

Temple Chronicle CONGREGATION B'NAI

THE RABBI SPEAKS



RABBI BARRY BLOCK

Dear Friends:

Women hold significant leadership positions at Congregation B'nai Israel, and have for many years.

In 1867, Our Women's Auxiliary, presented a yad, which continues to be used on the large Torah Scroll in the center of our Sanctuary Ark. The letter presenting the yad to the Board references "your" (i.e.,

the men's congregation), suggesting that the women didn't fully consider the congregation to be "theirs."

- Wilma Diner, z"l, was the first woman to serve as our congregation's President, a role in which she has been followed by Dale Ronnel, Carol Mendel, Rita Fagan, Kennon Goldsholl, Leah Elenzweig, Carmen Arick - and soon, Carol Parham. Many other women serve or have served as Officers or Trustees, committee chairs, and in other valuable leadership
- Women frequently lead our worship services in roles that range from leading an entire service or offering a D'var Torah in my absence to offering consistent musical leadership during our sacred services.
- Women are leading Temple volunteers, from the kitchen to the classroom and in each of our community outreach projects.
- Sisterhood, our Women of Reform Judaism, continues to enliven our congregation in its innovative programming, beautiful Judaica Shop, and more ways than we can count.

So what's missing? Congregation B'nai Israel has never been home to a woman rabbi. To be fair, Congregation B'nai Israel has only conducted three rabbinic searches - one of them, for an interim rabbi - in the 45 years since the first woman's ordination.

Still, Congregation B'nai Israel has been impacted by women in the rabbinate. Rabbi Levy was ordained with Rabbi Sally Priesand, the first woman rabbi in America. Rabbi Lipper and I attended rabbinical school at a time when roughly half of our classmates were women. All three of us have been influenced by female colleagues throughout our careers. Perhaps most importantly, our young people who attend Henry S. Jacobs Camp have learned with women rabbis there, today including a product of our own congregation, Rabbi Katie Bauman of Temple Israel in Memphis.

Nevertheless, we all still have much to learn about the changes that women rabbis have brought to Reform Judaism and the challenges that yet lie ahead.

...continued on next page

Temple B'nai Israel Newsletter, Volume 18, Issue 2, March 2018, published monthly by Temple B'nai Israel 3700 N. Rodney Parham Rd., Little Rock, AR 72212

Worship at a Glance

Friday, March 2

Mishkan T'filah Service, led by Rabbi Block, at 6:15 pm, with Scholar-in-Residence Rabbi Sue Levi Elwell delivering the keynote for our series on The Sacred Calling: Four Decades of Women in the Rabbinate Music: David Bauman, Steve Bauman and Charlie Friedman Candles & Kiddush: Emily Adams and Carmen Arick Oneg Shabbat Sponsor: Sisterhood Bimah Flowers Sponsor: In memory of Barbara Laner, by Bev Wittenberg

Saturday, March 3

Torah Study, led by Rabbi Block, 9:30 am Shabbat Service, led by Rabbi Block, at 11:00 am, followed by Shabbat Lunch-and-Learn with Scholar-in-Residence Rabbi Sue Levi Elwell

Friday, March 9

Mishkan T'filah Service, led by Rabbi Block, at 6:15 pm, Featuring talks by Confirmation Class Members Daniel Block, Jordan Collins, Teddy Ferguson, Eli Goldman, Henry Kramer, Hallie McGarry, and Hallie Pingel on Social Justice Issues as presented to U.S. Representative French Hill and in the offices of Senators John Boozman and Tom Cotton, on January 22, in Washington, D.C., and followed by Congregational Shabbat Spaghetti Dinner to Benefit the Confirmation Class' Trip to D.C.

Music: David Bauman Candles: Isabella Ifrah Kiddush: Martin Ferguson Reader: Nan Selz

Oneg Shabbat Sponsor: Sisterhood Bimah Flowers Sponsor: In memory of Barbara Stern, by Stacey and Mike Ronnel

Saturday, March 10

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

Friday, March 16

UPB-Sinai Edition Service, led by Rabbi Block, at 6:15 pm **Sermon:** Pre-Passover Purification

Music: Jana Cohen

Candles & Kiddush: Elizabeth & Alex Daniel, in celebration of their anniversary

Reader: Tim Kessler

Oneg Shabbat Sponsor: Sisterhood Bimah Arrangement Sponsor: Sisterhood The Rabbi Speaks continued...

Please join us in March and April, as we will learn from Rabbi Sue Levi Elwell, Rabbi Jeffrey Kurtz-Lendner, Rabbi Katie Bauman, and one another in conversation about women in the rabbinate. Our learning will be based on *The Sacred Calling: Four Decades of Women in the Rabbinate*, a 2016 publication of CCAR Press and winner of a National Jewish Book Award. Rabbis Elwell and Kurtz-Lendner are *Sacred Calling* contributors.

I am particularly grateful to Jim Pfeifer, who is preparing an exhibit from our Temple Archives to accompany this program. That exhibit is slated for display in our lobby through the duration of the series.

Today, women rabbis lead some of North America's preeminent Reform congregations. Nevertheless, challenges persist. Let me cite just a few examples:

- Women rabbis, like their peers in other professions, continue to face a wage gap, compared to males of similar seniority, congregation size, and experience.
- Women rabbis report sexual harassment at the hands of both congregants and colleagues.
- Equitable family leave, including but not limited to maternity leave, is not a reality for many of my female colleagues.
- The voices of women rabbis aren't always taken as seriously or heard as loudly as those of their male colleagues.

To that end, the Central Conference of American Rabbis has recently appointed a Task Force on the Experience of Women in the Rabbinate. Separately, the Women of Reform Judaism and the Women's Rabbinic Network are addressing the issues of pay equity and family leave.

By learning from and about women rabbis – those we know and those we will meet through their written word – we at Congregation B'nai Israel may be a part of a more equitable future for the next generation of women in the rabbinate.

Faithfully,

Farnito . Polock

Rabbi Barry H. Block



EDNA FRANCES PARKER LANOUE

Mother of Ron Lanoue

MIMI LOEB

Mother of Jane (and Scott) Levine Mother of Mickey Loeb (and Michele Lemaire) Sister of Marilyn (and Gene) Weinstein Worship at a Glance continued...

Saturday, March 17

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

Friday, March 23

Mishkan T'filah Service led by Muriel Lederman, with D'var Torah by Richard Estelita, at 6:15 pm

Music: Steve Bauman Reader: Perry Young Oneg Shabbat Sponsor: Sisterhood Altar Arrangement Sponsor: Sisterhood

Saturday, March 24

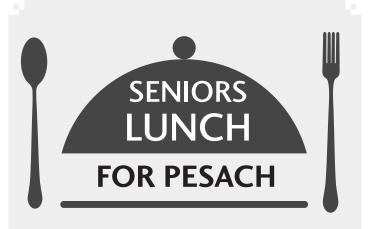
Torah Study, led by Bernie Bevill, at 9:30 am Shabbat Services, led by Meg Marion and Ellyn Polsky, at 11:00 am

Friday, March 30

Home Seder - No Service at Temple

Saturday, March 31

Torah Study, led by Rabbi Block, at 9:30 am Service for Shabbat and the Holy First Day of Passover, led by Rabbi Block, at 11:00 am



For those ages 65+

April 4th - 11:30 am

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

RSVP to temple office:

templesecretary@bnai-israel.us by April 1

President's Message

Dear Friends,

You will soon be receiving your Gifts of the Heart pledge letter for fiscal year 2018-19. Your letter will show your 2017-2018 pledge amount and the projected "cost" per member unit to operate your Temple for 2018-19. You will be asked to indicate on the letter your pledge for the upcoming year.

It is very important that you return your pledge letter promptly. The Temple Budget Committee needs an accurate pledge projection in order to make a realistic budget for the year. Last year we had a response rate of 65% - an amazing rate for the inaugural year. We need to do even better this year!

Here are answers to some common questions about our pledge program:

How is the new Gifts of the Heart annual pledge system different from our former "fair share" dues?

Gifts of the Heart asks that each congregant examine his/her financial circumstances and conscience and pledge support to the congregation as able. The amount pledged may be more or less than the previously requested "fair share" of 2% of gross income. Temple leadership wants to convey gratitude for ALL gifts while encouraging a spirit of generosity and philanthropy.

I increased my pledge last year. Why do I need to pledge again this year?

Gifts of the Heart is an annual pledge program. Because personal financial circumstances change, congregants need an opportunity to adjust their pledge amount from year to year. We hope this opportunity to adjust will avoid the accumulation of arrears and the awkwardness of needing to request relief, while also reminding congregants of what it actually costs per member to operate the congregation and encouraging members to contribute what they can toward the support of our congregation.

What if I don't send back my pledge letter?

We will call you and ask you what you would like to pledge for the coming year!

Our congregation has been incredibly generous in support of our Temple. Thanks to each of you, we are continuing to go from strength to strength.

Shalom,

Carmen Arick

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



Temple B'nai Israel Men's Seder 2018

Thursday, April 5 at 6:00 pm Copelands Restaurant • 2602 S. Shackleford Rd.

Mark your calendar now, and join us for this thought-provoking event, facilitated by Rabbi Block, with personal stories told by other Temple members.

Deadline to RSVP is Friday, March 30th.

The cost is \$36 per person, payable to Temple B'nai Israel.

Please indicate your choice of entrée: Beef, Chicken, Fish or Vegetarian. Advance payment is requested.

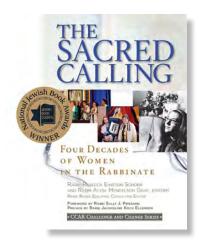


Patty & Herb Monoson's Legacy

Herb and I have two children and four grandchildren who celebrate the Jewish holidays and values but have not had any other immersion into Jewish life or history. Our son-in-law was raised in another religion and, although respectful of celebrations in my daughter's and his home, does not identify with our beliefs. Our son has no children and isn't likely to have any. It is not likely that my grandchildren will carry on the Jewish tradition in their homes once they become independent adults. For that reason, we felt it important to

support our heritage so that Judaism survives through other generations. Both of us feel strongly that Jewish values and thought should continue and prosper.





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

The Sacred Calling: Four Decades of Women in the Rabbinate A 2016 anthology from CCAR Press

FOUR-PART PROGRAM FEATURING:



Rabbi Sue Levi Elwell, Ph.D.

Author of "O Pioneers: Reflections from Five Women Rabbis of the First Generation," which appears in *The Sacred Calling* **Friday, March 2, 6:15 pm Shabbat Worship**



Rabbi Jeffrey Kurtz-Lendner

Congregation Beth Israel, Jackson, Mississippi Author of "Personal Reflection: A Man's Experiences of Women in the Rabbinate," which appears in *The Sacred Calling* Sunday, March 11, 9:30 am - 11:00 am



Rabbi Katie Bauman

Temple Israel, Memphis Sunday, April 1, 9:30 am - 11:00 am

Rabbi Barry Block Sunday, April 15, 9:30 am - 11:00 am

Special: *The Sacred Calling* is available at the specially discounted price of \$16

Contact the Temple Office, templesecretary@bnai-israel.us or 225-9700, to obtain your copy!



PASTA WITH A PURPOSE... FUNDRAISING FOR THE CONFIRMATION CLASS L'TAKEN TRIP TO WASHINGTON, D.C.

FRIDAY, MARCH 9, 2018

5:45 for Oneg Shabbat 6:15 pm Shabbat services and L'Taken lobbying speeches presented by our students...dinner follows.

Govern yourselves generously...this is THE fundraiser for the 2018 Confirmation Class and your support is appreciated.

\$18.00/per person includes spaghetti, salad, bread and drink.

DON'T STOP THERE....

Sponsorship levels:

REPRESENTATIVE OF RAGU: \$36/per person; SENATOR OF SPAGHETTI: \$72.00 sponsorship of event; VP OF PASTA: \$180.00 sponsorship of event; THE BIG MEATBALL: \$360.00 sponsorship of event.

Entertainment provided by Pulaski Academy's award-winning Jazz Band, under the direction of Layne Martens

The Jazz Band includes two Temple youth:
Senior Robert Block, who plays the upright bass
and is the rhythm section leader;
and freshman Daniel McGrath who is the trumpet section leader.

Attend and eat or just support this great cause. WE WANT YOU! To support L'taken 2018.

RSVP to the Temple office by March 5 to 501.225.9700 or templesecretary@bnai-israel.us

This ad is approved by and paid for by your temple confirmation students

YAHRZEITS: MARCH 2018

MARCH 2

Alice Lasker Back William Back Sr. Noland Blass Sr. Ann W. Carb Norm Dollinger Lilian Kay Eisman Harold F. Epstein Howard Feinstein Rachel Frank Felix Gans **Edward Leonard Gealt** Steven Gofforth Max Gold Isadore Goodman Sara Kempner Goodman Norman Graber Sarah Ackerman Greenberg Agnes Golden Hunter Jesse Kaiser **Dorothy Krain** Helen Maisel Lewis Joseph Lyons **Morris Marks** Daniel P. Ottenheimer Elijah Ezekiel Palnick James J. Pfeifer Clara Goldenblank Raff Lendor Remy Henry Rephan Abe S. Rosen **Edith Ottenrider Sachs** Arthur O. Sanders **Dorothy Cone Sherman** Jacob Slutsky Gertrude Paul Solomon Samuel J. Spitzberg Nathan Ehrlich Steppach Sr. Lewis Alexander Storthz Charlotte Storthz Eleanor Pfeifer Strauss Tracye Altschul Strauss Louis Wolsey Esther Zeno

MARCH 9

Shara Adams Nathan Borrok Rosa Cohn Frances Frank Sylvia R. Friedman Arnold S. Goodman Al J. Goodman Jr. Virginia Harris Larry Jacobs Carolyn W. Kramer Shepp Lesser Aida R. Levi Dan Levin Elizabeth Levinson Levin Abraham J. Louchhein Olivia Lyons Ruby Siesel Pfeifer Barbara Laner Phillips Edna L. Roberts Ruth Rodell Marsha Frances Rosen Arthur D. Rosenthal Barbara S. Stern Marie Storthz Joe Storthz Ir. **August Simon Vogel** Etta Louchheim Wolf Mathilde Zwirn

MARCH 16

Hortense Rudolph Back Rose Balkin Joy L. Bryant Shirley Weinstein Cohen Otis Dante Herman Ehrenberg Nathan H. Ehrlich David G. Falk Alfred Fendler Joseph Earl Flowers Joseph Geller Rose Besser Gould Miriam Graber Nell Gray Greenbaum Edna Kahn Kempner Sophie Kempner Harry Lasker Sr. Gus Ottenheimer Audrey Miller Poritzky Israel Louis Safferstone Eduard L. Scharff Sr. Bernice Weisman Sherman Maurice Herbert Soltz Pete Yoder

MARCH 23

Samuel Abowitz Lena Koff Bresler Sophie Cohn Charles H. Elias Sr. Theodore R. Fox Maurice J. Friedman Dave Grundfest Sr. Iennie Hartman Max Jacob Hasson Daniel B. Kohn Roland Joseph Lanoue Rosa H. Lasker

Mervin L. Leibs Fay Marcus Lewis Edith Pfeifer Loeb Otto Olson Leon Pinkus Norman Riemer **Daniel Sanders** S. Clifford Scholem Alma Jacobs Scott Lilyan Stern Judy Taliaferro Fanny Thalheimer

MARCH 30

Billy Eisenkramer Leonard Frankenstein Augusta Lasker Gertrude Mossovitz Levin Steven J. Lewis Sara Reich **Ruby Thalheimer Smith** Micah Dale Smith

March 2018

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	Our House 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm Confirmation Service Preparation 1 & Family Meeting
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MONDAY TUESDAY TUESDAY MARCH 15	
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APRIL

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	FRIDAY 6		13 Wm. Siegel A'86	Gayle Ponder		20	Seth Stevens	27 Dale Cohen	Kurt Deininger Ann Storthz Morgan Schwehm		
ERS P	THURSDAY 5		12			19	Susan Strauss	26 Gene Weinstein A'67	Jamie McGarry Hollis Pruitt Marilyn Robison Phyllis Storthz James Hart		
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ŽШ	TUESDAY 3	Glenn Block Anna Moses	10 Ron Bara A'11	Robert Greenberg		17	Barbara Spitzberg Hallie McGarry	24 Charles Friedman	Len Johnson Jacob Hooks		
BIRTHDA	MONDAY 2 Holon Bongs Kaiser		9 Kathy Bauman	Sandi Oretsky Serene Stevens		16 Proof: Joseph	Larry Jacobs	23 Perry Young A'05		30 Dorian Stuber	
	SUNDAY 1 Biohard Broofman		8 Paul Spitzberg			15 Dotter Verschlet	Sarah Pearce	22 Bill Eiseman		29 Josiah Wheeler Meg Schwehm	

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

IN HONOR OF:

the Bar Mitzvah of Alex Flaxman

lill and Ion Flaxman

IN MEMORY OF:

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Marilyn Sorrells

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Milt Baer and Carole Hamon

Doris Krain

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Liz Lucker and Mary Machen

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IN MEMORY OF:

Dan Schwartz

Vogel Family

Renee Miller

Mark and Linda Bolno Muriel Lederman and Brian Storrie Esther Gordon

Your Guide to Passover, 5778 (2018) at Congregation B'nai Israel

Thursday, March 15 Miriam's Seder, 6:00 pm

Friday, March 30 Home Seder

Please note: No Shabbat Service or Passover observance is scheduled for

Congregation B'nai Israel on Friday night, March 30.

Saturday, March 31 Services for Shabbat and the First Holy Day of Passover, 11:00 am

Tuesday, April 3 Congregational Seder, 6:00 pm

Wednesday, April 4 Seniors Passover Luncheon, 11:30 am

Thursday, April 5 Men's Seder, 6:00 pm, Copeland's

Friday, April 6 Services for the Last holy Day of Passover, including Yizkor/

Memorial Prayers, 10:30 am

FROM THE EDUCATOR

Eileen Hamilton

Over the course of 25 years I have attended so many conferences and meetings about culture. To be more specific, how to make sure to preserve culture and when necessary make culture change in your congregations. Each temple has a unique culture - and there is not a standard slot for one mold. When I arrived in Little Rock, I was so impressed with the culture of volunteerism. Each person had a specific role and followed through on their tasks. In a world where many are working full time, raising children, and getting involved in all the city has to offer, time is short and the tasks are great. Nonetheless, Temple is a priority for many B'nai Israel members and their commitment to their Temple is great and unwavering.

When anyone comes to a new job, they are cautious about making too much change at one time. How does that change come into being? By observation. Look at the faces of the students. It is usual that students enter religious school with lethargy on a Sunday morning. That is usual – staying up too late on Saturday night, waking up early after a long week, handling homework, friends, etc, and then one more thing on a Sunday morning. Recently I asked our 6/7/8 grade students about what gets them up in the morning. What gets them to religious school? Aside from their parents requiring them to go, they are excited to see their friends and be part of a community at the Temple. What they really want is to be hands on and use their time actively, to make a difference in the world and not be confined inside the walls of the classroom. I get it. There is also an important part that must happen even before they can go outside the Temple – and that is learn about who and what we are and what we believe. The time spent inside the classroom to learn is just as important as the doing. Unless our students know what it really means to be Jewish and what Judaism is all about, they cannot be fully comfortable about telling others. I have really pushed some of the students to participate fully and share their ideas. Some coaxing is necessary because sitting in religious school each week in silence is painful – for everyone.

Change is hard, but I hope all will support our religious school in this process so our students can flourish and be the most educated Jews of the next generation and take us into the future with commitment to their religion and Temple and become our next volunteers and leaders. It's our job now to support this endeavor. It matters for the future.

Please support our generous sponsors



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WWW.BNAI-ISRAEL.US

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



Annoucements

THE TEMPLE CHRONICLE
VOLUME 18 ISSUE 2

MARCH 2018
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Confirmation Parents Meeting with Rabbi Block

Wednesday, March 28 • 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Parents, please join Rabbi for a Confirmation planning meeting.

SAVE THE DATE April 13, 2018

Save the date, April 13, 2018 for the annual Membership Shabbat. On this special occasion we welcome and honor new members who have joined us since last year's event. Plans are under way for a great oneg Shabbat, a beautiful musical Shabbat service, and a delicious dinner. New members will be guests of the congregation. Come and get acquainted with our newest Temple members.

Each new member family will have a buddy for the evening. If you would like to be a buddy, please contact Trudy Jacobson.

Welcome New Member

Sarah Finer

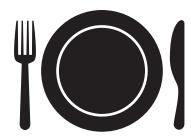
3321 S. Bowman Rd., Apt. 735 Little Rock, 72211 513-846-9089 finersb@gmail.com

Sarah works at CoorTek in Benton.

Mazel Tov

to **Sydney Gastman**, daughter of **Circy and Michael Gastman**, who has been named as a candidate in the 2018 United States Presidential Scholars Program. The candidacy is based on either outstanding performance on the ACT, or nomination by the Chief State School Officer. Students are selected based on their accomplishments in academic success, leadership, and service to school and community. Out of 3.6 million seniors nationwide, Sydney is one of 4,500 to receive this honor. Being selected as a U.S. Presidential Scholar is one of the nation's highest honors high school students receive.

to Sebastian Wolf, son of Angelica and Joe Wolf, who is the only Arkansas student selected for a new program aimed at addressing the Air Force's ongoing pilot shortage. Headquarters Air Force Junior ROTC selected 120 AFJROTC cadets nationwide for a new Fight Academy scholarship valued at \$20,000. Students will attend an accredited aviation program at one of six partnering universities where they will receive college credit and the opportunity to earn a private pilot license (after completing further requirements).



Congregational Seder

Tuesday, April 3 at 6:00 pm

Embark on the road of our ancestors as they left Egypt and became free. Rabbi Block and the Haggadah will spell out the tale of our people and allow us to relive this timeless biblical story through symbol, story and song.

Reserve your space or a table

Members: \$36.00/Non-members \$45.00

Dinner includes all the components of the Seder Meal. Please note any special dietary restrictions when making your reservation.

Reservations are due by March 30 at the latest.



Sisterhood Speaks

Allow me to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Naomi Zottoli. I'm very excited about the new role I've been appointed to as Temple B'nai Israel's next Sisterhood President. I know I have huge shoes to fill (replacing Marilyn Sorrells), which means I'll need all your help, ideas and patience. We are working hard to enhance the services that Sisterhood provides for the Temple including Community Outreach and continued support of the Judaica Shop. I will be reporting to you as we progress.

I encourage you to join us as we set our goals for the upcoming year. We appreciate your support and are looking forward to an incredible year of Service and Sisterhood! Thanks for your support.

MARCH DATES FOR **RELIGIOUS SCHOOL:**

March 4th, 11th.

Religious School will not be in session on March 18th or 25th.

Anat Hoffman is Coming to Congregation B'nai Israel!

Wednesday, April 18 • 7:00 pm

On Wednesday, April 18, the Temple will be honoring Anat Hoffman, the executive director of the Israel Religious Action Center, the legal and advocacy arm of the Reform Movement in Israel. Previously, she held a seat on the Jerusalem City Council, where for 14 years she stood in opposition to the policies of the city's right-wing and ultra-Orthodox administration. She is also the director and founding member of Nashot HaKotel, also known as Women of the Wall.

Miriam's Seder

Thursday, March 15 • 6:00 pm **Teen Lounge** \$18 - please reserve by March 13 hosted by the Sisterhood

On Thursday, March 15, the Sisterhood will host Miriam's Seder. The name derives from Miriam's Well, the source of water for the Israelites traveling through the desert. Modern feminist Jews put a cup of spring water on their Seder tables to remember Miriam the prophet, for she danced at the Sea of Reeds to celebrate the Exodus, and a well of fresh water was said to follow her in the desert so that the Israelites always had water to drink. Where Elijah represents redemption and the movement of history, Miriam represents healing and renewal on the journey.

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and light to the soul."

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