

# TEMPLE BETH EL

FALL RIVER, MASSACHUSETTS



93rd Year

February 2021

Shevat/Adar 5781

No. 6

## Regular Service Schedule - Via Zoom until further notice

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

### *A human interest story from our own community: The tale of Ann and Bob Chavenson's lost love letters.*

*This story was sent to Cantor Shoshana (with Ann Chavenson's permission) by Shelia Lash last month. It seemed appropriate to include it in this bulletin – something to brighten up our days as we wait for the end of the coronavirus pandemic and can all be together again! It has to do with an antique dresser that was once owned by Ann (then Shriberg's) family, which was sold, but stayed in one particular family's possession. Here is the letter (edited for brevity), from Ms. Wagner that she included with the letters to Ann.*

Dear Ann,

My Dad purchased a dresser either at an estate sale or auction back in the late 1980's. When I was moving into my first apartment in Natick in 1994, he asked me what furniture I would like from his home to help furnish my new place. I chose the dresser and a few other pieces. He stated that I could have the dresser under one condition, that I kept the envelope that he found with the dresser. As it turns out, when he bought the furniture and was cleaning it up, he found an envelope postmarked 1952 which contained 3 letters/notes stuck behind one of the drawers...

A few years later I moved to Florida for an employment opportunity, so the dresser and the envelope still contained within, moved with me... Every move I made, the dresser and the envelope came with me It's actually pretty funny to think that I've had all sorts of furniture over the past 25 years, but that dresser and one other small side table are the only things that I've kept.

So, on to the fun part...how I decided to find you and return these letters/notes. I was watching a silly Hallmark movie on TV while I was cleaning the house. The name of the movie was "A Very Vintage Christmas." A woman who owns an antique shop was cleaning up an old armoire getting it ready to sell when she comes across a box filled with trinkets and a love letter from a man to a woman. The gist of the story is that the woman goes on a hunt to find the owner of the items...I ran upstairs to the dresser and took out the envelope and the letters... and decided that this would be the year that I finally try to return them to their owner. Thus started the hunt for a woman named Ann Shriberg.

First, I searched for your name via Google. Nothing much came up and, quite frankly, based on your husband's handwriting, I wasn't sure if I was actually spelling either of your names correctly. I decided to reach out to a real estate friend to see if she could figure out if you still lived at the address on the envelope. Although I received a great deal of information about the house, I discovered you were no longer there. A military friend of mine suggested a different spelling of your husband's name. When I Googled the alternative spelling, I found your husband's obituary... In the obituary it listed that he was survived by...none other than Ann Shriberg! I was happy to see that I was on the right track and that you had indeed been together all these years...

My next effort was to see if I could find out any other clues on the Facebook pages of your children. I noticed on Aaron's page there was a man named Peter who referred to someone as a cousin and left his email and phone number posted right there on the page. Based on the information provided by Peter, I sent your kids an e-mail with a photo of the envelope that contained the letters/notes. [Here Lisa describes how she eventually found out the correct phone number for Ann, called her, and finally got to talk to the rightful owner of the letters- all in time for Chanukah!]

Listen, these notes/letters may not be "exciting" in content, for you. But I sometimes find that the everyday conversations, and the love seen within them, are worth remembering. I hope you feel the same way. I did all of this because I feel like this year, more than any other, we could all use something positive to lift our spirits. The only thing that could have made this any better is if your husband were still here to re-read the letters with you. But I guess, in a way, he is. After all, I believe he pushed me to find you. I have had the envelope for nearly 25 years, and this was the year I chose to find you.

Your husband wrote you letters in 1952 to tell you that he was thinking of you and loved you. Sixty-eight (68) years later and he is still making sure that you know.

Wishing you a wonderful holiday season filled with the love of family and friends, good health and happiness.

*Lisa J. Wagner*

A message from our Spiritual Leader,  
Cantor Shoshana Brown

*Making Our Way through this Challenging Time*

Some years ago on a family vacation Mark, Lev and I visited Great Smoky Mountains National Park. As I usually do before such a trip, I read up on the area and excitedly noted which sites I wanted to make sure not to miss. One of these was Cades Cove, a preserved area within the Tennessee side of the park (which straddles TN and NC). In order to really have an up-close experience of Cades Cove (not behind a line of cars), I had Mark drive me to the site early in the morning so that I could rent a bike and tour the preserved Appalachian village on two wheels. It was easy by bicycle to stop at all the historic sites along the Cades Cove Loop Road. I never had to worry about a parking spot, and I could stop whenever I wanted without worrying about holding up traffic.

What I remember best from that visit was the old church buildings in the cove. They were "primitive," with worn wooden floorboards and very little decoration. (What I *forgot* that morning was to take along my camera!) I tried out their acoustics by singing hymns like "Wade in the Water" between their walls. The human voice carries so well in spaces like this – with no carpets or cushions or other materials that tend to absorb sound. No microphone would be necessary in a place of worship like this.

In one of the churches, there happened to be a guide explaining to visitors the history of that particular congregation. He told us that during the Civil War this worship-community had split in two over the issues of the war and slavery. (Overall, there was more opposition to Tennessee's joining the Confederacy in eastern Tennessee than in the rest of the state, which was the last state to join the Confederacy.) There were two factions in the church: those who supported the Confederacy and slavery, and those who opposed them. It did not surprise me that the two factions found, after some time, that they could no longer worship together. So the anti-slavery congregants split off and founded their own congregation.

When it comes to religious communities, feelings and beliefs about matters of "ultimate concern" naturally run deep. You may not care what

religious or political beliefs are held by the owners of your corner convenience store or by your local car dealership. After all, America is supposed to be a nation of diverse beliefs and opinions, which we should all be free to hold – as long as no harm is done to anyone on account of them. But when people sing, pray, and study their Sacred Scriptures together, they like to feel that in some measure they are all on "the same page."

Does God condone slavery – or does God want all humanity to be free? Did God create certain races to be masters or somehow "superior" to others? These would have been bitterly divisive issues for Christians and Jews of the Civil War era.

In our own era, the temperature has been turned up high on similar questions. While the issues that have been so divisive to our society today may appear to be "political" ones, they touch deep places within our souls: how we feel about the equality of all human beings; how we feel about the right to own and carry guns; how we feel about a woman's right to decide whether to keep or terminate a pregnancy; whether or not there is a moral imperative to offer refuge to those who are fleeing to our country to save their own lives. Such questions have everything to do with a person's sense of the "sacred," indeed, with what kind of deity they believe themselves to be worshiping.

We are living through a difficult historical moment – probably not as difficult as the era of the Civil War, but more divisive in a way, because there is no *geographical* dividing line separating the opposing factions. The dividing lines are, instead, *within our hearts*, easily driving a wedge between friends and family members. I pray that we at Temple Beth El will be able to weather this difficult moment as a diverse, but not divided, Jewish community. Certainly we do not all think or feel the same way about many important issues – but you know the old saying: "two Jews, three opinions!" Let us remember during this turbulent time to be gentle with one another, respectful of each other's differing beliefs, and *caring* – as we make our way out of the terrible pandemic that has prevented us from gathering together for almost a year now.

May we all keep our humility and sense of humor, and may we all be together again soon!

*Cantor Shoshana*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I want to start with a special thank you to our office manager, Marie Twomey. Last year she figured out how to apply for a Payroll Protection Program (PPP) loan when it was brand new and confusing to everyone. In December she completed the Loan Forgiveness application successfully, so that the entire \$30,600 loan was forgiven. She is now in the process of applying for the second round of PPP funds. Needless to say, these funds have gone a long way toward keeping Temple Beth El operating over the past year. Thank you, Marie, for all that you do!

I speak to Bill Perkins of People Inc. on a regular basis. As of now their plan to build a new school in the north end is on hold. The cost of materials is up about 40%, which far exceeds their original budget. They will have to have a successful capital campaign to raise the funds before they can even start building. While that is unwelcome news for People Inc., it is good news for us, as they continue to be fantastic tenants, and we have a wonderful relationship with their management team.

Other than that things have been quiet at the Temple, although as busy as ever in the office. Rabbi Mark and Cantor Shoshana continue to look for new ways to keep our congregation engaged, and to celebrate our holidays virtually in creative new ways. I love to get on Zoom and see members in their 90's participating regularly, from all over the country. I, myself, often struggle with the new technology, but not so Bill Chebot, Sumner Alpert (from Florida), and Dr. Florence Schlam (from New Jersey)! *Yasher koakh!*

While clergy visits are still essentially impossible right now, both Rabbi Mark and Cantor Shoshana are happy to have virtual visits -- whether via a simple phone call, a Zoom session, or an email conversation. Please contact the office if you would like to talk to either or both of them, even if it is just to have a chat and catch up on the latest news. If you get our voicemail, please be sure to let us know how you would like to be contacted.

Hopefully by the time I write this column next month the vaccination process will have progressed so that many of us will have had our first shot. As far as I am concerned, the sooner, the better!

*Steve Silverman  
President*

*Sisterhood President's Message*

February is now upon us, and we are still battling the pandemic. People have begun to receive their first doses of the Covid-19 vaccine. Hopefully the results will be positive. Just think, we are usually discussing the cold and snowy weather at this time of year. Maybe you would be planning on a trip south to get a little sunshine, but not this year. What I'd give to have that be my biggest concern.

With everything on hold, it's hard to plan anything. Ordinarily, we'd be making arrangements for our annual Purim celebration. This year Purim begins Thursday, February 25th at sundown, and ends Friday the 26th at sundown. I'm sure Rabbi Mark and Cantor Shoshana will have something planned that will be available on Zoom. Watch your e-mails for all the details.

So until next month, do your best to stay safe and healthy.

*Libby Cohen  
Sisterhood President*

**Temple Family**

- Our deepest condolences to the families of Dr. Harry Lechan, Abraham Ehrenhaus and Herbert Horowitz.
- Best wishes to Fran Cohen for a full recovery.

**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

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William "BT" Hathaway  
Mike Roberts



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## SERVICE SCHEDULE

**February 2021  
Shevat/Adar 5781***Services will continue to be on Zoom.*Friday, February 5 (23 Shevat)

Candle Lighting	4:48 pm
Shabbat Service	5:30 pm

Saturday, February 6 (24 Shevat)

Weekly Portion: Yitro	10:00 am
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Friday, February 12 (30 Shevat)

Rosh Chodesh Adar	
Candle Lighting	4:57 pm
Shabbat Service	5:30 pm

Saturday, February 13 (1 Adar)

Rosh Chodesh Adar	
Weekly Portion: Mishpatim	10:00 am
Shabbat Shekalim	

Friday, February 19 (7 Adar)

Candle Lighting	5:06 pm
Shabbat Service	5:30 pm

Saturday, February 20 (8 Adar)

Weekly Portion: Terumah	10:00 am
Shabbat Zachor	

Thursday, February 25 (13 Adar)

Erev Purim	
Fast of Esther	
Reading of the Megillah	6:30pm

Friday, February 26 (14 Adar)

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

Saturday, February 27 (15 Adar)

Weekly Portion: Tetzaveh	10:00 am
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Last wisps of a January sunset over Round Pond, Little Compton

**TEMPLE OFFICE**

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

**OFFICE HOURS:**

Monday, Wednesday &amp; Friday, 9 am to Noon

**OFFICE CLOSED:**

February 15th - Presidents Day

**TBE News & Notes**

Aside from our upcoming **virtual Purim celebration** – with a brief *ma'ariv* service and **Megillah reading** via Zoom – on Thursday, **February 25th**, beginning at **6:30 pm**, there is not so much to “note” these days. (You will receive a link via email as we get near the date.) As you could see from the front of January’s bulletin (the screen shots grabbed from Bill Chebot’s 79th bar mitzvah anniversary celebration), we do manage to have a **sense of community via Zoom** – and a good time – so if you haven’t joined us recently for Shabbat services or for our adult ed class on Monday mornings, please don’t hesitate to jump back in. As they say, “the water’s fine!”

*Looking ahead...alas*, at the rate that the Covid-19 vaccinations are being dispensed, it does not look at all likely that the Temple will be able to open by this year’s **Passover (the first night is March 27th)**. Who would have thought last year that we would have to spend two Passovers apart from our communities, and for many, apart from our children and/or grandchildren? It has been a challenging time indeed. But we see the light now at the end of the tunnel, however small a point of light it is...we’ve got to all hang in there, keep up our hope (and sense of humor!), and always remember to reach out to one another – you never know when you might just be the one to make someone’s day!

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*Thank you for your donations received through January 18th*

### YAHREZITS

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

Mother-in-law Fannie Wilner Aranov	Marion Wilner
Mother, Ruth Gerard	Jay Gerard
Father, Willy Gittelman	Finbar Gittelman
Friend, Harriet Grunberg	Marie Twomey
Mother, Sheila Holtzman	Michael Holtzman
Brother, Henry William Juda	Joyce Juda
Mother, Martha Kaufmann	David Kaufmann
Mother, Louise Macy	Deb Sewall & Barb Macy
Mother, Rose Moss	Shirley Taradash
Brother, Dr. Donald Rotenberg	Lisa Shapiro
Uncle, Dr. Samuel Sandler	Nancy Billard
Mother, Paula Shuman	David Shuman
Father, Maurice Sludsky	Paula Sultan
Mother, Janet Smith	Sheryl Eilberg
Husband, Allen Taradash	Shirley Taradash
Father-in-law Murray Taradash	Shirley Taradash
Father & Zaide, Simon Winokoor	The Winokoors
Parents, Lillian & Paul Woltman	Joanne Tuck

### MAURICE ALPERT MEMORIAL ENDOWMENT FUND

For the yahrzeit of my beloved wife, Arline Alpert  
Sumner Alpert

### CAPITAL FUND

In memory of Judy Berg

Jerry Baskin  
Dena & Harvey Baskin  
Sheila Lash  
Judy & Mike Morgenstern  
Paula Shaer  
Marilyn Sokoll  
Carole & Jerry Waksler

In memory of Daniel Schafler

Ken Littman and Family

In honor of Bill Chebot chanting the Haftorah on the 79th  
anniversary of his Bar Mitzvah

Marcie Smith  
Gail Wilkinson

In honor of the High Holidays

Burton Gerstenzang

### IDA AND DAVID CHAVENSON SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In memory of my beloved father, Robert E. Chavenson

Laurie Chavenson

### WISH LIST - PRAYER BOOKS

In memory of Dr. Barry Steinberg, dear husband, father and  
Temple Beth El President (1978-1981)

Edythe Steinberg & Family

## IN MEMORIAM

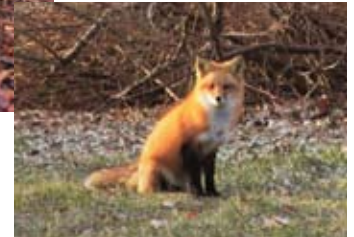
DR. HARRY LECHAN  
APRIL 1, 2020 - 7 NISAN 5780

ABRAHAM EHRENHAUS  
JANUARY 22, 2021 - 9 SHEVAT 5781

MAY THEIR MEMORY BE FOR A BLESSING



Emerald moss-covered  
rocks in Dartmouth's  
Ridge Hill Reserve in  
early January.



A young red fox near Veterans  
Memorial Bicentennial Park,  
Fall River

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(508) 730-7104 cell

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jeffnjan11@comcast.net

## Website

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)

# YAHREZEITS

2/1/2021 19 Shevat 5781  
Mildred Trieff

2/2/2021 20 Shevat 5781  
Lottie Bloom Sandler  
Eugene Joseph Silverman

2/3/2021 21 Shevat 5781  
Atty. Lloyd Belford

2/4/2021 22 Shevat 5781  
Seymour Filler  
Martin Schlam

2/5/2021 23 Shevat 5781  
Herman Bernstein  
Bernice Hoffman  
Charles Kane

2/6/2021 24 Shevat 5781  
Morris Lepes  
Dorothy Schwartz

2/7/2021 25 Shevat 5781  
Simon Goldberg

2/8/2021 26 Shevat 5781  
Dr. Jacob Helfanbein

2/9/2021 27 Shevat 5781  
Samuel M. Schwartz

2/10/2021 28 Shevat 5781  
Sylvia Lechan  
Madeline Leonard

2/11/2021 29 Shevat 5781  
Samuel Ehrenhaus  
Blossom Granovsky  
Sidney Lechan

Hyman Lipshitz  
Ida Woltman  
Hilda Zaslow

2/12/2021 30 Shevat 5781  
Dr. Harry Cooperstein  
Nathaniel Dashoff

2/13/2021 1 Adar 5781  
Regina Elber  
Richard Shore  
William Wolfson

2/14/2021 2 Adar 5781  
Isaac Bolski  
Joy Field  
Hyman Karp  
Rose Presser

2/15/2021 3 Adar 5781  
Max Jacob Packer

2/16/2021 4 Adar 5781  
Bernard Chebot  
Sadie Lovit  
Nathan Bernard Silverman

2/17/2021 5 Adar 5781  
Clara Freedman  
Irene Kassler Jones  
Morris Levine  
Charles Meretsky

2/18/2021 6 Adar 5781  
Morris Haims  
Edith Kusnitz  
Philip Ostroff  
Bertha Weinstock  
Philip Zalkind

2/19/2021 7 Adar 5781  
Adelle Wiener

2/20/2021 8 Adar 5781  
Elena Lee Cohen  
Ida Glickman  
Selma Juda  
Mannis Shapiro

2/21/2021 9 Adar 5781  
Helen Babin  
Rita Minkin

2/22/2021 10 Adar 5781  
Leona Finkel

2/23/2021 11 Adar 5781  
Louis I. Galitsky  
Hyman B. Gollub  
George Sandler

2/24/2021 12 Adar 5781  
Louis Bachman  
Mollie Cohen  
Hyman Levine

2/25/2021 13 Adar 5781  
Robert M. Cohen

2/27/2021 15 Adar 5781  
Gloria Baskin  
William Goldman  
Vivian Grozen

2/28/2021 16 Adar 5781  
Miriam Horvitz  
Samuel Katzman

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