep our congregation viable longer. We have identified a new, temporary location, sharing space with the Unitarian Church on North Main Street, just a few blocks from the Temple.

The decision to sell is up to you. As you saw on the cover, the first step is to attend the Annual Meeting on June 18th at 7 pm and vote to begin the process of selling the complex. If you, our members, vote to reject the motion, our funds will soon be exhausted as our congregation is too small to support this beautiful but failing structure. If the congregation votes to approve the motion, Congregation Beth El will live to see another day, and hopefully many more years. Again, the congregation, not the Board, has the final say.

Another issue that has arisen over the past year is the legal separation of the Temple Cemetery from the Congregation. The separation will protect the cemetery regardless of the future of the congregation. We will need volunteers for a Board to oversee the running of the cemetery. Please let us know if you would like to help.

The June meeting will be packed with information and at least one vote that our congregants must make, hopefully in person. You may also give another member your proxy, but being there is better. Sorry, no mail-in votes. The Board can only advise. You, as members, must make the final decision.

Rick Schwartz
President

Sisterhood President's Message

Welcome to April everyone. Hopefully the blustery winds of March are behind us. The rainy days of spring will surely help the flowers grow. As we look around, there are buds starting to bloom and lots of green everywhere.

We celebrated two very special events in March here at Temple Beth El. On Friday morning, March 14th we gathered to read the Megillah and celebrate Purim. It was a lively time of laughter and much merrymaking. We made mincemeat out of that villain, Haman. A special brunch followed.

On Saturday, March 22nd we celebrated a "baby naming." New grandparents Barbara Nelson and Fred Cohen sponsored the Kiddush in honor of this special occasion. Baby Lillian was a superstar. It was such a pleasure to have children in our Temple to enjoy this event with.

These events could not happen without this very special Events Committee. I want to thank Elaine Weiss Reback, Carlene Makowski, Sylvia Eisner, Cantor Shoshana and Jeff Ginsberg for all you do to keep us going forward.

On Saturday evening, April 12th Passover begins. Time for matzah and horseradish and all kinds of specialty foods to cross our palates. Let us not forget this was about our Exodus from Egypt, and another fight for religious freedom. Let me wish all of you and your families a Happy Passover.

Please join us on Thursday, April 24th at 5:30 pm as we recognize Yom HaShoah, Holocaust Memorial Day. On this day we commemorate the approximately six million Jews murdered in the Holocaust by Nazi Germany.

On April 26th we will be hosting our monthly "Make a Minyan." Please make every attempt to join us. This is such a good time to get together, hear the Torah chanted, enjoy a nice lunch and social conversation.

So, until next month, stay safe and healthy. Try to get outside and enjoy the fresh air.

Libby Cohen
Sisterhood President

TEMPLE FAMILY

- Our condolences to Fred & Elyse Thaler and family on the loss of Fred's sister, Mona Thaler.

Service Schedule

**April 2025:
Nisan/Iyar 5785**

Friday, April 4 (6 Nisan)

Shabbat Service 5:30 pm
Candle Lighting 6:56 pm

Saturday, April 5 (7 Nisan)

Weekly Portion: Vayikra 10:00 am

Thursday, April 10 (12 Nisan)

Fast of the First Born
Search for Chametz (evening)

Friday, April 11 (13 Nisan)

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

Saturday, April 12 (14 Nisan)

Erev Passover
Shabbat Hagadol
Weekly Portion: Tzav 10:00 am
First Seder (evening) After 8:07 pm
Candle Lighting

Sunday, April 13 (15 Nisan)

Passover – First Day 10:00 am
Second Seder (evening) After 8:08 pm
Candle Lighting

Monday, April 14 (16 Nisan)

Passover – Second Day 10:00 am

Friday, April 18 (20 Nisan)

Shabbat Service: 5:30 pm
Candle Lighting: 7:12 pm

Saturday, April 19 (21 Nisan)

Passover - Seventh Day 10:00 am
Candle Lighting After 8:16 pm

Sunday, April 20 (22 Nisan)

Passover – Eighth Day 10:00 am
Yizkor

Thursday, April 24 (26 Nisan)

Yom HaShoah
(Holocaust Memorial Day)

Friday, April 25 (27 Nisan)

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

Saturday, April 26 (28 Nisan)

Weekly Portion: Sh'mini 10:00 am

Monday, April 28 (30 Nisan)

Rosh Chodesh Iyar

Tuesday, April 29 (1 Iyar)

Rosh Chodesh Iyar

Wednesday, April 30 (2 Iyar)

Yom Ha'Zikaron
(Israel Memorial Day)

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:

Monday, April 14th: Passover, Second Day

ZOOM LINKS

Zoom links for regular and special services are now available on our website: www.frtemplebethel.org

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.

College Scholarships

Scholarships are available to all students residing in the greater Fall River area.

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, 2025

LEADERSHIP

Mark Elber.....Rabbi
Shoshana Brown.....Cantor
Richard Schwartz.....President
Leonard Lehrer.....Vice President
Libby Cohen.....Secretary
Robert Falconero.....Treasurer
Libby Cohen.....Sisterhood Pres.
William E. Kaufman.....Rabbi Emeritus

TBE News & Notes

On March 2nd, **Rabbi Mark and Cantor Shoshana** took part in an event held at the Fall River Liberal Club called “**Interfaith Hope and Humor**,” which featured **local comedian Jimmy Tingle**. Other clergy involved were **Pastor James Stewart** from the Church of the Holy Spirit and Muslim Outreach person for Southeastern Massachusetts **Martin Bentz** (from the Islamic Center in S. Dartmouth, which a group of us visited some years ago). The event raised money to benefit both the Capitol and D.C. Metropolitan Police which were both affected by the violence on 1/6/21. Thank you to those TBE members who showed up – it was great to laugh together!

As I write this, we are looking forward to the *simchat bat* (the baby naming) of the daughter of **Eric Cohen** and **Melissa Skolny** granddaughter of **Barbara Nelson** and **Fred Cohen** on March 22nd. This is in coordination with our monthly **Make a Minyan** (more on this below). It is so refreshing to have new life in the building, and to see the Jewish family tree growing – Mazel Tov to the whole family!

What a lively **Purim** we had! Thank you to all who showed up on Friday morning, March 14th. Somehow, even without the trappings of a rehearsed Purim *shpiel* (comedic skit), or of professional entertainment, both things we have featured on past Purims, we had just as good a time as at any Purim I can remember, waving our groggers and “blotting out the name” of Haman. A special thanks to **Nancy Seibert**, who helped with the chanting of the Megillah; and also to **Libby Cohen**, **Carleen Makowski**, and **Elaine Weiss (Reback)** for preparing such a lovely Purim *se’udah* (holiday feast) for us all.

In fulfillment of the Purim mitzvah of *matanot l’evyonim* (gifts to the poor), I am happy to report that we took up a **tzedakah collection on Purim of \$124**, which was donated to **United Neighbors of Fall River**. Thanks to all who pitched in!

Passover begins on Saturday night, April 12th – which involves some halakhic complications for the Shabbat meals on Friday and Saturday. Please see explanation on the Passover insert. And please note that the **TBE kitchen will be closed and locked from April 10th to April 21st**. Please do not bring any food or drink (except plain water) into the temple during that period.

Upcoming:

We will be observing **Yom HaShoah** (Holocaust Memorial Day) on **Thursday, April 24th at 5:30** in the TBE chapel. Please stay afterwards for light refreshments.

Our next **Make a Minyan** will be on Saturday, **April 26th**, with Shabbat lunch to follow. (If you want to plan ahead, the Make a Minyan for May will be on May 31st.)

I am looking forward to our **April 27th Sunday Afternoon** at the **Jewish Movies**, having heard that the film *A Real Pain* is both funny and thought-provoking. Sorry we had to cancel March’s movie; hope to see a good crowd for this one!

Continued next column

Save the Date – Friday May 2nd – for our annual **Celebrate Israel Kabbalat Shabbat “Seder”**: this is a modified Friday night service around the table at which we sing Israeli songs, and read from important texts dealing with the formation of the State of Israel. (*Yom Ha’Atzma’ut*, Israel’s Independence Day falls on May 1st this year.) We will also share in a light meal of challah, cheese, fruit, olives, hummus, wine, etc. It will begin at our usual 5:30 start time for Friday nights. Don’t miss this uplifting event!

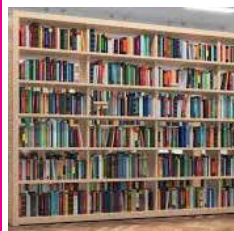


SUNDAY AFTERNOON AT THE JEWISH MOVIES!

“A Real Pain” is a 2024 comedy-drama written and directed by Jesse Eisenberg (who also stars in the film). Mismatched Jewish-American cousins reunite for a tour through Poland (joining a tour group that visits Holocaust sites) to honor their beloved grandmother, but their old tensions resurface against the backdrop of their family history. This film was nominated for two Oscars in 2024 (and won one for Kieran Culkin’s role as best supporting actor), and was named one of the top ten films of 2024 by the American Film Institute and the National Board of Review. 1 hour 30 minutes.



LAST CALL FOR BOOKS!



If anyone is interested in books from the library, speak now! We have several organizations who are interested in giving them a new home and they will be coming to collect them soon.

If you would like one more look before they go, please call or email the office ASAP and we will have someone meet you in the library.

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.

Thank you for your donations received through March 26th

Yahrzeits

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

Mother, Helen Babin	Miriam Babin
Grandfather, Isaac Bolski	Norm Bolski
Father, Nathaniel Dashoff	Gene Paranzino
Grandfather, Adolph Feder	Joyce Juda
Grandfather, Albert Friedlander	Dianne Gens, Leslie Levine, & Andrea Couch
Father, Louis Galitsky	Howard & Sheila Galitsky
Wife, Alice Horowitz	Jay Horowitz
Sister, Irene Kassler	Hannah Evans
Grandfather, Morris Levine	Dianne Gens, Leslie Levine & Andrea Couch
Mother, Ruth Levine	Alan Levine
Mother, Ruth Goldberg Levine	Richard & Wendy Levine
Mother, Rita Minkin	Libby Cohen
Husband, Michael Morgenstern	Judy Morgenstern
Mother, Helen Nulman	Sybil Michelson
Father, Louis Nulman	Sybil Michelson
Father, David Sacknoff	Estelle Klufft
Brother, Barry Schwartz	Ginny Lepow
Father, Richard Shore	Nancy Ellen Shore
Wife, Janet Weissman	Jeff Weissman
Husband, Hadley Wilkinson	Gail Wilkinson

CAPITAL FUND

In memory of Dr. Erwin Elber
 Susan Bender
 Tilden & Candyce Bogus
 Norm & Anita Bolski
 Sylvia Eisner & Don Kessler
 Robert Falconero
 Jeff Ginsberg
 Renee Lipson
 Carleen Makowski
 Paula & Larry Meyerson
 Sue & Joe Paresky
 Carol & Ron Schwartz
 Barbara & Arthur Sheer
 Barry & Sharon Steinberg
 Bahira Sugarman

In honor of Dr. Ron Schwartz's 90th birthday
 Richard & Susan Wolfson

MORNING MINYAN FUND

In memory of my beloved brother, Bernard Chebot
 Bill Chebot

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In memory of Dr. Erwin Elber
 Ron & Claire Caplain
 Libby Cohen
 Linda & Jerry Monchik
 Judy Morgenstern
 Nancy Seibert
 Sisterhood of Temple Beth El
 Beverly Sokoll

In memory of Dr. Herbert Rubin
 Linda & Jerry Monchik

SPECIAL GIFTS

For generous donations for books from our library
 Maxine Wolfson
 Adam Zirkin



“Interfaith Hope and Humor” event featuring comedian Jimmy Tingle, Rabbi Mark and Cantor Shoshana and others. It was a very enjoyable afternoon!

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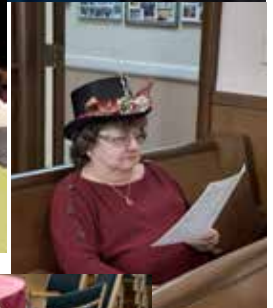
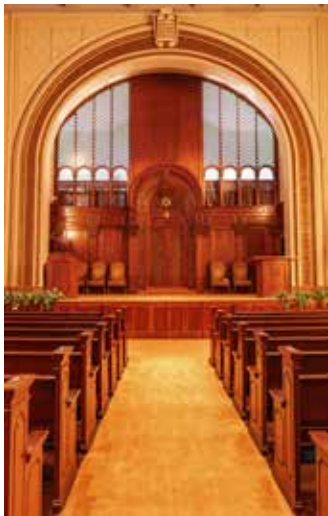
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 jeffnjan11@comcast.net



A big thank you to Jack Heller, a photographer from Newport, RI who specializes in photographing churches, synagogues and cathedrals. Jack took a number of beautiful pictures of the sanctuary, and gave us the digital images to use as we like. Below are just a few of them, but they will all be posted on our website to view.

Purim Festivities at TBE!



Preparing for Lillian Cohen's Baby Naming!





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,
Go to www.frtemplebethel.org

APRIL YAHRZEITS

4/2/2025 4 Nisan 5785
Albert Dr. Resnick

4/3/2025 5 Nisan 5785
Milton Lifrak
David Sacknoff

4/4/2025 6 Nisan 5785
Bernard Herman
Barbara Shore

4/5/2025 7 Nisan 5785
Rose Kessler
Ethel Kravitz

4/6/2025 8 Nisan 5785
Herman Seibert

4/7/2025 9 Nisan 5785
Sumner Alpert

4/10/2025 12 Nisan 5785
Raymond Brown
Bernard Goodman
Maury Kusnitz

4/11/2025 13 Nisan 5785
Dr. S. Benjamin Kaufmann
Foster Lowenthal

4/12/2025 14 Nisan 5785
Jerry Gold
David L. Gourse

4/15/2025 17 Nisan 5785
Sybil Goldberg

4/17/2025 19 Nisan 5785
Rabbi Moshe Babin
Max Simring

4/18/2025 20 Nisan 5785
Revelyn Baron
Jeffrey Schenker
Irene Zwetchkenbaum

4/19/2025 21 Nisan 5785
Jacob Joseph Thaler
Hyman Udovin

4/22/2025 24 Nisan 5785
Hon. Aileen Belford
Richard Shuman

4/24/2025 26 Nisan 5785
Sally Cohen
Philip Sacknoff
Stanley Scher

4/26/2025 28 Nisan 5785
Jack Resnick

4/27/2025 29 Nisan 5785
Myrna Resnick
Robert Sonion

4/29/2025 1 Iyar 5785
Norman Chebot
Irving Smith
Edwin Solup

BCC Holocaust & Genocide Center Upcoming Events

Clifton HEALTHCARE CAMPUS

Wilbur Avenue, Somerset, MA 02725

Clifton Rehabilitative Nursing Center
508-675-7589

Clifton Outpatient Rehabilitation Clinic
508-675-0329

Clifton Assisted Living Community
508-324-0200

Clifton Hospice Services
(a community hospice agency)

508-675-7583

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