# TEMPLE BETH EL

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FALL RIVER, MASSACHUSETTS

89th Year March 2017 Adar/Nisan 5777 No. 7

### Regular Service Schedule

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

## Purim 5777 The Times in Shushan They are A'changin'

Don't Miss our Purim Tribute to Recent Nobel Prize Winner Bob Dylan!

Post Megillah-reading entertainment will feature twin Dylan impersonators (guess who?) singing recently discovered early songs that the young Robert Zimmerman composed to tell the story of the Megillah! They will be accompanied by master musician-instrumentalist extraordinaire (and Seekonk resident) Martin Grosswendt.

After giving Dylan his due, Martin will regale us with a set of his American Roots-music, a special treat sure to be enjoyed by young and old alike.

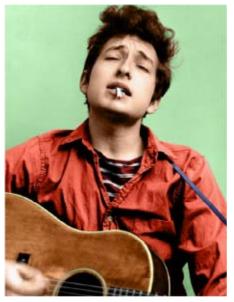
Be sure not to miss this unique TBE musical extravaganza! Please call or email the office to reserve your seat by Monday, March 6th. There is no charge for this event!

## Sunday, March 12th

Service begins at 9 am in the TBE Vestry
Megillah reading should begin at approximately 9:30 am
Brunch Se'udah to follow service
Entertainment to begin at approximately 11 am



Martin Grosswendt has been exploring the roots and branches of American acoustic music for more than 40 years. A master of pre-war blues and other southern traditional music, his fingerpicking, bottleneck playing and singing amaze and move audiences, critics and musicians alike. He's known at festivals, concert venues and music camps across the U.S., and his instrumental and vocal skills are matched by his knowledge of the music's sources and creators, whose stories he weaves into every performance.



Bob Dylan, (nee Robert Zimmerman) winner of the 2016 Nobel Prize for Literature.

### A message from our Spiritual Leader, Rabbi Mark Elber

#### Purim is Around the Corner

It's hard to believe it's already the month of *Adar*, the month in the middle of which, at the full moon, Purim appears. And if Purim is here, Passover is only about four weeks behind. It feels like it was just Rosh Hashana – 2013!

Of the things that Purim is most noted for, surely the reading of what we call the *Megillah* is foremost among them. What we call the *Megillah* is more properly called "the Megillah of Esther" (*Megillat Ester* in Hebrew). There are actually five *Megillas* or *Megillot*. A *Megillah* is a small scroll and each of the five short scrolls are read on special days: The Song of Songs (*Shir HaShirim* in Hebrew) is read on the Shabbat of the intermediate days of Passover or, if there is no intermediate Shabbat of Passover, then on the seventh day of Passover. Ruth is read on Shavuot, Lamentations (*Eikha* in Hebrew) is chanted on Tisha B'Av (the ninth day of the Hebrew month of Av during which we mourn the destruction of the Ancient Temples in Jerusalem), and *Kohelet*, or Ecclesiastes as it's known in English, is read on the Shabbat of Sukkot in autumn.

The Megillah of Esther is a very dramatic work with intrigue and plot twists. For a very short work, it packs in a lot. The best known component is the central part of the narrative in which Haman, the second in command who has the ear of King Achashverosh, wants to destroy all the Jews, apparently catalyzed by Mordechai's (Esther's older first cousin who has raised her since she was an orphan) refusal to bow down to him. It's particularly interesting how Haman presents his plot to destroy our ancestors to King Achashverosh. Haman says: "There is a certain people, scattered and dispersed among the other peoples in all the provinces of your realm, whose laws are different from those of any other people and who do not obey the king's laws; and it is not in Your Majesty's interest to tolerate them. If it please Your Majesty, let an edict be drawn for their destruction..." (Esther 3: 8-9).

Regardless of the historical accuracy of the book of Esther, this is a very familiar sounding situation in terms of Jewish history. It is quite striking that it is being written approximately 300 BCE. One interesting element in the story is that, unlike the overwhelming majority of the Bible, the story takes place in the Diaspora, not in the land of Israel. Next, the Jews in the story essentially have to seek protection from someone with power because we have none. We are vulnerable because of being in the Diaspora at the very least. That depiction of the condition of our ancestors pertained as long as we were in the Diaspora. However, even when we were in our own homeland, we also were vulnerable to those nations in the region that were much more powerful like Babylonia, Persia, Greece, and Rome - all of whom conquered the land of Israel. That condition remains true today. As much as we would like to believe that Israel

can stand alone, it needs alliances with other nations, as basically all nations in the world do.

What kind of a lesson can we take from the Bible regarding our relationship with other peoples? Sometimes it can sound as though so much is open to interpretation, but there is no question that certain themes are prominent in the Torah and the Bible. The Torah is very concerned with the status of the stranger who lives among us. The word for stranger in the Bible, ger, must appear about one hundred times throughout the Bible predominantly in the Torah. The most famous expression is probably Deuteronomy 10:19 which says "You shall love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt." The Torah wants us to have "a circumcised heart," meaning a sensitive heart, a heart that feels compassion for others and not only for those who are like us. It specifies the stranger and other vulnerable people like orphans, widows, and the poor. We are told to leave the corners of our fields for these very people: the stranger, the orphan, the widow, and the poor. The Torah tells us that: "There will never cease to be needy ones in your land, therefore I command you saying you must surely open your hand to your brother, to your poor, to your needy in your land." (Deuteronomy 15:11).

People are often afraid of those who are "strangers," who are different from us (whoever the "us" may be in any particular place). That is nothing new; it's always been the case. If it weren't the natural tendency, the Torah would not have made such a point about loving the stranger. In terms of our own history, we have for thousands of years known what it feels like to be seen as the "stranger." Certainly we don't feel like strangers in the land of Israel and very few Jews in the United States feel like strangers here — a rare experience in the Diaspora. Though there's been a somewhat alarming escalation in anti-Semitic incidents in the United States in recent months at Jewish Community Centers and synagogues, it may only be that the people who harbor those feelings sense more freedom to express them these days.

In the book of Esther, Haman uses the argument that we and our customs are different as justification for persecuting us. Many Jews in the past wanted to believe that if we relinquished our distinguishing customs, clothes, and ways, bigotry against us would disappear. They discovered that was not the case. When a very assimilated Jewish journalist from Hungary covered a trial for treason of an innocent Jewish military officer in Paris in 1895 and discovered in the most tolerant and progressive nation in Europe that anti-Semitism was still alive and well, Zionism was born. That journalist was Theodore Herzl, of course.

Purim and the reading of the Megillah combine the serious and the humorous. Humor is often a way of coping with something very serious. Please join us for the once in a year opportunity to celebrate Purim, hear the Megillah reading, watch this year's Purim *shpiel*, enjoy our special guest musician, and nosh some hamantashen. Sunday March 12 at 9 am. All are welcome!

#### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As the days steadily get longer and the winter gives way to an occasional glorious day, we are thankful for a relatively mild winter and look forward to the warmth and color that spring promises. It can't get here soon enough for me!

In early December Edith "Eady" Gold, passed away. She was a lifelong member of our congregation, and she and her husband Max made a home in Fall River and raised their daughters here. On behalf of the board of directors, I would like to thank the Gold family for their very generous bequest to the Temple Beth El Building Fund. You can be sure we will put the donation to very good use.

Along similar lines, we are grateful to the families of our deceased members who have suggested that friends and family members make donations to Temple Beth El in memory of their loved ones. We appreciate them all, large or small, and it truly is a fitting tribute to our friends.

We recently lost two more long-time members, Dolores Leviss, and Martin Schlam. Both families requested private funerals so email alerts were not sent out. As many of us have come to rely on the emails I just wanted to take a moment to let everyone know of their passing. Both were Temple members for many years, and we offer our sincere condolences to their families and friends. May their memories be for a blessing.

On a lighter note, we have Purim coming up and our celebration promises to be both unique and enjoyable. Come watch our Bob Dylan impersonators pay tribute in their own way to our most recent Nobel prize winner for Literature. Local acclaimed musician Martin Grosswendt will provide even more entertainment for everyone's enjoyment. Sign up by Monday, March 6th and join in the celebration.

Lastly, save the date for our Second Night Community Passover Seder on Tuesday, April 11th at 6 pm. Once again Sisterhood is taking care of the details, and having it catered by Zaydee's Market, formerly The Butcherie. More details to follow.

Don't forget to check our website regularly. There are always new articles, upcoming events, Book Club updates, the current service schedule and more.

Steve Silverman President

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### Sisterhood President's Message

I can't believe that March is on our doorstep, and we all know what that means, spring is just around the corner. With the onset of spring comes hope. Hope for sunshine and warmer weather, green grass and flowers. I know I can't wait.

Our Temple will be celebrating Purim on Sunday morning, March 12th. We are in the process of planning a breakfast, so please make a reservation and make it a priority to join us for this event. Rabbi Mark and Cantor Shoshana are in charge of the program, which I'm sure will prove to be most entertaining.

Also, it will be Passover before we know it. Right now we are planning a second night of Passover Seder. It will be held on Tuesday evening, April 11th. So as you begin to make your holiday plans keep this in mind. Know you can spend this special night with your Temple family, and enjoy a delicious holiday meal.

The Book Club will be meeting on Wednesday, March 16th at 10:30 am. At that time they will be discussing "Hush" by Eishes Chayil. You have time to pick up the book, so do it and start reading.

Monday afternoon Mah Jongg will resume the first Monday in May. We hope to see our players at that time.

At this time, Sisterhood is trying to close our books. We would like to get started on planning our yearly paid up membership luncheon. Unfortunately we can't do this until all our members straighten out their dues. I am sure this is just an innocent oversight. Thank you in advance ladies.

So until next month, stay safe. Shalom folks.

Libby Cohen Sisterhood President



#### SERVICE SCHEDULE

#### March 2017: Adar/Nisan 5777

Friday,	March 3	(5 Adar)

Candle Lighting 5:21 pm Shabbat Service 5:30 pm

Saturday, March 4 (6 Adar)

Weekly Portion: Terumah 10:00 am

Thursday, March 9 (11 Adar)

Fast of Esther (begins at sunrise)

Friday, March 10 (12 Adar)

Candle Lighting 5:29 pm Shabbat Service 5:30 pm

Saturday, March 11 (13 Adar)

Weekly Portion: Tetzaveh 10:00 am

Erev Purim Shabbat Zachor

Sunday, March 12 (14 Adar)

Purim 9:00 am

Reading of the Megillah

Monday, March 13 (15 Adar)

Shushan Purim

Friday, March 17 (19 Adar)

Shabbat Service 5:30 pm Candle Lighting 6:37 pm

Saturday, March 18 (20 Adar)

Weekly Portion: Ki Tisa 10:00 am

Shabbat Parah

Friday, March 24 (26 Adar)

Shabbat Service 5:30 pm Candle Lighting 6:45 pm

Saturday, March 25 (27 Adar)

Weekly Portion: Vayakhel/Pekudei 10:00 am

Shabbat Hachodesh

Tuesday, March 28 (1 Nisan)

Rosh Chodesh Nisan

Friday, March 31 (4 Nisan)

Shabbat Service 5:30 pm Candle Lighting 6:52 pm

#### **Reminder - First Friday Night Service - Time Change**

Due to popular demand, all Friday evening services will now begin at 5:30 pm. The first Friday service will continue to be celebrated in the "Friday Night Live" format, but at 5:30 pm.

#### TEMPLE OFFICE

385 High St, Fall River, MA 02720
Tel: (508) 674-3529 Fax: (508) 678-6735
E-Mail: templebethel@comcast.net
Website: frtemplebethel.org

#### OFFICE HOURS:

Monday - Friday, 9 am to Noon

## Monday Mah Jongg

Our Monday Mah Jongg game will be back in action beginning Monday, May 1st at noon. It will be here before you know it!



# Sisterhood Gift Shop

Passover is fast approaching. We have a wonderful selection of seder and matzo plates, matzo covers, lucite matzo boxes with covers, cloth matzo servers, games for all ages, and so much more. They make wonderful gifts for showers, new homes, as well as for the hostess at a seder you are attending.

Some other gift suggestions (for yourself or others) are Patriot kipa or mezuzah as well as our beautiful Judaica jewelry and door mezuzot.

If you are looking for something special for Passover please contact me asap. This would give me sufficient time to place an order if it is not currently available in our gift shop.

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

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# Second Night Community Passover Seder



Tuesday April 11th, beginning at 6 pm

Traditional Passover Chicken Dinner catered by Zaydee's Market (Formerly The Butcherie in Canton)

Cost: \$25 per adult, \$10 children under 12 Please mark it on your calendars and send in your check or call the office to RSVP by Wednesday, March 29th



### 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 before 1:30 pm on the previous business day to reserve a meal.

#### **Temple Family**

 Our deepest condolences to Dr. Florence Schlam on the loss of her beloved husband, Martin.

# Book Glub News

The Book Club recently discussed the "Tea Planter's Wife" by Dinah Jeffries. It is a winner! A good read on those cold, snowy days. Our upcoming schedule is as follows:

March 15: "Hush" by Eishes Chayil

April 19: "Small Great Things" by Jodi Picoult

May 17: "Born a Crime" by Trevor Noah

June 21: "The Other Wes Moore" by Wes Moore July 19: "The Bridge Ladies" by Betsy Lerner

We meet on the 3rd Wednesday of the month in the Temple Library from 10:30 am to noon.

There are plenty of seats at the table! Come and join in the lively discussion and take part in our future reading choice decisions.

Check out our website for a link to a feature article in the Herald News written by Cantor Shoshana on local photographer Greg Stone. These are a few samples of his photos, but this small space can't do them justice. frtemplebethel.org - click on the "Articles" tab.









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# Thank you for your donations received through February 17, 2017

#### **YAHRZEITS**

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

Father, David Cohen Meryl Novek Abraham Ehrenhaus Father, Samuel Ehrenhaus Father, Seymour Filler Mark Filler Father, Louis Freedman Joyce Goldweitz Mother, Ruth Gerard Jay Gerard Aunt, Bessie Gladstone Sheila Freedman Parents, Helen & Joseph Golub Lillian Lepes Parents, Ada & Morris Haims Paula Rubin Father, Bernard Jaffe Hilda McVay Brother, Henry Juda Joyce Juda Parents, Dr & Mrs. Abraham Dr. David Kaufmann Kaufmann Father, Sidney Lechan Norma Jean Lechan Husband, Charles Meretsky Shirley Meretsky **Mother, Rose Moss** Shirley Taradash Novek Family **Charles Novek** Mother, Birdie Phillips Fran Cohen Father, Charles Rosenberg Richard Rosenberg Aunt, Lottie Sandler Samuel Billard Mother, Mildred Trieff Richard Trieff Mother in law, Fannie Woloshen Charles Stampler Atty. Leon Woltman Mother, Ida Woltman

#### **CANTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND**

In honor of Fishy Sokoll celebrating a special birthday In memory of Dr. Irving Fradkin In memory of Gary Reitzas

Hannah Evans

#### IDA AND DAVID CHAVENSON SCHOLARSHIP FUND

For the recovery of Sarah Lee Bloom

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#### **CAPITAL FUND**

In honor of Fishy Sokoll celebrating a special birthday

Marilyn Sokoll

In honor of Talia Sokoll

Elaine & Dr. Harvey Reback

In memory of Susan Alpert Cohn

Ann Freedman

In memory of Dr. Irving Fradkin

Dr. & Mrs. Alan Fielding

Iris Katzman

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Dr. & Mrs. Alan Fielding

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Elaine & Dr. Harvey Reback

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In memory of Joseph Soroka

Libby Cohen

In memory of Myron Wilner

Dr. & Mrs. Alan Fielding Diana & Bob Glashow

Iris Katzman

For the recovery of Anita Bolski

Elaine & Dr. Harvey Reback

#### **MORNING MINYAN FUND**

For the yahrzeit of my beloved brother, Bernard Chebot Bill Chebot

#### RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In memory of Dolores Leviss

Anonymous



Cantor Shoshana is planning a visit to the Thai Buddhist temple, shown above, in Raynham on Sunday, May 21st. (There should be good weather then!)

If you are interested, let us know, pencil it in on your calendar, and stay tuned for further updates!

### Cantor Shoshana's News & Notes

It was appropriate in a way that our recent **Tu biShevat** Seder took place on the evening after our biggest snowfall so far this winter. While new life was stirring deep inside the trees, and in seeds beneath the snow, twelve hardy souls made it to the temple to celebrate the Trees' New Year, to sing songs and drink various colors of wine and taste a multitude of fruits and nuts as we discussed how all life on this planet is interconnected.

On the subject of nature, if you did not see Shoshana's recent **Herald News feature** of Westport's remarkable nature-photographer **Greg Stone** (whose photos grace this month's bulletin), go to our Temple Beth El website and click on the "articles" link to read it online and see even more of Stone's exquisite photographs!

On Feb. 7th the second in the "Caffeine and Conversations" series took place at the Pink Bean Café. The Rev. Matthew Stewart moderated a discussion on "Does God really help us in hard times?" We have now outgrown our space! We drew such a good showing of Jews, Catholics, Protestants and others in February that there was standing room only at the Pink Bean! Therefore, we are changing our meeting-venue for March and April to the Fall River Public Library, located at 104 North Main Street, in the downstairs meeting room.

Here are the next two "Caffeine and Conversations" events:

Tuesday, March 7th, 2:00: Rabbi Mark Elber presents "What is Kabbalah?"

Tuesday, April 4th, 2:00: the Rev. Jeremi Colvin presents "Climate Change: Is religion part of the solution or part of the problem?"

Mark your calendars to join us for the observation for **Yom haShoah** this year on **Sunday, April 23rd,** beginning at 5:30 in the sanctuary.

Update on possible visit to **Thai Buddhist Temple** in Raynham, MA: I am shooting for a visit-date of Sunday, May 21st (when the weather should be nice!), but I have not yet firmed up this date with the Thai temple. Stay tuned...

#### **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



Set in the Brighton Beach section of Brooklyn, New York in September 1937 amidst The Great Depression, this coming-of-age comedy focuses on Eugene Morris Jerome, a Polish-Jewish American teenager who experiences puberty, sexual awakening, and a search for identity as he tries to deal with his family, including his older brother Stanley, his parents Kate and Jack, Kate's sister Blanche, and her two daughters, Nora and Laurie, who come to live there after their father's death.

From the NY Times review in 1986:

"Brighton Beach Memoirs" has a warmly nostalgic quality, something that has traveled very nicely to the screen. "Brighton Beach Memoirs"... a film of surprisingly gentle charms...[conjuring up a] sense of a place and a way of life long vanished [with] care and affection.

Please note the new time of 4 pm, thanks to Daylight Savings Time!

### IN MEMORIAM

Martin Schlam

FEBRUARY 18, 2017 - 22 SHEVAT 5777

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Our website is constantly changing, so be sure to check it out regularly. There are links to new 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

## **YAHRZEITS**

3/1/2017 3 Adar 5777 Max Jacob Packer

3/2/2017 4 Adar 5777
Bernard Chebot
Sadie Lovit
Nathan Bernard Silverman
Milton Sokoll

3/3/2017 5 Adar 5777
Clara Freedman
Morris Levine
Charles Meretsky
Barney Prebluda
Ida Evelyn Starr

3/4/2017 6 Adar 5777
Morris Haims
Edith Kusinitz
Philip Ostroff
Bertha Weinstock
Philip Zalkind

3/5/2017 7 Adar 5777 George Lucove Adelle Wiener

3/6/2017 8 Adar 5777
Elena Lee Cohen
Ida Glickman
Selma Juda
Minna Kenler
Mannis Shapiro

3/7/2017 9 Adar 5777 Helen Babin Rita Minkin

3/9/2017 11 Adar 5777 Louis I. Galitsky Hyman B. Gollub Mary Robinovitz George Sandler

3/10/2017 12 Adar 5777 Louis Bachman Hyman Levine Larry Lurie Minnie Somer 3/11/2017 13 Adar 5777 Robert M. Cohen Rebecca Horvitz

3/13/2017 15 Adar 5777 William Goldman Vivian Grozen

3/14/2017 16 Adar 5777
Miriam Horvitz
Samuel Katzman
Ethel Liebmann

3/15/2017 17 Adar 5777
Fannie Keppler Halper
Morris Hirschman
Alice Jean Horowitz
Louis Nulman
Irene Stern

3/16/2017 18 Adar 5777 Helen Freedman Florence Lash Sylvia Yoken

3/17/2017 19 Adar 5777 William Feinberg Ruth Levine William Lurie Israel Waksler

3/18/2017 20 Adar 5777 George Brenner Helen Nulman

3/19/2017 21 Adar 5777 William Meyerson Elsie Pollock Abraham Trieff

3/20/2017 22 Adar 5777
David Chavenson
Marian Cohen
Noah Horvitz

3/21/2017 23 Adar 5777 Helen (Yelena) Golub Edwin Macy H. Charles Reiser

3/22/2017 24 Adar 5777 Manuel Hyman Lillian Settlow Eva Waksler

3/23/2017 25 Adar 5777 Thelma Greenberg Robert Starr

3/24/2017 26 Adar 5777
Minnie Entin
Virginia Granovsky
Frederick Kaplan
Doris Rotenberg

3/25/2017 27 Adar 5777 Alice Sandler

3/26/2017 28 Adar 5777 Miriam Reiser Barry Schwartz Samuel Stampler

3/27/2017 29 Adar 5777 Rose Oscar

3/28/2017 1 Nisan 5777
David Freedman
Arthur Littman

3/29/2017 2 Nisan 5777 Edna Dashoff

3/31/2017 4 Nisan 5777 Max Victor Silverman