CONGREGATION B'NAI ISRAEL LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS THE CHRONICLE MAY 2022/VOLUME 22 - ISSUE 5

THE RABBI SPEAKS RABBI BARRY BLOCK

Last month, we observed Passover as the Festival of Freedom; and in early June, we will celebrate Shavuot, when our ancestors received Torah at Mount Sinai.



Both festivals, though, are, at their root, agricultural celebrations of the spring harvest, when ancient Israelites harvested wheat and barley, their most important and life-sustaining crops. Throughout this May—annually, each day between Passover and Shavuot—traditional worship includes a ritual of counting the fifty days when our ancestors brought a sheaf of grain each day to the Jerusalem Temple to give thanks for the bounty that was theirs by God's grace.

Most of us are removed from farming. Yes, in the spring and summer, we enjoy Arkansas produce, and we celebrate agriculture in our state. Still, most of us are not engaged in farming, and we have little knowledge of what is involved.

In a passage we read from Leviticus this month, God requires that fields lie fallow once every seven years. Israelites were commanded to grant a Shabbat to the land, just as God gave them a day out of every seven for rest. Those who keep track of such things tell us that 5782, our current year, is a sabbatical year, and Israelis and others who take Jewish farming practices seriously, are paying special attention.

As part of the Central Conference of American Rabbis convention in late March, I visited a regenerative farm founded on Jewish values and principles.

WORSHIP AT-A-GLANCE

FRIDAY NIGHT SERVICES IN MAY

Oneg Shabbat at 5:45 pm Services at 6:15 pm

FRIDAY, MAY 6

MISHKAN T'FILAH SERVICE HONORING LAFTY SENIORS, led by LaFTY Seniors and Rabbi Barry Block D'var Torah: Lilah Goldman Music: Steve Bauman

FRIDAY, MAY 13

MISHKAN T'FILAH SERVICE led by Evelyn Dranoff, Nathaniel Dranoff

Evelyn Dranoff, Nathaniel Dranoff, Rabbi Barry Block, & Cantor Marc Stober Sermon-in-Song: Cantor Marc Stober Music: Cantor Marc Stober, David Bauman, and Jana Cohen

Oneg Shabbat and Bimah Flowers
sponsored by
Fillis and John Stober, in honor
of the Bnai Mitzvah
of Evelyn and Nathaniel Dranoff
Security Sponsored by Dranoff Family

FRIDAY, MAY 20

ALL MUSIC SHABBAT led by The Stars of David Band

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

(The Rabbi Speaks continued on page 2)

(The Rabbi Speaks continued from front page)

This summer, my son Daniel plans to participate in a ten-week program on such a farm in Illinois, Zumwalt Acres. I have begun to learn about the ways that corporate farming practices deplete the Earth God gave us, poison the water, and endanger species. I increasingly understand the positive impact of a variety of farming strategies—for example, planting crops that attract a variety of pollinators, rotating crops in a way that replenishes the soil's nutrients, and no-till farming in which chickens are moved onto a tract of land after harvest to enhance natural fertilization.

The agricultural focus of the Jewish calendar was largely lost to the Jewish people across the long centuries when most Jews were prohibited from owning or even working the land. A central focus of Zionism is to reconnect our people with the land, a phenomenon now spreading beyond Israel, particularly among a younger generation desperately striving to save the Earth.

I confess that I have deemphasized the agricultural aspects of our Jewish calendar throughout my rabbinate, a longstanding Reform Movement blind spot. The time for that to change has come. Let this season's traditional Jewish focus on the way our food is produced open our eyes to our role as consumers who can encourage environmentally sound farming practices by the way we choose our choices we make in the grocery store. God and our Jewish tradition ask no less of us.

Faithfully,

Zameth, Black Rabbi Barry H. Block

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

FRIDAY, MAY 27

SHABBAT UNDER THE STARS FOR CAMP SENDOFF SHABBAT led by Rabbi Barry Block Music: David Bauman Come for an expanded and festive Oneg Shabbat outdoors, and then wish all our campers well as they embark on a another amazing summer at Jewish overnight camp.

Please join B'nai Israel for the ANNUAL MEETING AND INSTALLATION OF BOARD OF TRUSTEE

June 14, 2022 at 6:00 pm

OFFICERS

Temple Office Closings

Tuesday, May 24th for Election

Monday, May 30th in observance of Memorial Day

SHABBAT MORNINGS IN MAY

Torah Study at 9:30am, led by Rabbi Block on May 7, 14, and 28 and by Sam Willis and Rose LeCompte on May 21. Note that Torah Study on May 13 will be abbreviated, concluding at 10:15am. Shabbat morning worship at 11am, led by Rabbi Block on May 7 and 28 and by Annabelle Imber Tuck on May 21. On May 14, Shabbat morning services for the B'nai Mitzvah of Evelyn Dranoff and Nathaniel Dranoff will begin at 10:30am.



Evelyn Grace Dranoff and Nathaniel Alan Dranoff are becoming B'nai Mitzvah on Saturday, May 14 at 10:30 am Please join Evie and Nate and their family on this special occasion. Kiddush luncheon follows the service.

Nate is working with The Storybook Project of Arkansas on a computer program to generate QR codes that link directly to audio files. This will help the recordings of children's stories by incarcerated parents be more easily accessible to their kids. Nate will also be collecting new and very gently used children's books. New board books are particularly needed for the youngest children. If you would like to help please bring a book with you when you visit Temple B'nai Israel or visit:

www.storybookprojectofarkansas.org to learn more or make a donation.

Evie is working with The Brooklyn Project Foundation to raise awareness and money for research into pediatric cancer treatments. She is teaching about this important cause to the students at her religious school and leading them in a *tzedakah* (charity) project. The Brooklyn Project Foundation is a memorial to Evie and Nate's friend and classmate, Asher Brooklyn Ray. To learn more about the foundation or make a donation visit:

www.thebrooklynproject.org

Cantor Marc Stober to Offer Sermon-in-Song May 13



Cantor Marc Stober, brother of our congregant Rachel (and Jonathan) Dranoff and son of Temple members Fillis and John Stober, will provide a sermon-in-song for Shabbat Eve services on May 13 and will co-officiate with Rabbi Block at the B'nai Mitzvah of Cantor Stober's niece and nephew, Evelyn and Nathaniel Dranoff, on May 14.

Cantor Stober is Education Director and Cantor at Temple Israel of Manchester, New Hampshire. He also teaches Hebrew at Temple Beth David of Westwood, Massachusetts and is a guest cantor and teacher at other congregations. He was ordained in 2021 by Hebrew College in Newton, Massachusetts, where he also received his master's degree in Jewish Education. Cantor Stober likes to combine traditional and contemporary melodies, and he teaches about Jewish prayer so that people can participate meaningfully in the rituals of their community. Prior to becoming a cantor, he had a technology career. He lives in Massachusetts and has two children, Hannah and Max, and is excited to return to Little Rock for Nate and Evie's B'nai Mitzvah!

FROM THE PRESIDENT, AMANDA ORGEL

Dear Friends,

I have been doing a lot of reflection lately over my experience as your Temple President. While this time has been full of challenges, I can honestly say it has been the most rewarding experience of my life.

Having been given the opportunity to serve this congregation, the same congregation that welcomed my family with open arms when we arrived in Little Rock, the congregation where I raised my son and that has welcomed him and helped keep Judaism central to his life, the congregation where I have made lifelong friends, I hope I made the most of my time.

We have slowly begun to emerge from COVID restrictions, and it is my hope that we will continue to do so while keeping everyone safe. We have added new members, seen babies born, celebrated B'nai Mitzvah together, worshipped together online and in person, and attended religious school (also online and in person). I am in awe of the strength and resiliency that our congregants have shown throughout the last two years.

The most wonderful part of my term thus far though, has been being able to regather in person at Temple. To walk through the doors of my home away from home, and to see my congregational family in person, has been a true blessing in my life. Our congregants make up our temple family, and to see smiling faces of children and adults coming through our doors and participating in person feels almost like a family reunion.

As my term as your president draws to a close next month, I encourage you all to continue to attend worship and events in person, support your congregation, and to participate in the life of the congregation. Maybe join a committee or serve on the board, consider raising your gift of the heart, or joining our Legacy Society. There are so many ways our congregants support the Temple, and we are thankful for all of you.

Shalom, Amanda

> B'nai Israel's fiscal year ends on May 31, 2022. All balances and commitments are requested by May 30 to be included in this fiscal year.

We appreciate your continued support and devotion to your Temple.

Friendly Reminder:

Please return your completed Gift of the Heart 2022-2023 form by May 13.

As our new fiscal year begins, remember you have options to make your Gift of the Heart easier. Sign on to our online portal to check your donations and balances, upcoming Yahrzeit observances, and more. Need help setting up your account? Just ask.



Service of Confirmation

On the Eve of Shavuot Saturday, June 4, at 5:30pm Reception to Follow the Service

Samuel Louis Hoffman

Son of Adam Hoffman and of Meredith Riddle 10 Wild Cherry Court, 72211

Jules Ava Ifrah

Daughter of Dina and Patrick Ifrah 11 Bella Rosa Court, 72223

Tess Amelia Starr Kramer

Daughter of Ellen Korenblat and Luke Kramer 321 North Ash, 72205

Rafael Javier Levi

Son of Beth Levi and of Duff Campbell 14209 Longtree Drive,72212

Hannah Rose Celine Lopas

Daughter of Susan Clark and Matthew Lopas 64 Hays Hill Road, Conway 72032

Hannah Joanne Reagler Miriam Annette Reagler

Daughters of Karen and David Reagler 120 Roberts Ridge Street, Hot Springs 71901

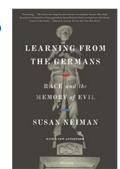
Alexa Lillian Shemper

Daughter of Lori and Josh Shemper 12105 Fairway Drive, 72212

Al Barron Book Club

Sunday, May 29 3:00 pm Rabbi Block's House

Learning from the Germans by Susan Neiman



Schmoozerama Movie: "Funny Girl" May 21 at 6:00 pm

Potluck.
Bring a dish that serves 8.



Facilitated by Tim Kessler To RSVP, contact Tim at 479-283-5923 or kesslertimothy@gmail.com



Join B'nai Torael for SHABBAT UNDER THE STARS

Worship and special blessings for all attending Jewish summer camp as campers and counselors, and those traveling on youth trips to Israel.

Friday, May 27 Oneg Shabbat ~ 5:45 pm Outdoor Service in Amphitheater ~ 6:15 pm

Our High School Graduates 2022

Please join us to honor our graduating high school seniors, Friday, May 6, at Shabbat Worship. 6:15pm

Lilah Goldman, daughter of Barry Goldman and Donna Kirkwood Joanna Krussel Graduating from Central High School Headed to Bryn Mawr College

Dylan Nodelman, son of Melanie and Jeff Nodelman Graduating from Central High School Headed to EMT Training, University of Arkansas - Pulaski Tech

Louis Reagler, son of Karen and David Reagler Graduating from Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences, and Arts Headed to Denison University

Tillie Reagler, daughter of Karen and David Reagler Graduating from Hot Springs World Class High School Headed to University of Virginia

David Ronnel, son of Jennifer and Steve Ronnel Graduating from Central High School Headed to University of North Carolina

Sydney Shemper, daughter of Lori and Josh Shemper Graduating from Pulaski Academy Headed to University of Georgia

Our College Graduates 2022

Leah Goldsholl

Daughter of Kennon and Scot Goldsholl Graduating from Rhodes College

Eva Levi

Daughter of Beth Levi and of Duff Campbell Graduating from University of Aberdeen

Jared Matson

Son of Joanne and Charles Matson Graduating from Southern Methodist University

Natalie McGarry
Daughter of Jamie and Thomas McGarry Graduating from University of Alabama

Allie Pear

Daughter of Karen and David Pear Graduating from Tulane University

Missy Pear

Daughter of Karen and David Pear Graduating from Washington University

If we have additional high school or college graduates, whom we have missed in this listing, we apologize and ask you please to notify Keila, 501-225-9700 or TempleSecretary@bnai-israel.us. We will acknowledge them in the June Chronicle.

Help Us Honor Our Extraordinary Graduating Seniors at LaFTY Shabbat

Please join us for LaFTY Shabbat on Friday, May 6, at 6:15 pm, when we will honor our six graduating seniors: Lilah Goldman, Dylan Nodelman, Louis Reagler, Tillie Reagler, David Ronnel, and Sydney Shemper. In our Religious School, including Confirmation and service as madrichim; and in LaFTY, including leadership of NFTY's Southern Region, this class has been extraordinary under challenging circumstances, and they are most deserving of honor.

Had they attended Religious School faithfully for many years, *Dayyeinu*!

Had they led a beautiful Confirmation service from their homes via Zoom during the early months of the pandemic, Dayyeinu!

Had they kept LaFTY and NFTY-So engaged through two years when NFTY-So could not gather in person at all and LaFTY could do so only rarely, *Dayyeinu*!

Had they eagerly returned to Religious School in person as faculty madrichim in their last months of high school, Dayyeinu!

All this and more our Congregation B'nai Israel Class of 2022 has done for our community and for their Jewish youth community throughout the Jacobs Camp region, and they are most deserving of honor! Please join us on May 6.

FROM EILEEN HAMILTON, DIRECTOR, ADMINISTRATION, EDUCATION & YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

In late winter, our incoming Temple president, Annabelle Imber Tuck, asked me to consider learning about a new Teen *Mussar* Curriculum. What is *Mussar*? A brief definition of *Mussar* includes an overview of a virtues-based approach to Jewish ethics and character development.

I was immediately interested as I am always looking for something new and different for our teen learners. I know *Mussar* is a B'nai Israel tradition, and we can now share the spirit with our religious school aged students. My worry on the other hand was if I had enough time to learn the new curriculum—because if I am going to do something, one should do it with the best intention. So, I signed up for *Mussar* Boot Camp and the weekly workshop, was assigned a *Chevrutah* (study) partner, and began learning how to present this unique and meaningful subject of values and personal growth.

Thank you, Annabelle, for encouraging me to learn and study and become involved in this curriculum because while it will benefit our students in the end, it has benefitted me for now.

It became an especially important part of this study for me to realize that I needed the push to do something for myself. Taking the time to stop everything else I was doing on Thursdays from 1-3 pm became a time of the week when all else stopped and my focus centered on Mussar – something so crucial to well-being and intentionality.

I began the study of Mussar as an introduction with Team 7/8 most recently. We began with *Anavah* – humility, then Annabelle presented *Savlanut* – patience, and then I presented *Hakarat Hatov* – gratitude.

I can tell you that teaching (at least for me) is not hard; however, teaching teens about *Mussar* is indeed a challenge. Being vulnerable, sharing, being non-judgmental, reflecting and soul searching, and being completely present are not easy tasks for teens. It is a challenge and commitment, even for just two short hours a week.

How will these teens benefit from this study? We hope that they will be given and presented with added information, skills, and food for thought to take with them as they navigate their lives – from now and forever. What decisions will be made through these new skills about values? What life decisions will be influenced about relationships made in high school? In jobs? How will these lessons translate to their own children someday? We do not know the answers, nor do we know now our education manifests over the course of time. We can only hope that each influence, each teacher and charismatic adult, and each interaction will make our journeys richer and more fulfilling. No one knows for sure when wisdom and insight will appear, but we do know that having the tools to hone them is invaluable.



CLOSING DAY OF RELGIOUS SCHOOL MAY 1, 2022

ISRAEL FAMILY FEST

Field day, challenges and games, crafts, obstacle course, and picnic fun!

Religious School begins at 9:00 am and ends with a picnic lunch at 11:30. Parents – please meet us at 10:00 am for the Family Fest!

Please bring a packed lunch for your family. Picnic blankets, coolers, small tables, chairs, whatever you want to bring to make it fun and comfortable.

LAST DAY FUN, LEARNING, AWARDS, AND TOGETHERNESS all while we celebrate Yom HaAtzmaut - Israel's 74th Birthday.

DONATIONS

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In honor of Rabbi Block

Anonymous

In memory of Raymond Brochstein

Gus Block

In appreciation of Rabbi Block

Pamela Peiser

In honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Mira Krain

Fran Eiseman

In memory of Dr. William Clyde Glover

Fran Eiseman

In memory of E. Lee Ronnel

Jim and Mary Wohlleb

In honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Andrew Casciano

Roberta Gordenstein

In gratitude for Rabbi Block's lectures as the Kleinstein Scholar-in-Residence

Beit Haverim, Lake Oswego, Oregon

Yahrzeit Fund

In memory of Arthur D. Rosenthal

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In memory of Joe B. Selz

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In memory of Betty Levy

Rabbi Gene and Bobbye Levy

Hallie Cohen Miller Archives Fund

In honor of the birthday of Mac Lyons
Dorianne and Dan Villani

Bauman Music Fund

In honor of Meg Marion, for Purim Shpiel
Annabelle Imber Tuck
In memory of Betty and Mike Davis

Suzi Davis

Cemetery Fund

In memory of Henry Myar Franklin
Jane and Bob Goff

Vogel Caring and Sharing Fund

In memory of Charles Neuhauser
Annabelle Imber Tuck

Thank you from Milton

I wanted to thank you for the wonderful notes and gifts in honor of my retirement.

It all meant so much to me.

Endowment Fund

In memory of E. Lee Ronnel

Suzi Davis

Annabelle Imber Tuck

Merrill and Mike Stern

In honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Mira Krain

Nan Selz

General Donation

Ann Owens

Bobbye & Rabbi Eugene Levy Fund for Camp Scholarships

In honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Andrew Casciano Annabelle Imber Tuck Memories made at our first Congregational Seder in two years! Thank you to all who made it possible, including the Charles Newfeld Fund.







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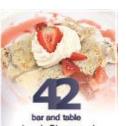
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JUNE BIRTHDAYS

| 1 st Lee Rudof 2 nd Betsy Aron 3 rd Jim Pfeifer 3 rd Emerson F 3 rd Abbey Sho 3 rd Mozell Zin 4 th Amanda C 6 th Art Pfeifer 6 th Grant Rose 6 th Raida Sny 7 th Sarah John 7 th Scott Jorda 7 th Rebecca L 8 th Jerry Gold 8 th Madison C 9 th Arleen Ma 9 th Micky Sin 9 th Chester St | 10 th 11 th 11 th 11 th 12 th 12 th 13 th 13 th 13 th 13 th 13 th 15 th 15 th 15 th 16 th 1 | Eddie Back Matt Johnson Byron Kantrow Eugene Krupitsky Scott Korenblat James Singer Lilah Goldman Mike Schmitz Susan Clark Ron Bara Sallye Mann Tim McGrath Carol Storthz Shelley Blanksteen Sadie Elson Lewis Krain Tom Sharp | 19 th 20 th 21 st 22 nd 22 nd 23 rd 23 rd 24 th 26 th 27 th 27 th 27 th 27 th 29 th 30 th | Evelyn Harberg Sadie Townley Larry Hamilton David Bauman Denny Ticker Sol Brotman Heather Gerson Steven Dranoff Suzanne Klimberg Susan Axelroth Rabbi Barry Block Ava Harris Alice Levin Elaine Luber Marilyn Ronnel Larry Alman Devon Webb Laurie Arnold |
|--|--|--|--|---|
|--|--|--|--|---|

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

| 1st | Martha and Charles Alman - 42 years | 19^{th} | Mischelle and Mark Strauss - 29 years |
|--------------------------------------|--|----------------------|---|
| 2^{nd} | Rose and Eddie Back - 31 years | 22^{nd} | Audrey and Don Evans - 55 years |
| 2^{nd} | Beth Miller and Paul Yoder - 37 years | 24^{th} | Suzy and Rohit Dhall - 15 years |
| 4 th | Soraya and Lee Rudofsky - 16 years | 27^{th} | Loris and Jay Fullerton - 30 years |
| 15 th 15 th | Bobbye and Rabbi Gene Levy - 53 years Amanda and Marc Williams - 26 years | 28^{th} | Leslie and Sol Brotman - 42 years |
| 18 th | Lauren Berkman & Joseph Margolick - 6 years | $30^{th} \\ 30^{th}$ | Krysten and Mark Levin - 15 years Allison and Jeffrey Lux - 16 years |

MAZAL TOV

Eileen and Larry Hamilton, whose son, Todd, earned his Masters in Healthcare Administration at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences.

Karen Sherman, on the birth of her grandson Jacob Nathaniel Fisher, born to Lori Vesole and Evan Fisher. Congratulations also to Jacob's great-grandfather, **Jerry Sherman**.

MAY YAHRZEITS

MAY 6

Julius Abrams Edward S. Baer Marjorie L. Baer Sidney M. Brooks Isabel F. Cohen Meyer "Mike" Davis Paul Diamant Louis Frankenstein Edmond Freeman Eleanor Hasson Abe Herstein Lou B. Hoffman Rose B. Kory Emily S. Lasker Clara L. Lewis Julius Louchheim Nathan Luber Doris Heilbrun Pfeifer Manuel D. Pollock Michael Schach Larry Schwartz Walter Lewy Scott Marti Shlenker Irving J. Spitzberg Sam J. Storthz, Sr. Josie Wasserman A. Allen Weintraub

MAY 13

Forrest Abrams Sadee Alexander Bauman **Edward Bennett** Carrie Ottenheimer Berger Dylan Besser Gus Blass II Velma Block James Leslie Coffey Louis Cecil Cohen Jane Stern Dreeben Rose Weil Dungan Flora Caro Ehrenberg Linda Fitzhugh Stephanie Goldberg William Hamburger Isaac Kronberg Joseph L. Loebner Curtis E. (Gene) Loftin Leon Marks Agnes Lafont Meyers Alan E. Pollock Louis Rubel Ashtyn Lane Russell Ray S. Scholem Jennie S. Spitzberg Lois Gottlieb Stern Charles Taliaferro Emelie Zeno Henry Zwirn

MAY 20

Sam Backal Bena Schwartz Biondo Gilbert J. Blass Wolf Hersch Brandt Philip Cohn Dorthy Darline Yates Davis Joyce S. Ehrenberg Edward David Elias Richard William Falkoff Anna Smulian Froug Rosa Kaufman Fred King Louise Weisman Levi Irvin Levy Joyce Everett Lopas Samuel Raymond Lyons Samuel Ringelhaupt Irene Pareira Sanders Lynton Scharff Jony Schneider Percy L. Scholem Al Schumann Cvnthia K. Shell Henry Spear Rebecca Levy Vogel Dan Young George Zinser

MAY 27

Mollie Abowitz
Melanie Adams
Bruce Besser
Sabina Loewenberg Block
Dorathy Dreeben Block
Linnie H. Bott
Anna Cooper
Ray Fendler
Charlotte Kempner Goodman
Melissa Estelle Gruner
Olive Stern Hart
Karen Clark Keller

Charlotte Kempner
Judith Citron Liebman
Kenneth Joseph Mirloff
Tony Mobly
Mary Pearlstein
Hulda Phillips
William Samuel Shanklin
Harriet Stern Smoler
Richard Thurow
Hattie Kuehn Weisman
Joseph Weisman
Albert M. Wise

Yizkor Elohim

WE RECORD WITH SORROW THE DEATHS OF

WILLIAM CLYDE GLOVER, M.D.,

FATHER OF REBECCA GLOVER

RENE BOLLAG,

FATHER OF SILVANA (AND ARIEL) BERLINSKI

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- 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
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- ◆ 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.