

TEMPLE BETH EL

FALL RIVER, MASSACHUSETTS



91st Year February 2019 Shevat/Adar-I 5779 No. 6

Regular Service Schedule

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

An update on our sister synagogue, Sahar Hassamaim in the Azores, courtesy of our congregant and board member, Jeff Entin:

Theresa and I recently returned from Portugal. We visited the Sahar Hassamaim synagogue on Ponta Delgada, Sao Miguel, Azores.



Theresa and I were last there 19 years ago when the synagogue was falling into disrepair and in terrible condition. As many of you know, we became involved in a local group with some prominent Fall River people and others in the area (including several Christian friends) to raise money for the synagogue’s restoration. This was long before it became the “sister synagogue” to our Temple Beth El in Fall River.

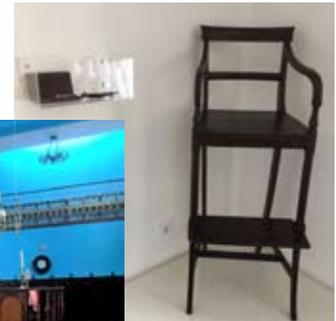
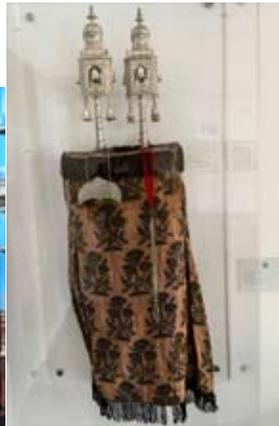
On our recent visit, we were overwhelmed with the transformation. After so much work and effort, and with many obstacles along the way, the Fall River group with many Azoreans and Portuguese, including the Lisbon synagogue, Shaaré Tikvah (Gates of Hope), finally convinced the Portuguese government to make the synagogue a national museum and restore it. The government, including Portugal’s president, the Azores president, and Ponta Deldaga’s mayor, with whom we met, all responded.

The edifice is beautiful! I am enclosing several photos. You will see the beautifully restored sanctuary which, nineteen years ago, had a roof that was literally caving in. There are *siddurim* and *taleisim* in the seats. Some of you may remember the tattered items I brought back from my first trip. Also, there are photos showing the mikva, the circumcision chair and the Torah (the latter having been sent to the synagogue in Lisbon for safekeeping). You can also see a collage of photos showing what the synagogue looked like before the restoration.

While there I met with two of the new caretakers working for the museum. They were happy to hear my story and of Temple Beth El’s role in their national monument.

The synagogue, built around the 1830’s and surviving some sixty years after it’s congregation, is, of course, really no longer a synagogue without the Torah. But, as I stood in the building, I was reminded of the commentary of our medieval sages about "the building that built itself" (Zohar, Noah, 74a)

I thought to myself the very words inscribed in our Temple Beth El: *Da Lifnei Mi Attah Omed* - “Know before Whom you stand”.



A message from our Spiritual Leader, Cantor Shoshana Brown

“How do we show up - and how do we dream?”

In January, I attended the OHALAH Jewish Association of Rabbis and Cantors Conference, in Broomfield, Colorado. OHALAH (an acronym which evokes the Hebrew word for “tent” – *ohel*) is an association which was formed to give rabbis and cantors who are engaged with the ideas, values and practices of the Jewish Renewal movement an opportunity to confer, learn from, form social and professional bonds, and to sing, pray, and meditate with one another for four to five days every year. Many of these cantors and rabbis, like Rabbi Mark and myself, were ordained by the Jewish Renewal movement (known as “Aleph”), but increasingly the association is attracting rabbis, cantors, and rabbinical and cantorial students from the other major denominations of Judaism, as well as those from non-denominational Jewish seminaries, such as the Academy for Jewish Religion and Hebrew College.

What are the trademarks of the Jewish Renewal movement – a movement that was initiated by Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi, whose first pulpit was at the “Quarry Street shul” in Fall River? Congregations, *chavurot* (lay-led Jewish fellowship groups), and clergy that are influenced by Jewish Renewal place a tremendous emphasis on joyful singing (and often dancing) in their *davenen* (to use the Yiddish word for “prayer,” which “Reb Zalman” always insisted communicated a soul-quality that the English word “prayer” could not convey); they are intent on making our ancient spiritual technologies fresh and relevant; they are emotionally and intellectually engaged with social and environmental concerns (*tikkun olam*), insisting that this is a non-negotiable part of being a Jew.

Reb Zalman did not wish for the Jewish Renewal movement to jettison *halakhah* (Jewish law), but to integrate *halakhah* into our lives in a new way (in a way that he later identified as “integral *halakhah*”). To quote from a just-published book on Reb Zalman’s life and thought:

“This approach took into account the human experience, and ways to compassionately texture and evolve Jewish ethics. For this process-based approach and all of his innovations, Reb Zalman loved to invoke Rav Kook [the first chief Ashkenazi rabbi of the pre-state Israel/Mandatory Palestine in the early 1900’s]: “What is old becomes new and what is new becomes holy.” Rodger Kamenetz in “*Wisdom from Reb Zalman: Embracing the Jewish Spirit*,” edited by Goldie Milgram and Shohama Wiener, 2018.

Mark and I were privileged to have known this pioneer of the spirit, who alas died a year after we came to Fall River, on July 3rd, 2014, just one month shy of his 90th birthday. It was Reb Zalman’s idea that we both earn our ordination from Aleph (I was already in the Aleph cantorial program at

the time he suggested this, but Mark was undecided about ordination), and that we go out to do the work of renewing Judaism together, as a team. Mark and I were blessed to be able to receive our *s’mikhah* (ordination) from the Aleph Jewish Renewal Ordination Program while Reb Zalman was still alive, that he was present and conferred on us his blessings for our work. While all the attendees at the recent OHALAH conference deeply missed Reb Zalman’s presence there, his spirit very much infuses the continuing life of the movement.

This year’s conference theme was “*Ayyeka* [the biblical Hebrew question ‘Where are you?’]: How we show up in uncertain times.” The conference had two thrusts – one of them being how we navigate a time of moral/political/social/ecological crisis, and the second being the learning of techniques for creating more cohesive and authentic group *davenen* through song and *niggunim* (tunes, often wordless, that are sung over and over to help a group or individual reach a higher spiritual plane).

Now what, you may wonder, did these two foci of the conference have to do with one another? The answer to this question became clear to me one evening as our guest teacher, the innovative musician and prayer-leader Joey Weisenberg, led the conference participants in a *niggun* for Psalm 126, a “Song of Ascent.” The Hebrew words were so familiar to me, since they are ones we sing on Shabbat and festivals to begin *Birkat haMazon* (“Grace after Meals”), and at first I simply enjoyed singing them to Joey’s new tune with this large group so filled with *ruakh* (spirit). But as the intensity and cohesion of the group singing increased, I began to experience a feeling of great *hope*, I began to be able to *dream* of a time when many of the problems that our world is struggling with today would begin to be tackled in a thoughtful, effective, just way. And then I realized that the words we were singing suggested just such a promise, though set in the past tense:

When Adonai returned

The [former] captives [of Babylon] to Zion

We were like those who dream;

Then our mouths were filled with laughter,

And our tongues with singing.

In this psalm, the singers’ joyousness of being able to return from captivity and slavery to their homeland, Israel, came first, with song and laughter as a result. But as I sang, I realized that we need to be able to laugh and sing *now* in order to release our *dreams* of a “redeemed world” – that is to say, of a world where justice is accessible to all, where all children have enough food, love, education and health care, of a world where the earth and all its creatures are cherished and cared for, dreams of a world of peace and love between all races, creeds and tongues. Martin Luther King was famous for saying “I have a dream”...if you want to be able to *will* something into being, you must *first* be able to *dream* it.

Continued on Page 4

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Sisterhood President's Message

As I look out the window at a bright sunny day with a clear blue sky, I think about how lucky we have been so far this winter -- we've had a lot of "wet" but very little "white." In the city, snow leads to so many inconveniences, like difficulty parking, icy sidewalks, leaky roofs, cancellations, and the like. Let's hope our good luck continues!

In the last bulletin I talked about some issues we are having on one of our flat roofs. We've had a roofer go up and check out the problem, and he found several holes that need to be patched. As the weather is too cold to use long-lasting materials, he has put down a temporary patch, and this spring he will repair the roof properly. Hopefully the temporary repairs will hold until then.

Last month we lost two of our long-time members, Bob Chavenson and Dr. Lenny Lechan. Both men were well-known and well-liked in our congregation, the Fall River/Somerset communities and beyond. Our sincere condolences to their wives, Annie Chavenson and Ellie Lechan, and their families. May their memory be for a blessing.

Before you know it, Passover will be upon us. Be sure to save the date for our Passover Festival dinner, which will be held on April 25th.

Steve Silverman
President

Fall River Jewish Home advertisement with contact information for Victoria Benevides, Director, Admissions & Marketing.

Guess what, February is here and that means we are that much closer to spring. Except, as I am writing this it is snowing out, and we are preparing for our first big storm of the season. Up until now we have been pretty lucky, a lot of cold weather, and plenty of rain. Oh well, it is New England after all.

This past Friday night we celebrated our annual Tu biShevat Seder. Cantor Shoshana and Rabbi Mark led us through various songs and prayers that celebrate Friday night and this holiday. We paid homage to the trees by eating the fruits and nuts symbolizing the meaning of these traditions. We drank both white and red wines, which symbolize the transition through the various seasons of the year. It was another lively Friday night Shabbat service.

Be sure to watch your bulletin and e-mails for upcoming events. On Wednesday, March 20th at 5:30 pm we will celebrate Purim. Please plan to join us. In April we will celebrate Passover with our annual dinner on Thursday, the 25th. Reservations are a must, so save these dates. I hope to see all of you there.

Now until March, keep warm and stay safe. Remember to step carefully.

Libby Cohen
Sisterhood President

PURIM: Wednesday, March 20th at 5:30 pm
Passover: Thursday, April 25th at 5:30 pm

Sisterhood Gift Shop advertisement for Red Sox or Patriots mezuzot, Patriots kipot/yarmulkes, LED Flameless Yizkor Candles, and Traveling Shabbat Candles.

LEADERSHIP table listing names and titles: 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).

Continued from Page 2

The strength that comes from engaging in both prayer (with uplifting song) and action, ritual and ethical *mitzvot* - this gives us the vision and courage to go out to make a difference in a world that is still far from redeemed. These roles are possible for all Jews today: to be students and teachers, singers and dreamers, workers and hoppers for justice and peace for all of God's creation. Wishing you all a safe and inspiring winter – remember, Purim and Pesach are just around the corner!

Cantor Shoshana

SERVICE SCHEDULE

February 2019
Shevat/Adar I 5779

<u>Friday, February 1 (26 Shevat)</u>	
Candle Lighting	4:42 pm
Shabbat Service	5:30 pm
<u>Saturday, February 2 (27 Shevat)</u>	
Weekly Portion: Mishpatim	10:00 am
<u>Tuesday, February 5 (30 Shevat)</u>	
Rosh Chodesh Adar I	
<u>Wednesday, February 6 (1 Adar I)</u>	
Rosh Chodesh Adar I	
<u>Friday, February 8 (3 Adar I)</u>	
Candle Lighting	4:51 pm
Shabbat Service	5:30 pm
<u>Saturday, February 9 (4 Adar I)</u>	
Weekly Portion: Terumah	10:00 am
<u>Friday, February 15 (10 Adar I)</u>	
Candle Lighting	5:00 pm
Shabbat Service	5:30 pm
<u>Saturday, February 16 (11 Adar I)</u>	
Weekly Portion: Tetzaveh	10:00 am
<u>Friday, February 22 (17 Adar I)</u>	
Candle Lighting	5:09 pm
Shabbat Service	5:30 pm
<u>Saturday, February 23 (18 Adar I)</u>	
Weekly Portion: Ki Tisa	10:00 am

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 18th: Presidents' Day

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 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.

IN MEMORIAM

ROBERT CHAVENSON
JANUARY 1, 2019 – 25 TEVET 5779

DR. LEONARD LECHAN
JANUARY 14, 2019 - 8 SHEVAT 5779

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Clifton Assisted Living Community
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Celebrating Over 60 Years of Dedication to Excellence

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TBE News & Notes

February is looking to be a quiet month at TBE this year, partly due to the fact that this Jewish year is a “leap” year, when we add a second month of Adar to our calendar, to adjust the lunar calendar to the solar calendar. (When this happens, Purim is always celebrated in Adar II, which this year will be in March.) Though we as Americans do celebrate the federal holiday of Presidents’ Day in February, there are no Jewish holidays, and no special events outside of our usual services, classes, and monthly Jewish movie taking place at the temple.

Sometimes it is good to have a little “down” time – we had such a busy fall, then the interfaith service in November, the Chanukah gala in December, and Tu biShevat and MLK Day in January. We also enjoyed an informal, semi-impromptu “latke fest” on the day of our temple movie-viewing in December – using up some of the leftover latkes from Chanukah!

In our adult education class on Monday morning, we recently completed Yossi Klein Halevi’s book, *Letters to a Palestinian Neighbor*, which all who participated would agree is a profound and beautifully written book. Robin Fielding has ordered a copy of the book for our TBE library, so for those of you who could not make it to class but would like to read the book, I encourage you to check it out!

Looking ahead to March...

The January bulletin announced that we are “working on this year’s Purim shpiel” – but in actuality we have decided to do **something a little bit different this year for post-Megillah-reading entertainment on Purim**. For those of you who can stay after the reading and the *s’eudah* (festive meal) this year, we are going to watch a 90-minute documentary that first aired some years ago on PBS called **“When Jews Were Funny.”** Purim, being both a holiday of solemnity (when we remember the poor, and also recall how, long ago, our ancestors were almost wiped out) and of hilarity (when participants are urged to make merry, to imbibe, and to laugh) – contains within its celebration an innate connection to Jewish humor. Indeed, humor is a great defense against one’s enemies and a time-honored survival strategy of many oppressed peoples. So plan to stay to view this excellent documentary on Jewish humor with us on the evening of March 20th.

Mark your calendars for our February movie: “Jews and Baseball: An American Love Story” which will be shown on Sunday, February 24th at 2 pm.



“Jews and Baseball: An American Love Story” explores the connection between Jewish Americans and baseball, our nation’s most iconic institution. More than a film about sports, it is a story of immigration, assimilation, bigotry, heroism, the passing on of traditions, and the shattering of stereotypes “You should be an attorney or a doctor, but not a ballplayer,” one former major leaguer remembers, describing the prejudices that he and other Jewish athletes faced. But despite the stereotypes, and in the face of hostility from fans and even violence from opposing players, there have been standout Jewish players in every decade from the 1860s to the present. “Jews and Baseball” is the first major documentary to tell their stories. These powerful personal and historical stories are interwoven with an extraordinary collection of rare archival footage and photos, and a musical score ranging from Benny Goodman to Yo-Yo Ma to Rush. Dustin Hoffman narrates this engaging story of great drama, unforgettable games, and the broad sweep of American history.



A great horned owl that lived in a small stand of pines just outside the hotel in Colorado where the OHALAH conference was. Cantor Shoshana visited him and his mate every day while there!

Thank you for your donations received through January 28, 2019

Yahrzeits

For the yearzeit of my beloved...	Donated by:
Fannie Wilner Aranov	Marion Wilner
Grandfather, Adolph Feder	Joyce Juda
Parents, Paula & Sid Fox	Suzanne Finkel
Mother, Ruth Gerard	Jay Gerard
Mother, Rebecca Gerstenzang	Burton Gerstenzang
Father, Willy Gittelman	Finbar Gittelman
Mother, Ada Haims	Paula Rubin
Mother, Grandmother, Sheila Holtzman	Charron, Michael, Ben Holtzman and family
Father, Joseph Horowitz	Herbert Horowitz
Parents, Sally & Fred Kaplan	Rhoda Pierce
Parents, Martha & Dr. Abraham Kaufmann	Dr. David Kaufmann
Parents Rose & George Kessler	Sylvia Eisner & Don Kessler
Parents, Lillian & Irving Kline	Sheldon Kline
Parents, Esther & Jack Mickelson	Beverly Solup
Husband, Father, Bernard Miller	June Miller & family
Mother, Rose Moss	Shirley Taradash
Mother, Birdie Phillips	Fran Cohen
Mother, Lena Reback	Dr. Harvey Reback
Loved one, Sylvia Reback	Dr. Harvey Reback
Uncle, Dr. Samuel Sandler	Samuel Billard
Mother, Anna Schaffer	Donna Walters
Mother, Paula Shuman	David Shuman
Father, Maurice Sludsky	Paula Sultan
Father, Murray Taradash	Allen Taradash
Parents, Lillian & Paul Woltman	Joanne Tuck

MAURICE ALPERT MEMORIAL ENDOWMENT FUND

In honor of the birth of a grandchild to Marion Wilner
 In memory of Robert (Bob) Chavenson
 For the yearzeit of my beloved wife, Arline Alpert
 For the yearzeit of my beloved brother, Stanley Alpert
 Sumner Alpert

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CANTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In memory of Atty. Richard Levin
Jean & Bruce Lider
In memory of Robert (Bob) Chavenson
In memory of Dr. Barry Steinberg
Paula & Dr. Herb Rubin

CAPITAL FUND

In honor of Gloria & Jerry Baskin celebrating special birthdays
Anita & Norm Bolski
In honor of Claire & Ron Caplain celebrating a special wedding anniversary
Irma & Carl Feldman
In honor of Billy Chebot celebrating his 91st birthday
Anita & Norm Bolski
In honor of Rona Trachtenberg for all her hard work and for co-chairing Limmud
Suzanne Finkel
In honor of Richard Trieff
Ethel & Sid Winokoor
In memory of Elaine Berman
Anita & Norm Bolski
In memory of Robert (Bob) Chavenson
Anita & Norm Bolski
Sandra David
Dr. & Mrs. Ron Schneider
Paula Shaer
Beverly Solup
Ethel & Sid Winokoor
In memory of Andrea Isserlis
Sylvia Eisner
In memory of Lorraine Kaplan
Sylvia Eisner
In memory of Dr. Leonard Lechan
Anita & Norm Bolski
Russ & Jane Fradkin
Judy Kaplan
In memory of Elaine Rackoff
Anita & Norm Bolski
In memory of Herbert Solup
Sandra David
Paula Shaer
Beverly Solup
In memory of Dr. Barry Steinberg
Dr. & Mrs. Ron Schneider
For the recovery of Sandra David
Beverly Solup
For the recovery of Paula Meyerson
Anita & Norm Bolski

SPECIAL GIFTS

In honor of Congregation Temple Beth El
Mitchell & Penny (Sevin) Shore
In memory of my beloved wife, Joy Field
Victor Field

**IDA & DAVID CHAVENSON
SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

In memory of Robert (Bob) Chavenson

- Gloria & Jerry Baskin
- Fran Cohen
- Ann Freedman
- Renee Lipson
- Allison & Mitchell Rode
- Beverly Sokoll

In memory of Patrick Rode

- Ann Chavenson

ANNA & MORRIS LEPES CEMETERY FUND

In memory of our beloved father, grandfather, Morris Lepes

- Ellen & Terry Shand & family

HYMAN & SCHWARTZ GOLDIE LEGACY FUND

In memory of Dorothy & Lester Shwartz

- Beth & Stephen Crocker



Bittersweet vines at Sachuest Point National Wildlife Refuge, Middletown, RI

Temple Family

- Our deepest condolences to the families of Bob Chavenson and Dr. Leonard Lechan, and to Beverly Solup on the loss of her beloved brother-in-law, Herbert Solup

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Celebrating Tu biShevat, "The New Year of Trees" with a special seder at Temple Beth El!





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

YAHARZEITS

2/1/2019 26 Shevat 5779
Dr. Jacob Helfanbein

2/2/2019 27 Shevat 5779
Samuel M. Schwartz

2/3/2019 28 Shevat 5779
Sylvia Lechan
Madeline Leonard

2/4/2019 29 Shevat 5779
Samuel Ehrenhaus
Blossom Granovsky
Sidney Lechan
Ida Woltman
Hilda Zaslow

2/5/2019 30 Shevat 5779
Nathan B. Sokoll

2/6/2019 1 Adar I 5779
Sarah Aber
William Wolfson

2/7/2019 2 Adar I 5779
Isaac Bolski
Joy Field
Martin Goldsmith
Hyman Karp

2/9/2019 4 Adar I 5779
Bernard Chebot
Sadie Lovit
Nathan Bernard Silverman

2/10/2019 5 Adar I 5779
Morris Levine

2/11/2019 6 Adar I 5779
Morris Haims
Edith Kusnitz
Philip Ostroff
Bertha Weinstock
Philip Zalkind

2/12/2019 7 Adar I 5779
George Lucove
Adelle Wiener

2/13/2019 8 Adar I 5779
Elena Lee Cohen
Selma Juda
Mannis Shapiro

2/14/2019 9 Adar I 5779
Helen Babin

2/16/2019 11 Adar I 5779
Louis I. Galitsky
Hyman B. Gollub
Mary Robinovitz
George Sandler

2/17/2019 12 Adar I 5779
Louis Bachman
Mollie Cohen
Hyman Levine
Larry Lurie

2/18/2019 13 Adar I 5779
Robert M. Cohen

2/20/2019 15 Adar I 5779
William Goldman
Vivian Grozen

2/21/2019 16 Adar I 5779
Samuel Katzman

2/22/2019 17 Adar I 5779
Louis Nulman
Irene Stern

2/23/2019 18 Adar I 5779
Helen Freedman
Florence Lash
Sylvia Yoken

2/24/2019 19 Adar I 5779
William Feinberg
Ruth Levine
William Lurie

2/25/2019 20 Adar I 5779
Helen Nulman

2/26/2019 21 Adar I 5779
Abraham Trieff

2/27/2019 22 Adar I 5779
David Chavenson
Marian Cohen

2/28/2019 23 Adar I 5779
Edwin Macy

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