

CONGREGATION B'NAI ISRAEL  
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS

# THE CHRONICLE

TEMPLE JUNE 2022/VOLUME 22 - ISSUE 6

## THE RABBI SPEAKS

### RABBI BARRY BLOCK

In other venues, I have written and spoken about the moral challenges of and Jewish position regarding the abortion ban that will take effect in Arkansas as soon as Roe v. Wade is overturned, which appears to be imminent. I have also raised my voice against the Arkansas law that would forbid parents and medical professionals from providing gender-affirming health care to transgender youth. Thanks to a federal court injunction, that law is not currently in force, but we cannot be assured that the federal courts will continue to protect the transgender youth among us.



Major employers have made their concerns clear: They wonder whether they will be able to attract high quality employees to Arkansas and other states that have such laws, and they worry that new business will not move to Arkansas and other states with these laws, because they will not want to subject their employees to them.

The type of employees and potential employees about whom these major employers are concerned are the very same people who would be likely to consider membership in Congregation B'nai Israel. **Our congregation's membership may suffer as a result of Arkansas' repressive laws.**

I do not mean to suggest that the most significant problem with these terrible laws is one facing employers or our congregation as an institution. **Citizens of Arkansas, including members of Congregation B'nai Israel, may suffer personally as a result of these terrible laws.**

*(The Rabbi Speaks continued on page 2)*

## WORSHIP AT-A-GLANCE

### FRIDAY NIGHT SERVICES IN JUNE

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

#### FRIDAY, JUNE 3

PRIDE SHABBAT led by members of the LGBTQ+A Chavurah and Rabbi Block  
Valeria Faber will speak on "Trucking While Transgender"  
Music: David Bauman, Meg Marion, and Josiah Wheeler  
Oneg Shabbat  
sponsored by LGBTQ+A Chavurah

#### FRIDAY, JUNE 10

MISHKAN T'FILAH SERVICE  
led by Rabbi Barry Block,  
honoring the presidency of Amanda Orgel  
Sermon: "Our President, Amanda Orgel: A Lesson in Allyship"  
Music: David Bauman, Jana Cohen, and Teddy Ferguson  
Oneg Shabbat  
sponsored by Jana Cohen & Terry Orgel  
Bimah Flowers and Security  
sponsored by Terry Orgel,  
in honor of Amanda Orgel

#### FRIDAY, JUNE 17

MISHKAN T'FILAH SERVICE  
led by Rabbi Barry Block, inaugurating the presidency of Annabelle Imber Tuck  
Sermon: "The Middot (Soul Traits) of Annabelle Imber Tuck"  
Music: David Bauman, Steve Bauman  
Oneg Shabbat sponsored by Spitzberg family,  
in memory of Marie Spitzberg; and Carmen Arick and Emily Adams, Lynn and Bruce Greenberg, and Daughters of Abraham,  
in honor of Annabelle Imber Tuck

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

*(The Rabbi Speaks continued from front page)*

Moreover, I turn 59 this month, and I do not anticipate getting any younger. One day, Congregation B'nai Israel will be searching for a rabbi to succeed me. As members of the Search Committee that brought me here in 2013 can tell you, attracting a rabbi to Arkansas is challenging under the best of circumstances. That problem may be considerably worse going forward. Rabbis who may become pregnant, or who have or may have children, may be very reluctant to move to a state where their rights and their children's rights may be impinged.

I do not mean to suggest that rabbis would suffer more from these laws than other Arkansans, or that Jewish people considering a move here would suffer more than others who might be offered a position in Arkansas. I **do** mean to say that Reform Jews, and particularly Reform rabbis, will be most conscious of these restrictions on their rights and therefore more reluctant than some others to relocate here. The harm to our congregation's membership, and ultimately to its ability to attract a quality rabbi, may be significant.

I pray that more compassionate heads and hearts will prevail in the days, months, and years to come.

*Faithfully,*



Rabbi Barry H. Block

### **Tikkun Layl Shavuot**

Late Night Study Session for the Eve of Shavuot  
 Women's Autonomy:  
 Learning from Rebekah and Ruth  
 Saturday, June 4, 8-9:30pm  
 led by Rabbi Block  
 in the Temple Library and via Zoom  
 Delectable Dairy Treats

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

**FRIDAY, JUNE 24**  
**MISHKAN T'FILAH SERVICE**  
 led by  
 Emily Adams and Carmen Arick  
 Music: Meg Marion, Cheryl  
 Streiff, and Perry Young

### **SHABBAT MORNINGS IN JUNE**

Torah Study each Saturday morning in June, 9:30-10:45am, led by Rabbi Block on June 4, 11, and 18 and by Lynn and Bruce Greenberg on June 25. Shabbat morning worship each Saturday in June at 11am, led by Rabbi Block on June 4, 11, and 18 and by Emily Adams and Carmen Arick on June 25.

### **Shavuot Yizkor Service Set for June 5**

Festival morning services for Shavuot are scheduled for Sunday, June 5, at 11:00am, in the Temple Library and via Zoom. *Yizkor* – Memorial prayers will be offered during this service, and Rabbi Block plans to read the names of members and relatives of members who have died since last Shavuot. David Bauman is scheduled to lead the music.



### **Pride Shabbat**

led by members of the  
 LGBTQ+A Chavurah  
 and Rabbi Block  
 June 3  
 6:15 pm  
 "Trucking While  
 Transgender"

presented by Valeria Faber

## **SERVICE OF CONFIRMATION**

On the Eve of Shavuot

Saturday, June 4, at 5:30pm

Reception to Follow the Service sponsored by Confirmation parents

### **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

**RELIGIOUS  
SCHOOL  
REGISTRATION  
WILL OPEN ON  
JULY 1**

*There is a time for everything ~ Kohelet: 3*

*And it's time to register for religious school...*

*See you in August for a year of marking time,  
celebrations, lifecycles, and so much more...together!*

**Congregation B'nai Israel 155th Annual Meeting**  
**Tuesday, June 14, 2022 ~ 6:00 pm**  
**The proposed 2022-2023 budget and reports**  
**will be sent to all members**  
**before the meeting date in preparation for voting.**  
**Zoom link will be listed in the weekly e-blast.**

### OFFICERS

(term expires June 2024)

President	Annabelle Imber Tuck
Executive Vice President	S. Bruce Greenberg
Administrative Vice President	Darcy Axelroth Krupitsky
Secretary	Laurie Arnold
Treasurer	Shelly Baron
Immediate Past President	Amanda K. Orgel

### TRUSTEES

**First Year of First Term**  
(term expires June 2026)

Andrew Perin  
 Sam Kauffman  
 Mark Himelfarb\*

**Second Year of First Term**  
(term expires June 2025)

Alex Daniel  
 Lewis Krain  
 Brian Rosenthal

**First Year of Second Term**  
(term expires June 2024)

Elizabeth Cohen  
 Jill Flaxman  
 David Reagler

**Second Year of Second Term**  
(term expires June 2023)

Arnold Nachmann  
 Jill Bauman  
 Mark Levin

#### Retiring Officers

Carol Pfeifer Parham  
 Janet Korenblat  
 Joy G. Figarsky

#### Retiring Trustees

Jane Loeb Levine  
 Mark Himelfarb\*  
 Meg Marion

#### Nominating Committee:

Annabelle Imber Tuck, Carol Parham, Carmen Arick,  
 Rita Fagan, Alex Daniel, Keith Nigro, Howard Bresnik

\*Eligible for reappointment

## FROM THE PRESIDENT, AMANDA ORGEL

Dear Friends,

I want to take a moment and recognize the enormous amount of effort and work that our Temple volunteers are a part of. So many things that we do at Temple happen because of our volunteers. Of course, we have an amazing staff, but as amazing as they are, they certainly can't do everything on their own.

We have volunteers who lead services and education programs, who cook and help serve food, who lead services and Torah Study, who make sure ill congregants are not forgotten, who serve on the board of trustees and various committees. We have volunteers who oversee our financial well being, social well being, and educational well being.

Let's face it: our congregation could not function at the level it does without a wealth of folks who are willing to give their time and expertise to make sure we are meeting our congregants needs and expectations.

If you are ever interested in helping with an event, serving on a committee, or any other volunteer services, please know that we welcome and appreciate you.

I hope you will all join me in thanking the amazing congregants who give of their personal time to Congregation B'nai Israel. I, for one, am extremely thankful for all of you.

Shalom,

Amanda

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## MAZAL TOV

**Bonnie and Sam Nickol**, whose granddaughter, Sydney Felsen, graduated from Northern Arizona University.

**Joanne Matson**, on her election as President of the University Assembly and Faculty Senate at University of Arkansas-Little Rock.

**Joanne and Charles Matson**, whose son Cameron Matson graduated from SMU – Master in Electrical Engineering and will attend Georgia Tech in fall for Electrical Engineering PhD.

**Duse Sonnier**, whose daughter Roxy wrote a poem, “Forget,” which was accepted for publication in *Teen Ink* magazine. Congratulations also to Roxy’s grandmother, **Debbie Bentley**.

**Heather and David Gerson**, whose son Lawrence graduated from The University of Mississippi with a degree in political science and legal studies.

**Aliza and Jeff Brown**, whose daughter Leiah graduated from the University of Arkansas-Fayetteville.

**Amanda Orgel** and **Joannie Collins**, whose sons, Teddy Ferguson and Justin Collins, graduated from the ACCE Program, a partnership between Easter Seals and the University of Arkansas-Little Rock. Congratulations also to Teddy’s grandmother, **Terry Orgel**; and to Justin’s grandmother, **Susan Lesser**. Teddy Ferguson is also the son of Martin Ferguson.

**Karen and David Reagler**, whose daughter Mimi was elected Programming Vice-President of NFTY’s Southern Region for 2022-23.

**Sandra Pruitt**, on the birth of her first great-grandchild, Paxton Pruitt, son of Storm and Parker Pruitt.

**Gus Block**, whose granddaughter, Allie Lang, graduated from TCU with high honors.



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

<p style="text-align: center;">בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה' מְקוֹר הַחַיִּים שֶׁבָרָא אֹתָנוּ בְּצַלְמוֹ, וּמְזַמֵּין אֹתָנוּ לְחַדֵּשׁ בְּכָל יוֹם תְּמִיד מַעֲשֵׂה בְּרֵאשִׁית. בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה' יוֹצֵר יְצִירִים:</p>	<p>Blessed are You, Source of Life Who created us in Your image<sup>[1]</sup> and invites us to renew daily, perpetually, the work of creation.<sup>[2]</sup> Blessed are You, God, Who created us creative.</p>
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Everything I look at right now is potential fodder for a new religious school theme. Whether a commercial, children's book, game show, or clever saying, I am thinking about how to use it. Sure, I could do a repeat – I have been an educator for enough years that no one could possibly remember the last time I did 'that one.' As usual, I am looking for something new, so clever, and so fresh that it pops on the page and comes out of our mouths with such energy and excitement. So, I am writing this on May 10<sup>th</sup>, three weeks before this chronicle will be distributed, and I have no idea what the theme will be for the new religious school year. But that's OK. I have time and many more places to discover my inspiration.

Where do you think God got inspiration? Imagine being God and beginning to create everything, day by day, and imagining how each creation would look and what role each creation would play. From the smallest plants to the intricate body of humans, from the stars that shone in the sky to the tiny droplets of water and sand. So diverse and so complicated in composition. Beyond our comprehension of how and why each special item, each unique thing was originally crafted.

As summer approaches and we spend more time outside and see new sights of vacations and nature, we must be mindful of the amazing wonder of creation and not take it for granted. Take care of the earth, of new and interesting places, and of waters shared by so many to drink, to swim in, and to nourish themselves. Appreciate the colors and diversity of the grasses, flowers, skies, and people as you soak in sights and watch the world move around you. And absorb the magnitude of the planet – its ability to carry all of us on its back with the weight of our buildings, highways, infrastructures, and communities. God had no idea of what our world would look like today at the time of creation. I wonder what God is looking at right now and what is feeding God some inspiration too.

When we return to religious school in August, we will gather our inspiration again to create and be a community learning together. I look forward to the time. In the meantime, have a beautiful summer.

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In honor of Rabbi Block

Anonymous

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In memory of Joseph Loebner and Richard Thurow

Janice Thurow

**Cemetery Fund**

In memory of Ashtyn Lane Russell

Joyce Franklin

Jane Franklin Goff

In memory of Henry Myar Franklin

Joyce Franklin

In memory of Forrest Abrams

Joyce Franklin

Jane Franklin Goff

In honor of Tess Kramer,  
Confirmation Class of 2022

Jane Franklin Goff

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

In honor of the 50th anniversary  
of Rabbi Levy's ordination

Trudy and Jerry Jacobson

Susan Lesser

In honor of the special birthday of Harvey Miller

In honor of the special birthday of Raida Snyderman

In honor of the special birthday of Ann Storthz

In honor of the birthday of Phyllis Storthz

In memory of William Clyde Glover

In honor of our 2022 Confirmands

In honor of our high school graduates

In honor of our college graduates

In honor of the birth of Samuel Morris Aronson

Bobbie and Rabbi Gene Levy

Wishing a speedy recovery to Dale Ronnel

Susan Lesser

Wishing a speedy recovery to Larry Alman

Susan Lesser

**Endowment Fund**

In memory of Joyce Everett Lopas

Susan Clark and Matthew Lopas

Wishing a speedy recovery to Dale Ronnel

Jill and Steve Bauman

Wishing a speedy recovery to Larry Alman

Jill and Steve Bauman

**LaFTY Fund**

General Donation

Denny and Gary Ticker

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**Yahrzeit Fund**

In memory of Larry Schwartz

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In memory of Nina and Emmanuel Krupitsky

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In memory of Rita and Jacob Slutsky

Bernard and Asya Lewis

In memory of Marjorie and Edward Baer

Milton Baer

In memory of Emily S. Lasker

Harriet Katz and Family

In memory of Margot Strauss Garon

Kathy and David Bauman

*Yizkor Elohim*

WE RECORD WITH  
SORROW  
THE DEATHS OF

**SHIRLEY BARRON**

&

**RICHARD D. MAUGHAM  
BROTHER OF  
BARI (AND MARK) HIMELFARB**

&

**CANTOR SANFORD COHN  
SON OF  
MARY LOU COHN**



‘...who is (they) that is honored? They who honors their fellow human being...’ Pirke Avot 4:1



Planning special occasion for this new year? Remember you can sponsor an Oneg Shabbat, Security, and Bimah Flowers at your Temple. Honor a family member, friend or loved one with this special gift and blessing in your Temple home.

Oneg Shabbat (\$54) provides a small reception for all at services each Friday at 5:45 pm.

Bimah Flowers (\$100) provides an arrangement on the bimah for Shabbat. Many Fridays available.

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## JULY BIRTHDAYS

1<sup>st</sup> Lance Bogoslavsky  
 1<sup>st</sup> Milo Krain  
 1<sup>st</sup> Daniel Rodell  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Mark Himelfarb  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Virginia Thorndike  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Cherry Goldsholl  
 4<sup>th</sup> Melinda Tobian  
 5<sup>th</sup> Susan Weinstein  
 6<sup>th</sup> Ryan Dhall  
 6<sup>th</sup> Jon Flaxman  
 6<sup>th</sup> Krysten Levin  
 6<sup>th</sup> Phillip Spivey  
 7<sup>th</sup> Connie Fails  
 7<sup>th</sup> Ann Williams  
 8<sup>th</sup> Sam Kauffman  
 8<sup>th</sup> Dick Williams  
 9<sup>th</sup> L.R. Jalenak  
 9<sup>th</sup> Rabbi Gene Levy  
 9<sup>th</sup> Hallie Pingel  
 10<sup>th</sup> June Freeman  
 11<sup>th</sup> Nan Selz  
 12<sup>th</sup> Karin Bara  
 12<sup>th</sup> Ari Margolick  
 13<sup>th</sup> David Rosen  
 15<sup>th</sup> Soraya Rudofsky  
 15<sup>th</sup> Annabelle Imber Tuck  
 17<sup>th</sup> Sandy Levin  
 20<sup>th</sup> Leslie Brotman  
 20<sup>th</sup> Marla Shivers  
 20<sup>th</sup> Joe Stafford  
 21<sup>st</sup> Jacob Collins  
 21<sup>st</sup> Bobbye Levy  
 21<sup>st</sup> Jeffrey Lux  
 21<sup>st</sup> Sydney Shemper  
 22<sup>nd</sup> Audrey Evans  
 22<sup>nd</sup> Caroline Goldsholl  
 22<sup>nd</sup> Stephen Jacobs  
 23<sup>rd</sup> Richard Lowens  
 26<sup>th</sup> Perry Young  
 27<sup>th</sup> Karen Sherman  
 28<sup>th</sup> Rita Fagan  
 29<sup>th</sup> Matthew Lopas  
 30<sup>th</sup> Elsa Helton  
 30<sup>th</sup> Billie King  
 30<sup>th</sup> Ethan Strauss

## JULY ANNIVERSARIES

3<sup>rd</sup> Amanda Webb and Russ Parish - 8 years  
 4<sup>th</sup> Gay Block and Billie Parker - 8 years  
 7<sup>th</sup> Trudy and Jerry Jacobson - 62 years  
 7<sup>th</sup> Sandy and Fred Levin - 49 years  
 8<sup>th</sup> Arleen and Brian Marshall - 55 years  
 10<sup>th</sup> B. J. and Jimmy Moses - 51 years  
 11<sup>th</sup> Carol and Chester Storthz - 45 years  
 16<sup>th</sup> Lynn and Bruce Greenberg - 44 years  
 16<sup>th</sup> Kitty and Bill Rubenstein - 29 years  
 22<sup>nd</sup> Arnie Nachmann and Pat Highly - 44 years  
 22<sup>nd</sup> Susan and Mike Schmitz - 32 years  
 22<sup>nd</sup> Trip Strauss and Lenka Horakova - 13 years  
 23<sup>rd</sup> Tim Kessler and Josiah Wheeler - 6 years  
 23<sup>rd</sup> Carole and Gary Weisbly - 55 years  
 26<sup>th</sup> Bari and Mark Himelfarb - 5 years  
 27<sup>th</sup> Susan and Robin West - 42 years  
 30<sup>th</sup> Lori and Josh Shemper - 22 years  
 31<sup>st</sup> Ann and Dick Williams - 67 years



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[ehamilton@bnai-israel.us](mailto:ehamilton@bnai-israel.us) or 501-225-9700

## JUNE YAHRZEITS

### JUNE 3

Louis J. Abramson  
 D. Justus Baumgarten  
 Pearl Tenenbaum Carvalho  
 Charles Cone  
 Billie Evans  
 Henry Myar Franklin  
 Gertrude Green  
 Charles Edward Joseph  
 Abraham Kempner  
 Eleanor Rockwitt Kiel  
 Marvin Krochock  
 Minnie E. Lasker  
 Hannah Levinson  
 John D. Levinson  
 Fannie Pinkus Meyer  
 Lillian Miller  
 Joyce Ritirato  
 Pauline Sanders  
 Joel F. Schlosberg  
 Phyllis Alexander Storthz  
 Henriette Thalheimer  
 Frank Wojs  
 Leo Wolff

### JUNE 10

Harry Balkin  
 Jacob Blass  
 Bernard Cohen  
 Daniel Disabato  
 Leon Dreyfus  
 Adolf Feibelman  
 Seymour S. Fleisig  
 Anita Fortson  
 Joseph Goetz  
 Joan Hamburger  
 Myron B. Lasker, Sr.  
 Flora Loeb  
 Margretta Navra  
 Arthur H. Pfeifer  
 Louis Rosen  
 Ella Lyons Rudolph  
 Bernard Sabin  
 Lucille L. Sachs  
 Theodore M. Sanders  
 Joseph Shrader  
 Hillel Sloan  
 Harry B. Solmson, Sr.  
 Judy Kohn Tenenbaum  
 Karl Weil  
 Sara Weinberg

### JUNE 17

Joan S. Abowitz  
 Stanley M. Bauman, Sr.  
 Joseph Brint  
 Jerry Bronfman  
 Miriam Anne Brown  
 Carolyn Levy Greenberg  
 Jeffrey Hart  
 Robert J. Heiman  
 Carolyn Pfeifer Horchow  
 Jules Andre Ifrah  
 Fannie S. Kaiser  
 Gary Kaplan  
 Stella M. Kempner  
 Mark Krain  
 Cecille Pfeifer Landauer  
 Laurie Jean Loeb  
 Hannah Louchheim  
 Evelyn Feit Lowenberg  
 Don M. Mann  
 Joan Storthz Moore  
 Fay Smulian Pfeifer  
 Charles C. Rubenstein  
 Anchel Schiffman  
 Maurine Weisman Simon  
 Louis Singer  
 Belle Spiegelman  
 Marie Seeman Spitzberg  
 Anna Stachmus  
 Theresa J. Storthz  
 Sheila Young

### JUNE 24

Fanny Besser	Abraham Lindenberg
Sheryl Besser	Dora Pasink
Richard Bresnik	Leo Pfeifer
Belle Pfeifer Cohen	Beulah Pinkus
Nathalia Ethridge	Jane Roark
Juanita Gonzalez	Leatrice "Lit" Block Rosen
David Jacobs	Robert Sakon
Howard Kahn	Stanley Edgar Sheets
Theresa Kauffman	Siesel Thalheimer
Myron B. Lasker, Jr.	Adolf Wolff
Bella Levy	David Wuntch
Henry Morris Levy	Louis Yahm



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- ◆ 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



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CONGREGATION B'NAI ISRAEL

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