TEMPLE BETH EL

FALL RIVER, MASSACHUSETTS

90th Year March 2018 Adar/Nissan 5778 No. 7

Regular Service Schedule

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

PASSOVER SHABBAT DINNER

Friday, April 6th, 5:30 pm sharp!

(Doors open at 5 pm)

Enjoy a scrumptious catered chicken dinner (vegetarian option available by request).

Sing along to many of the haggadah's greatest hits!

Adults: \$25; Children: 18 & under \$10 Your check is your reservation - RSVP by March 28th

Temple Beth El, 385 High St., Fall River, MA 02720 (508)674-3529 - templebethel@comcast.net

Guests are welcome!



beginning at 3:30 PM.

On March 18th, Cantor Shoshana will be featured, along with many of her New England Board of Cantors colleagues, at a cantorial benefit concert to aid Sunday, March 18th, 3:30pm Puerto Rican hurricane victims. Temple Beth Zion The concert will take place at 1566 Beacon St., Brookline, MA Temple Beth Zion, at 1566 Beacon St, Brookline, MA 02446,

From Out of the Storm CANTORS RESPOND TO DEVASTATION A BENEFIT CONCERT FOR THE JEWISH COMMUNITIES AFFECTED BY HURRICANES IRMA, JOSE AND MARIA

Suggested Donation \$20 (\$12 for students/seniors)

CANTORS Vera Broekhuysen, Shoshana Brown, Sheila Cline, Idan Irelander, Lisa Kipen-Hershenson, Jeff Klepper, Michael McCloskey, Jeri Nagler Robins, Elias Rosemberg, Elana Rozenfeld, Sarra Spierer, Louise Treitman, Pharrel Wener, with collaborative pianist David Sparr

SPECIAL GUESTS Reb Moshe Waldoks and klezmorim of the Boston Simchatics: Michael Hecht (clarinet), Aviva Selling (violin) and Dan Kirschner (violin)

Proceeds will be donated to the Jewish Federations of North America Hurricane Relief Fund and to the Hebrew Congregation of St. Thomas, VI

To purchase tickets in advance and for more information, please visit BROWN PAPER TICKETS fromoutofthestorm.brownpapertickets.com

PRODUCED BY THE NEW ENGLAND BOARD OF CANTORS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH TEMPLE BETH ZION OF BROOKLINE

A message from our Spiritual Leader, Rabbi Mark Elber

"If not now, when?"

The word "Torah" means "teaching." We all have our own torah to share, the things that each of us as unique individuals can teach others based on our life experiences and understanding.

I write this having just returned from the annual conference of Rabbis Without Borders, which is a trans-denominational group of rabbis. To become a part of the organization you have to apply, and the rabbis the organization considers good candidates are invited to join. If you are accepted, you go through a yearlong training/study session. I was originally in a rabbinical student cohort, though I was ordained in the middle of the yearlong training session. The overall orientation of the organization is to study together and be open to different trends of change in Judaism and also to bring our Jewish teachings to others in the greater community. This greater community is not necessarily limited to the Jewish world. In other words, Rabbis Without Borders has the underlying belief that Judaism has much wisdom to contribute to the world at large. The organization is deeply pluralistic. There are a few Orthodox rabbis who participate, but there are far more Conservative, Reform, Reconstructionist, and Renewal rabbis that take part. One Orthodox participant remarked at this conference that the distance between the Orthodox and non-Orthodox worlds is increasing as the non-Orthodox world increasingly sees the value in interfaith and pluralistic teaching and sharing while most of the Orthodox world tends more and more to isolate itself from the non-Orthodox world. That's also evident in the meetings of the Board of Rabbis that I attend.

The theme of the Rabbis Without Borders conference this year was: "Leading in Challenging Times." The issue was raised regarding how in times like these in the United States – when people seem to be increasingly polarized and in which so many issues have become politicized that should not be (such as science, the news media, etc. etc.,) - how do we foster the ability to listen to others with whom we might not agree and find some common ground with those people, rather than focusing on our divisions? What does each of us have to teach the world? When you have a group of rabbis that gather, each of them is going to have a strong connection to the Torah and to the Jewish tradition as a great source of wisdom. However, each of them will likely have a different way of understanding the very same words that they find in the Torah itself. That's certainly not a new phenomenon – it's been happening for thousands of years. In the Talmud our sages use the expression that "there are seventy faces to the Torah" (shiv'im panim laTorah) i.e. there are many valid ways of understanding the Torah. But, saying there are seventy faces to the Torah does not imply that anything goes, that whatever anyone says is kosher.

Similarly, there is a concept among our Talmudic sages

regarding a "difference of opinion for the sake of Heaven" (makhloket l'shem shamayim), in other words, a disagreement in which the different parties to the disagreement are concerned with truth, and particularly a spiritual truth. There are no ulterior, hidden motives other than these. In our tradition, in both the Bible and rabbinic teachings, a distinction was not made between "religious" laws and societal laws both were seen as religious. In other words, how we treat our fellow humans was considered essential to our spiritual life. Social justice was seen as fundamental to a healthy society and to a holy community. The rabbis were extremely concerned about taking care of the poor and treating the stranger and the most vulnerable people well. The Torah regularly reminds us that we were strangers in Egypt and we should therefore have compassion for the strangers in our midst and treat them well. The Torah commanded that we leave the corners of our fields for the poor and for the stranger and that, for example, if our enemy's animal falls, we are obligated to help it up, even though it belongs to our enemy. Hillel said something very pertinent to these teachings. In the Talmudic tractate known as Pirkei Avot (The Ethics of our Ancestors) he is quoted as saying: "If I am not for myself who will be for me? (Im ayn ani li mi li?) But he goes on to say "If I am only for myself what am I?" - i.e. what kind of a person am I?

Hillel and Shammai were the last group of "pairs" of rabbis who had schools that didn't always agree with each other. There are many disagreements between them, but those disagreements were seen as being "for the sake of Heaven." The Jewish law (halakhah) usually followed Hillel's opinion. Our sages discussed why this was the case and the answer provided was that the school of Hillel always taught the opinion of the school of Shammai in addition to their own. Not only did the school of Hillel teach the opinions of the school of Shammai, but they also taught the opinion of the school of Shammai first. Is the wisdom contained in this only relevant to the Jewish world? Hardly. Learning that degree of respect for someone with whom we disagree is a valuable lesson for everyone.

Ultimately, our sacred teachings are concerned with living a holy life, not only in our relationship with the Eternal One, but also in our relationships with other people. In the Jewish world itself many of us have retreated into Jewish enclaves because the world has not felt like a safe place for us. Other Jews have felt the need to make both the Jewish world and the non-Jewish world a safer place for all people, despite the suffering and persecution that has filled our people's history. We see divisions like this both in Israel and in the Diaspora. Should we only care about ourselves or should we care about the greater world too? As Hillel said: "If I am not for myself, who will be for me?" "But if I am only for myself what (kind of person) am I?"

Hillel's concluding question is equally relevant to us today: "If not now, when?"

Wishing everyone a sweet and joyful Passover!!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Once again last month we had to say goodbye to some dear old friends. It was a particularly difficult month for the Schwartz families, who lost two matriarchs and a grandson within just twelve days. Our hearts go out to all of you as we remember Tylda, Dottie and Chuck. We also extend our sincere condolences to Dr. Harry Lechan on the loss of his beloved Sylvia. Both Sylvia Lechan and Dorothy Schwartz had been married for 71 years!

On a happier note, by the time you read this bulletin our eldest statesman, Charlie Stampler, will have celebrated his 103rd birthday! Mazel tov!

At a recent board meeting we formalized the various commttees here at TBE. They are as follows: Religion Committee (Daniel Schafler, chair), Events Committee (Sylvia Eisner, chair), Finance Committee (Bill Chebot, chair) and Cemetery Committee (Steve Silverman, chair). If there is something you would like to discuss, please call or email the office and we will put you in touch with the appropriate person.

The plea for new members that I made a few months ago has created some interesting dialog -- people have made some interesting suggestions about how to attract new people, and we are giving all of these suggestions serious thought. We also had a call from someone wanting to join after reading our plea in the bulletin! We appreciate everyone pulling together to boost our membership, but it is only the beginning. Invite a Jewish friend to our Passover meal!

This year, due to the timing of the holiday, we will once again be hosting a Festive Passover Meal (rather than a true seder) near the end of Passover, on Friday, April 6th. It will be filled with traditional food, singing and fun. Be sure to RSVP if you want us to save you a seat!

Steve Silverman President

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Sisterhood President's Message

Welcome March, that means spring is just twenty days away. We can already see the days getting longer. Before you know it the grass will be green, the trees will start to bud and flowers will begin to bloom. I absolutely love it.

Right now plans are underway for a Passover Shabbat dinner. It will be held on Friday, April 6th at 5:30 pm. So save this date and plan to join us. The cost will be \$25 per person. We will enjoy a good meal and great company. Reservations are a must as dinners are ordered individually. I hope to see all of you there.

For all of you Mah Jongg ladies, games will resume on Monday, April 9th, so be sure to put that on your calendar. The new card will be out, and we will have a good time mastering it.

There are several activities coming up in the near future. So please, read your bulletins and watch your e-mails, for all the latest information and updates.

So until next month, stay safe.

Libby Cohen Sisterhood President

IN MEMORIAM

Tylda Schwartz January 28, 2018 - 12 Shevat 5778

DOROTHY SCHWARTZ February 9, 2018 - 24 Shevat 5778

Sylvia Lechan February 13, 2018 - 28 Shevat 5778

MAY THEIR MEMORY BE FOR A BLESSING

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

SERVICE SCHEDULE

March 2018: Adar/Nissan 5778

Thursday	y, March 1 (14 Adar)

Purim Reading of the Megillah	10:00 am 10:30 am
Friday, March 2 (15 Adar) Candle Lighting Shabbat Service Shushan Purim	5:19 pm 5:30 pm
Saturday, March 3 (16 Adar) Weekly Portion: Ki Tisa	10:00 am

Friday, March 9 (22 Adar)

Candle Lighting	5:27 pm
Shabbat Service	5:30 pm

Saturday, March 10 (23 Adar)

Weekly Portion: Vayakhel-Pekudei 10:00 am

Shabbat Parah

Friday, March 16 (29 Adar)

Shabbat Service	5:30 pm
Candle Lighting	6:35 pm

Saturday, March 17 (1 Nissan)

Weekly Portion: Vayikra 10:00 am Shabbat Hachodesh Rosh Chodesh Nissan

Friday, March 23 (7 Nissan)

Shabbat Service	5:30 pm
Candle Lighting	6:43 pm

Saturday, March 24 (8 Nissan)

Weekly Portion: Tzav 10:00 am Shabbat Hagadol

Thursday, March 29 (13 Nissan)

Search for Chametz (in the evening)

Friday, March 30 (14 Nissan)

Siyyum - Service at 8 am, study & food following Shabbat Service 5:30 pm Candle Lighting 6:50 pm Fast of the First Born First Seder (evening)

Saturday, March 31 (15 Nissan)

Shabbat Passover Service 10:00 am Passover – First Day Second Seder (evening)

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Announcing a Poetry Reading with Rabbi Mark Elber and Ada Jill Schneider on Monday, April 9th from 6:30 - 8 pm at the Somerset Public Library, 1464 County Street. Hope to see you there!



The real-life story of one woman who became a hero to hundreds during World War II. In 1939 Poland, Antonina Żabińska (portrayed by Jessica Chastain) and her husband, Dr. Jan Żabiński (Johan Heldenbergh), have the Warsaw Zoo flourishing under his stewardship and her care. When their country is invaded by the Germans, Jan and Antonina are stunned - and forced to report to the Reich's newly appointed chief zoologist, Lutz Heck (Daniel Brühl). To fight back on their own terms, Antonina and Jan covertly begin working with the Resistance - and put into action plans to save lives out of what has become the Warsaw Ghetto, with Antonina putting herself and even her children at great risk. (2017)

Please note: Daylight Savings Time starts March 11th, so be sure to change your clocks or you will arrive an hour late!

IN HONOR OF A SPECIAL FRIEND

A special donation has been made in honor of Joel Finkelstein. He is considerate, kind and helpful, an affable man with a great sense of humor. Thank you, Joel, for all you do!

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March News & Notes

By the time you read this, you will (I hope!) have already celebrated **Purim** with us at TBE. From our Hebrew school-student skits (2014 & 2015) to our presidential race-year spoof "Politicians on the Roof" (2016), a Purim tribute to the Nobel Prize-winner Bob Dylan (2017), and this year's Purim-tribute to Broadway ("The Megillah's Greatest Hits"), Rabbi Mark and I strive each year to bring you something new and creative when it comes to celebrating Purim. **If you have ideas for next year, or would like to be involved in planning the Purim** shpiel for 2018, please contact Cantor Shoshana and we can start planning early for next Purim!

Our interfaith discussion series (a joint project with Fall River's Church of the Holy Spirit and other local clergy), "Caffeine and Conversations" continues on Tuesday, March 6th in the downstairs meeting room of the Fall River Public Library. The Rev. Matthew Stewart will be leading a discussion on the topic "Knowing the Mind of God" at 2 PM. Refreshments provided.

Our next TBE "Afternoon at the Jewish movies" will take place on Sunday, March 11th at 2 PM (see description on Page 4). Please make sure and reset your clocks for daylight savings time so that you arrive at the correct time!

Looking ahead to April...

Once again, TBE will be offering an **Passover community festive meal** (on Friday, April 6th). While this meal is not a Seder, all food will be kosher for Passover, and we will sing many of the haggadah's greatest hits. Please see the announcement on the cover of this bulletin, and get your reservations in on time.

Yom haShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day) falls this year on the 26th of Nissan. On the secular calendar this date begins on the evening of Wed. April 11th and is observed throughout the day of Thurs. April 12th. As this bulletin goes to press, we have not yet set the date for our TBE Yom haShoah service (it will either be on Wed. the 11th or Thurs. the 12th). Please stay tuned for further information.

And just a reminder that there are multiple events open to the public sponsored by the **BCC Holocaust Center** – to find out more about them, go to: http://bristolcc.edu/about/inthecommunity/holocaustcenter/events/

An Important World News item that we Jews should be aware of: (from the website of the American Jewish World Service)

The horrific persecution of the Rohingya people, an ethnic and religious minority in Myanmar (Burma), has recently intensified. Since August 25, 2017, Burmese forces have burned entire Rohingya villages to the ground, soldiers have indiscriminately massacred Rohingya men, women, and children, and an estimated 688,000 people have fled on foot or by boat to refugee camps in Bangladesh, a three-day trek from their burned villages. World leaders have called these atrocities "ethnic cleansing."

As Jews, we understand this tragedy all too well, and we cannot remain silent while mass murder and displacement take place. We must act now to ensure the survival, safety and dignity of the Rohingya people.

AJWS is standing by the Rohingya people, offering immediate and longer-term humanitarian aid—including food and water—to refugees who have fled across the border into Bangladesh. We are also supporting Rohingya human rights activists in Burma and around the world in their efforts to stop military violence against the Rohingya community.

To donate to the AJWS's important campaign to help ensure that the Rohingya people survive this onslaught of genocidal violence and are able to live with dignity and human rights, go to: https://ajws.org/donate/rohingya-hp/ or to donate by check:

American Jewish World Service 45 West 36th Street, 11th floor New York, NY 10018-7904



Thank you for your donations received through February 22, 2018

YAHRZEITS

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

Mother in law, Fannie AranovMarion WilnerFather, Louis BachmanMarilyn SokollFather, Atty. Lloyd BelfordKyle PlatnicoLoved one, Elena CohenCohen/Novek F

Cohen/Novek Families Loved one, Elena Cohen Grandfather, Robert Cohen Steve Silverman Father, Nathaniel Dashoff Gene Paranzino **Father, Samuel Ehrenhaus** Ab Ehrenhaus Grandfather, Adolph Feder Jovce Juda Father, Seymour Filler Mark Filler Father, Louis Freedman Joyce Goldweitz Howard Galitsky Father, Louis Galitsky Father, Joseph Horowitz Herbert Horowitz Grandmother, Selma Juda Jovce Juda Mother, Edith R. Kusinitz Edith K. Getchell Mother, Edith R. Kusinitz Enid K. Lomax Father, Sidney Lechan Norma Jean Lechan **Brother, Sidney Lechan** Dr. Leonard Lechan Father, Morris Levine Julius Levine **Father, Morris Levine** Lila Matlin

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In memory of Tylda Schwartz

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SPECIAL GIFTS

In memory of our beloved wife and mother, Joy L. Field

Victor Field and Rachel Baker

WISH LIST

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

Monday Mah Jongg

Our Monday Mah Jongg game will start back up again on April 9th. Be sure to put in on your calendar and plan to join us! C'mon spring!



Book Club News

After an interesting discussion about "The Little Paris Bookshop" we chose some new books for the spring. Join us on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 10:30 am in the Temple Library!

Mar. 21: "Morningstar: Growing Up With

Books" by Ann Hood

Apr. 18: "The Interestings"

by Meg Wolitzer

May 16: "Crossing to Safety"

by Wallace Stegner

Sisterhood Gift Shop

Passover is fast approaching. We have a wonderful selection of seder and matzo plates, decorative matzo covers, lucite matzo boxes with covers, and cloth matzo boxes. 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 and Red Sox door mezuzot.

If you would like something that isn't presently in our gift shop, please contact me.

Happy Passover.

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





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.

Ben Yakir Village in Israel

Your Fall River United Jewish Appeal helps to fund the Ben Yakir Youth Aliyah Village where 120 boys live and learn. They are mostly first or second generation Ethiopian-Israeli children predominantly from single parent homes and homes with severe financial distress. The Village encourages the 11th and 12th grade Ethiopian-Israeli students to connect with their heritage by participating in a special "roots" trip to Ethiopia. The main goals of the trip are to connect students of Ethiopian origin to their heritage and family history as well as to expose non-Ethiopian Israelis to Jewish Ethiopian history and culture, thus creating a deep connection to their shared Jewish history.

Ben Yakir strives to increase the educational and social opportunities of these young boys. The picture below is from their most recent trip.



Temple Family

- Our deepest sympathy to the family of Tylda Schwartz.
- Our deepest sympathy to Lester, Rick and Daniel Schwartz on the loss of Dorothy, beloved wife and mother.
- Our deepest sympathy to Dr. Harry Lechan on the loss of his beloved wife, Sylvia.



Be sure to check out our website regularly.
You can see the bulletin there first, especially if you live outside the Fall River area! Go to www.frtemplebethel.org

YAHRZEITS

3/2/2018 15 Adar 5778 William Goldman

William Goldman Vivian Grozen

3/3/2018 16 Adar 5778

Miriam Horvitz Samuel Katzman Ethel Liebmann

3/4/2018 17 Adar 5778

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3/7/2018 20 Adar 5778

Helen Nulman

3/8/2018 21 Adar 5778

William Meyerson Elsie Pollock Abraham Trieff 3/9/2018 22 Adar 5778

David Chavenson Marian Cohen

3/10/2018 23 Adar 5778

Edwin Macy H. Charles Reiser

3/11/2018 24 Adar 5778

Manuel Hyman Lillian Settlow Eva Waksler

3/12/2018 25 Adar 5778

Thelma Greenberg Lillian Lepes Robert Starr

3/13/2018 26 Adar 5778

Minnie Entin Virginia Granovsky Frederick Kaplan Doris Rotenberg

3/15/2018 28 Adar 5778

Miriam Reiser Barry Schwartz Samuel Stampler

3/16/2018 29 Adar 5778

Rose Oscar

3/17/2018 1 Nissan 5778

David Freedman Arthur Littman 3/18/2018 2 Nissan 5778 Edna Dashoff

3/20/2018 4 Nissan 5778 Max Victor Silverman

3/21/2018 5 Nissan 5778

Milton Lifrak David Sacknoff

3/22/2018 6 Nissan 5778

Barbara Shore Martha Saxe Sobel

3/23/2018 7 Nissan 5778

Ethel Kravitz

Harry Meretsky

Bernard Goodman Maury Kusinitz

3/29/2018 13 Nissan 5778

Dr. S. Benjamin Kaufmann Foster Lowenthal

3/30/2018 14 Nissan 5778

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