

# TEMPLE BETH EL

Fall River, Massachusetts



88th Year

November 2015

Cheshvan/Kislev 5776

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 13-15, 2015**

### **Friday Night Kabbalat Shabbat Service**

6:30 pm (*Note the later time!*)

During the service, our featured guest, **Rabbi Debrah Shenefelt** will speak with us about her journey founding a non-traditional congregation as a tool for Jewish communal outreach.



### **Shabbat Morning "Nosh n' Drosh"**

followed by Shabbat Service

Come join us for coffee, bagels and Torah discussion at 9:15 am,  
with service to follow at 10:00 am.

### **Shabbat Afternoon Se'uda Shlisheet ("Third Meal" of Shabbat) & Havdalah**

Rabbi Mark's and Cantor Shoshana's house, 537 Walnut St.

Rabbi Debrah will speak with us about *Toldot*: Our personal life-legacy  
as a connecting link between past and future. Begins at 4:00 pm.



### **Sunday Morning Featured Speaker Simcha Raphael, PhD.**

Service at 9 am followed by Breakfast and Lecture

The author of the groundbreaking *Jewish Views of the Afterlife* will explore with us Judaism's teachings on life after death - particularly in the traditions of Jewish mysticism - and endeavor to understand the contemporary relevance of these teachings in dealing with the human encounter with death.

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

I remember reading a story in elementary school that somehow made a big impression on me. It was about a young boy, probably close to the age I was when I read the story in class. The boy wanted very badly to develop “muscles,” a term which in those days was synonymous with biceps. His mentor or older brother advised him to do all these different things in order to reach his goal and the young boy followed all the suggestions religiously. At the end of the story, lo and behold, he had achieved his goal and had “muscles.” Then he wondered aloud which of the suggested activities was the actual one responsible for achieving his goal. The most memorable impression for me was the realization that all of the different elements together were what truly led to the goal the young boy sought.

There are many components that make up synagogue life. Every aspect is important and contributes to a vibrant community. The social components are essential to a cohesive community just as the study elements are important to our intellectual and internal growth. In fact the study element itself usually has a social component too. Even in a yeshiva setting, where students study Torah and Talmud most of the day, the most common manner of study is with a study partner – called a *khevruta* in Hebrew. We have a number of regular occasions during which we study together at Temple Beth El. We have our weekly Monday morning adult education group and two Hebrew study groups. We also study the weekly Torah portion together on Shabbat morning. (Shabbat morning services start at 10 AM and by approximately 11 AM we begin the Torah study).

Another vital component of synagogue life is regular prayer – not only on Shabbat and holidays, but during the week. Our weekday morning services convene twice a week – on Mondays and Thursdays at 8 AM. I’ve been told that Temple Beth El once had a daily minyan, but during the last number of years services have been held on Mondays and Thursdays. Monday and Thursday are not arbitrarily chosen. Back when our ancestors returned to the land of Israel after fifty years of exile in Babylonia (after the destruction of the first Temple in 586 BCE), Ezra the scribe instituted the public reading of the Torah on “market days” which were Mondays and Thursdays. The Torah was read aloud to the crowds assembled in the market areas – so that the educational level of the general populace would rise.

A weekday minyan is an important part of the overall life of any synagogue. We’re doing well on Friday evenings and on Saturday mornings (particularly when our snow birds are in residence), but it

would be nice to see our weekday services swell with more participants.

Prayer – *tefilah* – is not necessarily an easy thing to do. I see it as a kind of spiritual exercise akin in many ways to physical exercise. In order to develop our “spiritual muscles,” consistency is probably the most crucial component. Like physical exercise, familiarity with the “motions” brings better results, and acquiring familiarity takes a bit of time. At Temple Beth El we try to keep our services as user-friendly as possible, incorporating prayers in English as well as transliterations for the Hebrew songs we sing.

The Hebrew verb, *hitpalel*, which we translate as “to pray” in English, is a reflexive verb in Hebrew – in other words it speaks of an inner personal journey, a quest to access and cultivate our deepest inner selves and a level of existence – the ground of all existence – that transcends our physical beings. That’s an ambitious enterprise and not achieved at the drop of a hat, but like any great goal, something we cultivate over a lifetime. It is not the ultimate *destination*, however, but the *journey* that matters most. We are all on a quest, I hope, for meaning and for the strength to live consistently with our values. I recognize that I’m freighting *tefilah* with a lot of significance – but I think it has the potential to carry the load.

When my mother passed away in March 1997, I began going daily to the morning minyan in Huntington, Long Island. At first I was put off by the speed *davenen* (praying) I encountered there that for me does not allow for a more contemplative engagement with the Eternal One. However, I cared about the community and within a couple of days I gave myself permission to *daven* the way I wanted to regardless of how fast everyone else was going. I joined in for the songs I loved and did silently the other parts that spoke most to me and articulated my inner reality. At Temple Beth El, we always try to opt for quality over quantity. I’d much rather recite fewer prayers with true feeling than many prayers with little feeling. In addition, we try to make the services as musical as possible, for music, especially singing, can help us connect with the Spirit in a way that words alone can’t always do.

To keep our community vibrant, we need you – to study with us, *daven* with us, sing with us. We need you not only for our wonderful times of celebration, but during the “ordinary” days as well. Please consider dropping in on a Monday or Thursday morning or for one of our ongoing classes. We would love to see you.

Rabbi Mark Elber

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

After another successful High Holiday season, I hope you feel as I do - inspired and filled with hope for the coming year. As always we have a number of events lined up for the coming months, first and foremost the chock-full Ruderman Weekend. The Cantor and Rabbi have worked hard to line up special guest speakers and events, so please plan to join us for all or part of the weekend, November 13-15th.

I would like to apologize to anyone who was inconvenienced due to the elevator being out of order. As always, we had it serviced shortly before Rosh Hashanah, but with no warning a cable broke, and although we took steps to have it repaired immediately, the part was not available for several weeks. It is fixed now, and I can only hope that the cable lasts at least ten years, as it was a major repair.

Speaking of repairs, I have very good news about the Tower Project. The external repairs are complete and the costs came in under budget. We still have a great deal of work to do to repair the interior water damage, but the important thing is we believe we have stopped the leaks.

Thank you to all of you who have already contributed to the Tower Project. If you haven't yet made a donation, thank you in advance for giving what you can, as the repairs will be ongoing for many months.

Between the Tower Project, the elevator repair and possibly having to replace our entire fire alarm system, I can only hope that we have a mild winter. The money we could save on heat and snow-removal would help to pay for the ongoing, necessary and costly repairs we have been facing.

Lastly I would like to say that it was moving to see our sanctuary very nearly filled with people last month...I only wish it was for a joyful occasion rather than for Stewart Kusnitz's funeral. Still, it certainly was a wonderful tribute to our friend Stu.

*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

*Sisterhood President's Message*

As I sit to write this article, it is actually snowing out. Just a quick snow shower, but a little taste of what's to come. This is about the time that our "snow birds" start to move south for the winter. Meanwhile, those folks that remain here will find ways to keep busy. A little cold won't keep us down.

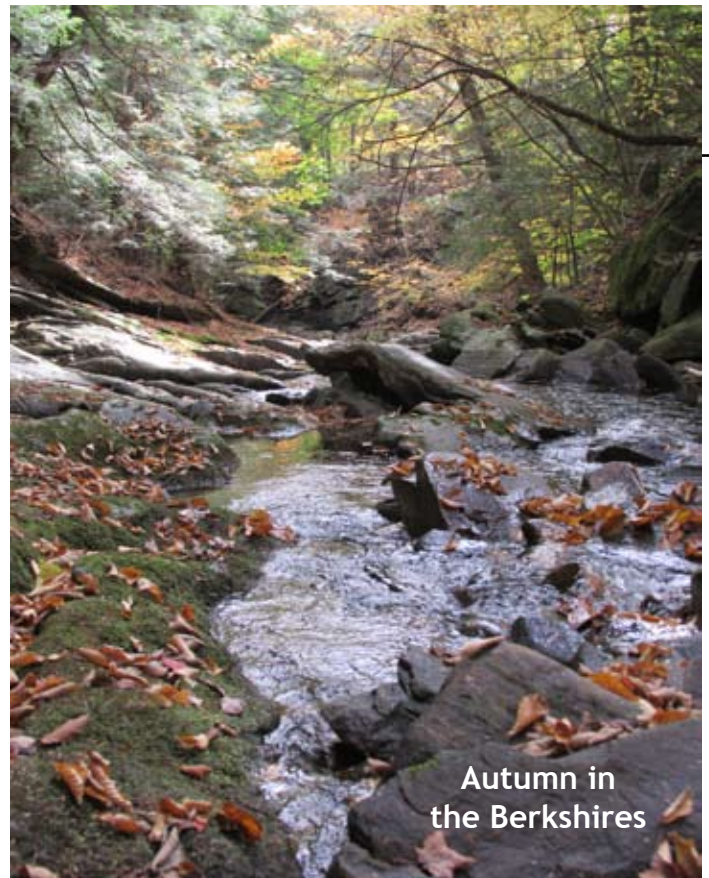
I want to remind everyone that the Book Club will be meeting on Wednesday, November 4th at 10:30 am in the Temple library. At that time they will be discussing both "The Law of Moses" by Amy Harmon and "On the Move, A Life" by Oliver Sacks. Hope everyone's ready for the discussion.

The "Ruderman Weekend" is coming up shortly. November 13th thru the 15th are the dates to remember. Let's show our support for Rabbi Mark and Cantor Shoshana by making every attempt to attend the festivities.

Plans are now underway for our annual Hanukkah celebration. As information becomes available you will be notified. I hope to see many of you there.

So until next month, Shalom.

*Libby Cohen*  
Sisterhood President



Autumn in  
the Berkshires

## SERVICE SCHEDULE

**November 2015**  
**Cheshvan/Kislev 5776**

### Friday, November 6 (24 Cheshvan)

Candle Lighting 4:16 pm  
Shabbat Service **6:30 pm**

### Saturday, November 7 (25 Cheshvan)

Weekly Portion: Chayei Sara 10:00 am

### Thursday, November 12 (30 Cheshvan)

Rosh Chodesh Kislev

### Friday, November 13 (1 Kislev) Ruderman Weekend

Candle Lighting 4:08 pm  
Shabbat Service **6:30 pm**  
Rosh Chodesh Kislev

### Saturday, November 14 (2 Kislev)

Weekly Portion: Toldot 10:00 am

### Friday, November 20 (8 Kislev)

Candle Lighting 4:03 pm  
Shabbat Service 5:30pm

### Saturday, November 21 (9 Kislev)

Weekly Portion: Vayetzei 10:00 am

### Friday, November 27 (15 Kislev)

Candle Lighting 3:59 pm  
Shabbat Service 5:30 pm

### Saturday, November 28 (16 Kislev)

Weekly Portion: Vayishlach 10:00 am

## IN MEMORIAM

ARLENE FRIEDMAN

SEPTEMBER 30, 2015 - 17 TISHRI 5776

STEWART KUSINITZ

OCTOBER 12, 2015 - 29 TISHRI 5776

MAY THEIR MEMORY BE FOR A BLESSING

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 am to Noon

## OFFICE CLOSED:

Thursday, November 26th - Thanksgiving  
Friday, November 27th - Thanksgiving Break



## SNOWBIRD NOTICE:

Please call or email the office with the dates you will be out of town so we can be sure to send bulletins and updates to the correct address. Thanks!

## Hadassah Card Update

In the October bulletin Beth Bark's phone number was listed incorrectly. Please note that the correct number is (508) 254-7768. Please give Beth a call if you would like to order Haddasah Cards!

1100 New London Avenue  
Cranston, RI 02920

Tel: (401) 463-7771  
Toll-free (877) 463-7771  
Fax: (401) 463-7850



Adam G. Smith  
Director

Michael D. Smith  
Director

## FALL RIVER JEWISH HOME

**Short-Term Rehabilitation and Recovery Services**

Let us help you return home safely!

*Kosher dining services provided.*

Also offering Respite Care and Long-term Stays.

For more information please call (508) 679-6172



538 Robeson St., Fall River, MA 02720  
www.fallriverjewishhome.org



## Adult Education at Temple Beth El

Please join us for any of the following classes (previous attendance not required):

**Monday Morning "Jewish University":** We learn about and discuss a wide variety of topics ranging from the Bible to current events. Taught by Rabbi Mark and Cantor Shoshana. 10:30 am to 12 noon in the library (followed by the Mahjongg group).



**Tuesday evening "Progressing Beginners" Hebrew Class with the Rabbi:** 6:30 -7:30 pm in the Library (familiarity with alef-bet required).

**Thursday morning Intermediate Hebrew class with the Rabbi:** 9:30-10:30 am in the Library.

### Temple Family

- Our deepest sympathy to Dr. Alex Friedman on the loss of his beloved wife, Arlene.
- Our deepest sympathy to the family of Stewart Kusnitz.
- Best wishes to Richard Trieff on his recent move to Naples, Florida.

## Sisterhood Gift Shop

Have you seen the navy baseball caps with **חי**<sup>5</sup>? When you wear the cap while traveling or playing golf, it's a great way to receive a friendly greeting. I've received requests from as far away as California. If you're looking for a Chanukah gift for a youngster, oldster or someone in-between, these caps make wonderful gifts - and they are only \$15.



Keep our gift shop in mind when looking for a meaningful gift; e.g. tallis, kipa, mezuzah, menorah, Judaica jewelry, seder plate, etc.

I am available before or after the Monday morning class as well as by appointment.

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

## Ruderman Shabbaton Weekend Speakers:

Rabbi Debrah Shenefelt is the spiritual leader and founder of Congregation Or Ahavah, in Tampa Florida. Or Ahavah, founded in 2007, is a welcoming community dedicated to personal transformation and healing the world through Jewish traditions and practices. Rabbi Debrah received her rabbinical ordination from ALEPH, the Alliance for Jewish Renewal in 2010. She also is certified as a teacher of Advanced Jewish Meditation through the international Beit Miriam program, and has been both a practitioner and teacher of Jewish meditation for over ten years.



In addition to her congregational work, Rabbi Shenefelt has worked as a rabbinic chaplain for Hospice and at the James A. Haley Veterans Hospital and Nursing Home. Rabbi Debrah also frequently works with unaffiliated Jews seeking a rabbi to guide them through Life-Cycle events or who are interested in Jewish learning through individual and group classes.

Rabbi Debrah lives in Tampa, Florida with her husband Dr. Philip Shenefelt and their two rambunctious dogs.

Does Judaism believe in the afterlife? Unequivocally, the answer is yes! Unfortunately, in the modern period we have lost touch with much of the traditional Jewish wisdom on the afterlife journey of the soul. In this presentation, we shall explore Judaism's teachings on life after death - particularly in the traditions of Jewish mysticism - and endeavor to understand the contemporary relevance of these teachings in dealing with the human encounter with death.

Simcha Raphael, Ph.D. is the Founding Director of the DA'AT Institute for Death Awareness, Advocacy and Training. He is Adjunct Associate Professor in the Jewish Studies program of Temple University, and in private practice as a transpersonal psychotherapist and spiritual director in Philadelphia. Ordained by Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi as a Rabbinic Pastor, he is a member of the Rabbis Without Borders network, and has written extensively on death and afterlife and is author of the groundbreaking *Jewish Views of the Afterlife*. His website is [www.daatinstitute.net](http://www.daatinstitute.net).



*Thank you for your donations received through October 19, 2015*

**Yahrzeits**

For the yahrzeit of my beloved...

Donated by:

**Father, Dr. Hammond Bender**  
**Husband, Norman Cohen**  
**Mother, Rachel Ellsas**  
**Husband, Gerald Goldberg**  
**Husband, Henry S. Griffin**  
**Father, David Hasckel**  
**Father, Max Katz**  
**Mother, Esther Kaufman**  
**Mother, Rose Krasnow**  
**Son, Jonathan Lash**  
**Mother, Ida Leavitt**  
**Mother, Celia Levine**  
**Father, Dr. Harry Levine**  
**Mother, Sara Malin**  
**Mother, Frances Meretsky**  
**Father, Aaron Monchik**  
**Father, Solomon Moss**  
**Father, Rabbi Samuel Ruderman**  
**Father, Isadore Settlow**  
**Grandmother, Luba Twersky**  
**Dora Wagner**  
**Husband, Charles Zalkind**

Susan Bender  
 Fran Cohen  
 Elissa Chansky  
 Glenda Goldberg  
 Anne Griffin  
 Sandra David  
 Anita Laudon  
 Etta Kaufman  
 Carol Schwartz  
 Sheila Lash  
 Hilda Reiser  
 Lila Matlin  
 Richard Levine  
 Rochelle Tobin  
 Charles Meretsky  
 Dr. Gerald Monchik  
 Shirley Taradash  
 Ora Beth Levine  
 Pat Herman  
 Atty. Jay Horowitz  
 Atty. Bruce Lider  
 Sylvia Zalkind

**MAURICE ALPERT MEMORIAL  
 ENDOWMENT FUND**

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

**RABBI MOSHE BABIN MEMORIAL FUND**

In memory of my beloved mother, Lillian Kline  
 Helen Babin

**CAMP RAMAH SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

For the yahrzeit of my beloved mother, Elizabeth Chebot  
 Bill Chebot

**CAPITAL FUND**

In memory of Arlene Friedman

Irma & Carl Feldman

In memory of Lillian Horvitz

Dr. & Mrs. Gerald Monchik

In memory of Donald Rubinstein

Fran Cohen

For the recovery of Billy David

For the recovery of Helen Lindeman

Irma & Carl Feldman

**IDA AND DAVID CHAVENSON  
 SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

For the yahrzeit of our beloved mother, Elsie Udozin

For the yahrzeit of our beloved grandmother, Sadie Smith

Judith & Frank Kosofsky

**BERNARD HOROWITZ BUILDING  
 MAINTENANCE FUND**

For the yahrzeit of my beloved father, Philip Dondis  
 Arlyne Dondis

**HYMAN & GOLDIE SCHWARTZ  
 LEGACY FUND**

For the yahrzeit of our beloved mother, Goldie Schwartz  
 Dorothy & Lester Schwartz

**THE TOWER PROJECT**



**Gloria & Jerry Baskin**

**Sheila & Howard Galitsky**

**Rosanne & Sayre Litchman**

**Atty. Kenneth Littman & Family**

*in memory of beloved mother, Phyllis Littman*

**Richard Schwartz**

**Judy & Steve Silverman**

**Karen & Dennis Sokol**

*in memory of parents, Dorothy & Jerry Gold*

**Norman Somer**

*in memory of David Somer*

**Stephen Yoken**

*in memory of beloved wife, Judith Yoken*



*Save the Date***Chanukah Party****Sunday, Dec. 13th at 1:30 pm****Adults: \$10 Children 12 & Under \$5  
RSVP by December 1st****"EXODUS"****Sunday, Nov. 22nd at 4 pm****SUNDAY AFTERNOON  
AT THE JEWISH MOVIES:  
"EXODUS"**

Exodus, the Academy Award-winning film from 1960 starring Paul Newman, Eva Marie Saint and Sal Mineo. Need we say more?

**Sunday, November 22, 4 PM in the Vestry**

**HAPPY  
THANKSGIVING**

**SOUTH COAST MEMORIALS**

Cemetery Monuments and Lettering

**Jeffrey Weissman**

Partner

59 Greenlawn Street  
Fall River  
Massachusetts 02720

(508) 676-0335  
(508) 730-7104 cell  
(508) 679-9704 fax  
jeffnjan11@comcast.net

**Meaningful Services from a  
Trusted Friend *Since 1893***

Respectfully honoring the customs and traditions of the  
Jewish community, funerals are in strict accordance  
with Jewish Law.

**508-673-0781**

William "BT" Hathaway  
Mike Roberts

**HATHAWAY**  
FAMILY FUNERAL HOMES



*Thank you to Cantor Shoshana for  
sharing her wonderful pictures!*



Have you seen the article in the Jewish Voice written by M. Charles Bakst about the **Horvitz family**? If not, please go to our website and click on the link: “**The Horvitz family chronicles.**”

Go to [www.frtemplebethel.org](http://www.frtemplebethel.org)

## YAHREZEITS

11/1/2015 19 Cheshvan

Jacob Brown  
Samuel Lechan  
Julius Sinman

11/3/2015 21 Cheshvan

Helene Bender  
Hyman Edward Lepes  
Esther Lurie  
Yetta Sludsky

11/5/2015 23 Cheshvan

Bessie Bolski  
Marion Horvitz  
Joseph Simmons

11/6/2015 24 Cheshvan

Lawrence Howard Golding  
Morris Hoffman

11/7/2015 25 Cheshvan

Leo Greene  
David Dr. Greer

11/8/2015 26 Cheshvan

Edward Markell  
Anna Zalkind

11/10/2015 28 Cheshvan

Ada Gourse  
Louis Levin

11/11/2015 29 Cheshvan

Ida Horvitz  
Seymour Kevelson  
Alfred Kublin  
Carl Zeitz

11/12/2015 30 Cheshvan

Doris Becker

11/13/2015 1 Kislev

David Samuel Kniznik

11/14/2015 2 Kislev

Ethel Bernstein

11/16/2015 4 Kislev

Paul Horowitz  
Louis Weinstock  
Donald Wiener  
Lillian Woltman

11/17/2015 5 Kislev

Bennett Alpert  
Neilson Caplain  
Esther Silk Cullen  
Gladys Shapiro

11/18/2015 6 Kislev

Ida Z. David  
Myer Goldman  
Freda Jaffe

11/19/2015 7 Kislev

Ida Appel  
Francis F. Levin  
Lena Reback

11/21/2015 9 Kislev

Tillie Ruderman

11/22/2015 10 Kislev

Edward Adaskin  
Julius Grozen  
Eric Lawson  
David Nadien

11/24/2015 12 Kislev

Harry A. Gourse  
Sadie Katersky

11/25/2015 13 Kislev

David Cohen

11/26/2015 14 Kislev

Hattie Caplain

11/28/2015 16 Kislev

David Shapiro

11/29/2015 17 Kislev

Sylvia T. Reback

11/30/2015 18 Kislev

Max Reiser

### *Clifton* HEALTHCARE CAMPUS

Wilbur Avenue, Somerset, MA 02725

Clifton Rehabilitative Nursing Center

508-675-7589

Clifton Outpatient Rehabilitation Clinic

508-675-0329

Clifton Assisted Living Community

508-324-0200

Clifton Hospice Services

(a community hospice agency)

508-675-7583

*Celebrating Over 60 Years of Dedication to Excellence*

### SUGARMAN SINAI MEMORIAL CHAPEL



#### IRA JAY FLEISHER

FUNERAL DIRECTOR

458 HOPE STREET  
PROVIDENCE, RI 02906

TEL: 401-331-8094

800-447-1267

FAX: 401-331-9379