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!
A message from our Spiritual Leader,
Rabbi Mark Elber

\textit{Am HaSefer}

The first month of 2022 finds us in some of the most striking Torah portions of the Book of Exodus (called \textit{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 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 \textit{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 \textit{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 \textit{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.
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

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.
### Service Schedule
**January 2022: Tevet/Shevat 5782**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Saturday, January 1</strong></td>
<td>Weekly Portion: Vaera</td>
<td>10:00 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Monday, January 3</strong></td>
<td>Rosh Chodesh Shevat</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Friday, January 7</strong></td>
<td>Candle Lighting</td>
<td>4:13 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Shabbat Service</td>
<td>5:30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Saturday, January 8</strong></td>
<td>Weekly Portion: Bo</td>
<td>10:00 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Friday, January 14</strong></td>
<td>Candle Lighting</td>
<td>4:20 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Shabbat Service</td>
<td>5:30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Saturday, January 15</strong></td>
<td>Weekly Portion: Beshalakh</td>
<td>10:00 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Monday, January 17</strong></td>
<td>Tu B'Shevat</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(The New Year for Trees)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Friday, January 21</strong></td>
<td>Candle Lighting</td>
<td>4:28 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Shabbat Service</td>
<td>5:30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Saturday, January 22</strong></td>
<td>Weekly Portion: Yitro</td>
<td>10:00 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Friday, January 28</strong></td>
<td>Candle Lighting</td>
<td>4:37 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Shabbat Service</td>
<td>5:30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Saturday, January 29</strong></td>
<td>Weekly Portion: Mishpatim</td>
<td>10:00 am</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**In Memoriam**

**Ann Freedman**  
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).

“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.”
Thank you for your donations received through December 22, 2021

**YAHRZEITS**

For the yahrzeit of my beloved...

- Father, Abraham Becker
- Father, Clarence Calman
- Mother, Sonja Calman
- Grandfather, Maurice Samuel Calman
- Father, Leonard Freedman
- Grandmother, Edith Gerlich
- Grandfather, Meyer Goldman
- Mother, Ada Haims
- Mother & Grandmother, Sheila Holtzman
- Brother, Howard Krasnow
- Husband, Bernard Miller
- Mother & Grandmother, Phyllis Nerenberg
- Brother, Dr. Donald Rotenberg
- Father, Isaac Schwartz
- Mother, Paula Shuman
- Father, Maurice Sludsky
- Husband, Robert Sokoll
- Grandmother, Rusty Sokoll
- Grandmother, Rose Tallman
- Father-in-law Murray Taradash
- Mother, Esther Weissman
- Daughter, Donna Wolfson

Donated by:
- Ethel & Sidney Winokoor
- Neil Calman
- Neil Calman
- Neil Calman
- Roberta Milstein
- Neil Calman
- Deborah Zalkind Semine
- Paula Rubin
- Michael, Charron & Ben Holtzman
- Carol Schwartz
- June Miller
- Anna Nerenberg, Marc, Lee & Jacqueline Bernstein
- Lisa Shapiro
- Virginia Lepow
- Paula Sultan
- Paula Sultan
- Marilyn Sokoll
- The Sokoll Family
- Wally Lowenthal Davis, Harriet Lowenthal & Jill Lowenthal Brown
- Shirley Taradash
- Jeffrey Weissman
- Marilyn Wolfson

**MAURICE ALPERT MEMORIAL ENDOWMENT FUND**

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

**IDA & DAVID CHAVENSON SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

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

In memory of Judy Berg
Iris Katzman

In memory of Brett Fain
Anita & Norm Bolski

In memory of Carl Feldman
Claire & Ron Caplain
Rita Miller Fishman
Iris Katzman
Carol & Dr. Ronald Schwartz
Ethel & Sid Winokoor

In memory of Shirley Kaitz
Claire & Ron Caplain

For the recovery of Libby Cohen
Anita & Norm Bolski
Robert Falconero
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

**SYLVIA S. & ALBERT B. YOKEN MEMORIAL FUND**

In honor of:
- Mr. & Mrs. Jonathan Brickman
- Carol Marlin
- 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)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Yahrzeit</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/1/2022</td>
<td>28 Tevet</td>
<td>Simon Winokoor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2/2022</td>
<td>29 Tevet</td>
<td>Victor Field, Paula Fox, Birdie Phillips</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/4/2022</td>
<td>2 Shevat</td>
<td>Betty Greenberg, Dorothy S. Levin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/6/2022</td>
<td>4 Shevat</td>
<td>George Hodosh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/7/2022</td>
<td>5 Shevat</td>
<td>Tracy Fleisher, Claire Sundel, Harry Weissman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/8/2022</td>
<td>6 Shevat</td>
<td>Max Horvitz, Charles Rosenberg, Philip Shapiro</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/9/2022</td>
<td>7 Shevat</td>
<td>Louise Macy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/10/2022</td>
<td>8 Shevat</td>
<td>Dr. Leonard Lechan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/11/2022</td>
<td>9 Shevat</td>
<td>Abraham Ehrenhaus, Augusta Kaufmann</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/12/2022</td>
<td>10 Shevat</td>
<td>Normand Futoransky</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/13/2022</td>
<td>11 Shevat</td>
<td>Clarence Calman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/14/2022</td>
<td>12 Shevat</td>
<td>Tylida Schwartz, Arnold Wolfson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/15/2022</td>
<td>13 Shevat</td>
<td>Maurice Samuel Calman, Daniel Schaffer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/16/2022</td>
<td>14 Shevat</td>
<td>Louis Freedman, Esther Mickelson, William Shriberg, Morris Wilner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/17/2022</td>
<td>15 Shevat</td>
<td>Margot Bogus, Adolph Feder, Cyril Hochberg, Fannie Woloshen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/18/2022</td>
<td>16 Shevat</td>
<td>Sandra Bogus, Abner Kravitz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/19/2022</td>
<td>17 Shevat</td>
<td>Edith Gerlich, Jack Mickelson, Charles Novek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/20/2022</td>
<td>18 Shevat</td>
<td>Ada Wolfson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/21/2022</td>
<td>19 Shevat</td>
<td>Mildred Trieff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/22/2022</td>
<td>20 Shevat</td>
<td>Lottie Bloom Sandler, Eugene Joseph Silverman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/23/2022</td>
<td>21 Shevat</td>
<td>Atty. Lloyd Belford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/24/2022</td>
<td>22 Shevat</td>
<td>Seymour Filler, Martin Schlam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/25/2022</td>
<td>23 Shevat</td>
<td>Herman Bernstein, Bernice Hoffman, Charles Kane</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/26/2022</td>
<td>24 Shevat</td>
<td>Morris Lepes, Dorothy Schwartz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/27/2022</td>
<td>25 Shevat</td>
<td>Simon Goldberg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/28/2022</td>
<td>26 Shevat</td>
<td>Dr. Jacob Helfanbein</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/29/2022</td>
<td>27 Shevat</td>
<td>Samuel M. Schwartz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/30/2022</td>
<td>28 Shevat</td>
<td>Madeline Leonard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/31/2022</td>
<td>29 Shevat</td>
<td>Blossom Granovsky, Sidney Lechan, Hyman Lipshitz, Ida Woltman, Hilda Zaslow</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PROUDLY SERVING our community**

**Fall River Jewish Home**

538 Robeson Street, Fall River, MA 02720
Cell: 508.971.9453
Office: 508.679.6172
Fax: 508.675.6510

Victoria Benevides
Director, Admissions & Marketing

Short Term Rehabilitation • Long Term Care • Respite

e-mail: vbenevides@frjhcares.org

www.fallriverjewishhome.org

**Dignity Memorial**
Home of Memorial Tribute at Cherry Place
178 Winter St., Fall River, MA 02720
508-676-1933 Waring-Sullivan.com

A Service-Family Affiliate of AFFS and Service Corporation International. 206 Winter St, Fall River, MA 02720, 508-676-2454