

TEMPLE BETH EL

FALL RIVER, MASSACHUSETTS



94th Year

February 2022

Shevat/Adar I 5782

No. 6

Regular Service Schedule - Via Zoom Only Through February 28th

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

CLOSED FOR IN-PERSON SERVICES...AGAIN

Due to the major spike in Covid cases, and the transmissability of the Omicron variant, the Board of Directors elected to close the Temple for all in-person services and movies in early January. As the numbers are still high, Temple Beth El will continue to be closed through the end of February. Thank you for your patience while we wait for the conditions to be safer for all of our congregants.

Until then we will continue to offer all of our services and classes through Zoom. If you need any of the Zoom links, please send an email to our office at frtemplebethel@gmail.com

JEWISH COMMUNITY SECURITY TRAINING

Due to the rise in antisemitic incidents around the country in the last number of years, including in synagogues such as Congregation Beth Israel in Colleyville, Texas in mid-January, the Jewish Alliance in Providence is offering a community security training session online on February 16, 2022 (6:00 pm - 7:30 pm) via Zoom. You must pre-register to participate. Rabbi Mark has pre-registered and encourages our congregants to do so. The more informed and prepared we are, the better. And the more of us who are informed and prepared, the better.

To pre-register go to tinyurl.com/5d3utmeh



While you've been gone

This is just one of many damaged areas in our beautiful sanctuary that has been repaired recently. Many thanks to the Jewish Omni Fund for generously supporting our efforts to restore and preserve our historic building.

A message from our Spiritual Leader,
Cantor Shoshana Brown

This Strange and Difficult Time

It is hard to believe that it has been almost two years since this strange and difficult “coronavirus-time” began. I still think of our Purim celebration in 2020, our last in-person service before it became clear to us that things would not be “normal” again for a long time. Since that time, we have lost two of our TBE Board members – the indomitable Judy Berg, and Daniel Schafler, a dear, gentle soul who had a deep knowledge of *Yiddishkeit*, and also served as our board vice-president for a number of years. We sorely miss them both. May their memories be a blessing to us all.

In our faith and tradition, *life* is practically the highest of all values. Thus we recently found ourselves breathing a sigh of relief when we heard, over the Martin Luther King holiday weekend, of the mostly-positive resolution of the terrorist incident at the Colleyville, Texas Reform synagogue, Congregation Beth Israel (the hostage-taker himself, an apparently mentally-ill man, having lost his life in his interaction with an FBI officer). I was struck by the story of that Shabbat morning: Rabbi Charlie Cytron-Walker had let this man into the building because he seemed to be a homeless person who just wanted a place to warm up. The rabbi made the man a cup of tea, and invited him to sit in on the service, which was being conducted with only three congregants (in addition to the rabbi) in the room – the rest participating online.

It was a lucky break that most of Beth Israel’s worshippers were not there in person that Shabbat morning! And it was a wise precaution that both the rabbi and one of his board members who was with him that morning (his board’s vice-president) had taken a security training course with the ADL, and also with the local police, helping them both to be able to stay calm and think clearly throughout this terrifying situation.

How do we negotiate these times? I would not want Rabbi Cytron-Walker to lose his instinct to be compassionate to a stranger. Are we not told many times in the Torah to be kind to the stranger, since we were once strangers in Egypt? It may have been Rabbi Charlie’s compassionate heart that helped keep the would-be murderer from carrying out any act of bloodshed for all those long eleven hours...but on the other hand, perhaps Rabbi Charlie should have been more cautious about this stranger, and never have let him in. And yet if that had been his response to this stranger at his door, perhaps the man would have *broken* in, and would have been much more lethally confrontational from the get-go.

It is a distressing time, to have to deal with such issues of life and death, whether it be a matter of a virus, or of an unfamiliar person at the synagogue door. Here in Fall River we count ourselves lucky that the worst we have had to deal with are acts of vandalism in one of our Jewish cemeteries.

In 1822, the German Jewish poet Heinrich Heine penned these prophetic words: “Where they burn books, they will, in the end, burn human beings too.” Heine’s books were among those that were burned by the Nazis in 1933. We do not know whether hateful vandalism is necessarily a precursor to hate crimes against human beings, but it certainly is a sign of the times.

Purim will not come until next month, but in reflecting upon the approximate two-year anniversary of the beginning of the global pandemic, it strikes me that the Jewish tradition overall is very down to earth. Our traditions, our teachings, our rituals and holidays are in tune both with the fragility and uncertainty of life (I think of how the Purim story tells us of how narrow was the Persian Jewish community’s escape from genocide during Esther’s day, and of the *sukkah* of Sukkot as a reminder of our vulnerability) – *and* with the bravery and optimism we need to keep believing in a better day (Passover and Chanukah remind us to embrace these traits).

As I write these words, we are just a few days past Tu B’Shevat and Martin Luther King Day. It is not infrequent that these holidays come in close proximity (this year they were on the same day), and when they do, we are reminded that justice for our planet and justice for all human beings must go hand in hand. These too, are among the highest of Jewish values, and so it is no wonder that so many Jews were involved with the Civil Rights Movement in the sixties, some of them risking jail and worse, so that all Americans could be counted as equal members of our society.

Once again, we are living through tumultuous, difficult times. Even though there are barriers to our gathering in person during this time, it remains vital for us to stay in touch with one another as a community. Please join us in our online services or adult ed classes, and do not hesitate to call the TBE office and leave a message if you would like to speak with Rabbi Mark or myself – and remember to reach out to one another! As Mark’s and my teacher, Reb Zalman (Schachter-Shalomi) used to say often: “The only way to get it together...is *together*.”

May this bulletin find you well, your spirits still buoyant, despite all we are going through – as we look forward to gathering together again in person, praying, singing, eating, laughing and schmoozing as in pre-pandemic times – *bimheyra v’yameinu* (speedily and in our days)!

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Sisterhood President’s Message

First things first. At our recent Board of Directors meeting we decided to remain closed for in-person services and other events, including movies, through the end of February. We will have another board meeting before then and decide how to proceed. As I’m sure you are all aware, the Omicron variant is everywhere, and many people who are fully vaccinated and boosted are contracting it, so we must do the best we can to keep everyone safe.

Although those who have been coming to in-person services have been enjoying getting back to somewhat normal times, we just can’t take the chance of the virus spreading to our congregants. So thank you in advance for your patience while we wait this out once again. As always, all of our services and classes are on Zoom.

Work continues in the sanctuary while we wait for spring to arrive so we can get to work on the towers. We have had the wall to the left of the bimah repaired, as well as a number of areas that have been damaged for years and years, including the area high above the Torah table. Our contractor, Michael Almeida, is certainly not afraid of heights - he has reached these spots using forty foot ladders. Hopefully you will be able to come in and see the repairs for yourself before too long.

My sincere condolences to Ada Schneider and her family on the loss of her beloved husband, Dr. Ronald Schneider. Ron was a highly esteemed dermatologist at Truesdale for over forty years, and he was the epitome of a kind man. May his memory be for a blessing.

Special thanks to Touro Fraternal Association for funding the police details we hired during the High Holidays. We are grateful to be considered a part of the greater Rhode Island Jewish community, and included in this important and generous initiative.

*Steve Silverman
President*

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As we continue to bide our time until it is once again safe to gather together, I just wanted to let everyone know that I am on the mend, getting stronger every day, and I am looking forward to starting my cardiac rehab program. I am also cleared to drive which is so liberating! I’m not going anywhere today though -- this blizzard is wild!

Thank you so much to all who wished me well through cards, emails, texts and phone calls. Each one made me smile and raised my spirits.

Hopefully by next month we will be able to re-open the Temple, the snow will be gone and spring will be on the way.

Until next time, stay safe and warm.

*Libby Cohen
Sisterhood President*

Temple Family

- Our sincere condolences to Ada Schneider on the loss of her beloved husband, Ron.



LEADERSHIP

Mark Elber.....Rabbi
Shoshana Brown.....Cantor
Stephen Silverman.....President
Libby Cohen.....Secretary
William Chebot.....Treasurer
Libby Cohen.....Sisterhood Pres.
William E. Kaufman.....Rabbi Emeritus

SERVICE SCHEDULE
February 2022:
Shevat/Adar I 5782

Tuesday, February 1 (30 Shevat)
 Rosh Chodesh Adar 1

Wednesday, February 2 (1 Adar 1)
 Rosh Chodesh Adar 1

Friday, February 4 (3 Adar 1)
 Candle Lighting 4:46 pm
 Shabbat Service 5:30 pm

Saturday, February 5 (4 Adar 1)
 Weekly Portion: Terumah 10:00 am

Friday, February 11 (10 Adar 1)
 Candle Lighting 4:55 pm
 Shabbat Service 5:30 pm

Saturday, February 12 (11 Adar 1)
 Weekly Portion: Tetzavah 10:00 am

Friday, February 18 (17 Adar 1)
 Candle Lighting 5:04 pm
 Shabbat Service 5:30 pm

Saturday, February 19 (18 Adar 1)
 Weekly Portion: Ki Tisa 10:00 am

Friday, February 25 (24 Adar 1)
 Candle Lighting 5:13 pm
 Shabbat Service 5:30 pm

Saturday, February 26 (25 Adar 1)
 Weekly Portion: Vayakhel 10:00am
 Shabbat Shekalim



TEMPLE OFFICE

385 High St, Fall River, MA 02720
 Tel: (508) 674-3529 Fax: (508) 678-6735
NEW E-Mail: frtemplebethel@gmail.com
 Website: frtemplebethel.org

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday, Wednesday & Friday, 9 am to Noon

OFFICE CLOSED:

Monday, Feb. 21st - Presidents' Day

EMAIL UPDATE:

Due to a problem with the group emails we send out being sent directly to spam, we will now be sending out group emails from our new email address: frtemplebethel@gmail.com. Please note that it starts with "fr" just like our website does. Our previous email is still active (templebethel@comcast.net), so either one works if you are sending us a message.

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 ready, willing and able to visit the sick or shut-ins. Call the UJA office at (508) 673-7791 to schedule a visit.

IN MEMORIAM

DR. RONALD SCHNEIDER

JANUARY 23, 2022 – 21 SHEVAT 5782

MAY HIS MEMORY BE FOR A BLESSING

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TBE News & Notes

The first item of news is that **we won't have our Sunday Afternoon at the Jewish Movies** in February. It is really too bad, as we were starting to enjoy having people come to watch the movies with us in person! But Omicron is everywhere so we dare not gather until it is safe.

Next month will mark the two-year anniversary of the pandemic closings across this country, and of our reduced ability to gather together as a community here at TBE. Rabbi Mark and I both want to thank everyone in our temple community for "hanging in there," joining us in online services and for the various Jewish holidays and other important days in our calendar, and for your attendance in person when possible; for sharing your lives with us when we have reached out to you by phone. It has certainly not been easy for any of us!

One bright spot during these past two years has been our **Monday morning adult ed** class, which we have conducted mostly online. Because of the restrictions of learning together online, we have elected to read some significant Jewish books together. This is different from a "book group," since we read the material out loud together, pausing to comment or have related discussions along the way. We have had a wonderful time reading the following books over the past year:

Amos Oz, "In the Land of Israel"
 Julius Lester, "Lovesong: Becoming a Jew"
 Aaron Lansky, "Outwitting History: The Amazing Adventures of a Man Who Rescued a Million Yiddish Books"

Our current book is:
Gershon Gorenberg, "The End of Days: Fundamentalism and the Struggle for the Temple Mount" (2000)

It's not too late to join us! Just purchase a copy of this fascinating book, and contact the office to ask for the link to join our class – on Mondays from 10 to 11:30 AM (no class on 2/21).

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Thank you for your donations received through January 21st

Yahrzeits

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

Father, Louis Freedman	Joyce Goldweitz
Mother, Ruth Gerard	Jay Gerard
Father, William Gittelman	Finbar Gittelman
Mother, Martha Kaufman	David Kaufman
Father, Dr. Leonard Lechan	Robin Fielding
Mother, Dorothy S. Levin	Ruth Levin
Parents, Esther & Jack Mickelson	Beverly Solup
Mother, Rose Moss	Shirley Taradash
Father, Charles Rosenberg	Richard Rosenberg
Mother, Anna Schaffer	Donna Walters
Mother, Tylda Schwartz	Virginia Lepow
Grandfather, Harry Weissman	Jeffrey Weissman
Simon "Zaide" Winokoor	Sidney Winokoor
Mother, Sylvia Zalkind	Deborah Zalkind Semine

IDA & DAVID CHAVENSON SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In memory of my beloved father, **Robert Chavenson**
 Laurie Chavenson

CAPITAL FUND

In honor of **Billy Chebot, Mazel Tov!**

Linda & Dr. Gerald Monchik
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In memory of **Carl Feldman**

Ken Littman, Susan Finn & family
 Linda & Dr. Gerald Monchik
 Karen Sokol

In memory of **Ann Freedman**

Ken Littman, Susan Finn & family
 Linda & Dr. Gerald Monchik
 Susan & Dick Wolfson

In memory of my dear friend, **Janet Winick Smith**

Paula Shaer

For the recovery of **Libby Cohen**

Hannah Evans

For the recovery of **Libby Cohen & Anne Griffin**

Beverly Sokoll

MORNING MINYAN FUND

In honor of **Bill Chebot**

Ken Littman, Susan Finn & family

SPECIAL GIFTS

In memory of **Carl Feldman**

Peter Kane

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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

YAHARZEITS

2/2/2022 1 Adar I 5782
William Wolfson

2/3/2022 2 Adar I 5782
Isaac Bolski
Joy Field
Hyman Karp

2/5/2022 4 Adar I 5782
Bernard Chebot
Sadie Lovit
Nathan Bernard Silverman

2/6/2022 5 Adar I 5782
Morris Levine

2/7/2022 6 Adar I 5782
Morris Haims
Edith Kusinitz
Philip Ostroff
Bertha Weinstock
Philip Zalkind

2/8/2022 7 Adar I 5782
Adelle Wiener

2/9/2022 8 Adar I 5782
Elena Lee Cohen
Selma Juda
Mannis Shapiro

2/10/2022 9 Adar I 5782
Helen Babin

2/12/2022 11 Adar I 5782
Louis I. Galitsky
Hyman B. Gollub
George Sandler

2/13/2022 12 Adar I 5782
Louis Bachman
Mollie Cohen
Hyman Levine

2/14/2022 13 Adar I 5782
Robert M. Cohen

2/16/2022 15 Adar I 5782
Gloria Baskin
William Goldman
Vivian Grozen

2/17/2022 16 Adar I 5782
Samuel Katzman

2/18/2022 17 Adar I 5782
Louis Nulman
Irene Stern
Milton Weissman

2/19/2022 18 Adar I 5782
Helen Freedman
Florence Lash
Sylvia Yoken

2/20/2022 19 Adar I 5782
William Feinberg

Ruth Levine
2/21/2022 20 Adar I 5782
Helen Nulman

2/22/2022 21 Adar I 5782
Abraham Trieff

2/23/2022 22 Adar I 5782
David Chavenson
Marian Cohen

2/24/2022 23 Adar I 5782
Edwin Macy

2/25/2022 24 Adar I 5782
Manuel Hyman
Eva Waksler

2/26/2022 25 Adar I 5782
Thelma Greenberg
Lillian Lepes

2/27/2022 26 Adar I 5782
Minnie Entin
Virginia Granovsky
Fannie Hillman
Frederick Kaplan

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