

# CONGREGATION B'NAI ISRAEL

LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS

# THE CHRONICLE

## TEMPLE

JUNE 2020/VOLUME 20 - ISSUE 5

## THE RABBI SPEAKS

Dear Friends:

In April, Amanda Ferguson, Eileen Hamilton, and I participated in a URJ webinar about “sacred partnership” - specifically, in the case of a congregation, between President, Rabbi, and Administrator. The text chosen by the presenters comes from Genesis 2, when God is looking for a fitting partner for the first man - in Hebrew, an *ezer k'negdo*. That term is classically translated “help-meet,” whatever that means. Literally, it means “helper, like his opposite.”



Carol Pfeifer Parham has indeed been my sacred partner, my *ezer k'negdo*, together with Eileen, these last two years. Whereas I am inclined to act quickly, Carol tends to take time to make a thoughtful decision. Whereas I often become anxious, Carol is more likely to remain calm. I would like to think that each of us has been a good influence on the other - that we've acted promptly, thanks to my alacrity, but not precipitously, thanks to her caution, for example. I am confident that her influence on me has been greater than mine on her.

Carol has led Congregation B'nai Israel through some very good times - with stable membership, healthy finances, and strong growth and creativity in worship and program. Then, in the last months of her presidency, she has led us in making and implementing the difficult decisions required to keep our congregation strong and healthy during a crisis far outside our control.

Carol watches the Temple's money with extreme care. With each expenditure, her question isn't merely whether the congregation can afford it and is within budget, but also whether the expense fulfills the Temple's mission. By the same token, if an unexpected need or creative solution arises, Carol will find a way to make it work. Above all, Carol has been a sacred partner for each of our congregants and staff. Whenever a problem arises, Carol is eager to help solve it - envisioning creative solutions, soothing hurt feelings, and crafting win-win outcomes.

...continued next page

## WORSHIP AT-A-GLANCE

*Shabbat worship will continue, Friday nights at 6:15pm, with Shabbat Torah Study on Saturday mornings at 9:30am, via Zoom livestream only, until further notice.*

*If you do not receive Temple emails and would like to listen to the service on the telephone, please contact Keila for instructions, 501-225-9700.*

## SPECIAL SERVICES IN JUNE

**FRIDAY, JUNE 5**

Pride Shabbat

D'var Torah: Tim Kessler

Music: Meg Marion and Richard Estelita

**FRIDAY, JUNE 12**

Celebrating the Presidency  
of Carol Pfeifer Parham, 2018-2020

Music: David Bauman

**FRIDAY, JUNE 19**

Blessing of

Amanda Orgel Ferguson as President of  
Congregation B'nai Israel, 2020-2022,  
with special guest, Rabbi Harry K. Danziger

Music: Jana Cohen

## MAZEL TOV TO:

Audrey and Don Evans,  
whose granddaughter, Addy Evans,  
a 2020 graduate  
of Little Rock Central High School,  
plans to attend Brandeis University in the fall

Congratulations to Tracye and Larry Townley  
for their son David's retirement after 20 years  
with the U.S. Navy as an aviator and  
with the rank of Commander.

*(The Rabbi Speaks continued from front page)*

We started Carol's presidency by reflecting that she's the fifth generation of her family to serve as President of Congregation B'nai Israel. Two years later, we celebrate Carol's unique service and achievements.

Please join me in gratitude for Carol's service, as we honor her at Shabbat services on June 12 and at the Annual Meeting on June 16. Yes, most of us will have to attend virtually, but Carol will know you are there and will feel the love that she so richly deserves.



Rabbi Barry H. Block

PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS:

**LAURIE ARNOLD**

[larnold032937@gmail.com](mailto:larnold032937@gmail.com)

Laurie is a Client Experience officer at a law firm. She attends adult education and many programs and hopes to become involved in religious school.

**WILLIAM BELVIN**

[wbbelvin@gmail.com](mailto:wbbelvin@gmail.com)

Will is an attorney who attends most programs and hopes to become active with membership, social action, and new programs using his expertise and interests.

**HEATHER TOLLIVER**

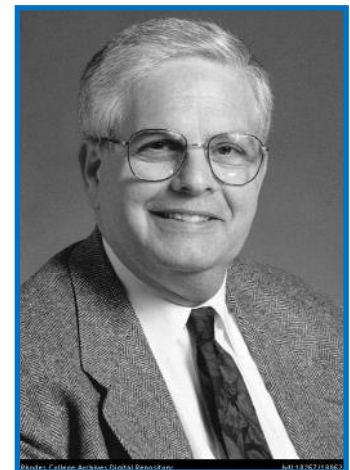
[hatolliver@gmail.com](mailto:hatolliver@gmail.com)

Heather is an editor/technical writer and hopes to lend her talents to our Chronicle, social action, Schmooserama, and archives.

## RABBI HARRY K. DANZIGER TO HONOR INSTALLATION OF AMANDA ORGEL FERGUSON AS OUR PRESIDENT

Rabbi Harry K. Danziger, Rabbi Emeritus of Temple Israel in Memphis, is scheduled to speak at Shabbat services on Friday evening, June 19, to honor the installation of Amanda Orgel Ferguson as President of Congregation B'nai Israel. Rabbi and Jeanne Danziger so wanted to be with us in person to celebrate Amanda, but we are grateful that he can be with us via Zoom under current circumstances.

Rabbi Danziger served Temple Israel as Assistant, Associate, and Senior Rabbi from 1978-2000, and has been Rabbi Emeritus since 2000. He is a Past President of the Central Conference of American Rabbis. Most importantly, Rabbi Danziger is Amanda Ferguson's childhood rabbi. Rabbi Danziger has been a good friend of Congregation B'nai Israel for decades as our neighbor and partner in the region. He stepped in to serve our congregation at our time of need in 2011-12. Rabbi Danziger looks forward to honoring Amanda, hopefully together with his wife Jeanne.



## ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING JUNE 16, 2020 AT 6:00 PM

You are invited to virtually attend  
**Congregation B'nai Israel's Annual Meeting and Installation of Officers for 2020-2022**

Zoom link and instructions for participating by phone will be sent in the weekly E-blast. Voting will take place electronically. Online voting will include the May 2019 Annual Meeting minutes, the proposed slate of officers, and the Annual Budget. Additionally, in accordance with the congregational by-laws, Article VII, a proposed recommendation by the Board of Trustees on the extension of the Rabbi's contract will be presented and voted upon as well as amendments to the congregation's Constitution.

### Nominated Slate of Officers of the BOARD OF TRUSTEES June 2020 - 2022

#### OFFICERS

President  
Executive Vice President  
Administrative Vice President  
Secretary  
Treasurer  
Immediate Past President

Amanda O. Ferguson  
Annabelle Imber Tuck  
Joy G. Figarsky  
Shelly Baron  
Janet Korenblat  
Carol Pfeifer Parham

#### TRUSTEES

First Year of First Term

Elizabeth Cohen  
Jill Flaxman  
David Reagler

First Year of Second Term

Jane Loeb Levine  
Ellen Korenblat  
Charles Friedman

Retiring Officers

Jan Alman  
Carmen Arick  
Richard Estelita

Second Year of First Term

Arnold Nachmann  
Jeffrey Nodelman  
Mark Levin

Second Year of Second Term

Timothy Kessler  
Meg Marion  
Mark Himelfarb

Retiring Trustees

Emily Adams  
Scott Jordan  
Debbie Brady  
Trudy Jacobson  
Marilyn Sorrels - Sisterhood  
Glenn Block – Men's Club  
Daniel Block - LaFTY

#### Nominating Committee:

Emily Adams, Rita Fagan, Amanda Ferguson, Kennon Goldsholl  
Eugene Krupitsky, Carol Parham, Ellyn Polsky

## PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

I miss seeing you! I hope you all are doing well and adjusting to our “new norm”. I know we all are facing different challenges during this difficult time and please be reassured that we are here to support you.

Streaming services has gone very well and I am so appreciative to those who have made it possible. Rabbi Block, Eileen Hamilton, Richard Estelita, and Tim Kessler have put many hours into planning and producing Shabbat Services and Torah Study. Our volunteer musicians have handled the restrictions and adjustments with great resilience. Additionally, Rabbi Block and Eileen have done a magnificent job of staying in contact with their students via Zoom. They have combined lessons with some fun games and attendance has been great. I hope the students have found this to be as rewarding to them as it has been to Eileen and Rabbi Block.

Like many of you I wonder what will be for our plans. When will we return to ‘normal’? While I cannot answer definitively, I am hopeful and trust the guidance of Rabbi Block and our leadership. I am proud to read about the Jewish values incorporated into the decisions from our movement. The most important value is saving a life and the health and safety of all. This meant closing our building and cancelling our programs. That was not a hard decision, but the difficult decision is when to reopen and how, and what to do in the meantime. We continue to research and contemplate our plans for the future, especially those for the High Holidays in the Fall. I know you will be anxious, as I am, to see and greet each other in person. We will take our cues for reopening from the URJ.

Since our building has been closed, our Zoom is fully open. Torah Study and services have continued. Hebrew classes for adults, celebrations, LaFTY elections and Shabbat, and most recently Confirmation. Who could have imagined the innovation and commitment to living a fully Jewish life under these limited times? I was the “Corona” president. I want to thank you for the privilege and honor of serving as President of Congregation B’nai Israel for the last two years. They say “time flies when you’re having fun”... boy, it sure has flown by.

Shalom,

Carol Pfeifer Parham, President

## ADMINISTRATOR

Dear Friends,

I have officially driven Carol Parham crazy these last two years. I call her when I have a joke, when I have a bit of news to dish, and when I am so mad...poor Carol. She never knows when to laugh or cry. Fortunately, she has a great sense of humor and a greater sense of compassion and empathy. Thank God for that. I am high strung; Carol is levelheaded and patient. We have learned a lot about each other and yet she still talks to me. She is a great sounding board, and as a President, she has done an amazing job of balancing work, homelife and Temple business. She talks Temple when she’s drying her hair, power walking, and even eating lunch. It’s not easy. Carol loaded her plate when she took on the Presidency but taking on leadership should not be underappreciated. It’s a skill, a sacrifice, a duty and an honor. It was an honor to work with Carol these past two years and I will miss that greatly. I have learned that no one has to make a decision on the spot and taking time to think about things can be a great attribute. Slow down, chill out, think it through. When I attend a conference, I gauge its value if I just learn and bring home one good idea. I have learned many valuable lessons from my partnership with Carol over these two years – so that value is priceless. Thank you, Carol Parham, President, soon to be past-President for all the lessons, friendship, advice, patience, and laughs. You deserve a 6-foot trophy.

Shalom,

Eileen Hamilton, Director of Administration,  
Education, and Youth Engagement

# YAHREZEITS - JUNE 2020

## JUNE 5

Louis J. Abramson  
 D. Justus Baumgarten  
 Pearl Tenenbaum Carvalho  
 Daniel Disabato  
 Billie Evans  
 Adolf Feibelman  
 Gertrude Green  
 Charles Edward Joseph  
 Abraham Kempner  
 Eleanor Rockwitt Kiel  
 Mark Krain  
 Minnie E. Lasker  
 Hannah Levinson  
 John D. Levinson  
 Fannie Pinkus Meyer  
 Lillian Miller  
 Arthur H. Pfeifer  
 Ella Lyons Rudolph  
 Ophie Ryburn  
 Pauline Sanders  
 Joseph Shrader  
 Frank Wojs  
 Leo Wolff

## JUNE 12

Harry Balkin  
 Stanley M. Bauman, Sr.  
 Jacob Blass  
 Bernard Cohen  
 Leon Dreyfus  
 Seymour S. Fleisig  
 Anita Fortson  
 Joseph Goetz  
 Carolyn Levy Greenberg  
 Joan Hamburger  
 Gary Kaplan  
 Myron B. Lasker, Sr.  
 Flora Loeb  
 Margretta Navra  
 Louis Rosen  
 Bernard Sabin  
 Lucille L. Sachs  
 Theodore M. Sanders  
 Anchel Schiffman  
 Hillel Sloan  
 Harry B. Solmson, Sr.  
 Karl Weil  
 Sara Weinberg  
 Adolf Wolff  
 Sheila Young

## JUNE 19

Joan S. Abowitz  
 Richard Bresnik  
 Joseph Brint  
 Jerry Bronfman  
 Miriam Anne Brown  
 Juanita Gonzalez  
 Jeffrey Hart  
 Robert J. Heiman  
 Brian Kelle Hodge  
 Carolyn Pfeifer Horchow  
 Jules Andre Ifrah  
 Fannie S. Kaiser  
 Theresa Kauffman  
 Stella M. Kempner  
 Cecille Pfeifer Landauer  
 Laurie Jean Loeb  
 Hannah Louchheim  
 Evelyn Feit Lowenberg  
 Don M. Mann  
 Joan Storthz Moore  
 Dora Pasink  
 Fay Smulian Pfeifer  
 Beulah Pinkus  
 Jane Roark  
 Leatrice "Lit" Block Rosen  
 Charles C. Rubenstein  
 Maurine Weisman Simon  
 Belle Spiegelman  
 Marie Seeman Spitzberg  
 Anna Stachmus  
 Theresa J. Storthz  
 David Wuntch

## JUNE 26

Louis J. Alexander  
 Fanny Besser  
 Sheryl Besser  
 Robert Bronfman  
 Belle Pfeifer Cohen  
 Rose Mae Dante  
 Nathalia Ethridge  
 David Jacobs  
 Howard Kahn  
 Myron B. Lasker, Jr.  
 Bella Levy  
 Henry Morris Levy  
 Abraham Lindenberg  
 Phillip Ottenheimer  
 Leo Pfeifer  
 Robert Sakon  
 Stanley Edgar Sheets  
 Sylvia Hirsch Shrader  
 Morris Solomon  
 Siesel Thalheimer  
 Louis Yahm

## YIZKOR ELOHIM

WE RECORD WITH SORROW  
 THE DEATH OF

### STEPHANIE GOLDBERG

SISTER OF TERRY ORGEL

AND

### JUDITH LIEBMAN

MOTHER OF  
 JOANNE MATSON

*May God comfort you among the  
 other mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.*

## TEMPLE FUNDS

### **Rabbi's Discretionary Fund**

In honor of Rabbi Block

Anonymous

Karin Waugh Zucker and Martin Boyle

Emily Lewis

In memory of Mike "Meyer" Davis

Van Gates

In memory of Michael C. Abraham, Jr.

Gus Block

### **Vogel Caring and Sharing Fund**

To assist someone in need

Nan Selz

General Donation

Vogel Schwartz Foundation

### **Dr. Wilma Diner Memorial Fund for Jewish Education**

In honor of Carol Parham for her leadership

Emily Adams and Carmen Arick

### **Endowment Fund**

Wishing a speedy recovery to Jerry Jacobson

Lynn and Jerry Yellen

### **Ola and Mervin Leibs Memorial Religious School Scholarship Fund**

In memory of Cynthia K. Shell

Van Gates

### **President's Discretionary Fund**

In memory of Terry Hope, Sr.

Van Gates

### **Storhthz Religious Education Discretionary Fund**

In honor of the Confirmation of Lilah Goldman, Dylan Nodelman, Caroline McGrath, Louis Reagler, Tillie Reagler, David Ronnel, and Sydney Shemper  
Rabbi Barry Block

In honor of the high school graduation of Jordan Collins, Teddy Ferguson, Isabella Ifrah, and Hallie Pingel

Rabbi Barry Block

In honor of the college graduation of Lucy Goldman, Sally Goldman, Todd Hamilton, and Jared Mackey

Rabbi Barry Block

### **Harvey Luber Youth Scholarship Fund**

In memory of Nina Krupitsky

Van Gates

### **Rabbi Eugene and Bobbye Levy Fund for Camp Scholarships and Youth**

In memory of Larry Bentley

Bobbye and Rabbi Gene Levy

In honor of Sara Goldsholl, for her residency at LSU Medical School

Bobbye and Rabbi Gene Levy

In honor of the recovery of Barbara Hager

Bobbye and Rabbi Gene Levy

For the complete recovery of Jerry Jacobson

Bobbye and Rabbi Gene Levy

In memory of Karen McKim

Bobbye and Rabbi Gene Levy

In memory of Joseph Miller

Bobbye and Rabbi Gene Levy

For the healthy recovery of Herb Monoson

Bobbye and Rabbi Gene Levy

In memory of Joann Norwood

Bobbye and Rabbi Gene Levy

For the birthday of Ann Storhthz

Bobbye and Rabbi Gene Levy

For the special birthday of Phyllis Storhthz

Bobbye and Rabbi Gene Levy

Congratulations to all of the High School and College Graduates

Bobbye and Rabbi Gene Levy

Congratulations to the new

NFTY-Southern Board officers from Little Rock

Bobbye and Rabbi Gene Levy

### **MAZAL TOV TO:**

Toos and Art Pfeifer

On the marriage of their granddaughter, Paige Lasley, to Eric Schankerman, June 20, in Denver

### **MAZAL TOV TO:**

Barbara and Paul Spitzberg, whose son Andrew graduated from Keck School of Medicine at USC and will enter a residency in psychiatry at Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell in New York

Jordan Collins, daughter of Joannie Jacobs and granddaughter of Susan Lesser, who graduated High School Magna Cum Laude and will be attending Hendrix College on a full scholarship

# TEMPLE FUNDS

## Yahrzeit Fund

- In memory of Edward S. Baer  
Milt Baer
- In memory of Marjorie L. Baer  
Milt Baer
- In memory of Dylan Besser  
Marilyn and Earl Sorrells
- In memory of Robert Besser  
Marilyn and Earl Sorrells
- In memory of Bena Schwartz Biondo  
Mary Biondo
- In memory of Abe Herstein  
Eleanor Wolff
- In memory of Emmanuel and Nina Krupitsky  
Bernard and Asya Lewis
- In memory of Roland Joseph Lanoue  
Ron Lanoue
- In memory of Emily S. Lasker  
Harriet L. Katz
- In memory of Joseph Loebner  
Janice Thurow
- In memory of Samuel R. Lyons  
Mac Lyons
- In memory of William Seeman Samuels  
Barbara Samuels and Nancy Ryburn
- In memory of Larry Schwartz  
Bobbye and Gene Levy
- In memory of Jacob and Rita Slutsky  
Bernard and Asya Lewis
- In memory of Richard Thurow  
Janice Thurow

## Cemetery Fund

- In memory of Forrest Abrams  
Jane and Bob Goff
- In memory of Velma Block  
Van Gates
- In memory of Henry Myar Franklin  
Jane and Bob Goff

# LaFTY

## Mazel Tov to our New LaFTY Leaders for 2020-2021:

Programming VP: Louis Reagler  
 Membership VP: Sydney Shemper  
 (Another round of elections for LaFTY will take place in the fall to fill remaining positions, when hopefully we can meet in person again.)

And to our new NFTY Southern Regional leaders:

Lilah Goldman: Social Action VP  
 Tillie Reagler: Communication VP  
 David Ronnel: Religious and Cultural VP

# HSJ365

HSJ365 will continue through the summer

<https://jacobscamp.org/hsj365/>

Check out the activities on the Henry S. Jacobs website each week to keep camp close to your heart.

Save the Date: Opening of Religious School 2020-2021 academic year – August 23, 2020.

Online or in person, we cannot wait to see you all. Registration will open by July 1.



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Little Rock, AR 72201

## JULY BIRTHDAYS

1st	Lance Bogoslavsky Daniel Rodell Milo Krain	13th	David Rosen
		15th	Annabelle Tuck
2nd	Mark Himelfarb	17th	Sandra Levin Emilie Arrants
3rd	Cherry Goldsholl	20th	Rhys Branman Leslie Brotman Marla Shivers Joseph Stafford
4th	Melinda Tobian		
5th	Susan Weinstein	21st	Bobbey Levy Jeff Lux Jacob Collins Sydney Shemper
6th	Jon Flaxman Krysten Levin Phillip Spivey	22nd	Audrey Evans Stephen Jacobs Caroline Goldsholl
7th	Connie Fails Ann Williams Ryan Dhall		
8th	Dick Williams	23rd	Richard Lowens
9th	L.R. Jalenak Rabbi Gene Levy Hallie Pingel	25th	Becky Mobly
		26th	Michael Marion Perry Young
10th	Tad Phillips June Freeman Lucy Goldman	27th	Jonathan Casciano
		28th	Rita Fagan
11th	Nan Selz	29th	Matthew Lopas Allan Mendel Amie Marshall
12th	Karin Bara William Belvin	30th	Dale Cohen Elsa Helton Ethan Strauss

## JULY ANNIVERSARIES

3rd	Dale and Lee Ronnel - 1960 Amanda and Russ Webb-Parish - 2014
4th	Gay Block and Billie Parker - 2014
7th	Trudy and Jerry Jacobson - 1960 Sandy and Fred Levin - 1973
8th	Arlene and Brian Marshall - 1967
10th	Betty and Jimmy Moses - 1971
11th	Carol and Chester Storthz - 1971
16th	Lynn and Bruce Greenberg - 1978 Kitty and Bill Rubenstein - 1993
22nd	Pat Highly and Arnie Nachmann - 1978 Susan and Michael Schmitz - 1990 Lenka Horakova and Trip Strauss - 2009
23rd	Tim Kessler and Josiah Wheeler - 2016 Carol and Gary Weisbly - 1967
24th	Beth Levi and Duff Campbell - 1994
26th	Bari and Mark Himelfarb - 2017
27th	Susan and Robin West - 1980
29th	Sue and Keith Maddison - 1979
30th	Lori and Josh Shemper - 2000
31st	Anne and Dick Williams - 1955

The purpose of the **Congregation B'nai Israel Legacy Society** is to secure the future of our Reform Jewish congregation. Legacy gifts are deferred gifts that will benefit Temple B'nai Israel by sustaining our congregation for future generations. No gift is too small and every gift is a testament to your Jewish heritage.

Legacy gifts might include:

- A bequest in your will
- A portion or all of an existing life insurance policy
- A portion or all of an IRA or 401k
- A portion or all of an annuity
- A portion or all of a charitable trust
- Or some other deferred commitment



**LEAVE A LEGACY**  
CONGREGATION B'NAI ISRAEL

Legacy donors become members of the **Congregation B'nai Israel Legacy Society**. If you would like more information on making a legacy gift, please leave your name with the Temple office (225-9700) and a volunteer will contact you.