



85th Year May 2013 Iyar/Sivan 5773 No. 9

### **REGULAR SERVICE SCHEDULE**

Morning Minyan (Monday & Thu	rsday)8:00 ar
Friday Evening Services	5:30 pı

\*Please Note - Saturday Shabbat Services have been cancelled until July 1st with the exception of the four weekends listed below. Until that time Temple members are welcome to attend services with Adas Israel members at 9 am, or at the Fall River Jewish Home at 9:45 am.

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Our new Spiritual Leaders will be joining us for four weekends in May and June, before their official start date of July 1st. Please note that they will be holding Shabbat services on both Friday evening at 5:30 pm and Saturday morning at 10:00 am on the weekends noted below. Both Rabbi Elber and Cantor Brown will be taking turns leading services so we can really get a chance to see what each of them will bring to our congregation. Also note that Scott Tepper will continue to lead Friday evening services on all other weekends through the end of June, and also continue to teach his Adult Ed class through June.

May 10th & 11th -- Rabbi Mark Elber May 24th & 25th -- Cantor Shoshana Brown June 7th & 8th -- Rabbi Mark Elber June 14th & 15th -- Cantor Shoshana Brown

Temple Beth El

## **Annual Meeting**

Election & Installation of Board Members and Officers

June 11, 2013 7:00 pm in the Vestry

All members are cordially invited to attend.

Save the Date

Fall River Jewish Home

Donor Breakfast

"Past - Present - Future"

Recognition of

William Chebot - Carl Feldman - Marion Greer
for their dedicated service to the Home

Blessings by Rabbi Mark Elber

Sunday, June 9, 2013 10 am Temple Beth El Vestry

## From Our Spiritual Leader, Cantor Shoshana Brown

Shalom, Temple Beth El Members:

I am thinking of Garrison Keillor's traditional monologueopening every week on *The Prairie Home Companion*, "Well, it's been a quiet week in Lake Woebegone, my hometown."

This has certainly not been true for any of us in the United States this past month, and especially **not** true for residents of Massachusetts! (Having lived 6 years in the Boston-Cambridge area and 5 years in Leominster, MA, I count myself among you even though I have been living in "exile" on Long Island for the last 17 years!) We have watched media images or listened to the radio in disbelief over the past week (of this writing)—bombs on the streets of Boston?! Cambridge and Watertown in a lockdown?! Whoever heard of such a thing, or could have imagined it? And then, in the wake of this shock, a huge explosion of unknown cause rocks a tiny town in Texas, killing 14 or more people and injuring scores more. Add to this floods in the Midwest, a deadly avalanche in Colorado...

And yet, we must go on with our lives: get up, go to work, get the kids off to school, go shopping, take the dog for a walk, the car to the mechanic, etc. At the end of the week we might find ourselves in synagogue, eagerly discussing all these sad and bizarre events with one another, taking comfort in the fact that we have a community, friends with whom to share the burden of all our thoughts, our shock, our grief, and perhaps our fear. And during prayer...? What do we say to the Ribbono shel Olam (Master of the Universe)? What kind of "master" is so hands-off from his/ her creatures or creation that s/he lets them go so terribly wrong? Of course this is not a new question. We also commemorated Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Memorial Day) this past month, and Yom HaZikaron (the Memorial Day for Israel's fallen soldiers). Sadness, tragedy, the loss of young lives is nothing new to us as Jews... in fact, it goes back to the Torah's first tale of murder when Cain slew his brother Abel. Although in that story God "intervenes" long enough to exhort Cain that he has the power to master his evil urges (cf. Gen. 4:6-7), there is no intervention at the critical moment: when the innocent Abel is being slain. And yet in our most central prayer (the Amidah) we extol God as somekh noflim (one who lifts up the fallen), rofeh cholim (who heals the sick) and matir asurim (who frees the bound)—and elsewhere (in the Psalms) as one who "frustrates the designs of the wicked."

Does God do all these things? And if not, does that mean that our tradition is full of wishful thinking, that there is no God? Or that God is uninvolved in this world? These are big questions that no one can answer satisfactorily, but that we can *live* an answer to. The Mourners' *Kaddish*, which we say for 11 months after the death of a parent, is not a "prayer for the dead" as some think. It is a paean of praise to God which makes no mention of death. Why do we say it when we are bereaved, when perhaps the last thing we may be feeling is that we want to thank or praise God? The rabbis of old established this custom both because they knew that we had

to keep making our lips form the words that our hearts could not necessarily feel...until the heart could feel them again. And they insisted that we say these words in the company of a *minyan* – not only because they thought God deserves a quorum, but because they knew that a mourner needs community. Likewise, the community needs to do the work of comforting the mourner, and all the other kinds of work that help to avert tragedy, premature death, injustice, suffering...and these days we can also add to this list things like degradation of the environment. We need to come together to be God's hands in the world, to speak God's words of comfort, to do the acts of justice and *tikkun* (repair) of both the social and the natural order.

Mourner's *Kaddish* is a **spoken** recitation of praise. We do not sing it, for it would be too much to ask a mourner to sing while s/he is in such pain. But we cannot live by recitation and a sense of responsibility alone. The burden is too heavy, even in community. The soul needs to *sing*, to nonetheless notice all the beauty and wonder of God's creation, and to give thanks for the miracle of our being conscious creatures in this Universe, ones who can perceive all this and reflect on it.

Singing praise to God is not theology. It is relationship. It does not answer the questions about evil and suffering. Rather, it thrusts us back into a relationship of love, wonder, and trust... it makes no "sense," and yet-like the birds who are beginning to pour forth their amazing melodies at this time of the year-how can we live without singing praise?

There was a moment in my life when I tried to be an atheist, when I thought that since I could not be sure of God's existence, I should therefore live my live "alone," without God. That moment did not last long. It was too sad, too lonely, too burdensome to have no One to turn to, to sing to, to give thanks to. I did not want to live without a connection to the Divine. So although I cannot answer the questions that have been mightily stirred up in this past month, I know that I can turn to others, to community, and to the Creator whom I cannot grasp with my reason—but whom I can meet with love, and be united to in song.

Looking forward to singing with you soon,

Hazzan Shoshana Brown

Note: Rabbi Mark Elber will be writing our June column.

Temple Beth El

**Annual Meeting** 

June 11, 2013

7:00 pm in the Vestry

Come one, come all!

## President's Message

Dear Members,

As I look out my window at a wonderfully sunny day, filled with a cloudless blue sky, budding trees and colorful spring flowers, it seems like the earth has been reborn and anything is possible. I feel the same way about the future of Temple Beth El.

I would be remiss if I did not mention the events surrounding the bombings at the Boston Marathon. Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to those who lost their lives as well as to those whose lives have been forever changed. I don't think we will ever be able to understand what prompts people to commit such heinous acts against innocent victims, but as Jews we can certainly relate to the senseless violence. This attack was so close to home it was eerily frightening, and indeed Scott Tepper was unable to come to services that Friday because his town of Waltham was in "lockdown." We are grateful that he and his family are safe, and also grateful for the lengths to which our law enforcement officers went to identify and track down the suspects. As a result of their diligence and bravery not only Boston but all of Massachusetts and beyond can once again feel safe in their homes. Watching the events unfold I was amazed at the selfless way so many people responded to help in any way they could - it made me realize how proud I am to live in Massachusetts, USA. Boston strong!

Just a reminder that Rabbi Mark Elber will be coming to Temple Beth El to lead services on Friday, May 9th and Saturday, May 10th, and Cantor Shoshana Brown will be here to lead services on Friday, May 24th and Saturday, May 25th. Please plan to join us and take the opportunity to get to know them both better. Also note that while we are unable to hold services on Shavuot, Adas Israel has welcomed our members to join them at 9 am in their chapel (previously known as the board room).

Please let the office know if you would like to host either Rabbi Elber or Cantor Brown for dinner when they are here for their May and June weekends. They would love the chance to get to know everyone better, and what better way than by breaking bread together.

The Temple Beth El Annual Meeting has been set for Tuesday, June 11th at 7 pm in the vestry. Please plan on joining us for a recap of the past year, our plans for the future, and the election of officers.

Welcome back to our snowbirds...you missed a doozy of a winter!

> Stephen D. Silverman President

Behold I do not give lectures or a little charity. When I give, I give myself."

Walt Whitman

#### COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

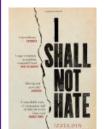
Scholarships are available to all undergraduate students residing in the greater Fall River area with special emphasis on entering freshmen.

Applications are available in the Temple office and should be completed by the student and returned as soon as possible.

The Scholarship Committee must have scholarship applications in hand by May 31, 2013 (or when college finals have been completed).



### May Book Club Wednesday, May 29th at 10:30 am



I Shall Not Hate: A Gaza Doctor's Journey on the Road to Peace and Human Dignity

by Izzeldin Abuelaish

## Sisterhood Gift Shop

If you are in need of any merchandise from our gift shop or you would like to order from our several catalogs, please feel free to contact me. Talleisim, kipa (yamulkes), mezuzot are always in stock as well as many other items.

Generally, I am at the Monday morning classes with Reb Zisha (Scott Tepper) and am available before and after the class.

Hannah R. Evans

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

## FALL RIVER JEWISH HOME

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#### SERVICE SCHEDULE

### May 2013: Iyar/Sivan 5773

Please note that some services will be conducted by Scott Tepper, and others by our new Spiritual Leaders, Rabbi Mark Elber and Cantor Shoshana Brown, including two Saturday Shabbat services. Also note that while Temple Beth El is not holding Shavuot services, Adas Israel welcomes us all to attend their services, which begin at 9 am

#### Friday, May 3 (23 Iyar) - Scott Tepper

Shabbat Service 5:30 pm 7:27 pm Candle Lighting

#### Wednesday, May 8 (28 Iyar)

Yom Yerushalayim

Jerusalem Reunification Day

#### Friday, May 10 (1 Sivan) - Rabbi Mark Elber

Rosh Chodesh Sivan Shabbat Service 5:30 pm Candle Lighting 7:35 pm

#### Saturday, May 11 (2 Sivan) - Rabbi Mark Elber

Weekly Portion: Bamidbar 10:00 am

#### Tuesday, May 14 (5 Sivan)

Erev Shavuot Candle Lighting 7:39 pm

#### Wednesday May 15 (6 Sivan) - with Adas Israel

Shavuot – First Day Shacharis Service 9:00 am

#### Thursday, May 16 (7 Sivan) - with Adas Israel

Shavuot – Second Day

Shacharis Service 9:00 am 10:30 am (approximately)

Yizkor Memorial Service

#### Friday, May 17 (8 Sivan) - Scott Tepper

5:30 pm Shabbat Service Candle Lighting 7:42 pm

#### Friday, May 24 (15 Sivan) - Cantor Shoshana Brown

Shabbat Service 5:30 pm Candle Lighting 7:49 pm

#### Saturday, May 25 (16 Sivan) - Cantor Shoshana Brown

10:00 am Weekly Portion: Beha' Alotecha

#### Friday, May 31 (22 Sivan) - Scott Tepper

Shabbat Service 5:30 pm Candle Lighting 7:55 pm

The bulletin of Temple Beth El (USPS-075-340) is published monthly from September to June for \$1.00 per year by Temple Beth El, 385 High St., Fall River, MA. Periodicals postage paid at Fall River, MA. POSTMASTERS, send address changes to Temple Beth El, 385 High St., Fall River, MA 02720-3348.

#### 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: 9:00 am - Noon

Office Closed:

Wednesday, May 15, Shavuot – First Day Thursday, May 16, Shavuot – Second Day Monday, May 27th - Memorial Day



Mel Yoken '60, '72 PhD, 2013 Distinguished Alumni Award



Congratulations to our own Mel Yoken for receiving the 2013 Distinguished Alumni Award from the UMass Amherst Alumni Association. The following bio is taken from the award site's website:

"For over a half a century, Mel Yoken has studied or taught French language and litera-

ture within the University of Massachusetts system. Chancellor Professor Emeritus of French Language and Literature at UMass Dartmouth, Yoken began his teaching career in 1961 and still meets and advises students on a regular basis. Yoken received his bachelor's degree from UMass Amherst, his master's in teaching degree from Brown University followed by his doctorate from UMass Amherst.

A recognized expert and international speaker, Yoken has lectured on 19th century, 20th century and contemporary French and Quebec poetry, novels and theatre. He has also translated numerous literary works and published eight books.

Yoken also promotes French studies through a scholarship given by the Richelieu Club of Fall River, Massachusetts to any student studying majoring in French at the university level. He and his wife Cindy have also established a yearly endowment for a worthy student attending Middlebury College's celebrated Ecole Française."

For more information about Mel's award-winning accomplishments, please go to the award site online at http://umassalumni.com/awards/profiles/2013/yoken.html

The Distinguished Alumni Award is the highest and most prestigious honor bestowed by the UMass Amherst Alumni Association on alumni, faculty and friends. Recipients of this prestigious award have translated their UMass Amherst experience into distinguished achievement in the public, business or professional realms and bring honor to UMass Amherst and to their field of endeavor.

### Fall River United Jewish Appeal, Inc.

385 High Street, Fall River, MA 02720 Tel: (508) 673-7791 Fax: (508) 678-6735 e-mail: fruja@verizon.net

**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 or (800) 293-8943 **before 1:**30 pm on the previous business day before you want to reserve or cancel. A taxi will be provided if needed.

**Social Worker:** We have a social service program for our community. If you are in need of the services of a social worker, call (508) 673-7791. Confidentiality will be respected.

**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.

#### **CEMETERY HEADSTONE CLEANING**

Our cemetery landscaper, Tommy Fillipovich, has once again offered to pressure-wash the headstones and foot markers using a biodegradable cleanser that won't damage the stones or the surrounding grass. The results are impressive, with most stones looking amazingly like new.

As setting up the equipment is time-consuming, Tommy has offered to do all of the pressure-washing in one day for a discounted price. Headstones will be cleaned for \$60 each, foot markers for \$15 each. In order to take advantage of the discount, we must receive your check no later than May 17th. Those stones that have been paid for will be clean and shiny in time for Memorial Day weekend. For those who miss the deadline, the cost for cleaning a headstone will be \$100, a foot marker will be \$25, and they will be cleaned at our landscaper's convenience.

Please call the office for more information.



#### **IRA JAY FLEISHER**

FUNERAL DIRECTOR

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

## Fall River Jewish Home Donor

"Past - Present - Future"

Recognition of

William Chebot - Carl Feldman - Marion Greer
for their dedicated service to the Home

Blessings by Rabbi Mark Elber

Sunday, June 9, 2013 10 am Temple Beth El Vestry

Invitations will be mailed in early May

### REMINDERS:

- Scott Tepper's Adult Ed Class Mondays at 10:30 am
- Rabbi Mark Elber is leading services May 10th & 11th
- Bulletin Deadline, May15th
- Cantor Shoshana Brown leading services May 24th & 25th
- Book Club, Wednesday, May 29th at 10:30 am

## Durfee Class of '63 Temple Beth El Reunion Brunch

Dear Durfee classmates of 1963,

We are planning to have a brunch at Temple Beth El on August 25, the Sunday morning of our 50th Durfee reunion weekend. Please consider including the brunch in your weekend plans. We would appreciate your response as soon as possible. Temple Beth El has kindly locked in that date for us to enjoy each other's company and reminisce over brunch on Sunday.

Please forward this information on to anyone you know who may be interested in attending the Temple brunch but who may not receive the bulletin. You can respond to me at bzkoppel949@ gmail.com .

Very much looking forward to seeing you all at the reunion and at the brunch! 50 years - unbelievable!!

Jennifer Kane Coplon / Barbara Zukroff Koppel

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS RECEIVED THROUGH MARCH 25, 2013 YAHRZEITS IDA AND DAVID CHAVENSON

**For the vahrzeit of my beloved...** Donated by:

Mother, Annie Cohen Mother, Bessie Dashoff Wife, Edna Dashoff

Wife, Edna Dashoff
Parents, Rose & Aaron Dashoff
Grandfather, Jacob Dondis
Grandmother, Rose Dondis
Husband, Allan Evans
Father, Frank Feldman
Grandmother, Lily Grozen
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Father, Maury Kusinitz
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Nerenberg Leonard Osiason Mother, Marjory Packer

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Barbara Zukroff Koppel, Carl Zukroff & families

### **CAMP RAMAH SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

In honor of Dr. Irving Fradkin for the wonderful accomplish ments and awards achieved by him for the betterment of education in the scholarship world

Hummy & Bill Chebot

For the yahrzeit of my beloved father, Norman Chebot Bill Chebot

For the yahrzeit of my beloved father, Isaac Soorkis Hummy Chebot

#### **CAPITAL FUND**

In honor of Dr. & Mrs. Irving Fradkin

Anita & Norm Bolski Blanche & Norman Somer

## IDA AND DAVID CHAVENSON SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In honor of Dr. Clinton Levin celebrating a special birthday In honor of Eileen Morse celebrating a special birthday In memory of Gilbert Levin

In memory of John O'Toole

Ann & Bob Chavenson

For the yahrzeit of my beloved husband, Edwin Solup, devoted father and grandfather

Beverly Solup & family

#### LIBRARY FUND

In memory of Barbara Shore

Ellen Christie Cindy Lees Marian Naedele Catherine Williams Susan Wolfson

## **Temple Family**

♦ Congratulations to Mel Yoken '60, '72 PhD, 2013 recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award from UMass Amherst...

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## Go Green!

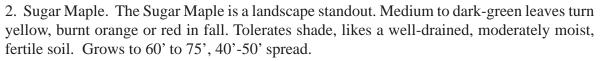
## Donate a Tree to the Temple Beth El Cemetery!

Over the course of the past five years or so, all of the trees in the center section of the Temple Beth El Cemetery have been lost to storms. We would like to replace five trees -- one in the middle of the center section, and one on each corner.

If you would like to sponsor a tree, please call the office. Each trees can be sponsored for \$1000, and a plaque will be installed on or beside it. You may even choose your type of tree! The trunk of each young tree is approximately 2 1/2" in diameter, and each tree is around 10-12 feet tall to begin with. The following trees have been recommended for our site, and the details of each tree are as follows:



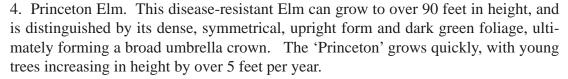
1. "October Glory" Red Maple. A rapid growing Red Maple. This ever-popular maple should be considered as a beautiful shade tree addition to any property. Glistening dark green leaves in spring, summer turn radiant red late fall and last several weeks. Tiny, conspicuous red flowers bloom in spring. Showy red fruit attract many birds and other wildlife. Grows 40'-50' high with a 25'-35' spread.







3. London Plane. Red-brown scales flake to show cream-colored inner bark. Large distinctive leaves with lighter undersides. Fast growing, resistant to anthracnose. Prefers moist, well-drained soil and full sun to light shade. Grows to 75' to 100', 80' spread





## Returning to New England Soon?

Just a reminder to our snowbirds to please call or e-mail the office with the date you are returning to the Fall River area so we can update your mailing address. Thanks, and welcome back!

## **YAHRZEITS**

4/20/2013 Iyar 10, 5773 Jacob Dondis

5/1/2013 Iyar 21, 5773

5/2/2013 Iyar 22, 5773

Melba Meister Hyman Pollock

Daniel Leavitt

5/3/2013 Iyar 23, 5773

Samuel Entin

5/4/2013 Iyar 24, 5773

Paul Woltman

5/5/2013 Iyar 25, 5773

Bennett Alpert

5/6/2013 Iyar 26, 5773

Allan Evans

Lena Horvitz Sokoll

5/7/2013 Iyar 27, 5773

Samuel Gerstenzang Neil A. Hoffman

Shirley Rosenthal

5/8/2013 Iyar 28, 5773 Mollie Morganstein

5/9/2013 Iyar 29, 5773

David I. Rattet

5/10/2013 Sivan 1, 5773

Bernard L. Cohen Irene Weiner 5/11/2013 Sivan 2, 5773 Steven Gary Litchman

5/12/2013 Sivan 3, 5773 Lena M. Solotist

5/15/2013 Sivan 6, 5773 Elsa Hirschman

5/16/2013 Sivan 7, 5773 Isidore Horvitz

Libbye Rabinovitz Lottie Tucker

5/17/2013 Sivan 8, 5773

Samuel Plotnick Sidney Reitzas Jennie Winokoor

5/18/2013 Sivan 9, 5773 Dr. Maurice Morganstein

5/19/2013 Sivan 10, 5773

Beatrice Horvitz Sarah Schwartz

5/20/2013 Sivan 11, 5773

David Feldman Rose Futoransky Ida Hamburger Henry N. Packer

5/21/2013 Sivan 12, 5773

Bernard Kaufman Goldie Sinman 5/22/2013 Sivan 13, 5773

Paul Chebot

Dov Ben Moshe Dvir

Sarah Feldman

Dora Hasckel

Esther Shuman

5/23/2013 Sivan 14, 5773

Marvin Smith

5/24/2013 Sivan 15, 5773

John Allen Polin Stanley Rodman Louis Sevin

5/25/2013 Sivan 16, 5773

Bella Freedman

5/26/2013 Sivan 17, 5773

Oscar Bloom Joseph L. Schwartz

5/27/2013 Sivan 18, 5773

Marie Golenpaul

5/28/2013 Sivan 19, 5773

Morris Glickman Rose Horowitz Blossom Monchik Lena Silverman

5/29/2013 Sivan 20, 5773

Dr. Sol R. Hirschman

Rose Ostroff

Fred Snyder



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