TEMPLE BETH EL

FALL RIVER, MASSACHUSETTS



94th Year

November 2021

Cheshvan/Kislev 5782

No. 3

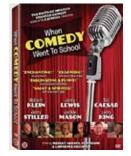
Regular Service Schedule - In Person and Via Zoom

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

November Nature Walk

Wednesday, Nov. 17th at 10 am at Fort Barton Park in Tiverton. For more information please see page 5 under "News and Notes."





Sunday Afternoon at the Jewish Movies

Sunday, November 21st at 2 pm. This month's feature is "When Comedy Went to School" featuring a number of Jewish Comedians. "The birth of modern stand-up comedy began in the Catskill Mountains."

Thanksgiving

Thursday, November 25th Hopefully this year we can celebrate with our families. Enjoy, and remember to give thanks!





Chanukah begins Sunday evening, November 28th, and finishes with a virtual "Chanukah party" on the eighth night, Sunday, December 5th at 4:30 pm. Join us for blessings, candle lighting, and Chanukah songs.

In honor of Veterans Day, and especially our many veterans right here at Temple Beth El, below are some pictures Cantor Shoshana took at sunset at Bicentennial Park in Fall River recently. Thank you all for your service!





A message from our Spiritual Leader, Rabbi Mark Elber

Tradition, Assimilation, and Innovation

We finally resumed our Sunday afternoon at the Jewish movies at Temple Beth El this past Sunday. It was our first film since February 2020. We watched an outstanding documentary on the making of "Fiddler on the Roof" called "Fiddler: A Miracle of Miracles." There were so many elements of this movie that touched us, made us laugh, and brought tears to our eyes. I'm sure most of us are familiar with the movie and/or its stage version. The documentary covered both the making of the film and various stage productions of Fiddler and gave us a glimpse into all of the incredibly hard work and collaboration that went into its making. They had a phenomenal lyricist, Sheldon Harnick, whose words were perfectly married to the great compositions of Jerry Bock. The book, i.e. the dialogue, was masterfully written by Joseph Stein, while the choreography was created by Jerome Robbins (born Jerome Rabinowitz) who came into prominence when choreographing "The King and I" and "West Side Story."

Fiddler and the making of Fiddler tells us a great deal about Jewish life in the United States and its roots. There was a small Jewish community of Sephardic origin around colonial times, primarily coming from Brazil, having initially fled the inquisitions in Spain and Portugal and a larger, but still relatively small wave of Jews from Germany in the mid-1800s who brought with them Reform Judaism. However, the vast majority of Jewish immigrants to the United States came between 1881 and 1914, arriving from Eastern Europe escaping persecution and pogroms. They brought Orthodox Judaism with them and subsequently made Conservative Judaism thrive in the U.S. Fiddler on the Roof depicts the life in Russia (and Eastern Europe in general) of those who would eventually emigrate to the United States.

From 1791 to 1917, the Jews in Russia, Poland, Ukraine (all of whose borders were shifting over those years) were forced to live (with very few exceptions) in the territory known as the Pale of Settlement. There was a great deal of poverty among Jews in the Pale who had few rights and few economic opportunities and were largely forced to be small merchants living in shtetIs (a shtetI literally means a small town). However, the cultural and spiritual lives of Jews at the time in those areas was extremely rich. Many Jewish religious, cultural and political groups thrived despite those conditions. Yiddish, of course, was the language Jews primarily spoke (in addition to whatever other languages were prevalent in the areas in which they lived). Yiddish literature thrived. Almost all the well-known Yiddish authors such as Mendele Mocher Sforim Sholem Aleichem, I. L. Peretz, Ya'akov Glatstein, Isaac Bashevis Singer, Moyshe Leib Halpern, Chaim Grade, Avraham Sutzkever were born in the Pale of Settlement. Chassidism began in the Pale in the mid-1700s and greatly flourished there until it was virtually wiped out during

the Holocaust. Zionism developed and took hold in the Pale of Settlement as did the Jewish Socialist Bund and Socialism in general. The Jewish Enlightenment, better known by its Hebrew name, the *Haskalah* movement, also thrived in Eastern Europe. There were conflicts between these various groups because they each proposed different solutions to the terrible oppression Jews were experiencing.

Almost every significant element of Jewish culture here in the United States can be traced back to the lives of our ancestors in the Pale. Quite a number of the Yiddish writers I mentioned were among those who emigrated to the U.S. Sholem Aleichem, whose real name was Sholem Rabinovitz, was one of them. He emigrated in 1906 after witnessing pogroms in Russia. He came to New York City and lived there until his death on May 13, 1916. His funeral procession, one of the largest in New York City history, was attended by 100,000 people. *Fiddler on the Roof* is based on Sholem Aleichem's stories of Tevye the Dairyman.

If you look back at most of our family histories here at Temple Beth EI, you will find people who emigrated here from the Pale of Settlement, spoke Yiddish, and grew up Orthodox. The Conservative Jewish movement was an outgrowth of that - based on the desire to preserve (or conserve) our traditions while allowing for change in response to the evolving conditions of modern life. The United States has been an important place of Jewish innovation and creativity, both spiritually and culturally. Jewish religious movements such as Conservative Judaism, Reconstructionist Judaism, the Havurah movement, and Jewish Renewal, all have grown up here. In the secular world, if you look at Broadway for example, so many of the great musicals were written by Jews: Lerner and Lowe, Rogers and Hart, Rogers and Hammerstein, the Gershwins, Leonard Bernstein and Stephen Sondheim and the list goes on and on. Jewish authors have been very influential here such as Bernard Malamud, Saul Bellow, Philip Roth, J.D. Salinger, Joseph Heller, and so many others. Though great Yiddish poetry and prose was composed here by immigrant generations, mame loshen (i.e. Yiddish as our mother tongue) disappeared within a generation as Americanization and assimilation took hold. There is somewhat of a revival of interest in Yiddish by the younger generation, but it still seems to be a minor phenomenon. One of the most exciting examples of this revival of interest is the Yiddish Book Center in Amherst, Massachusetts, founded by New Bedford's Aaron Lansky.

Jewish life has always been changing wherever it finds itself. At the same time, we have always worried about our future, whether we will continue to exist and what the vitality of "the remnant of Israel" will be. This weekend Shoshana and I went to visit Lev for "parents' weekend" at his college (Champlain College) in Burlington, Vermont. Even though his school is too small to have a Hillel, it's right next door to the University of Vermont which has a very active Hillel.

President's Message

As I write this column we are in the midst of an early "nor'easter." I can hear the wind howling and the rain pouring down. I am normally one who can see the beauty in a storm, but right now it makes me wonder how much water will be finding its way into our beautiful building and creating more damage. On a more positive note, it will certainly be a good opportunity to see if we have finally fixed one of our major leaks. If everything is dry after this storm, I think we can finally repair the walls in the sanctuary and vestry. Please let it be so!

Of course there are more leaks to deal with, and it seems that each is bigger than the last. Our next project will be to work on the exterior tower walls. The mortar is crumbling in several areas, and it needs to be repaired and replaced from the outside, which is unreachable by ladders. We are currently working on getting estimates for the work, to see what the scope of the repairs will be. This work has been put off for far too long, so we must address it before things get any worse.

Other than that, things are continuing along the path we started in July, cautiously adding things like the Sunday movie and Cantor Shoshana's hikes. Unfortunately we are still not confident enough to host a Chanukah party, but Rabbi Mark and Cantor Shoshana will be hosting a virtual celebration on Zoom. Feel free to join us...wherever you are!

I hope all of you who are eligible have gotten your booster shots, so we can beat this virus down and have real in-person gatherings in 2022!

Last month I forgot to thank Carlton Smith, known to most as "Smitty," for coming back to the Temple to not only help people with the elevator during the High Holidays, but also to be another set of eyes. As a retired policeman he always has safety on his mind. Thanks Smitty!

I would like to welcome April Monchik to our congregation. Yes, she is the daughter of Jerry and Linda, and she enjoys our services so much she has become one of our most regular participants. Welcome April!

I hope you all have a wonderfu and safe Thanksgiving, and a very happy Chanukah.

> Steve Silverman President

Sisterhood President's Message

Well folks, it's November already and we are busy preparing for Thanksgiving. The foliage is starting to brighten our landscape with its golds, oranges and burgundies. Although we've been spoiled with summer-like weather, today we are getting ready for some raw, rainy, wet weather. So, it's a good time to stay in and cook. I'll have to try out my new air fryer.

As we gather to celebrate Thanksgiving, we need to give thanks for all we have, mainly our families, friends and health. I hope all of you are able to enjoy this time.

Then we roll right into Chanukah. We light the first candle on Sunday night, November 28th. So, polish your menorah and be ready to celebrate this holiday.

I also want to thank all the Veterans for their service. We celebrate Veteran's Day on November 11th. Please, take a minute and thank a Vet.

I once again want to wish Hannah Evans a fond farewell, and the best of luck on the next leg of her journey. She has done so very much for Temple Beth El over the years. Hannah will be missed by all of us.

Until next month, please stay safe. Also, don't forget to turn your clocks back, and reset your timers on November 7th.

Libby Cohen Sisterhood President

Rabbi's Column, continued from page 2

We went there for Friday evening Shabbat services. It was such a delight to experience the youthful energy there. The service was entirely run by students and the turnout was very good. It was so heartening to see all the programs that Hillel offered. It reminded me of my own college experience of which Hillel was an extremely important part. Hillel served then and continues to serve as a place for both Jewish tradition, innovation, and the cultivating and clarifying of our college-age Jews' identities. We're a long way from the shtetl depicted in Fiddler on the Roof and so is the Yiddishkeit (the Jewishness) of most American Jews. One could see in UVM Hillel's Friday evening service's prayers and melodies, influences from various American Jewish streams and movements. Hillel deserves our support. It is both a vital component of the future of Judaism in America and a breeding ground for future leaders of American Jewry.

Our roots inform us of who we are. We all are products of many historical developments. *Fiddler* and Hillel connect us both to our past and to our future.

10:00 am

SERVICE SCHEDULE

November 2021: Cheshvan/Kislev 5782

Friday, November 5 (1 Kislev) Rosh Chodesh Kislev Candle Lighting	5:16 pm
Shabbat Service	5:30 pm
Saturday, November 6 (2 Kislev) Weekly Portion: Toldot	10:00 am
Friday, November 12 (8 Kislev) Candle Lighting Shabbat Service	4:09 pm 5:30 pm
Saturday, November 13 (9 Kislev)	

Friday, November 19 (15 Kislev)	
Candle Lighting Shabbat Service	4:03 pm 5:30 pm

Saturday, November 20	<u>(16 Kislev)</u>	
Weekly Portion: Vayishla	kh	10:00 am

Friday, November 26	<u>(22 Kislev)</u>	
Candle Lighting		3:59 pm
Shabbat Service		5:30 pm

Saturday, November 27 (23 Kislev)
Weekly Portion: Vayeishev
10:00 am

Sunday, November 28 (24 Kislev) Erev Chanukah Light first Chanukah candle

Weekly Portion: Vayetzei

Monday, November 29 (25 Kislev) Chanukah – First Day Light second Chanukah candle

<u>Tuesday, November 30 (26 Kislev)</u> Chanukah – Second Day Light third Chanukah candle



TEMPLE OFFICE

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E-Mail: templebethel@comcast.net
Website: frtemplebethel.org

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday - Friday, 9 am to Noon

OFFICE CLOSED:

Thursday, Nov 11th - Veterans Day Thursday, Nov. 25th - Thanksgiving

SNOWBIRD SEASON

Just a reminder that if you want your mail delivered to the correct address, please call or email the office with the approximate dates you are leaving and returning to town. Safe travels, and we'll see you next spring!

PAPER BULLETIN REMINDER

The December issue of the Temple bulletin will be the final issue that will be sent out via bulk mail. Beginning with the January 2022 issue, the bulletins will be sent out first class. For those of you who are **non-members**, and would like to continue to receive the paper bulletin, we are requesting an annual donation of \$25 to offset the costs. Otherwise, we invite you to read the bulletin on our website for free. Just visit www.frtemplebethel.org and click on "Bulletin Archives."

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TBE News & Notes

Yes, we are all so weary of this pandemic, and longing to return to normal life as a synagogue and community – but, though the trend in New England in hospitalizations and deaths due to Covid is down, we are far from out of the woods. We continue to offer our regular (Friday evening, Shabbat morning, and Monday & Thursday morning) services in hybrid format (in the chapel and on Zoom), and our Hebrew and adult ed classes on Zoom (with an in-person option in the TBE library for our Monday morning class). Alas, we are not yet ready to open our vestry/social hall for festive gatherings with food, and thus we will once again have to "gather" for Chanukah online.

Yes, Chanukah begins in November this year (1st night 11/28)! As we did last year, Rabbi Mark and Cantor Shoshana will host an online (Zoom) "Chanukah party" on the eighth night of Chanukah – on Sunday, December 5th, at 4:30 pm. Set up your Chanukiot (menorahs) at home, turn on your computer, tablet or smart phone, and join us for blessings, candle lighting, and Chanukah songs. You will receive an email with a link for this event in the beginning of December.

Our **October TBE Nature Walk** was lovely – the three of us who participated (Harvey Reback, Elaine Weiss Reback and Cantor Shoshana) thoroughly enjoyed the colors of autumn, a beautiful clear sky, the sunlight sparkling off the waves of Buzzard's Bay (while we watched a seal chasing a school of fish!) at the Allens Pond MA Audubon Nature Sanctuary. See pictures on page 7.

We hope, weather permitting, for **one more Nature** Walk this fall. Please join us on Wednesday, November 17th at Fort Barton Park – directly across from the Tiverton Town Hall, at 343 Highland Rd, Tiverton. As always, please make sure to wear sturdy, supportive shoes! As your hike-leader, I will tailor the walk to the needs of whoever shows up. (If you have questions about the weather on the day of the hike, you may call the TBE office, or call my cell # if you have it.)

Last month, we brought back our "Sunday Afternoon at the Jewish Movies" series, not knowing if anyone would show up. A handful of you did, and we thoroughly enjoyed "Fiddler: a Miracle of Miracles." It was a moving, top-notch documentary, which we will place in the TBE library so you may borrow it to watch at home if you did not get to watch it with us.

So – minus the popcorn we are back in the Jewish movie business! Please reserve **Sunday November 21st at 2 pm** on your calendars for our next film, "When Comedy Went to School." As with all our current in-person events, we ask that if you are not fully vaccinated, wear a mask, and please stay home if you are not feeling well. (See page 6 for a brief description of this film.)

In the Eyes of the Beholder

Below are photos taken by Cantor Shoshana of Barney Zeitz's magnificent new sculpture at Government Center, which was dedicated on Sunday, Sept. 12th. To quote Barney (as he was quoted in an Aug. 31st article in the Herald News): "It has a little bit of everything, so that as a viewer, you can look to your past and maybe see someone you know up there...There is clearly someone that looks indigenous, someone that looks of African descent. There is a young Asian boy crouching on the side..."

Barney Zeitz, who grew up in Fall River and became a bar mitzvah at TBE, is of course, Jewish. Are there any Jewish immigrants in his sculpture? That is for the viewer to decide!









Thank you for your donations received through October 22, 2021

YAHRZEITS

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

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Grandfather, Isidor Juda Mother, Bessie Kassler Mother, Esther Kaufman Husband Stewart Kusinitz Brother, Stewart Kusinitz Brother, Stewart Kusinitz Father, Dr. Harry Levine My loved ones Mother, Mildred Lider Mother & Grandmother,

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In memory of my beloved brother-in-law, Carl Goodman, grandmother, Libbie Alpert & grandson Alex Pankiw
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In honor of Gerry Monchik's special birthday
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In memory of parents, Philip & Emma Dondis and brotherin-law, Bernard Horowitz

In memory of Louise Felder & Elayne Lowenthal Arlyne Dondis

MORNING MINYAN FUND

In honor of Temple Beth El's Morning Minyan Miriam Babin

In honor of, and appreciation for, Norm & Anita Bolski & Steve Silverman

In memory of beloved mother, Elizabeth Chebot In memory of George Simon

Bill Chebot

In memory of Mickey Stern

Arlyne Dondis

Temple Family

 Welcome to our newest congregant, April Monchik!



The birth of modern stand-up comedy began in the Catskill Mountains, a boot camp for the greatest generation of Jewish-American comedians. With Robert Klein, Jerry Lewis, Sid Caesar, Jerry Stiller, Jackie Mason and Larry King. 1:23

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Hundreds Pay Tribute to 96 Year-Old Holocaust Survivor Izzy Arbeiter

"After he told his story at our school, the students went up to Izzy and embraced him in a hug."

Catholic High School Teacher Caitlin Reidy

(Issued FALL 2021) -- Hundreds gathered (virtually) in early October to watch a livestream virtual event honoring 96 year-old Holocaust survivor Israel 'Izzy' Arbeiter of Newton, marking his 75 years of educating younger generations on three continents about the Holocaust and the roots of prejudice and hate.

The event was sponsored by the New England Friends of March of the Living (NEFMOTL) which raises scholarship funds to send high schoolers to Poland and Israel for life-changing experiences. This was the Second Annual Tribute Event with the theme 'Voices from the Past... Lessons for the Future.' Izzy received the Stephan Ross Excellence in Holocaust Education Award, named for New England Holocaust Memorial Founder and lifelong friend Stephan Ross.

Event host Irv Kempner of Sharon, Chair of NEF-MOTL and son of Holocaust survivors, emphasized the importance of March of the Living: "Prejudice and anti-Semitism are on the rise in the U.S. and worldwide. Now is the time to instill the lessons of the Holocaust in our youth."

To view the tribute video, donate toward scholar-ships, and learn about registration for the 2022 teen trip, visit the https://motlnewengland.org/tribute. NEFMOTL, which gives every qualified teen participant a \$2,000 scholarship, is a 501(c)(3) charity.

By Stan Hurwitz / stanhurwitz@gmail.com



Izzy Arbeiter displays his concentration camp prisoner number tattoo

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Fall River United Jewish Appeal, Inc.

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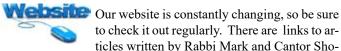






Views from the October Nature Hike at the Allens Pond Audubon Nature Sanctuary. Cantor Shoshana takes wonderful photos, but she is still working on selfies!





to check it out regularly. There are links to articles written by Rabbi Mark and Cantor Sho-

shana, updated service schedules and upcoming events. You can also see the bulletin there first, especially if you live outside the greater Fall River area! Go to www.frtemplebethel.org

YAHRZEITS

11/1/2021 26 Cheshvan 5782 Anna Zalkind

11/2/2021 27 Cheshvan 5782 Harold Katzman

28 Cheshvan 5782 11/3/2021 Ada Gourse

11/4/2021 29 Cheshvan 5782

Doris Becker Seymour Kevelson Alfred Kublin Carl Zeitz

11/6/2021 2 Kisley 5782

Ethel Bernstein Frances Sokoll

11/8/2021 4 Kisley 5782

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

11/9/2021 5 Kisley 5782

Bennett Alpert Neilson Caplain Gladys Shapiro

11/10/2021 6 Kislev 5782 Ida Z. David

11/11/2021 7 Kislev 5782 Ida Appel Francis F. Levin Leah Reback

11/12/2021 8 Kislev 5782 Dr. Barry Steinberg

11/13/2021 9 Kislev 5782 Tillie Ruderman Esther Weissman

11/14/2021 10 Kisley 5782 Edward Adaskin

Julius Grozen Eric Lawson David Nadien

11/16/2021 12 Kislev 5782 Sadie Katersky

11/17/2021 13 Kisley 5782 David Cohen Ruth Levin

11/18/2021 14 Kisley 5782 Hattie Caplain

11/20/2021 16 Kislev 5782 Gary Reitzas

11/21/2021 17 Kislev 5782 Judy Berg Sylvia T. Reback

11/25/2021 21 Kislev 5782 Edith Gold

11/26/2021 22 Kislev 5782 Hummy Chebot Barry Novek

11/27/2021 23 Kislev 5782 Alice Helfanbein Elizabeth Beryl Waksler Donna Ann Wolfson

11/30/2021 26 Kislev 5782 Henry William Juda Phyllis Nerenberg Samuel Rotenberg Julius Simpson



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