TEMPLE BETH EL



FALL RIVER, MASSACHUSETTS

91st Year December 2018 Kislev/Tevet 5779 No. 4

Regular Service Schedule

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

Thank you to Andrew and Larry Polin, who have generously subsidized the bringing of Ezekiel's Wheels to Temple Beth El in memory of their parents: John Allen Polin, Dorothy Lash Polin and Lawrence Howard Golding.

Temple Beth El Chanukah Party!

Sunday, December 9th beginning at 1:30 pm

Back by popular demand

Ezekiel's Wheels Klezmer Band

who will be performing from 2 to 3 pm, followed by Community Candlelighting. Bring your children and grandchildren, bring a friend or two! Thanks to the sponsorship of the Polin family, there is no charge for this event! If you haven't yet RSVP'd, please do so today!



Ezekiel's Wheels Klezmer Band

A message from our Spiritual Leader, Cantor Shoshana Brown "Lights in the Darkness"

We head into the darkest month of the year with what seems a deluge of bad news in the headlines – both for our nation and for the world: How many towns and communities have been devastated in the past year by floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, and now wildfires – not to mention the lives that have been taken, and hearts broken, by senseless mass shootings? Last month the FBI released statistics on hate crimes in the U.S. showing that crimes based on race, religion or gender shot up 17 percent in 2017. And these numbers do not even include what we recently witnessed in Pittsburgh, in Jeffersontown, KY, or the spate of pipe bombs mailed to prominent political figures and journalists - all these occurrences just since October 2018!

Is there some common underlying factor catalyzing these events? It is easy to see the connection between extreme weather-events, whether they involve an excess of water or extremely dry conditions. Both situations are believed by climate scientists to be related to the changing climate conditions on our planet, caused primarily by human impact on the environment, especially (but not exclusively) the burning of fossil fuels. But how is this related to these hate crimes?

There is a huge refugee crisis taking place in the world today, and much of it is caused by a changing planet. Fights over water rights in the Middle East are well-known as a factor leading up to the crisis in Syria, but many people do not realize the impact that climate change is having on the flood of refugees coming out of Central America. As Todd Miller, author of Storming the Wall: Climate Change, Migration, and Homeland Security (for which he won the 2018 Izzy Award for Investigative Journalism) writes:

"In the region that extends from Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras into Nicaragua, which is filled with many poor, small farmers who depend on seasonal rainfall, the farmers were expecting rain and there was no rain...One mayor in a nearby town where these farmers are from said, 'We are facing an unprecedented calamity.'... So, we're looking at a situation in Central America, which already has a number of factors that are displacing people, and we have to look at this ecological aspect to give a holistic analysis of it."

The upheaval and migration of peoples around the world sparks anxiety in the populations into which these refugees migrate. We have all seen how this subject has been used as a "wedge" issue in the recent elections. While most people in the U.S. do not cope with their anxiety by committing acts of violence, this appears to be what happened in Pittsburgh. Surely there are other contributing factors (mental illness, the strengthening of hate groups via the internet, easy access to guns, to name a few), but none of these issues are unrelated.

So...Chanukah is coming - we need some light! Where can we find a glimmer of hope for our nation, for our world? As I write this column, we are only halfway through the month of November; Rabbi Mark and I are busy planning our Interfaith "Service of Peace and Solidarity," reaching out to a wide array of clergy and congregations across greater Fall River. I have been heartened by the responses of all those we have reached out to - and especially by those who in a way catalyzed this service by reaching out to me first (two of those were the columnist Marc Dion and our State Representative Carole Fiola). One woman, Margaret, who used to attend the interfaith discussion groups that Rabbi Mark and the Rev. Matthew Stewart and I ran for two years sent Mark and me the most touching note expressing her sorrow, as she put it, "...for what your family at the 'Tree of Life' went through."

The faces of our nation's elected representatives in Washington are about to change. I take it as a *good* sign (the literal meaning of *siman tov*) that a record number of both women and minorities have won seats in the House of Representatives. Slowly but surely, our government is coming to represent our population in all its diversity. This counts as a glimmer. Another is the steadily-growing feasibility of less environmentally-damaging sources of power, with the sale of electric cars, for example, surging in China. At our own home on Walnut Street, our electricity is generated by solar panels. While the dizzying pace of technological changes does bring anxiety to many, it also offers hope that we can find ways to halt or even reverse our planet's warming trend.

So as you light your Chanukah candles this season, stop and give some thought to how profound this ritual is: in the midst of the darkest time of the year we recall one of the darkest times in Jewish history. We sing, and give thanks to God for helping us through dark and difficult times. Chanukah candles usually burn down in about 45 minutes - it is a small portion of our evening, but if you turn out the other lights in the room, and gaze at these small flames surrounded by darkness, recalling all that the Jewish people have gone through over the ages, you realize that our survival really is a miracle. The prophet Isaiah tells us that God desires the Jewish people to be a "light unto the nations." This may be an unfair homework-assignment for the modern state of Israel, but it is a fair aspiration for each of us as individual Jews. Let us be re-inspired this Chanukah to do deeds and live lives that will be uplifting to those around us, to our fellow Jews, and to our non-Jewish neighbors as well. God can do miracles when we work in partnership with God and with one another. This may seem a daunting task, but it is also holy, ennobling, for what could give us deeper lifesatisfaction than to leave the world a better place for those who come after us?

Wishing you all light, peace, and joy.

Cantor Shoshana

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As I write we are still a few days away from our special Interfaith "Service of Peace and Solidarity." Cantor Shoshana and Rabbi Mark have worked very hard to bring together an eclectic group of various faiths from the Fall River area to come together as one in response to the shooting at the Pittsburgh synagogue, as well as to hate in general. As the saying goes, "we are more alike than we are unalike." I am proud to be a part of our Jewish community, but also proud to be a part of our community at large, and I value being able to come together with our neighbors.

Speaking of neighbors, on page 7 we have published a letter we received from a neighbor soon after the shooting. Please make sure to read it -- it is both stirring and eloquent.

Also on page 7 is a thought-provoking poem written by our long-time member Harvey Trieff, and also some touching notes from Marilyn Sokoll. We truly do have a special community.

We were sad to lose Lorraine Kaplan and pastpresident Dr. Barry Steinberg, but we were delighted to not only welcome new members into our midst, but also a new baby! A hearty welcome to Dr. Jeffrey and Leanora Horowitz (Jeff & Lee), and to Steve and Glenn Sherman and their new bundle of joy, Raphael David Sherman! Mazel toy!

I hope you are planning to come to the Chanukah party -- Ezekial's Wheels Klezmer band is terrific! There is no charge for the party thanks to the generosity of Andrew and Larry Polin, who are helping to sponsor the band in memory of their parents: John Allen Polin, Dorothy Lash Polin, and Lawrence Howard Golding. Enjoy!!

Steve Silverman President

Chanukah begins Sunday evening, December 2nd.



Sisterhood President's Message

As I sit here writing this, snow is falling and it is very cold. Who thought this would start so soon? It's not even officially winter yet. If it's like this now, what will January bring? Our "snow birds" are now scurrying about, making their way to warmer climates. I wish them all a heathy and safe season.

I hope everyone is planning on joining us at the Chanukah party. It promises to be an afternoon of liveliness and celebration, that means music, latkes and more.

Monday afternoon Mah Jongg is now on hiatus until the spring. Watch your bulletin for further updates.

So until next month, be careful and stay safe.

Libby Cohen Sisterhood President

Sisterhood Gift Shop

Have you seen our Red Sox or Patriots mezuzot (\$29), as well as black suede Patriots kipot/yarmulkes (\$15)? If you are or know any fans, they make a great gift. Because of their popularity, I've reordered them several times. They make a wonderful Chanukah gift. We have a nice selection of menorahs for all ages. Do you need Chanukah gift wallets ... or maybe a little gift for a youngster?

Check out the inexpensive (\$3.50) **LED Flameless Yizkor Candles** or the **Traveling Shabbat Candles.**

If you are looking for a gift and it isn't in our gift shop, you can either browse my catalogs or my wholesalers' websites.

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



SERVICE SCHEDULE

December 2018 Kislev/Tevet 5779

Saturday, December 1 (23 Kislev)

Weekly Portion: Vayeshev 10:00 am

Sunday, December 2 (24 Kislev)

Erev Chanukah

Light First Chanukah Candle in evening

Monday, December 3 (25 Kislev)

Chanukah - First Day

Light Second Chanukah Candle

Tuesday, December 4 (26 Kislev)

Chanukah – Second Day Light Third Chanukah Candle

Wednesday, December 5 (27 Kislev)

Chanukah - Third Day

Light Fourth Chanukah Candle

Thursday, December 6 (28 Kisley)

Chanukah – Fourth Day Light Fifth Chanukah Candle

Friday, December 7 (29 Kislev)

Candle Lighting 3:56 pm Shabbat Service 5:30 pm

Chanukah - Fifth Day

Light 6th Chanukah Candle before Shabbat Candles

Saturday, December 8 (30 Kislev)

Weekly Portion: Miketz 10:00 am

Rosh Chodesh Tevet Chanukah – Sixth Day

Light Seventh Chanukah Candle after 5:01 pm

Sunday, December 9 (1 Tevet)

Rosh Chodesh Tevet Chanukah – Seventh Day Light Eighth Chanukah Candle

Monday, December 10 (2 Tevet)

Chanukah - Eighth Day

Friday, December 14 (6 Tevet)

Candle Lighting 3:57 pm Shabbat Service 5:30 pm

Saturday, December 15 (7 Tevet)

Weekly Portion: Vayigash 10:00 am

Tuesday, December 18 (10 Tevet)

Fast of the 10th of Tevet

Friday, December 21 (13 Tevet)

Candle Lighting 3:59 pm Shabbat Service 5:30 pm Saturday, December 22 (14 Tevet)

Weekly Portion: Vayekhi 10:00 am

Friday, December 28 (20 Tevet)

Candle Lighting 4:04 pm Shabbat Service 5:30 pm

Saturday, December 29 (21 Tevet)

Weekly Portion: Shemot 10:00 am

TEMPLE OFFICE

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E-Mail: templebethel@comcast.net
Website: frtemplebethel.org

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday - Friday, 9 am to Noon

OFFICE CLOSED:

Tuesday, Dec. 25th: School Closed



Temple Family

- Welcome to our newest members, Dr. Jeffrey and Leanora Horowitz (Jeff and Lee) and Steve and Glenn Sherman.
- Mazel Tov to Steve & Glenn Sherman on the birth of their son, Raphael David Sherman (aka Rafi), Betzalel Raviv in Hebrew. That's him above!
- Our sincere condolences to the family of Lorraine Kaplan.
- Our sincere condolences to the family of Dr. Barry Steinberg.

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

TBE News & Notes

November was a quiet month at Temple Beth El, but we did have two notable events, one somber, and one joyful.

The somber event was the **Community-wide Interfaith Service of Peace and Solidarity**, a response to the hate crimes in Pittsburgh and Kentucky. As this bulletin goes to press, the service has not yet taken place, but I have confidence that we will be uplifted with the coming together of various faith groups in Fall River and with others of goodwill who want to show their support for both the Jewish and African-American communities in the face of the recent tragic events.

The joyful event was the first celebration of a brit milah (aka a "bris") to take place in our community since Rabbi Mark and I have come to Fall River. We are so happy to welcome into our temple family **Betzalel Raviv** (aka "Rafi") the brand new son of new members Glenn and Steve Sherman! Approximately 45 of us gathered on Shabbat morning November 17th to daven together and then witness and joyfully welcome this new Jewish boy into the Covenant. A big **Mazal Tov** to the whole Sherman family, and thank you for the Kiddush luncheon for all in attendance!

Welcome to our newest members, **Lee and Jeff Horowitz**. Lee and Jeff came to one Shabbat service last month, and joined the next week! We have an intimate but lively Shabbat morning service, usually with lunch to follow. If you have never come on a Shabbat morning, or perhaps not for a long time, come see what's so attractive that these folks decided to join so quickly...and bring a Jewish friend!

Although mah jongg is cancelled for the winter, our **TBE adult ed class** is not! For the last month we have been slowly reading Israeli journalist and author, Yossi Klein HaLevi's new book, *Letters to a Palestinian Neighbor*. This book is a great introduction both to Judaism and to Israeli history, meant to explain both to Palestinians, but which also functions to lay out both sides of the Jewish-Palestinian conflict to English-speaking readers, whether they be Jewish, Palestinian, or people of any faith. You may join our Monday morning class (which meets from 10:30 to 12:00) at any time. (No class on Dec. 31st.)

The photo on the back cover is an early winter sunset from Cherry & Webb Beach in Westport.

Please join us on Sunday, December 23rd for the December movie. More details in the next column!



As a small-time "fixer" whose business involves arranging quiet deals among politicos and other power brokers, opportunistic Norman Oppenheimer makes a golden connection when a politician he once befriended later becomes Israel's prime minister.

Directed by Joseph Cedar. Cast includes: Richard Gere, Lior Ashkenazi, Hank Azaria, Steve Buscemi, Charlotte Gainsbourg, Michael Sheen, Dan Stevens, Josh Charles

Is Norman a macher, a schnorrer or a mensch? Thanks to the filmmaker's sensitive touch and Gere's sympathetic performance, he gets to be all three. And that calls for mazel tovs all around.

--Ann Hornaday of the Washington Post

IN MEMORIAM

LORRAINE KAPLAN OCTOBER 28, 2018 – 19 CHESHVAN 5779

Dr. Barry Steinberg November 16, 2018 - 8 Kislev 5779

MAY THEIR MEMORY BE FOR A BLESSING



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Thank you for your donations received through November 22, 2018

YAHRZEITS

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

Mother, Ida Appel Mother, Bessie Bolski Grandfather, Jacob Brown Father, Dr. Gerson Elber Husband, Dr. Irving Fradkin Father, Meyer Goldman

Father, Meyer Goldman
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Bernie & Pat Herman &

daughters Paula Sultan

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Sharon Waxenbaum
Marilyn Wolfson
Marjorie Keith

CAPITAL FUND

In honor of the marriage of Matthew Wilkinson to Laura Leavitt

For the upkeep of Temple Beth El

Sheila Lash

Best wishes to Marilyn Sokoll on her new venture

Charlene & Eli Dondis

For honor of Temple Beth El

Anthony Goldin

In memory of Sheila Freedman In memory of Atty. Richard Levin In memory of Pat Rubinstein

In memory of Lester Schwartz

Sheila Lash

BERNARD HOROWITZ BUILDING MAINTENANCE FUND

In honor of Bill Chebot for years of blowing the shofar In memory of Lester Schwartz

Arlyne Dondis

WISH LIST/LIBRARY FUND

To restock the library with some new books

Sheila Lash Marilyn Wolfson

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In honor of Rabbi Mark Elber

Anthony Goldin

HYMAN & GOLDIE SCHWARTZ LEGACY FUND

In memory of Lester Schwartz

Fran Cohen

WISH LIST

In honor of Marilyn Sokoll – wishing her much happiness in her new home

Marilyn Wolfson

SYLVIA S. & ALBERT B. YOKEN MEMORIAL FUND

In honor of Rosellen Brown

In honor of Professor Janet Freedman

In honor of Iris Katzman

In honor of Marsha Zeitz celebrating a special birthday

In honor of Professor Mitchell Zuckoff

In memory of Norman Nevins

Mel & Cindy Yoken

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.

Mah Jongg Winter Break

In anticipation of our New England winter and all that comes with the cold, icy weather, we have decided to take a break from our Monday mah jongg games from December through March. We plan to start back up again after Passover.

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Some reflections on the shooting tragedy in Pittsburgh

by Harvey Trieff

In cattle cars we went to the camps. On our arms we all had stamps. Our names were changed to a purple tattoo Mine ended in "1" yours in "2". Could this feeling of horror Once more be repeated? Have my tears of sorrow Not yet been depleted? Into a Pittsburgh synagogue, On the eve of a peaceful Shabbat, Walked a crazy deranged demagogue, And 11 innocent Jews were shot. They came to pray in that sacred place And spoke to God from a pew. Now they speak to God face to face, Guilty of nothing but being a Jew. Is it too late to end this hate? Is there nothing we can do? We need to reflect to practice respect That's the meaning of being a Jew.

Notes from Marilyn Sokoll

To our Sisterhood:

My memories of a wonderful, heartfelt Temple Beth El morning will long endure. You all are a great, loving bunch and believe me, will be sorely missed.

My Temple Beth El mezuzah will be one of the first acts I perform in my new home.

To our Congregation:

I am writing this note to let you all know that although I have begun the long process of acclimating to new surroundings I am doing reasonably well. I miss beyond words my Temple Beth El. Rabbi Mark, Cantor Shoshana, and all the friends I've made over the years.

I'm hoping to see you all.

With loving wishes, Marilyn

PS. It's great having Mark, Margie and Talya here.

Dear Rabbi Elber & Congregation -

I am one of your neighbors - one street over. I go by your temple many, many times a week. I write to express my sympathy and solidarity with those in your congregation and those in Pittsburgh.

There are no words adequate to express my sorrow for the loss of innocent lives in a place of holy worship.

Please know that others share in your sorrow during this very difficult time.

I am new to Fall River having moved here for work as a Bristol Superior Court probabion officer. I worked tirelessly against gun violence in my own neighborhood in Boston.

I hope that some form of ecumenical coalition of many religions will form to curb this scourge of hate and gun violence in our country at this time and work towards positive laws and attitudes.

Again, know that your neighbors grieve with your loss and this atrocity in our country.

Wishing you peace, keeping you in my prayers.

Sincrely, *Virginia A*.

Let's Make it a Minyan!

On Saturday, December 15th I will be celebrating the 78th anniversary of my Bar Mitzvah by chanting my Haftorah as I've done every year. I would very much appreciate having a minyan on that date, so if you are free to come, please do so and I will be very grateful to you.

Bill Chebot



The last TBE Hike of the year was led by Cantor Shoshana down Wilson Rd to North Watuppa pond. Joining her were Harvey & Elaine Reback, Susan Horvitz and Suzi Finkel. See you next year!



YAHRZEITS

12/1/2018 23 Kislev 5779

Alice Helfanbein Hyman Schwartz Elizabeth Beryl Waksler Donna Ann Wolfson

12/4/2018 26 Kislev 5779

Henry William Juda Phyllis Nerenberg Samuel Rotenberg Julius Simpson

12/5/2018 27 Kislev 5779

Shirley Resnick

12/6/2018 28 Kisley 5779

David Kotlen Dr. Henry Lustig Bernard Miller

12/7/2018 29 Kislev 5779

Ada Haims Robert Lipson

12/8/2018 30 Kisley 5779

Abraham D. Becker

12/9/2018 1 Tevet 5779

Sanford Litchman Alfred Pistreich Rose Tallman

12/10/2018 2 Tevet 5779

Sarah R. Katzman

12/11/2018 3 Tevet 5779

William Gittelman Milton Elis Raffel

12/12/2018 4 Tevet 5779

Isaac Schwartz

12/15/2018 7 Tevet 5779

Frances Fradkin Dr. Myron Rubinstein Selma Sokoll

12/16/2018 8 Tevet 5779

Stanley Alpert Howard Krasnow Leon Nathan Malin

12/18/2018 10 Tevet 5779

Arthur Granovsky Mathilda H. Raffel Aaron Solotist

12/19/2018 11 Tevet 5779

Arline Alpert Frederick Belford Robert Sokoll

12/20/2018 12 Tevet 5779

Sylvia Schneider

12/21/2018 13 Tevet 5779

Paula E. Shuman Maurice Sludsky

12/22/2018 14 Tevet 5779 Nathan Silk

12/24/2018 16 Tevet 5779

Herman Gitlin David Thaler

12/25/2018 17 Tevet 5779

Sophie Cohen Ida F. Kane Louis M. Raffel Milton Reiser

12/26/2018 18 Tevet 5779

Samuel Kay Harry Spiro Murray Taradash

12/27/2018 19 Tevet 5779

George Lustig Dr. Samuel Sandler

12/28/2018 20 Tevet 5779

Samuel Isaac Siegel

12/30/2018 22 Tevet 5779

Martha Kaufmann

12/31/2018 23 Tevet 5779

Fannie Wilner Aranov Ruth Gerard Mae Hodosh Sarah Kaplan Dolores Leviss

Dr. Donald Rotenberg

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