Regular Service Schedule, both In-Person and via Zoom

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

As of March 4th, we are open for in-person services!

We will once again offer “hybrid” services, which means that people are welcome to join us either in-person or via Zoom.

We will also continue to follow the mask policy previously in force:

Fully vaccinated?
No need to wear a mask

Not fully vaccinated?
Mask still required

TBE Purim Party is Online!

Please join us on Zoom as we celebrate Purim and read the Megillah

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16TH AT 6:30 PM

Check your email for the Purim Zoom link, and get your goggers ready!

Sunday Afternoon at the Jewish Movies Returns!

Please join us in the vestry for "HARRIET" the story of Harriet Tubman

MARCH 27TH AT 2 PM

See page 5 for more details.
A message from our Spiritual Leader, Rabbi Mark Elber

Joy in the Midst of Uncertainty

Once again, it is a leap year in the Jewish calendar. Though the calendar is primarily a lunar calendar, it is adjusted to the solar year with frequent leap years that add an additional month, the month of Adar II. This adjustment is necessary because the Torah emphasizes that Passover occurs in the spring month. A lunar calendar falls out of sync with the solar year fairly quickly, so it has to be adjusted with an extra month periodically.

Purim, which this month begins on the full moon of Adar II which falls on Wednesday evening March 16th, is an interesting holiday, quite unlike any other. Every holiday has its own uniqueness, usually specific foods associated with it, etc. Nevertheless, Purim still stands out as different from the other holidays. As a child I remember going to Young Israel of Sunnyside in Queens to hear the Megillah chanted. It was always a fun holiday for children. We’d sit and listen for the name Haman to come up and then go wild with our groggers, our noise makers. Afterwards we’d have hamantaschen. What other holiday has cookies as its main distinctive food?! It was a very kid-friendly holiday.

As I got older and began to follow the holidays more seriously, I began to actually pay attention to what the Book of Esther, Megillat Esther aka the Megillah, actually said, rather than just listening for Haman’s name. I was struck by a passage in chapter three (of the ten-chapter Megillah). Haman is talking to King Achashverosh and says to him: “There is a certain people, scattered and dispersed among the other peoples in all the provinces of your realm, whose laws are different from those of any other people and who do not obey the king’s laws; and it is not in Your Majesty’s interest to tolerate them.” I couldn’t believe how these verses, which were referring to a story that was supposed to have occurred about 2,500 years ago, seemed so relevant to so much of Jewish history in the diaspora. And, of course, the Book of Esther is about a Jewish community in the diaspora. Unlike the vast majority of the Bible which either takes place within the land of Israel or is focused on our people’s lives that will take place in the land of Israel, the Book of Esther concentrates on our existence in the diaspora. In contrast to the book of Ezekiel in the Bible, which takes place shortly after the beginning of the exile in Babylonia after the destruction of the first Beit Hamikdash, the ancient Temple in Jerusalem, and anticipates the return to the holy land, the Book of Esther occurs considerably later in a time when the Jews have been living in the diaspora for generations. The Book of Esther is not projecting our triumphant return to Jerusalem, but rather is concerned with the survival and strength of our people in the diaspora.

The verses that I quoted earlier from the Megillah describe a situation of antisemitism that would be repeated so many times throughout Jewish history. Strikingly, though our people have lived throughout the world and have had periods of thriving in various parts of the world, almost invariably antisemitism would rear its ugly head. Now a mere seventy-seven years after the end of World War II and the Holocaust, we see a resurgence of antisemitism around the world, and even here in the United States. We’ve seen it here in Fall River with the desecration of the Hebrew Cemetery, and numerous instances elsewhere in the country. We saw virulent expressions of antisemitism displayed on signs and on people’s clothing in the Capitol Building on January 6th. We see the haters emboldened. The recent hostage situation in Congregation Beth Israel in Colleyville, Texas has served as a wakeup call to many congregations who did not admit to themselves how vulnerable they might be.

Last week the Jewish Alliance in Providence held a teaching session via Zoom about security in synagogues and places where Jews congregate. I was pleased that a number of our congregants participated. As we express solidarity with Congregation Beth Israel in Colleyville, Texas and synagogues around the country and the world, we recognize how important it is to make sure that we are as secure as possible. We are having a security assessment of our building done and taking whatever steps necessary to make sure that our community is as safe as possible. At the same time, it is important to not exaggerate the situation and to assess it realistically. We are not living in 1930s Europe. It’s important to be both vigilant and realistic.

Currently there’s such a convergence of challenges and concerns. We are still in the midst of the pandemic, though, once again, the situation is calming down. Hopefully it will continue to go in that direction. Things on the world scene are also unpredictable. As I write this now, close to 200,000 Russian troops are on the borders of Ukraine. By the time you read this, who knows how much the situation will have changed. Israel is trying to help Jews in the Ukraine leave. Of course, we’re always concerned about the situation in the Middle East, particularly in Israel. But with all of this, our tradition tells us that our joy increases when the month of Adar comes, and that we must live our lives to the fullest and with joy. As Rebbe Nachman of Bratzlav said: al titya’esh (never despair). As it says in the Psalms: ivdu et Hashem b’simkha (worship the Eternal One with joy). This doesn’t mean that we must turn a blind eye to the problems and threats in the world, but, rather, that despite everything, we are a tradition that always celebrates life and counts our blessings daily.
President’s Message

This is the second month in a row that I am writing my column during a snowstorm. Enough already! Seeing the daffodils poking out of the earth makes me hopeful for an early spring.

It is once again time to wish our wonderful eldest statesman, Charlie Stampler, another happy birthday. When I attended his 100th birthday party I never dreamed I would be wishing him a happy birthday at least seven more times! Imagine...he has 107 years under his belt, with all of his original parts. You know what they say...they built things to last back then! And the changes he has seen since he was born in 1915 are almost unfathomable. Here’s to you, Charlie, and your next trip around the sun.

I am pleased to report that our Board of Directors has decided to reopen our doors for in-person services as of March 4th. We will return to offering hybrid services, so that people may attend either in-person or via Zoom. We have also decided that once again this year we will stick to Zoom for both Purim and Passover. We sincerely hope that next year we will be able to have a real Purim party, and a vestry full of members for our Passover celebration.

We have also decided to reinstate the same mask policy we followed before our recent closure. Masks are optional for those who are fully vaccinated, and required for those who are not. We will continue to monitor the state guidelines as we move forward, but for now we are remaining cautious.

We were fortunate to have a consultant come to Temple Beth El to look around and suggest how we can improve security in and around the building. Some will be simple to implement, others will take some work. We are looking into the changes and will implement as many as we can.

Steve Silverman
President

Sisterhood President’s Message

Here comes March, and along with that Purim. It begins on Wednesday evening, March 16th. This signals that Spring is just around the corner. But let’s not forget the significance of this holiday. It was a fight for religious freedom. And so we read The Book of Esther. So, get ready to enjoy some hamantaschens and jelly donuts. I want to thank everyone for their well wishes and donations made in my name. At this point, I am on the road to recovery. I’m looking forward to seeing all of you in person one day soon.

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

Libby Cohen
Sisterhood President

PURIM IS COMING...ON ZOOM!

Although we will be opening the chapel for Shabbat services this month, we will nevertheless conduct our Purim service this year on Zoom only.

The date of our online Purim service will be Wednesday, March 16th beginning at 6:30 pm.

Check your email for the Purim Zoom link, and get your groggers ready!
**SERVICE SCHEDULE**

**March 2022:**

**Adar I/Adar II 5782**

**Thursday, March 3 (30 Adar I)**
Rosh Chodesh Adar II

**Friday, March 4 (1 Adar II)**
Rosh Chodesh Adar II
Candle Lighting 5:21 pm
Shabbat Service 5:30 pm

**Saturday, March 5 (2 Adar II)**
Weekly Portion: Pekudei 10:00 am

**Friday, March 11 (8 Adar II)**
Candle Lighting 5:29 pm
Shabbat Service 5:30 pm

**Saturday, March 12 (9 Adar II)**
Weekly Portion: Vayikra 10:00 am
Shabbat Zakhor

**Wednesday, March 16 (13 Adar II)**
Erev Purim
Fast of Esther
Reading of the Megillah (on Zoom) 6:30 pm

**Thursday, March 17 (14 Adar II)**
Purim 8:00 am

**Friday, March 18 (15 Adar II)**
Shushan Purim
Shabbat Service 5:30 pm
Candle Lighting 6:37 pm

**Saturday, March 19 (16 Adar II)**
Weekly Portion: Tzav 10:00 am

**Friday, March 25 (22 Adar II)**
Shabbat Service 5:30 pm
Candle Lighting 6:45 pm

**Saturday, March 26 (23 Adar II)**
Weekly Portion: Shmini 10:00 am
Shabbat Parah

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

**Office Hours:**
Monday, Wednesday & Friday, 9 am to Noon

**Office Closed:**
Hours will be limited from March 8th-16th. Email and voicemail will be checked frequently throughout the day and calls and messages will be returned as soon as possible.

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**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.

**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.

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

**Director, Admissions & Marketing**
Victoria Benevides
e-mail: vbenevides@frjhc.org

**Short Term Rehabilitation • Long Term Care • Respite**
www.fallriverjewishhome.org

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**Dignity Memorial**
WARING-SULLIVAN
HOME OF MEMORIAL TRIBUTE AT CHERRY PLACE
178 Winter St.
FALL RIVER

508-676-1933 Waring-Sullivan.com

A Service Family Affliliate of AFSs and Service Corporation International 206 Winter St., Fall River MA 02720 508-676-2464

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**Taking Care of Each Other**
is what community is all about.

We’re proud to serve our Jewish community with personal, compassionate care.

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**SUGARMAN SINAI**
MEMORIAL CHAPEl
458 Hope St., Providence
SugarmanSinai.com
501-331-8094
YAHRZEITS

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

Mother, Helen Babin  Miriam Babin
Father, Louis Bachman  Marilyn Sokoll
Mother, Margot Bogus  Tilden & Candyce Bogus
Sister, Sandra Bogus  Tilden & Candyce Bogus
Grandfather, Isaac Bolski  Norm Bolski
Elena Cohen  Cohen & Novek Families
Grandfather, Adolph Feder  Joyce Juda
Mother, Paula Fox  Suzi Finkel
Father, Louis Galitsky  Sheila & Howard Galitsky
Aunt, Bernice Hoffman  Pamela Pierce
Grandmother, Selma Juda  Joyce Juda
Father, Sidney Lechan  Norma Jean Lechan
Mother, Ruth Levine  Alan Levine
Mother, Ruth Levine  Rick & Wendy Levine
Mother, Edith R. Kusinitz  Edith K. Getchell
Mother, Edith R. Kusinitz  Enid K. Lomax
Mother, Sadie Lovit  Avis Kotovsky
Mother, Sadie Lovit  Nathan Lovit
Father, Edwin A. Macy  Deb Macy Sewall & Barbara Macy
Charles Novek  The Novek Family
Mother, Helen Nulman  Sybil Michelson
Father, Louis Nulman  Sybil Michelson
Father, Philip Ostroff  Rhoda Falkow
Mother, Dorothy Schwartz  Rick Schwartz
Father, Milton Weissman  Jeffrey Weissman
Father, Philip Zalkind  Lisa Remy

MAURICE ALPERT MEMORIAL ENDOWMENT FUND
In memory of my beloved grandfather, Bennett Alpert
Sumner Alpert

CAPITAL FUND
In honor of Charlie Stampler
Anita & Norm Bolski
In memory of Jack Gregory
Richard Trieff
In memory of Dr. Ronald Schneider
Fay Alpert
Anita & Norm Bolski
Linda & Dr. Gerald Monchik
Carol & Dr. Ronald Schwartz
For the recovery of Anne Griffin
Anita & Norm Bolski

CEMETERY FUND
In memory of my beloved husband, Allen Taradash
Shirley Taradash

ANNA & MORRIS LEPES CEMETARY FUND
In memory of Morris Lepes
Ellen & Terry Shand & family

LIBRARY FUND
In memory of my father, Jacob Kline, for whom a shelf in the library was donated many years ago in honor of his birthday.
Judy Kline Markowitz

MORNING MINYAN FUND
In memory of my beloved brother, Bernard Chebot
Bill Chebot

WISH LIST – SECURITY SYSTEM
To upgrade the security system at Temple Beth El
Anonymous

SYLVIA S. & ALBERT B. YOKEN MEMORIAL FUND
In honor of Billy Chebot
In memory of Ruth Ades
In memory of Dr. Ron Schneider
In memory of Timmy Shapiro
For the recovery of Harriet Fletcher
Dr. Mel & Cindy Yoken

“HARRIET”
Sunday, March 27th at 2 pm

Welcome back to
SUNDAY AFTERNOON
AT THE JEWISH MOVIES!

Ok, “Harriet” is not technically a “Jewish” movie – but Harriet Tubman was called the “Black Moses” because she led so many of her people to freedom; and this outstanding film (nominated for two Oscars in 2019) tells her story through great drama, cinematography, and fabulous music. Come and get inspired as we start counting down the days till Passover, our own Freedom Story. (2 hrs, 5 mins)
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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.frtemplebethel.org