

# TEMPLE BETH EL

FALL RIVER, MASSACHUSETTS



89th Year

February 2017

Shevat/Adar 5777

No. 6

## Regular Service Schedule

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

## Tu biShevat Celebration

*Please join us as we celebrate the Jewish New Year of the Trees!*

Mark your calendars for Friday night, February 10th.  
During the time of the regular Friday night service (beginning at 5:30),  
we will observe Tu biShevat with songs, prayers, readings,  
*l'chayim's*, fruits, nuts and other snacks.



*Please RSVP to the office by Thursday, Feb. 2nd so we can set a place for you!*

## Martin Luther King Breakfast at Bristol Community College - January 16, 2017



The breakfast was attended by Cantor Shoshana, Bill Chebot, Elaine and Harvey Reback, Jerry Hahn, Bernie Alpert and Judy Morgenstern. Our thanks to Elaine for the pictures!



Cantor Shoshana sings her new arrangement, "Let Freedom Ring" at the MLK Breakfast. Find it on our website if you haven't yet heard it. [frtemplebethel.org](http://frtemplebethel.org)



The Gospel group, "Living Water" singing at the MLK Breakfast

## A message from our Spiritual Leader, Cantor Shoshana Brown

### The Power of Song

In an August 13, 2013 article posted on TIME.com, the columnist Stacy Horn discusses the health benefits of singing:

*When you sing, musical vibrations move through you, altering your physical and emotional landscape. Group singing, for those who have done it, is the most exhilarating and transformative of all. It takes something incredibly intimate, a sound that begins inside you, shares it with a roomful of people and it comes back as something even more thrilling: harmony. So it's not surprising that group singing is on the rise. According to Chorus America, 32.5 million adults sing in choirs, up by almost 10 million over the past six years...*

*As the popularity of group singing grows, science has been hard at work trying to explain why it has such a calming yet energizing effect on people. What researchers are beginning to discover is that singing is like an infusion of the perfect tranquilizer, the kind that both soothes your nerves and elevates your spirits.*

*The elation may come from endorphins, a hormone released by singing, which is associated with feelings of pleasure. Or it might be from oxytocin, another hormone released during singing, which has been found to alleviate anxiety and stress. Oxytocin also enhances feelings of trust and bonding, which may explain why still more studies have found that singing lessens feelings of depression and loneliness. A very recent study even attempts to make the case that "music evolved as a tool of social living," and that the pleasure that comes from singing together is our evolutionary reward for coming together cooperatively, instead of hiding alone, every cave-dweller for him or herself.*

It's interesting to learn from this article that "group singing is on the rise," when so many have commented on how isolated we are in the digital age. We communicate constantly, but not face to face, and not in the old-fashioned way of simply talking and listening, or as Robert Putnam stressed in his best-selling 2000 work, *Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community*, not in a way that supports "the active civil engagement which a strong democracy requires from its citizens." People still bowl, Putnam, noted, but not in leagues – increasingly, they bowl alone.

If you think that I am about to tout both the social and health benefits of coming to services and events at Temple Beth El, you are right! On the Shabbat of Feb. 10th-11th, we mark in our Jewish calendar both *Tu biShevat*, the "New Year of the Trees," and *Shabbat Shirah* – the "Shabbat of Song." This is the Shabbat on which we hear in our Torah portion the chanting of

the "Song of the Sea," the song that Moses and Miriam led the newly-freed Israelites in on the shore of the Sea of Reeds after they had escaped from Egypt. The *haftarah* for that same Shabbat features the "Song of Deborah," one of Israel's early judges and military leaders after the wilderness period was over.

Ancient peoples sang for so many reasons: to soothe a crying child, to ward off boredom, to praise and connect with the Divine, to express their innermost longings, to protest unjust social conditions, and yes, to rouse the troops when marching off to war.

I believe that both individual singing and group singing are good for our souls (and bodies!). Many is the time that I have related to that song in *The King and I*:

*Whenever I feel afraid, I hold my head erect,  
And whistle a happy tune  
So no one will suspect I'm afraid.*

...

*I whistle a happy tune, and every single time  
The happiness in the tune convinces me that I'm  
Not afraid!*

Although this song is about whistling, the same can certainly be said for singing. Obviously, singing will not right all the wrongs of our world, nor cure all ailments. But it does go a long way toward providing us with a release from our worries (think of the blues), to calm anxiety, to connect us with others and with the Divine, and yes, I believe, to strengthen and inspire us to go out and make the world a better place.

Which brings us back to this "New Year of the Trees." In our era of anxiety over the planet's ecological health, this once lesser-known holiday is becoming more widely celebrated, as we long to connect Jewish values and teachings to the urgent needs of our planet. I urge you all to RSVP and to come to our *Tu biShevat Seder* on Friday, Feb. 10th, where we will celebrate both the preciousness of God's creation (especially the trees), and also enjoy the gift that God gave us in the power of song. As one of our most nature-loving teachers, Rabbi Nachman of Bratzlav taught, song and nature have an intimate connection. "Reb Nachman" urged us to "get into the habit of singing a tune. It will give you new life and fill you with joy." He also urged us to go out alone into "the forest or the field... There you will be able to listen attentively to the noise of the wind first, to birds singing, to see wonderful nature and to notice yourself in it... and to come back to harmonic connection with the world and its Creator."

Hoping to see...and sing with...you soon!

*Cantor Shoshana Brown*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Things here at Temple Beth El are marching right along. As of this writing we have only had one snow-storm, and that was on the weekend. Unfortunately it was the weekend of Bill Chebot's haftorah reading so several people couldn't make it, but the hardy souls who turned up made lemons out of lemonade and had a wonderful service. Mazel tov!

Between the mostly mild days and George's able management of the boiler, our heating bills have been manageable so far this winter. We realized, however, that the chapel was sometimes quite chilly for the Friday evening services. We are now experimenting with a new heater to make sure the chapel is comfortable, but quiet...a combination that is not as easy to find as you might think!

I would like to welcome Mrs. Marilyn Wolfson and Dr. and Mrs. David Kaufmann to our congregation. Marilyn is living in Florida, but the Kaufmanns have recently moved to the Plymouth area and we hope to see them at services and events. Both have long-standing ties to our community and we are pleased they have decided to come back to our temple. Welcome!

*Steve Silverman*  
President

## IN MEMORIAM

DOLORES LEVISS

JANUARY 21, 2017 - 23 TEVET 5777

MAY HER MEMORY BE FOR A BLESSING

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508-324-0200

Clifton Hospice Services  
(a community hospice agency)

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*Celebrating Over 60 Years of Dedication to Excellence*

*Sisterhood President's Message*

Well folks, it is now February, and so far we have been treated to a pretty mild winter. It is just about the time I start to get "spring fever." The thought of sunny days and open windows does much to lift one's spirit. It does mine.

At this time, plans are being made for the celebrations of Tu biShevat and Purim. Details will be forthcoming. Watch your e-mails for updates. When things come up, Marie makes sure we are informed. Thank you for doing this, Marie.

On February 15th, at 10:30 am the Book Club will be meeting in the Temple library. At that time they will be discussing "The Tea Planter's Wife" by Dinah Jeffries. Ladies, this would be a good time to join in. The banter is very lively, and it's interesting to hear how people see things through different eyes.

We have decided to put our Monday Mah Jongg on hold for the month of February. With all of our snowbirds gone and the threat of winter weather, we just think this is the best course of action. We will start back up again in March -- keep an eye out for details.

So until next month, stay well folks. Shalom.

*Libby Cohen*  
Sisterhood President

*Sisterhood Gift Shop*

Keep us in mind when shopping for meaningful gifts for bar and bat mitzvot, shower, wedding, hostess gifts, etc. For those New England Patriots fans, we have black suede kipot with the Patriots logo.

I look forward to assisting you at our gift shop; also, some items can be viewed on a company's website. If you are out-of-state, I am always happy to mail small items.

Generally, I am at the Monday morning class, or you can call or email me to schedule an appointment.

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

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## SERVICE SCHEDULE

### February 2017: Shevat/Adar 5777

#### Friday, February 3 (7 Shevat)

Candle Lighting 4:46 pm  
Shabbat Service (Note New Time) **5:30 pm**

#### Saturday, February 4 (8 Shevat)

Weekly Portion: Bo 10:00 am

#### Friday, February 10 (14 Shevat)

Candle Lighting 4:55 pm  
Shabbat Service 5:30 pm

#### Saturday, February 11 (15 Shevat)

Weekly Portion: Beshalach 10:00 am  
Tu BiShevat

#### Friday, February 17 (21 Shevat)

Candle Lighting 5:04 pm  
Shabbat Service 5:30 pm

#### Saturday, February 18 (22 Shevat)

Weekly Portion: Yitro 10:00 am

#### Friday, February 24 (28 Shevat)

Candle Lighting 5:12 pm  
Shabbat Service 5:30 pm

#### Saturday, February 25 (29 Shevat)

Weekly Portion: Mishpatim 10:00 am  
Shabbat Shekalim

#### Sunday, February 26 (30 Shevat)

Rosh Chodesh Adar

#### Monday, February 27 (1 Adar)

Rosh Chodesh Adar

## 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:

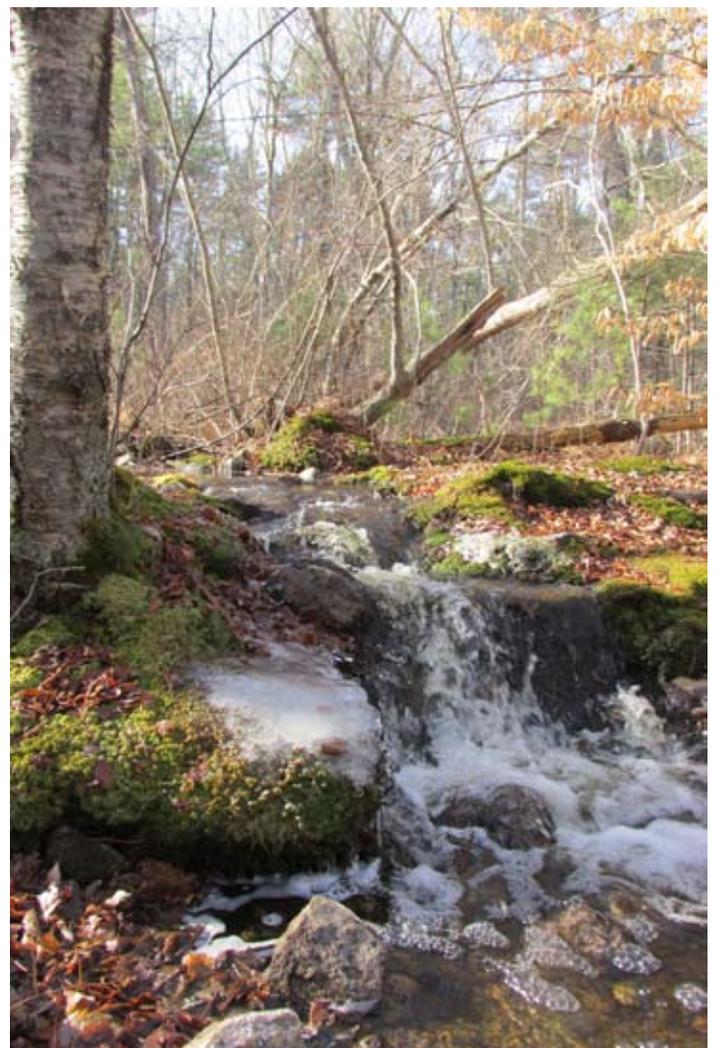
Monday - Friday, 9 am to Noon

### OFFICE CLOSED:

Monday, February 20th - Presidents' Day

## Monday Mah Jongg

Our Monday Mah Jongg game has flown south (and west) for the month of February...we will be back to our regular game in early March. Watch for details!



Dr. Durfee's Mill Pond  
Photo by Shoshana Brown

## Friday Night Service - Time Change

Due to popular demand, all Friday evening services will now begin at 5:30 pm. The first Friday service will continue to be celebrated in the "Friday Night Live" format, but at 5:30 pm.

**Fall River**  
Jewish Home

Compassionate Care ... With a Difference

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**Victoria Benevides**

Director, Admissions & Marketing

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e-mail: vbenevides@frjhcares.org

www.fallriverjewishhome.org

**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:** Jackie Gedacht 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.

**United Jewish Appeal Community Update**

**“THANK YOU”**

Thanks to all who have contributed (97 to be exact) to our 2016/2017 fundraising campaign. Even though the makeup of the Fall River Jewish community has greatly changed over the years, we still can be very proud of ourselves. We continue to strive to make a positive difference in people’s lives.

The money that you contribute to the UJA is utilized in two primary ways:

First – We stand ready to assist anyone in our community who finds themselves in need.

Second - We are making a great effort to help fund three programs in Israel which work with at-risk children.

Our aim is to help those children develop and become a vital part of Israeli society.

We thank our contributors and strongly encourage anyone who has not donated to reach out, send in your contribution and become an active participant in this “mitzvah.”

Sayre A. Litchman  
President

**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

**Book Club News**

The January reading selection, “Remember Us: From Shtetel to Holocaust,” provided an opportunity for some deep discussion. Although there was no consensus on “likability,” we all agreed that this autobiographical book, steeped in yesterday’s painful history, drew parallels with the history we are making today.

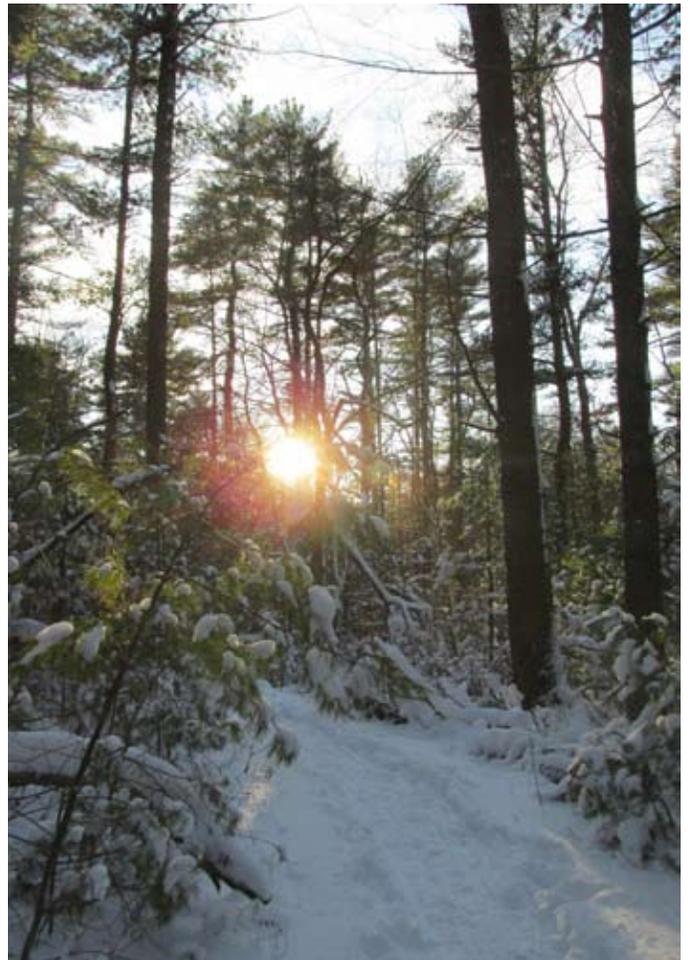
Here are the chosen selections for the next three months:

February 15: “The Tea Planter’s Wife” by Dinah Jeffries

March 15: “Hush” by Eishes Chayil

April 19: “Small Great Things” by Jodi Picoult

The Book Club meets in the Library at 10:30 am on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. There is a seat reserved for you!



Sunset from Shoshana’s hike in Massasoit State Forest during last month’s snow.

*Thank you for your donations received  
through January 20, 2017*

### Yahrzeits

For the yahrzeit of my beloved...	Donated by:
<b>Mother in law, Fannie W. Aranov</b>	Marion Wilner
<b>Father in law, Frederick Belford</b>	Virginia Belford
<b>Mother in law, Sarah Belford</b>	Virginia Belford
<b>Father, William Gittelman</b>	Finbar Gittelman
<b>Parents, Sally &amp; Fred Kaplan</b>	Rhoda Pierce
<b>Loved Ones</b>	Burton Gerstenzang
<b>Husband, Milton Reiser</b>	Hilda Reiser
<b>Mother in law, Pauline Rudolph</b>	Leonard Lakin
<b>Mother, Anna Schaffer</b>	Donna Walters
<b>Parents, Gladys &amp; Mannis Shapiro</b>	Norman Shapiro
<b>Mother, Paula Shuman</b>	Peter Lex Shuman
<b>Mother, Paula Shuman</b>	David Shuman
<b>Father, Maurice Sludsky</b>	Paula Sultan
<b>Husband, Robert Sokoll</b>	Marilyn Sokoll
<b>Father, Aaron Solotist</b>	Harriet Grunberg
<b>Parents, Caroline &amp; Harry Spiro</b>	Leah Rukeyser & Lionel Spiro
<b>Father, Murray Taradash</b>	Allen Taradash

### MAURICE ALPERT MEMORIAL ENDOWMENT FUND

**In memory of Barry Novek**  
**In memory of Gary Reitzas**  
**For the yahrzeit of my beloved brother, Stanley Alpert**  
 Sumner Alpert

### IDA AND DAVID CHAVENSON SCHOLARSHIP FUND

**In honor of Bill Chebot reciting his Haftorah**  
**In memory of Barry Novek**  
**In memory of Gary Reitzas**  
**For the recovery of Roger Gross**  
 Ann & Bob Chavenson

### BERNARD HOROWITZ BUILDING MAINTENANCE FUND

**In memory of Judy Bilsky**  
**In memory of Dr. Irving Fradkin**  
**In memory of Harold Katzman**  
 Arlyne Dondis

### HYMAN & GOLDIE SCHWARTZ LEGACY FUND

**In memory of Dr. Irving Fradkin**  
**In memory of Harold Katzman**  
**In memory of Myron Wilner**  
**For the yahrzeit of Isaac Schwartz**  
 Dorothy & Lester Schwartz  
**For the yahrzeit of Isaac Schwartz**  
 Tylda Schwartz & family

### CAPITAL FUND

**In honor of Bill Chebot celebrating his birthday**  
 Anita & Norm Bolski  
**In honor of Dr. & Mrs. Harvey Reback**  
 Charles Reback & Melissa Walker  
**In honor of Talia Sokoll**  
 Charlotte Fradkin  
**In honor of Temple Beth El**  
 Cheryl Crossley-Simmons  
**In memory of Dr. Irving Fradkin**  
 Fran Cohen & Joe Rosenfeld  
 Linda & Dr. Gerald Monchik  
**In memory of Harold Katzman**  
 Fran Cohen & Joe Rosenfeld  
 Charlotte Fradkin  
 Linda & Dr. Gerald Monchik  
 Dr. & Mrs. Ronald Schneider  
 Marion Wilner  
**In memory of Barry Novek**  
 Carl Superior  
**In memory of Gary Reitzas**  
 Anita & Norm Bolski  
 Irma & Carl Feldman  
 Linda & Dr. Gerald Monchik  
 Dr. & Mrs. Ronald Schneider  
 Marion Wilner  
**In memory of Myron Wilner**  
 Linda & Larry Meyer  
 Linda & Dr. Gerald Monchik  
 Milton Penn  
 Puritan Cape Cod  
 Dr. & Mrs. Ronald Schneider  
 Selma Stanzler  
 Janice & Philip Wilner  
**For the recovery of Anita Bolski**  
 Charlotte Fradkin

### RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

**In memory of Barry Novek**  
 Ruth Levin

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Mike Roberts

  
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## Cantor Shoshana's News & Notes

Despite Rabbi Mark's being unable to participate in the MLK Day Community Celebration at BCC (and continuing at the Bethel AME Church) this year, our Temple Beth El community was well represented. **Cantor Shoshana** delivered a reflection and sang her original arrangement, "Let Freedom Ring" (which you can access via our website). Also in attendance were **Elaine Weiss and Harvey Reback, William Chebot, Jerry Hahn, Judy Morgenstern, and Bernie Alpert** (please forgive me if you were there and I did not see you!).

I hope to see you at our annual **Tu biShevat Seder** on Friday night, Feb. 10th. We will not be serving a full meal, but please come hungry, as there will be lots of both fresh and dried fruit and nuts and wines and grape juice – and please RSVP to the office!

**Please note that, due to popular demand, all evening services will now be at 5:30 pm.** We will still celebrate "Friday Night Live" on the 1st Friday of the month, but the time will be the same as all our other Friday night services, 5:30 pm.

On a recent trip to Massasoit State Park, I happened to drive by the startlingly grand **Thai Buddhist Temple** in Raynham, MA. I thought it might be interesting to organize a TBE "field trip" to visit this site. If you are interested, please contact the temple office to sign up, and I will begin to plan a visit!

Please mark your calendars for Sunday, March 12th for our **Purim celebration**. We will begin with a service at 9 am, followed by the Megillah reading at 9:30, a se'udah (festive meal), and some post-se'udah entertainment. Make sure to call the office to let us know you are coming!

*Cantor Shoshana*

### **Purim Celebration!**

**Sunday, March 12th**

Service at 9 am, Megillah Reading at 9:30 am, followed by a se'udah (festive meal) and some post-se'udah entertainment. Come and join the fun!

Please RSVP by Monday, March 6th

### **Temple Family**

- A warm welcome to our newest members, Dr. & Mrs. David Kaufmann and Mrs. Marilyn Wolfson.
- Our deepest condolences to the family of Dolores Levis.



Ilan Duran Cohen's film concerns the amazing story of the Jewish-born Archbishop of Paris, **Jean-Marie Lustiger**.

No, its title is not an oxymoron. Rather, "The Jewish Cardinal" refers to Jean-Marie Lustiger, a Jew who converted to Catholicism at a young age and, after joining the priesthood, quickly rose up the ranks to become Archbishop of Paris and a chief advisor to Pope Jean Paul II. **Ilan Duran Cohen's** revelatory biopic recounts this fascinating tale in thoughtful and compelling fashion, aided by the superb lead performance by **Laurent Lucas**.

Born the son of Polish-Jewish immigrants, Lustiger and his sister were sent to live with a Catholic woman in Orleans during the German occupation of France in 1940. Against his parents' wishes, he decided to convert when he was just 13 and was baptized. By the time the war ended, his mother had been murdered in Auschwitz, while his father survived.

The story's chief dramatic element revolves around a dispute concerning the controversial installation of a convent by Carmelite nuns on the Auschwitz grounds, prompting Lustiger, who obviously had deep emotional ties to the site, to question his religious allegiances.

As portrayed by Lucas, Lustiger emerges as a vitally human figure, prone to bouts of anger, self-justification and self-doubt that prevent the film from lapsing into turgid religious hagiography. He's well matched by Recoing, who entertainingly conveys the pope's charismatic and playful personality.

Although it will obviously appeal to religious audiences -- it has already played in nearly a dozen Jewish film festivals -- The Jewish Cardinal features a rare nuance that should interest the non-faithful as well.

Come join us!



Our website is constantly changing, so be sure to check it out regularly. There are links to new 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

2/1/2017 5 Shevat 5777 Claire Sundel	2/12/2017 16 Shevat 5777 Abner Kravitz	2/21/2017 25 Shevat 5777 Simon Goldberg
2/2/2017 6 Shevat 5777 Sarah Freedman Charles Rosenberg Philip Shapiro	2/13/2017 17 Shevat 5777 Jack Mickelson Charles Novek	2/22/2017 26 Shevat 5777 Dr. Jacob Helfanbein
2/4/2017 8 Shevat 5777 Ralph D. Lider	2/14/2017 18 Shevat 5777 Ada Wolfson	2/23/2017 27 Shevat 5777 Samuel M. Schwartz
2/5/2017 9 Shevat 5777 Augusta Kaufmann	2/15/2017 19 Shevat 5777 Louis Robinovitz Mildred Trieff	2/24/2017 28 Shevat 5777 Madeline Leonard
2/6/2017 10 Shevat 5777 Normand Futoransky Joseph Horowitz	2/16/2017 20 Shevat 5777 Harry Lider Lottie Bloom Sandler Eugene Joseph Silverman	2/25/2017 29 Shevat 5777 Samuel Ehrenhaus Sidney Lechan Ida Woltman Hilda Zaslow
2/8/2017 12 Shevat 5777 Arnold Wolfson	2/17/2017 21 Shevat 5777 Atty. Lloyd Belford	2/26/2017 30 Shevat 5777 Dr. Harry Cooperstein Nathaniel Dashoff Nathan B. Sokoll
2/9/2017 13 Shevat 5777 Bernard Jaffe	2/18/2017 22 Shevat 5777 Seymour Filler	2/27/2017 1 Adar 5777 Sarah Aber Regina Elber Richard Shore William Wolfson
2/10/2017 14 Shevat 5777 Louis Freedman Esther Mickelson William Shriberg Morris Wilner	2/19/2017 23 Shevat 5777 Herman Bernstein Bernice Hoffman Charles Kane Mary Reiser	2/28/2017 2 Adar 5777 Martin Goldsmith Hyman Karp
2/11/2017 15 Shevat 5777 Margot Bogus Adolph Feder Fannie Hoffman Fannie Woloshen	2/20/2017 24 Shevat 5777 Morris Lepes	



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### SOUTH COAST MEMORIALS

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Partner

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Fall River  
Massachusetts 02720

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(508) 730-7104 cell  
(508) 679-9704 fax  
[jeffnjan11@comcast.net](mailto:jeffnjan11@comcast.net)

