

TEMPLE BETH EL

FALL RIVER, MASSACHUSETTS



94th Year

March 2022

Adar I/Adar II 5782

No. 7

Regular Service Schedule, both In-Person and via Zoom

Morning Minyan (Monday & Thursday).....8:00 am

Friday Evening Services5:30 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?	Not fully vaccinated?
No need to wear a mask	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 groggers 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 Ester* 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

Sisterhood 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 Stamper, 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 give us suggestions for 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

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 hamantaschen 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!



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

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SOUTH COAST MEMORIALS

Cemetery Monuments and Lettering

Jeffrey Weissman
Partner

59 Greenlawn Street
Fall River
Massachusetts 02720

(508) 676-0335
(508) 730-7104 cell
(508) 679-9704 fax
jeffjan11@comcast.net

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 10:00am
Shabbat Parah

TEMPLE OFFICE

385 High St, Fall River, MA 02720
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NEW E-Mail: frtemplebethel@gmail.com
Website: frtemplebethel.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.

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.

Fall River
Jewish Home

Compassionate Care ... With a Difference

538 Robeson Street
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Fax: 508.675.6510

Victoria Benevides

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LIFE WELL CELEBRATED

Thank you for your donations received through February 25th

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 CEMETERY 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



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)





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

3/1/2022 28 Adar I 5782
Michael Katz
Miriam Reiser
Barry Schwartz
Samuel Stamper

3/2/2022 29 Adar I 5782
Hadley Wilkinson

3/3/2022 30 Adar I 5782
Dr. Harry Cooperstein
Nathaniel Dashoff

3/4/2022 1 Adar II 5782
Regina Elber
Richard Shore

3/5/2022 2 Adar II 5782
Rose Presser

3/6/2022 3 Adar II 5782
Max Jacob Packer

3/8/2022 5 Adar II 5782
Clara Freedman
Irene Kassler Jones
Charles Meretsky

3/11/2022 8 Adar II 5782
Ida Glickman

3/12/2022 9 Adar II 5782
Rita Minkin

3/13/2022 10 Adar II 5782
Leona Finkel

3/19/2022 16 Adar II 5782
Miriam Horvitz

3/20/2022 17 Adar II 5782
Fannie Keppler Halper
Alice Jean Horowitz

3/21/2022 18 Adar II 5782
Benjamin Cohen

3/22/2022 19 Adar II 5782
Israel Waksler

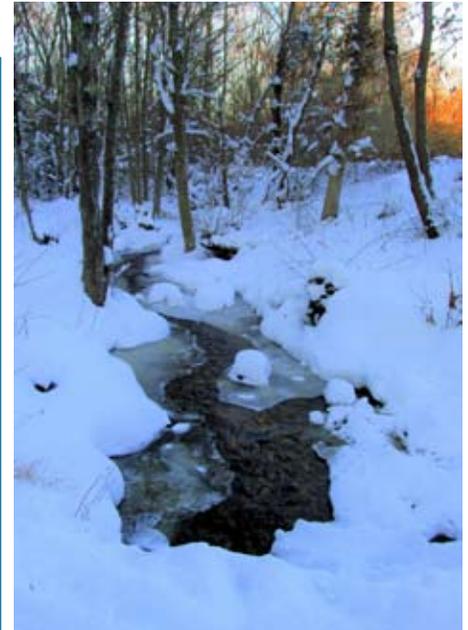
3/24/2022 21 Adar II 5782
William Meyerson
Elsie Pollock

3/26/2022 23 Adar II 5782
H. Charles Reiser

3/28/2022 25 Adar II 5782
Janet Weissman

3/29/2022 26 Adar II 5782
Doris Rotenberg

3/30/2022 27 Adar II 5782
Jonathan Entin



A frozen stream in Weetamoo Woods at the end of January, where Cantor Shoshana went cross country skiing. What a snowy winter it has been!



Change your clocks and check your smoke detector batteries on March 13th!

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William "BT" Hathaway
Mike Roberts



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Clifton Assisted Living Community
508-324-0200

Clifton Hospice Services
(a community hospice agency)

508-675-7583

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