CONGREGATION B'NAI ISRAEL

THE CHRONICLE

May 2021/VOLUME 21 - ISSUE 5

THE RABBI SPEAKS

RABBI BARRY BLOCK

Dear Friends:

For fourteen months now, we have been missing a great deal, and we have been doing things very differently from how we normally did. Now, many of us are fully vaccinated. As I write, infection rates in Arkansas are way down, if not low enough for comfort.



Some among us are beginning to do things we have not done for more than a year, whether traveling, eating inside a restaurant, or having our hair cut professionally.

Our congregation has adjusted well to worshiping and learning in ways we would never have contemplated previously. I am extraordinarily grateful to all who have joined us for services and programs, keeping faith with our congregation in what could have been a trying time.

To focus on worship, many have found that we could pray as a community without being in the same physical space. On the one hand, we have certainly missed the inspiration provided by the sacred spaces of our Sanctuary and Chapel. On the other, we have worshiped together without endangering anybody's health, and we have made our worship more accessible than ever to those who live far away, have mobility limitations, or simply would like to gather for Shabbat worship without leaving their homes.

Now, our COVID Response Task Force, ably chaired by Carmen Arick and Liz Cohen, is permitting us to take "baby steps" toward gathering in person again. We are planning an in-person Havdalah in the Mendel Amphitheater on May 8. We may even gather inperson for Shabbat morning Torah Study and worship this month.

(The Rabbi Speaks continued on page 2)

WORSHIP AT-A-GLANCE

Shabbat worship continues: Friday nights at 6:15pm, Torah Study on Saturdays at 9:30am, and Shabbat Morning Worship at 11:00am. If you do not receive Temple emails and would like to listen to the service on the telephone, please contact Keila for instructions, 501-225-9700.

SATURDAY, MAY 1

ADULT B'NOT MITZVAH OF REBECCA COWIE AND DANETTE DEVLIN 10:30 AM

Music: Jana Cohen
Bimah Flowers: Jane and Scott Levine,
in honor of Rebecca Cowie
CBI Religious School, in honor of Danette Devlin

FRIDAY NIGHT SERVICES IN MAY

FRIDAY, MAY 7

UPB-SINAI EDITION SERVICE LED BY RABBI BLOCK

SERMON: "What I Have Learned in the 35 Years Since My Bar Mitzvah" Music: David Bauman

FRIDAY, MAY 14

MISHKAN T'FILAH SERVICE, LED BY RABBI BLOCK SERMON: "Creativity in the Wilderness" Music: Steve Bauman and Charlie Friedman

FRIDAY, MAY 21

MISHKAN T'FILAH SERVICE LED BY OUR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES OF THE CLASS OF 2021 AND RABBI BLOCK D'VAR TORAH: Daniel Block Music: David Bauman

FRIDAY, MAY 28

MISHKAN T'FILAH SHABBAT SERVICE LED BY RABBI BLOCK SERMON: "Being an Ally"

Music: Jana Cohen

THE TEMPLE CHRONICLE

(The Rabbi Speaks continued from front page)

At the same time, our Covid Response Task Force reminds us that the pandemic will be with us for the foreseeable future. Therefore, every in-person gathering will be accompanied by requirements for masks and social distancing. We will all have to adhere to guidelines if we wish to continue gathering in person before the pandemic is fully behind us.

We must also be aware that something will be lost for those who continue to worship with us from home. We are blessed with built-in equipment, enabling us to livestream from the Sanctuary, thanks to the hard work of Richard Estelita and Eileen Hamilton and the generosity of the Ottenheimer Brothers Foundation. People streaming from home will be able to see and especially to hear. However, the view will be somewhat from a distance, not the intimate experience that many have enjoyed on Zoom.

The process of "returning to normal" will be slow and incremental, but I hope you join me in eager anticipation of being together in person once again.

Faithfully,

Rabbi Barry H. Block

Zam Hold

Festival morning services for Shavuot are scheduled for Monday, May 17, at 11:00am, via Zoom. https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2565589617

Shavuot *Yizkor* Service

Yizkor – Memorial prayers will be offered during this service, and Rabbi Block plans to read the names of members and relatives of members who have died since last Shavuot. David Bauman is scheduled to lead the music.

For this service, we plan to use *Mishkan T'filah*—the full "fat" book—and will not be sharing prayer book pages on the screen. If you would like to borrow a prayer book for this service, please contact Keila at the Temple, 501-225-9700 or TempleSecretary@bnai-israel.us.

SHABBAT MORNING WORSHIP IN MAY

Rabbi Block plans to lead the services on May 8, 15, and 22, and Emily Adams & Carmen Arick plan to lead the service on May 29.

Music is to be led by Annabelle Imber Tuck on May 8 and 22 and by Russ Parish on May 15.



Tikkun Layl Shavuot Adult Learning for Shavuot Eve

Mitzvah: What Does "Being Commanded" Mean for Reform Jews?

Sunday, May 16, 8pm, via Zoom

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2565589617

The fine print: It's traditional to eat dairy foods on Shavuot Eve. This year's Tikkun Layl Shavuot, though, is BYO cheesecake. Sorry.

Please join us for...

Havdalah - In Person

Saturday, May 8, 6pm Mendel Amphitheater

Reservations **required** by contacting Keila, 501-225-9700 or TempleSecretary@bnai-israel.us.



Attendance is limited, and seating will be assigned to ensure social distancing.

Masks must be worn properly at all times, and social distancing must be maintained.

If we have more people interested than reservations available, we will add a second event.

No food or beverage will be served. (You are welcome to bring your own water bottle or similar beverage that can be consumed without removing the mask.)

Postponed in the event of rain.

Al Barron Book Club

Sunday, May 23

3:00 pm via Zoom https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2565589617

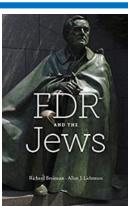
Reading either

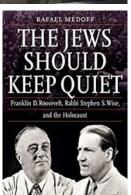
The Jews Should Keep Quiet: Franklin D. Roosevelt, Rabbi Stephen S. Wise, and the Holocaust, by Rafael Medoff

Or

FDR and the Jews, by Richard Breitman

Each participant reads one of the two books, and we will learn from one another.





THE TEMPLE CHRONICLE

FROM THE PRESIDENT, AMANDA O. FERGUSON

Dearest friends,

As I write this, we have just concluded our New Member Shabbat service. I was blown away at the amount of participation from our new members, as well as the warm and welcoming environment provided by our long time congregants. It was just a wonderful experience meeting new people and seeing old friends all on my screen. Thank you to everyone who participated.

Obviously, our membership is the back bone of our congregation. Without each of you, there would be no Congregation B'nai Israel. We aren't just members of an organization here, we are a community and a temple family. You have shown that in this last year by showing up and bringing your light to Temple services and events. You have supported the Temple both spiritually and financially during the pandemic. We are truly fortunate to have our congregants and their support.

By now, you should have received your Gift of the Heart letter in the mail. We were very happy this year to mail out a letter with no increase in the cost per family it takes to run the temple. I hope you will still consider an increase in your commitment if this is something possible for you and your family. We ask that these letters be returned as soon as possible so we can budget for the coming year.

I am looking forward to a year of slowly moving towards togetherness again. Under the guidance of our COVID response committee, we will begin to hold small in-person events beginning with outdoor events, and as the case numbers allow, moving towards indoor events as well. Please bear with us as we go through this process thoughtfully and carefully, and all the while keeping the value of *Pikuach Nefesh*, saving a life at our forefront.

Wishing you good health, and looking forward to seeing you all soon.

Best, Amanda

MAZAL TOV TO:

Natalie McGarry, daughter of Jamie and Thomas McGarry, who was tapped into the Mortar Board Honor Society at the University of Alabama.

Leon Marks, who celebrated his 100th birthday April 20

Jennifer Ronnel, who received the Volunteers in Public School Jane Mendel Award for service to Little Rock School District.

Larry Jacobs, son of Stephen and Flavia Jacobs and Tanya and Bennie Langley, who was awarded the Jo Gober Memorial Scholarship by the Arkansas Tech University

College of Business.

PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS:

Amber Thomas and Benjamin Teeter amberdthomas 1985@gmail.com bsteeter@uams.edu

> John Sokora jsokora@yahoo.com

Mary and John Levin John Austin and Alice levinendo@gmail.com foxecm@aol.com

Shavuot Sundaes on Sunday

A Family Ice Cream Party for Shavuot Sunday, May 16 ~ 6:30 – 7:15 pm

Make your greatest ice cream sundae creation at 6:30 and Zoom on to hear an amazing Shavuot story.

Congratulations to our High School Graduates 2021



Congratulations to our College Graduates 2021

Name	Parent(s)	College
Evalyn Berleant	Joy Liaw & Dan Berleant	Brandeis University
Emma Figarsky	Joy Figarsky Ed Figarsky	Rhodes College
Seth Parham	Carol & Greg Parham	University of Arkansas
Jason Ronnel	Jennifer and Steve Ronnel	University of Texas
Sade Storthz	Suzanne Klimberg & Sam Storthz	University of Virginia



If we have additional graduates, whom we have missed in this listing, we apologize and ask you please to notify Keila in the Temple office, 225-9700 or <u>TempleSecretary@bnai-israel.us</u>. We will acknowledge them in the June Chronicle.





SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR CHRONICLE SPONSORS





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FROM EILEEN HAMILTON, DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

"Much have I learned from my teachers, more from my colleagues, but most from my students. " $\sim\sim$ Talmud, Ta'anit 7b

Each week our religious school teachers and I check in and work together to plan for the next weeks. While we exchange ideas and bounce around a new way to engage students, we always come up with something that we hope will give a true mix of activity, learning, music, and a Jewish lesson. Sometimes, we hit it on the mark; other times, we try hard. One thing I really enjoy about Sundays is just seeing the students sign in. It's like a shot in the arm when I hear the ding of the 'joining' button, and soon after, see the smiling face of each student.

Another highlight of this year was working with Danette Devlin, Lilah Goldman, Ellyn Polsky, Brett Gastman, Cheryl Streiff, Sam Hoffman, Jay Lazerowitz, Meg Marion, a ton of guest speakers and lecturers, and of course, Rabbi Block.

What have I learned from all of them? Danette is a quiet, new teacher who has tackled a lot of tech competency to teach this year. I am proud of her and her commitment to learning Hebrew, more and more each week. She is a role model for her students as she prepared for her own adult Bat Mitzvah. Lilah Goldman, Team K/1 Madrichah, is amazing capable and reliable in every way and shows our youngest students what it means to be an active member of the Jewish community by being present. And – Lilah is now the NFTY So, regional President. We are so proud of her leadership.

Ellyn is my predecessor – so I have already learned a ton from her and enjoy her expert teaching each Sunday. Ellyn was not sure she loved the curriculum at first but has made it understandable and attainable for Team 2/3 in a way that has moved their Jewish education forward with such strength. Team 2/3 Madrich, Brett Gastman, is so spirited with the class – dance moves and all. He is a good sport with all the activities and jumps in often to teach lessons from his own life of teamwork, hard work, and sportsmanship. Brett is graduating this year, but I know the students will remember his important contributions to class each week. We have all learned a lot of about prophets this year from Ellyn and Brett – a subject on which I needed refreshing as well.

Cheryl Streiff leads Team 4/5/6 with such care and concern, along with Sam Hoffman, our Madrich. Always asking about their personal life and activities, the relationship of just talking before the lesson begins is so meaningful. Sam has pushed this team into reading more and more Hebrew with his great patience and encouragement to decode letters and vowels. Jay Lazerowitz taught Team 7/8 for a trimester and presented many new subjects and ideas to pique the interest of our teens. His humor and knowledge of all things Jewish really set the tone for lifelong Jewish education. He started the tradition of addressing each student by Mr. and Ms. before their last name, and we have continued to do that. Our attorneys in the congregation led our 7/8 graders in topics of law and justice for the second trimester, and we all learned so much – ancient trials to contemporary cases of social justice today. The classes showed us so much about the value of Judaism and how each topic is still pertinent as time goes on.

Meg Marion teachers conversational Hebrew with Rabbi on Sundays for our post B'nai Mitzvah students. They are way ahead of me now with their new Hebrew vocabulary related to the pandemic. I need to take their course to get up to speed on modern Hebrew. Rabbi Block led our Team 9 through contemporary issues of ethics and values, and working with this team, and with the incoming freshman next year, we are so excited to attend L'taken in Washington, DC with them all. They are so smart and insightful and are sure to change the world.

Our team is strong and relies on each other for creativity and energy, especially in this year of pulling off religious school from afar. Thankfully, all of us who teach have the same goals and concern – our students, from whom we learn the most.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM RELIGIOUS SCHOOL 2020-2021



END OF YEAR RELIGIOUS SCHOOL DATE: MAY 2

DONATIONS

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In honor of Rabbi Block

Anonymous

In memory of Norman Riemer

Audrey and Don Evans

In memory of Rina Beatrice Saltman Miller

Audrey and Don Evans

Wishing a full recovery to Phil Kaplan

Audrey and Don Evans

In recognition of Bonnie Nickol's constant caring

Audrey and Don Evans

In memory of Sue Maddison

Keith Maddison

In memory of Paul Greenberg

Marjorie and Dan Greenberg

Brooke Greenberg and family

In appreciation

Fran Eiseman

Terri and Gene Jacobson

General Donation

Sean Gibson

Please check our website for service times, Temple calendar, and the Chronicle:

www.bnai-israel.us

Bauman Music Fund

In honor of Becky Marks, President, 20th Century Club Mary Lou Cohn

In memory of Janice Brewer

Mary Lou Cohn

In memory of Sue Maddison

Trudy and Jerry Jacobson

Sam J. Storthz II Religious Education Discretionary Fund

General Donation

Anonymous

In honor of the special birthday of Ann Storthz

Mary Lou Cohn

Jan and Larry Alman

Susan Lesser

Harriet and Lou Strasberg

Anne and Larry Miller

Carole and Gary Weisbly

Ellie and John Moore

Anna Marks and Joshua Epstein

Jill and Steve Bauman

In memory of Sue Maddison

Van Gates

Ann and Phyllis Storthz

Eugene M. Pfeifer, Jr. and Fay S. Pfeifer Community Outreach Fund

Wishing a speedy recovery to Phil Kaplan

Jill and Steve Bauman

In memory of Janice Brewer

Jill and Steve Bauman

In honor of the special birthday of Leon Marks

Jill and Steve Bauman

Endowment Fund

In honor of the birthday of Shirley Vrudny

Misty Ann Owens

In memory of Sue Sanders Maddison

Susan Strauss

Miriam and Leonard Hasson

Ruthe and Phil Kaplan

In memory of Paul Greenberg

K.B. Shapiro

Chronicle Fund

In memory of Paul Greenberg

Van Gates

DONATIONS (CONTINUED)

Bobbye & Rabbi Eugene Levy Fund for Camp Scholarships

In honor of the 100th special birthday of Ann Storthz

In honor of the 100th special birthday of Leon Marks

In memory of Mary Spann Underwood

In memory of Carol Lazerowitz

In honor of the special birthday of Mac Lyons

For the complete recovery from surgery of Charlie Friedman

For the complete healing of Mark Gross

In memory of Sue Maddison

In honor of Lilah Goldman, Tillie Reagler, & David Ronnel for their new and very prestigious positions on the NFTY Southern Region Board

positions on the NTTT Southern Region Board

In honor of the recent engagement of Rachel Levine to Jared Como For the high school graduation of Daniel McGrath and Daniel Block

Bobbye and Rabbi Gene Levy

If you would like to receive our Temple weekly emails, please send an email to templesecretary@bnai-israel.us or call us at 501-225-9700.

Yahrzeit Fund

In memory of Stephanie Goldberg

Terry Orgel

In memory of Abraham Alan Shindler

Lesley Shindler Hughes and Stephen C. Hughes

In memory of Ola and Mervin Leibs

Jackie Leibs Bendorf and Jerry Bendorf

In memory of Adele B. Heiman Ellmann

Alana Friedman

In memory of Edward Baer

Milt Baer

In memory of Bettye Levy

Bobbye and Rabbi Gene Levy

In memory of Joseph B. Selz

Nan Selz

In memory of Samuel Lyons, Sr.

Mac Lyons

In memory of William Seeman Samuels

Barbara Samuels

Cemetery Fund

In memory of Rina Beatrice and Joseph A. Miller

Mary Lou Cohn

In memory of Sue Sanders Maddison

Sandra and Hollis Pruitt

Ellie and John Moore

In memory of Bernice and Arthur O. Sanders

Sandra and Hollis Pruitt

In memory of Paul Greenberg

Steven Strauss

Yizkor Elohim

WE RECORD WITH SORROW THE DEATH OF

TEMPLES MEMBERS

SUE MADDISON, WIFE OF KEITH MADDISON &

PAUL GREENBERG, HUSBAND OF BROOKE GREENBERG

MAX ISAAC SWEETING,
GRANDSON OF
TERRY ORGEL
AND
NEPHEW OF
AMANDA (AND MARTIN) FERGUSON

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

1 st	Lee Rudofsky		1 st	Martha and Ch	arles Alı	man - 41 st anniversary		
2 nd	Betsy Aronson		2 nd	Rose and Eddi Beth Miller and	e Back - d Paul Y	30 th anniversary oder - 36 th anniversary		
3 rd	Jim Pfeifer Emerson Reiss Mozell Zimmerman		4 th			ky - 15th anniversary		
4 th	Amanda Ferguson		15 th	Bobbye and Ra Amanda and M	abbi Gen Iarc Will	e Levy - 52 nd anniversary liams - 25 th anniversary		
6 th	Art Pfeifer		18 th	Lauren Berkm	an & Jos	eph Margolick - 5 th anniversary		
	Grant Rosenthal Raida Snyderman		19 th	Mischelle and Mark Strauss - 28 th anniversary				
7 th Sarah Johnson Scott Jordan Rebecca Lackie	Sarah Johnson	221		Audrey and Don Evans - 54 th anniversary				
			24^{th}	Suzy and Rohit Dhall - 14 th anniversary				
8 th	Madison Harris		 Loris and Jay Fullerton - 29th anniversary Leslie and Sol Brotman - 41st anniversary 					
9 th	Arleen Marshall Micky Simon Chester Storthz		30 th	Krysten and M Allison and Je	ark Levi	n - 14 th anniversary c - 15 th anniversary		
10 th	Ed Back Matt Johnson							
11 th	Byron Kantrow Eugene Krupitsky	16 th		y Blanksteen	24 th	Steven Dranoff		
12^{th}	Circy Gastman Scott Korenblat		Lewis Lee R	Krain onnel		Suzanne Klimberg		
	James Singer	18 th	Tom Sharp		26 th	Susan Axelroth		
13 th	Lilah Goldman Michael Schmitz	19 th	Evely	n Harberg	27^{th}	Rabbi Barry Block Ava Harris		
1 4th	Judy Tenenbaum	20^{th}	Sadie	Townley		Alice Levin Elaine Luber		
14 th	Evalyn Berleant Susan Clark Jared Matson	21 st	Larry	Hamilton		Marilyn Ronnel		
15 th	Ron Bara	22 nd		Bauman	28^{th}	Larry Alman		
	Sallye Mann Timothy McGrath	23 rd	-	Denny Ticker Sol Brotman		Devon Webb-Parish		
	Carol Storthz	23		otman er Gerson	30^{th}	Laurie Arnold		

YAHRZEITS MAY 2021

MAY 7

Julius Abrams Marjorie L. Baer Dylan Besser Gus Blass II Velma Block Isabel F. Cohen Meyer "Mike" Davis Paul Diamant Linda Fitzhugh Louis Frankenstein Eleanor Hasson Abe Herstein Lou B. Hoffman Rose B. Kory Emily S. Lasker Clara L. Lewis Judith Liebman Julius Louchheim Doris Heilbrun Pfeifer Manuel D. Pollock Michael Schach Larry Schwartz Marti Shlenker Irving J. Spitzberg Sam J. Storthz, Sr. Charles Taliaferro Josie Wasserman A. Allen Weintraub

MAY 14

Forrest Abrams Sadee Alexander Bauman **Edward Bennett** Carrie Ottenheimer Berger James Leslie Coffey Louis Cecil Cohen Philip Cohn Dorthy Darline Yates Davis Jane Stern Dreeben Rose Weil Dungan Flora Caro Ehrenberg Anna Smulian Froug Stephanie Goldberg William Hamburger Isaac Kronberg Joseph L. Loebner Curtis E. (Gene) Loftin Agnes Lafont Meyers Alan E. Pollock Jovce Ritirato Louis Rubel Ashtyn Lane Russell Joel F. Schlosberg Jony Schneider Ray S. Scholem Jennie S. Spitzberg Lois Gottlieb Stern Rebecca Levy Vogel Emelie Zeno George Zinser Henry Zwirn

MAY 21

Sam Backal Bena Schwartz Biondo Gilbert J. Blass Wolf Hersch Brandt Anna Cooper Joyce S. Ehrenberg **Edward David Elias** Richard William Falkoff Rosa Kaufman Charlotte Kempner Fred King Louise Weisman Levi Irvin Levy Samuel Raymond Lyons Samuel Ringelhaupt Irene Pareira Sanders Lvnton Scharff Percy L. Scholem Al Schumann Cvnthia K. Shell Henry Spear Dan Young

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

MAY 28

Mollie Abowitz
Melanie Adams
Bruce Besser
Sabina Loewenberg Block
Dorathy Dreeben Block
Linnie H. Bott
Ray Fendler
Henry Myar Franklin
Charlotte Kempner Goodman
Carolyn Levy Greenberg
Melissa Estelle Gruner
Olive Stern Hart

Karen Clark Keller Mark Krain Kenneth Joseph Mirloff Tony Mobly Mary Pearlstein Hulda Phillips William Samuel Shanklin Harriet Stern Smoler Richard Thurow Hattie Kuehn Weisman Joseph Weisman Albert M. Wise



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In appreciation	n of:	
Other:		

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- ♦ KIMBRELY CAROL JORDAN MEMORIAL FUND

- MEMORIAL FUND FOR EDUCATION AND YOUTH
- LEVY FUND FOR CAMP SCHOLARSHIP AND YOUTH
- ◆ TEMPLE MEIR CHAYIM CAMP SCHOLARSHIP FUND
- ♦ GRUNDFEST ISRAEL SCHOLARSHIP FUND
- PFEIFER ISAACSON FUND FOR YOUTH GROUP
- ♦ BAUMAN FAMILY MUSIC FUND
- MULKEY FUND FOR HHD MUSIC
- ♦ HALLIE COHEN MILLER ARCHIVE FUND
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Legacy gifts might include:

A bequest in your will

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A portion or all of a charitable trust

Or some other deferred commitment



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