

TEMPLE BETH EL

Fall River, Massachusetts



86th Year

March 2014

Adar I/Adar II 5774

No. 7

Regular Service Schedule

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

Reunião

Celebrating the Southcoast Jewish-Portuguese Connection

Presentation on the Restoration of the Sahar Hassamain Synagogue of Ponta Delgada

Please join us for a fascinating talk and slide show with historian José de Almeida Mello. Dr. Mello is the chief librarian of the Ponta Delgada Municipal Library and the cultural attaché of Ponta Delgada City Hall. In 2003, the Israeli Community of Lisbon appointed him the coordinator of the Azores Synagogue Restoration Committee to oversee the renovation and conservation project of the Sahar Hassamain Synagogue of Ponta Delgada.



Temple Beth El Sanctuary
Sunday, March 9th, at 1:00 PM
Reception to follow



Donations to the Restoration Project are welcomed, and can be made at this event, online at <http://AzoreanSynagogue.org> or mailed to Azorean Jewish Heritage Foundation, P.O. Box 143, Somerset, MA 02726. *Checks should be made payable to Azorean Jewish Heritage Foundation. All donations are tax deductible.*

For questions call (508) 264-6138 or e-mail AzoreanSynagogue@gmail.com



To learn more about the Sahar Hassamain Synagogue restoration project, please see
<http://AzoreanSynagogue.org>

<http://portuguese-american-journal.com/almeida-mello-the-plight-to-save-the-jewish-legacy-of-the-azores-interview/>

*A message from our Spiritual Leader,
Cantor Shoshana Brown*

Into the Woods

What a winter we are having! Though I know many of you are asking, “will this winter ever end?,” I confess that I can’t help myself: despite all the inconvenience, and even danger (on the roads), I love snow. When I look out the window at night and see it coming down like sparkling powdered sugar, blanketing our street, sidewalk, and cars, it fills me with both excitement and peace. Yes, I know that we will have to dig ourselves out in the morning, and if the temperature rises and it turns to slush or to freezing rain it will be a big mess...nevertheless, I still love snow. Perhaps it is because I grew up in Virginia, where it didn’t snow all that often that snow just always feels a little magical to me (and yes, this despite the fact that I lived in Minnesota for three years!).

So after this most recent snowfall (I am writing this on President’s Day), I consulted my detailed local map of the



Fall River area, threw my cross-country skis, boots, and poles in the car, and headed for a trail in Freetown/Fall River State Forest. Luckily, there was one small parking area cleared of snow right on the Freetown-Fall River town line. There was one car already there, and from the look of the prints in the snow on the trail, this party had hiked in on snow shoes. But mine were the first ski tracks in the snow. The day was sunny with no wind: it was so exciting to enter this hushed, snowy realm. It truly felt like I was

entering another world, like the children in C.S. Lewis’ *Narnia* stories, who stepped through an enchanted wardrobe into a snow-covered forest full of mythical creatures. After I had progressed on the trail for about 20 minutes, I glimpsed one of these “mythical” creatures myself: some kind of wild dog crossed my path. It looked like a wolf, but probably a little smaller, but too large and with too luxurious a coat to be a coyote. It just crossed the trail about 30 feet in front of me; it did not seem to notice me, and to my disappointment I did not see it again...but it left me with a special “tingling” that I am still feeling now as I write these words, almost 24 hours later. Back at home, I did a little internet research and learned about the rise in New England of the “coy-wolf,” a new species that seems to be a mingling of wolf and Eastern coyote. On these same sites one can also read about sightings of Eastern mountain lions in RI and CT; there is even a photo of a mountain lion on someone’s back deck!

Now what does all this have to do with faith, or with our communal synagogue life? In our adult education class

we have been viewing a very thought- (and discussion-) provoking video series entitled *Who Knows One? Jewish Perspectives on God*. This series features interviews with over 70 different theologians, philosophers, psychologists, neuro-scientists and others discussing such questions as the existence of God, the problem of evil, God’s role in the world, whether a person can have a “personal relationship with God,” etc. We are having fantastic discussions, and if you are free on Monday mornings from 10:30 to noon, I encourage you all to come (theists, agnostics, and atheists alike!). But to return to my “coy-wolf” in the forest—what is the relationship between my excitement at seeing this magnificent animal on a snowy path and these questions about the existence of God? If God created our world, then God created *all* parts of creation, not just *this* creature in particular. I have long thought that human beings, with our larger brains and greater capacity for abstract thought, have potentially both the most rewarding *and* the most difficult of relationships with God. Why? Because we *think about* God (and conversely, we also think about *ourselves*, which can also be a highly fraught activity). Animals, I imagine, just *live with* God, just as they breathe air, drink from a stream, hunt prey, eat grass...I imagine that they don’t have to think about having a relationship with God, or wonder whether or not God exists; rather they just *are* in the world, doing God’s will, “praying” by living out their natures.

What makes my “coy-wolf” noteworthy is that the uncanniness of this creature *in my eyes* (having never seen one before, and seeing it in such a quiet, wild setting) reminds me that there is so much in this world that is beyond my ken, creatures that live according to rhythms and purposes that have nothing to do with me, and that are magnificent in their own right...it left me with a feeling of *holiness*. One of the definitions of *kadosh*, “holy,” is *set apart*—something that is holy should not be used as a tool to achieve some other end (we are instructed that the lights of the *Hannukiah*, for example, are for gazing at only and should not be used for any other purpose). We can study, speculate, meditate on, and argue about many points of theology, try to prove or disprove the existence of God, life after death, why there is suffering, etc. Of course in the end what really matters is how well we love and are loved—but also this: cherishing those experiences in life that take our breath away, experiences that serve no utilitarian ends, but that humble us before the Mystery of all Creation.

And so, as inconvenient as it may be, there is a place for snow; a place for coyotes and wolves, and although I do not want to meet a mountain lion the next time I go to the forest, I do want them to flourish for their own sakes. I know that I will never know the whole Truth about God or about existence, but I thank God that I can be dazzled, that I can be knocked out of my own train of thought by some really special parts of God’s creation, and to all this creation, and indeed *as one of God’s creatures myself*, I say, after I regain my breath, *Amen!*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

As I look at the schedule of upcoming events, I can't help but smile. Last month we had a beautiful Tu B'Shevat service and seder, the first in several years. This month we have a Purim service and brunch, complete with the Megillah reading and a special performance by our Hebrew school students. I can't even guess at the last time that happened, and it will truly be an occasion to celebrate. In April we are bringing back our long tradition of a Second Night Passover Seder, possibly the event we missed most last year. We also have other things happening, most notably the upcoming lecture and slideshow about the restoration of Sahar Hassamain Synagogue in Ponta Delgada. With any luck we may fill the sanctuary. I believe this will be an eye-opening presentation for many of our local Portuguese citizens, particularly those from the Azores. I am already hearing about how they are now learning that many of their families were originally Jews. Please plan to join us for this special event on March 9th at 1 pm in the sanctuary. Come early to be sure to get a seat!

Bringing new members into our congregation is still at the top of my priority list. One way I hope to attract new members is through our Hebrew school. While we have opened our school to non-members (at a premium), we hope that families will decide that this is where they would like to worship and share in their lifecycle events as well.

While we are delighted to have a new family in our midst, Richard, Cindy and Zachariah Phillips (who is in Hebrew school) we were saddened to lose so many members last month. Within just a few weeks we lost Adelle Wiener, Bertram Weiner, Walter Anapol and George Brenner (who played tennis the night before he died). I was also very sorry to hear about the passing of Cliff Lander. A past member of TBE, he was also the Vice-President of Adas Israel, and was very involved with their move into our building. May their memory be for a blessing.

Lastly I would like to take a moment to boast about our dynamic new website. Marie has taken it upon herself to learn how the whole thing works, and Cantor Shoshana and Rabbi Mark are helping to fill it with interesting and helpful content. It is a great resource to have at your fingertips, so save frtemplebethel.org to your favorite places and let us know if you have any ideas for new content.

Steve Silverman
President

PS: Please keep it quiet - Marie is indispensable!

Sisterhood President's Message

Dear Members,

Hello March!!! It's official, you have arrived. This means spring is on its way. I just can't wait for that smell in the air, so I can open the windows and let it all in. Meanwhile, we can sit back and enjoy (chuckle, chuckle) the wind, rain and snow we are blessed with.

We do have a few things happening here at Temple Beth El that I think you would enjoy. First of all, plan to join us on Sunday, March 9th at 1 pm, as we welcome local and international dignitaries, and members of the community to an afternoon of music, pictures and slides. This is all about the restoration of the Jewish/Azorean synagogue in Ponta Delgada, San Miguel, Azores. We hope to see you there.

Next on the agenda is Sunday morning, March 16th. At that time we will be celebrating Purim. Services begin at 9 am, followed by breakfast. We will be then be entertained by the children of our Hebrew school. It should be a lively event, so make a reservation and join us.

On Tuesday, April 16th we will be having our second night of Passover Seder. At that time we will be treated to a traditional Passover dinner, featuring roast chicken. The cost will be \$25 for adults and \$10 for children 12 and under. Reservations are a must and must be in by Friday, April 4th. Plan to be a part of this.

Cantor Shoshana and Rabbi Mark work very hard organizing and planning these events. Please try and make every effort to attend.

The book club will be meeting on Wednesday, March 19th, at 10:30 am in the Temple library. At that time we will be discussing Me Before You by Jo Jo Moyes. Pick up the book and join us for some lively banter.

So until next month, Shalom.

Libby Cohen
Sisterhood President

brick!

TREE OF LIFE

Online leaf in memory of Nehoma (Hummy) Chebot

Nate Dashoff
Iris & Harold Katzman
Marion & Myron Wilner

SERVICE SCHEDULE

March 2014
Adar I/Adar II 5774

Saturday, February 1 (1Adar I) Weekly Portion: Terumah Rosh Chodesh Adar I	10:00 am
Saturday, March 1 (29Adar I) Weekly Portion: Pekude Shabbat Shekalim	10:00 am
Sunday, March 2 (30 Adar I) Rosh Chodesh Adar II	
Monday, March 3 (1 Adar II) Rosh Chodesh Adar II	
Friday, March 7 (5 Adar II) Candle Lighting Shabbat Service	5:24 pm 5:30 pm
Saturday, March 8 (6 Adar II) Weekly Portion: Vayikra	10:00am
Friday, March 14 (12 Adar II) Shabbat Service Candle Lighting	5:30 pm 6:32 pm
Saturday, March 15 (13 Adar II) Weekly Portion: Tzav Shabbat Zachor	10:00 am
Sunday, March 16 (14 Adar II) Purim Service Reading of the Megillah	9:00 am
Friday, March 21 (19 Adar II) Shabbat Service Candle Lighting	5:30 pm 6:40 pm
Saturday, March 22 (20 Adar II) Weekly Portion: Shemini Shabbat Parah	10:00 am
Friday, March 28 (26 Adar II) Shabbat Service Candle Lighting	5:30 pm 6:48 pm
Saturday, March 29 (27 Adar II) Weekly Portion: Tazria Shabbat Hachodesh	10:00 am

TEMPLE OFFICE

385 High St, Fall River, MA 02720
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 E-Mail: templebethel@comcast.net
 Website: frtemplebethel.org

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday, 9 am to Noon

Office Closed:

If Fall River Public Schools are Closed for Snow

IN MEMORIAM

ADELLE WIENER

FEBRUARY 7, 2014 – 7 ADAR I, 5774

LT. COL. BERTRAM WEINER

FEBRUARY 15, 2014 – 15 ADAR I, 5774

WALTER ANAPOL

FEBRUARY 16, 2014 – 16 ADAR I, 5774

GEORGE BRENNER

FEBRUARY 20, 2014 – 20 ADAR I, 5774

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR OUR PURIM CELEBRATION!

Sunday morning, March 16th
Service with Megillah Reading at 9 am
Purim Se'udah (Festive Meal) following the service
(approximately 10:30 am)

Don't miss the Purim Players' Purim Shpiel:
Star Wars 5774: The Revenge of Shushan,

*Starring our own Temple Beth El
Hebrew School Students!*

(The play will start at approximately noon)

Plan to join us! There is no charge for Temple Beth
El members, although RSVP's are a must. Non-
members may join us for \$10 each.
Please RSVP by Monday, March 10th

Sisterhood Gift Shop

Passover starts on April 14 -- just 6 weeks
away. Stop by and see our beautiful seder plates,
silk matzo covers, folding matzo trays, and lucite
matzo boxes -- an item we sell out every year--and
a few items for children.

If you will be needing any special Judaica that
we don't carry, please contact me.

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

LEADERSHIP

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

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Sunday, March 9th at 1:00 pm

Temple Beth El Sanctuary
Sahar Hassamain Synagogue Restoration
Presentation with Dr. Jose Mello

Sunday, March 16th

Purim Celebration
Service begins at 9 am
RSVP by March 10th

Monday, April 7th at 7:00 pm

Somerset Public Library
"Taking Turns: A Poetry Reading with
Ada Jill Schneider and Mark Elber"

Tuesday, April 15th

Second Night Passover Seder
RSVP by April 4th

Temple Family

- Welcome to new members Mr. & Mrs. Richard Phillips and family -- Richard, Cindy (Trief) and Zachariah
- Our deepest sympathy to Donald Wiener on the loss of his beloved wife, Adelle.
- Our deepest sympathy to the family of Lt. Col. Bertram Weiner
- Our deepest sympathy to the family of Walter Anapol
- Our deepest sympathy to the family of George Brenner

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: 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.

Social Action News

We are still collecting warm winter items and canned tuna to help the less fortunate of Fall River. Please place your donations in the designated boxes in the Vestry. Thank you!



Thank you for your donations received through February 20, 2014

Yahrzeits

For the yahrzeit of my beloved...

Donated by:

Father, Louis Bachman
 Mother, Elena Cohen
 Father, Abraham Dashoff
 Father, Louis Galitsky
 Father, William Goldman
 Mother, Thelma Greenberg
 Father, Morris Haims
 Father, Dr. Jacob Helfanbein
 Wife, Bernice Hoffman
 Mother, Fannie Hoffman
 Grandmother, Selma Juda
 Grandmother, Sarah Korn
 Grandfather, Samuel Kulvin
 Mother, Florence Lash
 Uncle, Hyman Levine
 Father, Morris Levine
 Mother, Ruth Levine
 Brother, Larry Lurie
 Father, William Lurie
 Husband, Edwin Macy
 Father, Samuel Stampler
 Father, Abraham Trieff

Marilyn Sokoll
 Meryl & Barry Novek
 Nate Dashoff
 Howard Galitsky
 Margery Goldman
 Rebecca Greenberg
 Paula Rubin
 Barry Helfanbein
 Bernard Hoffman
 Bernard Hoffman
 Joyce Juda
 Hon. Aileen Belford
 Nancy Shore
 Sheila & Melvin Lash
 Sheila & Melvin Lash
 Lila Matlin
 Anita & Alan Levine
 Dorothy Lurie
 Dorothy Lurie
 Louise Macy
 Charles Stampler
 Richard Trieff

Maurice Alpert Memorial Endowment Fund

For the yahrzeit of my beloved grandfather, Nathan B. Silverman
 Sumner Alpert

Capital Fund

In honor of the marriage of Carol Nerenberg & Robert Saltzman
 Iris & Harold Katzman
 In honor of Jessie Stevens, granddaughter of Dr. Herb & Paula Rubin, becoming a Bat Mitzvah
 Irma & Carl Feldman
 In memory of Normand Futoransky
 Colonial Navy of Massachusetts
 Eugene Frett
 Iris & Harold Katzman
 William Stone & Family
 In memory of Stanley Gelles
 Shirley & Charles Meretsky
 In memory of Robert Lipson
 Nate Dashoff
 Iris & Harold Katzman
 For the recovery of Carol Schwartz
 Nate Dashoff
 Iris & Harold Katzman
 In memory of Adelle Wiener
 Rosanne & Sayre Litchman
 Beverly Sokoll
 For the recovery of Marion Wilner
 Nate Dashoff

Camp Ramah Scholarship Fund

In memory of Hummy Chebot
 In memory of Robert Lipson
 For the yahrzeit of our beloved father, Samuel Ehrenhaus
 Marilyn & Abraham Ehrenhaus
 In memory of Adelle Wiener
 For the yahrzeit of my beloved brother, Bernard Chebot
 Bill Chebot

IDA & David Chavenson Scholarship Fund

In memory of Normand Futoransky
 In memory of William Neilan
 Ann & Bob Chavenson

Anna and Morris Lepes Cemetery Fund

For the yahrzeit of my beloved husband, Morris Lepes
 Anna Lepes
 For the yahrzeit of our beloved father, Morris Lepes
 Ellen & Terry Shand & Family

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In honor of Rabbi Elber & Cantor Brown
 In memory of Hummy Chebot
 In memory of Melvin Liss
 For the recovery of Marion Wilner
 Dr. Melvin & Cindy Yoken
 In memory of Adelle Wiener
 Marilyn Sokoll

Hyman & Goldie Schwartz Legacy Fund

In memory of my beloved son, Barry Schwartz
 Tylda Schwartz

Special Gifts

Thank you to Nancy Shore for sponsoring Kiddush in memory of her beloved parents, Barbara & Richard Shore, during their yahrzeit weeks.

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William "BT" Hathaway
 Mike Roberts


HATHAWAY
 FAMILY FUNERAL HOMES

"Teach us to treasure each day"

by Rabbi Mark Elber

Published in the Herald News, February 22, 2014

When I was young I yearned for summer all winter long. I suspect that might have been related to the lack of school during those months, but I also loved the warmth, the water, the late sunsets, the sense of open-endedness that's endemic to youth. Time passed much more slowly then. After spending the seemingly endless school year in New York City, I had the good fortune to summer on Long Island in a small cottage 40 miles from Manhattan and 100 yards up the road from the harbor in Huntington. Among the small cluster of closely built cottages, I made lifelong friends.

I've been attracted to coming-of-age stories for most of my adult life. Those adolescent summers in Huntington with a few intimate companions had all the makings of those tales. We watched and helped each other grow up, barely conscious of that fact. We shared the milestones and frustrations of adolescence and gradually matured, migrating to different sections of the country, pursuing careers, and getting caught up in the daily demands of adulthood. Gone were the days of lying under the stars at night discussing the meaning of life and our extravagant and ambitious dreams.

"Teach us to treasure each day, that we may obtain a heart of wisdom" is the message of Psalm 90:12. One of the privileges and poignant aspects of clergy life is sharing in the major life cycle events of your community. Sadly, some of these events entail the final parting from people for whom you've come to care deeply. I sing a version of this verse from Psalms at funerals as a reminder to all of us that the gifts of life are great, but fleeting. Unfortunately, I've been singing this powerful verse too often lately. Unfortunately, I discovered last night that one of my closest life-long friends, whom I met when we were less than ten years old on those summer streets of Long Island, passed away suddenly at the relatively young age of 60.

We naturally seek wisdom, meaning and tools for living in our religious traditions. The great insights that Scripture can offer are wonderful, but the ability to incorporate these gems into the actual lives we live is not a given. We are inundated with demands on our time and on our limited resources. Our attention is taxed by some of the very tools that technology has made available to us to lighten our loads and dispense with obligations rapidly. Our culture is awash in advertisements; our senses bombarded with them. I remember when I was living in Manhattan, riding the subways regularly, realizing one day while looking at the numerous advertisements cramming the walls of the subway cars that many of the things we were being encouraged to purchase were things that not only we didn't need, but were actually unhealthy. The amount of human intelligence, ingenuity and creativity poured into advertis-

How do we learn to treasure our days, to open our senses and appreciate the many blessings in our lives? In my own tradition, I find the weekly observance of the Sabbath (or Shabbat as it's called in Hebrew) affords me a day every week in which "to be" rather than "to do". Without the pressure of achieving something quantifiable during the 25 hours of the Sabbath (from sunset Friday evening until the stars come out on Saturday night), one can better connect to the quality of one's time, recognizing the everyday miracles in our lives. Thus Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, the great 20th-century theologian, called Shabbat "an oasis in time." Can we find islands of sacred time during our weekdays too, times in which we release ourselves from bondage to things and cultivate our connection to each other and to the eternal in the midst of the ephemeral?

Time seems to accelerate with each passing year. Unlike the days of my youth, I'm in no rush to see the seasons pass. I want to enjoy each moment, rather than wish the weeks away. I see my young son maturing before my eyes and realize that each moment is precious, each is unique and won't come back, though it will hopefully be succeeded by other unique and precious moments. I treasure the times I shared with my recently departed friend, but wish we had seen each other more in his last years. Who could have known they would end so suddenly?

Mark Your Calendar!

Second Night Seder ~ April 15th

\$25 adults

Children 12 & under \$10

Traditional seder meal featuring roasted chicken.

RSVP by April 4th

Celebrate Poetry Month with:

Taking Turns:

A Poetry Reading with Ada Jill Schneider and Mark Elber

Monday, April 7th at 7 pm

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Check out our newly updated website:

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*New content, clergy bios, upcoming events,
important information, Cantor Shoshana's
Psalm Reflections, articles, and more!*

YAHARZEITS

3/1/2014 Adar-I 29, 5774

William Felder
Robert Zwetchkenbaum

3/2/2014 Adar-I 30, 5774

Dr. Harry Cooperstein

3/3/2014 Adar-II 1, 5774

Selma F. Schenker
Richard Shore

3/5/2014 Adar-II 3, 5774

Annie Feldman
Max Jacob Packer

3/6/2014 Adar-II 4, 5774

Milton Sokoll

3/7/2014 Adar-II 5, 5774

Clara Freedman
Aaron Saunders
Ida Evelyn Starr

3/10/2014 Adar-II 8, 5774

Ida Glickman
Minna Kenler

3/11/2014 Adar-II 9, 5774

Rita Minkin

3/13/2014 Adar-II 11, 5774

M. Henry Miller

3/14/2014 Adar-II 12, 5774

Minnie Somer

3/15/2014 Adar-II 13, 5774

Rebecca Horvitz

3/18/2014 Adar-II 16, 5774

Miriam Horvitz
Ethel Liebmann

3/19/2014 Adar-II 17, 5774

Fannie Keppler Halper
Morris Hirschman
Alice Jean Horowitz

3/21/2014 Adar-II 19, 5774

Israel Waksler

3/23/2014 Adar-II 21, 5774

William Meyerson
Elsie Pollock

3/25/2014 Adar-II 23, 5774

H. Charles Reiser

3/28/2014 Adar-II 26, 5774

Doris Rotenberg

3/29/2014 Adar-II 27, 5774

Alice Sandler

3/31/2014 Adar-II 29, 5774

Rose Oscar

Bristol Community College Holocaust Center Events: Spring 2014

March 6th, Jackson Art Center H-209, 4 pm
"Memory and the Negative-space Monument"

Dr. James Young, Distinguished University Professor of English and Judaic Studies, and Director of the Institute for Holocaust, Genocide and Memory Studies, University of Massachusetts/Amherst, will present a slide lecture to show how vernaculars of Holocaust memorials have made their way into other kinds of memorials, including the Vietnam Veterans Monument, Washington, D.C. and the National 9/11 Memorial in New York City.

April 24th, Jackson Art Center H-209, 4 pm
"Truth & Lamentation: Two Modes of Holocaust Literature."

Dr. Sharon Leder, Professor Emerita in English and Jewish Studies, Nassau Community College and Dr. Milton Teichman, Professor Emeritus of English and Jewish Studies, Marist College, will discuss their view that literature by victims, survivors and other writers on the Holocaust tend to fall into two main categories. One mode of expression focuses on truth telling about atrocity and mass murder during the Nazi period. The other is elegiac, focusing on the profound sense of pain and loss. Their talk will suggest the manifold ways by which truth and lamentation are conveyed in the literature of the Holocaust.

SOUTH COAST MEMORIALS

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