

# TEMPLE BETH EL

FALL RIVER, MASSACHUSETTS



92nd Year

April 2020

Nisan/Iyar 5780

No. 8

## Regular Service Schedule

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



Purim Party  
March 9, 2020



A message from our Spiritual Leader,  
Cantor Shoshana Brown

## “Love in the Time of Corona”

In 1988, the English-language version of *El Amor en los Tiempos del Colera*, “Love in the Time of Cholera,” a novel by the Colombian Nobel Prize-winning author Gabriel Garcia Marquez (first published in Spanish in 1985) was released. I know I read it, but I don’t remember too much about it except the title, which, for obvious reasons, springs to mind these days. Everyone feels it – how strange this time period is. And it is changing so much, so fast, every day, that I can only hope that between the time of my writing this column and your reading it, it will not already be out of sync with what is going on in our world.

Of course it would be wonderful if this coronavirus pandemic were over by the time you have this April bulletin in your hands – but that is wishful thinking, and wishful thinking will not get us through this crisis. At the time of this writing, there has only been one reported case of the virus in Fall River, but I expect that by the time you read these words that will have changed.

Normally, I would be writing something about Pesach at this time of year. And certainly the presence of a plague has a “biblical” feel to it. When you think of the first Passover seder as it is depicted in the Torah, on that fearful night of “watching,” while the Angel of Death inflicted the worst of all God’s punishments on Egypt – the taking of the lives of all their firstborn, while “passing over” the homes of all the Jews, who had marked their doorposts with the blood of their paschal lambs – you realize that the atmosphere of that night would have been more terrifying than joyful. Like those families, who dared not step beyond their doorways on that night, we approach Passover isolated by family or household, spending most of our time within our homes. Of course we go out to shop for groceries or other absolute necessities, but we are advised not to gather in groups other than those of our immediate household in an attempt to slow the spread of this virus, which can be deadly to the elderly and to those with compromised immune systems or other medical complications.

It is a strange time. For those of us who are able, the one thing we can still enjoy beyond the confines of our homes is the simple act of taking walks. Perhaps one of the silver linings of this period is that more people than ever are appreciating the great natural beauty of our area, and the many parks and nature preserves that abound in close proximity to Fall River. It would be wonderful if the increased enjoyment of these special places led to an increased commitment to preserve them. We have so many local groups that work to preserve these natural places – such as MA Audubon, the Westport Land Conservancy

Trust, the Nature Conservancy, the Dartmouth Natural Resources Trust, and the Trustees of Reservations. And of course it is not just a matter of saving particular places, but of developing an ecologically-sensitive consciousness, and taking actions to preserve habitats all over this planet.

At the same time, this period, for me at least, is making me more appreciative than perhaps I have ever been of those close by. If I have to be “stuck at home,” it is great to be “stuck” with a husband like Mark and a son like Lev. It is truly a blessing to have a spouse with whom I share so many values, interests, and sensibilities – especially a sense of humor! And Lev, now doing all of his schoolwork from home, impresses us to no end with his ability to focus on his work in the home environment – we are so proud of him! Most days include at some point a family walk, and we are sitting down to more real family meals together than ever.

Of course this time is anxiety-inducing. We worry about our nation, about Israel, and indeed about all the world – and especially about all the members of Temple Beth El. But it is also a period of appreciation and of love. I am sorry that we will not be able to gather as a community for Passover, or even for Shabbat services for some time (we don’t yet know for how long), and I am sorry that our home seder will not include friends or other relatives – but I have found over this past week (yes, it has only been a week since this all began unfolding) that I am now looking forward to our small family seder. Being “stuck” with only one another has become over this week not an experience of deprivation, but of appreciation and even of joy – joy at discovering this treasure chest of love within my own family that somehow I had taken a little for granted, during ordinary times.

Mark, Lev and I are blessed to be healthy so far and to be able to do things for the community from a distance even while our normal activities, services, classes, etc. have been disrupted. The effects of this period on our economy and on the lives of so many individuals and families, is almost as worrisome as the prospect of being ill with this virus. I hope and pray that the love that I am experiencing with my family right now is something that many others are also experiencing – and that this love will expand beyond the walls of our personal homes, manifesting itself in an outpouring of love and generosity towards all who are not so fortunate. May God expand all our hearts with love and generosity towards one another as fellow beings on this planet, and may we all stay healthy and, in whatever way we can, connected to those we love as we make our way through this “time of corona.”

Wishing you health, happiness, peace and love,

*Cantor Shoshana*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

What can I say this month except that I hope everyone is taking the best possible care of themselves and each other while we do whatever we can to minimize the spread of the Coronavirus. We truly wish we didn't have to close our doors, but for the time being that is the best thing we can do to try to stop the COVID-19 virus in its tracks. Please do your part as well by staying close to home, as we all add "social distancing" to our collective vocabularies.

Just a reminder that even though our office is closed, we are keeping a close eye on our voicemails and emails, and we will return all messages as soon as possible. Keep an eye out for emails from us with updates, and check out our website regularly. Rabbi Mark and Cantor Shoshana will be writing articles that will be posted every Friday, including a new series called the "Corona Chronicles" and a discussion of the weekly portion. We are also looking into the possibility of streaming our services, so that everyone can participate from the safety of their homes.

On page 7 are the Passover Customs that Rabbi Mark has provided, including all of the important dates for this year. There is also a form for selling *Chametz*, which you can fill out and mail in OR you can simply reply to the *Sale of Chametz* email you should have received last week, simply noting your name and address in your reply.

We will very much miss hosting our annual Passover celebration. We hope to be able to celebrate all the more next year.

Please join me in welcoming back Richard and Dawn Liss to our congregation. They spend the winter in South Carolina, but we look forward to seeing them this summer.

Remember, you are not alone. Please call us if you need a helping hand or someone to talk to.

*Steve Silverman*  
President

*Sisterhood President's Message*

As I write this article, I am filled with mixed emotions and a heavy heart. We are presently under a quarantine of sorts. We are being asked to stay in our homes, and refrain from any social activities, for the next few weeks. This means we are planning a quieter Passover than usual. It looks like we'll be eating matzah and drinking wine by ourselves. Hopefully, next year we will once again be able to celebrate together.

I'm not sure about anyone else, but I'm a people person, and require a certain amount of social interaction. I hope for all of us that this does not go on too long. Mostly, I wish that everyone stays healthy, both physically and mentally.

I must say that our Purim party was a smash hit. The turnout was great. People had a chance to get together and enjoy themselves before things went awry. The film that was shown was so appropriate. I'm glad I got to see it. I want to thank the following people for helping to make it happen: Harvey and Elaine Reback, Hannah Evans, Judy Morgenstern, Marie Twomey, George Haire, Arleen Bor, and of course Rabbi Mark and Cantor Shoshana. Again, thank you.

So until next month, stay safe and healthy.

*Libby Cohen*  
Sisterhood President

*Sisterhood Gift Shop*

**\* SALE \* 50% Off! \* SALE \***

The Sisterhood Gift Shop sale will continue as soon as the Temple reopens. Until then, stay healthy!

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

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## SERVICE SCHEDULE

**April 2020:  
Nisan/Iyar 5780**

**- Beginning when we are able to reopen -**

Friday, April 3 (9 Nisan)

Shabbat Service 5:30 pm  
Candle Lighting 6:55 pm

Saturday, April 4 (10 Nisan)

Weekly Portion: Tzav 10:00 am  
Shabbat HaGadol

Tuesday, April 7 (13 Nisan)

Search for Chametz  
(In the Evening)

Wednesday, April 8 (14 Nisan)

Fast of the First Born  
Erev Passover  
Candle Lighting 7:01 pm  
First Seder (evening)

Thursday, April 9 (15 Nisan)

Passover - First Day 10:00 am  
Candle Lighting after 8:04 pm  
Second Seder (evening)

Friday, April 10 (16 Nisan)

Passover - Second Day 10:00 am  
Shabbat Service 5:30 pm  
Candle Lighting 7:03 pm

Saturday, April 11 (17 Nisan)

Chol Hamo'ed Passover 10:00 am

Tuesday, April 14 (20 Nisan)

Candle Lighting 7:08 pm

Wednesday, April 15 (21 Nisan)

Passover - Seventh Day 10:00 am  
Candle Lighting after 8:11 pm

Thursday, April 16 (22 Nisan)

Passover - Eighth Day 10:00 am  
Yizkor approximately 11:45 am

Friday, April 17 (23 Nisan)

Shabbat Service 5:30 pm  
Candle Lighting 7:11 pm

Saturday, April 18 (24 Nisan)

Weekly Portion: Sh'mini 10:00 am

Tuesday, April 21 (27 Nisan)

Yom HaShoah  
(Holocaust Memorial Day)

*Continued next column*

Friday, April 24 (30 Nisan)

Rosh Chodesh Iyar  
Shabbat Service 5:30 pm  
Candle Lighting 7:19 pm

Saturday, April 25 (1 Iyar)

Weekly Portion: Tazria-Metzora 10:00 am  
Rosh Chodesh Iyar

Wednesday, April 29 (5 Iyar)

Yom Ha'Atzma'ut  
(Israel Independence Day)

### The ~~NEW~~ Sisterhood Book Club

As the Temple is closed we are not sure when we will be able to meet again for Book Club, but whenever we do these are the next four books we will be discussing. Watch your email for updates!

"Nickel Boys" by Colson Whitehead

"The Great Alone" by Christian Hannah

"The Dutch House" by Ann Patchett

"Where the Crawdad Sings" by Delia Owens

### Fall River United Jewish Appeal, Inc.

385 High Street, Fall River, MA 02720  
Tel: (508) 673-7791 Fax: (508) 678-6735  
e-mail: fruja@comcast.net

Office Hours: Monday & Thursday, 9 am to Noon

Friendly Visitor: Arleen Bor is our "Friendly Visitor" and she will be ready, willing and able to continue her visits as soon as it is safe to do so. In the meantime, feel free to call the UJA office at (508) 673-7791 to schedule an upcoming visit.

Senior Center: (at the Fall River Jewish Home)

**Open for take-out** 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.

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## TBE News & Notes

### **Looking back...**

I am so glad that so many of you were able to attend our **Purim celebration** last month! Perhaps it was because we sensed that things were about to get more difficult, or perhaps there was some other reason, but this year's Megillah reading and Purim *se'udah* (festive meal) seemed particularly joyful, and the group gathered there even more cohesive than usual. I am so glad that some of you were ready with your smart phones to take pictures – thank you to Libby Cohen and Elaine Weiss Reback for those that appear in this bulletin! And thank you to Libby and Beverly Solup, who rounded up the food; and to Elaine and Hannah Evans, who supervised the excellent decorations. All who stayed afterwards loved the film (so appropriate for Purim), "Making Trouble: Three Generations of Funny Jewish Women" – which took us from Molly Picon and Fanny Brice to Gilda Radner and Joan Rivers. If you missed it, in the coming months (when things get back to normal!) you can check this DVD out of the TBE library. Sadly, in the wake of this Coronavirus pandemic, and all events being suspended at the temple until further notice, we were not able to view the Kirk Douglas film, "Cast a Giant Shadow." Surely it will make a reappearance on our film list at the temple another month.

### **Looking ahead...**

This is a tough one! No one can say what is ahead right now. As you know, the **Passover** meal at TBE has been called off, and I suspect there will be no **Yom haShoah** commemoration either. The rabbi and I are making plans to reach out to you via phone calls and through email communications (you can also check our website if you might have missed an email). One thing I can say is – how convenient that the rabbi and cantor live in the same household! By the time you get this bulletin, you should have already received some of these phone calls or email missives from us. If you would like to speak with us about anything (or just need someone to chat with), please feel free to leave a message on the temple office phone, and we will get back to you as soon as possible. **As soon as we can begin to schedule services and events again, we will be in touch via email, or you can check the TBE website.** Here's wishing you all the best possible health – physical, emotional, and spiritual. We look forward to getting together in person as a community again SOON!

## 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

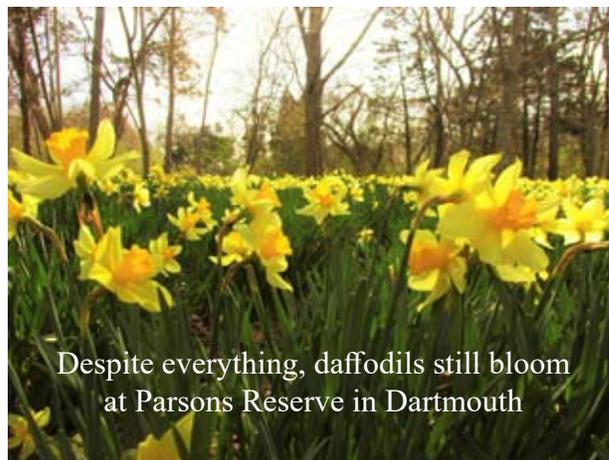
### OFFICE HOURS:

Monday - Friday, 9 am to Noon

### OFFICE CLOSED:

Until further notice. Should we reopen in April, we will be closed the following days:

Thursday, April 9 – Passover – First Day  
Friday, April 10 – Passover – Second  
Wednesday, April 15 – Passover – Seventh Day  
Thursday, April 16 – Passover – Eighth Day  
Monday, April 20 – Patriot's Day



Despite everything, daffodils still bloom  
at Parsons Reserve in Dartmouth



Sunday at the Jewish Movies will  
resume when we reopen!

## SOUTH COAST MEMORIALS

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*Thank you for your donations received through March 20, 2020*

**Yahrzeits**

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

<b>Father, Louis Bachman</b>	Marilyn Sokoll
<b>Mother, Marian Cohen</b>	Anne Griffin
<b>Father, Samuel Ehrenhaus</b>	Abraham Ehrenhaus
<b>Father, Louis Galitsky</b>	Howard Galitsky
<b>Husband, Gerald Goldberg</b>	Gloria Goldberg
<b>Wife, Alice Horowitz</b>	Jay Horowitz
<b>Parents, Rose &amp; George Kessler</b>	Sylvia Eisner & Don Kessler
<b>Mother, Edith R. Kusnitz</b>	Edith K. Getchell
<b>Mother, Edith R. Kusnitz</b>	Enid K. Lomax
<b>Mother in law, Florence Lash</b>	Sheila Lash
<b>Father, Sidney Lechan</b>	Norma Jean Lechan
<b>Mother, Madeline Leonard</b>	Marion Wilner
<b>Mother, Ruth Levine</b>	Alan & Anita Levine
<b>Father, Arthur Littman</b>	Ken Littman & family
<b>Husband and father, Charles Meretsky</b>	Shirley & Linda Meretsky
<b>Father, William Meyerson</b>	Anita Bolski
<b>Father, Louis Nulman</b>	Sybil Michelson
<b>Parents, Rose &amp; Phillip Ostroff</b>	Rhoda Falkow
<b>Mother, Elsie Pollock</b>	Marlene Pollock
<b>Mother, Minnie Somer</b>	Somer Family
<b>Father, Abraham Trieff</b>	Richard Trieff
<b>Brother, Harry Weissman</b>	Jeffrey Weissman
<b>Father, Milton Weissman</b>	Jeffrey Weissman
<b>Mother, Adelle Wiener</b>	Sharon Waxenbaum
<b>Father, Philip Zalkind</b>	Lisa Remy

**MAURICE ALPERT MEMORIAL ENDOWMENT FUND**

**In memory of Ruth Alban**  
**For the yahrzeit of my beloved grandfather, Nathan Silverman**  
 Sumner Alpert

**CAPITAL FUND**

**In honor of Charlie Stampler celebrating his 105th birthday**  
 Anita & Norm Bolsky  
**In memory of Louise Macy**  
 Ruth Bork  
**In memory of Frank Sokoll**  
 Warren Pierce  
**In memory of Fishy Sokoll**  
 Sylvia Eisner

**IDA & DAVID CHAVENSON SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

**In honor of Charlie Stampler celebrating his 105th birthday**  
 Chavenson Family

**BERNARD HOROWITZ BUILDING MAINTENANCE FUND**

**In memory of Francis "Fishy" Sokoll**  
 Arlyne Dondis

**ANNA & MORRIS LEPES CEMETERY FUND**

**For the yahrzeit of our beloved father, Morris Lepes**  
 Ellen & Terry Shand & family

**DR. MAURICE MORGANSTEIN MEMORIAL FUND**

**In memory of Paul Richard Salvage**  
 Justin, Gloria, Alyson & Evan David Morganstein

**WISH LIST (HIGH HOLIDAY PRAYER BOOKS)**

**In honor of Charlie Stampler celebrating a special birthday**  
 Iris Katzman  
 Sheila Lash  
**In memory of Ruth Alban**  
 Iris Katzman  
**In memory of Gloria Baskin**  
 Arthur & Barbara Sheer  
**In loving memory of my beloved husband, Melvin Lash**  
 Sheila Lash  
**In memory of Janet Smith**  
 Iris Katzman  
**For the yahrzeit of my beloved brother, Bernard Chebot**  
 Bill Chebot

*College Scholarships*

Scholarships are available to all students residing in the greater Fall River area.

Applications are available in the Temple office and should be completed by the student and returned as soon as possible.



The Scholarship Committee must have scholarship applications in hand by June 15, 2020

**Temple Family**

- Our condolences to Ethel & Sid Winokoor on the loss of Sid's beloved sister, Ruth Alban, to the family of Russell Robinson, and to the family of Gloria Baskin
- Welcome back to Richard and Dawn Liss, our newest members!

**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

## PASSOVER CUSTOMS

The Rabbi will be the agent for the sale of your *Chametz* which can be done either by mail, email, or in person prior to Wednesday, April 8, 2020 at 9:00 am. Please see the official form for selling Chametz. *Siyyum Bekhorim* for first born sons will not take place this year on Wednesday, April 8, 2020 after morning services because services are suspended until further notice. First born sons become exempt from the obligation to fast before Passover by attending the morning service at which a Jewish unit of study is completed. If you are interested in having an online *Siyyum* please contact the Temple office as soon as possible.

The principle of Jewish law involved is that one who engages in one mitzvah – completing a book of study and celebrating with refreshments – is exempt from the simultaneous performance of another mitzvah – fasting.

**OBSERVANCE:** The ceremony of searching for and removing leaven (*Bedikat Chametz*) is to take place Tuesday, April 7, 2020 in the evening.

The Passover home atmosphere is created each year by the traditional practice of thoroughly cleaning the home in all its parts and by the removal of all *Chametz* prior to Passover, both at home and when away.

**FOODS DURING PESACH FORBIDDEN FOR USE:** Leavened bread, cakes, biscuits and crackers, cereals, wheat, barley, oats, rice, peas and all liquids which contain ingredients or flavors made from grain alcohol.

### **PERMITTED FOODS:**

a) Requiring no “Kosher for Passover” label: The following foods are permitted in unopened packages or containers: coffee (without additives), sugar, vegetables (except peas and beans), string beans being permitted.

b) Fruits and those vegetables normally permitted for Passover use are permitted in their frozen state.

c) If certified Kosher for Passover use by a Rabbinical authority: Matzah, matzah meal, Passover noodles, candies, cakes, beverages, canned and processed foods, milk, butter, cheese, jams, jellies, vinegar, wines and liquors, kosher gelatin, relishes, salad oils, dried fruits, shortening – are permitted if Rabbinical authority indicates that these items of food have been manufactured and wrapped free from contact with *Chametz*. (Labels and tags marked “Kosher for Passover” are of no value unless they bear a Rabbinical seal.)

**UTENSILS:** Only dishes and utensils especially reserved for Passover should be used with the following exceptions:

a) The silverware, knives, forks and spoons made wholly of metal, if used during the year, may be used on Passover if thoroughly scoured and immersed in boiling water. All table glassware is permitted after thorough scouring. Fine translucent chinaware, if not used for a year, is permitted.

b) Metal pots and pans used for cooking purposes only (but not for baking) if made wholly of metal, though used during the year, may be used on Passover if first thoroughly scoured and immersed in boiling water.

c) Utensils used for baking during the year cannot be used during Passover. (A dishwasher machine may be used for Passover after thoroughly cleaning it and running it through one cycle empty.)

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*If you have any questions, please consult the Rabbi or check on the following website: [Rabbinicalassembly.org/pesah-guide](http://Rabbinicalassembly.org/pesah-guide)*

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## INSTRUCTIONS FOR SELLING CHAMETZ

Jewish law prohibits owning or handling *Chametz* during Passover. Thus all foods and beverages must either be consumed before erev Pesach (by Wednesday, April 8, 2020 at 10:20 am), destroyed, or sold to a non-Jew. You can sell the *Chametz* by filling out the attached form and sending it back to me at the Temple by Wednesday, April 8, 2020 by 9:00 am (it must reach the Temple by then). If you wish to arrange for the sale of *Chametz* in person, the deadline is Wednesday, April 8, 2020 by 9:00 am. I will buy the *Chametz* back for you after the holiday is over on Thursday night, April 16, 2020 at 8:35 pm. This is a legal transaction and together with all the necessary Passover cleaning, will enable you to fulfill the Mitzvah of “Not having or seeing *Chametz* (in your possession).” Please note, due to the current circumstances, this year you may also email the temple to sell your *Chametz*. Simply reply to the Sale of *Chametz* email with your name and address. Best wishes for a happy, healthy, and kosher Passover.

--Rabbi Mark Elber

## OFFICIAL FORM FOR SELLING CHAMETZ

I, the undersigned, empower and permit Rabbi Mark Elber of Temple Beth El to act in my place and stead, and in my behalf to sell all Chametz (leaven) and all products containing even the smallest percentage of Chametz possessed by me knowingly or unknowingly as defined by the Torah and Rabbinic law, and to lease all places wherein the above mentioned products owned by me may be found, especially premises located at:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Rabbi Mark Elber has the full right to sell and to lease the above by such transactions as he deems fit and proper for such time as he chooses. The authority which is hereby given is meant to be in conformity with the Torah and Rabbinic laws and regulations, and also to be in acceptance with the laws of the State of Massachusetts and of the United States of America.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



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, especially if you live outside the greater Fall River area! Go to [www.frtemplebethel.org](http://www.frtemplebethel.org)

## YAHARZEITS

4/1/2020 7 Nisan 5780

Rose Kessler  
Ethel Kravitz

4/4/2020 10 Nisan 5780

Harry Meretsky

4/6/2020 12 Nisan 5780

Raymond Brown  
Bernard Goodman  
Maury Kusinitz

4/7/2020 13 Nisan 5780

Dr. S. Benjamin Kaufmann  
Foster Lowenthal

4/8/2020 14 Nisan 5780

Jerry Gold  
David L. Gourse

4/10/2020 16 Nisan 5780

Harold Morris

4/11/2020 17 Nisan 5780

Sybil Goldberg

4/13/2020 19 Nisan 5780

Rabbi Moshe Babin  
Abraham Fradkin  
Max Simring

4/14/2020 20 Nisan 5780

Revelyn Baron  
Irene Zwetchkenbaum

4/15/2020 21 Nisan 5780

Melvin Belford  
Jacob Joseph Thaler  
Hyman Udovin

4/16/2020 22 Nisan 5780

Frances Levien  
Morris Phillips

4/17/2020 23 Nisan 5780

Rebecca Gerstenzang  
Geraldine Kesselman

4/18/2020 24 Nisan 5780

Hon. Aileen Belford  
Susan Entin  
Richard Shuman

4/20/2020 26 Nisan 5780

Sally Cohen  
Philip Sacknoff  
Stanley Scher

4/21/2020 27 Nisan 5780

Leonard Levien

4/22/2020 28 Nisan 5780

Jack Resnick  
Isadore Saxe

4/23/2020 29 Nisan 5780

Myrna Resnick  
Lillian Schwartz  
Robert Sonion

4/24/2020 30 Nisan 5780

Joseph Liebmann

4/25/2020 1 Iyar 5780

Norman Chebot  
Irving Smith  
Edwin Solup

4/27/2020 3 Iyar 5780

Annie Cohen  
Ruth Filler

4/28/2020 4 Iyar 5780

Gilbert Nerenberg  
Irving Zukroff

4/30/2020 6 Iyar 5780

Estelle Hyman  
David Lash  
Melvin Lash  
Lillian H. Levin  
Seymour H. Sugarman



A joyful yellow warbler captured by local photographer Greg Stone.

### Clifton HEALTHCARE CAMPUS

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