

# CONGREGATION B'NAI ISRAEL

LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS

# THE CHRONICLE

# TEMPLE

OCTOBER 2021/VOLUME 21 - ISSUE 10

## THE RABBI SPEAKS

RABBI BARRY BLOCK

Dear Friends:

When I write to other rabbis, and especially to Eileen, at this time of year, I sign my emails, “Happy Cheshvan” or “Happy Chol!”

Cheshvan is the name of the Hebrew month that follows Tishri, which is the month that includes Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot, and Atzeret-Simchat Torah. This year, Cheshvan begins at sundown on Wednesday, October 6. Chol means “ordinary;” but in this case, it is best understood as the opposite of a holy day.



Rabbis, Cantors, Educators, Administrators, and other synagogue professionals—and at Congregation B’nai Israel, I would add our volunteers—enjoy the High Holy Day season, from the month of Elul leading up to Rosh Hashanah and all the way to the end of Atzeret-Simchat Torah. We work hard to make them special—and, like anybody at the end of their busy season—we let out a sigh of relief when each year’s most intense month ends.

This year, we made one set of plans for the High Holy Days early in the summer, when the pandemic had ebbed. Then, we quickly pivoted and made a different, more complex plan as the Delta variant ravaged our state and much of the nation. Combined with the fact that Rosh Hashanah was especially “early” this year -- yes, it’s always on the first of Tishri, but that doesn’t usually begin on Labor Day night—meant that many of us did not take our usual time off during the summer.

As a result, you may notice that there is less in this Chronicle than usual. Yes, we will worship and study on Shabbat; and yes, we will hold Religious School on most Sundays in October. At the strong encouragement of our President, Amanda Ferguson, our offices will be closed the last week in October. You may even get less email from us!

*(The Rabbi Speaks continued on page 2)*

## WORSHIP AT-A-GLANCE

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1**  
**6:15 PM VIA ZOOM**

UPB-SINAI EDITION SERVICE  
LED BY RABBI BARRY BLOCK

SERMON:

“Equal Creation, Equal Work,  
and Equal Pay”

Music: David Bauman

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8**  
**6:15 PM VIA ZOOM**

MISHKAN T’FILAH SERVICE LED BY  
RABBI BARRY BLOCK

SERMON:

“The Curse of Ham or the Curse of Japhet”

Music: Steve Bauman

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15**  
**6:15 PM VIA ZOOM**

MISHKAN T’FILAH SERVICE  
LED BY ELLYN POLSKY

D’VAR TORAH: EMILY LEWIS

Music: Jana Cohen

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22**  
**6:15 PM VIA ZOOM**

MISHKAN T’FILAH  
LED BY RABBI BARRY BLOCK

SERMON:

“Abortion Rights, Bound to the Altar”

Music: David Bauman

*(Worship at-a-glance continued on page 2)*

*(The Rabbi Speaks continued from front page)*

Traditional Jews call the Hebrew month we are entering, Mar Cheshvan, that is, the “bitter” month of Cheshvan—bitter, because it includes no holidays. I have always disagreed with that characterization and the reason for it. In fact, Cheshvan does contain Shabbat, holiest day of the year that comes every week, four times. (This October has five!)

Let all of us—not only rabbi and Temple staff and volunteers, but every member of our community—relish this month as a time to focus on Shabbat and its essential meaning: rest, refreshment, and rejuvenation. Then, let us all return from our downtime to renewed enthusiasm and energy for the ever-new life of our Temple.

*Faithfully,*



Rabbi Barry H. Block

*(Worship at-a-glance continued from front page)*

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 29**  
**6:15 PM VIA ZOOM**  
**LED BY RABBI JEN GUBITZ**  
 Music: David Bauman

**SHABBAT MORNINGS  
 IN OCTOBER**

Torah Study at 9:30am, led by Rabbi Block on October 2, 9, and 23; by Lynn and Bruce Greenberg on October 16, and by Rabbi Jen Gubitz on October 30

Shabbat morning worship at 11am, led by Rabbi Block on October 2, 9, and 23; by Meg Marion and Annabelle Imber Tuck on October 16, and by Rabbi Jen Gubitz on October 30

**Rabbi Jen Gubitz to Lead Services  
 and Torah Study October 29-30**



Rabbi Jen Gubitz is slated to be our special guest to lead Shabbat services and Torah Study October 29-30, when Rabbi Block is scheduled to be scholar-in-residence at Congregation Beth Shalom in Austin, Texas. Rabbi Gubitz plans to visit us via Zoom.

Rabbi Gubitz is the founder of Modern JewISH Couples and the co-host of the OMfG Podcast: Jewish Wisdom for Unprecedented Times. With over fifteen years of experience in Jewish professional life, Rabbi Gubitz is a graduate of Indiana University and was ordained in 2012 by Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion (NY), where she was a Tisch Rabbinical Fellow. Her writing appears in The Mussar Torah Commentary (CCAR Press, 2020), The Boston Globe, Lilith Magazine, and OnBeing.

After Rabbi Block had invited Rabbi Gubitz to visit our congregation, she pointed out that her entry in The Mussar Commentary is for Parashat Chayei Sarah, which will be the Torah portion the week that she leads our congregation in worship and study.

Although she lives in Boston with her husband, most of Rabbi Gubitz’s family lives in New Orleans, so she’s a friend of Southern Jewish life, too!

## FROM THE PRESIDENT, AMANDA O. FERGUSON

Dear friends,

I hope you all enjoyed a very happy Rosh Hashanah, a meaningful Yom Kippur, and have started the new year off looking forward to new beginnings.

As you may have guessed, the High Holidays are a super busy time for our Temple staff, and the last year and a half have had an extra added layer of stress too. Our Temple staff, Rabbi Block, Eileen Hamilton, Keila Patton, Milton Boyd, and Brandon Groce work so hard all the time to keep our Temple moving, sacrificing free time, sleep, and many more hours a week than required.

Knowing that it is important that they also have time for rest and renewal, we have chosen to close the Temple office from October 25-31. We hope our amazing staff will take advantage of this time to engage in whatever makes them happy, refreshed, and fulfilled outside of work.

Please note that this may mean your November Chronicle may arrive a few days later than usual, but fear not, we will keep you amply informed of upcoming events. Services will still occur that Shabbat as well, with a guest officiant.

I am, at this moment, looking forward to a week of festivities in the Sukkah, followed by Atzeret-Simchat Torah. My heart is full as I have celebrated this year's high holiday season in person with my fellow congregants. We also had a wonderfully informative, interesting, and fun Standing on Our Shoulders program at the cemetery between Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur. A special thank you goes to Meg Marion, who wrote the script and led the interviews with our "past congregants" Nina Krupitsky and Wilma Diner, portrayed by a professional actor as well as by our executive vice president Annabelle Tuck.

Our religious school is in full swing too, and our Zoom classes are proving fun for all. We are thankful for opportunities to gather in person for outdoor events with children as well.

As the new year begins, I am very hopeful. I am hopeful for the future of our congregation as we move forward through this pandemic and find such wonderful and exciting ways to gather. I am thankful we have been able to provide many different connections, whether you choose to worship in person, follow our streaming services, attend outdoor events, or adult learning and religious school online.

As always, I hope you and your families are healthy, safe, and happy.

Shalom,

Amanda

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**\*Schmoozerama Under the Stars**  
**Movie: "Dirty Dancing"**  
**October 9th at 6:00 pm**

Bring a take out/boxed meal of your choice and a lawn chair.  
 This will not be a potluck due to COVID.  
 RSVP is to the Temple Office to provide proof of vaccination.  
 Facilitated by Tim Kessler  
 Questions? Contact Tim at  
 479-283-5923 or [kesslertimothy@gmail.com](mailto:kesslertimothy@gmail.com)  
 \*canceled in the event of rain



## CONGREGATION B'NAI ISRAEL KEY CLUB 5782

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Schlesinger Family  
Pat, Barry and Dara Solomon - Kim and Daniel Jones

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Gay Block and Billie Parker  
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Sheri and Micky Simon and family  
Judy Kohn Tenenbaum\*  
Alan Thalheimer  
Sandi and Barry Uretsky  
Carole and Gary Weisbly  
Regina and Perry Young

\*of blessed memory



**PLEASE WELCOME OUR  
NEW MEMBERS:**

**BROOKE DOOLITTLE**  
brooke.doolittle@gmail.com

**KATHEY EHRENBERG**  
kdehrenberg@yahoo.com

**KATHERINE EHRENBERG**  
kat\_ehrenberg1987@yahoo.com

**MERRICK FAGAN**  
merrickfagan@gmail.com

**KAREN SHERMAN**  
ksherman29@hotmail.com

**ALISON, AUSTIN,  
AND VIRGINIA VANN**  
melderalison@gmail.com

Thank you for our members, our  
'Builders' who increased their  
Gift of the Heart pledge 10% or  
more from last year.

Betsy and James Aronson  
Deanna Arrants and Clayton Ward  
Debbie Bentley  
Bettina Brownstein  
Jana and Perry Cohen  
Alena and Aaron Cousins  
Fran Eiseman  
Richard Estelita  
Amanda and Martin Ferguson  
Joy Figarsky and Jay Lazerowitz  
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Susan Clark and Matthew Lopas  
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Susan and Brian Rosenthal  
Kitty and Bill Rubenstein  
Kelli and Scott Schlesinger  
Patricia and Barry Solomon  
Cheryl Streiff  
Marilyn Weinstein



The Community Outreach Committee is filling Thanksgiving baskets with food for needy families. We are asking for donations. Each basket "costs" \$36. Sponsor as many as you like by sending a check to the Temple office, or by asking Keila to add any amount to your Temple bill, [templesecretary@bnai-israel.us](mailto:templesecretary@bnai-israel.us) or 501-225-9700.

If interested, we will be assembling baskets on Wednesday, November 17<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm. in the Temple lobby. Please wear a mask.

If you would like to deliver the baskets on Friday, November 20<sup>th</sup> to designated high schools, we need that also.

Any questions? Contact Kirsta Nigro, [kirstanigro1@gmail.com](mailto:kirstanigro1@gmail.com) or at 501-425-9188, to let her know if you can help!

## Religious School

I am so excited that our some of our religious school students just booked their Bar or Bat Mitzvah dates for 2023 and 2024. While that seems ‘so early’ – it’s really not, as we all know that times flies. I remember planning my own kids’ B’nai Mitzvah. I put the date on the calendar when my kids were babies just to be cute, and sure enough, 13 years flew by in a flash. It was a fun, meaningful, and special time in our family’s life. It is a milestone for all in the family and one that most will be so glad they chose to celebrate in the Temple and together. Right now, B’nai Israel has six students working with B’nai Mitzvah tutors. It’s not just about actively engaging in learning Hebrew and becoming Hebrew reading ready for their future tutors, although very important. It’s not all about the mitzvah project, the color scheme, and the party. It’s not all about the gifts. It’s about all of it – a little of this, some of that, to make a whole experience. It’s a collective preparation for everyone to share their hopes, dreams, thoughts, and traditions. It’s an avenue for expression, and pride, and bragging rights too. Let’s be honest, the 13-year old students work hard to learn all the prayers. It’s a way for our kids to understand our Jewish priorities and wishes for continuity. It’s a time to understand Torah and work together for an end goal. It’s not easy having pre-teens, but this is a wonderful way to bond and share, to celebrate and applaud. It’s an opportunity for Jewish families, built right in. Enjoy every minute of it – I know you will.

**Join LaFTY for  
OKTOBERFEST**  
with a **ROOT BEER** tasting  
party in the  
Mendel Amphitheater.  
Taste many brands and  
choose a winner!

**Sunday, October 24 ~  
12:00pm – 1:30pm**

**Bring your lunch—we’ll  
bring the root beer!**

Open to all in grades 9-12 with proof of  
vaccination.

RSVP to Eileen  
ehamilton@bnai-israel.us.



Religious School dates: October 3, 10, 17, 24  
Please note there will be NO religious school on October 31  
Confirmation Class dates: October 6, 20

## CONGREGATIONAL PILLARS

Each of our congregants is a precious member of our sacred community regardless of the amount of financial support they provide. We would like to express our gratitude to those who give at a level that allows our congregation to provide a welcoming home for everyone. We would like to recognize as "Pillars" all those members who give at the "cost" level or above.

Martha & Charles Alman	Brooke Greenberg	Becca & Andrew Perin
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Susan & Philip Axelroth	Judy Grundfest	Stacey & Mike Ronnel
Rose & Ed Back	Chris Hackler	Jennifer & Steve Ronnel
Karla & Larry Back	Miriam & Leonard Hasson	Betty & David Rosen
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Jill & Steve Bauman	Trudy & Jerry Jacobson	Kelli & Scott Schlesinger
Will Belvin	Scott Jordan	Susan & Mike Schmitz
Patricia Blass	Ruthe and Phil Kaplan	Nan Selz
Gus Block	Julianna Fawcett &	Lori & Joshua Shemper
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Van Gates	Keith Maddison	Heather Tolliver
Heather & David Gerson	Meg Marion	Annabelle Tuck
Laura & Allan Gold	Joanne Matson	Marilyn Weinstein
Kennon & Scot Goldsholl	Harvey Miller	Beth Miller & Paul Yoder
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## DONATIONS

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In honor of Rabbi Block

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In honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Caroline Goldsholl

David Goldsholl family

In honor of Rabbi Barry H. Block, Editor of the Social Justice Torah Commentary

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### Sam J. Storthz II Religious Education Fund

In honor of the birthday of Ann Storthz

Suzi Davis

### Bauman Music Fund

In honor of the birthday of Anne Miller

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In honor of David Bauman, Richard Estelita, and Jana Cohen

David Goldsholl family

### Kimbrely Carol Jordan Memorial Fund for Jewish Education

In honor of Eileen Hamilton

David Goldsholl family

### Bobbie & Rabbi Eugene Levy Fund for Camp Scholarships

In honor of the birth of twin grandchildren to Sheri and Micky Simon

Trudy and Jerry Jacobson

### Endowment Fund

In memory of Chris Barrier

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In honor of the birthday of Anne Miller

Jill and Steve Bauman

In memory of Sue Sanders Maddison

Suzi Davis

In memory of Judy Kohn Tenenbaum

Suzi Davis

### Vogel Caring and Sharing Fund

In memory of Sam Morris Vogel

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Marilyn and Earl Sorrells
- In memory of Charles Rodell  
Luci and Daniel Rodell
- In memory of Michael Ostrow  
Diane Ostrow Tidwell
- In memory of Joseph Jacob Kaufman  
Melissa Rae Kaufman
- In memory of Linda Fitzhugh  
Rose Fitzhugh Back
- In memory of Sam Strauss, Jr.  
Nancy Fred Sadick

*Yizkor Elohim*

WE RECORD WITH  
SORROW  
THE DEATH OF

**MYLES OLIVER**  
FATHER  
OF LEE (AND RICKY) HARRIS

**ANN HENRIETTE SELIG LUBIN,**  
SISTER OF JOHN (AND JUDY) SELIG  
AND  
AUNT OF PAST TEMPLE PRESIDENT,  
LEAH (AND NEIL) ELENZWEIG

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ANNABELLE IMBER  
(AND HENRY) TUCK

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## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1 <sup>st</sup>	Brian Marshall	15 <sup>th</sup>	Aaron Cousins Joy Figarsky Jay Marks
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Janet Korenblat Andrea Neloms	16 <sup>th</sup>	Billie Parker
3 <sup>rd</sup>	John Selig	17 <sup>th</sup>	Gus Block
4 <sup>th</sup>	Suzi Davis Scott Levine Sarah Brady Stack Amber Thomas	18 <sup>th</sup>	Judy Pearlstein
5 <sup>th</sup>	Heather Tolliver	19 <sup>th</sup>	Ed Figarsky Dianne Richard Leslie Singer
7 <sup>th</sup>	Pat Highly Maddie Townley Sam Willis	20 <sup>th</sup>	Russ Parish
8 <sup>th</sup>	Susan Rosenthal	21 <sup>st</sup>	David Gerson Jo Lawton Robert Rosen
9 <sup>th</sup>	Neil Elenzweig Steve Ronnel Carole Weisbly	22 <sup>nd</sup>	Jackie Leibs Bendorf Phyllis Alexander Kaplan Susan Schmitz
10 <sup>th</sup>	Jessie Curtis	23 <sup>rd</sup>	Jay Fullerton
12 <sup>th</sup>	Jordan Collins Justin Collins	24 <sup>th</sup>	Elizabeth Daniel
13 <sup>th</sup>	Annette Arnold Alan Gold Vivian Gold Cheryl Streiff Eleanor Wolff	25 <sup>th</sup>	Howie Knoff
14 <sup>th</sup>	Julie Shindler Larry Townley	26 <sup>th</sup>	Mary Machen
		27 <sup>th</sup>	Janice Kane Cohen Townley
		28 <sup>th</sup>	Shelly Baron Harper Johnson
		29 <sup>th</sup>	Janet Crafton Susan Willis

## NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

2 <sup>nd</sup>	Laura and Brad Joseph - 31 <sup>st</sup> anniversary
4 <sup>th</sup>	Dina and Patrick Ifrah - 21 <sup>st</sup> anniversary
10 <sup>th</sup>	Jan and Larry Alman - 37 <sup>th</sup> anniversary
18 <sup>th</sup>	Kennon and Scot Goldsholl - 31 <sup>st</sup> anniversary
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Jim Pfeifer and Robynn Zinser - 37 <sup>th</sup> anniversary
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Marilyn and Earl Sorrells- 36 <sup>th</sup> anniversary

### *MAZAL TOV*

#### **MIRIAM & LEONARD HASSON,**

on the Bat Mitzvah of their granddaughter, Rose Solomon, daughter of Jill and Todd Solomon, at Congregation Shaare Emeth in St. Louis on September 4.

### *THANK YOU*

**HEATHER TOLLIVER,** who reformatted our Memorial Book this year in an up to date format.

We appreciated the extra time and effort Heather put into assisting our office with such a great task.

### *THANK YOU*

**TIM KESSLER,  
JOSIAH WHEELER, AND  
PERRY YOUNG**

who were here for all High Holiday services to make sure the livestream went off without a hitch.

## OCTOBER YAHRZEITS

### OCTOBER 1

Isadore Besser  
 Laura Heilbron Binder  
 Rosetta Stiff Blass  
 Ella Navra Ehrenberg  
 Helen Lockwood Eichenbaum  
 Stanley Fine  
 Jean Goldberg  
 Charles H. Gurinsky  
 Sarah Levy Jacobson  
 Fannie Bennett Kaufman  
 Roscoe C. Kory  
 William Simon Kramer  
 Armand Morton Marks  
 Lee Eisen Marks  
 Hannah Berger Ottenheimer  
 Dorothy Riemer  
 Helen Fels Rubel  
 Irvin H. Sachs  
 Mabel C. Sanders  
 Bertha Frank Shrader  
 Melvin L. Spear  
 August Simon Vogel Jr.  
 Samuel Wolff

### OCTOBER 22

Vernon L. Adams  
 Joe Berger  
 Marvin F. Cohen  
 Tillie Feibelman  
 Patricia Fendler  
 Dorothy Berger Goldberg  
 Rosa Kahn  
 Arthur E. Korenblat  
 Minnie Frank Lasker  
 Bernard Levi  
 Max Meyer Moses  
 Joseph Pasink  
 Jewel Altschul Pollock  
 Mervin Reines  
 Loryeen Samuels Rose  
 Louise Belle Rudolph  
 Andrew Scallet  
 Mike Seligman  
 Ben S. Thalheimer  
 Syd Waltzer

### OCTOBER 8

Celia Adler  
 Nathan Axler  
 Phillip G. Back  
 James S. Binder  
 Sybill Griffith Block  
 Eva Bresnik  
 Morris N. Donner  
 Dolores Greenberg  
 Lee Greenberg  
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 Cynthia Weintraub Weber  
 Mae Louise Strauss White  
 Lillian Wuntch

### OCTOBER 15

Alice Kramer Altheimer  
 Jerome Averbuch  
 Pauline Blass  
 Rabbi David L. Blaustein  
 Raymond E. Block, Jr.  
 Bessie Brown Carb  
 Berta Rosenberg Cohn  
 Robert Joel Covin  
 Kim Grundfest  
 Adolph Gruner  
 Joann Hestermann  
 Kimbrey Carol Jordan  
 Harry Kahn  
 Gilbert Korenblat  
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 Eva Dreeben Safferstone  
 Bertha Alyce Shlenker  
 Henry Edward Spitzberg  
 Ray Edward Streiff, Jr.  
 George Wolff  
 Philip Wuntch

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### OCTOBER 29

Bob Arnold  
 Elizabeth Weitzenhoffer Blass  
 Helene E. Block  
 Shelton Block  
 Anna Heiman Cone  
 Emanuel Dreidel  
 Jonas Hirsch Epstein  
 Ann Glubok  
 Sam Goldenberg  
 Mark Z. Greenberg  
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- ◆ PFEIFER COMMUNITY OUTREACH FUND
- ◆ SALINGER MEMORIAL LANDSCAPE FUND
- ◆ CBI CEMETERY FUND
- ◆ RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND
- ◆ MAYERSOHN LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT FUND
- ◆ WILMA C. DINER FUND
- ◆ LEIBS REL. SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP FUND
- ◆ STERN LIBRARY FUND
- ◆ LUBER YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP FUND
- ◆ STORTHZ RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FUND
- ◆ 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
- ◆ MEMORIAL PRAYERBOOK FUND
- ◆ CHARLES NEWFELD FUND FOR INTERFAITH RELATIONS
- ◆ SISTERHOOD LEGACY FUND

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



**LEAVE A LEGACY**  
CONGREGATION B'NAI ISRAEL

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.