CONGREGATION B'NAI ISRAEL IITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS THE CHRONICLE TEMPLE MARCH 2022/VOLUME 22 - ISSUE 3

THE RABBI SPEAKS RABBI BARRY BLOCK

Dear Friends:

I was raised with the firm conviction that Jews are not a race. Judaism is a religion—or, in the

words of Rabbi Mordecai Kaplan, a civilization. Jews value peoplehood—that is, our kinship with our fellow Jews around the world and across all time. We share certain traits like an ethnic group would, even though our people includes several ethnic groups. The fact that one can convert to Judaism is the strongest evidence that Judaism is not, and never has been, a race.

After Whoopi Goldberg was suspended from *The View* for insisting that the Holocaust was not a matter of racism, an understandably confused congregant reached out to me. Wasn't Goldberg correct? We are not, in fact, a race!

I was not especially bothered by what Goldberg said on *The View*. One would be hard-pressed to find Holocaust-denying or antisemitic intent. After all, the conversation arose in response to McMinn County, Tennessee's banning the important Holocaust graphic novel *Maus* from its curriculum. Moreover, the next day, *The View* featured ADL Executive Director Jonathan Greenblatt as a guest, and he explained the complexity of talking about the Holocaust and race. Goldberg took full responsibility for what she had gotten wrong; and she apologized, not only that people were upset, but for what she had said. WORSHIP AT-A-GLANCE FRIDAY NIGHT SERVICES IN MARCH Oneg Shabbat at 5:45 pm Services at 6:15 pm

FRIDAY, MARCH 4 MISHKAN T'FILAH SERVICE LED BY RABBI BARRY BLOCK SERMON: "Securing the Sanctuary" Music: Steve Bauman

FRIDAY, MARCH 11

MISHKAN T'FILAH SERVICE FOR SHABBAT ZACHOR, THE SHABBAT OF REMEMBRANCE BEFORE PURIM, LED BY RABBI BARRY BLOCK SERMON: "Antisemitism in 2022" Music: David Bauman Oneg Shabbat Sponsor: Mike and Stacey Ronnel, in loving memory of Barbara Stern

FRIDAY, MARCH 18

MISHKAN T'FILAH SERVICE LED BY RABBI BARRY BLOCK SERMON: "An Infrastructure for Inclusion of People with Disabilities" Music: Jana Cohen

The Rabbi Speaks continued on page 2

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

PAGE 2

(The Rabbi Speaks continued from front page)

Leaving aside the fact that not all Jews are white, the critical piece that Goldberg missed is that, for the Nazis, Jews were not of the same race as so-called Aryans.

In between those two episodes of *The View*, though, Goldberg appeared on *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert*. There, she referred to both the Nazis and the Jews they sought to exterminate as "white people."

No, Jews are not a race. However, those who define us as a race do so because they seek to exclude us from their own race—and, in the case of the Nazis, from humanity. We are not a race, but racism has been used to persecute us, even to slaughter us by the millions. We are right both to continue to insist that we are not a race and to acknowledge—and, to ask others to acknowledge, as Goldberg ultimately did—that we have been and can be the victims of racism.

Faithfully,

Zam H. Block

Rabbi Barry H. Block



MILTON BOYD

is retiring this spring. Show Milton our love for him... Sunday, April 3: 5:00—7:00 pm Stop by and give him your best and have a nosh with Milton and his family. (Worship at-a-Glance, continued from front page)

FRIDAY, MARCH 25 MISHKAN T'FILAH SERVICE LED BY RABBI BARRY BLOCK SERMON: "Rabbis Need Rabbis" Music: David Bauman Bimah Flowers Sponsor: Britt, Amber, Sara and Anna Grace Mock, in loving memory of our Papa, E.L. Scharff

SHABBAT MORNINGS

Torah Study at 9:30am, led by Rabbi Block on March 5, 12, and 19 and by Annabelle Imber Tuck on March 26. Shabbat morning worship at 11am, led by Rabbi Block on March 5, 12, and 19 and by Lynn and Bruce Greenberg on March 26.



Al Barron Book Club

Sunday, March 13 3:00 pm *All Other Nights*, by Dara Horn Temple Library

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B'nai Israel Religious School Purim Maccabiah Palooza and Jacobs Camp Visit

Sunday, March 13: 10:30 - 11:30 am

9:00 am ~ Parents visit with Anna, Nadav, Carolyn and Jacob from HSJ for breakfast and reunion
9:00 - 11:00 am ~ Students will participate in fun games and activities during religious school hours.

> 11:00 am ~ Hear the Megillah and nosh some Hamantaschen and make some noise!



We welcome Jacobs Camp on March 13 for a camp presentation and fun with Anna and Nadav Herman, joined by associate director, Carolyn Harari, development director, Jacob Fijman, and other camp staff.

Purim MISHLOACH MANOT

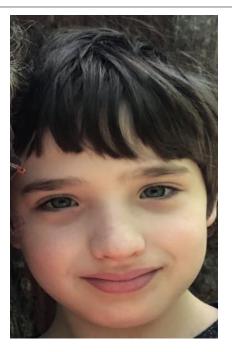
bags for healthcare heroes. Thank those who continue to care for others with treats and sweet gifts to brighten their day.



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?

The Temple Chronicle



Please join Andrew Casciano and his family as he is called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah Saturday, April 2 - 10:30 am



Join Andrew Casciano for his Mitzvah Project Saturday, March 19: 10 am Children's Library Garden – 4800 W. 10th Street "Growing Community Garden Program" ~ Planting and seasonal gardening. Group size limited to 12. Sign up by emailing Shelley Casciano – blanksteen1@gmail.com.

Upcoming Adult Jewish Learning from the URJ!

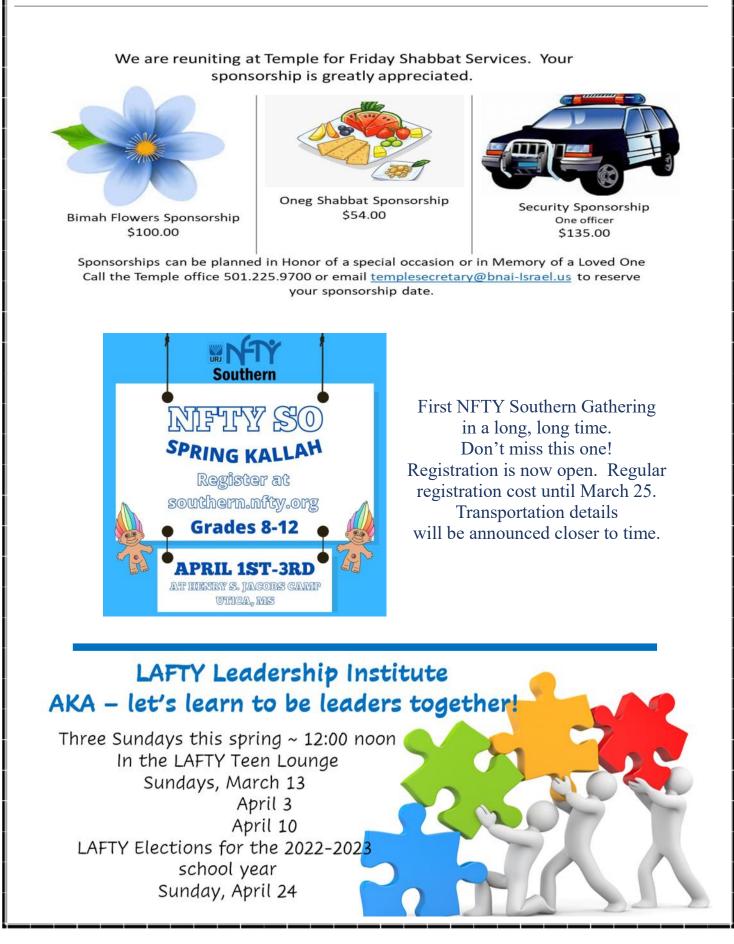
Mindful Parenting, for Parents of School-Age Children

(offered in partnership with the Institute for Jewish Spirituality) Learn how the Jewish practice of *tikkun middot* (cultivating character virtues) can help you be the parent you aspire to be and experience the joy of parenthood more often. Four self-guided modules with four weekly live practice sessions with Rabbi Lydia Medwin. Wednesdays, March 2, 9, (skips 16), 23, 30; 8-9 PM ET. Tuition: \$99.

Jewish & New-ish: A Supportive Online Space for Those Who Have Recently (0-5 Years) Converted to Judaism

Have you converted to Judaism in the past five years? Drop-in to our monthly online gathering where you can make connections, process your experiences, and learn with others in this safe space offered through a Reform Jewish lens. Ask questions without fear, share triumphs and challenges in a nurturing environment, and continue to explore your journey with Judaism in a community of care. Thursdays, 8-9 PM ET.

For more information, and to register, visit Reformjudaism.org/ and click on the Learning tab.



FROM THE PRESIDENT, AMANDA ORGEL

Dear friends,

I am so happy that we have returned to in-person worship here at Temple. Seeing fellow congregants, in person, and being able to interact with you face to face has been so nice. If you haven't yet joined us in person, please make a plan to do so soon, and please remember to submit your proof of vaccine (including booster shot for those eligible) to the Temple office so we can keep it on file and speed the check-in process when you come in the building.

Our first in-person event was the Bat Mitzvah of Mira Krain. What a great way to kick off our regathering, with one of our young adults leading us in worship. Mazel Tov to Mira and her family!

Security has, of course, been on all of our minds. Our security committee, chaired by Carol Parham, has been meeting to discuss improvements to the building that may help us, training for staff and for congregants, and so much more. Thanks to everyone on this committee working to help us stay safe as we gather together.

This month, we also say goodbye to Milton Boyd, who has been at Temple many years. Milton's service to the congregation will be honored at a party on April 3, 5-7pm. I hope you will all join me in thanking Milton for the time he as spent in with us, and his contributions to Temple life. If you would like to be included in the gift to Milton upon his retirement, please send a check clearly marked for Milton to the Temple office.

In anticipation of Milton's retirement, we have hired a new facilities manager, Christopher Williams. Christopher's good nature and positive attitude, along with his extensive abilities in facilities management, will make him a great fit for us. Please be sure and stop by and introduce yourself to Christopher when you are in the building.

Best, Amanda

Yizkor Elohim

WE RECORD WITH SORROW THE DEATHS OF

LEE RONNEL HUSBAND OF DALE RONNEL, AND FATHER OF KAREN (AND DAVID) PEAR, MIKE (AND STACEY) RONNEL, AND STEVE (AND JENNIFER) RONNEL

ELEANOR WOLFF

MOTHER OF ADRIENNE (AND JEREMY) GROSSBARD, AND DAVID WOLFF

Yahrzeit Fund Donations

In memory of Fannie Safferstone Klein Byron and Susan Rosenthal Kantrow In memory of Natalie and L. Julian Alexander Natalie and S. L. Greenberg In memory of L. Julian Alexander Phyllis and Edward Kaplan In memory of J.B. Heyman Mike Hart, Jr. In memory of Donald Wise Marilyn and Earl Sorrells In memory of Rhoda Lowenberg Gilbert & Norman Shepherd Gilbert, and Evelyn Feit Lowenberg Michael Gilbert In memory of Louis Salinger In memory of Joe Lyons Mac Lyons In memory of Dorothy Blass Storthz Larry Storthz and Rosetta Urbach In memory of Irma Frankel and Abraham Frankel Susan and Mike Schmitz **Donations continued on page 8**

FROM EILEEN HAMILTON, ADMINISTRATOR

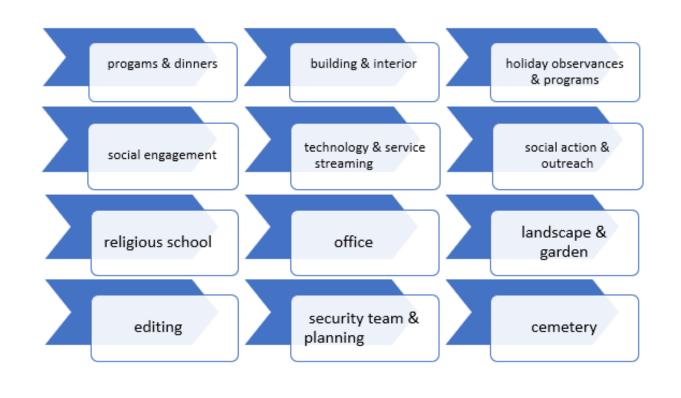
"No one has ever become poor from giving" – Anne Frank

The new word '*volun-told*' replaced the old '*volunteer*'- People coercing others into doing something. One time someone asked me what I would do if I didn't work, and I replied, probably be someone's best volunteer. I mean what else would I do all day? Through volunteering one can gain great skills, gain confidence, make a difference, meet people and be part of a community, take on a challenge, have fun, be a leader, and most importantly, be a problem solver.

At B'nai Israel, there are a ton of great volunteers. Some of them have done the same volunteering for many, many years, while others are just getting started. They are both great places to be. As we reopen the building to all the usual programs and some new ones too, consider carving out a little time to be one of those volunteers. From board members, committee chairs, security team, kitchen and dinner assistants, religious school teachers and subs, and even behind the scenes office assistants, your Temple needs you. The Temple has a small staff and without the energy of volunteers, big and small things get put on 'future' lists.

There is more to volunteering than just taking the weight off the shoulders of others; there is a lot of self-satisfaction involved. Volunteering allows us to role model for the next generation of Temple members, our future, and show that the Temple is an important part and place for you, your family, and community.

Below are some general volunteer needs at Temple (this list is not exhaustive). Look and see if you can see yourself getting involved as a volunteer. You'll be glad you did.



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The Temple Chronicle

DONATIONS (CONTINUED)

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In honor of Rabbi Block Anonymous In memory of Eleanor Wolff Adrienne Grossbard and David Wolff In memory of Hollis Pruitt Fran Eiseman In memory of Ellen Rae Kaufman Fran Eiseman In memory of E. Lee Ronnel Gus Block In memory of Robin Hecht Deutsch Gus Block Wishing Gus Block a speedy recovery Trudy and Jerry Jacobson In memory of E. Lee Ronnel and in appreciation of Rabbi Block The Ronnel Family

Endowment Fund

Wishing Susan Lesser a speedy recovery Carole and Gary Weisbly In honor of the birthday of Dale Ronnel Jill and Dan DeHart Robin and Charlie Johnson In memory of Eleanor Wolff Miriam and Leonard Hasson In memory of Charles "Bud" Neuhauser Matt & ACC Physicians at Arkansas Cardiology Jill and Steve Bauman General Donation Faye and Jack Marks

Vogel Caring and Sharing Fund

In appreciation of Vogel Caring and Sharing Committee The Ronnel Family In memory of E. Lee Ronnel Muriel Lederman and Brian Storrie Gina and Charles Kokes In memory of Charles "Bud" Neuhauser Muriel Lederman and Brian Storrie Anne and Larry Miller Gina and Charles Kokes

Sisterhood Legacy Fund (SLEF) In memory of Eleanor Wolff Doris Krain

Temple Meir Chayim Camp Scholarship Fund In memory of Gayle Slager Stacey and Greg Otwell Susan and Lou Good

Sam J Storthz II Religious Education Fund

In appreciation of Religious School Roz and Ed Rudofsky

Endowment Fund

In memory of E. Lee Ronnel Ellie and John Moore Jan and Larry Alman Martha and Charles Alman The Vexler Family Natalie and S.L. Greenberg Herbert Rule Nanci Goldman and Bob Rivner Donna Kirkwood and Barry Goldman Dr. and Mrs. Robert Moore Irv and Cindy Munn Jill and Steve Bauman Kathy and David Bauman Mac Lyons Chris Johnson Nancy and Steve Rousseau Miriam and Leonard Hasson Carol and Chester Storthz Carmen Arick and Emily Adams Debbie Brady Skip and Billie Rutherford Richard and Betty Gene Mann Joel and Barb Fogel Mike and Pam Kalpin Carole and Gary Weisbly Ann G. Gerache Susie and Brian Rosenthal Alan and Elaine Kolodkin Sallv and Alan Pinsker Alice and Rick Arogeti Mary Lou Cohn Joi and Mark Pryor Carol Mendel Jim Pfeifer and Robynn Zinser Ray and Linda Vining Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Lipsitz Lynne Lipsitz Jane Goff Tri State Iron and Metal Company Henny and Bert Lasley Raida Snyderman Lynda and Rabbi Richard Zionts Karla and Larry Back Joan and Noel Strauss Don Pfeifer and Maggie Hogan Arlene Averbuch **River Recycling Industries** Patty and Patrick Boyd Deborah and Lou Jacobs Mike and Mary Jane Lamensdorf In memory of Hollis Pruitt Carole and Gary Weisbly In memory of Allan Mendel Byron and Susan Rosenthal Kantrow

DONATIONS (CONTINUED)

Bobbye & Rabbi Eugene Levy Fund for Camp Scholarships

In appreciation of Rabbi Levy The Ronnel Family In honor of the 50th anniversary of Rabbi Levy's ordination Gina and Charles Kokes In memory of E. Lee Ronnel Anne and Larry Miller Bobbye and Gene Levy In memory of Charles "Bud" Neuhauser Dr. and Mrs. Bobby Caldwell Bobbye and Gene Levy In memory of Hollis Pruitt In memory of Eleanor Wolff In honor of the special birthday of Perry Cohen For the special kindness of Kennon and Scot Goldsholl For the special birthday of Keith Nigro Bobbye and Gene Levy

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

In memory of Hollis Pruitt Becky and Jay Marks In memory of Lee Ronnel Linda and Gene Pfeifer Becky and Jay Marks In memory of Charles "Bud" Neuhauser Becky and Jay Marks

Bauman Music Fund

In appreciation of David Bauman and Jana Cohen The Ronnel Family In memory of Freda Granoff Thomas Marilvn Robison and Bliss Thomas In memory of Charles "Bud" Neuhauser Trudy and Jerry Jacobson

Janet and Arnold L. Mayersohn

Leadership Development Fund In memory of E. Lee Ronnel Loris and Jay Fullerton Amy Brownstein & Bruce Mencher

Dr. Wilma Diner Fund for Jewish Education

In memory of E. Lee Ronnel Debbie and Brad Diner In memory of Wilma Diner Carmen Arick and Emily Adams In honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Mira Krain Muriel Lederman and Brian Storrie In memory of Charles "Bud" Neuhauser Carmen Arick and Emily Adams

Cemetery Fund

In memory of Hollis Pruitt Dana B. Ritchie Sarah and Elizabeth Rogers In memory of Charles "Bud" Neuhauser Debbie Brady

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APRIL BIRTHDAYS

1^{st}	Richard Bronfman Drake Hirsch-Pipkin	12 th	Jay Lazerowitz	21 st	Darcy Krupitsky
3 rd	Karla Back Glenn Block	14 th	Spencer Nodelman Alaia Smouni Robert Vogel	24 th	Charlie Friedman Len Johnson
	Anna Moses		Judith Zinser	26^{th}	Jamie McGarry
4 th	Susan Lesser	15^{th}	Bettye Korenblat		Marilyn Robison Phyllis Storthz
	Joy Williams	16^{th}	Lee Harris	27^{th}	Ann Storthz
8^{th}	Paul Spitzberg		Brock Jacobs Larry Jacobs		
9 th	Kathy Bauman Sandi Uretsky	17^{th}	Hallie McGarry Barbara Spitzberg	29 th	Josiah Wheeler
				30^{th}	Dorian Stuber
10 th	Gary Ticker	19^{th}	Susan Strauss		

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

- 10th Karin and Ron Bara 11th
- 13th Melanie and Bill Siegel 36th
- 14th Stacey and Mike Ronnel 20th
- 23rd Regina and Perry Young 17th
- 25th Ellen Korenblat and Luke Kramer 24th

Please update your contact lists with **Aniko Diamant's** new phone number, 501-914-5947.

This is her cell phone, and it will replace her landline number.

MAZAL TOV

Capi Peck and Brent Peterson, of Trio's Restaurant, who were inducted into the Arkansas Food Hall of Fame as Proprietors of the Year

Jim Pfeifer, who received the Outstanding Preservation Reporting in the Media Award given by Preserve Arkansas for his regular articles in "Hillcrest Life" and "Heights Living" magazines

Joanne and Charles Matson, on the forthcoming marriage of their son, Cameron, to Jessica Giraudon

Susan Weinstein, who was named Arkansas Veterinarian of the Year

Terry Orgel, on the engagement of her granddaughter, Megan Orgel, to Kase Pappert

MARCH YAHRZEITS

MARCH 4

William Back, Sr. Ann W. Carb Norm Dollinger Lilian Kay Eisman Howard Feinstein **Rachel Frank** Felix Gans Edward Leonard Gealt Steven Gofforth Max Gold Carol Lazerowitz Clara Simon Loewenberg Morris Marks **Rina Beatrice Saltman Miller** Joann Norwood Daniel P. Ottenheimer Elijah Ezekiel Palnick James J. Pfeifer Clara Goldenblank Raff Abe S. Rosen Arthur O. Sanders Dorothy Cone Sherman Jacob Slutsky Gertrude Paul Solomon Samuel J. Spitzberg Lewis Alexander Storthz Louis Wolsey

MARCH 11

Irving Balto Geraldine DeFrance Sylvia R. Friedman Irene Goldman Sara Kempner Goodman Norman Graber Virginia Harris Agnes Golden Hunter Jesse Kaiser Dan Levin Elizabeth Levinson Levin Abraham J. Louchhein Olivia Lyons Karen McKim Ruby Siesel Pfeifer A. Dan Phillips Barbara Laner Phillips Jack Phillips Lendor Remy Ruth Rodell Arthur D. Rosenthal Edith Ottenrider Sachs Nathan Ehrlich Steppach, Sr. Barbara S. Stern Charlotte Storthz **Eleanor Pfeifer Strauss** Tracye Altschul Strauss August SimonVogel Esther Zeno Mathilde Zwirn

MARCH 18

Shara Adams Rose Balkin Nathan Borrok Rosa Cohn Otis Dante Herman Ehrenberg David G. Falk Joseph Earl Flowers Frances Frank Joseph Geller Irene Goldman Arnold S. Goodman Al J. Goodman, Jr. Rose Besser Gould Nell Gray Greenbaum Edna Kahn Kempner Carolyn W. Kramer Harry Lasker. Sr. Martin Nelson Gus Ottenheimer Edna L. Roberts Marsha Frances Rosen Israel Louis Safferstone Bernice Weisman Sherman Mary Spann Underwood Etta Louchheim Wolf Pete Yoder

MARCH 25

Hortense Rudolph Back Lena Koff Bresler Shirley Weinstein Cohen Sophie Cohn Nathan H. Ehrlich Alfred Fendler Theodore R. Fox Miriam Graber Dave Grundfest, Sr. Sophie Kempner Daniel B. Kohn Roland Joseph Lanoue Rosa H. Lasker Mervin L. Leibs Aida R. Levi Helen Maisel Lewis Fay Marcus Lewis Albert Hughes McCann Peter Phillips Eduard L. Scharff, Sr. Alma Jacobs Scott Maurice Herbert Soltz Lilyan Stern Fanny Thalheimer Hyman Ticker



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.