

TEMPLE BETH EL

FALL RIVER, MASSACHUSETTS



94th Year

January 2022

Tevet/Shevat 5782

No. 5

Regular Service Schedule - In Person and Via Zoom

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

The things that are possible these days...thanks to online programs like Zoom.

Sefaria Texts Topics Community Donate

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Ezekiel 37:15-28

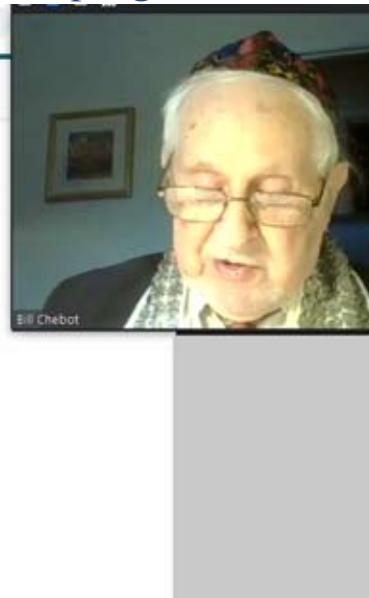
וְנַתֶּן לְךָ בְּכֶם וּחֲיִתֶם וְהִנֵּה תִּאֱמֹתֶם וְזַעַפְתֶם כִּי־אָנִי
ה' דָבַרְתִּי וְעָשָׂתִי נָאָמִין ה' : (פ)

I will put My breath into you and you shall live again, and I will set you upon your own soil. Then you shall know that I the LORD have spoken and have acted"—declares the LORD.

וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים לְאָדָם 15
תְּקַרְבֵּנִי בְּנוֹאָתֶם חַחְלָל עַצְמָתֶךָ וְכַתֵּב עַל־צְלָמָתֶךָ לְיְהוָה וְלִבְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל
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תְּחַבְּרֵנִי:

The word of the LORD came to me:

וְאַתָּה בְּנוֹאָתֶם חַחְלָל עַצְמָתֶךָ וְכַתֵּב עַל־צְלָמָתֶךָ לְיְהוָה וְלִבְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל
תְּחַבְּרֵנִי וְלַקְחֵנִי עַצְמָתֶךָ וְכַתֵּב עַל־לְזִיסְקָע עַצְמָתֶךָ אֶפְרַיִם וְכָל־בֵּית יִשְׂרָאֵל
תְּחַבְּרֵנִי:



Bill Chebot had a change of plans this year. He wanted his family to be able to be a part of the service that marked the 80th anniversary of his bar mitzvah. But his son, Jeff Chebot, had already committed to reading from the Torah at his own synagogue on that day. Instead of one or the other missing out, the two rabbis got together and decided to have the service take part at both temples (thanks to Zoom). The service started on Zoom at Temple Beth El, and finished at Or Hadash in Pennsylvania. So Bill,

who turns 94 this month, not only did a magnificent job of chanting the Haftorah that he learned so many years ago, but he also masterfully managed the technology. Mazel Tov! And Mazel Tov to Jeff as well...like father, like son! Bill's daughter Bonnie participated from Longmeadow, MA, and thanks to Zoom, dozens of people attended from all over the country!



Jeff Chebot preparing to read from the Torah at his home synagogue in Pennsylvania, Or Hadash



Bonnie Chebot Gibson

A message from our Spiritual Leader,
Rabbi Mark Elber
Am HaSefer

The first month of 2022 finds us in some of the most striking Torah portions of the Book of Exodus (called *Sh'mot* in Hebrew). We begin having ended December with our ancestors suffering as slaves in Egypt, Moses having had his private revelation at the Burning Bush, returning to Egypt, confronting Pharaoh, telling him to "Let my people go," and things getting worse for our enslaved ancestors. January's readings contain the continued confrontation with Pharaoh; the original Passover to be repeated ritually every year during the spring month (*Aviv/Nissan*) as a perpetual reminder of our having been slaves in Egypt and subsequently freed; carrying Joseph's bones with them on their trek through the wilderness of Sinai to the Promised Land; the Song of the Sea (i.e., the crossing of the Sea of Reeds, *Yam Suf*), and the revelation and receiving of the Ten Commandments and the Torah at Mount Sinai.

The book of Genesis that precedes Exodus tells the story of our most ancient roots, the stories of the patriarchs and matriarchs, the beginning of our collective story with our origins as one family. During this month of January we go from being one extended family to being a people with the mandate to become a holy people. Two of the most important themes in Judaism are found in this month's readings: the experience of having been slaves in Egypt and then becoming a free people, followed by the imperative to become a holy nation, i.e., not simply being free to do whatever we please, but rather being free to live a just, moral, and spiritual life. In other words being free, yet commanded, as a people to live up to a very high standard, to live a life of meaning and purpose.

We read the Torah from beginning to end every year, repeating the same portions, stories, and lessons annually. On the one hand, to live the kind of life the Torah asks of us it is of great use to be regularly reminded and inspired. On the other hand, as our own individual lives evolve, the way we understand the passages of the Torah also evolves. We hopefully have a richer understanding of Torah every year. I imagine many of us have had the experience of rereading something and suddenly seeing it differently than we had previously seen it. We might have even had this experience seeing a movie more than once. The greater the work, the more it allows for a deeper understanding in each subsequent reading (or viewing). This also depends on our commitment to always growing, to pursuing a path.

The books from Exodus through Deuteronomy

unfold within the context of a journey, just like every individual life is a journey, and every nation's history is a kind of journey too. The more we have a sense of what the goal of that journey is, the more likely we are to pursue it consciously.

I mentioned in passing the short phrase in January's first Torah portion about carrying Joseph's bones back to the Promised Land. I find this particularly striking. As successful and prominent as his life had been in the diaspora, and, in fact, ninety-three of the one hundred and ten years of his life had been lived in the diaspora and his real achievements all occurred there, Joseph nevertheless wanted his remains to be returned to the land of Israel. The fact of the Israelites honoring that promise made hundreds of years before its actualization, and the request itself on the part of Joseph, point to a core strength of our tradition. There's no question that the conditions of our lives as Jews have changed, often dramatically, over the centuries. Nevertheless, our connection to our core values, our foundational stories, and our ancient homeland, has been a powerful source of our strength and our identity. As the well-known saying by the founder of cultural Zionism, Ahad Ha'am (1856-1927), said: "More than the Jews have kept Shabbat, Shabbat has kept the Jews."

As Jews loosen their connection to our vast literature and traditions, our identity as Jews also becomes less defined and harder to transmit to successive generations. This is the challenge to liberal (i.e. non-Orthodox) Jews: How do we retain a deep engagement and commitment to our heritage, a love of learning Torah in its many forms, a love of Israel and *Yiddishkeit* (Jewishness) while remaining open and receptive to the world around us? This has always been the goal of Conservative Judaism, but, sadly, we have been shrinking as a denomination. We still are what our tradition calls *Am HaSefer*, the people of the Book, but many of our compatriots are reading this book less and less.

I would like to conclude with a couple of quotations from *Pirkei Avot*, one of the great works of Rabbinic literature, which teaches as follows: "When a person's wisdom exceeds their good deeds, to what may they be compared? To a tree with many branches but few roots. A wind blows, uproots it, and topples it over. However, when a person's good deeds exceed their wisdom, to what may they be compared? To a tree with few branches but with many roots. All the winds of the world may blow against it, yet they cannot move it from its place." And lastly: "It's not the theory that matters most, but the practice."

Wishing you all a Happy and, especially, a Healthy 2022.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We are now in what is typically a quiet time at the Temple, and it is even more so this year. After feeling like we were finally heading toward the light at the end of the tunnel with regards to the pandemic, the new Omicron variant is making that light seem more ominous than hopeful. From what I have read, while Omicron is more infectious than the Delta variant, it seems to be less severe, especially for those who are fully vaccinated. We are so fortunate to have the vaccine available to us, and at no cost. If you haven't yet gotten yours, I urge you to do so.

For the next few weeks we are taking advantage of the quiet time to work on repairing water damage in the sanctuary. We have pushed back the much-needed work on the towers until spring as the cost to wrap the scaffolding and towers in plastic (to make it warm enough to do the work) was exorbitant. For now we are going to try the little Dutch boy's method of putting his finger in the dike...although we are using slightly more modern methods. Let's hope it holds!

For now we will continue as we are, suggesting masks for in-person services for those who are fully vaccinated, and requiring masks at all times for those who are not. Please keep an eye out for emails in case this changes. Rhode Island has recently gone back to requiring masks regardless of vaccination status in restaurants and large stores. We will continue to follow the Massachusetts mandates, which may change at any time. We will keep you posted as soon as we know of any changes to the current policy.

This month we were sad to lose Ann Freedman, another of our cherished "old guard." She was a class act with a beautiful singing voice, and a valuable member not only of our congregation but of our choir back in the day. She was also on the board of the United Jewish Appeal, and from what I understand, she was a fabulous bridge player. May her memory be for a blessing.

Wishing you all a happy, healthy and safe 2022, with longer, warmer days in our future.

*Steve Silverman
President*

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Sisterhood President's Message

Just a quick note to say thank you for all your well-wishes after my surprise open-heart surgery. I am in cardiac rehab now, and progressing nicely. Please keep me in your prayers to help me get stronger every day. Hopefully I will be back before you know it!

Best wishes to all of you for a happy, healthy 2022. Until next time, stay safe!

*Libby Cohen
Sisterhood President*



This month's "Blast from the Past" shows Hannah Evans displaying the beautiful wares of the Sisterhood Gift Shop. She was in charge more than a few years! We miss her but wish her well at her new home in Connecticut.



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**SERVICE SCHEDULE
January 2022:
Tevet/Shevat 5782**

<u>Saturday, January 1 (28 Tevet)</u>	
Weekly Portion: Vaera	10:00 am
<u>Monday, January 3 (1 Shevat)</u>	
Rosh Chodesh Shevat	
<u>Friday, January 7 (5 Shevat)</u>	
Candle Lighting Shabbat Service	4:13 pm 5:30 pm
<u>Saturday, January 8 (6 Shevat)</u>	
Weekly Portion: Bo	10:00 am
<u>Friday, January 14 (12 Shevat)</u>	
Candle Lighting Shabbat Service	4:20 pm 5:30 pm
<u>Saturday, January 15 (13 Shevat)</u>	
Weekly Portion: Beshalakh	10:00 am
<u>Monday, January 17 (15 Shevat)</u>	
Tu BiShevat (The New Year for Trees)	
<u>Friday, January 21 (19 Shevat)</u>	
Candle Lighting Shabbat Service	4:28 pm 5:30 pm
<u>Saturday, January 22 (20 Shevat)</u>	
Weekly Portion: Yitro	10:00 am
<u>Friday, January 28 (26 Shevat)</u>	
Candle Lighting Shabbat Service	4:37 pm 5:30 pm
<u>Saturday, January 29 (27 Shevat)</u>	
Weekly Portion: Mishpatim	10:00 am

IN MEMORIAM

ANN FREEMAN

DECEMBER 1, 2021 – 28 KISLEV 5782

MAY HER MEMORY BE FOR A BLESSING

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, Wednesday & Friday, 9 am to Noon

OFFICE CLOSED:
Monday, Jan 3rd - Friday, Jan 7th
(We will check email and voicemails regularly)
Monday, Jan. 17th - Martin Luther King Day



Could this be in our future? This is Lev Elber walking down Wilson Road in Fall River in 2019. He will probably see lots of snow in Vermont this year...let's hope it stays there!

Temple Family

- Best wishes to Libby Cohen and Anne Griffin for a *refuah shlaymah* (complete recovery).
- Our sincere condolences to the family of Ann Freedman.

TBE News & Notes

Mazal tov to Bill Chebot on his recent birthday, and especially on the recent celebration of his bar mitzvah anniversary, which many of us at TBE celebrated jointly with Bill's son, Jeff Chebot's congregation, Or Hadash (located in Fort Washington, PA). Or Hadash and our congregation were able to share a Zoom screen on the Shabbat morning of Dec. 11th to conduct the Torah service together, with members of both congregations reading from the Torah; afterwards, Bill chanted the *haftarah* of his bar mitzvah portion, *Vayigash*. We all wish Bill that he may go from strength to strength – to 120!

At the current moment – as of this writing – we are still offering Kabbalat Shabbat services and Shabbat morning services both in person in the chapel for the fully-vaccinated (and for those not fully vaccinated, if they are wearing masks) and on Zoom. Also, all adult ed classes are still being offered on Zoom. I know we are all getting **Zoom fatigue**, but hang in there everyone – it is important that we stay connected however we can!

On Friday night, **January 14th**, and Shabbat morning, **January 15th**, our Shabbat services will be oriented towards remembering the life of the **Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.** and towards marking the **Jewish New Year for Trees, Tu BiShevat**, which falls on January 17th this year. We hope you can join us for one or both of these Shabbat services – either in person or online.

On Sunday, **January 23rd**, we will remember King's close friend and teacher, the late **Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel** with our viewing of the documentary: **Spiritual Audacity: The Abraham Joshua Heschel Story** (see the next column for more information on this film, part of our "Sunday Afternoon at the Jewish Movies" series).

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"SPIRITUAL AUDACITY: THE ABRAHAM JOSHUA HESCHEL STORY"

Sunday, Jan. 23rd at 2 pm

"Spiritual Audacity: The Abraham Joshua Heschel Story" is a 2021 documentary by Martin Doblmeier, whose films explore how belief can lead individuals to extraordinary acts, how spirituality creates and sustains communities and how faith is lived in extraordinary ways. This one-hour film chronicles the life and legacy of one of the 20th century's most prominent Jewish theologians and philosophers. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. called Heschel a "great prophet" and their social justice views aligned; noted theologian Reinhold Niebuhr also spoke of his friend Heschel as "an authoritative voice not only in the Jewish community but in the religious life of America."



Heschel, left, presenting the Judaism and World Peace Award to Martin Luther King Jr., on December 7, 1965

LEADERSHIP

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

Thank you for your donations received through December 22, 2021

YAHRZEITS

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

Father, Abraham Becker	Ethel & Sidney Winokoor
Father, Clarence Calman	Neil Calman
Mother, Sonja Calman	Neil Calman
Grandfather, Maurice Samuel Calman	Neil Calman
Father, Leonard Freedman	Roberta Milstein
Grandmother, Edith Gerlich	Neil Calman
Grandfather, Meyer Goldman	Deborah Zalkind Semine
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Brother, Howard Krasnow	Carol Schwartz
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Brother, Dr. Donald Rotenberg	Lisa Shapiro
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Daughter, Donna Wolfson	Marilyn Wolfson

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For the recovery of Libby Cohen

Sumner Alpert & Joyce Rosenthal

In memory of Carl Feldman

For the yahrzeits of my beloved wife, Arline Alpert & brother, Stanley Alpert

Sumner Alpert

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In memory of Arnold Rosenberg

For the recovery of Libby Cohen

Beverly Solup & family

BERNARD HOROWITZ BUILDING MAINTENANCE FUND

Birthday wishes to my niece, Cathy Saltzman

Arlyne Dondis

MORNING MINYAN FUND

In memory of Ann Freedman

For the recovery of Libby Cohen

Bill Chebot

CAPITAL FUND

In honor of Sumner Alpert's 95th birthday

Iris Katzman

In honor of Billy Chebot, Mazel Tov!

Iris Katzman

In honor of Ellyn Cohen's special birthday

Anita & Norm Bolski

In honor of Sheila Lash

Iris Katzman

In honor of Temple Beth El

Deborah Zalkind Semine

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In memory of Brett Fain

Anita & Norm Bolski

In memory of Carl Feldman

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Claire & Ron Caplain

For the recovery of Libby Cohen

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Jeffrey Weissman

For the recovery of Anne Griffin

Anita & Norm Bolski

Jeffrey Weissman

WISH LIST FUND

For the security of Temple Beth El

Cheryl Crossley-Simmons

In memory of Marcie Ostrow, Barbara Roeber and Steve Strom

For the recovery of Libby Cohen and Anne Griffin

Suzanne & Martin Finkel

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In honor of :

Mr. & Mrs. Jonathan Brickman

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Dr. Ronald Schwartz

Dr. & Mrs. Elliott Stein

Cindy & Dr. Mel Yoken



*You are invited to attend LimmudBoston's
2022 e-Festival of Jewish Learning*

The 12th Annual LimmudBoston eFestival will take place via Zoom on Sunday, January 23, 2022 from noon to 4:30 pm. Limmud, in Hebrew, means study, or learn. There will be five speakers to choose from during each of the four one-hour sessions. Learn, Laugh, Discover all things Jewish. Cultivate your curiosity and expand your horizons. Register for this exciting annual day of learning at <https://limmudboston.org/limmudfest-2022/>. For more information, email: info@LimmudBoston.org.

Join LimmudBoston as we bring light, learning and warmth into that cold, dark month, with our Winter E-Festival.

**Sunday, January 23, 2022
12:00 pm to 4:30 pm**

\$18 early-bird special fee (until 1/9)
\$25 regular fee (after 1/9/22)



Sunrise at Allens Pond beach, 2017

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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.



A snowy day in 2015. The towers look fine from here!

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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.frttemplebethel.org

YAHRZEITS

1/1/2022 28 Tevet 5782 Simon Winokoor	01/13/22 11 Shevat 5782 Clarence Calman	1/22/2022 20 Shevat 5782 Lottie Bloom Sandler Eugene Joseph Silverman
1/2/2022 29 Tevet 5782 Victor Field Paula Fox Birdie Phillips	1/14/2022 12 Shevat 5782 Tylda Schwartz Arnold Wolfson	1/23/2022 21 Shevat 5782 Atty. Lloyd Belford
1/4/2022 2 Shevat 5782 Betty Greenberg Dorothy S. Levin	1/15/2022 13 Shevat 5782 Maurice Samuel Calman Daniel Schafler	1/24/2022 22 Shevat 5782 Seymour Filler Martin Schlam
1/5/2022 3 Shevat 5782 Rose Moss	1/16/2022 14 Shevat 5782 Louis Freedman Esther Mickelson	1/25/2022 23 Shevat 5782 Herman Bernstein Bernice Hoffman Charles Kane
1/6/2022 4 Shevat 5782 George Hodosh	1/17/2022 15 Shevat 5782 William Shriberg Morris Wilner	1/26/2022 24 Shevat 5782 Morris Lepes Dorothy Schwartz
1/7/2022 5 Shevat 5782 Tracy Fleisher Claire Sundel Harry Weissman	1/18/2022 16 Shevat 5782 Margot Bogus Adolph Feder	1/27/2022 25 Shevat 5782 Simon Goldberg
1/8/2022 6 Shevat 5782 Max Horvitz Charles Rosenberg Philip Shapiro	1/19/2022 17 Shevat 5782 Cyril Hochberg Fannie Woloshen	1/28/2022 26 Shevat 5782 Dr. Jacob Helfanbein
1/9/2022 7 Shevat 5782 Louise Macy	1/20/2022 18 Shevat 5782 Sandra Bogus Abner Kravitz	1/29/2022 27 Shevat 5782 Samuel M. Schwartz
1/10/2022 8 Shevat 5782 Dr. Leonard Lechan	1/21/2022 19 Shevat 5782 Edith Gerlich Jack Mickelson	1/30/2022 28 Shevat 5782 Madeline Leonard
1/11/2022 9 Shevat 5782 Abraham Ehrenhaus Augusta Kaufmann	Ada Wolfson	1/31/2022 29 Shevat 5782 Blossom Granovsky Sidney Lechan Hyman Lipshitz Ida Woltman Hilda Zaslow
1/12/2022 10 Shevat 5782 Normand Futoransky	Mildred Trieff	

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