Volume 50, Issue 6 February 2025





Temple Talk

Brought To You By Rabbi Ben: Sustaining Our World

By: Rabbi Benjamin Chaidell

Shalom!

This month, although in the middle of winter, brings with it the Jewish birthday of trees, Tu Beshvat.

On Tu Beshvat we celebrate the renewal and sustenance of trees. The mishna set Tu Beshvat as the day on which trees turn one year older. Why assign a birthday to trees? The Torah mandates we count a tree's years until three. Why? Because we refrain from consuming a tree's fruits for the first three years, we give animals and the soil "first dibs" at the tree's fruits, sustaining the environment around us even as we cultivate it.

Tu Beshvat provides a model of sustainable production. It reminds us to harvest resources in a way that invests in and sustains what is around us and gives back to what gives to us. In recent years this birthday of the trees has become a celebration of everything trees give us and of environmental protection whose roots are in the Torah.

A few ways we have built a more sustainable Temple are replacing plasticware at kiddush with nondisposable dishes and silverware. Another are the

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President's Message

By: Linda Ungerleider

Over the past several months, I have observed an aspect of Rabbi Ben's responsibility about which I knew very little. I know he has visited the sick, reached out to those who are homebound, responded to congregants in their time of need and so much more.

Rabbi Ben demonstrates care, compassion, collaboration and brings his deep faith and values to every person he meets, whether in good health or not. I believe Rabbi Ben has always had a good heart when helping others and this past week I was moved by his chaplaincy training. I cannot thank him enough for being there for us as we said goodbye and celebrated Helen Lewis' life on January 26th.

I want to let you all know that we have begun our new fundraising campaign to celebrate Morris Hollander's 100th birthday with a concert on April 27 led by Hankus Netsky. It is the committee's hope that you consider sponsorship of this event. For more information contact Edie Rosenberg at 781-366-3534 or concert@tbiwaltham.org.

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Brought To You By Rabbi Ben: Sustaining Our World

By: Rabbi Benjamin Chaidell

(Continued from page 1)

volunteering efforts of Brad Baker to cut invasive species and raise trees for our community. What will you do for our environment?

Join us on Thursday evening Feb. 13 to celebrate Tu Beshvat with a Kabbalistic seder and a tree fair at which we will meet local environmental leaders who will share ways you can make a difference right here in Waltham.

Just as Tu Beshvat reminds us to sustain nature around us, it is also a reminder to sustain ourselves and our communities. What do you need to refresh and rejuvenate as we move into the new calendar year? What are you able to contribute to sustain the people and communities you care about? How can we together build a more sustainable Temple- one that both sustains the natural environment around us and that sustains each other?

One way we sustain one another and our community is by gaining new skills to contribute to our shared prayers and learning. Susan Holbert recently led a group at kiddush in learning how to chant Haftorah. Two members of our community are preparing for b'nei mitzvah this May. Last year new people learned to read megillah on Purim. If you would like to learn new skills, let me know! I am excited to lead our community in a practical workshop on the Torah service and aliyot to the Torah at Shabbat services on Feb. 8 (a pilot "Derash on Davening"). This learning enables our community to build a sustainable religious practice, a sustainable spiritual environment as we sustain the natural environment this month.

I wish all a Happy Tu Beshvat and hizzuk (strength) in sustaining yourself, your loved ones, our community, and our world this year.

Rabbi Ben

Programs Happening - see fliers online

Check out these fliers on our website. Don't forget to RSVP.

February 13th - Tu BiShvat Seder

February 16th - Presidential Trivia

March 7th - Services, Dinner and TISH

March 16 - Sound Art Program to be held in Somerville and on Zoom

April 27th - Morris Hollender Concert

Rosh Chodesh Group

Sunday, February 2nd at 5pm for Rosh Chodesh—Shvat

Themes from the TuB'Shvat seder actually applies to the whole month. Let's check will home knews to the month of Shvat to set ourselves up for a wonderful spring & summer. Rosh Hodesh Adar will meet on 3/2 @ 5:00 pm

Rosh Chodesh

Yiddish Stories

Saturday February 8th at 1pm

Martha Tolpin will read 2 short stories by I. L. Peretz, "Beside the Dying," and "The Pious Cat." Also, from Ezra Tolpin's Memoirs, "The Escape." Feb. 8 will conclude the "season" of stories from the fathers of modern Yiddish literature.

Click Here to read the story: "Beside the Dying"

Click Here to view this on Zoom.

Problematic Promises By: Rose Myers

Join us on Saturday, February 22nd at 1:00pm

- "Problematic Promises" by Rose Myers will explore a couple of well-meaning, but deadly promises in:
- The Wisdom Bird: A Tale of Solomon and Sheba, a children's picture book by Sheldon Oberman, in which Solomon promises to build a palace of bird beaks for Sheba
- and Judges 11, where Jephthah's promises to make a burnt offering of whatever comes out of his house if he is successful in battle.

Click Here to view this on Zoom.



TBI Book Club

When Bad Things Happen to Good People by Harold S. Kushner

Ever wonder why bad things happen to seemingly good people? Maybe even to yourself? Have you questioned G-d? Been angry? Felt lost? Join us in reading Harold S. Kushner's "When Bad Things Happen to Good People" as we explore

these questions and more. Kushner was a young Rabbi when his son was diagnosed with a degenerative disease and even a Rabbi wonders the same questions we have.

Join us February 25th for our new Book Club and listen or jump in as we discuss these questions and many more. Contact Kenzie at kenzie135481@yahoo.com to receive the Zoom link and/or be put on the Book Club mailing list.



First Friday Shabbat Service and Potluck

Friday Feb. 7 at TBI

6:30 PM Kaballat Shabbat Service in-person and on Zoom here

7:30 PM Vegetarian Potluck: sign up to bring a dairy/vegetarian dish here.

Join us for a spirited Kaballat Shabbat service to welcome Shabbat, followed by a delicious vegetarian potluck feast!

Hot Topics: Can You be Jewish and Not Believe in God?

Sunday February 23, 10:30 AM, in-person and accessible on Zoom here

Following minyan at 9 AM in-person and on Zoom <u>here</u> and breakfast

Join us to explore Jewish identity and its connection to faith and belief To what extent is Jewish identity cultural, ethnic, and national versus religious? What role, if any, does belief in a higher power play in Jewish culture? We will explore these questions and more together as we share salient aspects of our identities as Jews.

Derash on Davening: The Torah Service

Saturday February 8 during services, approximately 10:15 AM before the Torah service, in-person and accessible on Zoom here

Join Rabbi Ben for a pilot program of Derash (explanation) on Davening (prayer)! This practical learning session during services will deepen our understanding of an aspect of the service by learning the background and meaning of different prayers. This month we will explore the Torah Service, including how the service symbolizes revelation at Sinai, God's sovereignty, and simultaneous reverence for and radical reinterpretation of Torah as each of our inheritances.

New Lens on the Weekly Parsha - online only

Thursday, February 20th 12pm - Monthly, the third Thursday - Click Here to Join on Zoom

Social Justice:

On December 1st, the TBI Warming Center opened again for the winter. We are still seeking volunteers! Click Here to sign up and volunteer.

The Warming Center and Community Day Center are in need of the following during these cold winter months:

Boots - Socks - Underwear - Hats - Warm Jackets - Gloves

Please bring your donations to the Temple on Sunday (1-4) or Monday or Thursday (10-1).

Thank you!

zoom

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We meet by computer, by phone, and in person (though we do close the building temporarily in COVID-19 surges—please check the website).

To join by phone--no computer needed: Dial (301)-715-8592. You will hear a prompt to enter a meeting ID. Enter the meeting ID, followed by #. In the listing of events below, we show the meeting ID for each event.

To join by computer or mobile device, visit <u>zoom.us</u> in a web browser, click *Join a Meeting*, and enter the meeting ID and password for the event (or click the direct link to the event posted on our website or in our weekly email update). **The current list of events appears below**.

For the latest schedule of online events, visit http://www.tbiwaltham.org/.

Dates	February	Meeting ID
February 7	Potluck Dinner and Friday Night Service 6:30pm - 8:30pm	Click Here to Join
Feb. 14, 21, 28	Shabbat Service - 5:30 pm - 6:00 pm Online only	Click Here to Join
Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22	Shabbat Morning In-house and Online 9:30 am	Click Here to Join
	Thursday Morning Minyan	
Feb. 6, 13, 20, 27	Morning Minyan 8:00 am Online only	Click Here to Join
All Online Services	All Online Services	858 6689 6770 pw: TBIservice

Rabbi Ben's Monthly Classes

	Derash on Davening: The Torah Service At approximately 10:15 AM before the Torah service, in- person and accessible on Zoom here	Click Here to Join on Zoom
Thursday, February 20	New Lens on the Weekly Parsha	Click Here to Join on Zoom
	Online Only	
	Third Thursday of the Month at 12:00pm	
Sunday, February 23	Minyan and Breakfast and Hot Topics Begins at 9:00am in house and online (Breakfast is in house only)	<u>Click Here to Join</u> On Zoom

A Tu BiSh'vat Seder

Celebrate the New Year for Trees















Temple Beth Israel invites the greater Waltham community to celebrate **Tu BiSh'vat**, the Jewish birthday of trees, with a short "tasting" service blessing the fruits of trees, sampling the produce of Israel, and learning our responsibility to protect the environment. We will then hear from local environmental leaders on the work they do in our community and enjoy an interactive "tree fair" with hands-on activities to learn how you can make a difference right here in Waltham!

Thursday, Feb. 13 at 7 pm

Temple Beth Israel, 25 Harvard St., Waltham, MA

RSVP required to Temple Beth Israel. Call 781–894–5146, sign up online at https://bit.ly/tubishvatFeb13, or scan the QR code. Please RSVP by Tuesday, , Feb. 11 so we can plan appropriately.







PRESIDENTIAL TRIVIA

SUNDAY, FEB. 16, 2025 at 10:30 AM

Who were the two pairs of cousins who served as president?

Which president spoke English as a second language?

Who was the first to be elected after completing another's term?

Which three presidents never received a salary?

Who was the first to be inaugurated on January 20th?

Carter was the oldest ex-president - who holds the distinction of being the second oldest?



with ED BROWN, Presidential Trivia Expert



Test your knowledge of Presidential Trivia. Join in person or online using the TBI Services Zoom link available at http://tbiwaltham.org.



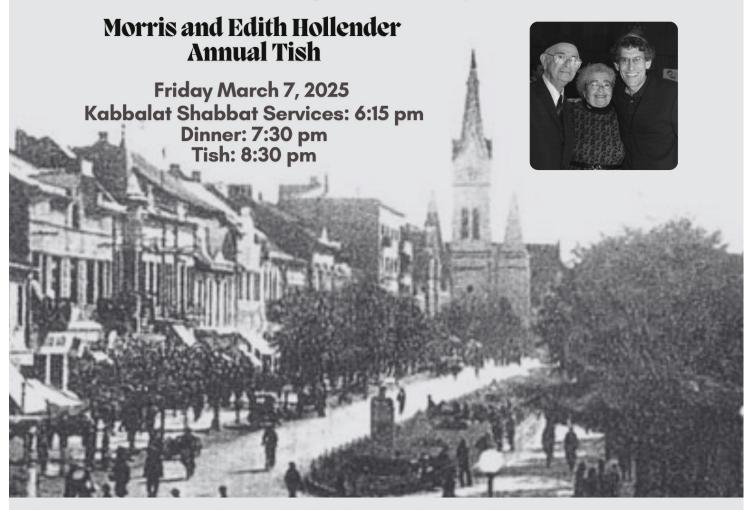


Temple Beth Israel
25 Harvard Street | Waltham, MA
tbiwaltham.org 781-894-5146



Shabbes in Upper Remety

Hankus Netsky and members of the New England Conservatory's Jewish Music Ensemble



This annual gathering honors Morris and Edith Hollender (d. 2014 and 2020, respectively), Auschwitz survivors who immigrated from Czechoslovakia in 1967. Hankus Netsky leads a "tish" (community sing) each year, featuring melodies Morris Hollender learned as a child in Munkacs, Eastern Czechoslovakia, and shared during his decades as the temple's lay leader and Torah reader.

Cost: \$28 per person (prepaid to the Temple Office). Walk-ins for dinner will not be accepted. Sign up and pay online: https://bit.ly/March7Tish or call and send your check to the Temple office before Feb.28, 2025. Please notify us if you require a vegetarian, vegan or gluten free meal. Register for a Zoom link with an \$18 donation at https://bit.ly/March7Tish.





Morris Hollender: A 100th Birthday Concert





HANKUS NETSKY



JESSICA KATE MEYER



EDEN MACADAM-SOMER



ITAY DAYAN



Morris Hollender's story and music are a testament to perseverance, resilience, and a positive spirit. Born in Czechoslovakia in 1925, after surviving Auschwitz he came to Waltham where he served TBI's torah reader and lay cantor for many decades while also sharing stories, jokes, folk-wisdom, and songs. Prior to his death in 2014, Hankus worked with Morris to collect the melodies he brought with him from his childhood. These will be among the beautiful music featured at the concert.

Sunday, April 27, 2025 at 3:00 pm

Temple Beth Israel, 25 Harvard Street, Waltham, MA

Individual/Family Sponsorships and Ticket Information

BAAL KORE - \$1000

- Full Page Ad/Greeting in Program Booklet and recognition at the event
- VIP Seating for 4 guests
- Post-concert reception with performers

BAAL TEFILE - \$500

- Half-Page Ad/Greeting in Program Booklet and recognition at the event
- VIP Seating for 2 guests
- Post-concert reception with performers

MINYAN - \$250

- Quarter-Page Ad/Greeting in Program Booklet
- VIP Seating for 2 guests
- Post-concert reception with performers

To sponsor of this event, contact Edie Rosenberg at concertetbiwaltham.org or 781–366–3534. Business sponsorship opportunities are also available.

ADS AND GREETINGS

- Purchase an ad in the concert program
 - Full Page (\$ 100)
 - Half Page (\$ 75)
 - Quarter Page (\$ 50)
 - One-line greeting in concert program (\$ 25)

TICKET INFORMATION

- \$54 per person / VIP Seating
- \$36 per person / General Admission
- \$36 per person / Streaming Online
- \$18 per person / Students (student ID required)

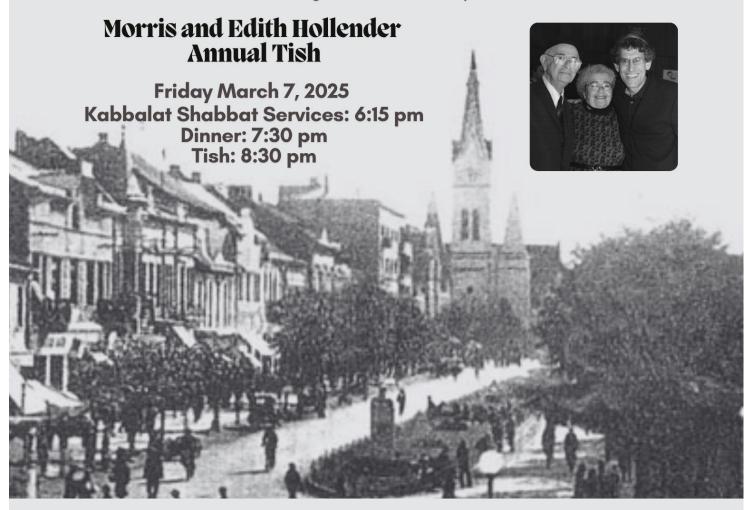
Purchase your tickets online at tbiwaltham.org, contact the Temple office at 781–894–5146, or send your check to Temple Beth Israel, 25 Harvard Street, Waltham, MA 02453.





Shabbes in Upper Remety

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Thank You for your Annual Appeal Donation



Donations for the Annual Appeal are now closed. Thank you to everyone that contributed. With your help, we were able to exceed our goal of \$15,000. Thank you.

Jim Baron, Treasurer and Finance Committee Chairperson

Thank you for your contribution to our Annual Appeal from:

Tzvi Abusch and Martha Tolpin	Jerry and Jennifer Shectman	Paul and Hannah Slevin	Lois Griff-Gaebler
Canter Ellen Band	Rebecca Gaebler	Marlene Leboff	Jacob Rosenfeld
James and Andrea Baron	Rena Goldberg	Rachel Leicher	Jonathan Schiff
Catherine Cantrell	Elaine Barnartt-Goldstein	Alan Levine	Willy Schild and Joan Kent
Joel Chaiken	Beth Gottfried	Dianne Levine	Sue Schy
Rabbi Ben Chaidell	Marvin Griff	Joseph Linitz	Babak Shirazi and Family
Erika Cohen	Merrill Griff and Carol Wilcox	Sharon Lipman	Paul Smith
Harvey Cohen	Robert Gross and Edie Rosenberg	Marge Marion	Albert Smith
Carmen Cooper	Shirah Hecht	Natasha Moshinsky	Phil Steindel
Alan Corman	Susan Holbert	N. Mushinsk	Judy and Mark Teitelbaum
Benjamin Deardorff	Matt Howard	Michael and Rose Myers	Howard Trachtman
Mickenzie Edwards	Joel Israel	Daniel Nadell	Linda Ungerleider
David and Wendy Einis	Esther Keaney	Ben and Caroline Nudelman	Merideth Warshaw
Judith Faberman	Audrey and Steven Kennen	Orrin Potash	Carl Weinstein
Dana and John Fine	Diana Korzenik	Marilyn Racette	Phyllis Wilner
Karen Frostig	Deb Leabman	Ken and Violet Radnofsky	Toni Wolfman
Mark Frydenberg	Sandra Leabman	Zach Roe	Steven Zieff

Donations

General Fund Donations

- Joel Cotton, in memory of his parents, Richard and Carol Cotton
- Catherine Cantrell, in memory of her son, Steven Cantrell
- Martin Taubman, in memory of Betty Taubman
- Elaine Rosenburg, in memory of her loved ones
- Dianne Levine, in memory of her husband, Mark Levine

Strategic Planning Fundraising Donations

Erika Cohen

Please <u>CLICK HERE</u> to volunteer to be gabbai, to read from the Torah or chant a Haftarah, You can also contact Mark Frydenberg or Rabbi Ben if you would like to give a D'var Torah in the coming months.

We wish a long life to our members who are observing a Yahrzeit in the coming weeks.

If your loved one is remembered here, we remind you that it is customary to acknowledge the yahrzeit with tzedakah. TBI appreciates any gift you wish to make in memory of your loved ones.

February Yahrzeits

Feb 1 - Marilyn Racette, in memory of Eleazer Weitzenberg

- Feb 2 Dianne Levine, in memory of Milton Popolow
- Feb 3 Robert Kaitz, in memory of Anita Kaitz
- Feb 5 TBI, in memory of Edith Hollender
- Feb 7 Steven Kennen, in memory of his mother, Sarah Kennen
- Feb 9 Jill Carni, in memory of Ira Zinkerman
- Feb 10 Miriam Chernoff, in memory of Max Chernoff
- Feb 12 Amy Rothman, in memory of, David Rothman
- Feb 12 Howard Trachtman, in memory of Eva Trachtman
- Feb 12 Erika Cohen, in memory of her mother, Ilona Viltschek
- Feb 12 Dana Fine, in memory of her father, Martin Albert
- Feb 13 Sue Schy, in memory of her mother, Rosalind Glanz Silver
- Feb 13 Denise Dickinson, in memory of Ruth Dickinson
- Feb 14 Miriam Chernoff, in memory of David Ullman
- Feb 18 Paul Smith, in memory of his wife, Alice Smith
- Feb 22 Ed Brown and Julie Gagnon, in memory of Renee Brown
- Feb 22 Jim Baron and Audrey Kennen, in memory of their uncle, Donald Kaplan
- Feb 23 George Isaac, in memory of his mother, Rosa Isaac
- Feb 24 Susan Furman and Beth Cormier, in memory of Maurry Furman
- Feb 27 Ben Nudelman, in memory of Regina Greenbaum
- Feb 28 Zach Roe, in memory of Helen Rose Justice

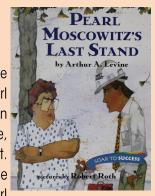
March Yahrzeits

- Mar 1 Susan Baron, in memory of her father Edward Baron
- Mar 1 Miriam Chernoff, in memory of her aunt, Lillian Bloom
- Mar 1 Julian Webb, in memory of Goldie Rachel Webb
- Mar 2 Robert Kaitz, in memory of his grandmother, Eva Kaitz
- Mar 3 Zach Roe, in memory of his uncle, Mitchell Lane Roe
- Mar 4 Merrill Griff, in memory of Benson Griff
- Mar 5 Amy Rothman, in memory of her grandmother, Eva Rothman
- Mar 6 Ellen Feinsand, in memory of her mother, Annette Feinsand
- Mar 8 Esther Keaney, in memory of her father, Paul Keaney
- Mar 8 Paul and Albert Smith, in memory of their mother, Sonia Smith
- Mar 12 Jordan Kreidberg, in memory of his mother, Fanna Kreidberg
- Mar 13 Barbara Camann, in memory of her sister, Jane Siegel
- Mar 14 Merrill Griff, in memory of his father, Harris Griff
- Mar 14 Alan Corman, in memory of his father, Jack Corman
- Mar 14 Janice Goldstein, in memory of her step-father, Jerome Bloom
- Mar 14 Paul and Albert Smith, in memory of their brother, David Smith
- Mar 17 Lawrence Bloom, in memory of his father, Al Bloom
- Mar 20 Bruce Trager, in memory of his grandfather, Robert Fox

TBI Bookshelf

By Marilyn Racette

This month we celebrate Tu B'Shevat, also called Rosh HaShanah La'Ilanot, or New Year of the Trees. *Pearl Moscowitz's Last Stand* is a perfect children's book to celebrate the holiday with. Pearl lives in an urban neighborhood that's seen a lot of changes. When she was little, she lived on Smith Street. But as the neighbors started arriving from Russia, Pearl's mother, a force of nature, petitioned the mayor to plant flowering trees on the street, and soon it was renamed Gingko Street. Pearl and her sisters blossomed like the trees. The sisters moved away, but Pearl remained. As time passed, the neighborhood changed and the ladies who met to play cards or have lunch with Pearl



changed. Though some of the trees were lost, the ginkgo tree in front of Pearl's house remained. One day, an engineer arrived, charged with cutting down that last ginkgo tree. But Pearl has a different idea. Written by Arthur A. Levine, and wonderfully illustrated by Robert Roth, *Pearl Moscowitz's Last Stand* is a charming tribute to trees and neighbors, and standing up for what you believe in. You don't need to read it to a child to enjoy it.



Temple Beth Israel Memorial Park

Temple Beth Israel has maintained a cemetery for its members since 1951. Beth Israel Memorial Park is located on South Street, between the Stanley Elementary School and Children's Hospital. Graves are available in Section A (the right side as you enter the cemetery), Section B (the left side as you enter the cemetery) and in Kulanu (the left side, after Section B). The cost to purchase an individual grave in Sections A or B for Temple members is \$2,200 (\$4,400 for two). The cost for non-

members is \$3,600 per grave, which includes one year of membership.

You must be a Temple member for two or more consecutive years to take advantage of Member pricing; Non-member pricing applies to all others.

Kulanu is dedicated to serving the needs of Jewish Temple members who are married to a non-Jewish spouse. Graves in the Kulanu interfaith section are sold in lots of two, at a total cost of \$4,400 for members. The cost for non-members is \$7,200 for a lot of two, which includes one year of family membership.

If you are interested in purchasing one or more graves, please contact **Jay Trilling** of Menorah Cemetery Management Corporation at (857) 636-9440.

—Jim Baron and Alan LevineCemetery Committee Chairs

Temple	Beth	Israel	Donation	Form
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For your convenience, please use this form to make your donations and send to: Temple Beth Israel, 25 Harvard Street, Waltham, MA 02453. You may also donate online at http://tbiwaltham.org/donate. The minimum donation amount is \$10. Please add additional information on another sheet.

information on another sheet.	
Attached is my donation check in the amount o	f \$ Please allocate it to the following funds.
, , ,	n Fund Rabbi's Discretionary FundHigh Holiday Fund ter FundSaturday Kiddush Fund -(Minimum \$200)
This donation is made by:	Please send acknowledgment to:
Name:	Name:
Address:	Address:
City/State/Zip	City/State/Zip



Help us save on postage!

Pick up your copy of Temple Talk at the synagogue or read it online at www.tbiwaltham.org.

Mark Your Calendar! February Highlights

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