Dear Friends:

This month, we celebrate Congregation B’nai Israel’s Sesquicentennial.

Throughout this year of celebration, I have often marveled at the faith and fortitude of our founders. Though social turmoil and economic reversals have faced our nation and our community time and again over the last 150 years, none could compare to the trauma experienced by the men and women who established Congregation B’nai Israel in 1866.

Yes, in 2016, we celebrate the Union victory, and the liberation that came with it. We may believe that Reconstruction ought to have been longer and more complete than it was, instead of leaving a legacy of brutal racism and Jim Crow not defeated for another century, with consequences even today. Still, for our founders, the Civil War defeat was a tragedy, the end of a way of life coupled with deep and very personal loss. More than a few of those founders were Confederate veterans, as we learned in an outstanding program on the subject last fall. All of them were white southerners, living through the privations and what they regarded as the degradation of Reconstruction.

How did they do it? Home from the war scarcely a year, these folks resolved to establish a permanent Jewish community in Little Rock, to work toward the consecration of a sacred sanctuary where they could practice the faith of Israel, and to provide for the Jewish education of the next generation.

We have it much easier. 2016 finds us living in a prosperous America. Our neighbors generally admire our fidelity to our faith. We don’t have to start from scratch: Past and current generations have provided us with the most magnificent of synagogue edifices, four serviceable scrolls of the Torah, countless sacred objects; and funding to provide a rabbi, an educator, and teachers of our tradition.

As we remember our founders this month, let us pay tribute to them with more than our words and celebration. Let us honor those who took a giant leap of faith, at a time of extreme hardship, by recommitting ourselves to our Temple and its living service to God and humankind. We all have an easier life than the founders did, while each of us continues to have different gifts to offer. Some give of their time, and others of their treasure. Some provide their Jewish traditional knowledge and expertise, while others steward the congregation’s business end. And many, many perform more than one of these sacred tasks.

...continued on next page
Whether we participate in the Sesquicentennial by baking for the Oneg Shabbat or by committing to “Leave a Legacy” to support the Temple beyond our own lifetimes, let each of us commit ourselves to the sacred synagogue home established for us and for the future by a bedraggled, defeated group of men and women with vision in 1866.

Faithfully,

Rabbi Barry Block

---

As Congregation B’nai Israel celebrates its 150th anniversary, it is logical to look back at our history. It is also a good time, however, to look forward. When the Temple Board contemplates the future, it is obvious that economic challenges lie ahead.

National trends show that our society as a whole is aging, and the Temple’s membership reflects that trend. There are much lower birthrates among the generations following the baby boomers. Younger Americans are not joiners and, like their non-Jewish peers, younger Jews are less likely to affiliate with a temple or synagogue than their parents and grandparents. So what do these trends bode for the future?

The trends clearly indicate the need for the present membership of the Temple to take steps to increase our Endowment Fund in order to sustain our Temple for years to come and ensure that future generations have a vibrant spiritual home.

That is why we have established the Congregation B’nai Israel Legacy Society. The society recognizes those members and friends whose generosity and forethought will help secure a future for our Reform Jewish congregation that is as illustrious as our past.

If you would like more information about the Congregation B’nai Israel Legacy Society, please leave your name and contact information with the Temple office (225-9700) and someone will contact you.

As Hillel asked, “If not now, when?”

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Ellyn J. Polsky Named Director of Lifelong Learning, Emerita

On Friday evening, April 1, at “Shabbat with the Stars” honoring our Director of Lifelong Learning, Ellyn Polsky, on the occasion of her retirement, Temple President David Bauman announced that the Board of Trustees had resolved to bestow upon Ellyn the honorary title, Director of Lifelong Learning, Emerita.

After her June 30 retirement, Ellyn will be listed among our congregational leadership as Director of Lifelong Learning, Emerita, a title she holds for life, along with complimentary lifelong Temple membership. May we ever continue to learn from Ellyn, in these final months in her current role and for many years thereafter.

---

Mazel Tov

to Carol Parham who was voted one of the top mortgage agents by the readers of Arkansas Life Magazine.

to Julie and David Shindler on the engagement of their son, Alex, to Cara Greenstein, daughter of Sheril and Rabbi Micah Greenstein of Memphis. Mazel tov also to Alex’s grandmother, Judy Grundfest.

to Dr. Sam Nickol, who was recently honored for his years of volunteer dental service to Harmony Health Clinic. A dental operatory has been named in his honor.

to Silvana Berlinski, who was recently honored as Harmony Health Clinic’s volunteer interpreter of the year.

to Ellyn Polsky, our Director of Lifelong Learning, who welcomed her newest granddaughter to the world April 20. Ella Drew Polsky was born to Ellyn’s son Andrew and his wife Gwen in California.
FROM THE PRESIDENT

Standing on the shoulders of the ones who came before me.
by Doug Cotler

By the time of this writing, there are just a few hours remaining before the beginning of Passover. I hope that the celebration of our freedom was joyous and meaningful for you and that you were surrounded by family and friends.

So if you are reading this, it should be around the first part of May. Now I’m sure you expect me to once again remind everyone of the very special Sesquicentennial weekend we have coming up on the 13th to 15th.

I know you expect me to remind you of the mostly musical Shabbat service we will be having that Friday night at the special starting time of 8 PM where we will be addressed by Rabbi Rick Jacobs, president of the Union for Reform Judaism. Or you might even expect me to remind you of the very special Rosh Hashanah-worthy Oneg which will follow courtesy of our Sisterhood and that there will be an opportunity to pick up a copy of the fabulous commemorative book which Leah Ellenweig has prepared.

You probably think I’m going to remind you about the amazing Gala that has been planned for Saturday night by our chairpersons Jan Alman, Carol Mendel and Richard Estelita, and that there will be food and drink, music and mixing, and a really fun program being created by Meg Marion and Rebekah Scallet.

I am also not going to remind you that there is a 150th religious school reunion program planned for that Sunday morning at 9 AM being organized by Dina Ifrah, Cori McGrath, and Lori Shemper.

What I am going to do is please remind you that if you have not yet RSVP’d to the Friday or Sunday event to please do so now so that we may have an idea of how many to expect and how much food to prepare. It is not too late, and trust me, you really don’t want to miss this once (or maybe twice) in a lifetime event.

Making it to 150 years is a truly special accomplishment and worthy of everyone’s pride and recognition. (Please see my article in this space from two months ago.) I hope to see most of you there.

Now I guess I’m going to have to think of something else to write to you about in my last two columns. How about what a great time we all had at the Sesquicentennial?

David Bauman

You’re Invited To:

Take the Bus!*

What? Join Jewish community members from central Arkansas to travel to Helena, AR for the historic naming of the Helena Federal Building after Judge Jacob Trieber, the first Jewish Federal Judge in the United States. The naming ceremony will be followed by lunch at Beth El Heritage Hall, which served previously as Temple Beth El, the home of Helena’s Jewish congregation.

Where? The Arkansas Destinations bus will depart from the parking lot of Congregation B’nai Israel (3700 N Rodney Parham Road | Little Rock) to head to Helena, AR.

When? Friday, May 20th. The bus will depart at 8:30 am and return by approximately 3:30 pm.

How and how much? Space is limited. Seats are offered first come first serve. Cost is $10/person and includes lunch. E-mail director@jewisharkansas.org to reserve your spot or call 501-663-3571.


*Those who wish to drive on their own are still welcome at the ceremony and lunch, but an RSVP is required in advance. Contact the IFAR Office at director@jewisharkansas.org or 501 663-3571 to RSVP and for further details.
**Sesquicentennial Visit by Union for Reform Judaism President is Historic**

Rabbi Rick Jacobs is the twelfth president of the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ), but apparently only the fourth to visit Congregation B’nai Israel in his official capacity.

The founder of American Reform Judaism, Union President Isaac Mayer Wise, spoke at the consecration of our Temple on Center Street. Rabbi Maurice Eisendrath took part in festivities for our congregation’s centennial in 1966. Rabbi Alexander Schindler was present and prominently involved in the dedication of our current Temple building in the 1970s.

Rabbi Jacobs has led the URJ to embrace its “strategic 2020 vision, a bold and ambitious action plan for the future of Reform Judaism structured around three core priorities: Strengthening Congregations, Audacious Hospitality, and Tikkun Olam (social justice).” Before taking on the Union presidency, Rabbi Jacobs served Westchester Reform Temple in Scarsdale, New York; and, before that, Brooklyn Heights Synagogue. He is the first URJ president to have devoted most of his rabbinic career to the congregational rabbinate.

In 1873, when our congregation was still in its infancy, seven years after its founding, it was nevertheless among the small group of synagogues that founded the Union of American Hebrew Congregations. Congregation B’nai Israel takes pride in being a charter member of the Union and in having supported the Reform Movement and its institutions throughout our 150-year history. Through our congregation’s annual support of the Union, we also support the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, which has trained each of the rabbis who has served our congregation since the late 19th Century. Our rabbis have been leaders in the Central Conference of American Rabbis. Congregation B’nai Israel was a founder of URJ Henry S. Jacobs Camp in 1970, and continues to be an active supporter of the Camp. Since the days of Rabbi Sanders’ leadership, our young people have been active participants in the North American Federation of Temple Youth and particularly its southern region, now known as NFTY-So and cherished in prior decades as SoFTY.

We look forward to welcoming Rabbi Jacobs to Little Rock, and to his Sesquicentennial Shabbat message to our congregation during Friday evening Shabbat worship on May 13.

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**LGBTQ+A Chavurah Planning Meeting**

The LGBTQ+A Chavurah Planning Meeting on May 19th at 7:00 PM will be at Lilly’s DimSum. Address is 11121 N. Rodney Parham Rd., Little Rock, AR 72212.

RSVP is requested to Ari at ari.freeman18@gmail.com or Tim at kesslertimothy@gmail.com.

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**Congregation B'nai Israel gratefully acknowledges**

the TRG Foundation and the Ottenheimer Brothers Foundation, which made generous grants to enable the publication of our commemorative Sesquicentennial book and its availability to all Temple families at no cost.
YAHREIZEI: MAY 2016

MAY 6
Julius Abrams
Edward S. Baer
Marjorie L. Baer
Sidney M. Brooks
Isabel F. Cohen
Meyer "Mike" Davis
Paul Diamant
Louis Frankenstein
Abe Herstein
Lou B. Hoffman
Rose B. Kory
Emily S. Lasker
Clara L. Lewis
Julius Louchheim
Nathan Luber
Doris Heilbrun Pfeifer
Manuel D. Pollock
Walter Lewy Scott
Marti Shlenker
Irving J. Spitzberg
Sam J. Storthz, Sr.
Josie Wasserman
A. Allen Weintraub

MAY 13
Forrest Abrams
Sadee Alexander Bauman
Edward Bennett
Carrie Ottenheimer Berger
Velma Block
Louis Cecil Cohen
Jane Stern Dreeben
Rose Weil Dungan
Flora Caro Ehrenberg
Isaac Kronberg
Joseph L. Loebner
Curtis Eugene Loftin
Agnes Lafont Meyers
Alan E. Pollock
Louis Rubel
Ashlyn Lane Russell
Ray S. Scholem
Jennie S. Spitzberg
Lois Gottlieb Stern
Charles Talaferro
Henry Zwirn

MAY 20
Sam Backal
Bena Schwartz Biondo
Gilbert J. Blass
Wolf Hersch Brandt
Philip Cohn
Joyce S. Ehrenberg
Edward David Elias
Anna Smulian Froug
Rosa Kaufman
Irvin Levy
Samuel Raymond Lyons
Samuel Ringelhaupt
Irene Pareira Sanders
Lynton Scharff
Jony Schneider
Percy L. Scholem
Henry Spear
Rebecca Levy Vogel
George Zinser

MAY 27
Dorothy Block
Sabina Loewenberg Block
Linnie H. Brott
Ray Fendler
Charlotte Kempner Goodman
Melissa Estelle Gruner
Oliver Stern Hart
Charlotte Kempner
Kenneth Joseph Mirloff
Hulda Phillips
William Samuel Shanklin
Harriet Stern Smoler
Richard Thurow
Hattie Kuehn Weisman

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C O N G R E G A T I O N
B’NAI ISRAEL
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS

DON’T FORGET TO CHECKOUT OUR WEBSITE:
WWW.BNAI-ISRAEL.US
YOU CAN MAKE DONATIONS AND CHECK OUT THE CALENDAR FOR DETAILED DESCRIPTIONS OF EVENTS.

Available -
If you are interested in becoming a sponsor, contact Rita Fagan at 590-1406 or ritafagan@att.net

For all your Photography needs:
Benjamin Krain
501-960-3355 bk@benjaminskrain.com
benjaminskrain.com
Doris Krain
501-247-7034 dk@doriskrain.com
www.digiproofs.com/doriskrainphotographer/
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<td>6:00 pm - 8:00 pm Confirmation Class</td>
<td>11:30 am Torah Lunch &amp; Learn</td>
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**CHRONICLE DEADLINE MAY 13 FOR JUNE/JULY ISSUE**
If you would like to sponsor the flowers and/or oneg for an upcoming Shabbat, please call Laura Joseph or the Temple office.
Temple Funds

THE BAUMAN MUSIC FUND
IN HONOR OF:
Madelon Scallet’s Birthday
Trudy & Jerry Jacobson

RABBI EUGENE & BOBBYE LEVY CAMP SCHOLARSHIP FUND
IN HONOR OF:
Rabbi Gene Levy’s book publishing
Van Gates

THE CEMETERY FUND
IN HONOR OF:
Wilma Diner’s 90th Birthday
Sallye Mann
Mac Lyon’s 90th Birthday
Mimi Loeb

IN MEMORY OF:
Ellen Rae Kaufman
Sallye Mann
Janet Grundfest Mayersohn
Sallye Mann

THE RABBI’S DISCRETIONARY FUND
IN HONOR OF:
The marriage of Stephanie Kotick & Nathan Kaufman
Sharon & Kenneth Kaufman
Mrs. D.G. Liniado’s Bat Mitzvah
Renee & Harvey Miller

IN MEMORY OF:
Rabbi Ira E. Sanders
Van Gates

THE ARNOLD & JANET MAYERSOHN LEADERSHIP FUND
IN MEMORY OF:
Janet Grundfest Mayersohn
J. David Forsyth
Ginger Goodman
Stacy & Dave Grundfest
Jack Grundfest
Donna & Ken Jameson
Galina & Michael Krupitsky
Robyn Zinser & Jim Pfeifer, Jr.
Sandy & Dan Phillips
Julie & David Shinder

THE ENDOWMENT FUND
GENERAL DONATION:
Gina Kokes
Dale & Lee Ronnel
Doris & Mark Krain’s Anniversary
Aniko Diamant

WISHING A HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:
Bettye Korenblat
Jan & Larry Alman
Dale & Lee Ronnel

IN MEMORY OF:
Ellen Rae Kaufman
Jan & Larry Alman
Janet Grundfest Mayersohn
Jan & Larry Alman

THE VOGL CARING AND SHARING FUND
IN MEMORY OF:
Van Gates

IN HONOR OF:
Ellyn Polsky
Tori & Barry Block
Shelley & Jonathan Casciano
Jana & Perry Cohen
Jealene & Dale Cohen
Rachel & Jonathan Dranoff
Amanda & Martin Ferguson
Circey & Michael Gastman
Heather & David Gerson
Cherry & David Goldsholl
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Susan & Matt Lopas
Joanne Matson
Jamie & Thomas McGarry
Cori & Timothy McGrath
Melanie & Jeff Nodelman
Jennifer & Steven Ronnel
Kelli & Scott Schlesinger
Lori & Joshua Shenmer
Aimee & David Townley
Amanda & Russ Webb-Parish
Regina & Perry Young

SISTERHOOD
IN MEMORY OF:
Ellen Rae Kaufman
Fran & William Eiseman

THANK YOU TO OUR OFFICE VOLUNTEERS:
Milt Baer & Aniko Diamant

THE OLA & MERVIN LEIBS SCHOLARSHIP FUND
IN HONOR OF:
Temple’s 150th Anniversary
Jackie & Jerry Bendor
It's Fourth Annual Mother's Day Brunch  
May 8, 10:30 a.m.

Bring the kids to Religious School and treat their mothers to a delicious breakfast compliments of the Temple guys. Breakfast coordinator is Martin Ferguson. If you'd like to help shop, cook, serve, clean-up please contact Martin at mferg67@yahoo.com or 501-515-0931. RSVP's go to Liz in the office.

Religious School Sesquicentennial Celebration  
May 15, 9:30 a.m.

The students and teachers are excited about their special Sesquicentennial projects. Everyone is invited to the dedication of the 2016 Religious School Time Capsule, to be opened 25 years from now. The capsule will be filled with personal writings about themselves, their families and friends, and Temple members who have had strong influences on their Jewish identities. Our gardeners, 5th and 6th graders, will plant a fig tree near the gardens, in the rear of the building. With care, the tree will grow into adulthood even as the students will, and who knows what their lives will be like when the capsule is opened in 25 years? In the words of Mr. Spock......May they live long and prosper!

Todah Rabah to the Sesquicentennial Religious School committee comprised of Lori Shemper, Dina Ifrah and Cori McGrath who have planned a fabulously fun celebration for the kids to complete the Religious School day and 2016-2017 school year.

It's Shabbat Kids Club/PJ Library - in the amphitheater  
May 20, 5:30-7:00 p.m.

Families with children in preschool through grade 3 are invited to a Shabbat Picnic. Bring your favorite picnic dinner. We'll provide drinks and dessert! We will meet indoors in the case of inclement weather.

A few very special guests from the farm will be joining us too. They'll eat a little, read a little, cluck and preen. Don't miss the fun!

Schmoozerama - facilitated by Emily Ray  
Saturday, May 21, 2016

Join us for Pot Luck dinner, movie screening, and Havdalah.

Keep Not Silent: Orthodoxyes is a 2004 winner of the Israeli Academy Award for Best Documentary. Director Ilil Alexander interviews four women from the Jerusalem Orthodox community who identify as lesbians, in secret. They describe their lives, their families, and their secret support group that meets in their Jerusalem neighborhood.

As the film is no longer commercially available, we'll watch it on YouTube with a discussion to follow. The film's running time is 52 minutes.

Pot-luck dinner at 6:00 p.m. Bring a dish that serves 8.
Movie at 7:00 p.m.

Scholar weekend with Rabbi Mark Glickman  
June 4 - 5

Rabbi Mark Glickman, a popular speaker on Judaism and modern life, was rabbi of Congregations Kol Ami in Woodinville, Washington, and Kol Shalom on Bainbridge Island, Washington, Interim Rabbi of Congregation Har haShem in Boulder Co. and most recently Interim Rabbi of Beth Shalom Synagogue, Baton Rouge, LA. He will begin his tenure as senior rabbi of Temple B'nai Tikvah in Calgary, Alberta Canada this summer. Ordained at HUC in 1990, Rabbi Glickman is an accomplished communicator and speaker.

He is the author of Sacred Treasure - The Cairo Genizah:The Amazing Discoveries of Forgotten Jewish History in an Egyptian Synagogue Attic about which has been written, “Indiana Jones meets The DaVinci Code in an old Egyptian synagogue – the amazing story of one of the most important discoveries in modern religious scholarship.”

Dinner and discussion  
June 4, 6:00 p.m.

Dinner - $12. RSVP to the office.


June 5 - 11:00 a.m.

Rabbi Glickman will give his captivating presentation about the discoveries he made in writing, Sacred Treasure - The Cairo Geniza: The Amazing Discoveries of Forgotten Jewish History in an Egyptian Synagogue Attic.

Both books are available for purchase in the office.

Save the Date: Confirmation  
Saturday, June 11 at 5:30 p.m.

You are invited to attend the Shavuot festival service and celebrate the achievements of the 2016 Confirmation Class.

Light Reception will follow the service.

Tikkun Leil Shavuot  
Saturday, June 11, 2016, 9:00 – 11:00 p.m., in the Library

One of the most distinctive customs of the festival of Shavuot is the Tikkun Leil Shavuot, an evening of study that is traditionally held on the night of Shavuot. The mystics of Safed, the Kabbalists, had the idea that the heavens open and favorably receive the thoughts, study and prayers of those who remain awake on the anniversary of the Revelation of Torah at Mt. Sinai. We’ll gather after the Confirmation service to look at new perspectives on the Book of Ruth and to nosh on yummy cheesecakes and other dairy snacks in honor of the holiday.
Memorial Day Service
Friday, May 27th, 10:00 a.m.

Memorial Day Service at Oakland Jewish Cemetery, sponsored by Jewish War Veterans Post #436, will be held on Friday, May 27th at 10:00 a.m. at Oakland Jewish Cemetery.

Rabbi Block will lead kaddish and flags will be available for members to place on graves of their loved one(s).

All are welcome to attend.

Sisterhood Speaks
What a wonderful month April was!

The Miriam’s Seder was well attended and delightful. Thanks to Kimbrely Jordan for her endeavors to make this happen and to Scott Jordan for helping her make the delicious charoset. A special thanks to Ellyn Polsky for her insight and to all the attendees for participating.

The Jewish Food Festival was a successful event. Sisterhood’s Judaica Shop booth was well womanned! Many thanks to Deanna Arrants, Jill Bauman, Liz Downs, Esther Gordon, Trudy Jacobson, Kimbrely Jordan, Doris Krain, Muriel Lederman, Emily Lewis, Ellyn Polsky, Madelon Scallet, Tracie Spivey and Amanda Webb-Parish for all your help in making our booth effective, fun and educational.

The weekend of May 13th – 15th Temple is celebrating its 150th anniversary. Sisterhood is hosting the Friday night Oneg Shabbat (May 13th). Please contact Rita Fagan to volunteer to help make this Oneg Shabbat spectacular!

To continue with this wonderful month of celebration, Sisterhood will host a Sisterhood Shabbat service on Friday, May 20th. Muriel Lederman and Meg Marion will lead the service. Call them so that you too can take part!

See you soon!

ATTENTION
ALL TEMPLE MEMBERS:

In order to close the Temple’s fiscal year on Friday, May 29th, we need your help!

REMEMBER TO SUBMIT ANY PAYMENTS FOR DUES, PLEDGES, RELIGIOUS SCHOOL TUITION, AND OTHER INVOICES BILLED TO YOUR ACCOUNT.

ADDITIONALLY, ANY REQUESTS FOR EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT SHOULD ALSO BE SUBMITTED TO THE TEMPLE OFFICE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

All items must be received in the Temple office no later than Monday, May 16th for processing.

We appreciate your help with this matter.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Peggy Eichenbaum Jalenak & L. R. Jalenak, Jr.
Home: 901-683-7425
Peggy’s Cell: 901-299-0233
L.R.’s Cell: 901-299-0232
Peggy’s Email: pegejal@aol.com
6025 River Oaks Road, Memphis, TN 38120

Steve Strauss
202-237-2796
straussnyc@verizon.net
3001 Veazey Terrace, NW, Apt. 1332, Washington, DC 20008
Steve grew up in our congregation.
I was privileged to be one of Rabbi Block’s students in “The Seasons of Mussar I and II” classes. In the first series of meetings, we studied six middot, one of which was Hakarat Ha’tov – gratitude. My article this month is one of Hakarat Ha’tov – seeing the good and the blessings that have been mine since assuming the position of Director of Lifelong Learning at Congregation B’nai Israel six years ago.

I am immensely appreciative to the parents, colleagues, congregants, Board of Directors, and Rabbi Block for the many gifts, blessings and honor bestowed upon me throughout my tenure, but especially on Shabbat evening, 23 Adar II, April 1, 2016. How appropriate that the recognition of my retirement be given during the “Shabbat with the Stars” worship service, where we featured the Religious School students and recognized the dedicated Religious School teaching staff for their brilliant work in the school this year. It has been my privilege to teach with Temple members who appreciate the importance of passing on our Jewish heritage to the younger generations and who step up to do the work. I am proud to have observed our teachers grow Jewishly themselves, even as they push their students to do the same.

I appreciate and am so grateful to Rabbi Block for the beautiful March Chronicle article that he wrote about me. As much as he wrote that I’ve taught him, I’ve certainly learned even more from him, from insights into Jewish texts and tradition, to living a life driven by the understanding and application of Mussar values; from lessons of organization, to those of leadership and friendship. Rabbi Block has been most thoughtful and generous to me and my family in very many ways for which I am profoundly grateful. His blessing on the bima, which included my daughter and grandchildren, and his beautiful message are words that I will carry with me always.

I am thankful to the Sisterhood for their dedication of a Leaf on the Etz Chaim wall honoring my tenure as Director of Lifelong Learning. I’ve often read the inscriptions on the many leaves that adorn the wall and have always been struck by the love that emanates from them. I feel privileged that my name has been added to those. Amanda Ferguson spoke to me from the bima on behalf of the Religious School families and recognized the dedicated Religious School teaching staff for their retirements, and I look forward to doing the same at CBI.

Six years ago you provided me the opportunity to serve this outstanding community and I will be forever grateful. Hakarat Ha’tov; I have seen and experienced so much good and it has been a blessing. Todah rabah.

Ellyn Polsky

Lastly, I am absolutely thrilled and extremely flattered that the Board awarded me the title of “Lifelong Learning Director Emerita.” I understand that the vote was unanimous which humbles me and makes me feel doubly honored. There are not many Jewish educators in the United States who have been given this or similar honorary titles, and I feel privileged to be listed among them. For the most part, they have continued to serve their congregations in small ways since their retirements, and I look forward to doing the same at CBI.

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Ellyn Polsky

LaFTY NEWS

On Sunday, April 24, LAFTY elected its officers for the 2016-2017 years. Please join in congratulating LAFTY’s new officers and thanking them for their upcoming service.

Our youth leaders have taken on a significant responsibility, particularly as they look forward to hosting Fall Conclave for NFTY (North American Federation of Temple Youth) Southern Region, October 28-30.

President: Emma Figarsky
Program Vice President: Sydney Gastman
Social Action Vice President: Brock Jacobs
Membership Vice President: Jason Ronnel
Communications Vice President: Sade Storthz
Religious & Cultural Vice President: To Be Announced

Please join us as we honor our outgoing officers -- particularly our Seniors, President Lexi Elenzweig; Program Vice President, Lucy Goldman; and Communications Vice President, Jared Mackey -- and install our new officers at LAFTY Shabbat on Friday evening, May 6. That service will also be an occasion to celebrate the service of Shelly Baron as LAFTY Advisor since 2009 and welcome LAFTY’s newest lead adult advisor, Joy Figarsky, to join LAFTY volunteer advisors Elizabeth Cohen and Alana Schipper.
THE TEMPLE CHRONICLE

BARRY BLOCK, Rabbi
DAVID BAUMAN, President
CARMEN ARICK, Executive V.P.
CAROL PARHAM, Admin. V.P.
EUGENE KRUPITSKY, Treasurer
JOY FIGARSKY, Secretary
LEAH ELENZWEIG, Immediate Past President
ELLYN POLSKY, Director of Lifelong Learning
REBEKAH LEE, Administrator

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☐ Wedding  ☐ Bar/Bat Mitzvah

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☐ General Fund  ☐ Lois G. Stern Library Fund  ☐ Rabbi Eugene & Bobbye Levy Fund for Camp Scholarship & Youth
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☐ Hallie Cohn Miller Archive Fund

ADDED INSTRUCTIONS: __________________________________________________
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CONGREGATION B’NAI ISRAEL
3700 Rodney Parham Road
Little Rock, AR  72212-2498
www.bnai-israel.us

“Thou art the living God, Thy words bring life and light to the soul.”
During the weekend of Friday, May 13th through Sunday, May 15th, we will join together as a congregation to celebrate our 150th anniversary. In honor of this milestone, each member family of Congregation B’nai Israel will receive a special gift, a copy of a limited-edition commemorative book that chronicles the history of our sacred community from 1866 through the present. This gift to you has been underwritten and made possible due to the generosity of the TRG Foundation and the Ottenheimer Brothers Foundation. Your copy will be available for you to pick up at Temple at the end of worship services and celebrations May 13-15.

Our Sesquicentennial History is a beautiful, 115 page full-color book filled with images and text that tell the story of the founding, struggles, and accomplishments of our congregation. The book is organized into chapters that follow the chronological details related to our history, Temple buildings, worship and ritual practices, Oakland Jewish Cemetery, our Religious School, Sisterhood, Men’s Club, Youth Group, and work in and with our partners in the Central Arkansas community.

You may wish to purchase additional copies as gifts for your loved ones (your adult children, parents, siblings, or cousins) and friends that have moved away from Little Rock and are no longer members of the congregation. Please fill out the order form below and return to Temple. Your order will be available after services on Friday night May 13th. If you know of others who may wish to purchase the book, an order form is available on our website.

OUR SESQUICENTENNIAL HISTORY ORDER FORM

I’d like to order: _______ copies of Our Sesquicentennial History $50 per copy. $_______ total

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Street Address __________________________________________________________________________

City, State, Zip Code _____________________________________________________________________

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Check # (enclosed)________________ or Credit Card #_________________ Type of card______, Exp____, CVV code_____

Please return this form and payment to:
Congregation B’nai Israel, 3700 N. Rodney Parham Road, Little Rock, AR 72212, Attn: 150th book

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