

CONGREGATION B'NAI ISRAEL  
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS

# THE CHRONICLE

TEMPLE FEBRUARY 2022/VOLUME 22 - ISSUE 2

## THE RABBI SPEAKS

RABBI BARRY BLOCK

With great exuberance, I wrote last month about our plans to resume serving food at the Temple, unmasking only to eat, and expressed my hope that this development would lead to increased in-person attendance at Temple. We all know what happened next. More people than ever—particularly including our very cautious, heavily vaccinated congregation, including me—have come down with Covid-19. Blessedly, the virus has made none of our members gravely ill to date. Still, all kinds of hopes and dreams for the early months of 2022 have been dashed. A return to the Oneg Shabbat table seems like the least of our concerns.



Thankfully, Congregation B'nai Israel is well practiced at Zoom. I don't particularly mean that Eileen and I, Amanda, Meg, and our musicians have plenty of experience leading services via Zoom, though that is the case. Even more important, our congregation has consistently responded well, forming a meaningful and consistent Zoom community. Our services, Religious School, and special programs have been well attended throughout the pandemic, and I am grateful that our Zoom services and programs have enabled us to continue our Jewish religious life and reduce loneliness among our members and guests.

Just as Zoom has enabled our distance members and others to participate in the life of Congregation B'nai Israel, some of our congregants enjoy the high production values that some of North America's largest congregations can and do offer via livestream. We should not resent that.

*(The Rabbi Speaks continued on page 2)*

## WORSHIP AT-A-GLANCE

**FRIDAY NIGHT SERVICES  
IN FEBRUARY**  
Services at 6:15 pm

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 4**  
SPECIAL MUSICAL PROGRAM WITH  
RABBI MICAH LAPIDUS AND  
MELVIN KINDALL MYLES  
Worship Music: David Bauman

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11**  
MISHKAN T'FILAH SERVICE  
LED BY RABBI BARRY BLOCK  
SERMON:  
"Let Every Student Shine Like the Gems of  
the Priestly Breastplate"  
Music: Jana Cohen

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18**  
MISHKAN T'FILAH SERVICE  
LED BY MIRA KRAIN AND  
RABBI BARRY BLOCK  
SERMON:  
"Mercy, Anger, and Mass Incarceration"  
Music: Jana Cohen and David Bauman  
Bimah Flowers Sponsor: Krain Family  
Security Sponsor: Krain Family

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25**  
MISHKAN T'FILAH SERVICE  
LED BY RABBI BARRY BLOCK  
SERMON:  
"Tz'dakah and Each Person's Values"  
Music: Steve Bauman

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

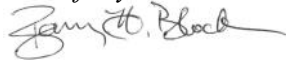
*(The Rabbi Speaks continued from front page)*

I am grateful that our members are finding Jewish religious fulfillment, wherever they find it, while remaining loyal to our congregation.

I continue to be optimistic and hopeful, even though I have no particular expectation regarding when we might return to in-person services, take off our mask to enjoy a *nosh*; and return to Religious School in-person, which increasingly feels like the one thing we are missing most.

Thanks are due to all of our members who *have* kept the faith with Congregation B'nai Israel, however we have gathered.

Faithfully,



Rabbi Barry H. Block



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

## SHABBAT MORNINGS IN FEBRUARY

Torah Study at 9:30am, led by Rabbi Block on each Shabbat morning in February. Note that Torah Study on February 19 will be abbreviated, concluding at 10:15am. Shabbat morning worship at 11am, led by Rabbi Block on February 5, 12, and 26. On February 19, Shabbat morning services for the Bat Mitzvah of Mira Krain will begin at 10:30am.

Please join

## MIRA CHLOE AMSLER KRAIN

and her family as she becomes a Bat Mitzvah on  
Saturday, February 19 at 10:30 am

All attending in person must abide by the B'nai Israel  
COVID guidelines.

Mira's mitzvah project was helping acclimate an  
Afghan family as they settled in Little Rock.

Services will be streamed at [www.bnai-israel.us](http://www.bnai-israel.us)

## B'NAI ISRAEL COVID POLICY TO ATTEND IN-PERSON SERVICES

Since the outset of the Covid-19 pandemic, Congregation B'nai Israel has shaped and articulated its response to the pandemic on the basis of ancient and deeply held Jewish values. All of Congregation B'nai Israel's Covid-19 policies, including this one, are expressions of our religious values.

Policy Attendance at all worship services in the Temple shall be restricted to:

1. Persons who provide proof of vaccination\* to the satisfaction of the President or person(s) to whom the President delegates the responsibility to determine proof of vaccination; and
2. Persons who provide documentation of a negative PCR test for Covid-19 taken within 48 hours prior to the service.

Proof of negative PCR test shall be verified by the President or person(s) to whom the President delegates the responsibility to determine proof of negative PCR test. The test is at the expense of the attendee. All attendees must remain masked at all times while in the Temple building, with the following exceptions: 1. Persons under age two. 2. Persons who are leading the service or any portion thereof, only while leading services.

\*proof of vaccination must now include booster if more than five months have passed since the initial two doses of Pfizer or Moderna or the initial does of Johnson & Johnson.



## **Shabbat Music to Stir Your Soul Friday, February 4 on Zoom.**

### **The Music of Rabbi Micah Lapidus and Melvin Kindall Myles**

We are thrilled to welcome for Shabbat two incredibly talented musicians from Atlanta, Rabbi Micah Lapidus and Melvin Kindall Myles. The two of them, a Reform Rabbi and a lifelong gospel singer in the Baptist tradition, have partnered to compose and perform spiritually uplifting and insightful music, influenced by their roots, their faith, and their lives as spiritual leaders in the city of Atlanta. They will share their music throughout our Shabbat service on Zoom on February 4.

Melvin Kindall Myles is a Mississippi native, born and raised in the Delta area of Clarksdale, known as the birthplace of the blues. He is a Soulful Christian and Jazz Vocalist now based in Atlanta, where you will find him regularly serving the Worship and Arts Ministry of the Historic Ebenezer Baptist Church.

Rabbi Micah Lapidus is the Director of Jewish and Hebrew Studies at The Davis Academy, a Reform Jewish Day School in Atlanta. He is also the composer in residence at The Temple in Atlanta. He performs regularly in the Atlanta area with his diverse and talented band, The Hello, Goodbye, & Peace Ensemble which often features Mr. Myles. Rabbi Lapidus has visited our congregation previously, where his engaging presentation was deeply appreciated by all.

A musical friendship born out of the historic partnership between The Temple and Ebenezer Baptist Church, Lapidus and Myles have been creating music together for several years and are just now beginning to expand their musical collaboration beyond the Atlanta area. Their most notable collaboration, *I Was Not Silenced*, was featured in the official and televised 2021 MLK Program hosted by the King Center. They are currently on a Zoom tour in support of their first collaborative album, *Better Angels*,” scheduled for release in early 2022.

*This program is generously sponsored by the Bauman Family Music Fund.*

## FROM EILEEN HAMILTON, DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

There is nothing ‘*katan*’ about Purim, except in a leap year. *Katan* in Hebrew means ‘small’, meaning that the holiday of Purim is held in the Hebrew month of *Adar*, and when there are two *Adars* in a leap year, we have two Purims, one small and one ‘regular’. The regular Purim will be celebrated on Wednesday, March 16 (14 *Adar* II) when we will dress in costume, read the *megillah*, party with merriment, and drown out the name of the evil Haman. *Purim Katan* will fall on Tuesday, February 15 (14 *Adar* I). It is most likely that *Purim Katan* will come and go without notice.

Whether categorized as *katan* or *gadol*, small or big, Purim is a time to give gifts to friends and those in need. This mitzvah is called *Mishloach Manot*. There are four mitzvot associated with the holiday of Purim – hearing the megillah and having a festive meal are two, and the other two are the giving of the gifts. Our religious school year has focused on RU-ACH-AMIM – the spirited acts of compassion and all our families were so generous with our Hanukkah bucket project. For Purim, we will once again remember those in need and to those who serve as our friends in our community. Those who are working in healthcare and in hospital settings to care for so many still contracting COVID.

This Purim, we will collect small items for treat *Mishloach Manot* bags to hand out to nurses, medical technicians, clinics, and hospital staff and beyond to remember that Haman is synonymous with COVID – let’s drown out it’s ugly name and reward the true heroes – our friends in the healthcare world – the Esther’s, Vashti’s, and Mordechai’s of the world.

We will collect the items from *Purim Katan* through Purim (Feb. 15 – March 16) at Temple. When you come to pick up supply bags for religious school OR better yet, come back to religious school in person, bring a few items for the *Mishloach Manot* bags at least 12 of individually wrapped snacks, candy, mints, gum, other needed items such as nail files, lotions, cheery notes, and more. Be creative in what you think will brighten someone’s day. We will compile the bags and distribute them right after Purim. Nothing is too *gadol* (big) or too *katan* (small) to make a difference in someone else’s life and spirit.

Happy Purim.



Milton Boyd is  
retiring this spring.

We want to show Milton  
our love on

Sunday, April 3 – stop by  
and give him your best!

5:00 – 7:00 pm

Have a nosh and visit with  
Milton and his family.



**OY VEY 5K**  
Spring Fundraiser ~ March 27

Congregation B'nai Israel  
Spring Fundraiser  
Sunday, March 27  
Two Rivers Park  
8:30 check-in, Race/Walk at 9:00 am

Race Registration details coming soon  
\$36.00 per participant

Become a sponsor:  
Platinum: \$5,000  
Gold: \$1,000  
Silver: \$500  
Bronze: \$100

Purim **MISHLOACH MANOT**  
bags for healthcare heroes.

Thank those who continue to care for others with  
treats and sweet gifts to brighten their day.



Bring individually  
sized snacks and  
treats and other  
needed daily items to  
Temple between  
February 15 – March  
16. Religious School  
students will prepare  
the gift bags for  
distribution.

Be part of RU-ACH-AMIM - a combination of *ruach*  
(spirit) and *rachamim* (compassion). RU?

## FROM THE PRESIDENT, AMANDA ORGEL

Dear Friends,

As we move fully into 2022, I know we all expected to be regathering as a congregation at this point. It was my sincere hope that we would be gathering together for religious school, worship, learning, and social events by now. Unfortunately, if we have learned anything in the last two years it is that you never know when things will change.

Last month I was excited to announce that we were going to allowing eating in the Temple again, and yet here I am announcing that with the Omicron surge we have had to back off of those plans and return to zoom. While gathering in person remains our hope and our goal, the safety of our staff and congregants will always come first.

As we talk about safety, please know that the security of our building and all who enter it are of utmost concern to your Board of Trustees as well. In the wake of what happened in Colleyville in January, we have begun to discuss increases in security measures we may take, training for our staff and congregants, and increased communication with local law enforcement. We value everyone who comes through our doors, and will continue to do everything in our power to make our Temple a safe place to be for everyone.

Wishing you all good health,

Amanda

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## *MAZAL TOV*

**Rabbi Gene Levy** on the 50th anniversary of his rabbinic ordination from Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion.

Rabbi Levy's class (which includes the first ordained female rabbi) is being honored this Spring by the National Association of Retired Reform Rabbis and by the Central Conference of American Rabbis.

**Ruthe and Phil Kaplan**, on the marriage of their grandson, Alex Kaplan, to Corey Neidel.

**Elizabeth Cohen** on her marriage to **Lauren Johnston**. Congratulations also to Elizabeth's parents, **Jana and Perry Cohen**; and her grandparents, **Trudy and Jerry Jacobson**.

## ADULT LEARNING



### Poetry as a Response to Grief

with

### Rabbi Pamela Wax

Author of

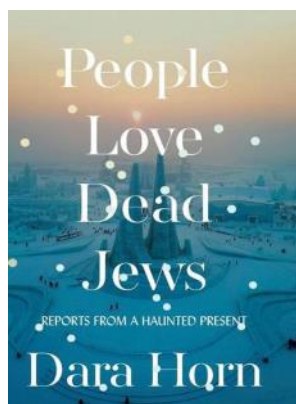
*Walking the Labyrinth*

Sunday, February 6, 9:30-11am, via Zoom



Poems will be made available during the session, and advanced registration is not required to participate. However, to receive the packet of poems to be shared in advance of the session, please register with Keila, [TempleSecretary@bnai-israel.us](mailto:TempleSecretary@bnai-israel.us) or 501-225-9700, no later than Friday, February 4, at 12pm.

*Rabbi Pamela Wax has run a Jewish spiritual healing center at a Jewish social service agency in White Plains, NY for 18 years, where she facilitates spiritual support groups and teaches on a wide variety of topics, including Mussar, bereavement, estranged families, Wise Aging, the afterlife, ethical wills, and spiritual memoir. She is a contributor to The Mussar Torah Commentary, edited by our own Rabbi Block. Her essays and articles on Judaism, spirituality, and women's issues have been published widely, and her poetry has been awarded honorable mentions in the Robinson Jeffers Tor House Prize, the Oberon Poetry Prize, and the Paterson Literary Review's Allen Ginsberg Poetry Award. Her first collection of poetry, **Walking the Labyrinth, written in response to her brother's death by suicide, is available from Main Street Rag Publishing. Pam walks labyrinths in the Bronx, NY and the Northern Berkshires of Massachusetts.***



### Al Barron Book Club

Sunday, February 13  
3:00 pm

*People Love Dead Jews,*  
by Dara Horn  
via Zoom

**DONATIONS****Rabbi's Discretionary Fund**

In honor of Rabbi Block  
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 In honor of the birthday of Fran Eiseman  
 Katherine Jefferson

**Vogel Caring and Sharing Fund**

In memory of Gayle Slager  
 Muriel Lederman and Brian Storrie  
 In memory of Eleanor Gross  
 Mark Gross

**Yahrzeit Fund**

In memory of Blanche and Sol Alman  
 Jan and Larry Alman  
 Martha and Charles Alman  
 In memory of Annette J. Sanders  
 Keith Maddison  
 In memory of Barbara Brooks  
 Laurie Arnold  
 In memory of Janet Grundfest Mayersohn and  
 Arnold Linn Mayersohn  
 Arnold Mayersohn and Family  
 In memory of Alan Harris Arsht  
 Eileen and Larry Hamilton

***Yizkor Elohim***

WE RECORD WITH  
 SORROW  
 THE DEATHS OF

**HOLLIS PRUITT,**  
 HUSBAND OF SANDRA PRUITT,  
 AND FATHER OF LAURA (AND  
 BRAD) JOSEPH

**CHARLES "BUD" NEUHAUSER,**  
 FATHER OF JEFFREY NEUHAUSER,  
 (AND TERRI MOORE)

**Bauman Music Fund**

In honor of Liz Cohen and Lauren Johnston  
 Richard Estelita and Charley Penix  
 In memory of Anita P. Scherer Reikes  
 Kathy and David Bauman

**Endowment Fund**

In memory of Hollis Pruitt  
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 Dale and Lee Ronnel

**Hallie Cohen Miller Archives Fund**

In memory of Hollis Pruitt  
 Jim Pfeifer and Robynn Zinser

**Dr. Wilma Diner Fund for Jewish Education**

In honor of the birthdays of Debbie and Brad Diner  
 Hardy Winburn

**Cemetery Fund**

In memory of Hollis Pruitt  
 Debbie Woksa, Anita and Chuck Harvey  
 Jill and Steve Bauman

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

In memory of Hollis Pruitt  
 Ann and Phyllis Storthz

**Sisterhood Legacy Fund (SLEF)**

In honor of Magnolia's naming  
 Amber Thomas and Ben Teeter  
 General Donation  
 Andrea Neloms



**DONATIONS (CONTINUED)**

**Bobbye & Rabbi Eugene Levy Fund for Camp Scholarships**

For the complete recovery of Steve Bauman

In memory of Gayle Slager

In honor of the special birthday of Jana Cohen

In honor of the well-deserved retirement of Perry Cohen

In honor of the well-deserved retirement of Barbara Hager

In honor of the special 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Muriel Lederman and Brian Storrie

In honor of the special anniversary of Emily Adams and Carmen Arick

In honor of the special 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Karla and Larry Back

In honor of the special anniversary of Julie and David Shindler

In honor of the birthday of Silvana Berlinksi

In honor of the birthday of Doris Krain

Bobbye and Rabbi Gene Levy

Wishing a speedy recovery to Susan Lesser

Trudy and Jerry Jacobson

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## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

1 <sup>st</sup>	Gus Blass III Tess Kramer Lee Thalheimer Kathryn Tull Sam Vogel, Jr.	16 <sup>th</sup>	Kelli Schlesinger	29 <sup>th</sup>	Brad Joseph
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Scot Goldsholl Sheree Meyer John Oakes Harold Tenenbaum	17 <sup>th</sup>	Judy Grundfest	30 <sup>th</sup>	John Sokora
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Cidney Hulett	18 <sup>th</sup>	Kathy Grundfest Franklin Richard	31 <sup>st</sup>	Don Evans Trip Strauss
4 <sup>th</sup>	Jason Frisbie Muriel Lederman	20 <sup>th</sup>	Nancy Rousseau Paul Yoder		
5 <sup>th</sup>	Gay Block Astrid Dockter Susan Lowitz	21 <sup>st</sup>	Lisa Coffey Hulett Bill Friedman		
6 <sup>th</sup>	Daniel Berleant	22 <sup>nd</sup>	Brooke Doolittle		
8 <sup>th</sup>	Leonard Hasson Sydney Lowitz	24 <sup>th</sup>	Natalie McGarry Angelica Wolf		
9 <sup>th</sup>	Stephen Rousseau Brian Storrie	25 <sup>th</sup>	Jerry Bendorf Jenny Boshears Jeffrey Neuhauser		
13 <sup>th</sup>	Joyce Franklin	26 <sup>th</sup>	Leah Elenzweig Joseph Margolick Arnie Mayersohn		
14 <sup>th</sup>	Emily Hooks Vaughn Aaron Lubin	27 <sup>th</sup>	Ellen Lowitz Madelon Scallet		
15 <sup>th</sup>	Joannie Collins Irwin	28 <sup>th</sup>	Eli Krupitsky Michelle Lemaire Earl Sorrells		

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## MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

5 <sup>th</sup>	Kirsta and Keith Nigro - 13 <sup>th</sup>	25 <sup>th</sup>	Jana and Perry Cohen - 33 <sup>rd</sup> Eileen and Larry Hamilton - 27 <sup>th</sup>
11 <sup>th</sup>	Elizabeth and Alex Daniel - 11 <sup>th</sup>	26 <sup>th</sup>	Alena and Aaron Cousins - 11 <sup>th</sup>
16 <sup>th</sup>	Karen and Mark Mackey - 37 <sup>th</sup>	28 <sup>th</sup>	Bonnie and Sam Nickol - 57 <sup>th</sup>
21 <sup>st</sup>	Jill and Jon Flaxman - 23 <sup>rd</sup>	29 <sup>th</sup>	Joan and Larry Nafe - 42 <sup>nd</sup>
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Luci and Daniel Rodell - 42 <sup>nd</sup>	30 <sup>th</sup>	Rebecca and Alan Kauffman - 38 <sup>th</sup>

## FEBRUARY YAHRZEITS

### FEBRUARY 4

Gittel Adler  
 Betty Lasker Alexander  
 Dorothy G. Axelroth  
 Rose Besser  
 David Bluthenthal  
 Harry Bresler  
 Janice Brewer  
 Roy B. Dumont  
 Edith L. Fleisig  
 Louis Goldman  
 Jack Grundfest  
 Alan Hirsch  
 Birdie L. Lasker  
 Bernice Marx Lion  
 Lilah Ann Sewall Mulkey  
 Beryl Harris Nordlinger  
 Edna Frances Parker Lanoue  
 Laura Reifer  
 Marvin Roberts  
 Louis Maurice Samuel  
 Eleanor Samuels  
 Lillian Schiffman  
 Shirley Schumann  
 William A. Stern  
 Shirley Strauss

### FEBRUARY 11

Fran Abts  
 L. Julian Alexander  
 Joyce Arick  
 Delia G. Bloom  
 Albert K. Cohen  
 Sidney Jacob Fields  
 Sarah Hannah Friedman  
 Jean Gailliard  
 Max Greenbaum  
 Mabel Feld Grundfest  
 Sam Grundfest  
 Phyllis Lieberman Kauffman  
 John Eric Kerner  
 Chester E. Miller  
 W. E. Rogers  
 Dorothy Blass Storthz  
 Hulda D. Thalheimer  
 Carla Smith Webb  
 Arthur Weiss  
 Bessie Weller

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

### FEBRUARY 18

Henry Stephan Abowitz  
 Natalie Loeb Alexander  
 Adolph Bluthenthal  
 Don-Neil Brotman  
 Nat M. Cohen  
 Annah Cohen  
 Kimberly Daniels  
 Charles Herrman Dante  
 Chai Rachel Epstein  
 Charles Fleisig  
 Rhoda Lowenberg Gilbert  
 Augusta Finger Goldman  
 Sarah Ackerman Greenberg  
 Lilian Cohen Horton  
 Ruth Horton  
 Dorothy Krain  
 Esther Lansky  
 Eugene P. Levy  
 Randy Maughan  
 Heloise Kaufman Pfeifer  
 Milton Richard  
 Vivian Brooks Rosen  
 Lena Light Rubenstein  
 Gilbert Rubin  
 Morris B. Sanders  
 Freda Granoff Thomas  
 Catherine Towbin  
 Faye Block Weinstein  
 Stella F. Weisman  
 Donald Spradlin Wise

### FEBRUARY 25

<p>Alice Lasker Back          Sadie C. Bauduy          Noland Blass, Sr.          Flora L. Cohen          Carrie L. Dosch          Harold F. Epstein          Hattie Jean Falk          Isadore Goodman          Robert Hestermann          J. B. Heyman          Max Knoff          Jean Lachmann</p>	<p>Hattie Sickles Levy          Mimi Back Loeb          Joseph Lyons          Morris Marks          Joseph Arnold Miller          Daniel Ottenheimer          Irene Bott Pfeifer          Henry Rephan          Louis C. Salinger          Levi Storthz          Jean Walter</p>
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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



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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.