TEMPLE BETH EL



Fall River, Massachusetts

88th Year December 2015 Kislev/Tevet 5776 No. 4

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

Grand Chanukah Party

Sunday, December 13th at 1:30 pm
Dinner promptly at 2:00 pm
Candle lighting at 4:00 pm

Adults: \$10 Children 12 & Under \$5 RSVP by December 1st

Delicious chicken dinner, potato latkes with apple sauce, and a wonderful dessert, catered by The Butcherie.

Chanukah Sing-a-long, too!

Join us as we celebrate the Festival of Lights!

Reservations a must! If you haven't yet RSVP'd, Please call the office today!!



Up Next...

Tu BiShevat Seder

Sunday, January 24th, 4 PM (weather permitting!)

Save the Date!

A message from our Spiritual Leader, Cantor Shoshana Brown

A LEGACY OF LIGHT

As I write these words, I am experiencing profoundly mixed emotions about the past few days: feelings of gratitude, and, I'll admit, pride over the wonderful Shabbaton weekend that we just celebrated together in honor of Rabbi Samuel and Tillie Ruderman; and simultaneously feelings of alarm, anger, sadness and deep anxiety after that same Friday night's terrorist attacks that left (at this count) 130 people dead in Paris. (More on this later.) While there was no one overall theme announced for the weekend, the Torah portion of the week, *Toldot* (which means literally "generations" and deals with the patriarch Isaac's trying to set his affairs in order and give over his legacy before he dies) lent its theme to the Shabbaton.

Kicking off the weekend at our Kabbalat Shabbat service, my dear friend and colleague, Rabbi Debrah Shenefelt, spoke about her many years of work as spiritual leader to Or Ahavah, a congregation in Tampa, Florida which she founded. Rabbi Debrah spoke about why she started it, and about tools that they as a congregation have used to reach out to unaffiliated Jews in the Tampa area. She discussed ideas for outreach with us that we might not have thought of, and encouraged us to be open to the technologies of the younger generation (listing our events, classes and services on "Meetup"; recording and streaming our services for those who cannot be with us in person due to distance, illness, or other circumstances were just two of the ideas that Debrah mentioned). How is outreach related to this idea of "generations" and "legacy"? When we see that the younger generations of Jews who were once growing up in Fall River have not settled here, we look around...to whom can we pass the torch? Who will continue our legacy? Upon whose heads can we lay our hands and bestow our "innermost blessing," as Isaac did with his son Jacob?

On Shabbat morning our Hebrew school students Zach Phillips and Lev Elber performed a Torah skit (with the help of Rabbi Debrah, Rabbi Mark, Carole Cooper and myself) that gave us a lighthearted look at the transfer of this legacy from Isaac to his sons. (They were wonderful – we will have to do more of these!) On Shabbat afternoon, ten of us gathered at our home on Walnut Street for se'udah shlisheet (the "third meal" of Shabbat), for niggunim (singing of Chasidic melodies) and some profound teaching by Rabbi Debrah, who spoke to us about the journey into our "October, November, and December" years. Rabbi Debrah said that it is up to us to choose how to make these years a time of harvest, thanksgiving, and forgiveness—a setting of things right while we are still here with our loved ones. We learned about "spiritual el-

dering," mentoring and ethical wills, and talked about the importance of finding peace for ourselves through letting go of anger and grudges, so that we might spend our "eldering" years with hearts full of love and gratitude. Finally, we sang our way out of Shabbat with a spirited Havdalah circle around our kitchen counter.

On Sunday morning, after *Shacharit* (the morning weekday service) in a packed chapel, we enjoyed brunch and a fascinating lecture by Dr. Simcha Raphael on Jewish mystical teachings about death and the afterlife. "Reb Simcha" (who is ordained as a rabbinic pastor) was warm, funny, and a lively speaker. He had taught the previous night at the Providence Dwares JCC, and thus trailed three new people in his wake (folks who had learned with him that night in Providence); and so three new Jews came to pray, learn and share a meal with us... and perhaps they shall come back. (I had not expected this part of the weekend to be a tool for outreach!)

Libby Cohen, our Sisterhood president, said that Rabbi Ruderman and his wife Tillie would have been so pleased with our weekend, and probably surprised to hear Jews learning about such a topic as Jewish views of the afterlife! It has been a pleasure to revive this tradition of the Ruderman Shabbaton weekend at Temple Beth El, and to witness our community delving into such spiritual matters, examining "traditional" Jewish teachings in the light of contemporary wisdom about end-of-life issues and sound therapeutic practices.

What is finally "true" about our souls or consciousness after death of course we cannot know. We pray for all those who lost their lives this past week in Paris, and for those who mourn them. And we pray for the soul of this world today: for the health of our planet, for peace and respect between peoples and faiths, and for wisdom in our world's leaders to discern how to achieve these things ...for the *toldot* of all the future generations waiting to be born. What legacy shall we leave them?

As we approach the winter solstice, the darkest season of the year, and Chanukah, our holiday season of light and hope, let us take courage from the legacy of our ancestors. The Maccabees, despite overwhelming odds, never gave up their determination to live freely as Jews, and somehow...they prevailed. Let us remember, during our own dark times, that where there is still faith, where there is still hope and commitment to our highest ideals, there will still be a light that shines through the darkness. We *can* bring light through our lives and our deeds.

Wishing you all light and happiness, and a joyous Chanukah,

Cantor Shoshana

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It seems like just the other day we were sweltering in the summer heat...and now we are preparing for Chanukah. It never ceases to amaze me at how the older we get, the faster time seems to move. I can only imagine how it feels to our friend Charlie Stampler, who is now nearly a year into his second century!

In my message last month I was premature when I reported that the Tower Project came in under budget. Phase I was about 90% successful (and that is when my bulletin article was due), but with our run of gorgeous weather we had to wait a few weeks for a good rainstorm to test the repairs. The rain showed that while the repairs to the towers were watertight, the bricks on the facade of the towers were still leaking. Thus we entered Phase II, when we once again rented the big lift and the Miranda brothers set about repointing and resealing the brickwork. After the last rain the results were much more successful, with the north tower being...wait for it...DRY, and the south tower showing only a minor trickle. We think that leak has been isolated to two small areas, which can be reached without a lift, so we should now be in very good shape. We will soon begin Phase III, which is the interior repair work. So to all of you who have made a donation to the Tower Project, I sincerely thank you, whether the donation was for \$10, \$1000 or something in between. If you haven't yet done so, I encourage you to support the work that we have done to maintain our beautiful, aging building. Any and all donations are a blessing and a mitzvah. Thank you.

Along with the Tower Project, we also had a \$6000 repair bill for the elevator, and we are also in the process of replacing our obsolete fire alarm system. Both of these projects were necessary and urgent, but the timing was terrible.

Nonetheless we continue to provide a safe and comfortable place for services, classes, and gettogethers, including our upcoming Chanukah Party. Come and join in the fun and festivities!

I hope those who attended our Ruderman Shabbaton Weekend enjoyed it and found the topics interesting and thought-provoking. Thank you to our guest speakers, Rabbi Debrah Shenefelt and Dr. Simcha Raphael, Cantor Shoshana and Rabbi Mark for organizing the weekend, and Sisterhood for coordinating all of the food.

I would like to wish all of you an enjoyable Chanukah and a wonderful 2016, including our terrific and competent staff.

Steve Silverman President

Sisterhood President's Message

As I write this, we are fresh off the Ruderman Shabbaton Weekend. I must say it was very interesting. I was lucky enough to attend "Friday Night Live" with the very lovely Rabbi Debrah Shenefelt, guest speaker. Also, I was fortunate to be here on Sunday morning for the grand finale. Rabbi Mark and Cantor Shoshana led a rousing service with much enthusiasm and lots of singing and great music accompaniment. You couldn't help but feel uplifted. This was followed by breakfast. Next on the agenda was guest speaker Simcha Raphael, Ph.D. The topics ran the gamut from Jewish renewal and spirituality to the Jewish take on afterlife. I just wish I had been able to participate in Saturday's activities. Word of mouth has it that it was well worth attending. In conclusion I must say that those folks Rabbi Mark and Cantor Shoshana are acquainted with are lovely. Thank you for introducing us.

I hope everyone is saving the date, Sunday, December 13th. That is the day we are celebrating Chanukah. We will party in style. So, I hope to see all of you there.

On Wednesday, December 16th, at 10:30 am the Book Club will be meeting to discuss our latest read, "Song of David" by Amy Harmon. You still have time to pick it up, so get hopping and start reading. We want to see you there.

Watch your e-mail for activity updates. Make sure the office has your latest contact information. If you have friends that aren't on e-mail, please pass on any info you receive. Thanks for your help.

So until next month, Shalom.

Libby Cohen Sisterhood President

Meaningful Services from a Trusted Friend Since 1893

Respectfully honoring the customs and traditions of the Jewish community, funerals are in strict accordance with Jewish Law.

508-673-0781



SERVICE SCHEDULE

December 2015: Kislev/Tevet 5776

Friday, December 4 (22 Kislev)

Candle Lighting 3:56 pm Shabbat Service 6:30 pm

Saturday, December 5 (23 Kislev)

Weekly Portion: Vayeshev 10:00 am

Sunday, December 6 (24 Kislev)

Erev Chanukah

Light First Chanukah Candle

Monday, December 7 (25 Kislev)

Chanukah First Day

Light Second Chanukah Candle

Tuesday, December 8 (26 Kislev)

Chanukah Second Day Light Third Chanukah Candle

Wednesday, December 9 (27 Kislev)

Chanukah Third Day

Light Fourth Chanukah Candle

Thursday, December 10 (28 Kislev)

Chanukah Fourth Day Light Fifth Candle

Friday, December 11 (29 Kislev)

Chanukah Fifth Day

Light 6th Chanukah Candle before Shabbat Candles Candle Lighting 3:56 pm Shabbat Service 5:30 pm

Saturday, December 12 (30 Kislev)

Weekly Portion: Miketz 10:00 am

Chanukah Sixth Day

Light Seventh Chanukah Candle after 5:02 pm

Rosh Chodesh Tevet

Sunday, December 13 (1 Tevet)

Chanukah Seventh Day

Light Eighth Chanukah Candle

Rosh Chodesh Tevet

Monday, December 14 (2 Tevet)

Chanukah Eighth Day

Friday, December 18 (6 Tevet)

Candle Lighting 3:58 pm Shabbat Service 5:30pm

Saturday, December 19 (7 Tevet)

Weekly Portion: Vayigash 10:00 am

Tuesday, December 22 (10 Tevet)

Fast of the Tenth of Tevet

Friday, December 25 (13 Tevet)

Candle Lighting 4:01 pm Shabbat Service 5:30 pm

Saturday, December 26 (14 Tevet)

Weekly Portion: Vayechi 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:

Friday, December 25th - School Closed Friday, January 1st - New Year's Day

A NOTE OF THANKS

Just a note to say thank you for all the prayers for my brother-in-law, Steve Myerson. Since suffering a stroke in June, he has worked hard on his recovery and while he continues to do therapy on his own, he has now returned to work and a very nearly normal lifestyle. Thank you for your prayers!

Marie



FALL RIVER JEWISH HOME

Short-Term Rehabilitation and Recovery Services
Let us help you return home safely!

Kosher dining services provided.

Also offering Respite Care and Long-term Stays.

For more information please call (508) 679-6172 538 Robeson St., Fall River, MA 02720

www.fallriverjewishhome.org

LEADERSHIP

EE/ (DEI (SI III		
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	

Instructions for Chanukah

First Candle is December 6th

Chanukah means "dedication," and refers to the re-dedication of the Temple after the Jews purified it from the defilements of pagan sacrifices which had taken place, and from the idolatrous images which had been set up there during the Assyrian-Greek occupation.

Today Chanukah is a minor holiday, on which it is permissible to work. Its chief observances consist of the lighting of the Chanukah candles and the singing of *Hallel* during morning prayer. Candles are added to the *Chanukiyah* from right to left but are kindled from left to right. The newest candle is lit first. (On the Shabbat of Chanukah, kindle the Chanukah lights first and then the Shabbat candles.)

Before kindling the Chanukah lights on the **first night** of Chanukah, Sunday, December 6th (or if you are kindling the Chanukah lights for the first time this year) recite all three blessings. **On every subsequent night** only the first two are recited.

Light the Shamash - the helper candle - first, using it to kindle the rest of the Chanukah lights; say or sing:

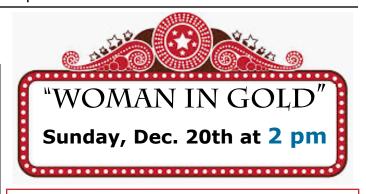
- 1. Ba-rukh A-tah Ado-nai E-lo-he-nu Me-lekh Ha-olam a-sher ki-de-sha-nu be-mitz-vo-tav vetzi-va-nu le-had-lik ner shel Cha-nu-kah.
- 2. Ba-rukh A-tah Ado-nai E-lo-he-nu Me-lekh Ha-olam she-a-sa ni-sim la-avo-te-nu ba-ya-mim ha-hem ba-zman ha-zeh.

Recite the following only on the first night, or the first time lighting this Chanukah:

3. Ba-rukh A-tah Ado-nai E-lo-he-nu Me-lekh Ha-olam she-hekhe-ya-nu ve-ki-yi-ma-nu ve-higi-a-nu laz-man ha-zeh.

Translation:

- 1. Blessed are You, Lord our God, Ruler of the universe, who has sanctified us through Your commandments, and commanded us to kindle the Chanukah light.
- 2. Blessed are You, Lord our God, Ruler of the universe, who performed miracles for our ancestors in those days, at this season.
- 3. Blessed are You, Lord our God, Ruler of the universe, who has granted us life, sustained us, and enabled us to reach this occasion.



SUNDAY AFTERNOON AT THE JEWISH MOVIES: "WOMAN IN GOLD"

**Note New "Winter time" of 2 pm

Sixty years after fleeing Vienna, Maria Altmann (Helen Mirren), attempts to reclaim family possessions that were seized by the Nazis. Among them is a famous portrait of Maria's beloved Aunt Adele: Gustav Klimt's "Portrait of Adele Bloch-Bauer I." With the help of young lawyer Randy Schoeberg (Ryan Reynolds), Maria embarks upon a lengthy legal battle to recover this painting and several others, but it will not be easy, for Austria considers them national treasures.

Sunday, Dec. 20th at 2 PM in the Vestry

Sisterhood Gift Shop

Have you seen the navy baseball caps with 5? When you wear the cap while traveling or playing golf, it's a great way to receive a friend-



ly greeting. I've received requests from as far away as California. If you're looking for a Chanukah gift for a youngster, oldster or someone in-between, these caps make wonderful gifts - and they are only \$15.

Keep our gift shop in mind when looking for a meaningful gift; e.g. tallis, kipa, mezuzah, menorah, Judaica jewelry, seder plate, etc.

I am available before or after the Monday morning class as well as by appointment.

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



Thank you for your donations received through November 17, 2015

YAHRZEITS

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

Mother, Ida Appel Gloria Baskin Mother, Helene Bender Susan Bender

Diane & Larry Greenfield

Mother, Ethel Bernstein Mother, Ethel Bernstein Leslie Bernstein Mother, Suetelle Bernstein Berna Haberman Mother, Bessie Bolski Milton Bolski Mother, Bessie Bolski Norm Bolski Grandfather, Jacob Brown Howard Galitsky Nathan Dondis Father, Philip Dondis Mother, Lilllian Feinberg Steven Feinberg Husband, Leonard Freedman Sheila Freedman Jonathan Gregory Mother, Anne F. Gregory Bernard Hoffman Father, Morris Hoffman Father, Paul Horowitz Jay Horowitz Father, Erwin Juda Joyce Juda Grandfather, Isadore Juda Joyce Juda Sheila Lash Husband, Melvin Lash **Father, Francis Levin** Miriam Klein Mildred Lider Attv. Bruce Lider Father in law, Max Reiser Hilda Reiser Grandmother, Jennie Robinson **Enid Lomax** Edith Getchell Grandmother, Jennie Robinson Mother, Betty Rosenberg Richard Rosenberg Parents, Esther & Nathan Silk Kenneth Silk Mother, Jessie Simpson Irma Feldman Mother, Yetta Sludsky Paula Sultan Grandfather, Benjamin Twersky Atty. Jay Horowitz Mother, Anna Zalkind Barbara Eisen Parents, June & Carl Zeitz Marjorie Keith

MAURICE ALPERT MEMORIAL **ENDOWMENT FUND**

For the yahrzeit of my beloved grandfather, Bennett Alpert Sumner Alpert

CANTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

For the Ugandan Rabbinical Student

Carole Cooper Anne Griffin

In honor of Cantor Shoshana

Pamela Pierce

CAPITAL FUND

In honor of our parents, Charlotte & Dr. Irving Fradkin celebrating their wedding anniversary

Jane & Russell Fradkin Jessica & Eric Gashin

In memory of Stewart Kusinitz

Barry Helfanbein

In memory of Mary Pacheco

Libby Cohen

IDA AND DAVID CHAVENSON SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In memory of Stewart Kusinitz For the recovery of Dr. Normand Paquin

Ann & Bob Chavenson

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

For the Ugandan Rabbinical Student - in appreciation of Rabbi Mark Elber

Renee Lipson

HYMAN & GOLDIE SCHWARTZ LEGACY FUND

In memory of Arlene Friedman In memory of Stewart Kusinitz Dorothy & Lester Schwartz

THE TOWER PROJECT

A sincere thank you to all those who have contributed to our Tower Project thus far. It has been a major undertaking, but we are making very good progess.

Bill Chebot

in memory of beloved wife, Hummy

Sheila & Fran Freedman in memory of Lucille Mayer

Edith & Dawson Getchell

in memory of brother, Stewart Kusinitz

Joan & Bart Goldberg

in loving memory of George Goldberg & Sylvia Goldberg Leibowitz

Peter Kane & Marcy Doctor

Edith Kusinitz

in memory of brother, Stewart Kusiitz

Sheila Lash

Hilda McVay

Cheryl Crossley-Simmons

in memory of Stewart Kusinitz

Sheila & Fran Freedman

"Three cheers to Steve Silverman. Temple Beth El is revitalized due to his immeasurable time and dedication, his dependable commitment and his sensitivity to keeping the temple a home for all to enjoy. May he and his family be blessed for the coming year."



United Neighbors of Fall River is now collecting new and gently used household necessities for families transitioning from temporary to permanent housing in our communities.

Needed items:

- Dishes, bowl, cups, glasses
- Flatware(forks, knives, spoons)
- Cooking utensils
- (spatulas, spoons, measuring cups, etc.)
- Cutting board & kitchen knives
- Small kitchen appliances (coffee maker, can opener, toaster, microwave, etc.)
- Plastic storage containers
- Pot holders & kitchen towels
- Pots & pans
- Baking pans
- Mixing bowls & colander
- Towels (face, hand & bath)
- Hair dryer
- Sheets & blankets (all sizes including crib)

If you are unsure about an item, ask yourself "What would I need if I lost everything tomorrow?"

Donations accepted in the vestry. Thank you for your support!



IRA JAY FLEISHER

FUNERAL DIRECTOR

458 HOPE STREET PROVIDENCE, RI 02906 TEL: 401-331-8094 800-447-1267 FAX: 401-331-9379



NOV. 15 – JAN. 15 UNITED NEIGHBORS ANNUAL COAT DRIVE

United Neighbors is once again accepting all clean, gently used and new winter coats at Temple Beth El.

They are happily accepting winter coats, hats, scarves, gloves, and mitten donations (no blankets or other items or clothing please). Sizes Infants through Adults. The donation box is in the vestry.

They are also accepting gift cards and cash - if you would like to donate either, please bring your donations to the Temple office for safekeeping.

Thank you for your support! We have already had a number of donations, but we are happy to take more to pass along to United Neighbors.

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

Celebrating Over 60 Years of Dedication to Excellence

We continue to update our website with upcoming events, interesting articles written by our Spiritual Leaders and others, Book Club lists, photos from events, etc. Check it out regularly!

Go to www.frtemplebethel.org

YAHRZEITS

12/2/2015 20 Kislev 5776 Bess Levin

12/3/2015 21 Kislev 5776 Harry Berger William Falk

12/4/2015 22 Kislev 5776 Hummy Chebot

12/5/2015 23 Kislev 5776
Alice Helfanbein
Hyman Schwartz
Elizabeth Beryl Waksler
Donna Ann Wolfson

12/8/2015 26 Kislev 5776 Henry William Juda Phyllis Nerenberg Samuel Rotenberg Julius Simpson

12/9/2015 27 Kislev 5776 Shirley Resnick

12/10/2015 28 Kislev 5776 David Kotlen Dr. Henry Lustig Bernard Miller

12/11/2015 29 Kislev 5776 Ada Haims Robert Lipson

12/12/2015 30 Kislev 5776 Abraham D. Becker 12/13/2015 1 Tevet 5776 Sanford Litchman Alfred Pistreich Rose Tallman

12/14/2015 2 Tevet 5776 Sarah R. Katzman

12/15/2015 3 Tevet 5776 William Gittelman Milton Elis Raffel

12/16/2015 4 Tevet 5776 Isaac Schwartz Jacob Yamins

12/18/2015 6 Tevet 5776 Mae Berman

12/19/2015 7 Tevet 5776 Frances Fradkin Pauline Rudolph Selma Sokoll

12/20/2015 8 Tevet 5776 Stanley Alpert Howard Krasnow Leon Nathan Malin

12/22/2015 10 Tevet 5776 Arthur Granovsky Mathilda H. Raffel Aaron Solotist 12/23/2015 11 Tevet 5776 Arline Alpert Frederick Belford Robert Sokoll

12/25/2015 13 Tevet 5776 Paula E. Shuman Maurice Sludsky

12/26/2015 14 Tevet 5776 Nathan Silk

12/28/2015 16 Tevet 5776 Herman Gitlin Bessie Gladstone David Thaler

12/29/2015 17 Tevet 5776 Sophie Cohen Ida F. Kane Louis M. Raffel Milton Reiser

12/30/2015 18 Tevet 5776
Edythe Isserlis
Samuel Kay
Harry Spiro
Murray Taradash

12/31/2015 19 Tevet 5776 George Lustig Dr. Samuel Sandler



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