CONGREGATION B'NAI ISRAEL LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS THE HRONICLE TEMPLE JANUARY 2022/VOLUME 22 - ISSUE 1

THE RABBI SPEAKS

RABBI BARRY BLOCK

Dear Friends:

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Congregation B'nai Israel has been a community of champions. We have gathered to worship, study, and build our community—whether on Zoom,



or more recently, in person. We have established, maintained, and not complained about stringent regulations to keep ourselves and each other safe. Our Religious School families kept the spirit alive through a year and a half of online learning.

And now, in January 2022, we return to Temple, in person in full force!

At "The Magic of Chanukah,' a wonderful outdoor evening arranged by Eileen Hamilton, our Religious School students and their families **cheered** when asked who was ready to come back to Religious School in person. The enthusiasm was infectious. Then, when asked who has had their COVID-19 vaccination, every hand went up, and again they cheered. (Don't let anybody tell you that children don't love Religious School at Temple. Heck, they even like shots now!)

We return to Religious School in person on January 16! We return to Oneg Shabbat, briefly removing our masks to eat and drink, at the first opportunity in January.

WORSHIP AT-A-GLANCE

FRIDAY NIGHT SERVICES IN JANUARY

Oneg Shabbat in the Lobby 6:00 pm Services at 6:15 pm

FRIDAY, JANUARY 7

ALL MUSIC,
ALL DEBBIE FRIEDMAN SHABBAT
LED BY THE STARS OF DAVID BAND
Bimah Flowers Sponsor:
Loris and Jay Fullerton, in memory of
Janet Grundfest Mayersohn and
Arnold Linn Mayersohn, and
Bettye and J.W. Fullerton

FRIDAY, JANUARY 14

MISHKAN T'FILAH SERVICE LED BY RABBI BARRY BLOCK SERMON: "The Music of Prayer" Music: David Bauman

FRIDAY, JANUARY 21

MISHKAN T'FILAH SERVICE LED BY RABBI BARRY BLOCK SERMON: "Jewish-Adjacent" Music: Jana Cohen

FRIDAY, JANUARY 28

MISHKAN T'FILAH SERVICE LED BY EILEEN HAMILTON Music: David Bauman

(The Rabbi Speaks continued on page 2)

(Worship at-a-glance continued on page 5)

(The Rabbi Speaks continued from front page)

Twenty-two months into the pandemic, most of us are eating in restaurants again, at least occasionally. And now, thanks to our President, Amanda Ferguson, our COVID-19 Task Force, and our Board of Trustees, we may break bread together inside the Temple again. Since we require proof of vaccination (or negative PCR test from the previous forty-eight hours), there's no safer place to take off your mask for a moment, grab a bit of challah or a glass of wine or water, put that mask back on, and enjoy conversation with one another in person.

For some time, our Board and COVID-19 Task Force member, Jill Flaxman, M.D., has been telling us: "We are going to have to learn to **live** with this disease." If the emergence of Omicron teaches us anything, it is that COVID-19 is going to be around for quite a while. I know you join me in the hope that we may continue to gather in person, in ever growing numbers, breaking bread together, at the safest—and for us, the most sacred—place in town.

Faithfully,

Rabbi Barry H. Block

Zam Hock

Congregation B'nai Israel is honored to be the launchpad for our Rabbi's much anticipated second book...

The Social Justice Torah Commentary

Edited by Rabbi Barry H. Block

Sunday, January 16, 4 pm

Featuring:

Discussion of the book by Rabbi Block

Video greetings from Rabbi Hara Person, Chief Executive, Central Conference of American Rabbis; and Rafael Chaiken, Director of CCAR Press

Featuring video appearances by contributors to *The Social Justice Torah Commentary* who have visited our congregation in the past, including:

Imani Romney-Rosa Chapman

Rabbi Denise Eger

Rabbi Marla Feldman

Rabbi Noam Katz

Rabbi Rachel Grant Meyer

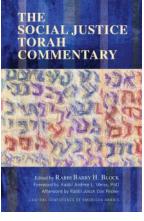
Rabbi Lauren Tuchman

Rabbi Mary Zamore

Book Sales and signing

Refreshments

To purchase *The Social Justice Torah Commentary*: The book will be available for sale and signing at the Book Launch. However, books may be purchased in advance at the **deeply discounted price** of \$16, by contacting Keila, 501-225-9700 or TempleSecretary@bnai-israel.us.



Hanukkah Magic, Fun, and Mitzvot



FROM EILEEN HAMILTON, DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

A Jewish mother awakens her son to go to Temple, and the son replies that he doesn't want to go. "The kids at Temple are mean, they don't like me, they pick on me and I just would rather stay in bed at home". His mother continues to rouse him with encouragement, knowing that he must go to temple. She replies, "I hear you son, but you must get up and go to Temple – you're the Rabbi".

"Why do I have to go to 'school' on Sunday when I went to school all week?" – a famously repeated question by most Jewish children when awakened to get up for religious school on Sunday. We have heard it a thousand times. The answer is of course 'because I said so!'.

As we prepare to return to religious school in January, in person, I wonder if we can come up with some better answers about why Jewish education is important. While some answers of the past have been, 'you will go because when I was a kid, I had to go' and 'you'll go because I hated it and now you will too' are not good answers.

Education is a Jewish priority. Despite the costs of education every year, Jews allocate a significant amount of time and money toward education. In a 2016 Pew Research study, Jewish children attend more years of school compared to others. While other religious groups also prioritize education, Jews have a history with education. We teach our children that learning is important — at home and at school. Our Torah is our guidebook for how to live, and Abraham, our forefather, was an educator to his family and the world. Moses continued the tradition as a teacher and commanded us to teach our children. Education is what set us apart and allowed us to survive and prosper in a big world. We as Jews are exposed to books and better yet, discussion.

So, when you awaken your child this January and they are sleepy, let's have our answers in order:

You are going to religious school today because you are learning to be a Mensch – a good person who treats others fairly and puts God in your decisions.

You are going to religious school today because you are part of a much larger story – from Abraham to the present. It's not all about history, but figuring out where you belong in this wonderful, long, and interesting Jewish story.

You are going to religious school today even if you already know everything (which you do not), it's about being part of the discussion, the exchange, the debate. You cannot learn by staying at home and not being part of the group.

You are going to religious school today because every Jew needs to be an educated Jew. You're going to religious school today to make a connection with your temple, your clergy, other adults, and with your Jewish peers.

There are a ton of reasons why we cherish Jewish education, and you can add in your own, just leave out the ones that diminish the value of our tradition.



Change to Religious School Hours

On December 14, our Board of Trustees passed a policy put forward from the Religious School Committee to shorten the religious school morning by 30 minutes. Our hours moving forward will be from 9:00 – 11:30 am, each scheduled Sunday. We will continue with our set curriculum, plus Hebrew instruction. We encourage all families to begin Hebrew reading readiness in 4th grade, which will be offered midweek, to ensure Hebrew decoding prior to meeting with a Bar/Bat Mitzvah tutor.

We are opening RELIGIOUS SCHOOL in person on Sunday, January 16 at 9:00 am.

B'RUCHIM HA BAYIM – welcome back to your Temple.

Parents and students: gather at 9:00 am for a short introduction and prayer experience in the sanctuary, followed by activity stations for our students in our classrooms. Our students will engage in projects that make us feel at home and comfortable in our sacred Temple.

Snacks will be provided for students (outside).

Masks are required while indoors.

Proof of vaccination is required before 1/16. Please email a copy to: ehamilton@bnai-israel.us

SAVE THE DATE

B'nai Israel Spring Fundraiser

"OY VEY 5K"

Sunday, March 27 Two Rivers Park Walk, run, sponsor, enjoy



Contact Amanda at <u>akateferg@gmail.com</u> if you would like to volunteer or be a sponsor.

(Worship at-a-Glance, continued from front page)

SHABBAT MORNINGS IN JANUARY

Torah Study at 9:30am, led by Rabbi Block on January 1, 8, and 15, and by Lynn and Bruce Greenberg on January 22 and 29.

Shabbat morning worship at 11am, led by Rabbi Block on January 1, 8, and 15, and by Annabelle Imber Tuck on January 22 and 29.

MAZAL TOV

Kathy and David Bauman, on the Bat Mitzvah of their granddaughter, Gracie Eckstein, daughter of Rabbi Katie Bauman and Adam Eckstein, at Touro Synagogue in New Orleans.

Harold Tenenbaum and Zach Tallon, on the Bar Mitzvah of Harold's grandson, Julius Tenenbaum, son of Nathalie and Jerald Tenenbaum, at Congregation Rodeph Sholom in New York City. Julius is also the grandson of **Judy Kohn Tenenbaum**, of blessed memory, and the nephew of **Cori and Tim McGrath**.

Terry Orgel, on the engagement or her grandson, Benjamin Orgel, to Taylor Van Den Bosch.

Sarah Brady Stack and Jason Frisbie, on the birth of their daughter, Forrest Lyla Frisbie.

Jeff Nodelman, who earned a Master's Degree in Mass Communication from the University of Arkansas-Little Rock.

Andrea Neloms, who earned a Master's Degree in Public Administration at the University of Arkansas-Little Rock.

Karen and David Reagler, whose children, Tillie and Louis, were named Eagle Scouts by Scouts BSA. Tillie is the first female Eagle Scout in Hot Springs.

Cheryl Streiff, on the birth of her granddaughter, Zara June Lucia Frank, born to Elenore Vena and Ryan Frank. Zara joins big brother, Atticus.

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







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 templesecretary@bnai-lsrael.us to reserve your sponsorship date.

FROM THE PRESIDENT, AMANDA O. FERGUSON

Dear friends,

A new year brings so many new possibilities. Here at Temple, we are exploring what those possibilities may be. From updated COVID Task Force guidelines, to a new custodian/facilities manager, to returning to in-person religious school, we have a host of new possibilities ahead.

First, I am happy to announce that after careful consideration, the COVID Task Force has given the green light for food to be served in the Temple again, and for folks to unmask while eating. All services and non food related events will still require masks, and all people in attendance at Temple events must still show proof of COVID vaccine or a negative PCR test taken within 48 hours of the event. This allows for families holding life cycle events to bring those celebrations back within our own walls, while still allowing for fully masked worship for those who do not wish to unmask.

As you may already know, our beloved custodian, Milton Boyd, will be retiring in March after more than 20 years serving our congregation. Milton will be sorely missed by many. We would like to give Milton a monetary parting gift from the congregation upon his retirement. If your family would like to contribute to that gift, please send a check or cash to the Temple office marked "Milton" and it will be included. Your Executive Committee has already begun interviewing candidates to fill this position and are hopeful we will find someone great.

I can not contain my excitement about our return to in-person religious school this month. Eileen has been working hard to prepare for the return of students: cleaning and organizing classrooms, preparing teachers and curriculum, and so much more. Hearing the sounds of children and families once again filling our building is something I look forward to very much.

Finally, I am excited to ask you to save the date for Sunday, March 27. We will be hosting a 5k fundraiser that morning at Two Rivers Park. This event will be called the Oy Vey 5k! We are in the early planning stages for this event and will be reaching out for sponsors, volunteers, and of course, participants. I hope you will all join us for this fun and family friendly fundraiser. If you are interested in being part of the planning committee, please let us know!

As always, if you have concerns or questions, or just want to reach out, feel free to send me an email at akateferg@gmail.com. I always welcome your input.

Best, Amanda

> 2021 Tax Donation Letters will be mailed the third week of January 2022.

PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBER:

DRAKE HIRSCH-PIPKIN drakepipkin@gmail.com

DONATIONS

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In honor of Rabbi Block

Anonymous

Support for Afghan refugee project

Lynn and Bruce Greenberg

Annabelle Imber Tuck

In memory of Eddie Ceitlin

Bonnie and Dr. Sam Nickol

In memory of Gayle Slager

Bonnie and Dr. Sam Nickol

In memory of Max and Sarah Gold

Allan and Laura Gold

Yahrzeit Fund

In memory of Elsa Klein Rosenthal

Byron and Susan Rosenthal Kantrow

In memory of Marguerite Selz

Nan Selz

In memory of Elsie Axler

Lynn and Bruce Greenberg

In memory of Nathan Axler

Lynn and Bruce Greenberg

In memory of Dolores Greenberg

Lynn and Bruce Greenberg

In memory of Mark Greenberg

Lynn and Bruce Greenberg

In memory of Lauren Weintrob

Lynn and Bruce Greenberg

In memory of Sheila Find

Marilyn and Earl Sorrells

In memory of Raymond V. Biondo, M.D.

Mary Biondo

In memory of Gege Thalheimer

Joan, Larry, and Laura Nafe

In memory of Ted Baer

Milt Baer

In memory of Richard A. Yoder

R. Paul Yoder

In memory of Harvey Luber

Elaine Luber

In memory of Caleen A. Estelita

Richard Estelita

In memory of Martin David Rosen

Betty and David Rosen

In memory of Jean T. and A. David Goldberg

Ellen Goldberg

In memory of Salene Lyons

Mac Lyons

In memory of Harry S. Lasker

Harriet L. Katz and Family

Bauman Music Fund

Wishing a speedy recovery to Steve Bauman

Marilyn Robison

Dale and Lee Ronnel

Carole and Gary Weisbly

Ellie and John Moore

Susan Lesser

Trudy and Jerry Jacobson

In honor of Jana Cohen's special birthday

Richard Estelita

Dave Grundfest, Jr. Israel Scholarship Fund

In memory of Gayle Slager

Miriam and Leonard Hasson

Debbie and Brad Diner

Ann and Phyllis Storthz

Temple Meir Chayim Camp Scholarship Fund

In memory of Gayle Slager

Jim Pfeifer and Robynn Zinser

Jill and Steve Bauman

Honey and Phil Weinstein

Tammy Stafford

Scott and Mary Carole Polk

Beth and Steve Orlansky

J. David Orlansky

Carole and Gary Weisbly

Ellie and John Moore

Merrill and Mike Stern

Naomi and Larry Orlansky

Lori and Josh Shemper

Jane and Scott Levine

In appreciation of Rabbi Block

Neal, Keith, and Lori Spielman

In memory of Lyle William Spielman

Neal, Keith, and Lori Spielman

General Donation

Tom Slatton

Sustaining Fund

In memory of Max and Sarah Gold
Allan and Laura Gold

Vogel Caring and Sharing Fund

In memory of Gayle Slager

Jan and Larry Alman

In honor of Karla and Larry Back's

50th wedding anniversary

Ellie and John Moore

DONATIONS (CONTINUED)

Harvey Luber Youth Scholarship Fund

In memory of Gayle Slager Karen and Mark Mackey In memory of Harvey Luber Karen and Mark Mackey

Sam J. Storthz II Religious Education Fund

General Donation Eric Siegel

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

In memory of Gayle Slager Becky and Jay Marks

Endowment Fund

In memory of Gayle Slager Dale and Lee Ronnel In memory of Max and Sarah Gold Allan and Laura Gold In honor of Steve Bauman and Leonard Hasson Heidi and James Williams In memory of Allan Mendel Heidi and James Williams

Aline and Louis Salinger Memorial Landscape Fund

In honor of Mac Lyons Texas great-grandchildren

To reduce the number of statements mailed each year, we hope you will consider one of the following:

Logging in and paying online with *Rakefet*. This system allows you to pay, make donations, track your Yahrzeit observances, and check your most recent transaction history. It takes just a minute to set it up and this link will assist you in that process:

https://us.rakefetonline.com/#/login

Signing up for monthly or quarterly ACH. We can debit your account automatically each month and spread out your payments over 12 months.

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

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR CHRONICLE SPONSORS



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FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

1^{st}	Sam Levin	12 th	Nancy Alexander	$23^{\rm rd}$	Jill Bauman Keith Nigro
2 nd	Adam Hoffman	13 th	Colten Pilgreen		Erin Wolf
3 rd	Catherine Norwood Linda Pfeifer Dale Ronnel	15 th	Shirley Friedman	25 th	Charlotte Rudofsky Vivian Rudofsky
4 th	Bonnie Nickol	16 th	Perry Cohen	26 th	Andrew Casciano William Siegel
5 th	Charles Alman Eoin Dockter Bruce Greenberg Sam Nickol	17^{th}	Harper Bizzell Robert Spector	27 th	Isabella Ifrah Thalia Stuber
6 th	Stacey Ronnel Janice Thurow	18 th	Rylee Krupitsky	28^{th}	Howard Bresnik
7 th	Ellen Korenblat Becky Marks Terry Orgel	19 th	Jude Schlesinger		David Shell
8 th	Greyson Reiss	20 th	Debbie Brady		ur Groups ig in January
9 th	Martha Alman Irving Spitzberg		Eileen Hamilton Jack Perin	United M	Asbury ethodist Church
10 th	Samir Dhall Tricia Gold	21 st	Ellyn Polsky Michael Ronnel	Confirmation Class	
	Clara Spivey	aand			t. James Iethodist Church

ps nuary

United Methodist Church **Confirmation Class**

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

 22^{nd}

Capi Peck

6^{th}	Judy and John Selig - 40 th
U	Judy and John Seng - 40

Reed Dhall Aniko Diamant

 11^{th}

14th Rivka and Harry Ehrenberg, Jr. - 8th Lee and Ricky Harris - 5th

16th Betty and David Rosen - 45th

19th Becca and Andrew Perin - 10th Melinda and Lou Tobian - 27th

Alison and Austin Vann - 8th 21^{st}

Temple Tours

We have resumed having tours on Friday afternoons prior to service. All COVID rule restrictions are in place. Tours can be scheduled by contacting Keila in the Temple office at

501-225-9700 or

templesecretary@bnai-israel.us

If you are interested in helping out with tours, please contact Dale Ronnel about becoming a tour guide. dronnel@sbcglobal.net

JANUARY YAHRZEITS

JANUARY 7

Blanche Alman Louis Blass Max Block Ray Solmson Bluthenthal Martin Borrok Barbara Brookes Sophie Ceitlin Wilma C. Diner Jennie Book Diner Lucille K. Ehrenberg Irma Frankel Bettye Fullerton J.W. Fullerton Yale I. Glubok Louis Goldman Maurice Joseph Jacobson Sol H. Levy

Marcus Eugene Mackey Arnold Linn Mayersohn Janet Grundfest Mayersohn Edward Meyers Henrietta Pfeifer Arthur P. Pfeifer Allen A. Quick Jeanette Rubin Annette J. Sanders Sam J. Storthz, Jr. Bernard Tanenbaum Mollie Liffland Utter

Herbert Lux

JANUARY 14

Eva Abrams David Alexander Sol Alman Gus Blass Alice Young Camp Mabel Cohen Larry Dumont Debbie Friedman Martin Greenberg Joe Bill Hackler Mary Julia Heczel Doris M. Hoffman Charles W. Kaiser Harvey Laner J. Aaron Levy Renee Miller Morris Phillips David Reagler Joanne Reagler Maurice Roby Morris H. Rosen Harry Schneider Sylvia Schwartz Sam Schwartz Mamie Dreeben Spear Birdie Razeper Tenenbaum Sol Waldman June M. Wolf Eva Wolff

JANUARY 21

Arthur Bott Barnett H. Cohen Rebecca Navra Cohen Steven Dranoff Ernest E. Ellman Molly Fleisig Mary E. Gans Sarah Gold Ruth Goldsholl Marx Goldstein Lance Corp. Jeremy Kane Ellen Rae Kaufman Ida Laner Lewis Laner Leo Lansky Marion Lee Levy **Beatrice Brint Marks** Kate L. Mayersohn Jane B. Mendel Elias Navra Leonard J. Ottenheimer Miriam Zavadoff Rabkin Anita P. Scherer Reikes Ralph Reutlinger Samuel Rosenberg Dan Schwartz Sydell Siegel Gertrude M. Solmson Adrienne R. Steppach Moses O. Stern Jess B. Thalheimer Haskel Wolff

JANUARY 28

Alan Harris Arsht
John F. Bolts
Joan Bresnik
Pauline R. Crum
James Davidson
Carolyn Schott Ducker
Randall M. Falk, Sr.
Flora Oppenheimer Fox
Albert R. Fox
Dorothy Joseph

Jacob Kempner
Fannie Safferstone Klein
Lionel H. Kohler
Eva L. Korenblat
Ruth Goldman Kretchmar
Samuel Herbert Levin
Dave Meyer
Mary Nelson
Leah Isolene Shindler
Jennie R. Storthz

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

DONATIONS: THANK YOU FOR YOUR ONGOING GENEROSITY TO YOUR TEMPLE

From:	(please print your name exactly how you want it to be listed in the Chronicle)	
In memory of:		
In appreciation	n of:	
Other:		

- ♦ ENDOWMENT FUND
- ♦ SUSTAINING FUND
- VOGEL CARING & SHARING FUND
- ◆ THE KNOFF FAMILY FUND
- ◆ 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
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- ♦ 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



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.