

THE RABBI SPEAKS



RABBI BARRY BLOCK

Dear Friends:

The Talmud teaches that a person who takes a single human life is compared to one who has destroyed the whole world. Each individual human life is of infinite value. Our minds struggle to comprehend the enormity of tragedy when an evil or mentally ill individual, armed to the teeth, callously kills scores of our fellow citizens

gathered for a country music concert or in worship.

After each of these events, many of our nation's leaders have extended "thoughts and prayers" to victims, survivors, and their families. Each time, some Americans have derided those "thoughts and prayers" as being devoid of the actions required to stop the violence, actions that some charge our leaders have been delinquent to take.

Prayer is action. With prayer, we ask God to weep with the mourners and our nation. With prayer, we ask God to guide the hands and the hearts of those entrusted with healing the injured. With prayer, we may ask God to sustain those who persist in advocacy to reduce gun violence. We may even pray that God reach in to our own hearts, to move us to activism.

Prayer and action are not mutually exclusive. For religious people, prayer and activism go hand in hand.

In late January, Eileen Hamilton and I plan to set out for Washington, D.C., chaperoning our Confirmation class at the L'taken Social Justice Seminar of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism. After a Shabbat of worship and study – and a weekend that includes advocacy training, an impactful visit to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, and an inspiring Havdalah service at the Jefferson Memorial – our students will present themselves atop Capitol Hill, where they will address their concerns to Senators Boozman and Cotton and Rep. Hill. Sen. Boozman has met with us personally each of the four years that I've led the group. Sen. Cotton met with us last year, too. And once we got a photo opportunity with Rep. Hill.

Twice, our students have chosen to advocate about gun violence. In each case, the students who called for stricter gun laws come from families who own guns. They expressed concern that loopholes in federal background check legislation and the wide availability of military-style weapons might one day threaten the gun rights of responsible Americans. As young people shocked by the tragic weight

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Worship at a Glance

Friday, December 1

Shabbat in the Rock – Chanukah Edition, led by Rabbi Block and Temple Musicians, at 6:15 pm

Blessing of Past President, Leah Elenzweig, as she prepares to move to California. Blessing of Cindy Brown, as she concludes her services as JFAR's social worker

Candles and Kiddush: Brina and Levi Daniels, in celebration of their anniversary

Reader: Terri Moore, in celebration of her birthday

Oneg Shabbat Sponsor: In honor of Leah Elenzweig by her friends

Altar Arrangement Sponsor: In memory of Helen Dulik Benes, by Helen Benes Kaiser

Saturday, December 2

Torah Study, led by Rabbi Block, at 9:30 am
 Services, led by Rabbi Block, at 11:00 am

Friday, December 8

Union Prayer Book- Sinai Edition Shabbat Service, led by Muriel Lederman and Brian Storrie, at 6:15 pm

Music: Jeff Neuhauser

Candles & Kiddush: Amanda and Martin Ferguson

Reader: Teddy Ferguson

Oneg Shabbat Sponsor: Sisterhood

Altar Arrangement Sponsor: Sisterhood

Saturday, December 9

Torah Study, led by Ellyn Polsky, at 9:30 am
 Shabbat Service, led by Mickey Loeb, at 11:00 am

Friday, December 15

Mishkan T'filah Service for the Shabbat during Chanukah, led by Rabbi Block, at 6:15 pm

Music: Elizabeth Cohen

Sermon: "Bearing Chanukah Light in a Dark Time"

Candles & Kiddush: Ellen Korenblat and Luke Kramer

Reader: Joshua Jacobi, in celebration of his birthday

Oneg Shabbat Sponsor: Sisterhood

Altar Arrangement Sponsor: Sisterhood

Saturday, December 16

Torah Study, led by Rabbi Block, at 9:30 am
 Shabbat Services, led by Rabbi Block, at 11:00 am

Friday, December 22

Mishkan T'filah Service, led by David Bauman, at 6:15 pm
Music: David Bauman

Candles and Kiddush: Monica and Joseph Davidson, in celebration of their anniversary

Reader: Marilyn Weinstein, in celebration of her birthday

Oneg Shabbat Sponsor: Sisterhood

Altar Arrangement Sponsor: Sisterhood

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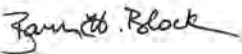
The Rabbi Speaks continued...

of deaths attributable to the wide availability of guns in our society, they quoted Torah: "You shall not stand idly by while your neighbor bleeds" (Leviticus 19:9).

While our young people's pleas do not fall on deaf ears in our Arkansas congressional offices, Senators Boozman and Cotton do not suggest eagerness to end the "gun show loophole," for example. (Rep. Hill's staff seems authorized only to communicate our views and offer a never-yet-fulfilled commitment to send us a letter from him on the subject.) Our senators treat our students to respectful disagreement and fruitful conversation. Last year, Senator Boozman sought common ground by proposing that our nation needs to do more to care for those with mental illness. We agree. Regrettably, we have not seen action in that direction in Washington.

Please keep our Confirmation class, Eileen and me in your thoughts and prayers as we journey to our national's capitol once again, prepared to advocate on the basis of principles enunciated in Torah.

Faithfully,



Rabbi Barry H. Block

¹Words and ideas presented here are mine. However, I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge that these thoughts crystallized after reading Alden Solovy, "The Relevance of Prayer in the Face of Tragedy," Ravblog, November 14, 2017.

Worship at a Glance continued...

Saturday, December 23

Torah Study, led by Angie Boury, at 9:30 am
Shabbat Services, led by Lynn Greenberg, at 11:00 am

Friday, December 29

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

Sermon: "Judaism's Original Funeral Ritual"

Music: Jana Cohen

Candles: Carol Silverstrom, in celebration of her birthday

Kiddush: Perry Young

Reader: Madelon Scallet

Oneg Shabbat Sponsor: Sisterhood

Altar Arrangement Sponsor: Sisterhood

Saturday, December 30

Torah Study, led by Rabbi Block, at 9:30 am
Shabbat Service, led by Rabbi Block, at 11:00 am

Friday, January 5

Union Prayer Book – Sinai Edition Service, led by Rabbi Block, at 6:15 pm

Sermon: "Parenting through Challenges and Triumphs"

Music: Jeff Neuhauser

Reader: Rebekah Scallet, in celebration of her birthday?

Oneg Shabbat Sponsor: Sisterhood

Altar Arrangement Sponsor: Sisterhood

Saturday, January 6

Torah Study, led by Rabbi Block, at 9:30 am
Shabbat Service, led by Rabbi Block, at 11:00 am

Friday, January 12

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

Sermon: "Plagues in Ancient Egypt and in Contemporary America"

Music: David Bauman, Jana Cohen, Richard Estelita, Charles Friedman and Elizabeth Cohen

Candles & Kiddush: Jill, Jon, Alex and Ben Flaxman

Reader: Eileen Hamilton

Oneg Shabbat Sponsor: In honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Alex Flaxman, by his Family

Altar Flower Sponsor: In honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Alex Flaxman, by his Family

Saturday, January 13

Abbreviated Torah Study, led by Rabbi Block, 9:30 - 10:15 am
Shabbat Service for the Bar Mitzvah of Alex Flaxman, son of Jill and Jon Flaxman, at 10:30 am

Friday, January 19

Mishkan T'filah Service, led by the Shechinotes, at 6:15 pm

Candles: Danette Devlin, in celebration of her birthday

Kiddush: Ellen Korenblat

Reader: Jamie Axelroth, in celebration of her birthday

Oneg Shabbat Sponsor: Sisterhood

Altar Arrangement Sponsor: Sisterhood

Saturday, January 20

Torah Study, led by Meg Marion, at 9:30 am
Shabbat Service, led by Emily Adams and Carmen Arick, at 11:00 am

Friday, January 26

Abbreviated Mishkan T'filah Service, led by Rabbi Block, at 6:15 pm, followed by Shabbat Dinner and Adult Learning: Professor Phillip Spivey and Rabbi Block discuss Abraham Joshua Heschel and the Sources of Wonder,

by Michael Marmur.

Music: Steve Bauman

Candles & Kiddush: Patty and Herb Monoson, in celebration of their anniversary

Oneg Shabbat Sponsor: Sisterhood

Altar Arrangement Sponsor: Sisterhood

Saturday, January 27

Torah Study, led by Rabbi Block, at 9:30 am
Shabbat Service, led by Rabbi Block, at 11:00 am

President's Message

Dear Friends,

"Utter futility! - said Koheleth -

Utter futility! All is futile!

What real value is there for a man

In all the gains he makes beneath the sun?" Ecclesiastes 1:2, TANAKH, JPS translation.

Why does Koheleth (Ecclesiastes) have such a dark outlook on life? Is it really dark? And what do these words have to do with my decision to become a Legacy Donor to Congregation B'nai Israel?

I love the book of Koheleth. From the opening verses quoted above, the book goes on to make many observations about what human beings experience during our life on this earth. The words are timeless, and the book contains some of the most beautiful poetry in all of literature. Far from being gloomy or pessimistic, Koheleth is simply making an observation we all know is true: we will not live forever. He goes on to ask a universal question: what - if anything- should we be doing during our brief sojourn among the living? And what - if anything - of us will endure when our time here is completed?

As most of you know, I came to Judaism as an adult. In Judaism I have found a challenge for my intellect, a home for my heart. A friend of mine, also a "Jew by choice", once remarked how grateful she was to have found Judaism because the religion taught her "how to live". Indeed, Judaism is all about how to live with integrity, respect, joy and compassion- come what may. These lessons are all there for us in Jewish history, culture, literature, and most of all, as lived experience in Jewish community.

I take nothing about my Jewish journey for granted. Those who came before me have made my journey possible. It is almost beyond imagining that the chain of Jewish history stretches back thousands of years from Koheleth to me! Could those who founded Congregation B'nai Israel have ever imagined they were building a community for someone like me? Could they know that I would think about them, and thank them for what they have made possible for me? Can you imagine whom you may affect by the legacy gift you leave for the future of Congregation B'nai Israel? "Indeed, man cannot guess the events that occur under the sun." Ecclesiastes 8:17.

Koheleth rightly observes that we will not take our gains with us once we leave this life; but when we leave a legacy for those who come after us, the very best part of us will live on in ways we can never even imagine.

If you would like to become a Legacy Donor, materials explaining the process are available in the Temple office. "A season is set for everything, a time for every experience under heaven." Ecclesiastes 3:1. The time to leave your legacy is now. Please do it today!

Shalom,

Carmen Arick

Share your thoughts and ideas with me at President@bnai-israel.us

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

LILIANE SMART

MANFORD LEVY

LILLIAN KAHN

Mother of Nancy Kahn

Adult Learning at Congregation B'nai Israel presents...

Prof. Phillip Spivey and Rabbi Barry Block discuss

Abraham Joshua Heschel and the Sources of Wonder

By Rabbi Michael Marmur

Shabbat Dinner following abbreviated Shabbat Services

Friday, January 26

Please call the office for reservations, by Wednesday, January 24.
\$15 adults; \$3 surcharge at the door without a reservation.

OUR HOUSE DATES FOR DECEMBER & JANUARY:

Wednesday, 12/27
Wednesday, 1/24

4:00 pm for cooking and serving dinner follows.

Mazel Tov

to **Richard Estelita**, Temple's recipient of the Jane B. Mendel Tikun Olam award, to be presented at Jewish Federation's celebration on December 16.

to **Brian Rosenthal** who is the new President-Elect Designee of the Arkansas Bar Association.

to **Jana Cohen** who was recently made a Paul Harris Fellow of Little Rock's Rotary Club #99

Todah Rabah

Thank you to our November office volunteers: **Milt Baer, Aniko Diamant, Richard Estelita, Emily Adams, and Danette Devlin.**

Congregation B'nai Israel **FUNDRAISER 2018** Saturday, February 3, 2018

דניאל הרצל
Daniel
HAREL

ENTERTAINMENT FOR THE SHARP MIND



You've already told him everything – you just don't know it yet.

Daniel Harel is a virtuoso in the realm of mind reading entertainment, astonishing audiences for over a decade. As a performer with an uncanny sensitivity for the smallest of details, Daniel can come to know everything about you, with only the slightest gaze. What did you have for breakfast? Who is lying and who is telling the truth? Even things you have long forgotten are not beyond Daniel's reach.

This show is an interactive experience that incorporates full audience participation. An unforgettable demonstration of skill that will make your jaw drop with astonishment. A show that will send you on your way with one word in mind – amazing!

Doors open at 6:30 pm with hors d'oeuvres and drinks in the Social Hall

Show starts at 8:00 pm (lasting ~ 1 hour) in the Tenenbaum Center

Tickets (per person):

- **Sponsor \$180**
Dinner with Daniel, Shabbat/Friday, February 2
Chance to be in the show, front row seating
- **Supporter \$72**
Chance to be in the show, second row seating
- **General \$36**
General seating behind first and second rows

***** This show is suitable for ages 16 and older. *****

Please contact the Office for reservations, 501-225-9700.

YAHRZEITS: DECEMBER 2017 & JANUARY 2018

DECEMBER 1

Henry Berger
Joseph Cohen
Sarah R. Cohen
Flora S. Franklin
Gus L. Kahn
Adolph Meyers
Martin David Rosen
Mary Snyderman

DECEMBER 8

Jeff Bell
Sherrill Bernstein
Raymond V. Biondo, M.D.
Alice Blass
Phyllis Block Brotman
Louis Cohen
Bernard Cohen
Alice Blass Cohen
Harry L. Ehrenberg
Don Gordon
Eleanor Gross
Maurine Frauenthal Grundfest
Sarah Leah Harberg
Irving Harris
Ike Kempner
Bertha Knoff
Harry Koppel
Susan Porter Levy
Harvey David Luber
Rose Bloom Malvin
Morris Marcus
Florence Morris
Charles S. Narkinsky
S. William Ross
Lillian Rothkopf
Nanette Altschul Samuel
Florence Schuman
Celia Simon
Jacob Eli Smulian
Herbert L. Storthz
Julius Tenenbaum
Sandra Wasman
Sidney Jacob White
Estelle White
Richard Yoder
Mike Yout

DECEMBER 15

Leslie R. Nunes Carvalho
Linda "JJ" Factor
Jennie Ottenheimer Falk
Stanley Falk
Herbert J. Garon
Barbara "Bobbi" R. Goldman
Sylvia Shore Herstein
Justin Komiss
Louis Krain
Julia Goldman Levy
Salene Marks Lyons
Esfir Lyublinskaya
Elsie K. Pfeifer
Steve Roetzel
Marguerite Selz
M. J. Siesel
Joseph Stern
Sam Strauss, Sr.
Seymour S. Summerfield
Naomi D. Tanenbaum
Sol Thalheimer, Sr.
Herbert Wolf, Sr.
Rose Skalmer Young

DECEMBER 22

Mark Adler
Louis Henry Altman
Sophie Goldstein Back
Leo P. Bott, Sr.
Fannie Kauffman Cline
Leaine Cohen
Robert Avington Cortese
Irma "Chickie" Dollinger
Oscar Fendler
Niman Freddie Friedman
Henry Joseph Friedman
Sheldon Goldsholl
Sam T. Heuer
Arnold Joseph Leff
Irene Manning Mathis
David Louis Menkus, Jr.
Charlotte Netter Ottenheimer
Joseph Pfeifer
Lena A. Pinkus
Martin Reinsch
Robert D. Remet
Charlotta Ringelhaupt
Gloria Sack

Herbert Siegel
Francis B. Stern
Alvin W. Strauss, Jr.
Alvin Weil Strauss, Sr.

DECEMBER 29

Marcus Adler
Henry Altman
Elsie Axler
Elias Cohen
Sallie L. Epstein
Hannah Myar Franklin
Gertrude Gans
Eloise Hackler
Jesse Heiman
Laurence M. Jacobs
Alan Kagan
Enid R. Kempner
Abe J. Kempner
Harry S. Lasker, Jr.
John B. Levinson
Phil Levy
Morris Levy
Morris Navra
Bertha Oberferst
Walter H. Parker
Hyman Reifer
Bob Rosen
Irvin M. Shlenker
Donald Vogt
Hannah Wagner
Amelia Levy Weiss
Annette Norma Yahn

JANUARY 5

Louis Blass
Ray Solmson Bluthenthal
Esther Borrok
Martin Borrok
Wilma C. Diner
Jennie Book Diner
Sarah Harris Donner
Lucille K. Ehrenberg
Eva Morris Elias
Clarence Randel Epstein
Norman N. Fein
Irma Frankel
Lillian Brenner Gealt
Yale I. Glubok

Maurice Joseph Jacobson
Solomon Kaufman
Sol H. Levy
Herbert Lux
Henrietta Pfeifer
Sam J. Storthz, Jr.
Bernard Tanenbaum

JANUARY 12

Eva Abrams
David Alexander
Blanche Alman
Sol Alman
Sophie Ceitlin
Mabel Cohen
Mary Julia Heczal
Doris M. Hoffman
Charles W. Kaiser
Sorin Lazar
J. Aaron Levy
Edward Meyers
Arthur P. Pfeifer
Morris Phillips
Maurice Roby
Annette J. Sanders
Harry Schneider
Sylvia Schwartz
Sam Schwartz
Mamie Dreeben Spear
Birdie Razeper Tenenbaum
Mollie Liffland Utter
Sol Waldman
June M. Wolf

JANUARY 19

Gus Blass
Alice Young Camp
Barnett H. Cohen
Ernest E. Ellman
Mary E. Gans
Sarah Gold
Ruth Goldsholl
Marx Goldstein
Martin Greenberg
Joe Bill Hackler
Harvey Laner
Marion Lee Levy
Jane B. Mendel
Leonard J. Ottenheimer

Ralph Reutlinger
Morris H. Rosen
Dan Schwartz
Sydell Siegel
Gertrude M. Solmson
Adrienne R. Steppach
Moses O. Stern
Jess B. Thalheimer
Haskel Wolff

JANUARY 26

John F. Bolts
Arthur Bott
Rebecca Navra Cohen
Pauline R. Crum
Steven Dranoff
Carolyn Schott Ducker
Molly Fleisig
Flora Oppenheimer Fox
Louis Goldman
Ellen Rae Kaufman
Jacob Kempner
Fannie Safferstone Klein
Lionel H. Kohler
Ruth Goldman Kretchmar
Ida Laner
Lewis Laner
Samuel Herbert Levin
Beatrice Marks
Kate L. Mayersohn
Dave Meyer
Elias Navra
Mary Nelson
Jennie R. Storthz
Eva Wolff

DECEMBER 2017

Kislev 5778/Tevet 5778

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
3 Kislev 15 9:00 am - 12:00 pm Religious School 9:15 am - 12:15 pm Global Day of Learning 3:00 pm Al Barron Book Club	4 Kislev 16	5 Kislev 17	6 Kislev 18 URJ Biennial Convention in Boston	7 Kislev 19 URJ Biennial Convention in Boston	8 Kislev 20 URJ Biennial Convention in Boston 4:30 pm UCA World Religions Class Visit 5:45 pm - 6:15 pm Oneg Shabbat 6:15 pm UPB Sinai Edition Service	9 Kislev 21 URJ Biennial Convention in Boston 9:30 am Shabbat Torah Study 11:00 am Shabbat Morning Service
10 Kislev 22 URJ Biennial Convention in Boston 8:30 am - 9:30 am - Adult Hebrew 9:00 am - 12:00 pm • Religious School 10:00 am - 11:30 am • Gan B'nei Israel 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm • Middle and Little LaFTY lunch event 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm • LaFTY at 2nd Pres.	11 Kislev 23	12 Kislev 24 Hanukkah Begins 10:00 am - 11:30 am Grief Support Group - Teen Lounge	13 Kislev 25 Hanukkah 11:30 am Seniors Chanukah Luncheon 6:00 pm Congregational Chanukah Dinner and Party	14 Kislev 26 Hanukkah Ati'Day Chanukah Program 11:30 am - 12:45 pm Torah Lunch & Learn 5:30 pm Executive Committee meeting 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm Judaism 101	15 Kislev 27 Hanukkah 5:45 pm - 6:15 pm Oneg Shabbat 6:15 pm Mishkan T'filah Service for Hanukkah 7:15 pm LaFTY Chanukah dinner after services	16 Kislev 28 Hanukkah 9:30 am Shabbat Torah Study 11:00 am Shabbat Morning Service 6:00 pm J'EAR Tikum Olam Awards at Marriott
17 Kislev 29 Hanukkah No Religious School - Winter Break 7:00 pm LGBTQ+A Chavurah Chanukah Party	18 Kislev 30 Hanukkah	19 Tevet 1 Hanukkah Ends 7:00 pm Board of Trustees Meeting	20 Tevet 2	21 Tevet 3	22 Tevet 4 5:45 pm - 6:15 pm Oneg Shabbat 6:15 pm Mishkan T'filah Shabbat Service	23 Tevet 5 9:30 am Shabbat Torah Study 11:00 am Shabbat Morning Service
24 Tevet 6 No Religious School - Winter Break	25 Tevet 7 Temple Office Closed	26 Tevet 8	27 Tevet 9 4:00 pm Our House	28 Tevet 10	29 Tevet 11 5:45 pm - 6:15 pm Oneg Shabbat 6:15 pm Mishkan T'filah Shabbat Service	30 Tevet 12 9:30 am Shabbat Torah Study 11:00 am Shabbat Morning Service
31 Tevet 12 New Year's Eve No Religious School - Winter Break						



JANUARY 2018

Tevet 5778/Shevat 5778

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Tevet 14 New Year's Day Temple Office Closed	2 Tevet 15	3 Tevet 16	4 Tevet 17 11:30 am - 12:45 pm Torah Lunch & Learn 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm Judaism 101	5 Tevet 18 5:45 pm - 6:15 pm Oneg Shabbat 5:45 pm Shabbat Kids Club 6:15 pm UPB-Sinai Edition Service	6 Tevet 19 9:30 am Shabbat Torah Study 11:00 am Shabbat Morning Service
7 Tevet 20 8:30 am - 9:30 am Adult Hebrew 9:00 am - 12:00 pm Religious School 10:00 am - 11:30 am Gan B'nai Israel	8 Tevet 21 Temple Office Closed	9 Tevet 22 10:00 am - 11:30 am Grief Support Group - Teen Lounge 11:30 am - 12:30 pm Coffee, Cake, and Conversation	10 Tevet 23 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm Confirmation Class	11 Tevet 24 11:30 am - 12:45 pm Torah Lunch & Learn 5:30 pm Executive Committee Meeting 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm Judaism 101	12 Tevet 25 5:45 pm - 6:15 pm Oneg Shabbat 6:15 pm Mishkan T'filah Shabbat Service and Bar Mitzvah of Alex Flaxman	13 Tevet 26 9:30 am - 10:15 am Abbreviated Shabbat Torah Study 10:30 am Shabbat Morning Service & Bar Mitzvah of Alex Flaxman
14 Tevet 27 No Religious School MLK Weekend	15 Tevet 28 CHRONICLE SUBMISSIONS DUE Temple Office Closed	16 Tevet 29 7:00 pm Board of Trustees Meeting	17 Shevat 1	18 Shevat 2 Confirmation Class at L'Taken Seminar in Washington, D.C. 11:30 am - 12:45 pm Torah Lunch & Learn	19 Shevat 3 Confirmation Class at L'Taken Seminar in Washington, D.C. 5:45 pm - 6:15 pm Oneg Shabbat 6:15 pm Mishkan T'filah Shabbat Service led by the Shechinotes	20 Shevat 4 Confirmation Class at L'Taken Seminar in Washington, D.C. 9:30 am Shabbat Torah Study 11:00 am Shabbat Morning Service 6:00 pm Schmoozerama
21 Shevat 5 Confirmation Class at L'Taken Seminar in Washington, D.C. 8:30 am - 9:30 am Adult Hebrew 9:00 am - 12:00 pm Religious School 12:30 pm Sisterhood Meeting	22 Shevat 6 Confirmation Class at L'Taken Seminar in Washington, D.C.	23 Shevat 7	24 Shevat 8 4:00 pm Our House	25 Shevat 9 11:30 am - 12:45 pm Torah Lunch & Learn 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm Judaism 101	26 Shevat 10 LaFTY at Jacobs Camp - Winter Kallah 4:30 pm • 2nd Presbyterian Church Confirmation Class 5:45 pm - 6:15 pm • Oneg Shabbat 6:15 pm • Abbreviated Mishkan T'filah Shabbat Service followed by dinner and adult learning. Professor Phillip Spivey and Rabbi Block discuss "Abraham Joshua Heschel and the Sources of Wonder" by Michael Marmor.	27 Shevat 11 LaFTY at Jacobs Camp - Winter Kallah 9:30 am Shabbat Torah Study 11:00 am Shabbat Morning Service
28 Shevat 12 LaFTY at Jacobs Camp - Winter Kallah 8:30 am - 9:30 am Adult Hebrew 8:30 am - 11:00 am Adult Learning: Tu B'shevat Sedar 9:00 am - 12:00 pm Religious School	29 Shevat 13	30 Shevat 14	31 Shevat 15 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm Confirmation Class			

**CHRONICLE DEADLINE
JANUARY 15
FOR FEBRUARY ISSUE**



BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARY CALENDAR

JANUARY

JANUARY 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Mickey Loeb A'11 Steve Rousseau A'78	2 Jill Flaxman	3 James Moses A'81 Brian Rosenthal A'87 Mary Lou Cohn	4 Phil Kaplan	5 Thomas McGarry Robert Oliva Rebekah Scallet Pat Solomon Robert Block Jacob Greenberg	6 Rebecca Schneider Saydee Stevens
7 Stephen Jacobs A'11 Shelly Ballew Stacy Grundfest Sandie Lubin	8 Eli Goldman	9 Brooke Greenberg Mark Mackey	10 David Shindler A'82 Roxy Sonnier	11 Karen Pear Ismaeel Noah Garcia	12 Doug Meyer A'90 Scott Schlesinger A'08 Silvana Berlinski	13 Avery Webb
14 Sheila Bronfman Phil Elson Susan R. Kantrow Ron Lanoue	15	16 Jamie Axelroth	17 Klimberg/Storthz A'93	18 Barry Solomon A'64 Benjamin Flaxman Jeffrey Marks	19 Danette Devlin	20 Tina Bernstein Ben Gilson
21 Fran Eiseman Paul Greenberg Max Mobly	22	23 Don Pfeifer Kele Stevens Maci Schlesinger	24 Herb Monoson A'65 Milton Baer Doris Krain Brent Reiss Barbara Vogt	25 Mira Krain Sade Storthz	26 Marc Williams Sophia Stevens	27 David Behnke A'68 Shoshana Berleant David Ronnel
28	29 Marks/Epstein A'83 Regina Young	30 Stanley Goldberg Sam Hoffman Peyton Hooks	31 John Stober A'49 Allie Pear Missy Pear			

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

BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARY CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Briana Arrants Samuel Levin	2 Joel Spears A'17 Ruth Frenkel Adam Hoffman Renee Miller	3 Perry Norwood Linda Pfeifer Dale Ronnel
4 Bonnie Nickol Sydney Gastman	5 Charles Alman Bruce Greenberg Sam Nickol	6 Taxer/Lewis A'98 John Selig A'82 Julie Kaplan Stacey Ronnel Janice Thurow	7 Eddie Kaplan Ellen Korenblat Becky Marks Terry Orgel David Sanderson Nicholas Towbin-Jones	8 Greyson Reiss	9 Martha Alman Irving Spitzberg	10 Tricia Gold Clara Spivey
11 Aniko Diamant Mimi Loeb Leia Ortiz	12 Nancy Alexander David Townley	13	14 Harry Ehrenberg A'14	15 Shirley Friedman Chris Hackler	16 David Rosen A'77 Perry Cohen	17 Robert Spector Charles Cohen
18 Rylee Krupitsky	19 Lou Tobian A'95 Jude Schlesinger	20 Debbie Brady Eileen Hamilton	21 Margaret Glubok Eilyn Polisky Mike Ronnel Yehudah Simcha Garcia	22 Capi Peck Kyle Parham	23 Jill Bauman Keith Nigro Faith Erin Wolfe	24 Allan Mendel A'79
25 Dick Orgel	26 Bill Siegel Andrew Casciano	27 Isabella Ifrah Thalia Stuber	28 Howard Bresnik David Shell (Feb. 29)			

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

THE RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Anonymous

IN HONOR OF:

Gus Block's 80th Birthday
Janis and Stephen Block

IN APPRECIATION OF:

Rabbi Block
Rose and Ed Back

IN MEMORY OF:

Manford Levy
Family of Manford Levy

Liliane Smart
Family of Liliane Smart

Jim Altman
Gus Block

Fannie Rauch
Gus Block

Howard Atkins
Debbie Brady

Eleanor Gross
Mark, Ken and Gerri Gross

Manford Levy
Brenda and Jerome Levy
Corky Schroeder

Joseph Spiegelman
Patricia and Barry Solomon

THE GENERAL FUND

Terry and Dick Orgel

THANKSGIVING BASKET FUND

Anonymous
Carmen Arick and Emily Adams
Rose and Ed Back
Karla and Larry Back
Milt Baer and Carole Hamon
Kathy and David Bauman
Jill and Steve Bauman
Rabbi Barry Block
Glenn Block and Marla Shivers
Karin Zucker and Martin Boyle
Audrey and Donald Evans
Helen Kaiser
Sue and Keith Maddison
Becky and Jay Marks
Arleen and Brian Marshall
Dale and Lee Ronnel
Madelon Scallet

THE ENDOWMENT FUND

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Congregation B'nai Israel and Jewish Federation of Arkansas Invite You:

Coffee, Cake and Conversation

Tuesday, January 9, 11:30 am

Library of Congregation B'nai Israel

Presentation by

**Kathleen Pursell, Program Director of Arkansas Senior
Medicare Patrol**

"Medicare - Fraud, Scams and Latest News!"

Kathleen Pursell has been Program Director of the Arkansas SMP for the past 6 years and is currently in her 11th year with the program. SMP programs are education programs, developed to inform senior citizens of the fraud and scams targeting their personal, financial and healthcare information. This presentation will empower seniors, as well as their family members and caregivers, to be protective of their Medicare and personal information as well as teach them how to recognize and report suspicious billing.

Coffee, Cake and Conversation is sponsored by Congregation B'nai Israel and Jewish Federation of Arkansas. All are welcome.



Schmoozerama

Potluck and a Movie

Saturday, January 20, 6pm

"Everything is Illuminated"

Synopsis: Based on the critically-acclaimed novel by Jonathan Safran Foer, "Everything is Illuminated" tells the story of a young man's quest to find the woman who saved his grandfather in a small Ukrainian town that was wiped off the map by the Nazi invasion. What starts out as a journey to piece together one family's story under absurd circumstances turns into a meaningful journey with a powerful series of revelations -- the importance of remembrance, the perilous nature of secrets, the legacy of the Holocaust, and the meaning of friendship.

FROM THE EDUCATOR

Eileen Hamilton

Each morning when religious school begins we have a brachah (moment of blessing) moment together. This is a time that we share a story and lesson about when to say various blessings. Then we say the blessing together. There is a tradition in Judaism to say 100 brachot (blessings) a day. For some this is a very doable thing to achieve each day, while for many of us, it seems out of the question to stop and say a blessing 100 times. But do we actually have to stop what we're doing to be thankful for what we have? It takes me back to the days of David Letterman's Top Ten Lists of the past. Seriously folks, why not list the Top Ten of the Day before going to sleep? Would it be that hard?

When I asked each student in religious school to say one thing they were really thankful for, you could probably name the obvious: life, family, friends, health, food. A few went deeper into personal items such as nerf guns and iPads...great answers too. At the moment of being asked on the spot, no one went deeper into what we just might take for granted each and every day.

Later in the morning, we played a short round of "would you rather" with our 6/7/8 graders. It made me think again...what would be better or worse? Would you rather not be able to read or speak for rest of your life? Questions like this are playful in nature of course, but what about the truth of the matter? What if?

So, next time we want to thank God for what we have...go ahead and name the obvious, it's OK. Then challenge yourself to a Top

Ten List for each day. Rivkah Lambert from Jewish Values Online gives these awesome suggestions to get started. Some of them are so obvious, while other answers are so personal. These are some that resonated with me as being "great" answers. I now feel that I could easily think of at least 100 more.

Baruch atah Adonai...Thank you God for...the ability to see color; for clean water to drink; the ability to read; ten fingers that all work; not having to save potato and carrot peels to eat; Shabbat and inviting friends for Shabbat; hot pizza that can be delivered to my house; the breeze; rain; avocados; getting home safely; being able to breathe on my own; my amazing brother; love stories; tissues; the ability to love; being able to laugh out loud...and now with this inspiration, don't you think you could add at least 100 more? I know you can. Try this at home: the top ten of the dinner table? The top ten before going to sleep? The top ten of the week? A brachah moment can happen at any time.

Religious School is not in session the following Sundays for winter break: December 17, 24, 31. Religious School resumes on Sunday, January 7, 2018.

Wishes for a healthy and happy New Year.



Religious School Hanukkah Day - Sunday, December 10

Join the school for a special Olive Press program presented by Rabbi Benzion Pape, followed by a very special Hanukkah treat - yep, it's as surprise.

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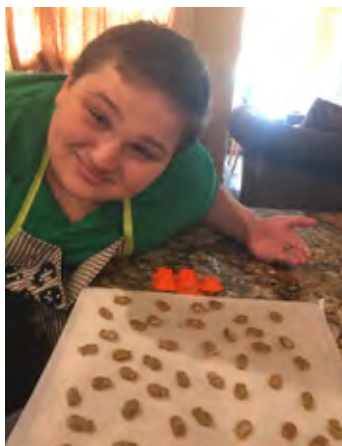
YOU CAN MAKE DONATIONS AND CHECK OUT THE CALENDAR FOR DETAILED DESCRIPTIONS OF EVENTS.

Please join us as our son

Alexander Flaxman

is called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah
Saturday, January 13, 2018 • 10:30 am

Jill and Jon Flaxman



Alex made cat treats, but the cats didn't like them. New recipe needed.

Alex's mitzvah project is for the Pulaski County Humane Society. Alex adores kittens and cats and loves spending time with them. He volunteered his time at the Humane Society and made homemade cat treats to sell. The proceeds went to The Pulaski County Humane Society.



GAN B'NAI ISRAEL MORNING OUT AT RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

For those ages 3, 4, 5 in PK from
10:00 – 11:30 am.

Join Ms. Amanda, Bubbe Ellyn, and Miss Joy for
songs, snack, crafts, and all things Jewish.

December 10 - Hanukkah Fun
January 7 - tons of Jewish learning

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

NFTY-SO's Fall Conclave in Shreveport was a success! 8 LaFTYites attended, with one of the largest youth group representations overall. The NFTYites all volunteered at an assisted living center, prepared gifts for veterans, participated in services, and had a lot of fun! We hope to see a similar turnout for Winter Kallah at Jacob's Camp on December 5th!



LaFTY is also collecting birthday bags to donate for birthday parties to children in need. Please bring birthday bags, plates, cups, napkins, tablecloths, silverware, and any other birthday supplies you may have around. Thank you!



PARTY WITH LAFTY Hanukkah Dinner and Party!

For Middle and Big LaFTY – grades 6 – 12!

LaFTY is throwing a big HANUKKAH PARTY on

Friday, December 15.

All teens are invited to services and then to stay for
dinner and Hanukkah activities. Come ready for some

Hanukkah fried food (latkes included) and some

Hanukkah fun with friends.

RSVP to Spencer Nodelman and Isabella Ifrah



SHABBAT KIDS CLUB

Friday, January 5: 5:45 pm for Oneg Shabbat, 6:15 for services and blessings, and dinner and program follows.

Show off your dance moves at our Shabbat Kids Club Israeli dancing party.



Members of the Temple board and staff will be joining thousands of others in Boston for the Union for Reform Judaism's Biennial in Boston, MA in the beginning of December. Look forward to the newest ideas in Temple management, leadership, prayer, ideas, and spiritual thought from our leaders in the Reform Movement that can be brought home to Little Rock.



PRE-CONFIRMATION AND CONFIRMATION CLASS GOES TO WASHINGTON, D.C. FOR L'TAKEN: JANUARY 18 - 22!

Wish our teens well as they speak on Reform Jewish social justice issues at the Religious Action Center's Social Justice weekend which ends with visiting our AR Senators' offices to lobby.



VOGEL CARING AND SHARING HANUKKAH LUNCHEON FOR SENIORS

Wednesday, December 13

11:30 am

in the Tenenbaum Center.

RSVP by Monday, December 11.



Congregational Chanukah Party and Dinner

Wednesday, December 13
6:00 pm

Fun for all ages! Bring your Menorah and 3 candles
There will be dinner, including latkes and sufganiot, and games

Adults: \$15, Kids: \$7, Kids under two: Free

Please, please call the office for reservations by
Monday, December 11



LEAVE A LEGACY CONGREGATION B'NAI ISRAEL

Ruthe & Phil's Legacy

From the time Ruthe and I moved to Little Rock we have been actively involved in Jewish Life here and have been Temple members from those first days in 1968. We are committed to making certain that the Temple will continue to be a vibrant place, not only for worship, but where the Jewish Community can feel welcome and safe:

- A place where there will be education as well as Bar and Bat Mitzvah celebrations;
- A place where there will be spiritual leadership who can provide comfort in times of crises;
- A place which provides continuity to our Jewish Community's past and a guarantee that there will be a future.

For these and other reasons, we believe that legacy gifts are essential.



Caregiver Support Group

2nd Monday of the month noon – 1:30 pm
Krain Residence
December 11, January 8

Grief and Loss Support Group

2nd Tuesday of the month 10:00 -11:30 am
Temple Teen Lounge
December 12, January 9

Torah Lunch and Learn

11:30-12:45
December 14, January 4, January 11, January 18, January 25

MENS CLUB MESSAGE

The Men's Club participated in numerous activities in recent months, including:

- Ushers/Greeters for High Holidays and other events
- Sponsoring the "Awesome" and "Yummy" Yom Kippur Break the Fast
- Constructing and decorating the Temple "Super Sukkah"

A HUGE "Todah Rabah" to everyone who helped with all these events. Special thanks go to RITA FAGAN and her TEAM for putting together the Break-the fast this year.

The Temple Sukkah was used in numerous activities during Sukkot.

Many thanks to those who helped in constructing it:

Phil Axelroth, Bernie Bevill, Scott Jordan, Matthew Lopas, Glenn Block

Thanks to all of you who have contributed your time and money to Men's Club, Sisterhood and all the other Temple activities and programs that bring us all together.

It just gets better and better each year and we couldn't have done it without all of you.

If we have left anyone off, please forgive us.

Glenn Block

Men's Club President

Please contact Glenn Block @ 501-951-1074 (phone or text) or richland@aristotle.net if you are interested in participating in future events.

Tu B'Shevat Seder:

The ENTIRE earth is full of God's glory

Sunday, January 28 - 9:30am - 11am - Temple Library

Join facilitator Martha Alman in celebrating the New Year of the Trees and the ways in which our connection to the environment helps to enhance our souls as well. This fascinating, socially relevant seder will examine Danny Maseng's beautiful song "Elohai Nitzor", as well as other material, in guiding participants to nurture their appreciation for the bounty to which we have generous access.

Please RSVP to the office to let us know that you'll be attending.

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Sisterhood Minutes



October 15, 2017

Marilyn Sorrells called the meeting to order.

In attendance were Doris Krain, Debby Bentley, Bobbye Levy, Esther Gordon, Jill Bauman, Elyn Polsky and Carol Silverstrom.

The agenda was "Where do we go with the organization of Sisterhood?"

Discussion was lively with the thought of Sisterhood becoming an Endowment fund since participation was down and no new blood has shown interest. The talk was things are done differently in today's world. Women are no longer confined to kitchen duty. They no longer need the Temple to provide a social outlet. Our Temple has wonderful programming and religious services committees. The few Sisterhood participants can better serve the Temple by combining their efforts with other committees so duplication of duties can be avoided. We feel that by women coming together and uniting instead of separating ourselves from, we can be more effective.

Thoughts were that if approved, the endowment would fund a percentage of principal annually for

- PJ Library for the Temple's members' children
- Funding to assist the kitchen with its needs
- Religious and Youth grants

Any profits from the Judaica Shop would go into this Endowment annually. The Judaica Shop is currently run by committee volunteers. We have encouraged member artists to join us in displaying and selling their art!

Donations can be made to this Endowment by any individual, family or specified fundraiser.

Sisterhood would no longer sponsor onegs, flowers, miscellaneous grants or programming.

Our next meeting will be in January 21, 2018 to hold the final discussion and vote.

Please let me know if you are interested in this major decision.

More than ever, we need your attendance to make the right decision for Sisterhood at our Temple.

Marilyn Sorrells

Please shop and support our Judaica Shop!





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ADDED INSTRUCTIONS: _____



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"Thou art the living God, Thy words bring life
and light to the soul."