TEMPLE BETH EL

Tana .

FALL RIVER, MASSACHUSETTS

91st Year November 2018 Cheshvan/Kislev 5779 No. 3

Regular Service Schedule

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

A Minyan for Marilyn...

A special sendoff...



A special song...





A special wish as she begins her next adventure...

We will miss you Marilyn!

THE RABBI SAMUEL & TILLIE RUDERMAN SHABBATON-WEEKEND



Cantor Abbe Lyons leads the congregation in song at one of several services during the course of the Ruderman weekend.

KOLOT NASHIM (THE VOICES OF WOMEN)



Patti Kenner with her college friend Bill Burdette, who lives in Fall River and who supplied the beautiful floral centerpiece for the table for the Ruderman Weekend events.

A message from our Spiritual Leader, Rabbi Mark Elber

"Turn It and Turn It, For Everything's in It"

Throughout the entire month of November the Torah portions we read and discuss every Shabbat are from the book of Genesis (Bereshit in Hebrew). Every one of the twelve portions that comprise Genesis contains foundational stories of our tradition. They can be understood on so many levels. One may ask: "why do we continue to read the same passages over and over? Isn't it a bit redundant?" It's true the passages remain the same, word for word (at least in the Hebrew - the English translations sometimes change over time), but we, inevitably, change over time and therefore our understanding of the Torah portions evolve as our lives and experiences evolve. Also the more we read and study our classic texts, the more profoundly we can understand them. It is no accident that we have commentaries going back to the Bible itself in which we can find segments that refer to earlier passages in the Bible and essentially comment upon them. As society changes over time, the ways in which we perceive the Torah narratives also change.

Our rabbis throughout the centuries and millennia delved into our sacred texts not because they were ignorant of the world outside of them, but because they found such riches within them. Our sages in the Talmud, for example, were very well aware of the world around them, as were the medieval commentators, and, likewise, the commentators active today. In all of these cases they found in our sacred literature insights into the issues and concerns of the day and a focal point for cultivating a sense of holiness in life. Our tradition did not separate our ritual life from our moral and communal life. Torah addressed them all. Similarly, no distinction was made between our daily life and our sacred time of Shabbat and holidays. Nor was there a distinction between our "national" or "ethnic" identity and our "religious" identity. A Jew for whom God is not a focus of their life, nor even something they believe in, is no less Jewish. This may be something very difficult for non-Jews to understand, but Jewish identity is ethnic, religious, and national all at the same time.

When we study the book of Genesis, we essentially see the saga of our ancestors who are portrayed as very human beings. Though our tradition may look up to them and idealize them as spiritual giants, nevertheless their human emotions, concerns, and conflicts are often very recognizable as our own. When we study the generations of our patriarchs and matriarchs portrayed throughout the book of Genesis, we benefit from both the elements that may inspire us and from examining those elements and decisions that we question.

It is traditional to make a blessing, a b'rakha, before

the study of Torah which says: "Blessed are You, Eternal One our G!d, who has sanctified us with (his) Mitzvot and commanded us to occupy ourselves with the words of Torah." Arguing with previous opinions regarding the words of Torah or questioning things in the Torah is no less "occupying ourselves with the words of Torah" than merely accepting them. The main thing is to engage with it. Our sages in Pirkei Avot (5:22) said: "Turn it (i.e. the Torah) and turn it for everything is in it." (Hafokh bah v'hafokh bah, d'khola bah). In other words, everything about our lives can be found within it. This doesn't mean that we need not read or study anything else. Rather it means that we can find ways of thinking about virtually everything in our lives via study of Torah. Hillel said (Pirkei Avot 2:4) "Don't say that when I have leisure, I will study, perhaps you will never have (that kind of) leisure." I've heard many retired people remark that they're so busy that they can't imagine how they ever had time to work too.

To reprise a theme in one of my High Holiday sermons, the main thing is for Torah and Judaism to address the concerns of our lives - which it can only do if we engage with it. The study of Torah gives us a focal point for clarifying what are our real values, what is meaningful in our lives, what are our civic duties and obligations to others and to society as a whole, what are the values that should inform our daily decisions, both large and small. What does it mean to be a responsible citizen and a productive and moral member of society? Our tradition emphasizes study and being informed, thinking critically, learning how to ask good and penetrating questions. Asking the right questions often leads to much greater understanding and insight. One of the benefits of studying Talmud is how it sharpens one's critical thinking. Though some topics discussed in the vast "ocean of the Talmud" may no longer seem relevant to our lives, the process of thinking logically and precisely about those topics and examining them critically is great training for the mind.

When Mordechai Kaplan, the founder of Reconstructionist Judaism, named his most influential book "Judaism as a Civilization" it was very appropriate. We are the inheritors of a profound civilization that has evolved over four thousand years and continues to evolve, but how it evolves will be actively determined by those who engage in it. I can't help but think that had Theodor Herzl not written his pamphlet "The Jewish State" and organized the Zionist Congresses beginning in 1897, and Jews had not begun to return to the land of Israel despite the hardships of doing so, and had not revived our ancient language, Hebrew, to become once again a vibrant spoken language - how different our Jewish lives would be today!! It is easy to feel impotent and overwhelmed by the state of the world, but against incredible odds, people have made history and brought about great changes. Passivity makes us mere pawns in that process, but to quote Herzl: "If you will it, it is no dream."

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

After looking over last month's bulletin, I realized that I was terribly remiss in not thanking Ann Chavenson for the countless years she chaired the High Holidays Flower Fund. I asked Bill Chebot how long she had been doing it, and he said he couldn't remember when she didn't! For many years Annie was helped by her dear friend, Sheila Lash, and the two of them teamed up to get the job done in great fashion. When Sheila finally stepped down, Annie soldiered on. When we see the beautiful flowers on the bimah each year, it seems that they appear as if by magic. In fact, there is so much work that goes on behind the scenes, requiring all kinds of coordination and planning to pull it off. Annie made countless phone calls soliciting donations, dealt with a variety of florists over the years, made sure someone was available to take delivery of the flowers, making sure everyone who pledged sent in a check, and that all contributors were listed correctly in the bulletin. It is about a three-month endeavor! And Annie volunteered to take charge of all of this every year for decades. On behalf of the entire congregation, Ann Chavenson, we thank you so very much for your many, many years of hard work and dedication.

Just a note that the office will be open on Monday, November 12th (Veterans' Day observed), and closed on Friday, November 23rd. Keep in mind that we can always be reached by email (templebethel@comcast.net), and voicemails are checked frequently throughout the day.

Steve Silverman President



Sunday, Dec. 9th beginning at 1:30 PM

With special guests

Ezekiel's Wheels Klezmer Band

back by popular demand! Community Candlelighting to follow. Bring your children and grandchildren, bring a friend or two! Please RSVP by November 30th

Sisterhood President's Message

Here it is November, and that means Thanksgiving is right around the corner. This is a beautiful time of year. The colors are absolutely gorgeous, an artist's and photographer's delight.

Our snowbirds are beginning their migration to warmer climates. I hope all of you have a safe and healthy winter. Goodbye till next spring. Keep in touch with the Temple, and let us know what is happening in your neck of the woods.

We are in the process of planning our annual Chanukah party. It is happening on Sunday, December 9th at 1:30 pm. Please join us for this lively celebration, as Ezekiel's Wheels Klezmer Band will be back due to popular demand!

I want to thank everyone that worked to make the Ruderman Weekend such a success. First of all, Cantor Shoshana and Rabbi Mark, for opening up their home to everyone. Cantor Abbe was just delightful. Her duets with Cantor Shoshana were so moving. The movie on Sunday was so informative, and Ms. Patti Kenner was absolutely charming. Anita and Norm Bolski, Elaine and Harvey Reback, Sylvia Eisner, Beverly Solup, Elaine Weiss Reback, Judy Morgenstern, Marie Twomey and George Haire, thank you for helping to make this happen. Anyone who was unable to attend missed some wonderful entertainment.

Also, November 11th is Veteran's Day. We have many veterans in our congregation. Let me take this time to thank all of you for your service. It is your sacrifices that have made our freedom possible. Thank you again.

So until next month, stay safe.

Libby Cohen Sisterhood President



SERVICE SCHEDULE

November 2018 Cheshvan/Kislev 5779

Friday, November 2 (24 Cheshvan)

Candle Lighting 5:20 pm Shabbat Service 5:30 pm

Saturday, November 3 (25 Cheshvan)

Weekly Portion: Chayei Sara 10:00 am

Thursday, November 8 (30 Cheshvan)

Rosh Chodesh Kislev

Friday, November 9 (1 Kislev)

Candle Lighting 4:12 pm Shabbat Service 5:30 pm Rosh Chodesh Kisley

Saturday, November 10 (2 Kislev)

Weekly Portion: Toldot 10:00 am

Friday, November 16 (8 Kislev)

Candle Lighting 4:05 pm Shabbat Service 5:30 pm

<u>Saturday, November 17 (9 Kislev)</u>

Weekly Portion: Vayetzei 10:00 am

Friday, November 23 (15 Kislev)

Candle Lighting 4:01 pm Shabbat Service 5:30 pm

Saturday, November 24 (16 Kislev)

Weekly Portion: Vayishlakh 10:00 am

Friday, November 30 (22 Kislev)

Candle Lighting 3:57 pm Shabbat Service 5:30 pm

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

<u>Friendly Visitor</u>: Arleen Bor is our "Friendly Visitor" and 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.

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, Nov. 22nd: Thanksgiving Friday, Nov 23rd: Black Friday! (The office will be open on Nov 12th, Veterans' Day Observed)

NOTES FROM THE OFFICE:

Please make a note in the memo field of either your personal check or your online bill-pay check indicating what the money is for. We have had several checks arrive recently that were blank, so we assumed it was lunch money. Only kidding! But seriously, please help us out and let us know where the money is supposed to go, as both Judy and I failed Mind Reading 101.

If you are a snowbird, please either call or email the office as soon as you know when you will be leaving town for the winter, or returning home in the spring. We want to make sure we send our mailings to the correct address.

Thanks to Robert Falconero and Bill Chebot, our latest Wish List item has been fulfilled! We have raised enough money to purchase two sets of new letters for our sign out front. I will take a picture once the sign has been updated. Thank you both!

Our next Wish List item is for some new books for the library. Right now our librarian, Robin Fielding, has six books on her wish list, totalling just over \$100. I'm sure if we raise some more she would be happy to expand that list, as we really need to have more books from this century!



TBE News & Notes

Looking back at October: All who attended our **Simchat Torah** celebration at TBE thoroughly enjoyed our rejoicing with the Torah, watching the rabbi and our vice-president Daniel Schafler kick up their heels, and partaking of the deli dinner (thanks to the planning and schlepping of Norm and Anita Bolski).

On Oct. 15th, we had a lively viewing and learning about the current state of Israel today, thanks to congregant **Suzanne Finkel** and **Cantor Shoshana**, who shared some of their photos from their recent trips to Israel – along with coffee and excellent baklava! (Thank you, Suzi, for co-sponsoring this event.)

The Rabbi Samuel and Tillie Ruderman **Shabbaton Weekend**, Oct. 19-21, was truly a rich and uplifting experience all around. Cantor Abbe Lyons lifted our spirits with her clear, angelic soprano voice and lyrical guitar accompaniment, as well as enlightening us about the struggle and contributions of women in the field of Jewish song and music. On Sunday, our theme of "Kolot Nashim" ("Women's Voices") continued as we were deeply inspired and moved by "Ahead of Time," the documentary about the late Ruth Gruber, an extraordinary Jewish journalist who covered most of the major events of the 20th century. The documentary that our featured speaker, Patti Kenner, co-produced, was a delight to view – it is just magnificent. We now have a TBE copy of this DVD; please get in touch with the cantor or rabbi if you would like to borrow it to view at home.

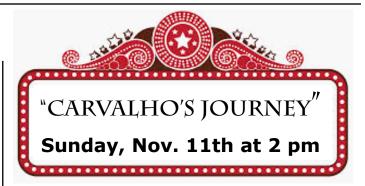
Thank you to all who helped make the Ruderman Weekend such a success: Sylvia Eisner, Norm and Anita Bolski, Libby Cohen and Beverly Solup, Elaine Weiss and Harvey Reback, Cantor Shoshana and Rabbi Mark, and of course our featured guests Cantor Abbe Lyons and Patti Kenner – and the Ruderman family which founded the endowment which makes this weekend possible.

If any of you have winter coats that you would like to donate to help keep others warm, you may bring them to the temple and we will make sure they get to United Neighbors of Fall River to help those who need them this winter.

Looking ahead...

November's **Sunday afternoon at the Jewish Movies:**

Date: November 11th – 2 PM (note that the film is only 85 minutes long, so you should be out by 3:30!)

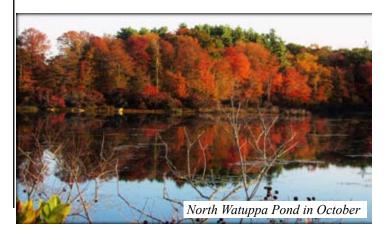


Carvalho's Journey is a feature length documentary about Solomon Nunes Carvalho (1815-1897) a pioneering Sephardic Jewish artist and daguerreotypist born in Charleston, South Carolina, the city with the largest Jewish population at the time. Produced for national broadcast on PBS, film festivals and wide educational distribution, the film tells the extraordinary saga of Carvalho's work for explorer John Freemont as the first photographer to accompany an expedition across the American West. Visually ambitious and extensively researched, the film features interviews with scholars and writers, rare archival materials, original landscape cinematography and re-creations of the daguerreotype process to weave together a compelling narrative of the expansion of the American continent as seen through the eyes of a pioneering American artist. 2015, 85 minutes

Save the Date!

For our **TBE Chanukah Celebration**, Sunday December 9th, beginning at 1:30 PM. We are happy to be hosting once again the fabulous klezmer group **Ezekiel's Wheels**, who will make *freylekh* music from 2:30 – 3:30, after which we will light candles together. Inscribe this event on your calendars now and don't forget to RSVP!

Our **TBE Nature Walks** are suspended until the spring. For all of you who are nurturing bad backs or weak knees – keep working on that physical therapy to be ready to hit the trail in May!



Thank you for your donations received through October 22, 2018

YAHRZEITS

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

Parents, Helene & Dr. Hammond Susar

Bender

Mother, Suetelle Bernstein Husband, Norman Cohen Mother, Lillian Feinberg Sister, Michele "Shelly" Fox Husband, Henry Griffin, Jr. Father, David Hasckel Mother. Bessie Kassler

Father, Max Katz
Father, Dr. Abraham Kaufmann
Mother, Esther Kaufman
Mother, Rose Krasnow
Brother, Stewart R. Kusinitz
Brother, Stewart R. Kusinitz
Father, Jack Leonard

Father, Dr. Harry Levine Loved Ones

Dear friend, Esther Lurie Mother in law, Frances Meretsky

Father, Sol Moss

Grandmother, Jennie Robinson Grandmother, Jennie Robinson Mother, Betty Rosenberg

Father, Rabbi Samuel Ruderman Mother, Jessie Simpson

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Irma Feldman Jay Horowitz

MAURICE ALPERT MEMORIAL ENDOWMENT FUND

For the yahrzeit of my beloved grandson, Alex Pankiw
For the yahrzeit of my beloved grandmother, Libbie Alpert
For the yahrzeit of my beloved brother in law, Carl Goodman
Sumner Alpert

ANNA & MORRIS LEPES CEMETERY FUND

In memory of Anna & Morris Lepes

Ellen & Terry Shand & family

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Bonnie & Theodore Cohen

In honor of the marriage of Marcy Freedman & Daniel Cherney

Irma & Carl Feldman

In honor of the marriage of Matthew Wilkinson to

Laura Leavitt

Dr. & Mrs. Ronald Schwartz

In honor of Marilyn Sokoll - best wishes and much

happiness in her new home

Charlotte Fradkin Sheila Lash

In memory of Joy Field

Victor Field and Rachel Baker

In memory of Atty. Richard Levin

Atty. Ken Littman & family

In memory of Pat Rubinstein

Ethel & Sid Winokoor

In memory of Lester Schwartz

Anita & Norm Bolski

Atty. Ken Littman & family

For the recovery of Rose Arruda Alan Arruda

Charlotte Fradkin Marilyn Sokoll

For the recovery of Larry Meyerson

Anita & Norm Bolski

DR. & MRS. N. KENNETH SHAND BUILDING RESTORATION FUND

In memory of Ruth & Dr. Kenneth Shand

Ellen & Terry Shand & family

HYMAN & GOLDIE SCHWARTZ LEGACY FUND

In memory of Lester Schwartz

Marshal David

Family of Paul Gagne

Iris Katzman

Ginny Lepow

Jon & Lorna Lichter

Rosanne & Sayre Litchman

Suzi Schwartz

Marion Wilner

Ethel & Sid Winokoor

WISH LIST

In honor of Anita & Norm Bolski for all they do for the temple

In honor of Ann Chavenson for chairing the High Holiday Flower Fund for as long as I can remember

In honor of Elaine Reback for taking over the High Holiday Flower Fund

In honor of Marilyn Sokoll – wishing her good health and happiness in her new home

Bill Chebot



Our new Sukkah, festively decorated by Lee and Rona Trachtenberg.

OFF THE SHELF

It's a beautiful autumn day as I write this little column. Skies are clear and it is still possible to sit on the porch and read. What a nice way to get some air and to expand your mind at the same time. There are new books on order so I am looking forward to getting them on the shelves. I will send an update when they have all arrived.

For those of you who do borrow books from the library please remember to remove the card from the **inside back cover, sign** the card, and **leave** the card on the desk so I can see it and we all know who has borrowed it. That being said, if anyone has our copy of "Why Faith Matters" by David J Wolpe please return it ASAP. The rabbi has been looking for it. Many thanks.

Thanks to all who come in and peruse and borrow the books.

Robin Fielding



Cantor Abbe Lyons, rehearsing in the vestry with Cantor Shoshana for the Ruderman Weekend Shabbaton.

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Sisterhood Gift Shop

Have you seen our Red Sox or Patriots mezuzot (\$29), as well as black suede Patriots kipot/yarmulkes (\$15)? If you are or know any fans, they make a great gift. Because of their popularity, I've reordered them several times. They make a wonderful Chanukah gift. We have a wonderful selection of menorahs for all ages. Do you need Chanukah gift wallets ... or maybe a little gift for a youngster?

Check out the inexpensive (\$3.50) **LED Flameless Yizkor Candles** or the **Traveling Shabbat Candles.**

If you are looking for a gift and it isn't in our gift shop, you can either browse my catalogs or my wholesalers' websites.

Happy Thanksgiving!

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

Temple Family

 Mazel Tov to Gail Wilkinson and to Carl & Irma Feldman on the marriage of their son and grandson, Matthew Wilkinson to Laura Leavitt and on the birth of their grandson and great grandson, Benjamin Martin, whose parents are Joshua & Kara Wilkinson.

LEADERSHIP

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

PROUDLY SERVING our community



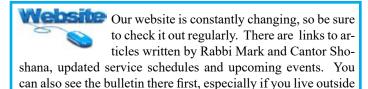


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YAHRZEITS

11/1/2018 23 Cheshvan 5779

Bessie Bolski Marion Horvitz Joseph Simmons

11/2/2018 24 Cheshvan 5779 Lawrence Howard Golding

11/3/2018 25 Cheshvan 5779 Leo Greene

David Dr. Greer

11/4/2018 26 Cheshvan 5779

Edward Markell Anna Zalkind

11/5/2018 27 Cheshvan 5779 Harold Katzman

11/6/2018 28 Cheshvan 5779 Ada Gourse

11/7/2018 29 Cheshvan 5779

Seymour Kevelson Alfred Kublin Carl Zeitz

11/8/2018 30 Cheshvan 5779

Doris Becker

11/9/2018 1 Kislev 5779

David Samuel Kniznik

11/10/2018 2 Kislev 5779

Ethel Bernstein

11/12/2018 4 Kislev 5779

Anne Gregory Paul Horowitz Louis Weinstock Donald Wiener Myron Wilner Lillian Woltman

11/13/2018 5 Kislev 5779

Bennett Alpert Neilson Caplain Gladys Shapiro

11/14/2018 6 Kislev 5779

Ida Z. David Myer Goldman

11/15/2018 7 Kislev 5779

Ida Appel Francis F. Levin Lena Reback

11/17/2018 9 Kislev 5779

Tillie Ruderman

Edward Adaskin Julius Grozen Eric Lawson David Nadien 11/20/2018 12 Kislev 5779 Sadie Katersky

11/21/2018 13 Kislev 5779 David Cohen

11/22/2018 14 Kislev 5779 Hattie Caplain

11/24/2018 16 Kislev 5779 Gary Reitzas

11/25/2018 17 Kislev 5779 Sylvia T. Reback

11/26/2018 18 Kislev 5779 Max Reiser

11/29/2018 21 Kislev 5779 Harry Berger Edith Gold

11/30/2018 22 Kislev 5779

Hummy Chebot Barry Novek



Mushrooms in the Southeastern Mass Bioreserve are popping up like crazy this fall!

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Clifton Outpatient Rehabilitation Clinic 508-675-0329

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