



THE RABBI SPEAKS



RABBI BARRY BLOCK

Dear Friends:

Our congregation is diverse. Therefore, we should not be surprised that our congregants hold varying views about Israel.

For many in our congregation, support for Israel is second nature. Mindful of our ancestral home in the Holy Land and knowing that our people never stopped praying for return to that sacred place after the destruction of Jerusalem's Second Temple in 70 C.E., we are grateful for the fulfilment of ancestral prayers and hopes. Contemplating the too-often-tragic history our people, from the First Century to the Twentieth, we rejoice that Jews who face oppression at last enjoy a safe refuge. Awed at the accomplishments of early Zionists and Israelis who have, literally and figuratively, "drained swamps and made the desert bloom," we celebrate Israel's successes. I count myself in this group.

I am not, however, among those for whom support for Israel always comes easily. I respect those in our midst who support the Netanyahu government – or who don't always support Israeli governmental action, but who believe that vocalizing any disagreement is both destructive to Israel and not productive in terms of changing the government's behavior. Some may feel that, as Americans who are not Israeli citizens, we have no right to object to Israeli policies or actions.

Still others, and I'm not in this group either, are so alienated by Israel's government that they will not support or visit Israel. Israel, in some minds, fails to uphold Jewish and democratic values or to respect the Judaism we practice at Congregation B'nai Israel, leading to alienation, a sentiment with which I often agree.

Yet another group has never supported Israel. Since before 1948, they did not believe that Judaism is compatible with the notion of a Jewish State, and the actions of Israeli governments in recent decades have only served to harden their position.

For my own part, respecting the diversity of these views in our community is of paramount importance. Also, for me, continuing to support our family, friends, and partners in Israel is non-negotiable.

Temple B'nai Israel Newsletter, Volume 19, Issue 3,
 April 2019, published monthly by Temple B'nai Israel
 3700 N. Rodney Parham Rd., Little Rock, AR 72212

Worship at a Glance

Friday, April 5

UPB-Sinai Edition Service, led by Rabbi Block, at 6:15 pm

Music: Jeff Neuhauser

Sermon: "For Every Season, There Is a Leader"

Candles: Meg Marion

Kiddush: Scott Jordan

Readers: Karin and Ron Bara, in celebration of their anniversary

Oneg Shabbat Sponsor: Sisterhood

Altar Arrangement Sponsor: Sisterhood

Saturday, April 6

Torah Study, led by Rabbi Block, 9:30 am

Shabbat Service, led by Rabbi Block, at 11:00 am

Friday, April 12

Mishkan T'filah Service, led by Rabbi Block, at 6:15 pm

Music: Meg Marion, Josiah Wheeler, Liz Cohen, Richard Estelita, Charlie Friedman

Sermon: "Evil Speech"

Candles & Kiddush: Jane and Scott Levine

Reader: Jan Alman

Oneg Shabbat Sponsor: Sisterhood

Altar Flowers Sponsor: Flora Sanders in memory of Rabbi Ira E. Sanders

Saturday, April 13

Torah Study, led by Rabbi Block, at 9:30 am

Shabbat Service, led by Rabbi Block, at 11:00 am

Friday, April 19

First Night of Passover. Home Seder. **No Service at Temple.**

Saturday, April 20

Torah Study, led by Rabbi Block, at 9:30 am

Service for Shabbat Morning and the First Holy Day of Passover, led by Rabbi Block, at 11:00 am

Friday, April 26

Mishkan T'filah Shabbat Service, led by Alexa Shemper and Rabbi Block, at 6:15pm

Music: David Bauman, Steve Bauman, Jana Cohen, Charlie Friedman, Richard Estelita

Sermon: "The Holiest Day of the Year"

...continued on next page

The Rabbi Speaks continued...

Israelis go to the polls on April 9. They will have the opportunity to embrace or reject a Prime Minister who supports bringing racist fascists into a government that he would lead. They will have the chance to choose a government that will continue to enable, or to end, ultra-Orthodox hegemony over matters of free religious and personal expression.

My own love for Israel and commitment to my family, friends, and partners in Israel will continue, whatever the outcome of the election. Should Prime Minister Netanyahu be reelected, though, and his past policies continue, I will continue to raise my voice to object. I will do so from within the family of the Jewish people and of Zionists.

I will also celebrate and/or criticize in Israel. My plane tickets for July are purchased.

Faithfully,



Rabbi Barry H. Block

Worship at a Glance continued...

Candles & Kiddush: Lori, Josh, Alexa, and Sydney Shemper
Reader: Sydney Shemper

Oneg Shabbat Sponsor: McGrath and Ifrah families in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Alexa Shemper

Altar Flowers Sponsor: The Shemper family in honor of Alexa's Bat Mitzvah

Saturday, April 27

Abbreviated Torah Study, led by Rabbi Block, 9:30-10:15 am
Shabbat Morning Service for
the Bat Mitzvah of Alexa Shemper, at 10:30 am

Congregational Passover Seder



"Let all who are hungry come and eat."

Join Temple B'nai Israel and the community for a night of beautifully catered Seder.

Thursday, April 25, 2019 at 6:00 pm

Adult Member - \$36

Non-Member - \$45

Children ages 6-12 - \$12

Please RSVP by April 19, 2018 by contacting the Temple Office at templesecretary@bnai-israel.us or call 225-9700

We have reserved seating to ensure families are not separated. Tables seat 8. If you are bringing a highchair or booster seat for your child, please let us know when you're making your reservation.

Vegetarian meals are available upon request.

If the cost would prevent you from attending, please contact Rabbi Block at bblock@bnai-israel.us or 225-9700



Pesach Luncheon

For those ages 65+



Join your friends for a festive
Pesach lunch provided by
The Vogel Caring and Sharing Fund



Tuesday, April 23 at 11:30 am

Guests and Caregivers are welcome to dine.
Transportation Provided by Request

Please RSVP by April 17 to the Temple Office by calling 501-225-9700,
or e-mail templesecretary@bnai-israel.us

HOLIDAY WORSHIP:

Shabbat and Pesach Festival Morning Worship:
April 20 - 11:00 am.

Festival Service for the Final Holy Day of Passover, including
Yizkor - Memorial Prayers:
April 26 - 11:00 am

President's Message

It has been a fun month at Congregation B'nai Israel. The Religious School is having a great year so far. The teachers are fantastic and the students are learning about Judaism, while still having fun. Eileen Hamilton has created such a great atmosphere for the students as well as the teachers.

We have had several churches visit before Shabbat Services. We are so fortunate to have our amazing volunteers who expertly teach the group and show them around our beautiful Temple and teach them many of our wonderful traditions as well as explaining all of the symbolism throughout the building. Thank you to Dale Ronnel, Emily Lewis, and Ron Lanoue for your dedication and time in this very important role.

We recently celebrated Purim. The Purim Carnival, led by our Temple Youth Group, was very well attended and a big success. If you didn't attend the Purim Shpiel and dinner you missed out. Meg Marion wrote an original musical, called "California Schemin"; a modern day version of the Purim Story. It was funny and a lot of fun to watch. Rebecca Scallet directed the show and our wonderful musicians made it all complete. Many of us participated and a fun time was had by all!! The dinner, prepared by Rita Fagan and sous chefs, Kirsta and Keith Nigro, was truly delicious, accompanied by a delicious "specialty cocktail" prepared by Merrick Fagan. Please be sure to thank all of them for all they do for us!

Stay tuned for some exciting news with regards to our staff!!

Happy Spring to all of you!

Carol Parham
President

Mazel Tov

to **Nina Reiss**, who was promoted to the rank of Chief Master Sergeant in the Arkansas Air National Guard.

to **Amie Townley**, on her marriage to **Robert Monteith**. Congratulations also to **Amie's** children — **Maddie, Sadie, and Cohen Townley** — and to her parents, **Arleen and Brian Marshall**.

Todah Rabah

Many thanks to our office volunteers:
Milt Baer and Aniko Diamant

Yizkor Eloheim
We record with sorrow the death of...

DAN PHILLIPS

Husband of Sandy Phillips
Brother of Tad (and Nancy) Phillips
Father of Beverly Wittenberg

Miriam's Seder

Bubbes, mothers and daughters especially welcome!

Thursday, April 4 at 6:00 pm
Teen Lounge

\$18 - please reserve by April 2
templesecretary@bnai-israel.us, or 225-9700

Congregation B'nai Israel Men's Club presents . . .

Men's Seder

**An Opportunity for Men's Spirituality, Bonding,
and Sharing Men's Seder Haggadah
by Rabbi Barry Block**

Tuesday, April 23, 6:00 pm
Copeland's
2602 South Shackleford Road

\$35 per person
If the cost of attending would prevent you from attending,
please contact Rabbi Block, 225-9700 or bblock@bnai-israel.us

Reservation, payment and entrée selection to Keila
501-225-9700 or TempleSecretary@bnai-israel.us
No later than Friday, April 19

Entrée choices: beef, chicken, or fish

Yahrzeits: APRIL 2019

APRIL 5

Robert R. Besser
Billy Eisenkramer
Adele B. Heiman Ellman
Leonard Frankenstein
Adolph Hamburger
Rose Chozick Jacobson
Eleanor Kokes
Augusta Lasker
Henry Lasker
Gertrude Mossovitz Levin
Mary B. Levy
Janice Myers O'Shea
Philip C. Prousnitzer, Jr.
LeVerta Beatrice-Payton Redwood
Florence E. Rubenstein
Irene Gaston Samuel
Abraham Alan Shindler
Micah Dale Smith
Martha Jean Wallis
Abe Weinberg
Rose Claire Weintraub
Vera Wolchansky

APRIL 12

Barbara Grundfest Bauman
Emma Cohen
Morris Cooper
Deborah Geller
Menashe Geller
Joshua Allen Gill
Joe Bernard Hirsch
Jesse Kaiser
Marjorie Kempner Levy
Helen Silverman Levy
Herman Loeb
Jeremy Luber
Chaye Mireh Palmick
John L. Pfeifer
Audrey Miller Poritzky
Kenneth Irving Rapp
Ellis Rivkin
Steven Rosen
Ira E. Sanders
Joseph B. Selz
David S. Sherman
Tommy Wuntch
Max Zeno

APRIL 19

Herbert Abowitz
Morris Besser
Leah Gans Blass
Siesel A. Franklin
Valrus Gates
Sandra F. Goldberg
Linda Gordon
Tillie Greenberg
Irene Klikna
Ola Leibs
Betty Levy
Steven J. Lewis
Sarah Ehrenberg Loeb
Milton L. Loeb
Samuel Lyons, Sr.
Sol F. Meyer
Annie N. Miller
Birdie Storthz Picard
Sara Reich
Albert Snyderman
Louis Volmer
Lucette White
Malcolm Yahn

APRIL 26

Flora C. Bennett
Jennie Marie Nichols Crafton
Jack Stiel Dante
Charles A. Ehrman
Lucille K. Falk
Rachael Deroy Kempner
Jordan Harold Kiel
Peter Klikna
Edward Narkinsky
Roberto Oliva, Jr.
Mildred Frank Rephan
Marion A. Safferstone
William Samuels
Sidney Leo Shlenker
Anne Ehrenberg Steppach
Rose Sonnenschein Yout
Aaron Zeno

“empty nesters” (although that phrase is an insult to our dog, Oliver). These past few months have been a time for genuine reflection. Coincidentally, Nan recently asked us to prepare a statement about our involvement with the Temple over the years and the importance of securing its future through deferred giving. This assignment was easy as pie.

Without doubt, the Temple has been there for the Goldsholl family since Scot moved to Little Rock in 1989. And now – as we enter into a new chapter and verse of our lives – we recognize the need to “be there” for the Temple. Consider these highlights:

We were married in the Temple (Rabbi Levy).

Kennon formally converted through the Temple (Rabbi Levy).

Our two daughters (Sara and Leah) were formally named at the Temple and home, respectively (Rabbi Levy).

Rabbi Levy took part in our son's (Jacob) bris at Doctors Hospital.

All three children were consecrated at the Temple (Rabbi Levy).

Kennon was Temple president and is currently on the Board.

All three children celebrated their Bar and Bat Mitzvot at the Temple (Sara and Jacob ... Rabbi Levy / Leah ... Rabbi Block).

All three children were confirmed at the Temple (Sara ... Rabbi Levy / Jacob ... Rabbi Lipper / Leah ... Rabbi Block).

Scot celebrated his re-Bar Mitzvah at the Temple (Rich Lewis).

All three children were active in LaFTY.

Hey, we're not looking for applause! We're just proud that we've raised three “Temple kids” and – hopefully – the sum of these experiences has given each one a solid ethical and religious footing. We would love for our children to someday return to Little Rock and make Little Rock their home. But – until that day – we strongly encourage each one to join a synagogue wherever (s) he may land.

As for the two of us, the Temple has given us access to life-long friends and wonderful acquaintances; a place for sanctuary and learning; a real sense of community; and yet another reason that Little Rock is our “home” in every sense of the word. And we're especially proud to hear great things about all the other “Temple kids” that have grown up through the ranks. There's something genuinely positive about the Temple ... and we consider ourselves lucky to have been members all of these years.

Now – recognizing the Temple's financial challenges and our appreciation for all the good experiences we've had at the Temple – we are amending our Will to provide a bequest to the Temple. We hope that our legacy gifts will help the Temple thrive for future generations. The process is simple. The cause is golden. We strongly recommend that you call the Temple office for more information.

Scot and Kennon Goldsholl



LEAVE A LEGACY
CONGREGATION B'NAI ISRAEL

Scot and Kennon's Legacy

Universal Truth No. 1: You can't take it with you.
Universal Truth No. 2: The Temple needs your Planned Gift.

This year we celebrated our 28th wedding anniversary and sent our youngest child (Leah) off to college. We are now formally

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.



April 2019

Adar II 5779/Nisan 5779

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
7 Nisan 2 8:30 am - 9:30 am Intermediate Hebrew: Prayers, Songs, and Conversational Hebrew 9:00 am - 12:00 pm Religious School 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm LaFTY General Meeting - Lunch Provided 1:00 pm Budget Committee	1 Adar II 25 Nisan 3 8 Nisan 3	2 Adar II 26 Nisan 4 2:30 - 5:30 FBI Emergency Response 5:30 Investment Committee 7:00 pm Executive Committee Meeting Jewish Food Festival Committee Meeting	3 Adar II 27 Nisan 5 10 Nisan 5 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm Confirmation Class 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm Little LaFTY Night Out - Dinner and Program	4 Adar II 28 Nisan 6 11 Nisan 6 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm Miriam's Seder	5 Adar II 29 Nisan 7 12 Nisan 7 5:00 pm FUMC Monticello Tour 5:45 pm - 6:15 pm Oneg Shabbat 6:15 pm UPB Sinai Edition Shabbat Service	6 Nisan 1 8:30 am - 9:30 am Beginning Hebrew 9:30 am - 10:45 am Torah Study 11:00 am Shabbat Morning Service Club 13
14 Nisan 9 NFTY - So Spring Kallah at Jacobs Camp 10:00 am - 4:00 pm Arkansas Jewish Food and Cultural Festival	15 Nisan 10 16 Nisan 11 7:00 pm Board Meeting	16 Nisan 11 17 Nisan 12 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm Confirmation Class	17 Nisan 12 18 Nisan 13 11:30 am - 12:45 pm Torah Lunch and Learn	18 Nisan 13 19 Nisan 14 Passover begins at Sundown	19 Nisan 14 20 Nisan 15 Passover 8:30 am - 9:30 am Beginning Hebrew 9:30 am - 10:45 am Torah Study 11:00 am Shabbat Morning Service	20 Nisan 15 21 Nisan 16 Passover 8:30 am - 9:30 am Beginning Hebrew 9:30 am - 10:45 am Torah Study 11:00 am Shabbat and Passover Festival Morning Service
21 Nisan 16 22 Nisan 17 Passover 8:30 am - 9:30 am Intermediate Hebrew: Prayers, Songs, and Conversational Hebrew 9:00 am - 12:00 pm Religious School	22 Nisan 17 23 Nisan 18 Passover 11:30 am Seniors Passover Luncheon 6:00 pm Men's Seder	23 Nisan 18 24 Nisan 19 Passover 4:00 pm Our House	24 Nisan 19 25 Nisan 20 Passover	25 Nisan 20 26 Nisan 21 Passover All Day Closed Temple Offices Closed 11:00 am Festival Service for the Final Holy Day of Passover with Yizkor-Memorial Prayers 5:45 pm - 6:15 pm Oneg Shabbat 6:15 pm Mishkan T'filah Service and Bat Mitzvah of Alexa Shemper	26 Nisan 21 27 Nisan 22 Passover ends 8:30 am - 9:30 am Beginning Hebrew 9:30 am - 10:15 am Abbreviated Torah Study 10:30 am Shabbat Morning Service and Bat Mitzvah of Alexa Shemper	27 Nisan 22 28 Nisan 23 Intermediate Hebrew: Prayers, Songs, and Conversational Hebrew 9:00 am - 12:00 pm Religious School 12:00 pm LaFTY Elections

**CHRONICLE DEADLINE
APRIL 15 FOR MAY ISSUE**



BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARY CALENDAR

MAY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Noel Strauss A'99	2 Tad Phillips A'07 Justin Young Phillip Young	3 Amanda Williams Seth Parham	4 Shirley Barron Harry Ehrenberg, Jr. Rickie Lockwood Charles Newfeld Evie Dranoff Nate Dranoff
5 Joseph Davidson Betty Rosen	6 Phil Axelroth A'00 Mark Strauss Tracye Townley	7 Deanna Arrants	8 David Pear Alexa Shemper	9 Charlene Prousnitzer	10 Brad Diner A'98 Joshua Epstein Sarah Finer Sharon Hendrix Maxwell Lyons, II Michael Siiva-Nash	11 Thomas McGarry A'96 Zane Chrisman
12 Camille Dante Larry Nate	13 Aaron Lubin A'89 Emily Lewis Mickey Loeb Jeff Nodelman John Stober	14 David Behnke Ellen Moore Nancy Phillips Lori Shemper Emma Figarsky	15 Gary Weisbly	16 Martin Ferguson A'98	17 Lee Thalheimer A'80 Philip Axelroth Mikhail Ivanovsky	18 Sandy Phillips Jared Mackey
19 Jack Grundfest A'90	20 Paul Schroeder A'72 Miriam Hasson	21 Claud Alexander A'78 Vogt/Benjamin A'88 Rivka Ehrenberg Ellie Daniel	22 Bob Boury A'82 David Gerson A'93 Bary Uretsky A'05	23 Bernie Bevell A'81 L. Bogoslavsky A'81 Van Gates Vaughn Gates	24 C. Prousnitzer A'81 Gabriel Elison	25 Alex Daniel Harvey Miller
26 Larry Brady A'80 Michael Krupitsky A'79 Duff Campbell Iris Oliva Lucy Towbin	27 Bettina Brownstein	28 Tim McGrath A'00 Alan Thalheimer A'16 Julie Elison Gina Kokes Mark Levin Lily Gordon	29 Byron Kantrow A'99 Michael Krupitsky Layla Dawn Arrants Eden Willis	30	31 A. Mayersohn, Jr. A'81 Bill Fortson Edmond Freeman Shannon Davidson	

If you would like to sponsor the flowers and/or oneg for an upcoming Shabbat, please call the Temple office.

YAHRZEIT FUND

IN MEMORY OF:

Mimi Back Loeb

Mickey Loeb
Alan Loeb
Mark Loeb
Jane and Scott Levine

Rhoda Lowenberg Gilbert

Michael Gilbert

Norman Shepherd Gilbert

Michael Gilbert

Evelyn Feit Lowenberg

Michael Gilbert

Laura Reifer

Ken and Judy Reifer

Arthur O. Sanders

Sue and Keith Maddison

Jacob Slutsky

Galina and Michael Krupitsky

Barbara Stern

Jerry Stern

Charlotte Storthz

by her children

Lewis Alexander Storthz

Larry Storthz
Rosetta S. Urbach

Freda Granoff Thomas

Marilyn Robison
Bliss Thomas

VOGEL CARING AND SHARING FUND

IN MEMORY OF:

Eugene P. Levy

Trudy and Jerry Jacobson
Galina and Michael Krupitsky

PFEIFER COMMUNITY OUTREACH FUND

IN MEMORY OF:

Eugene P. Levy

Trudy and Jerry Jacobson
Linda and Gene Pfeifer

IN HONOR OF:

the 70th birthday of Linda Pfeifer

Trudy and Jerry Jacobson

CEMETERY FUND

IN MEMORY OF:

Sidney Jacob Fields

Anonymous

Eugene P. Levy

Sallye Mann

THE ENDOWMENT FUND

IN HONOR OF:

The anniversary of Carol and Allan Mendel

Miriam and Leonard Hasson

In honor of Capi Peck

Kathy and Jack Grundfest

IN MEMORY OF:

Meredith Baskin

Kathy and Jack Grundfest

Leaine Cohen

Kathy and Jack Grundfest

Bill Cohn

Kathy and Jack Grundfest

Caleen Estelita

Kathy and Jack Grundfest

Margot Garon

Kathy and Jack Grundfest

Eleanor Gross

Kathy and Jack Grundfest

Gilbert Korenblat

Kathy and Jack Grundfest

Mark Krain

Kathy and Jack Grundfest

Bella and Manford Levy

Kathy and Jack Grundfest

Rich Lewis

Kathy and Jack Grundfest

Mimi Loeb

Kathy and Jack Grundfest

Marian Matson

Kathy and Jack Grundfest

Lou Samuel

Kathy and Jack Grundfest

Barbara Schlesinger

Kathy and Jack Grundfest

Cynthia Shell

Kathy and Jack Grundfest

Anita Simon

Kathy and Jack Grundfest

Ruby Smith

Kathy and Jack Grundfest

Eugene P. Levy

Jill and Steve Bauman
Kathy and Jack Grundfest
Sandy and Randy Herzstein
Anne and Larry Miller
Tracye and Larry Townley
Carole and Gary Weisbly

THE ENDOWMENT FUND CONTINUED

WISHING A HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

Dale Ronnel

Jan and Larry Alman
Jill and Steve Bauman
Kathy and Jack Grundfest

WISHING A SPEEDY RECOVERY TO:

Kathy Bauman

Kathy and Jack Grundfest
Trudy and Jerry Jacobson

ALINE AND LOUIS SALINGER MEMORIAL LANDSCAPE FUND

IN MEMORY OF:

Eugene P. Levy

Jane Roark and Mac Lyons

Joseph Lyons

Mac Lyons

Louis Salinger

Mac Lyons

IN HONOR OF:

Jane Roark

Mac Lyons

BAUMAN MUSIC FUND

IN HONOR OF:

Bat Mitzvah of David Bauman

Caroline, Cherry and David Goldsholl

Bat Mitzvah of Jules Ifrah

Dina and Patrick Ifrah

HALLIE COHEN MILLER ARCHIVE FUND

IN MEMORY OF:

Rabbi Elijah Zeke Palnick

Irene Palnick

THE RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

IN HONOR OF:

Rabbi Block

Anonymous

Rabbi Block as Editor of the *Mussar Torah Commentary*

Central Conference of American Rabbis

Bat Mitzvah of Jules Ifrah

Dina and Patrick Ifrah

Birthday of Dale Ronnel

Susan Lesser

Birthdays of Bonnie and Sam Nickol

Susan Lesser

IN APPRECIATION OF:

Rabbi Block

Family of Mimi Loeb

IN MEMORY OF:

Eugene P. Levy

Gus Block
Trudy and Jerry Jacobson
Sue Stroock and Chris Hackler
Susan Lesser

WISHING A SPEEDY RECOVERY TO:

Carol Mendel

Patricia Blass

RABBI GENE & BOBBYE LEVY CAMP SCHOLARSHIP FUND

IN MEMORY OF:

Gene Mackey

Bobbye and Rabbi Gene Levy

IN HONOR OF:

Bar Mitzvah of David Bauman

Bobbye and Rabbi Gene Levy

Birthdays of Bonnie and Sam Nickol

Bobbye and Rabbi Gene Levy

WISHING A SPEEDY RECOVERY TO:

Kathy Bauman

Bobbye and Rabbi Gene Levy

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Jacob Fijman for his new position at Jacobs Camp

Bobbye and Rabbi Gene Levy

With much love and great pride
we invite you to share this special day
as our daughter

Alexa Lillian



is called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah

Saturday, April 27
10:30 a.m.

Lori and Joshua Shemper

Gotta Have Sole is Alexa's Bat Mitzvah project



Gotta Have Sole provides new footwear to children residing in homeless shelters. "There are nearly 2.5 million homeless youth in the U.S., many who miss academic, athlete, and social opportunities because they lack appropriate footwear. Many experience bullying and have low self-esteem. Gotta Have Sole helps children succeed in school, which ultimately will help homeless children step out of poverty." Gotta Have Sole's mantra is to improve homeless children's lives— one sole at a time.

Every time Gotta Have Sole provides a brand new pair of shoes to the children at a shelter, an inspirational personalized card is included in the shoe box. Alexa is decorating several inspirational personalized cards. Alexa is also donating a generous amount to this organization.

Gotta Have Sole works extensively with Our House in Little Rock. All of Gotta Have Sole footwear orders are sent to GHS by the shelter when children currently residing in the shelter are in need of footwear. All of Alexa's funds/contributions would support the footwear orders GHS receives from Our House specifically (GHS would let Our House know the footwear is a result of Alexa's efforts). The amount Alexa is donating will cover approximately a year's worth of orders specifically to Our House.

Alexa chose to contribute to this particular organization because Alexa has a "thing" for shoes and always has. She admits it is hard for her to imagine for any child not being able to have a new pair of shoes or any shoes at all. After researching this organization, it struck a chord with Alexa and made her want to help.

TRIVIA NIGHT

BEER, SNACKS, SODA, SILENT AUCTION, AND LOTS OF FUN!

APRIL 6 7PM

TO BENEFIT ATI'DAY YISROEL EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER
3700 N Rodney Parham, Little Rock
atidsyeecc.com
\$25 EARLY, \$30 AT THE DOOR



COMMUNITIES AGAINST HATE CRIMES
FBI Training Workshop for Faith Leaders
and Communities

APRIL 9th @2:30 PM

ARRIVAL 2:15 PM
WORKSHOP 2:30 - 5:30 PM

Registration required at <https://hatecrimesworkshop.eventbrite.com>

Learn from trained agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) on how to best protect yourself and your congregation from hate crimes, terrorism, and active shooter situations.

AT TEMPLE B'NAI ISRAEL
3700 N. RODNEY PARHAM, LITTLE ROCK, AR 72212

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO RSVP PLEASE CALL SOPHIA SAID AT (801) 520 1565



Our House

April 24

4:30 pm – 6:00 pm

Meet at Our House for cooking and serving dinner.



Little LaFTY Night Out PRE-PESACH PARTY- TIME IN THE KITCHEN

For all in grades 3 – 5

Wednesday, April 10:

6:00 pm – 7:30 pm

Dinner and program.

Join us to make delicious Pesach recipes in preparation for the holiday.

RSVP to Eileen by Friday, April 5. \$8.00 per student.

April Tours

First United Methodist Church Jacksonville
First United Methodist Church Monticello

Please support our generous sponsors



*Chenal Country Club
is the perfect place to
host your next event*

Call us at 821-7525 for more information



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WWW.BNAI-ISRAEL.US

YOU CAN MAKE DONATIONS AND CHECK OUT THE
CALENDAR FOR DETAILED DESCRIPTIONS OF EVENTS.

FROM THE EDUCATOR

Eileen Hamilton

Talking about God is not historically a Reform Jewish favorite. It took many years for our movement to become comfortable teaching about God, questioning God, relating to God, and certainly being comfortable in those spiritual settings.

We often avoid the subject in worry that we cannot answer our children's questions with accuracy and assurance. Who could? I mean, we all have different feelings about God and how we can make a relationship with God, how we talk to God, and how we relate to God...if we choose to...and how can we really give such definitive answers when there is no right or wrong.

Each and every Pesach we pass down the story of our ancestors' journey from Egypt to the Promised Land, from one generation to the next – that is our obligation. God plays a big part in story and we cannot avoid 'God Talk' at such a time. From the plagues, to the parting of the Red Sea, to our journey in the wilderness on the path to the promised land...God is a central character who guides and steers us to the next part of the story.

This Seder, we will have all the symbolic components of the meal in front of us to recall our Exodus from Egypt. We may even have other props such as puppets, masks, toys, children's placemats and Haggadahs, but will God be present at our table too? Will we be comfortable to ask the hard questions about what God was thinking when this story unfolded, and how each part was a new chapter in a fascinating and intricate tale of our people that we continue to share from generation to generation today. A good story cannot be beaten; we retell it each year. While Moses was one of the heroes in the story as our fearless leader, what about God? Did God have a master plan for us? Do not avoid God at your dinner table – there just may be the best questions posed ever and a chance to unfold the whole family's beliefs and feelings about God. No one must be right or wrong, but everyone must be open and honest; and vulnerable and curious too.

Happy Passover – may your experience and retelling of the story be so meaningful.

God Talk for the family:

- Share with your family something you once believed about God, but you no longer believe.
- God has done many wonderful things for the Jewish people (and all people). If you could ask God to do something for the world or the Jewish people, what would you ask?
- Long ago, people gave gifts to God in the form of offerings. What gifts do you think God would want from you or others now?

Pesach conversations:

Q: What kind of cheese do you eat on Pesach?

A: Matzo-rella.

Q: What is the difference between matzah and cardboard?

A: Cardboard doesn't leave crumbs on the carpet.

LaFTY News:

April 12 – 14

Spring Conclave at Jacobs Camp

April 28

LaFTY Elections – 12 noon

May 3

LaFTY led service and installation of new officers

Religious School

April 7, 21, 28

9:00 am – 12:00 pm

No Religious School on Sunday, April 14 for Jewish Food Festival

Confirmation Class

April 10, 17

6:00 pm – 8:00 pm



CLUB 13 - Pre-Bar and Bat Mitzvah Club

Saturday, April 6

11:00 am - 12:30 pm

Students, parents, tutors:

join for services while our pre-Bar/Bat Mitzvah students help lead the service.

FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

Eileen Hamilton

Mr. Rogers introduced us to 'who are the people in our neighborhood'. Do you ever wonder who in your congregation comes in to ensure you have a well maintained building? Or who prepares our Oneg Shabbat receptions or dinners? Do you ever think that someone has been around to vacuum seats in the sanctuary or waters the rose bushes, or even labels your birthday cards from Rabbi Block? Yes – it's volunteers! People like yourself who come to the Temple just to help. Some come on a weekly basis, while others are once a month. Some are on call all the times for building issues, while others plan out their volunteer work around holidays or special events. There is no job too big or small, because in the end, there is a lot to be done at Congregation B'nai Israel. Sometimes we thank those who help – while other times we are unaware of what is going on behind the scenes. But one thing is for sure – nothing happens by magic, but rather it takes work and time.

Each month we will concentrate on one individual who is an expert volunteer at Temple. You can learn what they do and if you too could assist in the process sometime in the future.

Volunteerism and service for the congregation deserve recognition and gratitude. When accepting a meal or service prepared by a volunteer, remember to be ever so polite and respectful. We are all just people doing our best.

Volunteer of the Month:

Milt Baer



What does Milt do? He comes in each and every Wednesday and helps in the office. He stuffs envelopes, shreds paper, and does anything asked of him including answering the phone. Milt is a bright spot on our busy week and humors us with his silly jokes and memes. He has established a great relationship with our office, and we appreciate him. Milt is willing to support us in any way he can, and he does. Thank you, Milt!



Your Judaica is open for your Pesach shopping!

Sundays 11:00 – 12:00

Or come visit us at the Food Festival, April 14th.

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THE TEMPLE CHRONICLE

- BARRY BLOCK, Rabbi
- CAROL PARHAM, President
- AMANDA FERGUSON, Executive V.P.
- RICHARD ESTELITA, Admin. V.P.
- PERRY YOUNG, Treasurer
- JAN ALMAN, Secretary
- CARMEN ARICK, Immediate Past President
- EILEEN HAMILTON, Director of Education and Youth Engagement and Administrator
- ELLYN J. POLSKY, Director of Lifelong Learning, *Emerita*

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ADDED INSTRUCTIONS: _____



CONGREGATION B'NAI ISRAEL
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"Thou art the living God, Thy words bring life
and light to the soul."