



90th Year

January 2018

Tevet/Shevat 5778

No. 5

Regular Service Schedule

Morning Minyan (Monday & Thursday).....8:00 am

Friday Evening Services5:30 pm

Shabbat Morning Services.....10:00 am



A message from our Spiritual Leader, Rabbi Mark Elber

When we return the Torah to the ark we sing a prayer called *Etz Chayim Hee* which means “She (i.e. the Torah, which is grammatically feminine) is a tree of life.” The prayer, which primarily comes from the book of Proverbs 3:17,18 in the Bible says: “She is a tree of life to those who grasp her strongly, and whoever holds on to her is deeply happy. Her ways are pleasantness and all her paths are peace.” The third and last line of the prayer comes from another verse in the Bible (Lamentations 5:21) which says: “return us to You, Eternal One, and we shall return, renew our days as of old.”

There are two different well-known melodies for this prayer, both of which are beautiful and stirring. These few lines convey within them so much of the intricacy of our tradition. A great deal of the *siddur*, the prayer book, contains passages or paraphrases drawn from various books of the Bible (*Tanakh* in Hebrew) put together in a seamless manner. Many of the prayers articulate our aspirations both for our relationship with the Eternal One and with our fellow humans. The themes of peace, love, justice, and affirming life are ubiquitous.

The spindles upon which the parchment of the Torah is rolled are called “trees of life” (*atzei chayim* in Hebrew) and the most traditional way of making the blessings over the Torah during its public reading in a service is to hold the *atzei chayim* strongly with both hands just as the prayer *Etz Chayim Hee* expresses it. The blessing after the Torah reading says that: “(G!d) planted eternal life in our midst” i.e. the Torah is our connection to the transcendent and the eternal. The verb “planted” again evokes the theme of the Torah as a tree of life. In fact the text of the Torah (our *chumash*) that we use during services is called *Etz Chayim* (Tree of Life).

Over and over our sages teach that both our relationship to the Eternal One and our relationship with other people are vital. In the Talmud (tractate *Yevamot* 79a) it says that among the three essential characteristics of the Jewish people is being compassionate (the other two are being reserved and benevolent). Notice, all three of the qualities are those that apply between humans. G!d is often referred to in the *siddur* as “the Compassionate One” (*HaRakhaman*).

Beginning in the Middle Ages a body of literature arose devoted to *Mussar*, i.e. ethical teachings. Interestingly enough, the most influential and important authors of these works were mostly Kabbalists, i.e. Jewish mystics. You would think that the mystics, being so focused on their internal spiritual life, might have been more likely to neglect their relationships in the here and now, but the exact opposite was the case. Essentially they emphasized what was already embedded in the Torah and Talmud in numerous places. In the third book of the Torah, Leviticus (*Vayikra*), 19:18 we find one of the best known phrases in the entire

Torah: “Love your neighbor as yourself” (*v’ahavta l’reyakha kamokha*). In the Jerusalem Talmud, tractate *Nedarim* 30b, Rabbi Akiva, probably the most prominent rabbi in the Talmud, is quoted as saying that “Love your neighbor as yourself is the most important rule in the Torah.” We’re probably all very familiar with the story of the gentile who comes to Hillel and asks him to teach him the entire Torah while standing on one foot. Hillel, as we know, responds with “do not do unto others what you would not have them do unto you.” We often forget the remainder of Hillel’s response: “the rest is commentary – now go and study.”

Even the simplest-sounding statements at times can be understood on many levels. Part of the power of the Torah, as we discover when we delve into it, is how complex apparently-simple stories can be, and how much is conveyed in so few words. Because the Torah often has this veneer of simplicity, yet so often contains such depths, it can be studied throughout one’s life. As we bring our increasing years of experience and understanding to it, we also find more depth in it - because we are now ready to. That reminds me of a quote from Mark Twain that I love: “When I was fourteen my father seemed so dumb I was embarrassed to be seen with him. When I was twenty-one I was amazed at how much he had learned in seven years.”

Too often in Jewish life in the United States, our Jewish education largely concludes at the age of thirteen. Rather than that age being a significant milestone of maturity in a person’s lifelong journey to greater engagement and understanding in Jewishness and Judaism, it signifies the virtual end of the road. Had we concluded our study of most other subjects at that age it would be obvious to us how much we were missing.

I want to conclude by returning to the theme of *mussar*, of ethics, in our tradition. There is an entire tractate of the Talmud primarily devoted to ethical teachings called *Pirkei Avot* (literally “the Chapters of the Ancestors”). One of its passages (1:18) makes a grand statement about existence. It says “The world stands on three things: judgment (justice), truth, and peace.” Elsewhere in the Talmud (tractate *Shabbat* 10a and tractate *Sanhedrin* 7a) it says that “every judge who judges with the utmost truth is like a partner with the Blessed Holy One in the work of creation and brings the Presence of G!d to Israel.” Justice, truth, and peace: three pillars of life. This is a teaching well worth remembering these days when too often we’re confronted with a world that challenges and threatens these three pillars.

I want to wish everyone a happy, healthy, and peaceful 2018.

Rabbi Mark

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I am writing this just after the Chanukah party, and I do so with a smile on my face. What a fabulous afternoon it was! It was so refreshing to have the young and talented Klezmer band, "Ezekiel's Wheels." Thank you to Cantor Shoshana for finding them, and to Libby, George and everyone else who helped put it together. The music was terrific, and the latkes were really good too! It was such an uplifting event, filled with both tradition and fun. We even had some dancers in the crowd! Our party made the front page of the Herald News, with a terrific article written by Marc Dion. If you go to our website you can click on the link right from there. Dion really captured the spirit of the holiday, and through the newspaper shared it with the greater Fall River community. With all of the negative media coverage in the world these days, seeing our article "above the fold" was even more reason to celebrate!

There were several fresh faces in the crowd, and everyone was welcomed by our friendly congregation. Along these lines, I hope everyone is making an effort to bring in new members, as our quest to grow our congregation is both critical and ongoing.

You may have noticed that for the past three months there has been a "Special Gifts" donation made by Victor Field in memory of his beloved wife, Joy (Liebmann) Field. This is not a typo...Victor has decided to make a generous monthly contribution to the Temple in Joy's memory. Victor has lived in western Massachusetts for many years, but he has always considered Temple Beth El his "home" synagogue, especially as he and Joy were married here. Thank you Victor, for your kindness and generosity.

As we head into the heart of winter I wish everyone a happy, healthy and prosperous 2018. Stay safe and warm, and don't be afraid to come to the Temple - we do our very best to keep the sidewalks clear and the building comfortable. Thanks to the Gold family our chapel now has two new heaters which keep the room toasty no matter how cold it is outside.

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

Can you believe it? January is on our doorstep and winter is here. It's cold and it's icy. So now is the perfect time to take a trip to warmer places. Well "snow birds", see what you're missing?

I have to say, our Chanukah party was a rousing success. It was a lively celebration, with great musical entertainment. People ate, socialized and enjoyed Ezekiel's Wheels Klezmer Band. Everyone loved this group and hopes to see them again next year. It was so nice to see our vestry full of people enjoying themselves. I want to thank those people who helped me bring this event to fruition: Cantor Shoshana, Beverly Solup, Hannah Evans, Judy Morgenstern, Marie Twomey and George Haire. Any function takes the input of all of us. Again, thank you!

There will be other events coming up, so watch for e-mails and of course your bulletin. We are currently planning our annual Tu BiShevat Seder, which will be held Friday Evening, February 2nd. Mark the date on your calendar, and look for more details soon. We look forward to seeing what our spiritual leaders come up with this year!

Don't forget our Sisterhood Book Club. This is a great way to keep up with the best sellers list, as well as other interesting reads.

So until next month, keep warm and stay safe.

Libby Cohen
Sisterhood President

Temple Family

- Our deepest condolences to Suzanne Finkel and family on the loss of her father, Sidney Fox.

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(a community hospice agency)

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SERVICE SCHEDULE

January 2018: Tevet/Shevat 5778

Friday, January 5 (18 Tevet)

Candle Lighting	4:11 pm
Shabbat Service	5:30 pm

Saturday, January 6 (19 Tevet)

Weekly Portion: Shemot	10:00 am
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Friday, January 12 (25 Tevet)

Candle Lighting	4:18 pm
Shabbat Service	5:30 pm

Saturday, January 13 (26 Tevet)

Weekly Portion: Vaera	10:00 am
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Wednesday, January 17 (1 Shevat)

Rosh Chodesh Shevat

Friday, January 19 (3 Shevat)

Candle Lighting	4:26 pm
Shabbat Service	5:30 pm

Saturday, January 20 (4 Shevat)

Weekly Portion: Bo	10:00 am
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Friday, January 26 (10 Shevat)

Candle Lighting	4:35 pm
Shabbat Service	5:30 pm

Saturday, January 27 (11 Shevat)

Weekly Portion: Beshalach	10:00 am
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Wednesday, January 31 (15 Shevat)

Tu BiShevat

TEMPLE OFFICE

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

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday - Friday, 9 am to Noon

OFFICE CLOSED:

Monday, January 1st – New Years Day
Monday, January 15th - Martin Luther King Day

2018



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William "BT" Hathaway
Mike Roberts

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FAMILY FUNERAL HOMES

December sunrise at Horseneck Beach. Thank you Cantor Shoshana for beautifying our bulletin with your wonderful photos of nature at its finest...most taken within 30 miles of Fall River!

TBE News & Notes

For all who celebrated Chanukah with us at the **TBE Chanukah party** this past month, you know what a special event that was. The **Ezekiel's Wheels Klezmer Band** treated us in a packed-to-capacity vestry hall with truly joyous music, with singing, with the opportunity to dance (some of us took it!), and an all-around great feeling about Chanukah, about our Jewish heritage, and about our Fall River Jewish community. For those who missed it, well...let's hope for a return performance next Chanukah – plan on being there! *Todah Rabbah* to all who helped make this such a warm, memorable event.

On December 11th, our adult education class, along with the cantor and rabbi, enjoyed the teaching of **Father Martin Buote**, who shared with us his knowledge of the Early Church and its relations with Judaism during the first and second centuries CE. We had such a lively discussion that the class ran for an extra half-hour. Thank you to Father Buote – and **thanks to Sylvia Eisner**, who initiated our relationship with this special teacher.

Our joint-interfaith venture "**Caffeine and Conversations**," met on December 5th to learn much we didn't know about the contributions of significant African-Americans to American history (the presenter was Ms. Cheryl Crossely-Simmons, a member of a Swansea church). This area-wide interfaith group meets on the 1st Tuesday of most months at the downstairs meeting room at the Fall River Public Library from 2 to 3 PM (but we are skipping January this year). The next meeting will be on **Tuesday, February 6th, when Rabbi Mark will lead us in a conversation about "Poetry and Spirituality."** New participants always welcome!

From December 17-19th Rabbi Mark attended the Annual Association of Jewish Studies Conference in Washington, D.C. We can look forward to hearing from him soon about the latest trends in Jewish Studies.

January Events:

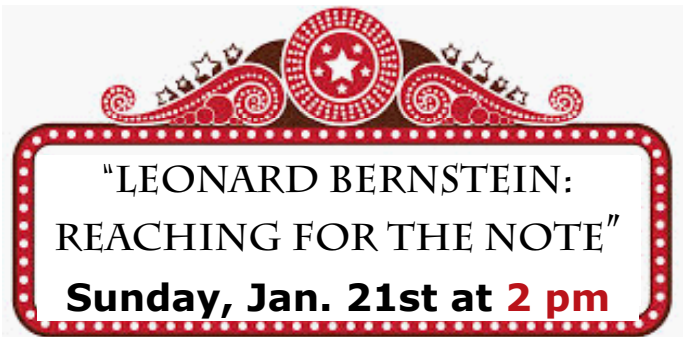
Once again, Rabbi Mark and Cantor Shoshana have been invited to participate in the **Martin Luther King Day Breakfast and Celebration at BCC**. Please join them and many others in the Fall River community for a free breakfast and the MLK Day program at BCC on Monday, January 15th, beginning at 8:30 AM. Please note there is no Adult Ed class that day.

Please join us on Sunday, Jan. 21st, for the TBE monthly film, beginning at 2 PM (see film description following).

February Events:

The TBE celebration of **Tu BiShevat** (Jewish New Year for Trees) will take place on **Friday, February 2nd** beginning at the usual Kabbalat Shabbat service time of 5:30 pm. Although the actual date of Tu BiShevat this year is Wed, Jan. 31st, we have moved it to this first Friday in February to make it easier for more of our members to experience this special mystical, nature-oriented "seder," which involves the eating of a wide variety of fruits and nuts and sharing various types of wine. Intrigued? Come see what it's all about!

Save the Date for our TBE Purim Celebration Wed, Feb. 28th. After "Politicians on the Roof" (2 years ago), and last year's special musical guests (Martin Grosswendt and the "twin Bob Dylans"), you'll be wondering what will they do this year? More details in next month's bulletin!



This PBS American Masters 1998 documentary of the life and work of Leonard Bernstein (produced, written and directed by Susan Lacy) is the definitive look at the outstanding life and career of the world renowned composer, conductor, pianist and educator.

Leonard Bernstein was one of the best known and most compelling figures to emerge in classical music in the 20th century, bringing symphonic music to a whole new audience, and this documentary follows his life and career from his first concert as a conductor in 1943 to his final one at Tanglewood. *Reaching for the Note* features rare footage of his concerts, home movies, selections from the Broadway shows he helped compose, and interviews with his friends, relatives, and colleagues, including Stephen Sondheim, Jerome Robbins, Michael Tilson Thomas, and Seiji Ozawa. *Reaching for the Note* shows "Lenny" in all his humanity, struggling through dark times, and in all his glory, doing what he did best – inspiring musicians and making music come alive.

Come join us on Sunday, January 21st at 2 pm as we celebrate the life of this local music legend!

Thank you for your donations received through December 21, 2017

Yahrzeits

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

Father, Edward Adaskin	Judith Barry
Mother, Ida Appel	Gloria Baskin
Mother, Bessie Bolski	Milton Bolski
Father, David Cohen	Cohen/Novek Families
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Father, Meyer Goldman	Sylvia Zalkind
Mother, Anne Gregory	Jonathan Gregory
Mother, Alice Helfanbein	Barry Helfanbein
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Father, Francis Levin	Miriam Klein
Husband, Ruby Lipson	Renee Lipson
Father, Dr. Henry Lustig	Ann Freedman
Mother, Ruth Lustig	Ann Freedman
Mother & Grandmother Phyllis Nerenberg	Anna Nerenberg & Marc, Lee & Jacqueline Bernstein
Husband, Barry Novek	Meryl Novek & family
Father, Samuel Rotenberg	Lisa & Stephen Shapiro
Father, Julius Simpson	Irma Feldman
Husband, Robert Sokoll	Marilyn Sokoll
Mother, Rose Tallman	Elayne Lowenthal
Daughter, Donna Ann Wolfson	Marilyn Wolfson

Capital Fund

- In honor of Gloria & Jerry Baskin celebrating a wedding anniversary
Anita & Norm Bolski
- In honor of Bill Chebot celebrating his 90th birthday
Sandra David
Elaine & Dr. Harvey Reback
- In honor of Bill Chebot's many years of service to Temple Beth El
Charlene & Eli Dondis
- In honor of Lee Cohen celebrating a special birthday
Anita & Norm Bolski
- In honor of Rabbi Elber receiving his MFA
Elaine & Dr. Harvey Reback
- In honor of Mr. & Mrs. Jason Grant celebrating a special anniversary
Anita & Norm Bolski
- In honor of the birth of a grandson to Mr. & Mrs. Aaron Lewis
Anita & Norm Bolski
- In honor of Cantor Shoshana for all she does
Elaine & Dr. Harvey Reback
- In memory of Hope Kagan
Anita & Norm Bolski
- In memory of Elizabeth Kane
Estee & Stanley Dubitsky
- For the recovery of Carol Schwartz
Claire & Ron Caplain

**MAURICE ALPERT MEMORIAL
ENDOWMENT FUND**

For the yahrzeit of my beloved wife, Arline
For the yahrzeit of my beloved brother, Stanley Alpert
Sumner Alpert

**IDA & DAVID CHAVENSON
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In memory of Eli A. Charron
Ann & Bob Chavenson

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In honor of my Temple Beth El family, especially to the
"Mah Jongg" girls! Have a safe and healthy winter
Suzanne Finkel

**HYMAN & GOLDIE SCHWARTZ
LEGACY FUND**

For the yahrzeit of my beloved father, Charles Golenpaul
Tylda Schwartz

SPECIAL GIFTS

In memory of beloved wife and mother, Joy L. Field
Victor Field and Rachel Baker

WISH LIST DONATIONS

- In honor of Eleanor Weiss Angoff becoming a Bat Mitzvah
Elaine & Dr. Harvey Reback
- In honor of the congregation of Temple Beth El
Cheryl Crossley-Simmons
- For the recovery of Hannah Evans
- For the yahrzeit of my beloved wife, Hummy
Bill Chebot

**SYLVIA S. & ALBERT B. YOKEN
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- In honor of Prof. Rose Abendstern
- In honor of Barbara Samuels
- For the recovery of Wil Herrup
- For the recovery of Claude Cobert
Cindy & Prof. Mel Yoken

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Friendly Visitor: Jackie Gedacht is ready, willing and able to visit the sick or shut-ins. Call the UJA office at (508) 673-7791 to schedule a visit.

Book Club News

Chanukah is now over, what's there to do?
Read a good book - we've picked some for you!

Jan. 17: "The Little Paris Book Shop"

by Nina George

Feb. 21: "Morningstar: Growing Up With Books" by Ann Hood

Youth Futures Arad thank you
The Fall River UJA
for your significant support



Dear Friends,

The Fall River United Jewish Appeal just received a letter and this picture from our JEWISH AGENCY FOR ISRAEL contact person in Israel. The note that the children are holding up reads as follows:

THANK YOU FALL RIVER UJA
FOR BELIEVING IN AND SUPPORTING US!
THE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
YOUTH FUTURES ARAD

We have concentrated our donations in Israel, through the Jewish Agency, to directly help fund three programs that work with at risk children that face extreme economic and social challenges. These are children of recent immigrants, single-parent households and families struggling with unemployment. It is so important to help these children who are part of the foundation of Israel's next generation.

I would like to thank all of you for your donations to the UJA -- we are making a difference !!

Sincerely,

Sayre A. Litchman
President



Happy Chanukah to all our members near and far: If you couldn't be with us this past Sunday for our Chanukah party, we really missed you! The music was incandescent in its joy and beauty, the latkes and hotdogs were filling comfort food, and the spirit of our community was heimish and joyful.

(And if you missed the music you can purchase one of their CD's online at <https://store.cdbaby.com/Artist/EzekielsWheelsKlezmerBand>)

Thanks to all who pitched in to make this such a wonderful, memorable event!

You can type in the link below, or go to the Herald News site at heraldnews.com and search for "Ezekiel" or go to our website (frtemplebethel.org) and click on the link!

<http://www.heraldnews.com/news/20171218/side-streets-sounds-of-tradition-at-temple-beth-el-in-fall-river>

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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, especially if you live outside the greater Fall River area! Go to www.frtemplebethel.org

YAHREZEITS

1/1/2018 14 Tevet 5778
Nathan Silk

1/3/2018 16 Tevet 5778
Herman Gitlin
Bessie Gladstone
David Thaler

1/4/2018 17 Tevet 5778
Sophie Cohen
Ida F. Kane
Louis M. Raffel
Milton Reiser

1/5/2018 18 Tevet 5778
Samuel Kay
Harry Spiro
Murray Taradash

1/6/2018 19 Tevet 5778
George Lustig
Dr. Samuel Sandler

1/7/2018 20 Tevet 5778
Samuel Isaac Siegel

1/9/2018 22 Tevet 5778
Gussie Blume
Martha Kaufmann

1/10/2018 23 Tevet 5778
Fannie Wilner Aranov
Ruth Gerard
Mae Hodosh
Sarah Kaplan
Dolores Leviss
Dr. Donald Rotenberg

1/11/2018 24 Tevet 5778
Bruce Kay

1/13/2018 26 Tevet 5778
Lillian Kline
Anna Ellison Schaffer

1/14/2018 27 Tevet 5778
Sarah Belford
Sheila Holtzman

1/15/2018 28 Tevet 5778
Simon Winokoor

1/16/2018 29 Tevet 5778
Paula Fox
Birdie Phillips

1/18/2018 2 Shevat 5778
Betty Greenberg
Dorothy S. Levin

1/19/2018 3 Shevat 5778
Sidney Goldman
Rose Moss

1/21/2018 5 Shevat 5778
Claire Sundel

1/22/2018 6 Shevat 5778
Sarah Freedman
Charles Rosenberg
Philip Shapiro

1/24/2018 8 Shevat 5778
Ralph D. Lider

1/25/2018 9 Shevat 5778
Augusta Kaufmann

1/26/2018 10 Shevat 5778
Normand Futoransky
Joseph Horowitz

1/28/2018 12 Shevat 5778
Arnold Wolfson

1/30/2018 14 Shevat 5778
Louis Freedman
Esther Mickelson
William Shriberg
Morris Wilner

1/31/2018 15 Shevat 5778
Margot Bogus
Adolph Feder
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