CONGREGATION B'NAI ISRAEL IITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS THE CHRONICLE NOVEMBER 2021/VOLUME 21 - ISSUE 11

THE RABBI SPEAKS RABBI BARRY BLOCK

Dear Friends:

This month, *The Social Justice Torah Commentary*, the second book that I have edited for CCAR Press, will become available in print almost exactly two years after its predecessor, *The Mussar Torah Commentary*. I am infinitely grateful to Temple leadership—above all, our



Presidents, Carol Parham and Amanda Ferguson—for their faith that I could and would discharge my duties to the congregation even while engaged in book projects.

With respect to *The Social Justice Torah Commentary*, my gratitude to Congregation B'nai Israel runs deeper, all the way back to the days when I was a candidate to become your rabbi.

I came to you at age 50, so I had a considerable track record, almost entirely in one congregation. While I was of course not privy to conversations that members of the Search Committee had with folks at my previous congregation, I could easily infer that they were told something like, "If you don't want a rabbi who gives political sermons, don't hire Rabbi Block."

The Search Committee broached the subject with me. I explained that I did not give "political" sermons, which I define as endorsing or opposing a candidate from the *bimah*, which I would never do and which would threaten our tax-exempt status (even though plenty of preachers do that with no consequences). As we talked further, the Search Committee and I agreed that sermons on social justice topics ought to be firmly grounded in Jewish text and tradition.

Rabbis who articulate social justice arguments are sometimes accused—not always unfairly—of basing a complex and controversial assertion about society merely on a pithy phrase from the Torah, such as "created in God's image" or "Justice, justice shall you pursue," with little depth.

WORSHIP AT-A-GLANCE FRIDAY NIGHT SERVICES IN NOVEMBER

Oneg Shabbat

5:45pm in the Mendel Amphitheater Services at 6:15pm

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 5 6:15 PM

MISHKAN T'FILAH SERVICE LED BY RABBI BARRY BLOCK SERMON: "Keep Digging Wells for Equitable Water Rights" Music: David Bauman Security Sponsor: Deborah Bethuel and Bernie Bevill

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12 6:15 PM

MISHKAN T'FILAH SERVICE LED BY RABBI BARRY BLOCK SERMON: "Home" 30th Birthday Blessing of Liz Cohen Music: Steve Bauman Security Sponsor: Trudy and Jerry Jacobson, in honor of the 30th birthday of Liz Cohen

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 19 6:15 PM MUSIC-FILLED SERVICE LED BY RABBI BARRY BLOCK AND THE STARS OF DAVID BAND SERMON IN SONG

(The Rabbi Speaks continued on page 2)

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

PAGE 2

(The Rabbi Speaks continued from front page)

I might have been guilty of that charge from time to time before coming to Congregation B'nai Israel.

The Social Justice Torah Commentary is both an antidote to that accusation and a refutation of it. The book's contributors build social justice arguments on robust and creative employment of the Torah's own words and commentary—including academic biblical exegesis, classical midrash and commentary, modern midrash, and more.

I would not have been positioned to edit this book, or even have thought to propose it, were I not appropriately challenged by the Temple leaders who selected me as your rabbi and by those who have partnered with me since 2013.

At this writing, the Director of CCAR Press and I have scheduled a meeting to discuss my next book. I am not certain what that will be, or even if there will be one. If there is, though, I know that it will be deeply impacted by the leaders and members of Congregation B'nai Israel.

Faithfully,

Zam H, Block

Rabbi Barry H. Block

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

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 26 6:15 PM MISHKAN T'FILAH LED BY RABBI BARRY BLOCK SERMON: "Slavery and Its Legacy" Music: Jana Cohen Bimah Flowers Sponsor: Alyce Zottoli, in memory of Naomi Zottoli

SHABBAT MORNINGS IN NOVEMBER

Torah Study at 9:30am, Shabbat morning worship at 11am, led by Rabbi Block throughout November Borrow or Purchase Mishkan T'filah to Worship from Home as Shabbat Services Return to the Temple In-Person in November



The Ritual Committee has unanimously determined that we shall return to in-person Shabbat worship at the Temple, beginning November 5. Services will also be livestreamed from the Sanctuary on Friday nights and also on those Saturday mornings when we celebrate a Bar/ Bat Mitzvah. Torah Study and Shabbat morning worship (when we do not have a Bar/Bat Mitzvah) will also be held in-person at the Temple and will be available at home via Zoom, utilizing our Meeting Owl.

Based on feedback from those who worshiped at home during the High Holy Days, we will not be sharing prayer book pages on screen for those who are live-streaming services from the Sanctuary. (For many months, we have not been sharing prayer book pages on the screen on Shabbat mornings.)

Therefore, if you plan to worship from home throughout the duration of the pandemic, you may borrow a copy of *Mishkan T'filah* from the Temple by contacting Keila, 501-225-9700 or TempleSecretary@bnai-israel.us, and completing a prayer book borrowing form which may be found on our website.

Prayer book pick-up will be November 1-5.

However, please note that the opportunity to borrow *Mishkan T'filah* will end with the pandemic, and all borrowed prayer books will need to be returned when the pandemic ends. You may prefer to purchase *Mishkan T'filah*, which you may do here: Mishkan T'filah: Shabbat, transliterated (ccarpress.org). *Mishkan T'filah* is also available as an e-book, e.g., purchased for Kindle via Amazon.

Please note that, in order to facilitate this process as efficiently as possible, all services will utilize *Mishkan T'filah* until further notice.

NOVEMBER 2021/VOLUME 21 - ISSUE 11



THE MAGIC OF HANUKKAH with Magician Derrick Rose

Sunday, December 5: 4:30pm – 6:00 pm

Religious School Hanukkah Celebration – together – outside on the Mendel Amphitheater

Return your filled and completed bucket (see article and announcements in Eblast) for the whole school Hanukkah project and stay for a magic show and some Hanukkah treats.

Open to all families and magic fans of all ages. This program is our Religious School plan for 12/5.



Hanukkah candles, gelt, and dreidels for sale in Temple office beginning November 15. Reserve yours now.

Limited quantities and selection.

Candles = \$12.00/ box

Gelt = \$1.50/bag

Medium plastic dreidels = \$.25/each Cash (in exact amount) or check only please.

Save the Date! Sunday, November 7: 9:15 a.m.- Noon

(We'll be masked, vaccinated, and all noshing will happen outside on the patio of the Mendel Amphitheater.)



NOV-07-21

A project of Limmud North America

The Bonds Between Us

This year's study theme will explore the centrality of community and peoplehood within the Jewish tradition. Our faculty will be teaching the following classes:

From 9:30-10:30

Jewish Text as Sacred Connection Sacred Inclusivity From 11-12

Rabbi Mark Biller, Congregation Agudath Achim Rabbi Barry Block, Congregation B'nai Israel

The Bonds Between Us

Lisa Sherwin, Ph.D. Professor & Chair, Department of Psychology, University of Arkansas at Little Rock

Loss in Community Rabbi Yosef Kramer, Lubavitch of Arkansas Class sizes will be limited so you'll need to contact Meg Marion to pre-register. Meg.marion@mac.com or 501.951.3345

Now in its 12th year, Global Day presents the opportunity for us to gather as a community and learn with stellar facilitators from diverse backgrounds as 400 other communities around the world do likewise. Far from being lectures, these classes spark thought-provoking conversations that have something for absolutely everyone! You will be able to attend two classes in person and, of course, there will be coffee and delicious Kosher noshables. All classes will be recorded so you won't miss a thing!



THE STRENGTH OF A PROPER E POWER OF COMMUN

Sponsored by JFAR, with the support of Congregations B'nai Israel and Agudath Achim. Donations are always welcome.

The Jewish Community of Central Arkansas welcomes you to the 12th Annual Global MORNING of Jewish Learning. You come, you nosh, you learn, you nosh some more, you leave, you're wiser!

COME AND GET 'EM ~ BOOKS!



We cleaned out the library of duplicates and other treasures and they can be yours! Reference, religious, teen and kid titles....

Beginning November 7 – 13

Books will be displayed in the Porte Cochere for the taking. Take as many as you like, but please do not bring them back. Bring your own box/bags.



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 or 501-225-9700.

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

If you would like to deliver the baskets on Friday, November 20^{th} to designated high schools, we need that also.

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

*Schmoozerama Under the Stars Movie: *Keeping the Faith* November 20 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 restrictions. 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 *canceled in the event of rain

CONGREGATION AGUDATH ACHIM PRESENTS

THE ARKANSAS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

QUAPAW STRING QUARTET

An Afternoon Concert

Sunday, November 14, 2021 1:00 pm

NO CHARGE

Seating is limited Safety protocols will be followed Masks and social distancing enforced

RSVP REQUIRED! 501-225-1683 or email to <u>office@LRsynagogue.org</u>



THE TEMPLE CHRONICLE

FROM EILEEN HAMILTON, DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

Know that your kindness has a ripple effect in the universe...

Ru-ach-amim is taking hold around our religious school. It is the combination of *Ruach* (spirit) and *Rachamim* (compassion) that translates loosely into being spirited to do kind things for others. As Hanukkah approaches at the end of November this year, there is no better time to exhibit our kindness to others and make our world a happier place. Surely gift giving at holiday time makes folks happy. The warm feelings of giving and receiving are hardly underestimated.



Two years ago, we began the first year of our pandemic school year with distributing a bucket to all our students and sharing the story *Have You Filled a Bucket Today*? by Carol McCloud. The story teaches us to be 'bucket fillers' by adding smiles, warmth and kindness into the world. It also reminds us that at times, we are 'bucket dippers', people who do unkind things that take away happiness. We oversee filling our own bucket as well as others, and we are in charge of our own happiness and to not let our buckets become empty and depleted. This is a daily balance for many, yet in the end, we can realize that our buckets overflow with good and that not everyone in the world has a bucket as full and bountiful as our own.

This year for Hanukkah, we will become Bucket Fillers again. In November, all students will receive an empty bucket to decorate and fill. The items placed inside will be at your discretion, but the idea is to fill the bucket with good thoughts and feelings, a smile, and kindness. Each bucket will contain the book for the recipient to read. What else you choose to put in the bucket is up to you – as you decide how to spread the feeling of happiness. Your bucket will be returned to Temple before the end of our first semester of religious school and then distributed out to surrounding organizations as a gift to those in need at nursing homes, homeless shelters, hospitals, and more.

This holiday season will be special and abundant for most of us. Let's fill the buckets of others with cheer, decoration, supplies, notes, and more. It's our command to make the world a better place and to do it with vigor and heart – the true definition of RU-ach-amim!



Milton Boyd, our beloved custodian of B'nai Israel is retiring this spring. To honor him for his devoted years of service to B'nai Israel, we are collecting donations as a gift for Milton.

If you wish to be part of the monetary gift, please send your donation to the office by March 15, 2022, noted 'Milton'.

FROM THE PRESIDENT, AMANDA O. FERGUSON

Dear friends,

It is hard to believe that it is already November, and we will be celebrating Chanukah immediately after Thanksgiving this year. I think it is timely that these two holidays fall so close together this year. Thanksgiving reminds us to be thankful for all we have in our lives, and Chanukah reminds us to be thankful for God's miracles, specifically the miracle of light. I am going to add that this year in particular I am thankful for the miracle of technology!!!

Technology has allowed us to return to worship in person, and still provide a streaming option for those that are not yet comfortable gathering in person as well as for those who are happier attending worship from the comfort of their home. Technology has allowed us to continue religious school via Zoom, and it has allowed us to offer multiple access points for Torah Study and Adult Learning as well.

Along with this technology come the folks who have had to learn how to use it and who diligently operate things for us so that the show can go on. Tim Kessler, head of our Tech committee, along with Josiah Wheeler have run the streaming for the majority of our in-person worship, and without them we would not be able to stream these events. Tim is developing a committee that includes Josiah Wheeler, Perry Young, and Bruce Greenberg, and himself - so far. If you have an interest in being part of the tech committee and assisting in streaming, please reach out and let us know. The training is easy, and the more people we have trained to assist the less any one volunteer is required to give of their time. I can't thank Tim and his committee members enough for helping us break new ground. And, of course, thank you again to the Ottenheimer Brothers Foundation for granting us the funds to purchase such great equipment.

I am so happy we are beginning in person worship again. I look forward to seeing some of you in person and some online, and of course I look forward to hearing your feedback from both options. Please know you can always reach out to me, or any board member, with concerns or ideas you may have. If you would like to become more involved, please let us know that as well. We are always looking for folks to volunteer and who knows, you may have that special skill we are in search of.

Wishing you all a Happy Thanksgiving and a Happy Chanukah!

Best, Amanda

Temple is seeking an experienced, organized and very reliable Building Facility Manager with strong knowledge of maintenance and building operations, willing to perform daily janitorial tasks. Job includes working knowledge of mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems. Must be willing to assist in maintaining outside grounds year-round. Must be able to work independently, self- starter/self- supervised with solid organizational and communication skills. Hours may vary. Must possess manual dexterity and physical strength – able to lift at least 50 pounds.

Equal opportunity employer, health care paid, paid vacation, salary commensurate with experience.



Friends – do you know someone who would like to join our family for this position? Your valuable recommendations are appreciated.

DONATIONS

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In honor of Rabbi Block Anonymous In honor of the birthday of Trudy Jacobson Susan Lesser In honor of the birthday of Ruthe Kaplan Susan Lesser Afghan Family Resettlement Donations Martha and Charles Alman Emily Adams and Carmen Arick Karin and Ron Bara Gay Block and Billie Parker Gus Block Eoin Dockter and Jessie Curtis Audrey and Don Evans Esther Gordon Lynn and Bruce Greenberg Miriam and Leonard Hasson Alexandra Ifrah Ruthe and Phil Kaplan Cynthia Kern Janet and Scott Korenblat Jane and Scott Levine Bobbye and Rabbi Gene Levy Allison and Jeffrey Lux Lauren Berkman and Joseph Margolick Meg Marion Pat Highly and Arnie Nachmann Bonnie & Dr. Sam Nickol, in memory of Ann Henriette Selig Lubin, Dick Orgel, Annette Baim Linda and Gene Pfeifer Dale and Lee Ronnel Nan Selz Leslie Singer Patricia and Barry Solomon Lenka Horakova and Trip Strauss

Tzedakah

General Donation Angelica and Joe Wolf

Yahrzeit Fund

In memory of Andrew Scallet and Nathan Perlstein Becky Scallet and Joe Stafford In memory of Gilbert E. Korenblat Pamela Korenblat In memory of Maxwell Lyons, Sr. Mac Lyons In memory of Milton Loeb, Sr. Jane and Scott Levine In memory of Phillip G. Back Jane and Scott Levine In memory of George Wolff Eleanor Wolff In memory of Dorothy Riemer Don and Audrey Evans In memory of Helen Eichenbaum Peggy and L.R. Jalenak, Jr. In memory of Alan Cole Springer Deborah Bethuel Bevill and Bernie Bevill In memory of Syd Waltzer Bobbye and Rabbi Gene Levy

Cemetery Fund

In memory of Raymond E Block, Jr. In memory of Velma Taliaferro Block In memory of Helene Eisenkramer Block In memory of Raymond E. Block, Sr. In memory of Mark J. Block In memory of Sybill G. Block In memory of Mark J. Block II Glenn Block In honor of the birthday of Jerry Jacobson Mac Lyons General Donation Angelica and Joe Wolf

Aline and Louis Salinger Memorial Landscape Fund

In memory of Rabbi Ira Sanders In memory of Rabbi Elijah E. Palnick Glenn Block

DONATIONS (CONTINUED)

Bobbye & Rabbi Eugene Levy Fund for Camp Scholarships

In honor of the Confirmation Class of 2022 In memory of Eugene Weinstein In memory of Leon Marks In memory of Allan Mendel In memory of Marlis Wheeler In memory of Jeffrey Hart Glenn Block General Donation Angelica and Joe Wolf

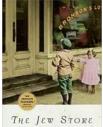
Endowment Fund

In memory of Chris Barrier Kristen Klotz

Al Barron Book Club Sunday, November 7 3:00 pm

The Jew Store, by Stella Suberman in person at the Temple.

Will be held in the Mendel Amphitheater if weather permits



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We are reuniting at Temple for Friday Shabbat Services. Your sponsorship is greatly appreciated.



Bimah Flowers Sponsorship \$100.00



Oneg Shabbat Sponsorship \$54.00



Security Sponsorship One officer \$135.00

Sponsorships can be planned in Honor of a special occasion or in Memory of a Loved One Call the Temple office 501.225.9700 or email <u>templesecretary@bnai-lsrael.us</u> to reserve your sponsorship date.

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR CHRONICLE SPONSORS

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The Temple Chronicle

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1^{st}	Barry Goldman	15 th	Betsy Mayersohn Marilyn Sorrells	29 th	Alan Kauffman
2^{nd}	Aliza Brown Marina Ivanovsky	17^{th}	Brad Diner	30 th	Donna Kirkwood Libby Thalheimer
4^{th}	Alex Flaxman	18^{th}	Debbie Diner	31 st	Daniel Block Amanda Webb
	David Goldsholl Robin West	19 th	Lynn Greenberg Ruth Itzkowitz		
5 th	Phillip Levin Emily Wagner Steve Weinstein	20 th	Rose Back Monica Davidson Michael Gastman	MAZAL TOV Joy Figarsky and Jay Lazerowitz, on the marriage of her son, Alex Handfinger, to Marisa Nelson	
6 th	Jules Ifrah		Avi Helton Alexandra Ifrah		
7^{th}	Allison Lux Sebastian Wolf	21 st	Sandra D. Pruitt Rebecca Kauffman Teddy Rudofsky		
11^{th}	Fred Levin		Edward Scallet		
12 th	Tim Kessler	23 rd	Herb Monoson Sophia Young	PLE	ASE WELCOME OUR
13 th	William Cohen Candy Levy	24 th	Carol Parham Dave Vrudny	NEW MEMBER:	
14^{th}	Jana Cohen Beth Miller Josh Shemper	26 th	Marilyn Weinstein Mollie Axelroth Richard Estelita	BILLIE KING billiemomfour@gmail.com	

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Bev Wittenberg

- 1st Jo and Andy Lawton 37th Becky and Jay Marks - 37th
- 5th Muriel Lederman and Brian Storrie 50th
- 7^{th} Tina and Nate Bernstein 36^{th}
- 9th Tricia and Jerry Gold 15th
- 17th Monica and Joseph Davidson 10th Iris and Robert Oliva - 55th
- 19th Carmen Arick and Emily Adams 35th Karla and Larry Back - 50th

- 22nd Janice and Jesse Kane 47th
- 24th Miriam and Leonard Hasson 49th Irving Spitzberg and Virginia Thorndike - 33rd
- 25th Ruthe and Phil Kaplan 61st
- 26^{th} $\,$ Laura and Allan Gold 48^{th}
- 29th Shirley and Bill Friedman 53rd
- 30^{th} Aliza and Jeff Brown 28^{th}
- 31st Jason Frisbee and Sarah Brady Stack 2nd

NOVEMBER YAHRZEITS

NOVEMBER 5

William Back, Jr. Susan Forsyth Bauman Stanley Bauman, Jr. Mark J. Block Edwin 'Eddie' Ceitlin Howard R. Cohn Betty Bauman Davis Rose B. Deitz Flora Seisel Dreyfus Hortense Weil Ehrenberg Morris Navra Ehrenberg Joe A. Feibelman Aaron Frank Allan Glubok Max Heiman, Sr. Evelyn Kohler Samuel Lasker Eugene M. Pfeifer, Jr. Charles M. Simon, Sr. Ella D. Small

NOVEMBER 26

Diane Anderson Henry Berger Priscilla Brown Clare Grabin Fein Saul Goodman Bertha L. Heilbron Hattie Heiman Sylvia Shore Herstein Charles F. Hexter AmeliaKahn Jacobi Minnie Kahn Bertha Knoff Louis Krain Josephine Landauer Menkus Virginia Estelle O'Briant David L. Reibstein Martin David Rosen Mary Snyderman Marie C. Storthz Naomi Breitowich Zottoli

NOVEMBER 12

Charles T. Abeles Maurice L. Altheimer Robert Axelroth Joseph David Back Ruth Ottenheimer Cohen **Rosabell Dreyfus** Lazarus Ehrenberg Samuel Lasker Epstein Jo Ann Forrest May Newman Gans Mollie Gordon Irving Greenberg Estelle Gurdin Ariel Barak Imber Vera Diamond Jacobson Nathan Kauffman Sol Fisher Klarberg Naomi Luber Rose Lemle Masur Nancy Meyers Hallie Cohen Miller Wolf Moses Betty Friedman Nash Percy C. Nordlinger Hildegard Sherman Rachel S. Silbernagel Charles M. Simon, Jr. Alan Cole Springer Leslie Marks Strauss Nona Pollock Summerfield Camille Heiman Thalheimer Louis L. Wolfort

NOVEMBER 19

Delsie Gans Altman Edward Samuel Back Almen Barron Albert Bloom Sol Branman M. R. Carb. Jr Albert A. Ehrman Lee Eichenbaum Ruth Berenson Forsyth Dora Frankenstein Louis Froug Simon Gans Abraham J. Goldman Stanley Goodman Hyman Harberg Mose Hartman Lillian Kahn Marion Kaplan James Mendel Kempner Albert I. Korenblat Claire Levy Maurice Shae Lifschitz Judy Miller Sallie Ottenheimer **Edith Peiser** Dan Reikes Jacob Rephan Elsa Klein Rosenthal Jerry Smart Mollie Lindenberg Spitzberg Joe Storthz, Sr. Bernese O. Thalheimer Henrietta Volmer Sonia Waltzer Bernard Waltzer Louis Witt



WE RECORD WITH SORROW THE DEATH OF

ALTA MYERS, MOTHER OF LINDA (AND GENE) PFEIFER GARRETT ASHER, GRANDFATHER OF AUSTIN (AND ALISON) VANN

ENCLOSED IS MY GIFT OF DONATION IN THE					
From:					

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.