TEMPLE BETH EL

Fall River, Massachusetts



88th Year

March 2016

Adar I/Adar II 5776

No. 7

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



The Board of Rabbis of Greater Rhode Island presents an evening of dialogue, learning and community.

V'ahavta L'reacha Kamocha: Love your neighbor Saturday, March 5th at 7:30 pm.

Dwares JCC, 401 Elmgrove Ave, Providence, RI.

Rabbi Mark will be leading a session on "Cultivating Love: Spiritual Techniques" For more information, see the flyer on page 7 or visit our website.

Purim is coming! March 23rd at 5:30 pm

Don't miss our Purim Celebration! The Megillah Reading begins at 5:30 pm, followed by supper and our special entertainment: Politicians on the Roof, A Comic Purim Musical Send-up of the Presidential Nominees' Race.



Please RSVP by Monday, March 14th



Looking forward to Passover...Friday, April 29th

Due to the timing of the Sabbath, Temple Beth El's communal Pesach celebration will not be on one of the traditional Seder nights of Pesach, but near the end of the Passover period, on Friday, April 29th (the evening marking the beginning of the 8th day).

Save the date and plan to join us for this very special event!

Sunday Breakfast & Lecture

Featuring Matan Zamir, Israel's Deputy Consul General to New England Sunday, May 15th

Prior to beginning his career with the Foreign Service, Matan Zamir led a decorated career in the Israeli Defense Forces. He served in the IDF from 1999-2003 and was released as a lieutenant. In 2003, Zamir was honored for his service and received the President's medal of excellence for Israel's 55th Independence Day. His family has lived in Jerusalem for nine generations. Please plan to join us for this must-see event!

Service begins at 9 am, breakfast and lecture at 10 am.

A message from our Spiritual Leader, Rabbi Mark Elber

This year is a leap year in the Jewish calendar. Our calendar is (surprise!) complicated. It is essentially a lunar calendar adjusted for the solar year. The primary reason for this is that Passover has to occur during the spring because it's written in the Torah that Passover falls in the month of "Aviv" which means "spring." In order to achieve this goal of adjusting the lunar calendar to the solar year we have leap years. The overall cycle of the Jewish calendar is a nineteen year cycle during which there are seven leap years. During each leap year we add an extra month. That extra month is Adar II, a month that immediately precedes Nissan, the month in the middle of which Passover is celebrated. The middle of the month is when the moon is full. A number of holidays occur on full moons - Passover begins on a full moon, Purim occurs on a full moon and Sukkot similarly begins on the full moon. Purim is celebrated on the 14th day of the month of Adar, but during a leap year it is celebrated on the 14th day of Adar II.

There's a famous Talmudic saying that "from the time that Adar begins, our joy increases." (Mishehnikhnas Adar marbim basimcha). There actually are many words for "joy" or "happiness" in Hebrew. Probably the most common is "simcha," the word used in this phrase. (Others are gila, rina, ditza, chedva, and osher). We may know how to kvetch, but we're also really good at rejoicing, which is why I think we have so many synonyms for joy. Psalm 100:2 says "worship the Eternal One with simcha (rejoicing), come into G!d's Presence with shouts of joy." The last Psalm, 150, speaks of praising G!d (which is what the Hebrew word halleluyah means) with dance and with all kinds of instruments like the shofar, drum, lute, harp, etc. So much of the prayer service is sung – to help establish a joyous atmosphere. As the rabbis say, the soul wants to dance, but sometimes the body won't let it.

Music can be a great vehicle for the words of our prayers, but there are times when a melody (*niggun*) alone can express our feelings even more fully than words. Sometimes we may sing words that we don't understand completely, but the melody conveys our intent and transports us. Occasionally we may begin the service not quite ready for it, but the music over time helps us get beyond our resistance.

When I was a teenager I would go to the world center of Chabad (770 Eastern Parkway in Brooklyn) which was one borough away from where I lived in Queens. I was very attracted by the fervor and joy of the people there. I would go when the Rebbe (Menachem Men-

del Schneerson) was leading a gathering. It would be part chanting/singing and part teaching. The chanting or singing would usually continue for about 20 minutes and then the Rebbe would teach for 20 minutes, then back to the singing, etc. During the singing various people would raise a cup and wish the Rebbe "L'chayim." They would only drink when they got his attention and he acknowledged them. The room must have held at least a thousand people singing. A song would usually consist of one or two phrases from somewhere in the prayer book or the Tanakh (Bible). The effect of the singing was cumulative. At first there may have been some resistance to singing it over and over, but once people let go of that resistance the power of the song increased. When the Rebbe himself would animatedly participate in the chanting, his Chassidim would draw inspiration from him and the result of everyone's increased enthusiasm would make the entire building shake.

This phenomenon exists in the secular world as well. A great example is a Bruce Springsteen concert. During the many Springsteen concerts I've attended, there are always moments when Bruce sings a song whose melody, rhythm and lyrics so deeply engage the audience that the thousands gathered there begin to sing along with him. The sense of joy and camaraderie can be really powerful. Some people will travel great distances for that level of joyful communal experience. Though not everyone in the audience may agree with each other about everything, they find a commonality in the music.

Part of what makes a community is the ability to celebrate together, transcending (but respecting) our differences while we create and share an experience together. Each person counts and each person contributes to the overall atmosphere, whether it's at a Springsteen concert, at 770 Eastern Parkway, or at 385 High Street in Fall River. The joy is facilitated by each person's participation. It's not meant to be a performance, but a service, an engagement of the heart and soul. A congregation is not an audience. That's why we always have transliteration sheets available, so that people who are not as comfortable with Hebrew can still sing along, entering into the experience as much as possible.

Adar has begun, Purim is coming. Please pick up a grogger and join us at our communal celebration of Purim on March 23rd; join us again during Passover, and come and taste the joy of song and community every week at our Shabbat services. Together let us create a Chag Sameach, a joyful holiday, and continue to build our warm community.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

February has been filled with unforseen events which have served to highlight the people behind the scenes who keep Temple Beth El going regardless of the circumstances. What a staff we have!

I would like to point out the work of our custodian, George Haire. He had some mighty big shoes to fill when Tom Gregory retired, but he has done so admirably. Our aging boiler is in George's capable hands, and he has not only kept it running but figured out ways to run it more efficiently. In February he also had to deal with several snow storms, alarm calls, and a huge downed tree that hit the school during a wind storm. He is always willing to respond in a crisis, and in his understated way he takes care of business. How many people can go from repairing a steam pipe to preparing fancy lunch platters without blinking an eye? We would be lost without him.

Carlton, "Smitty" Smith helps us out in many ways, from providing breakfast for the minyan group and working special events, to taking on a security role during the High Holidays. He is usually the best-dressed man in the room, albeit clad in an apron. You can always count on a hearty smile from Smitty, but as a retired policeman, he is also keeping a watchful eye out for us at all times.

Sue Borden-Franco is the dynamo who has been doing an amazing job cleaning our big building for over a year now. She generally works just four hours a week, and gets more done in those four hours than most of us would get done in a week. Even our woodwork loves her!

Marie and Judy take care of more than just the paperwork in the office, they take care of our people. We regularly get letters thanking us and saying what wonderful people they are, how kind and helpful they are. Some letters are from members, others from people who have questions about our cemetery, their ancestors, or who knows what else. Some of these calls require a great deal of patience, which can be hard to come by in a busy office with multiple phone lines. We all rely on both of them more than we know, me most of all.

What a privilege and honor it is for me to serve the Temple Beth El community. It is a true commitment, and I love it, but I can't imagine doing it without our incredible staff.

Work is progressing well on the interior repairs, so look for pictures in the next bulletin.

Be sure to save the date for our May 15th Breakfast featuring Matan Zamir, Israel's Deputy Consul General to New England. It is going to be great!

Steve Silverman President

Sisterhood President's Message

Here it is President's Day Weekend and the North is in the midst of a major cold snap. Today the temperature is a grand 9 degrees. Hurry up summer, I need some sun. There is nothing like a lazy day at the beach, with a good book and a major ice coffee. Meanwhile, we will survive.

We will be celebrating Purim Wednesday, March 23rd. The festivities start at 5:30 pm with the reading of the Megillah. This will be followed by supper and entertainment. We ask that you please make a reservation by Monday, March 14th, so we can plan accordingly. It should be a memorable evening.

The Book Club will be meeting on Wednesday, March 9th, at 10:30 am in the Temple Library. At that time we will be discussing both "Orphan #8" by Kim van Alkemade and "Rogue Lawyer" by John Grisham. It should prove to be a lively discussion. Let's face it, everyone has an opinion.

We are now in the process of planning our annual Passover event. As details become available we will let you know. Watch your e-mail for updates.

So until next month, Shalom.

Libby Cohen Sisterhood President



THE TOWER PROJECT



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Bill Chebot

in memory of beloved brother, Bernard Chebot

Irene Stern

in honor of Carol Schwartz celebrating a special birthday

Irene Stern, Jodie and Wendy loving memory of beloved husban

in loving memory of beloved husband and father, Mickey Stern



SERVICE SCHEDULE

March 2016 Adar I/Adar II 5776

Friday, March 4 (24 Adar I) Candle Lighting Shabbat Service	5:22 pm 6:30 pm
Saturday, March 5 (25 Adar I) Weekly Portion: Vayakhel Shabbat Shekalim	10:00 am
Thursday, March 10 (30 Adar I) Rosh Chodesh Adar II	
Friday, March 11 (1 Adar II) Candle Lighting Shabbat Service Rosh Chodesh Adar II	5:30 pm 5:30 pm
Saturday, March 12 (2 Adar II) Weekly Portion: Pekude	10:00 am
Friday, March 18 (8 Adar II) Shabbat Service Candle Lighting	5:30 pm 6:38 pm
Saturday, March 19 (9 Adar II) Weekly Portion: Vayikra Shabbat Zachor	10:00 am
Wednesday, March 23 (13 Adar II) Fast of Esther Megillah Reading	5:30 pm
Thursday, March 24 (14 Adar II) Purim Services	8:00 am
Friday, March 25 (15 Adar II) Shabbat Service Candle Lighting Shushan Purim	5:30 pm 6:45 pm
Saturday, March 26 (16 Adar II) Weekly Portion: Tzav	10:00 am

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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	

Donations received through February 19, 2016

YAHRZEITS

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

Father, Louis Bachman	Marilyn Sokoll
Father, Herman Bernstein	Leslie Bernstein, Diane
	& Larry Greenfield
Mother, Elena Cohen	Meryl & Barry Novek
Grandfather, Robert Cohen	Steve Silverman
Father, Abraham Dashoff	Nathaniel Dashoff
Father, Samuel Ehrenhaus	Abraham Ehrenhaus
Grandfather, Adolph Feder	Joyce Juda
Father, Seymour Filler	Mark Filler
Father, Louis Freedman	Joyce Goldweitz
Father, Dr. Jacob Helfanbein	Barry Helfanbein
Father, Bernard Jaffe	Hilda McVay
Mother, Edith R.Kusinitz	Edith K. Getchell
Mother, Edith R. Kusinitz	Enid K. Lomax
Mother in law, Edith R Kusinitz	Lisa Lundy Kusinitz
Father, Sidney Lechan	Norma Jean Lechan
Mother, Madeline Leonard	Marion Wilner
Mother, Dorothy S. Levin	Ruth Levin
Father, Morris Levine	Julius Levine
Brother, Larry Lurie	Dorothy Lurie
Mother, Shirley Reuter	Ronald Reuter
Mother Ida Woltman	Atty. Leon Woltman
Parents, Lillian & Paul Woltman	Joanne Tuck
Mother, Hilda Zaslow	Ellen Reuter

MAURICE ALPERT MEMORIAL ENDOWMENT FUND

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

Sumner Alpert

CAPITAL FUND

In memory of Edna Fadem

Gloria & Jerry Baskin

BERNARD HOROWITZ BUILDING MAINTENANCE FUND

In memory of my beloved sister, Annette Horowitz In memory of Harold Shabshelowitz

Arlyne Dondis

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In honor of our grandson, Mitchell B. Waksler, becoming a Bar Mitzvah

Carole & Jerome Waksler

IN MEMORIAM

HELEN BABIN February 18, 2016 – 9 Adar I 5776

MAY HER MEMORY BE FOR A BLESSING

TBE News & Notes

February was a quiet month at Temple Beth El, outside of a snowstorm or two and the unfortunate accident with a tree and a power pole which fell onto our school building – thankfully, when no children were in the room!

Cantor Shoshana has added a new feather to her writing-cap as a monthly "stringer" for the Herald News. Shoshana's first column on hiking in the South Coast area appeared on Feb. 6th in the "Lifestyle" section (section D) of the Sunday paper, where she highlighted the Norman Bird Sanctuary in Middletown, RI. Her new column – "Take a Hike!"- will appear on the first Sunday of every month (the next one, March 6th, will showcase Borderland State Park in Easton, MA).

On Saturday evening, March 5th, **Rabbi Mark** will be participating in the annual "Drash and Dessert" at the Providence JCC – see announcement on page 7.

As Rabbi Mark says in his bulletin column, Purim is coming! Please make plans to celebrate with us; Cantor Shoshana is still composing the comic send-off of the 2016 presidential race as part of our Purim merry-making, and she invites anyone with a sense of humor who can project their voice (no need to worry about carrying a tune!) to **volunteer to deliver one of the tunes in our Purim Revue**, "Politicians on the Roof"! Please leave a message for her at the office (or send an email, address below) if you are willing to join in the fun.

On Wed, March 30th, at 2 PM, there will be a **one-woman theatrical performance of "Etty,"** based on the diaries and letters of Etty Hillesum at Bristol Community College's Jackson Art Center Auditorium. The performance is free of charge.

The deadline for registering for the **Women's Community Seder** (to be held on Tuesday April 12th, 6 PM, at Temple Beth El of Providence) is Monday, March 28th. Please contact Cantor Shoshana before this date at cantorshoshana@gmail.com, if you are interested in attending (and carpooling to) this event.

Our own **TBE Passover celebration**, with festive meal, will be held this year on **Friday, April 29th** – please save the date!

Looking ahead, we have 2 young men set to celebrate their bar mitzvah this spring: **Mason Theis**, on April 9th, and **Lev Elber**, on Sat. June 4th. Both services will be in the Main Sanctuary beginning at 10 AM. Please mark your calendars and come to help us celebrate our young men!



Head of the trail at the Norman Bird Sanctuary - don't forget your hiking stick!



SUNDAY AFTERNOON AT THE JEWISH MOVIES: "KEEPING THE FAITH"

**Note: Movie time is back to 4 pm

Two friends, a priest and a rabbi, fall in love with the same woman they knew in their youth, but the religious position of both men denies them romance. Starring Ben Stiller, Edward Norton and Jenna Elfman. Please join us!



IRA JAY FLEISHER

FUNERAL DIRECTOR

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

BOOK CLUB NEWS UPDATE

A Change Up!

Ernest Hemingway turns 100 this year.

In honor of this important American author, the Book Club will begin, in APRIL, to read his five most popular best sellers.

The five choices will be read in the order they were written.

April: 1926 The Sun Also Rises 1929 Farewell To Arms May: 1937 To Have and Have Not June: July: 1940 For Whom the Bell Tolls August: 1952 The Old Man and the Sea

Because his writing reflects his life at that moment, it might be helpful to read his biography which is available on line at biblio.com.

Everyone is welcome. Please join us in the Temple Library on the third Wednesday of the month at 10:30 am.

Sisterhood Gift Shop

Once again I've sold out of the CHAI 5 caps and had to reorder. I've been informed that this might be the last of the baseball caps. Place your order now and I'll be happy to ship it to you. They are just \$15 plus postage.

I'm now doing inventory in preparation for ordering for Passover. One of our more popular items is the lucite matzo box (\$18-\$20)--a great hostess gift or buy one for yourself. If there is something you would like to see carried at our gift shop or would like me to order for you, please feel free to let me know.

Always keep us in mind for bar/bat mitzvah, shower, wedding, and house gifts (e.g. large selection of mezuzot)...and, of course, tallitot (talleisim), kipot (yarmulkes), and ketubot.

Our prices are MUCH LESS than most Judaica shops and it is possibly the only one within 45 miles!

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

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Fall River United Jewish Appeal Community Update

"THANK YOU"

Thanks to all who have contributed (108 to be exact) to our 2015/2016 fundraising campaign. Even though the makeup of the Fall River Jewish community has greatly changed over the years, we still can be very proud of ourselves. We continue to strive to make a positive difference in people's lives.



The money that you contribute to the UJA is utilized in two primary ways: first, we stand ready to assist anyone in our community who finds themselves in need and second, we are making a great effort to help fund three programs in Israel which work with "at risk" children. Our aim is to help those children develop and become a vital part of Israeli society.

We thank our contributors and strongly encourage anyone who has not donated to reach out and send in your contribution and become an active participant in this "mitzvah."

> Sayre A. Litchman President

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.

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

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

SAVE THE DATE!

Sunday Breakfast & Lecture Featuring Matan Zamir Sunday, May 15th at 9 am

Matan Zamir is Israel's Deputy Consul General to New England. He has been a member of Israel's Foreign Service since 2011, previously serving as the Deputy Chief



of Mission at the Israeli Consulate in Mumbai.

Zamir led a decorated career in the Israeli Defense Forces. He served in the IDF from 1999-2003 and was released as a lieutenant. During his service he trained over 1,000 cadets. In 2003, Zamir was honored for his service and received the President's medal of excellence for Israel's 55th Independence Day.

Before joining the Foreign Service, Zamir was an International Business Manager at Bezeg International, an Israeli Telecom Company (2010-2011) and the Director of the Training Department of the Israeli Supreme Court (2007-2008), a position that was part of Israel's Center for Citizenship and Democracy.

Zamir grew up in Jerusalem where his family has lived for nine generations. He is a lawyer; he received his L.L.B. from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem in 2008.

Though still learning the basics of America's national pastime, Zamir, too, is sure to become an adoring member of Red Sox Nation.

Looking forward to Passover...

Once again, our TBE communal Pesach celebration will not be on one of the traditional Seder nights of Pesach, but near the end of the Passoverperiod, on Friday April 29th (the evening marking the beginning of the 8th day). The reason for not having a traditional Second Seder is that (like last year), the Second Seder night follows on the heels of Shabbat, and the logistics of preparing for a large communal meal while not violating the Sabbath are too difficult to manage.

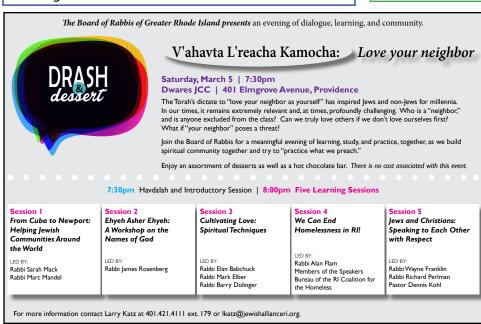
If you need a Seder to attend at the beginning of Passover (on the nights of April 22nd or 23rd), please let the office know, and every effort will be made to match you up with someone who is hosting a Seder.

If you would like to offer a seat at your own Seder table to someone who is in need of a Seder to go to, please call the office to let us know how many people you can host.

Please note that next year, when the night of the 2nd Seder will fall on a Tuesday, we will return to the tradition of hosting a TBE community 2nd Seder.

Temple Family

- Our deepest condolences to Atty. Miriam Babin and family on the loss of her beloved mother, Helen Babin.
- Mazel Tov to Carole & Jerome Waksler in honor of their grandson, Mitchell B. Waksler becoming a Bar Mitzvah.



TEMPLE OFFICE

385 High St, Fall River, MA 02720 Tel: (508) 674-3529

Fax: (508) 678-6735

Email: templebethel@comcast.net

Website www.frtemplebethel.org

OFFICE HOURS: Monday - Friday, 9 am to Noon

> OFFICE CLOSED: Friday, March 25th



Our website has been updated with a number of new articles written by Cantor Shoshana and Rabbi Mark, a full-sized version

of the Drash & Dessert" flyer, Book Club lists and the upcoming schedule, the service schedule for March, interesting links and much more!

Go to www.frtemplebethel.org

YAHRZEITS

3/1/2016 21 Adar I 5776 Abraham Trieff

3/2/2016 22 Adar I 5776 David Chavenson Marian Cohen Noah Horvitz

3/3/2016 23 Adar I 5776 Helen (Yelena) Golub Edwin Macy

3/4/2016 24 Adar I 5776 Manuel Hyman Lillian Settlow Eva Waksler

3/5/2016 25 Adar I 5776 Thelma Greenberg

3/6/2016 26 Adar I 5776 Minnie Entin Virginia Granovsky Frederick Kaplan

3/8/2016 28 Adar I 5776 Miriam Reiser Barry Schwartz Samuel Stampler 3/10/2016 30 Adar I 5776 Dr. Harry Cooperstein

3/11/2016 1 Adar II 5776 Regina Elber Richard Shore

3/14/2016 4 Adar II 5776 Milton Sokoll

3/15/2016 5 Adar II 5776 Clara Freedman Aaron Saunders Ida Evelyn Starr

3/18/2016 8 Adar II 5776 Ida Glickman Minna Kenler

3/19/2016 9 Adar II 5776 Rita Minkin

3/26/2016 16 Adar II 5776 Miriam Horvitz Ethel Liebmann

3/27/2016 17 Adar II 5776 Fannie Keppler Halper Morris Hirschman Alice Jean Horowitz

3/29/2016 19 Adar II 5776 Israel Waksler

3/31/2016 21 Adar II 5776 William Meyerson Elsie Pollock

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