CONGREGATION B'NAI ISRAEL IITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS THE CHRONICLE June 2021/VOLUME 21 - ISSUE 6

THE RABBI SPEAKS RABBI BARRY BLOCK

Dear Friends:

As I write, we are preparing to return to Friday night worship in our beloved Sanctuary. Before too long, I suspect we will be permitted in-person gatherings for just about everything we



do. Yes, some aspects of our gatherings will be pandemic-impacted for some time—Oneg Shabbat outside, even in the heat; wearing masks, social distancing, refraining from singing in the congregation, making reservations to come to services, and agreeing to a *brit* (covenant) of attendance, to name a few. Still, being together and in our sacred spaces will be an inspiring relief from the isolation of the last fourteen months.

To a significant degree, the ways in which we will not be "returning to normal" just yet will be a function of our Jewish values. Just as the primacy of *pikuach nefesh*, saving lives, kept us from worshiping together for more than a year, that same priority will alter the way in which we gather now.

However, we will also be doing many things differently than we did pre-pandemic because of what we have learned during this last year-plus:

Multiple entry points to engagement increase overall participation in Temple activities. We treasure our out-of-state and Arkansas distance members; we value our members whose physical limitations, temporary or long-term, make coming to the Temple difficult; and plenty of people simply prefer to attend from home.

Some meetings and programs, which we would previously have held in person, are equally or more productive online.

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 on Saturday mornings, please contact Keila for instructions, 501-225-9700.

FRIDAY NIGHT SERVICES IN JUNE

FRIDAY, JUNE 4 UPB-SINAI EDITION SERVICE LED BY LAURIE ARNOLD, MEG MARION, AND ANDREA NELOMS Music: David Bauman Security Sponsor: Susie and Brian Rosenthal

FRIDAY, JUNE 11

MISHKAN T'FILAH SERVICE, LED BY ANNABELLE IMBER TUCK D'var Torah: Emily Lewis Music: Steve Bauman Security Sponsor: Patricia and Barry Solomon

FRIDAY, JUNE 18

PRIDE SHABBAT LED BY MEMBERS OF THE LGBTQ+A CHAVURAH AND RABBI BLOCK D'var Torah: Tim Kessler and Meg Marion Music: Jana Cohen Oneg Shabbat Sponsor: Spitzberg Family, in memory of Marie Seeman Spitzberg Security Sponsor: Nan Selz and Chris Barrier

FRIDAY, JUNE 25

MISHKAN T'FILAH SHABBAT SERVICE LED BY RABBI BLOCK SERMON: "BEING AN ALLY" Music: David Bauman Security Sponsor: Patricia and Barry Solomon

(The Rabbi Speaks continued on page 2)

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(The Rabbi Speaks continued from front page)

Our congregation is boundlessly creative. From the extraordinary Chanukah fundraiser to Torah-cam on Simchat Torah Eve, from the highest attendance rate any Religious School could imagine to the driving scavenger hunt to end the school year, from Richard Estelita's amazing music videos during our High Holy Day services to an engaging Membership Shabbat, and so much more, we experienced that doing things differently was just fine, even in a historic congregation that has done many things the same way for a long time.

As we reconvene in our holy Temple, we will be in transition for many months. Throughout this time, and perhaps beyond it, we will continue experimenting, always looking to "sing unto God a new song," that is, to find innovative was to celebrate the ancestral traditions of Judaism and Congregation B'nai Israel.

Faithfully,

Zam H, Block

Rabbi Barry H. Block

SHABBAT MORNINGS IN JUNE

Torah Study at 9:30 am, led on June 5 by Ellyn Polsky, on June 12 by Meg Marion, and on June 19 and 26 by Rabbi Block. Shabbat worship at 11:00 am, led on June 5 and 12 by Ellyn Polsky and on June 19 and 26 by Rabbi Block



Join us for **Pride** Shabbat

led by Members of the LGBTQ+A Chavurah and Rabbi Block

Friday, June 18th at 6:15 pm

In-Person Worship at Congregation B'nai Israel!

<u>Friday Nights</u> We're back to worshiping weekly in the Sanctuary on Friday nights!

Oneg Shabbat Outdoors: Depending on weather conditions, either on the Terrace of the Mendel Amphitheater or in the Porte-Cochere.

Seating is Limited to Ensure Social Distancing. Attendance by Advance Reservation only.

Reserve your place by contacting Keila in the Temple office, 501-225-9700 or <u>TempleSecretary@bnai-israel.us</u>.

You will receive and be required to sign a *brit* (covenant) of attendance in advance of each service.

Masks must be worn at all times when indoors at the Temple.

(Exception: Children ages 2 and under. Also: Service leaders and participants, such as those with candles and kiddush honors, may remove their masks <u>only while leading and</u> <u>only if fully vaccinated.</u>)

Please refrain from singing aloud.

Services will continue to be live streamed

Al Barron Book Club

Sunday, June 27 3:00 pm via Zoom *The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay* by Michael Chabon

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



In-Person Torah Study Worship at Congregation B'nai Israel!

Saturday Mornings

We're headed back to the Temple for Torah Study and Shabbat morning worship each week, beginning May 29!

Torah Study will be held in the Social Hall, with Services in the Tenenbaum Center. Seating arranged to permit social distancing. (Please do not move the chairs!)

Attendance by Advance Reservation only.

Reserve your place by contacting Keila in the Temple office, 501-225-9700 or <u>TempleSecretary@bnai-israel.us</u>.

(Note: Temple offices are closed on Monday, May 31, for Memorial Day.)

You will receive and be required to sign a *brit* (covenant) of attendance in advance of each service.

Masks must be worn at all times when indoors at the Temple.

(Exception: Children ages 2 and under. Also: Service leaders and participants, may remove their masks <u>only while leading and only if</u> <u>fully vaccinated.</u>)

Kiddush Outdoors, so masks may be removed

We have a new device called a "Meeting Owl," which will permit distance participation via Zoom, link to be provided each week.

Did you know you can get your Chronicle by e-mail? If you receive a paper copy of the Chronicle, and would prefer to only receive it by e-mail, please let us know. Send an email to templesecretary@bnai-israel.us or call us at 501-225-9700

MAZAL TOV TO:

Susie and Brian Rosenthal, on the forthcoming marriage of their daughter, Molly, to Richmond Giles.

Charlie Cohen, son of Jana and Perry Cohen, and grandson of Trudy and Jerry Jacobson, who graduated from the Moritz College of Law at Ohio State University on May 14, 2021, will be practicing Corporate Law in Columbus, OH at Vorhees, Sater, Seymour and Peas, LLP.

Jerry Stern (and the late Barbara Stern, of blessed memory) welcomed their first great grandchild on May 6, 2021, in NYC. A little girl named Avett Bader Stern. Parents are Andrew and Christine Stern of Brooklyn, NY. Great Aunt and Uncle are Stacey and Mike Ronnel.

Milt Baer welcomed another granddaughter! Parents are Sadie and Jason Baer of Danville, IL.

Devon Webb, son of Amanda Webb and Russ Parish, graduated from Booneville High School.

The Temple Chronicle

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FROM THE PRESIDENT, AMANDA O. FERGUSON

Dear Friends,

As my first year as your Temple President comes to a close, I wanted to take a moment and reflect on the last year. I never envisioned that I would barely set foot in the Temple building for the entire first year of my term. I never envisioned that we would be meeting online for worship and religious school for over a year. I never envisioned that the essential tools of my presidency term would include a tape measure and painter's tape, but they are my new best friends as we begin to slowly come back together both inside and outside of the sanctuary.

It was so wonderful to see so many of you in person at Havdalah in our beautiful amphitheater. That in-person connection, conversation, and fellowship was just the boost so many of us were needing after a long year apart. While we will continue to make thoughtful, science-based decisions about our reopening process, we are slowly coming together again for Shabbat worship and lifecycle events. As COVID cases decline and vaccinations rates increase, it is my hope that we will be more regularly coming together in person in the near future. We will continue to observe masking and distancing protocols for now, as we can not guarantee everyone is vaccinated, and our goal continues to be to protect life above all else within our congregation.

As we begin to come together, I ask for you to continue to support the Temple as you have so wonderfully over the last year. Your presence, whether online or in person, is the key. Our Temple family thrives because each and every one of you is a part of it.

We will offer as much of our in-person gatherings as possible in a streaming format as well, so that people may choose what they are most comfortable with when attending services. I want to thank Tim Kessler, Josiah Wheeler, and the rest of the tech committee who have committed to learning how to use, and being at Temple during in-person services to run our new streaming equipment . I also want to thank Scott Jordan, who has generously donated a device called a "Meeting Owl" to the Temple. Once we are trained in its use, it will allow us to stream small group gatherings such as adult learning and Torah study while still gathering for these events.

It should be an exciting and innovative year as we move slowly towards a new normal. I, for one, can't wait to see you all and what this year has to offer.

Let's Go to Israel!

Join Rabbi Block and a group of friends from Temple, as we travel to Israel together, August 21-September 1, 2022.

Our unique itinerary, prepared especially for us by tour educators at Da'at Travel, includes all the sights, sounds, and tastes of Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, and: Rosh Chodesh at the Kotel (Western Wall) with Women of the Wall

- A day in the West Bank, meeting Palestinians and Israeli settlers
- Study with Rabbi Block's teachers at the Shalom Hartman Institute
- Explore the Negev, with an emphasis on efforts to build socio-economic equality
- Join our partners at Congregation Bavat Ayin for Friday night services and home hospitality dinner
- Shabbat (Saturday): optional (included) trip to Masada and the Dead Sea or a free day on your own

For more information and to register, please visit: Congregation B'nai Israel Ancient Jewish and Modern Zionism | Da'at (daattravel.com). Please contact Rabbi Block with your interest and questions.

Shalom, Amanda

Congregation B'nai Israel 154th Annual Meeting Tuesday, June 22, 2021 ~ 6:00 pm The proposed 2021-2022 budget and reports will be sent to all members before the meeting date in preparation for voting. Zoom link will be listed in the weekly eblast.

OFFICERS

President	Amanda O. Ferguson
Executive Vice President	Annabelle Imber Tuck
Administrative Vice President	Joy G. Figarsky
Secretary	Shelly Baron
Treasurer	Janet Korenblat
Immediate Past President	Carol Pfeifer Parham

TRUSTEES

First Year of First Term

(term expires June 2025) Alex Daniel Lewis Krain Brian Rosenthal

Second Year of First Term

(term expires June 2024) Elizabeth Cohen Jill Flaxman David Reagler

First Year of Second Term

(term expires June 2023) Arnold Nachmann Jeffrey Nodelman Mark Levin

Second Year of Second Term

(term expires June 2022) Jane Loeb Levine Mark Himelfarb Meg Marion

Retiring Trustees

Timothy Kessler Ellen Korenblat **Charles Friedman**

Nominating Committee:

Annabelle Imber Tuck, Carol Parham, Carmen Arick, Scott Levine, Arnie Nachmann, Amanda Ferguson

FROM EILEEN HAMILTON, DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

It is almost the time of year when I begin to imagine and create a new theme for a new school year. Last year it was obvious "Keeping the Kesher - Connection" when we were all separated by Zoom screens. The obvious slogan for this coming school year would be B'Yachad, the Hebrew word for together. In hopes, of course, of being together in person. A similar Hebrew iteration of together is *Ee-chud* – the word for reunion. I like it a lot because it gives not only the promise of being together, but the celebration of our reunion. Panim el Panim is also good because it means face to face, but then again, even with Zoom we were face to face in a way. Then there are all these derivatives of 'normal'. We all spoke about returning to normal. The Hebrew word for normal is – *normali*. It's not that great of a word to use because we often speak of people who are maybe not so normal and call them Lo Normali. In Hebrew, with me, is Iti (ee-tee) and that is nice too. Or even *Chazarti* – I'm back! I will soon be inspired about something I see or hear, most likely on TV, and the lightbulb will light up in my head. And then look out. Until then, I will continue to plan for all of us to be together (b'yachad) at B'nai Israel in August for religious school – one way or another. To have a *Ee-chud* (reunion) that feels *normali* to all of us. If you have the perfect word or slogan for our new year of religious school, please let me know. I would love to hear your ideas and creativity. We are all in this together – last year in separate places and this year in the warmth of our Temple. When you cross the threshold of the Temple doors in August, I can say Baruchim Habayim – blessings of welcome and you can yell "Matok, Ani Babayit – Honey, I'm home!"

Have a great summer – continue to be safe and healthy. And for those going to overnight camp – enjoy every minute and soak in your good fortune to return to your camp home too. Miss you already.

סבבה ! sababa palooza

SAVE THE DATE!

• Sababa is a Hebrew slang word meaning "great or cool" and can express enthusiasm and satisfaction.

LAFTY Kick-Off Event

Sunday, August 15, 2021

REUNION BREAKFAST PICNIC and GAMES

A fun, fun, fun time for all in youth group.

Don't miss this first inperson opportunity to spend time together (safely).

Our in-person Havdalah on May 8 was so special as we sat together to end Shabbat....













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THE TEMPLE CHRONICLE

DONATIONS

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In honor of Rabbi Block Anonymous In appreciation of Rabbi Block from The Mussar Institute In memory of Leon Marks Sheri and Micky Simon & Family Becky and Jay Marks In memory of Paul Greenberg Bonnie and Dr. Sam Nickol In honor of the B'not Mitzvah of Rebecca Cowie & Danette Devlin Bonnie and Dr. Sam Nickol Trudy and Jerry Jacobson In memory of Sue Maddison Bonnie and Dr. Sam Nickol General Donation Karin Waugh Zucker and Martin Boyle

Hallie Cohen Miller Archives Fund

In honor of the birthday of Mac Lyons Trudy and Jerry Jacobson

Vogel Caring and Sharing Fund

In memory of Leon Marks Tracye and Larry Townley In honor of the special birthday of Miriam Hasson Ellie and John Moore

Ola and Mervin Leibs Memorial Religious School Scholarship Fund

In memory of Sue Sanders Maddison Jackie Leibs Bendorf and Jerry Bendorf In honor of the birthday of Raida Snyderman Jackie Leibs Bendorf and Jerry Bendorf In honor of the birthday of Ann Storthz Jackie Leibs Bendorf and Jerry Bendorf

Tech Support for Temple Sanctuary

General Donation Alison Vann and Family In honor of Ellyn Polsky Maci Schlesinger & Schlesinger Family

Dr. Wilma Diner Fund

for Jewish Education In memory of Leon Marks Debbie and Brad Diner

Eugene M. Pfeifer, Jr. and Fay S. Pfeifer **Community Outreach Fund** In honor of the birthday of Mac Lyons

Jill and Steve Bauman

Lois G. Stern Library Fund

In honor of Amanda Ferguson Maci Schlesinger and Schlesinger Family

Sam J. Storthz II Religious Education **Discretionary Fund**

In memory of Leon Marks Phyllis and Ann Storthz In honor of Eileen Hamilton Maci Schlesinger & Schlesinger Family Wishing a speedy recovery to Eileen Hamilton Trudy and Jerry Jacobson In honor of the birthday of Ann Storthz Bonnie and Dr. Sam Nickol Tracye and Larry Townley Ruthe and Phil Kaplan Jane and Scott Levine

Yizkor Elohim

WE RECORD WITH SORROW THE DEATHS OF

TEMPLE MEMBER LEON MARKS, FATHER OF JAY (AND BECKY) **MARKS**

EDMOND FREEMAN, **HUSBAND OF JUNE FREEMAN**

JOYCE EVERETT LOPAS **MOTHER OF MATTHEW LOPAS** (AND SUSAN CLARK)

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DONATIONS (CONTINUED)

Bobbye & Rabbi Eugene Levy Fund for Camp Scholarships

In honor of the 100th birthday of Leon Marks Jane and Scott Levine

Janet and Arnold L. Mayersohn Leadership Development Fund

In memory of Sue Sanders Maddison Loris and Jay Fullerton

Endowment Fund

In memory of Leon Marks Lori and Josh Shemper Vic Snyder Debbie Brady Leslie Goodman-Allen Skip and Billie Rutherford Carole and Gary Weisbly Wayne and Louise Larue In honor of Ellyn Polsky Maci Schlesinger & Schlesinger Family In memory of Paul Greenberg Robin Dawson & Dana Dawson McClellan

Cemetery Fund

In memory of Ashtyn L. Russell, Forrest Abrams, and Henry Myar Franklin Joyce Franklin and Family In memory of Forrest Abrams & Henry Myar Franklin Jane and Bob Goff In memory of Leon Marks Ellie Koenig Moore

Bauman Music Fund

In honor of David Bauman Maci Schlesinger & Schlesinger Family In memory of Naomi Zottoli Alyce Zottoli

Memorial Fund for Education and Youth

In memory of Sue Sanders Maddison Jane and Scott Levine

Yahrzeit Fund

In memory of Dorthy Darline Yates Davis Annabelle Imber Tuck In memory of Charlotte Kempner Goodman Sandra and Hollis Pruitt In memory of Irene Pareira Sanders Sandra and Hollis Pruitt In memory of Dan Young Regina and Perry Young In memory of Bena Schwartz Biondo Mary Biondo In memory of Larry Schwartz Rabbi Gene and Bobbye Levy In memory of Gus Blass II (Buddy) Patricia Blass In memory of Judith Citron Liebman Joanne Liebman Matson In memory of Emily S. Lasker Harriet Lasker Katz In memory of Abe Herstein Eleanor H. Wolff In memory of David Axler & Tillie Greenberg Lynn and Bruce Greenberg In memory Joseph Loebner & Richard Thurow Janice Thurow In memory of Marjorie Baer Milt Baer In memory of Milton L. Loeb Jane and Scott Levine In memory of Nina Krupitsky Galina and Michael Krupitsky In memory of Malcolm Yahn, Annette Norma Yahn, and Larry Bentley Debbie Luckom Bentley In memory of Nina and Emmanuel Krupitsky Asya and Bernard Lewis In memory of Rita and Jacob Slutsky Asya and Bernard Lewis

Sisterhood Legacy Fund (SLEF)

In memory of Max Isaac Sweeting Doris Krain In honor of the B'not Mitzvah of Rebecca Cowie & Danette Devlin Doris Krain In memory of Edmond Freeman Doris Krain

JULY BIRTHDAYS

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

1^{st}	Lance Bogoslavsky Milo Krain Dan Rodell		3 rd	Amanda Webb Dale and Lee R	and Russ Parish - 7 th anniversary onnel - 61 st anniversary	
2 nd	Mark Himelfarb		4^{th}	Gay Block and	Billie Parker - 7 th anniversary	
3 rd	Virginia Spitzberg		7^{th}	Trudy and Jerry Jacobson - 61 st anniversary Sandy and Fred Levin - 48 th anniversary		
3 $4^{ m th}$	Cherry Goldsholl Melinda Tobian		8^{th}	Arleen and Bria	n Marshall - 54 th anniversary	
5^{th}			10^{th}	Betty and Jimmy Moses - 50 th anniversary		
6^{th}	Sue Weinstein		11^{th}	Carol and Ches	ter Storthz - 44 th anniversary	
6	Ryan Dhall Jon Flaxman Krysten Levin Phillip Spivey		16 th	Lynn and Bruce	e Greenberg - 43 rd anniversary Lubenstein - 28 th anniversary	
7 th	Connie Fails Ann Williams		22 nd	Susan and Mike	Arnie Nachmann - 43 rd anniversary e Schmitz - 31 st anniversary a and Trip Strauss - 12 th anniversary	
8 th	Sam Kauffman Dick Williams		23 rd	Tim Kessler and Carole and Gar	d Josiah Wheeler - 5 th anniversary y Weisbly - 54 th anniversary	
9 th	th L.R. Jalenak, Jr. Rabbi Eugene Levy		26^{th}	Bari and Mark l	rk Himelfarb - 4 th anniversary	
	Hallie Pingel		27 th Susan and Robin West - 41 st anniversary			
10^{th}	June Freeman Tad Phillips		30 th	Lori and Josh S	hemper - 21 st anniversary	
11^{th}	Nan Selz		31 st Ann and Dick Williams - 66 th anniversary			
12 th	Karin Bara Will Belvin					
13^{th}	David Rosen	22 nd	Audrey	v Evans		
15 th	Soraya Rudofsky Annabelle Imber Tuck		Caroline Goldsholl Stephen Jacobs • Service Times			
17^{th}	Sandy Levin	23 rd	Richard Lowens • Temple calendar			
	·	26 th	•	Perry Young • The Chronicle		
20 th	Leslie Brotman Marla Shivers	28^{th}	 Matthew Lopas Amie Marshall Livestream Button www.bnai-israel.us 			
	Joseph Stafford	29 th			www.bnai-israel.us	
21 st	Jacob Collins Bobbye Levy Jeffrey Lux Sydney Shemper	30 th				

YAHRZEITS JUNE 2021

JUNE 4

Louis J. Abramson D. Justus Baumgarten Pearl Tenenbaum Carvalho Charles Cone Daniel Disabato Billie Evans Henry Myar Franklin Gertrude Green Charles Edward Joseph Gary Kaplan Abraham Kempner Eleanor Rockwitt Kiel Marvin Krochock Minnie E. Lasker Hannah Levinson John D. Levinson Fannie Pinkus Meyer Lillian Miller Arthur H. Pfeifer **Ophie Ryburn** Pauline Sanders Joseph Shrader Phyllis Alexander Storthz Henriette Thalheimer Frank Wojs Adolf Wolff Leo Wolff

JUNE 11

Harry Balkin Stanley M. Bauman, Sr. Jacob Blass Bernard Cohen Leon Drevfus Adolf Feibelman Sevmour S. Fleisig Anita Fortson Joseph Goetz Joan Hamburger Brian Kelle Hodge Myron B. Lasker, Sr. Flora Loeb Margretta Navra Louis Rosen Ella Lyons Rudolph Bernard Sabin Lucille L. Sachs Theodore M. Sanders Anchel Schiffman Hillel Sloan Harry B. Solmson, Sr. Karl Weil Sara Weinberg

JUNE 18

Joan S. Abowitz **Richard Bresnik** Joseph Brint Jerry Bronfman Miriam Anne Brown Jeffrey Hart Robert J. Heiman Carolyn Pfeifer Horchow Jules Andre Ifrah Fannie S. Kaiser Theresa Kauffman Stella M. Kempner Cecille Pfeifer Landauer Laurie Jean Loeb Hannah Louchheim Evelyn Feit Lowenberg Don M. Mann Joan Storthz Moore Dora Pasink Fay Smulian Pfeifer Charles C. Rubenstein Maurine Weisman Simon Louis Singer Belle Spiegelman Marie Seeman Spitzberg Anna Stachmus Theresa J. Storthz Sheila Young

JUNE 25

Louis J. Alexander Fanny Besser Sheryl Besser Belle Pfeifer Cohen Nathalia Ethridge Juanita Gonzalez David Jacobs Howard Kahn Myron B. Lasker, Jr. Bella Levy Henry Morris Levy

Abraham Lindenberg Leo Pfeifer Beulah Pinkus Jane Roark Leatrice "Lit" Block Rosen Robert Sakon Stanley Edgar Sheets Sylvia Hirsch Shrader Siesel Thalheimer David Wuntch Louis Yahm



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

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

Legacy gifts might include:

A bequest in your will

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





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