TEMPLE BETH EL

Fall River, Massachusetts



86th Year

November 2014

Cheshvan/Kislev 5775

No. 3

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



Rabbi Samuel & Tillie Ruderman Shabbaton-Weekend November 7th, 8th & 9th

AN EVENT NOT TO BE MISSED!

This very special weekend will include events for all tastes (see side bar).

Rabbi Tsvi Bar-David, of San Francisco, is a scholar of Jewish mysticism and world shamanism. For the past 15 years "Reb Tsvi" has taught the path of healing and right action through "sacred ecstatic niggun" in the Bay Area.

Professor David Logan served as the Dean at Roger Williams School of Law from 2003 to 2014. He is an erudite and engaging speaker, and will speak on "Israel: 4,000 years in 45 Minutes."

Please RSVP for all events to (508) 674-3529 or templebethel@comcast.net

Friday, Nov. 7th Friday Night Live!

6:30 pm with Guest Teacher Rabbi Tsvi Bar-David

Saturday, Nov. 8th Shabbat "Nosh n'Drash"

Torah Study with Coffee and pastries from 9:30-10 am, followed by Service from 10-12 noon, followed by a light Kiddush lunch

Saturday, Nov. 8th Se'uda Shlisheet

The "Third meal" of Shabbat will be held at the Rabbi's and Cantor's house on Walnut St: a light repast with stories, songs and prayer. Beginning at 4 pm, followed by Havdalah with Rabbi Bar-David (also on Walnut St.) at 5:15. Expect an evening of ecstatic song, connecting to God with joy!

Sunday, Nov. 9th Ruderman Lecture

presented by David Logan

Service at 9 am, followed by Breakfast and Prof. Logan's talk, "Israel: 4,000 Years in 45 Minutes."

A message from our Spiritual Leader, Rabbi Mark Elber

This past Friday evening we celebrated Simchat Torah, the last holiday of the Fall holiday season that begins with Rosh Hashana, the Jewish New Year, continues with the holiest and most solemn day of the year, Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, and concludes with Sukkot, Shemini Atzeret, and Simchat Torah. Each day has its unique rituals and flavor.

Simchat Torah literally means the "Rejoicing over the Torah" and celebrates the conclusion of our reading the entire Torah during the course of the year. One of the customs of Simchat Torah is to take the Torah scrolls out of the ark and march and dance them around the sanctuary accompanied by simchadik (joyous) songs. I still remember many Simchat Torah celebrations throughout my life. I can recall those in Sunnyside, Queens when they gave the little kids, (I was one of them), paper flags and Macintosh apples and we paraded behind the scrolls in the sanctuary. Ten years later, as a teenager, I remember the Yeshiva students in our synagogue, Young Israel of Sunnyside (Queens), walking to Williamsburg, Brooklyn after our services were over, in order to celebrate with the Chassidim there. Unfortunately, I knew my parents wouldn't let me go and I missed out on it.

In college, the celebrations at Hillel were very exciting with hours of fervent dancing and singing. One of the reasons I wanted to go to the University of Pennsylvania was its active Hillel – and it proved to be a crucial part of my college education. Among many other things, it gave me a sense of what Simchat Torah could be.

During my junior year of college in Jerusalem, my friends and I went down to Meah Shearim, the Chassidic section of the city, because we knew the celebration would probably be most intense there. Unfortunately that was only true for the males among us. The women in Meah Shearim were much less fervent celebrators and were relegated to the balconies.

When I eventually moved back to New York City and frequented Conservative synagogues, on Simchat Torah I would go to places where the police would cordon off some streets to traffic so that hundreds of people could dance with the Torah scrolls under the night skies of the Upper West Side of Manhattan.

In the 1990's, B'nai Jeshurun began to be an extremely popular Synagogue in that same neighborhood. An average Friday night service would attract about 1,000 people. The service was very musical on any given week, so that by the time it reached Simchat Torah, the wide avenue outside the building was crowded with people danc-

ing and singing. The celebration probably went on until about midnight. It took hours to do the seven traditional *Hakafot*, the seven rounds of dancing with the Torah. I remember one time while taking a short break from the dancing I was talking to a writer acquaintance named Nessa Rapoport who said one sentence I've never forgotten. Nessa said she was so glad she lived in Manhattan so that her children could experience this kind of Simchat Torah.

Part of why I never forgot what Nessa said was that I am convinced that many of the experiences that move us most deeply are not usually intellectual or cerebral, but rather moments or events that we experience with our entire being, experiences that envelop us — our senses, our bodies, our hearts, **and** our minds. They speak to us on many levels both conscious and unconscious. And when we are transported by an experience, hopefully our minds are also addressed and are not checked outside the door, so to speak.

When we experience something viscerally (an English translation of "in our *kishkes*") it has a unique impact. That's why I'm so glad that some of our Hebrew school students attended our Simchat Torah celebration. Their participating in our singing and dancing with the Torah is an essential complement to their learning how to read Hebrew. Their standing up on the bimah as part of a group *aliyah* (reciting the Torah blessings) is something I hope they will remember – I still recall when I was a young kid crowded together with other young kids under a large *Tallit* (*Tallis*) when the Torah blessings were recited on Simchat Torah. There was a feeling of excitement, mystery, and the partaking of something very special about it.

In the late 1960's and early 70's an Eastern religious movement called "Krishna Consciousness" was quite popular. I like to think of the kind of experiences I'm advocating as "Kishke Consciousness." I'm not referring to stuffed derma, but rather to experiences that deeply touch and move us. Hopefully that quality of experience leads us to study more about our Tradition which, in turn, enhances our practice of it. Significantly, another practice on Simchat Torah is to not only conclude the reading of the entire scroll, but to immediately begin it anew – as an expression of our love of Torah.

All of these experiences have stayed with me, as I'm sure yours have stayed with you. Realistically I recognize that even if the longed-for commuter railroad ever reaches Fall River, we will never have a Jewish demographic comparable to New York City or Jerusalem, but we do have the genuine joy and privilege of sharing Simchat Torah as a committed, engaged, warm and caring community. May we share many more such celebrations in good health.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Sisterhood President's Message

Dear Members,

As the weather now grows cooler and we say goodbye to some of our snowbirds, we still have many things to look forward to at Temple Beth El. First and foremost is the Ruderman Weekend, the first we have had in several years. Friday and Saturday will feature our quest teacher, Rabbi Tsvi Bar-David, while Professor David Logan presents the Ruderman Lecture on Sunday. The entire weekend should prove to be both enlightening and enjoyable, so I hope you make plans to join us for some or all of the events. Once again our spiritual leaders will open up their home for this special event, and I would like to thank them in advance for their hospitality. I would also like to thank the family of Rabbi Samuel and Tillie Ruderman for their continued support of our annual Ruderman lecture weekend.

Please note that we are asking everyone to make reservations for these events, even though they are all free of charge, as we have to plan to have enough food for everyone. I bring this up because of the response to our wonderful Simchat Torah service and supper, which once again Anita and Norm Bolski were kind enough to organize and host. On the day of the event we had reservations for 32 people, but 51 people showed up for supper. While we welcomed everyone, we very nearly ran out of food, even though we had ordered extra. It is simple courtesy to respond to an event, so once again I implore you to do so. In the case of events at the Rabbi's home, they also need an accurate count in order to have enough chairs for everyone. Imagine how you would feel if twenty extra people showed up at your party!

Lastly I wanted to congratulate Ian Grajales on celebrating his bar mitzvah, and Cantor Brown and family on the marriage of her daughter, Mira. Blessed events, both. Mazel tov!

Steve Silverman President

LEADERSHIP

Mark Elber	Rabbi
Shoshana Brown	Cantor
Stephen Silverman	President
Jeffrey Entin	Vice President
Libby Cohen	Secretary
William Chebot	Treasurer
Libby Cohen	Sisterhood Pres.
William E. Kaufman	Rabbi Emeritus

Dear Members,

October was a busy month here at Temple Beth El. We celebrated a beautiful Bar Mitzvah with Ian Grajales and his family. He is the grandson of Jeff Weissman, President of Adas Israel. It was wonderful to see so many folks in our sanctuary on this joyous occasion. We hope to have many more times like this.

The Temple has always had a beautiful Sukkah, and this year was no exception. The children from the Hebrew School helped to decorate it, and thus started a new tradition. The Friday night services, on the second day of Sukkot, were followed by an Oneg Shabbat in the Sukkah. What a nice way to celebrate this holiday.

Our traditional Simchat Torah celebration was enjoyed by all who attended. Rabbi Mark and Cantor Shoshana led us through a lively round of songs and prayers. Then we were treated to a delicious deli supper. A big thanks to Norm and Anita Bolski for chairing this event. They always do a great job.

On November 5th, at 10:30 am, the Book Club will be discussing All the Light We Cannot See, by Anthony Doerr. I hope to see you there. On December 10th, we will be reviewing The Girl with the Pansy Pin. The author, Michael Thomas Brimbau, will be here to discuss it with us. This is going to be an interesting event. Please try to make every effort to attend.

Before I close, there are two things I want to mention. First of all, the bills for Sisterhood dues will be going out shortly. This will be for 2014 thru 2015. Secondly, when there are events here at the Temple that require reservations, please make one. It's very hard to plan without a proper count. The folks in charge of these events work very hard to make them a success. Please keep that in mind.

So until next month, Shalom.

Libby Cohen, Sisterhood President

Snowbird Alert!

Please let us know when you will be leaving the area so that we can update our files with your new address. Thanks, and enjoy the winter!

SERVICE SCHEDULE

November 2014 Cheshvan/Kislev 5775

Saturday, November 1 (8 Cheshvan)

Weekly Portion: Lech-Lecha 10:00am

Friday, November 7 (14 Cheshvan)

Candle Lighting 4:14 pm Shabbat Service 6:30 pm

Saturday, November 8 (15 Cheshvan)

Weekly Portion: Vayera 10:00 am

Sunday, November 9 (16 Cheshvan)

Kristallnacht

Friday, November 14 (21 Cheshvan)

Candle Lighting 4:07 pm Shabbat Service 5:30 pm

Saturday, November 15 (22 Cheshvan)

Weekly Portion: Chayei Sara 10:00 am

Friday, November 21 (28 Cheshvan)

Candle Lighting 4:02 pm Shabbat Service 5:30 pm

Saturday, November 22 (29 Cheshvan)

Weekly Portion: Toldot 10:00 am

Sunday, November 23 (1 Kislev)

Rosh Chodesh Kisley

Friday, November 28 (6 Kislev)

Candle Lighting 3:58 pm Shabbat Service 5:30 pm

Saturday, November 29 (7 Kislev)

Weekly Portion: Vayetzei



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

Office Closed:

Tuesday, November 11 – Veterans Day Thursday, November 27 – Thanksgiving

IN MEMORIAM

RUTH SHAND October 8, 2014 – Tishri 15, 5775

MAY HER MEMORY BE FOR A BLESSING

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 or (800) 293-8943 before 1:30 pm on the previous business day before you want to reserve or cancel.

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.



Cantor Shoshana's Update:

This year the TBE Hebrew School students helped to decorate our TBE sukkah, and they appeared on the local Channel 18 Cable station!

We were thrilled to see some of their young faces at our Simchat Torah Service this year as well.

We all loved seeing and hearing Ian Grajales celebrate his bar mitzvah on October 11th-and it was a lovely coming-together of both the Temple Beth El and Adas Israel communities (Ian's grandfather, Jeff Weissman, is the president of Adas Israel). Mazal Tov again to Ian and all his family!

Thanksgiving is coming—and so is the cooler weather! Here are a few ways you can remember the less fortunate as you give thanks for your own blessings:

- Onate winter clothing to our winter clothing drive (collection box in the Vestry);
- ring in cans of tuna, mayo and can open-Bers for the collection box of same...also in the Vestry.
- Donate to the charities of your choice. If you want to make your donation through a Jewish channel, I recommend MAZON, or Jewish World Service, both of which are easy to find online. If you aren't already a donor to the Fall River United Jewish Appeal, that should also be on your list. Donations can be made to campaigns that support efforts in Israel, in the local area, or both. Simply call the Temple office for more information.



Save the Date

PULPIT EXCHANGE

Please join us on Friday, November 28th at the Shabbat Evening Service to hear our Guest Preacher, the Rev. Matthew Stewart, Rector of the Church of the Holy Spirit, the Episcopal church on Rock Street. The Rev. Stewart has been participating in the Interfaith Study Group which meets monthly at Temple Beth El. Last year Cantor Shoshana preached at his congregation, and now he is returning the favor!

YOKEN MEMORJAL BREAKFAST

Sunday, December 14th

In Memory of Judith A. Yoken and Albert Benjamin and Sylvia S. Yoken

Service at 9 am, followed by breakfast and presentation at 10 am

"Who Writes Letters Anymore?" presented by Dr. Mel Yoken & Steve Yoken

Please RSVP to the Temple office.

Temple Family

- Our deepest condolences to the family of Ruth Shand.
- Congratulations to Cantor Shoshana's daughter, Mira Gutoff on her marriage to Stefan Beeman. Mazel toy!

1100 New London Avenue Cranston, RI 02920

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Thank you for your donations received through October 23, 2014

YAHRZEITS

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

Parents, Helene & Dr. Hammond Susan Bender

Bender

Mother, Suetelle Bernstein Berna Haberman Atty. Stephen Dashoff Father, Aaron Dashoff Sheila Freedman Husband, Leonard Freedman Glenda Goldberg Husband, Gerald Goldberg Husband, Henry S. Griffin Anne Griffin Father, David Haskel Sandra David Father, Max Katz Anita Laudon

Mother, Esther Kaufman Etta Kaufman Mother, Rose Krasnow Carol Schwartz Mother, Ida Leavitt Hilda Reiser Father, Jack Leonard Marion Wilner Mother, Celia Levine Lila Matlin Father, Dr. Harry Levine Alan Levine Father, Alfred Levy Irene Stern Mildred & Ralph Lider Atty. Bruce Lider

Mother, Phyllis Littman Atty. Kenneth Littman **Uncle, George Lucove** Donald Lucove Mother, Sara Malin Rochelle Tobin **Mother, Frances Meretsky** Charles Meretsky **Father, Solomon Moss** Shirley Taradash Dear friend, Jamie Mendlovitz Eugene O'Brien Mother, Jessie Simpson Irma Feldman

Father, Edward Singer Pamela Pierce Grandmother, Luba Twersky Jav Horowitz Mother, Elsie Udovin

Capt. Bertram Udovin Brother in law, Joshua Woloshin Charles Stampler Parents, June & Carl Zeitz Marjorie Keith

MAURICE ALPERT MEMORIAL **ENDOWMENT FUND**

In memory of Elaine Burt In memory of Marion Greer In memory of Evelyn Sacknoff In memory of Dr. Nathan Starr For the recovery of Myron Wilner

For the yahrzeit of my beloved brother-in-law, Carl Goodman

For the yahrzeit of my beloved grandson, Alex Pankiw

Sumner Alpert

CAMP RAMAH SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In memory of Marion Greer In memory of Evelyn Robinovitz For the recovery of Myron Wilner

For the vahrzeit of my beloved mother, Elizabeth M. Chebot Bill Chebot

IDA AND DAVID CHAVENSON **SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

In memory of Marion Greer

For the recovery of Glenn Shriberg

Ann & Bob Chavenson

For the vahrzeit of our beloved mother, Elsie Udovin

Judith & Frank Kosofsky

CANTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In honor of Cantor Shoshana Brown

Susan Bender Pamela Pierce

In honor of Ian Grajales becoming a Bar Mitzvah

Marilyn Sokoll

In honor of the marriage of Cantor Brown's daughter

Anita & Norm Bolski

CAPITAL FUND

In honor of my husband, Carlton Dubitsky, celebrating his 100th birthday

Bernice Dubitsky

In honor of our father, Carlton Dubitsky, celebrating his 100th birthday

Estee & Stanley Dubitsky

In memory of Marion Greer

Ann Freedman

Sybil & Jack Goldberg

Anne Griffin Sheila Lash

Sylvia & Dr. Harry Lechan

Sue & Joe Paresky Barbara & Arthur Sheer

In memory of Herbert Landau

Fran Cohen & Joe Rosenfeld

In memory of Evelyn Robinovitz

Bernice & Carlton Dubitsky Estee & Stanley Dubitsky

In memory of Ruth Shand

Bernice & Carlton Dubitsky Estee & Stanley Dubitsky

In memory of Rita Zusman

Fran Cohen & Joe Rosenfeld

For the recovery of Gloria Baskin

Anne Griffin

Barbara & Arthur Sheer

For the recovery of Myron Wilner

Nate Dashoff

Irma & Carl Feldman

BERNARD HOROWITZ BUILDING MAINTENANCE FUND

For the yahrzeit of my beloved father, Philip Dondis

Arlyne Dondis

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In honor of Rabbi Mark Elber

Susan Bender Pamela Pierce

HYMAN & GOLDIE SCHWARTZ LEGACY FUND

For the yahrzeit of our beloved mother, Goldie Schwartz

Dorothy & Lester Schwartz

Message from the Board of Directors given by Ken Littman during the Yom Kippur service:

We would like to wish all of you a happy, healthy and peaceful new year. L'shanah Tovah. On behalf of the board of directors of Temple Beth El, we are issuing a challenge to all of you who are part of our Temple family. I am sure that you are aware of the current status of our Jewish community in Fall River; that over the years, the number of Jewish people in the area, along with our congregation, has greatly diminished in size. During the 1960's and 1970's the Temple was home to hundreds of families with memberships, and a Hebrew school containing about 30-35 students in each grade. High holiday services took place in both the Sanctuary and the Ziskind Auditorium.

Today, we are a congregation of about 185 members, 185 members supporting a budget of approximately \$310,000 per year. One doesn't need to be a financial wizard to see that the dues structure does not support the cost of maintaining our Temple. We are all aware of what we pay in dues, a modest amount compared to other congregations. Given the costs involved in operating the Temple, the dues charge should be much higher. But we are not suggesting that the dues be raised at this

time. While the dues structure will not change for the present, something has changed at the Temple. There is a new spirit, a sense of determination to maintain our beautiful synagogue and expand membership and activities. That has been spurred by the dynamism and hard work of Rabbi Elber and Cantor Brown, along with the leadership of our president, Steve Silverman. Their enthusiasm and hard work are leading to a reversal of the pessimism of the past. For the first time in many years, a Hebrew School is up and running, preparing students for their bar and bat mitzvahs. This is but one of the positive things happening at the Temple. Libby Cohen and Norm Bolski, during Rosh Hashanah services last month, outlined the many programs and events that have taken place over the past year.

This gives us reason for hope in the future of our Temple. To enable us to stay on this positive path, we are asking you to pause and reflect during this high holiday season on the importance of supporting the revival of our Temple and our Jewish community. We are asking for your help, not only financially, but by your active participation in the life of the Temple.

> Ken Littman Rick Schwartz

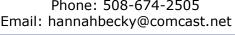
Sisterhood Gift Shop

Keep us in mind when shopping for meaningful gifts for bar and bat mitvahs, weddings, showers, anniversaries, etc. Hanukkah will be here before you know it - we stock regular and electric menorahs, candles, and other seasonal gifts.

Call or e-mail me to schedule an appointment so I can show you what we have on hand, as well as what we can order.



Hannah R. Evans Phone: 508-674-2505



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WEBSITE UPDATES:

Cantor Shoshana's Rosh Hashanah Sermon Hebrew School Calendar Ruderman Weekend Info

Be sure to check the site reguarly: frtemplebethel.org

YAHRZEITS

11/1/2014 Cheshvan 8, 5775 Libbie Alpert

11/3/2014 Cheshvan 10, 5775 Anna Simmons

11/5/2014 Cheshvan 12, 5775 Betty Rosenberg

11/6/2014 Cheshvan 13, 5775

Mary Gollub Lenora Goltz Eva Leviss

Kenneth R. Resnick

11/7/2014 Cheshvan 14, 5775

Samuel Friedman Isidor Juda

11/8/2014 Cheshvan 15, 5775 Rae Gitlin

11/9/2014 Cheshvan 16, 5775

Morris A. Freedman Celia Sanft

11/10/2014 Cheshvan 17, 5775

Lillian Feinberg Diana Hyman Erwin Juda

11/11/2014 Cheshvan 18, 5775

Ruth Lustig David Somer 11/12/2014 Cheshvan 19, 5775

Jacob Brown Samuel Lechan Julius Sinman

11/14/2014 Cheshvan 21, 5775

Helene Bender Rose Freedman Hyman Edward Lepes Esther Lurie Yetta Sludsky

11/16/2014 Cheshvan 23, 5775

Bessie Bolski Marion Horvitz Joseph Simmons

11/17/2014 Cheshvan 24, 5775

Lawrence Howard Golding Morris Hoffman

11/18/2014 Cheshvan 25, 5775

Leo Greene

11/19/2014 Cheshvan 26, 5775

Edward Markell Anna Zalkind

11/21/2014 Cheshvan 28, 5775

Ada Gourse Louis Levin 11/22/2014 Cheshvan 29, 5775

Doris Becker Ida Horvitz Seymour Kevelson Alfred Kublin Carl Zeitz

11/23/2014 Kislev 1, 5775

David Samuel Kniznik Solomon Trieff

11/24/2014 Kislev 2, 5775 Ethel Bernstein

11/26/2014 Kislev 4, 5775

Paul Horowitz Louis Weinstock Lillian Woltman

11/27/2014 Kislev 5, 5775

Bennett Alpert Neilson Caplain Esther Silk Cullen Gladys Shapiro

11/28/2014 Kislev 6, 5775

Ida Z. David Myer Goldman Freda Jaffe

11/29/2014 Kislev 7, 5775

Ida Appel Francis F. Levin Lena Reback

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