

TEMPLE BETH EL

FALL RIVER, MASSACHUSETTS



98th Year

November 2025

Cheshvan/Kislev 5786

No. 3

Regular Service Schedule - In Person and Via Zoom

Morning Minyan (Monday & Thursday).....8:00 am
 Friday Evening Services5:30 pm
 Shabbat Morning Services.....10:00 am

AUCTION UPDATE

On Thursday, November 6th, we assembled in the Temple vestry for the scheduled auction of the Temple Beth El complex. While the auctioneer expected several bidders to attend, either in person or on the phone, by the allotted time there were still no registered bidders present. As a result the auction was suspended. There has been some interest in our complex, and we have given multiple tours to interested parties, but there are some obstacles to be overcome, especially for developers hoping to build housing units. One such issue is the city ordinance that says there must be 1.5 parking spaces per housing unit. We will continue to do our due diligence to look for a buyer, and keep you informed of our progress. In the meantime we will keep our Temple expenses to a bare minimum.

WE HAVE MOVED!

309 North Main St, Fall River, MA 02720

We are up and operating at the Unitarian Church (UC)! Our office is open, our phones are working, and all of our religious services are being held in the light-filled chapel. We hope you will come see it soon!

From now on please send all mail, including cemetery mail, to:

Temple Beth El
309 North Main Street
Fall River, MA, 02720

Our phone number remains (508) 674-3529.

Our website is still frtemplebethel.org

Our new email is frtemplebethel@gmail.com
 (in both cases fr stands for Fall River)

Here are some of the many things we have accomplished to date:

Office - we have set up the latest high speed internet to have the best Zoom experience and office use possible. We also have 5G desk phones with some great new features.

Chapel - UC has provided a large locked closet where our Torahs, Siddurim, Humashim, Talit, etc will be respectfully kept when not part of a service. Rabbi Mark has personally overseen this set up. We are still working out logistics, as we must move some things back and forth for services. The acoustics are terrific!

All of the above has been paid for by UC leadership, for which we are very thankful!

Kitchen - Libby Cohen is setting up our special part of the kitchen with our own fridge and our own pantry closet.

Security - Rick and Leonard are working with suppliers to install state-of-the-art alarms, sensors, video monitoring, etc. Some of these systems are already in place.

We will continue to have a guard present during Shabbat services. We are fortunate that the guard who covers our services is exceptionally friendly and truly cares about our safety.

Ark - the UC leadership was fully open to us having a permanent Torah Ark and eternal light in the chapel. Both of those will likely be in place by the time you read this. The eternal light came from the TBE main sanctuary.

As mentioned in previous articles, the UC leadership has been exceptionally warm, welcoming, accommodating, and friendly towards us. We are so fortunate that Cantor Shoshana knew of them and inquired about us joining them!

Sometime in January or February, Libby and Sisterhood will host a nice "Welcome to UC" kiddush.

We hope you will come to services or just stop by to see what life is all about in our new home. The best time to stop by is Monday, Wednesday or Friday between 9 am and noon as Marie will be in the office. Call or email ahead just to be sure she is there, as she sometimes works from home.

A message from our Spiritual Leader,
Cantor Shoshana Brown

A Time of Rejoicing

There were nine of us gathered at the Temple Beth El Cemetery for the burial of almost a century's worth of holy books which we were unsuccessful in giving away, and which could not just be discarded – along with other items that we had to put to rest before moving into our new space at 309 N. Main St...and then a tenth person joined us towards the end (he had gone to one of the other Jewish cemeteries by mistake!). So, until our tenth arrived, we counted all the old *siddurim*, *chumashim*, old bags of tefillin and tallitot, etc. as a tenth "person," and just had a minyan. Rabbi Mark talked about the supreme value of the *word*, names, and language in general in our tradition, especially the four-letter unpronounceable name of God, which our tradition teaches us never to desecrate or destroy. And so these items were given a dignified burial with song and the recitation of the *Kaddish d'Rabbanan*. Next time you go to the TBE cemetery, you can look for the small stone that designates the place where these items were buried (right next to the caretaker's shed).

I know that many readers of this bulletin do not live close enough to come to our services or events on a regular basis, and so you probably feel a great deal of sadness over the end of our time at our grand "temple" on High St., and cannot look forward to the warmth of our smaller new home on N. Main St. the way I do. But I have a feeling that our new space is going to be wonderful. At our burial ceremony, I had us read responsively from Psalm 30, which ends with these words:

*You have turned my mourning into dancing;
You have removed my sackcloth, clothing me instead
with robes of joy.
That I might sing Your praise unceasingly,
That I might thank You, Adonai my God, forever.*

This afternoon, as I write these words (on October 24th), I am still recalling an incident that happened this morning. I had been spending time at the temple with a very nice auctioneer, Mr. Josh Rioux from Plymouth, who had come to take some of our valuable Judaica to try to sell it for us via electronic auction. When he first came in the building, I took him upstairs to show him the sanctuary. Josh was so moved by its beauty and grandeur. Then later, as I was helping Josh carry some items out to his car, a nice-looking older couple was strolling by. We spoke briefly, and it turned out that they

had *always* wanted to see the interior of our building. So I took *them* in for a tour of the sanctuary, too. I'm glad they got to see it while it still stands.

Whenever I look at our sanctuary through the eyes of someone who has never seen it before, I marvel at how beautiful it is. And yet, no matter how grand, a building is not a community. *We need people actively engaging in our midst*: whether it be people who come to *daven* (pray); people who come to study (though we do some of this on Zoom); people who come to volunteer their time to keep us going in a myriad of tasks.

Once our move is complete, some of our volunteers who have worked tirelessly on this Herculean list of tasks (moving out of our building is *not* easy!!) will be able to take a well-earned rest! And then our needs will take a different turn: how to plan engaging, joyful, meaningful events that will draw our current membership back into our midst; and perhaps draw in a few unaffiliated Jews from elsewhere who have not joined us before.

I do believe that life in our new space down on North Main Street will be joyful – that, having removed the heavy responsibility of keeping up a huge, structurally-challenged edifice, we may find ourselves feeling more light-hearted; that we may feel, as the psalmist said, that we can don robes of joy.

I hope that as many of you as possible who are reading this column will come to join us soon: in prayer, in dancing, in singing God's praise – or just in schmoozing with your fellow Jews – in our new home. *We need your presence* – for at the end of the day, no stained-glass windows can make up for the human beings without whose presence the Jewish community cannot continue to exist. We are almost done with an enormously difficult task. In Psalm 30 the psalmist says:

In the evening one may lie down weeping; but with the dawn rejoicing comes.

I believe that we are approaching a time of rejoicing. I hope you will join us!

Cantor Shoshana Brown

TEMPLE FAMILY

- Our sincere condolences to the family and friends of Paula Shaer.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

After months and months of preparation, many meetings, tours of the building, endless decisions to be made with regard to everything in the building: boxing up seemingly endless piles of books of all kinds, having a holy burial for books and other Judaica, moving furniture, preparing for the shredding truck, identifying artifacts, mailing out plaques, moving furniture, coordinating with our wonderful hosts at the Unitarian church and countless other projects. By the time you read this, our move will finally be done. Almost.

We are still hoping to bring the Tree of Life with us to the Unitarian church. Although I have looked at that tree countless times over the years, I never really thought about how big it is. Because of the size we are still struggling to find a space for it, but our gracious hosts have told us that if we can find a place to put it, it is fine with them. All of the names etched on the many leaves and bricks represent our beloved friends and family members, and I think having it in our new home will be a way to keep our years of memories of the Temple near and dear to our hearts.

I want to just say a few thanks as we start our new adventure. First, I would like to thank Charlie Winokoor, pictured with me below, for once again blowing the shofar during our High Holiday services. He did a terrific job as always, and the final shofar blasts with Charlie and Rabbi Mark that closed the Yom Kippur services were both powerful and meaningful.

Thank you to our next door neighbors at Waring-Sullivan's Cherry Place for allowing us to use ten of their parking spots at no charge for the People Incorporated preschool teachers. They let us use those spots for over five years, and it was truly a mitzvah, especially in winter.

Lastly, I want to thank Leonard Lehrer for going miles beyond the call of duty as Project Manager for the sale of the temple and the move to UC. In the September bulletin I tried to name all who helped, so I won't repeat them here, but I would be remiss if I did not single out Leonard for the untold hours he has spent preparing for everything, making numerous detailed presentations, keeping all of us on his timetable to get things done, talking to endless people, being the "Excel and PowerPoint Wizard" counting literally thousands of items for our inventory, and not being afraid to roll up his sleeves and move furniture, bury books, coordinate contractors, and above all, GET THINGS DONE. I don't know where we would be without Leonard, but I do know that there is no way we would be where we are now -- ahead of schedule to move our operations out of the High Street building and into the Unitarian Church by the end of the year.

Please, if you see Leonard, join me in thanking him for all he has done already, and for following through on all that remains to be done.

Rick Schwartz
President

Sisterhood President's Message

As I sit here writing this piece, I'm reflecting on how fast these days are moving. In a few weeks we'll be installed in our new location. Keep in mind, we are doing everything possible, for the smoothest transition there can be.

On Tuesday, November 11th, we will celebrate the arrival of TBE's Torah scrolls at our new home. We will have a coffee and social to celebrate. Everyone is invited to attend. Members of the UC are also invited to join us. If you are able, please make every effort to attend.

Meanwhile, we are busy getting ready for the auction on Thursday, November 6th. This entails packing up and getting things set up in the UC building. This is a never-ending process.

I also want to thank everyone who donated to the Flower Fund this year. Your donations helped us to cover the cost of two gorgeous flower arrangements for the High Holidays, and several beautiful mums outside the High Street doors. The names of those who donated are listed in the box on page 7.

If you want to keep abreast of the latest goings on, make sure to watch your e-mails and remember to open them in a timely fashion.

So, until next month, stay safe.

Libby Cohen
Sisterhood President



Service Schedule

November 2025: Cheshvan/Kislev 5786

Saturday, November 1 (10 Cheshvan)

Weekly Portion: Lekh-Lekha 10:00 am

Friday, November 7 (16 Cheshvan)

Candle Lighting 4:14 pm
Shabbat Service 5:30 pm

Saturday, November 8 (17 Cheshvan)

Weekly Portion: Vayera 10:00 am

Friday, November 14 (23 Cheshvan)

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

Saturday, November 15 (24 Cheshvan)

Weekly Portion: Chayei Sara 10:00 am

Friday, November 21 (1 Kislev)

Rosh Chodesh Kislev
Candle Lighting 4:02 pm
Shabbat Service 5:30 pm

Saturday, November 22 (2 Kislev)

Weekly Portion: Toldot 10:00 am

Friday, November 28 (8 Kislev)

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

Saturday, November 29 (9 Kislev)

Weekly Portion: Vayetzei 10:00 am

IN MEMORIAM

PAULA SHAER

October 11, 2025 - 19 Tishrei 5786

May her memory be for a blessing

LEADERSHIP

Mark Elber.....Rabbi
Shoshana Brown.....Cantor
Richard Schwartz.....President
Carleen Makowski.....Vice President
Libby Cohen.....Secretary
Leonard Lehrer.....Treasurer
Libby Cohen.....Sisterhood Pres.
William E. Kaufman.....Rabbi Emeritus

TEMPLE OFFICE

309 N Main St, Fall River, MA 02720

Tel: (508) 674-3529

E-Mail: frtemplebethel@gmail.com

Website: frtemplebethel.org

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday - Wednesday - Friday, 9 am to Noon

OFFICE CLOSED:

Thursday, November 27th - Thanksgiving

IMPORTANT

Please mail all correspondence to our new address:

Temple Beth El
309 North Main St
Fall River, MA 02720

Also, our Comcast email account
will soon be cancelled,
so please use our Gmail account:

frtemplebethel@gmail.com

*(Please don't forget the "fr" or you
will be emailing a TBE in California!)*

Our phone number is still (508) 674-3529

(but our second line is no longer in service)

And our website remains the same:

www.frtemplebethel.org

Please visit our website to read
a wonderful poem written
by Paula Berg (Judy Berg's
daughter and cousin of Rick
& Dan Schwartz) called:

**The Hope of Thousands
of Years."**

TBE News & Notes from Cantor Shoshana

A **big thanks** to the Sisterhood and our Events Committee for **the lovely Simchat Torah Kiddush-luncheon** on October 15. We had our "last dance" with our Torah scrolls in the High St. temple, which was only slightly bittersweet as we look forward to **welcoming our scrolls into their new home on November 11th** (see below).

And though we were a small group (nine people, with a tenth showing up at the end) we gathered at the TBE cemetery on Thursday, October 23rd, for the **"holy burial"** of many old prayer books, *chumashim*, and other holy items – a sad task, but necessary as we clear out our building which has been hosting Jewish devotional life for almost 100 years! And while our numbers were few, we were mighty shovellers! Thanks to all who participated in this event.

Our **TBE Outing Club** had a perfect October day for our "Lunch and Leaves" walk at Mt. Hope Farm in Bristol, RI. As of now, I do not foresee another walk before the spring, but keep an eye out for an email blast – just in case someone comes up with a must-do outing for November or December!

Please join us on **Tuesday, November 11th (Veterans Day)** at the Fall River Unitarian Church (309 North Main St.) – our new home – for a brief but joyful **"Welcoming the Torah Scrolls" ceremony, beginning at 2 PM**. There will be a few songs, a few prayers, and afterwards some socializing over coffee and cake (save your appetite!). **Our UC host-community has been invited to join us, so please make every effort to join the party!**

Our first **Make a Minyan** in our new location will be on **Saturday, Nov. 22nd**. As of this writing, I do not know whether we will be offering a full lunch with kiddush on this Shabbat, but it is a good opportunity to come and get a feel for our new home. If there is no lunch this time, there will at least be a little something to nosh on as we schmooze after the service. **Please come and help us make a minyan and give us the opportunity to read the Torah in our new home!**

Will there, or won't there be a Jewish movie-showing in November? It depends on how quickly we get everything set up in the new space. Watch your emails and stay tuned...



SUNDAY AFTERNOON AT THE JEWISH MOVIES

While we aren't yet sure if we will have a movie in November, we do plan to continue to have them in the future. It's really just a matter of mounting the TV on the wall (we have already picked out the spot). If we do have the opportunity to show a movie we will send out an email. Yet another reason to come see our new home at 309 North Main Street!



Sharon Steinberg, Carleen Makowski, Cantor Shoshana and Judy Morgenstern enjoy a beautiful autumn day at Mt. Hope Farm in Bristol, RI



Colorful assortment of leaves in the Mill River, Northampton

Thank you for your donations received by Oct. 28th

YAHREZEITS

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

Father, Dr. Hammond Bender	Susan Bender
Mother, Helene Bender	Susan Bender
Grandfather, Jacob Brown	Howie & Sheila Galitsky
Mother, Irma Feldman	Gail Wilkinson
Mother, Freda Finkelstein	Joel Finkelstein
Father, Max Gold	Micki Gold
Brother, Jack Goldberg	Jane Goldberg
Mother, Lenora Goltz	Barbara Sheer
Father, Harry Holtzman	Michael & Charron
Mother, Sheila Holtzman	Holtzman & family
Father, Louis Horvitz	Stewart & Susan Horvitz
Father, Erwin Juda	Joyce Juda
Grandfather, Isadore Juda	Joyce Juda
Father, Dr. Abraham Kaufmann	David & Karen Kaufmann
Mother, Martha Kaufmann	David & Karen Kaufmann
Mother, Esther Kaufman	Etta Kaufman
Mother, Miriam Klein	Sarah Zaino
Mother, Rose Krasnow	Carol Schwartz
Brother, Stewart Kusinitz	Enid K. Lomax
Brother, Stewart Kusinitz	Edith K. Getchell
Brother, Jonathan (JD) Lash	Gillian Perlinski
Brother, Jonathan (JD) Lash	Alison & Mitchell Rode
Father, Dr. Harry Levine	Alan Levine
Father, Solomon Moss	Shirley Taradash
Father, Rabbi Samuel S. Ruderman	Ora Beth Levine
Grandfather, Ben Twersky	Jay Horowitz
Grandmother, Luba Twersky	Jay Horowitz

MAURICE ALPERT MEMORIAL ENDOWMENT FUND

For the yahrzeit of my beloved uncle, Carl Goodman
Sandra Alpert Pankiw

CAPITAL FUND

In honor of my aliyah during Yom Kippur
Jeffrey Stoloff

MORNING MINYAN FUND

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

IDA AND DAVID CHAVENSON SCHOLARSHIP FUND

For the yahrzeit of my beloved grandmother, Sadie E. Smith
For the yahrzeit of my beloved mother, Elsie Udovin
Judith Kosofsky
For the yahrzeit of my beloved mother, Elsie Udovin
Barbara Udovin

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The holy burial at Temple Beth El Cemetery. The hole was 500 cubic feet and it was just about filled!



The Westfield River, in Becket, MA. Photos taken by Cantor Shoshana during a quick getaway to the Berkshires in Western Mass with Rabbi Mark after the High Holidays.

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High Holiday Flower Fund

Thank you to all who made donations to the Flower Fund! With your help we were able to get extra-special arrangements for the bimah during the High Holidays. Thank you!

**Susan Bender
Tilden Bogus
Anita & Norm Bolski
Arleen Bor
Libby Cohen
Joan Feldman
Edith Kusinitz Getchell
Barton & Joan Goldberg
Etta Kaufman
Enid Kusinitz Lomax
Carleen Makowski
Linda & Jerry Monchik
Judy Morgenstern
Sue & Joe Paresky
Elaine Weiss & Harvey Reback
Carol & Ron Schwartz
Rick Schwartz**

This picture shows one of the two pallets of boxes filled with paperwork that was on its way to be professionally shredded. Yet another thing that happened in October!



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

Shalom TBE Family and Friends,

Last month I mentioned that the TBE cemetery was legally separated from the "synagogue." Here is an update on that activity.

Incorporation - The cemetery is its own incorporated entity under Massachusetts law as of Sep 2025.

The TBE "synagogue" has been and remains incorporated as

Congregation Beth El of Fall River Inc.

The cemetery is now separately incorporated as Temple Beth El Cemetery, Fall River Inc.

By-laws - Carleen Makowski and I created a 1st draft of by-laws for the stand alone cemetery. (Previously the cemetery leveraged the original TBE by-laws for governance etc.)

The draft had been reviewed by the cemetery's lawyer with comments. The cemetery board will be meeting with the lawyer in December to finalize the By-laws. I expect us to have a formal version submitted to State of Massachusetts in January. (Well within expected timeframe).

IRS Submission - Our Office Manager, Marie Twomey, and I have been working on an IRS form 1024 to submit as part of the incorporation. We have engaged the consultation of our lawyer, our CPA, and a former IRS agent now working as a consultant. We expect to submit form 1024 in January. This is also within expected timeframe.

Enhanced video security - Our cemetery President, Rick Schwartz, has been working with a contractor to add an additional video monitoring camera to cover a blind spot.

Given the work in process above, I'll provide the next update in the February 2026 bulletin.

If you have any questions, send them to Marie, and we'll follow up.

Warmest regards

Leonard Lehrer, TBE-Cemetery Treasurer

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

Friendly Visitor: Arleen Bor is ready, willing and able to visit the sick or shut-ins. Please call the UJA office at (508) 673-7791 to schedule a visit.



Our website is constantly changing, so be sure to check it out regularly. There are links to articles written by Rabbi Mark and Cantor Shoshana, updated service schedules and upcoming events. You can also see the bulletin there first,
Go to www.frtemplebethel.org

YAHREZEITS

11/1/2025 10 Cheshvan 5786
Anna Simmons

11/3/2025 12 Cheshvan 5786
Betty Rosenberg

11/4/2025 13 Cheshvan 5786
Marilyn Ehrenhaus
Mary Gollub
Lenora Goltz
Eva Leviss
Kenneth R. Resnick

11/5/2025 14 Cheshvan 5786
Isidor Juda
Bessie Kassler

11/6/2025 15 Cheshvan 5786
Rae Gitlin

11/7/2025 16 Cheshvan 5786
Lillian F. Simon

11/8/2025 17 Cheshvan 5786
Diana Hyman
Erwin Juda

11/9/2025 18 Cheshvan 5786
Dr. Irving Fradkin

11/10/2025 19 Cheshvan 5786
Jacob Brown
Lorraine Kaplan

11/11/2025 20 Cheshvan 5786
Sylvia Feldman

11/12/2025 21 Cheshvan 5786
Helene Bender
Hyman Edward Lepes
Yetta Sludsky

11/13/2025 22 Cheshvan 5786
Carl Feldman

11/14/2025 23 Cheshvan 5786
Bessie Bolski
Marion Horvitz
Joshua Lehrer
Joseph Simmons

11/15/2025 24 Cheshvan 5786
Lawrence Howard Golding

11/16/2025 25 Cheshvan 5786
Leo Greene
Dr. David Greer

11/18/2025 27 Cheshvan 5786
Alexander Pankiw

11/19/2025 28 Cheshvan 5786
Ada Gourse

11/20/2025 29 Cheshvan 5786
Seymour Kevelson
Alfred Kublin
Carl Zeitz

11/22/2025 2 Kislev 5786
Shirley Meretsky
Frances Sokoll

11/24/2025 4 Kislev 5786
Harry Finkelstein
Anne Feinberg Gregory
Paul Horowitz
Louis Weinstock
Donald Wiener
Myron Wilner
Lillian Woltman

11/25/2025 5 Kislev 5786
Neilson Caplain
Gladys Shapiro

11/26/2025 6 Kislev 5786
Ida Z. David

11/27/2025 7 Kislev 5786
Ida Appel
Miriam Lehrer
Francis F. Levin
Leah Reback

11/29/2025 9 Kislev 5786
Tillie Ruderman
Esther Weissman

11/30/2025 10 Kislev 5786
Julius Grozen
Eric Lawson
David Nadien

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(a community hospice agency)

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