



Regular Service Schedule - In Person and Via Zoom

Morning Minyan (Monday & Thursday).....8:00 am
Friday Evening Services5:30 pm
Shabbat Morning Services.....10:00 am



Chanukah Blasts from the Past!

Since we were unable to get together to celebrate Chanukah once again this year, we wanted to include a few pictures from past celebrations. May we gather together at the Temple again soon!



A message from our Spiritual Leader,
Cantor Shoshana Brown

Don't Let the Light Go Out!

By the time you read this December bulletin, the last Chanukah candles on your family menorah will probably have already burned down, your menorah is perhaps awaiting a cleaning of the melted wax, perhaps a polishing, to be put back up on the shelf to be ready for next year. Nevertheless, the times we are living through lead me to reflect on how our celebration of Chanukah sheds light (pun intended!) on how we understand this tumultuous era in our nation's history.

Chanukah, along with Tu biShevat and Simchat Torah, is a post-biblical holiday (meaning that there are no mandates for these holidays in the Hebrew Bible). And yet, in a majority-Christian (or at least majority Christian-culture) nation, this minor Jewish holiday is asked to represent the Jewish people as our "equivalent" to Christmas. Poor Chanukah! If you see the two holidays as somehow in competition with one another, it is clear – in terms of decorations, sentiment, folklore, music, lights, and the thrill of the holiday for children – we lose.

But perhaps we are looking at poor little Chanukah the wrong way. What is it really about? The Jews of Judea under Antiochus IV (ca. 175 BCE) experienced his rule as severely oppressive. They felt they were being forced to deny their Jewishness, to assimilate into Hellenism. Their Temple had been intentionally desecrated by their Syrian-Greek overlords; and circumcision, the keeping of *kashrut*, and the study of Torah were outlawed. What was it that the Maccabees fought for, and what is it that we celebrate during Chanukah's eight days and nights?

Yes, there is the miracle-story of the one vial of oil that lasted eight nights – the saving power of God, and our subsequent thankfulness about the restoration of the sanctity of the Jerusalem Temple.

But more than that, it is about *justice*. Of course our conceptions of what justice is have been changing throughout the millennia – at least in terms of what issues are emphasized. In ancient times, there was more emphasis on the rights of a people or nation, and less on the rights of every *individual* (i.e. women, slaves, people with disabilities, etc.). So for the citizens of Judea, the justice they sought was the right to be allowed to continue to live according to their own religious and cultural traditions, without the interference of foreign political overlords – or even better, to be able to rule *themselves* (which was a freedom they *achieved* thanks to the Maccabees, though that independence only lasted until 63 CE when the Romans conquered Judea; and sadly, the rule of the Jewish Hasmoneans, which the Maccabees had won, quickly became cruel and corrupt, but that is a story for another day!)

Things look very different today, especially for Jews living

in a country as culturally and ethnically diverse as the United States. Our conceptions of and concerns about justice are quite different from those of the ancients (though there is nevertheless much continuity). Most of our concerns about justice today have very little to do with Jewish peoplehood. We Jews, as a demographic in the United States, span a wide spectrum in terms of our opinions about any number of issues that might be thought of as having to do with justice.

We generally avoid trying to discuss such issues as a congregation, since such discussions might easily become divisive. But during these times we have been living through for the past number of years (at least since Rabbi Mark and I came to TBE) it has often felt as if we were tiptoeing through a minefield. We might not bring such issues up, but we are all aware of how prevalent they are in the world around us.

Though we will certainly not all agree on what the *just outcome* should be on any particular court case, for example, or with regard to any event in the news, nevertheless, *the concern about justice is a deeply Jewish concern* – going at least as far back as Abraham arguing with God over the fate of any possibly innocent people in Sodom, asking God: *Shall not the Judge of all the World do justice?*

Once upon a time, as you all know, I was not Jewish. I was a Christian child, made to attend church every Sunday by my mother – along with my three brothers. And there I heard the stories of the "Old Testament." It was this story of Abraham arguing with God, as well as the stories of Moses' pleadings with God on behalf of the Jewish people, that made me feel that *this* might be a people I could fit in with: a people who were not afraid to argue for what they saw as right, as just – even with the Master of the Universe!

Thus for me, although Chanukah is a minor holiday, I feel pride in what it represents: the courage of a small people to fight for what they believed to be right, to be just. Somehow, through all of the trials and persecutions that we have known as a people, we have held onto this belief, as so beautifully articulated in Peter Yarrow's lyrics to "Light One Candle":

*What is the memory that's valued so highly
That we keep it alive in that flame?
What's the commitment to those who have died
That we cry out they've not died in vain?
We have come this far always believing
That justice would somehow prevail
This is the burden, this is the promise
This is why we will not fail!*

Though Chanukah of the Jewish year 5782 may be over, I pray – as Peter, Paul and Mary did whenever they sang this song – that the flame of this longing will always remain in our hearts and at the center of Jewish values, that we will never let the light go out!

Wishing you all a healthy and safe winter, and a happy (secular) New Year,

Cantor Shoshana

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As the secular new year rolls around, we look ahead to the future. In these uncertain times, we can't be sure what the future will hold, but we can do our best to live our best lives, in spite of all the challenges we face.

It seems so strange to me to see football stadiums packed with unmasked fans, yet restaurants continue to be unusually empty. Some stores, even on Black Friday, also seem quiet, while others are packed. I have to think that we have turned a corner as we learn to live with - and avoid - Covid, but now the new Omicron variant has reared its ugly head, and who knows how many more it will infect. So we continue meeting in person and via Zoom. As much as I personally don't like meeting on Zoom, I can't imagine where we would have been without it.

As many of you may know by now, our past president and dear friend, Carl Feldman, passed away last month. He was 93 years old. Carl was a wonderful guy, a veteran, a family man, an entrepreneur, a civic leader, and a man of faith who served our Jewish community with pride. And he did it all while wearing a smile. On behalf of the entire congregation, I would like to offer my sincere condolences to Irma, Gail and Fran and their families.

I would also like to offer my best wishes to Ginny Belford, who has attained the great age of 101. Sadly, she lost her daughter last month, but she is making the most of her time at Clifton, and she is still as sharp as a tack. Visitors are welcome!

Steve Silverman
President

FRONT PAGE NEWS!

There was a front-page article in the Herald News on November 27th, **'A kind of glue that helps hold us together': Jewish leaders talk about 'Chrismukkah'** written by Seth Chitwood. There is a link to the article paper on our website: www.frtemplebethel.org Check it out!

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Sisterhood President's Message

I want to wish everyone a Happy Chanukah! We are a few days into this festival of lights, but we continue to celebrate this miracle. This year people are starting to resume a little more normalcy, and that in itself is a miracle of sorts.

I must say I was lucky enough to attend the movie at the Temple in November. It was a most entertaining film about Jewish humor and Borsh Belt comics. I, myself, saw many of these entertainers, and was able to relate to their style of humor. We were able to laugh at ourselves. Oh how I miss those days. It was good to see people taking advantage of this afternoon delight.

We were planning to have a Gift Shop sell-off in December, but that has been postponed for now. We will update you when we have a new date. In the meantime, think of gifts you might need in the future, because once the Gift Shop is gone, it's gone!

So, until next month, stay safe.

Libby Cohen
Sisterhood President

An Invitation from Bill Chebot

On December 11, 2021, I am going to celebrate the 80th anniversary of my Bar Mitzvah by chanting the Haftorah for Vayigash, which was the Haftorah I chanted at my Bar Mitzvah. When I was president of Temple Beth El, I made a pledge to observe this anniversary every year (which I have done) and hoped that it would be an incentive for others to follow suit. Unfortunately, there was only one other person (Gil Nerenberg, of Blessed Memory, also a past president of the Temple) who did this. Also, unfortunately, we rarely have a Minyan at Shabbat morning services, and I would deem it a personal favor to me to attend that service (via Zoom) so that we have an "official" Minyan. Please try to reserve Saturday morning, December 11th to attend Shabbat services at 10:00 AM. It will be a mitzvah for you, and a personal favor to me. I hope to see you there that morning.

Sincerely
Bill Chebot

Note: Please use the regular Zoom link for the Shabbat morning service. If you need the link please call or email the office.

The bulletin of Temple Beth El (USPS-075-340) is published monthly from September to June for \$1.00 per year by Temple Beth El, 385 High St., Fall River, MA. Periodicals postage paid at Fall River, MA. POSTMASTERS, send address changes to Temple Beth El, 385 High St., Fall River, MA 02720-3348.

SERVICE SCHEDULE

**December 2021:
Kislev/Tevet 5782**

Wednesday, December 1 (27 Kislev)

Chanukah – Third Day
Light fourth Chanukah candle

Thursday, December 2 (28 Kislev)

Chanukah – Fourth Day
Light fifth Chanukah candle

Friday, December 3 (29 Kislev)

Chanukah – Fifth Day
Light sixth Chanukah candle before Shabbat candles
Candle Lighting 3:56 pm
Shabbat Service 5:30 pm

Saturday, December 4 (30 Kislev)

Weekly Portion: Miketz 10:00 am
Chanukah – Sixth Day
Rosh Chodesh Tevet
Light seventh Chanukah candle after 5:01 pm

Sunday, December 5 (1 Tevet)

Chanukah – Seventh Day
Rosh Chodesh Tevet
Light eighth Chanukah candle

Monday, December 6 (2 Tevet)

Chanukah – Eighth Day

Friday, December 10 (6 Tevet)

Candle Lighting 3:56 pm
Shabbat Service 5:30 pm

Saturday, December 11 (7 Tevet)

Weekly Portion: Vayigash 10:00 am
(Bill Chebot will be chanting the Haftorah)

Tuesday, December 14 (10 Tevet)

Fast of the Tenth of Tevet (Asarah B'Tevet)

Friday, December 17 (13 Tevet)

Candle Lighting 3:58 pm
Shabbat Service 5:30 pm

Saturday, December 18 (14 Tevet)

Weekly Portion: Vayekhi 10:00 am

Friday, December 24 (20 Tevet)

Candle Lighting 4:01 pm
Shabbat Service 5:30 pm

Saturday, December 25 (21 Tevet)

Weekly Portion: Shemot 10:00 am

Friday, December 31 (27 Tevet)

Candle Lighting 4:06 pm
Shabbat Service 5:30 pm

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 - Friday, 9 am to Noon

OFFICE CLOSED:

Friday, Dec. 24th - Federal Holiday
Friday, Dec. 31st - Federal Holiday

MIND READING 101?

It is true...both Judy and Marie flunked Mind Reading 101. As a result, if you send in a check (or you pay online via your bank) and you don't let us know what the check is for, rather than guessing we will have no choice but to put it toward our "Birthday Lunch" fund. Only kidding! But seriously, please help us out and write what the check is for in the memo field. Online checks have memo fields too! If it is for a yahrzeit, please tell us whose yahrzeit it is. Thank you, from both of us!



IN MEMORIAM

**CARL FELDMAN
TEMPLE PRESIDENT**

OCTOBER 28, 2021 – 22 CHESHVAN 5782

MAY HIS MEMORY BE FOR A BLESSING

TBE News & Notes

I hope you all had satisfying Thanksgivings and joyful celebrations of Chanukah this year!

As with all the recent months, **we continue to offer services both in our TBE chapel, and on Zoom.** Please contact the TBE office if you need a link to the Zoom meeting for Friday evening, Shabbat morning, or Monday or Thursday morning services. You may also attend our Monday morning adult ed class either in the TBE library, or on Zoom, 10:30 - 12 noon.

We have just begun a **new book** in our **Monday morning adult ed**: native New Bedfordder **Aaron Lansky's *Outwitting History***, the very fascinating, funny, and amazing story of how he and a ragtag team of idealistic young friends began the project of saving Yiddish books from oblivion, and in the process founded the Yiddish Book Center in Amherst, MA. You can join the class at any time, but it is necessary to get a hold of a copy of this great book, so you can follow along with us. The more the merrier! Please be in touch with the office or with the rabbi if you need a Zoom link for the class.

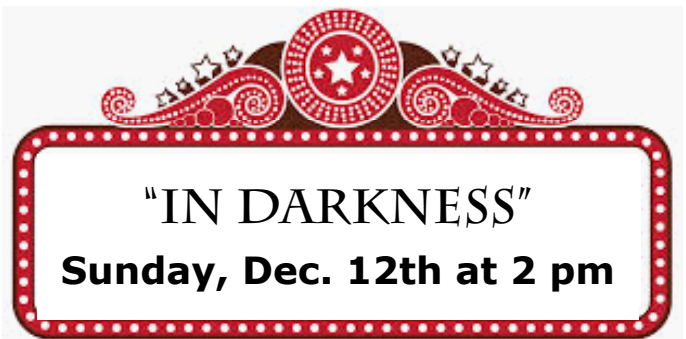
We closed out the fall season's TBE Nature Walks in **November** with a wonderful **hike in the Fort Barton Woods**. I (Cantor Shoshana, hike leader) had two new "customers" this past month, **Michael and Charron Holtzman** (see photos on p. 7). The day was perfect in temperature, with a beautiful blue sky, and with the sun's rays glowing gorgeously through the yellow leaves, still abundant in the woods there on that day. Such a beautiful area we live in - it is a shame not to take advantage of it!

We had a **great turnout** on Sunday, November 21, for the second of our **"Sundays at the Jewish Movies"** series (the second since resuming the series this October). We thoroughly enjoyed ***When Comedy Went to School***, a documentary about how Jewish humor thrived and developed in the Catskills in the Jewish resorts of the "Borsht Belt" (and we left wanting some good Jewish food!).

For our **December movie**, we have chosen another highly acclaimed film: a 2011 Polish-made feature about an unlikely rescuer of Jews during the Holocaust, ***In Darkness***, which was nominated for an Academy Award. To be shown on **Sunday, December 12th**.

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



A 2011 Polish dramatization of one man's rescue of Jewish refugees in the Nazi-occupied Polish city of Lvov. *In Darkness* tells the true story of Leopold Soha who risks his own life to save a dozen people from certain death. Initially only interested in his own good, the thief and burglar hides Jewish refugees for 14 months in the sewers of the Nazi-occupied town of Lvov (formerly Poland). Nominated for Best Foreign Language Film at the 84th Academy Awards. (2 hours, 23 minutes). The vestry will be warm!



The "Sin and Flesh Brook" at Fort Barton Woods

Temple Family

- Our sincere condolences to Ginny Belford on the loss of her daughter, Diane Desjardins.
- Our sincere condolences to Irma Feldman, Gail Wilkinson and their families on the loss of Carl Feldman.

Thank you for your donations received through November 22, 2021

Yahrzeits

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

Friend, Judy Berg	Marie Twomey
Mother, Bessie Bolski	Milton Bolski
Mother, Bessie Bolski	Norm Bolski
Father, David Cohen	Cohen/Novek family
Mother, Lillian Feinberg	Steven Feinberg
Mother, Sylvia Feldman	Joan Feldman
Father, Harry Finkelstein	Joel Finkelstein
Mother, Edith Gold	Micki Gold
Husband, Gerald Goldberg	Glenda Goldberg
Parents, Marion & Dr. David Greer	Linda Greer
Mother, Anne Gregory	Jonathan Gregory
Friend, Harriet Grunberg	Marie Twomey
Father, Paul Horowitz	Jay Horowitz
Father, Erwin Juda	Joyce Juda
Brother, Henry Juda	Joyce Juda
Mother, Lorraine Kaplan	Robin Gross
	Jerri & Alan Sher
	Neal & Karen Kaplan
	Priscilla Kaplan & Jeff Prudhomme
Husband, Seymour Kevelson	Carol Kevelson
Father, Hyman Lipes	Ronald Lipes
Father, Francis Levin	Miriam Klein
Husband, Barry S. Novek	Meryl Novek
Late wife, Sylvia Reback	Dr. Harvey Reback
Mother, Leah Reback	Dr. Harvey Reback
Father, Samuel Rotenberg	Lisa Shapiro
Father, Francis "Fishy" Sokoll	Rochelle Sokoll
Husband, Dr. Barry Steinberg	Edythe Steinberg
Mother, Esther Weissman	Jeffrey Weissman

MAURICE ALPERT MEMORIAL ENDOWMENT FUND

In memory of my beloved grandfather, Bennett Alpert
Sumner Alpert

BUILDING FUND

In honor of Temple Beth El
Rick Schwartz

CAPITAL FUND

In honor of Lila Berg, daughter of Paula Berg and grand-daughter of the late Judy Berg, becoming a bat mitzvah.
Beverly Sokoll

In honor of Ann Chavenson celebrating a birthday
Paula & Herb Rubin

In memory of Carl Feldman
Anita & Norm Bolski
Sheila & Howie Galitsky
Patricia Healey
Renee Lipson
Sayre Litchman
Dr. Staci Resnick & Scott Silverman
Paula & Herb Rubin
Sheila & Jim Salvo
Judy & Steve Silverman
Trisha & Tom Smith
Jeffrey Weissman
Susan & Dick Wolfson

In memory of Ronald Friedel

In memory of Sandra Krinsky
Anita & Norm Bolski

In memory of Dr. Alex Friedman and Dr. Louis Levovsky
Paula & Herb Rubin

IDA & DAVID CHAVENSON SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In memory of Carl Feldman
Ann Chavenson & Family

In memory of my beloved parents,, Elsie & Hy Udovin
Judith & Frank Kosofsky

MORNING MINYAN FUND

In honor of Hannah Evans – wishing you health and happiness in your new home

In honor of Robert Falconero – congratulations and success on the publication of your book

In honor of Sheila Lash – good wishes and happiness. We'll miss you.

In memory of Carl Feldman
For the yahrzeit of my incomparable wife, Hummy
Bill Chebot

WISH LIST FUND

In honor of Dr. Gerald Monchik celebrating a special birthday
Charlene & Eli Dondis
Susan & Dick Wolfson

SPECIAL GIFTS

A beautiful white birch tree has been donated to the Temple Beth El cemetery in memory of Gloria and Jerry Baskin, from their children and grandchildren.

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A note from United Neighbors of Fall River

Dear Rabbi Mark, Cantor Shoshana and the
Congregants of Temple Beth El.

Thank you so much for the lovely donations of non-perishable food for our Emergency Food and Toiletry Cupboard. Your donations will help us support many Fall River families that simply cannot find the funds to put good and healthy food on the table everyday for themselves and their families. Your donations will help ease some of the financial burdens for these folks, making their lives a bit easier during very difficult times.

We know that only through the support of collaborating community partners can we make a difference and repair our little corner of the world. We thank you for your continued support of United Neighbors' programs and initiatives.

With Gratitude and Joy,
Wendy Garf-Lipp
Executive Director



Michael & Charron Holtzman at Fort Barton Woods

Fall River United Jewish Appeal, Inc.

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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.



January. It is the longest, coldest month of winter. The days are short, and we huddle inside waiting for spring. So..

Don your warmest, comfiest clothes, grab your favorite hot drink and join us from the comfort of your cuddly throw at our exciting and festive afternoon of communal learning.

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)



To register, go to ...
<https://limmudboston.org/limmudfest-2022/>

We look forward to seeing you (via Zoom) then !!!

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William "BT" Hathaway
Mike Roberts





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

12/1/2021 27 Kislev 5782

Herbert Fleisher
Shirley Resnick

12/2/2021 28 Kislev 5782

David Kotlen
Dr. Henry Lustig
Bernard Miller

12/3/2021 29 Kislev 5782

Ada Haims
Robert Lipson

12/4/2021 30 Kislev 5782

Abraham D. Becker
Rose Tallman

12/5/2021 1 Tevet 5782

Sanford Litchman

12/7/2021 3 Tevet 5782

William Gittelman
Milton Elis Raffel

12/8/2021 4 Tevet 5782

Isaac Schwartz
Jacob Yamins

12/10/2021 6 Tevet 5782

Sarah Jacobson

12/11/2021 7 Tevet 5782

Frances Fradkin
Dr. Myron Rubinstein
Selma Sokoll

12/12/2021 8 Tevet 5782

Stanley Alpert
Howard Krasnow
Leon Nathan Malin

12/14/2021 10 Tevet 5782

Arthur Granovsky
Mathilda H. Raffel

12/15/2021 11 Tevet 5782

Arline Alpert
Frederick Belford
Robert Sokoll

12/16/2021 12 Tevet 5782

Sylvia Schneider

12/17/2021 13 Tevet 5782

Paula E. Shuman
Maurice Sludsky

12/18/2021 14 Tevet 5782

Nathan Silk

12/20/2021 16 Tevet 5782

Herman Gitlin
Bessie Gladstone
David Thaler

12/21/2021 17 Tevet 5782

Sophie Cohen
Ida F. Kane
Louis M. Raffel
Milton Reiser

12/22/2021 18 Tevet 5782

Samuel Kay
Harry Spiro
Murray Taradash

12/23/2021 19 Tevet 5782

George Lustig
Dr. Samuel Sandler

12/24/2021 20 Tevet 5782

Samuel Isaac Siegel
Janet Smith

12/26/2021 22 Tevet 5782

Martha Kaufmann
Sylvia Zalkind

12/27/2021 23 Tevet 5782

Fannie Wilner Aranov
Ruth Gerard
Harriet Grunberg
Mae Hodosh
Sarah Kaplan
Dolores Levis
Dr. Donald Rotenberg

12/28/2021 24 Tevet 5782

Bruce Kay

12/29/2021 25 Tevet 5782

Robert Chavenson

12/30/2021 26 Tevet 5782

Lillian Kline
Anna Ellison Schaffer

12/31/2021 27 Tevet 5782

Sarah Belford
Sheila Holtzman

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