

# CONGREGATION B'NAI ISRAEL

LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS

# THE CHRONICLE

## TEMPLE

NOVEMBER 2022/VOLUME 24 - ISSUE 11

### THE RABBI SPEAKS

#### RABBI BARRY BLOCK



Dear Friends,

Congregation B'nai Israel is blessed with a wonderful Bar/Bat Mitzvah program. Our volunteer tutors serve not only as educators but also are mentors whose kindness and devotion to their students is evident in the Hebrew reading ability our young teens acquire, the confidence they exhibit on the *bimah*, and the fondness they demonstrate toward their tutors.

Still, all too often, our tutors have told us that students come to them, a year or so before Bar/Bat Mitzvah, not yet able to read Hebrew with any fluidity. Kids who go to Jacobs Camp in the summer are typically able to chant prayers that are part of services there. However, even they may not know all the letters or vowels.

Nobody should be surprised. No language skills can be taught effectively in lessons of less than an hour, once a week, fewer than thirty times a year.

In the years before my own Bar Mitzvah in the 1970s, I attended weekday Hebrew weekly in addition to Religious School on Sunday. Weekday Hebrew was a staple of the congregation I served for more than two decades before coming to Arkansas. Students were confident Hebrew readers even before they started B'nai Mitzvah tutoring.

A couple years ago, Eileen Hamilton began offering midweek Hebrew, on an entirely optional basis, for students and parents who desired a stronger background in the language of Jewish prayer and text. While she attracted only a few students at first, a large and increasing percentage of our students participating.

The reason should not be a secret: Eileen is a wonderful teacher. As a parent recently told me, "We don't have to force our sons. They **enjoy** those classes with Eileen. She's a lot of fun for them." And, of course, they're learning, too.

### WORSHIP AT-A-GLANCE

#### FRIDAY NIGHT SERVICES IN NOVEMBER

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

#### FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4

MISHKAN T'FILAH SERVICE

led by Rabbi Block

Sermon: "The Future of Israel: Jewish and Democratic?"

Music: Jana Cohen

*Welcome First United Methodist Church of Little Rock Confirmation Class*

#### FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11

MISHKAN T'FILAH SERVICE

Special Musical Service with Guest Artist in Residence, Saul Kaye

#### FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18

MISHKAN T'FILAH SERVICE

led by Rabbi Block

Sermon: "Marriage Equality: Israel Edition"

Music: David Bauman

#### FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25

MISHKAN T'FILAH SERVICE

led by Rabbi Block

Sermon: "Legacy"

85th Birthday Blessing of Gus Block

Music: Jana Cohen



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

*(The Rabbi Speaks continued from front page)*

Some would prefer that our worship included less Hebrew, as was the case here decades ago. Even if that were the case, though, our students will grow into adults, and they will find themselves in Jewish communities, at college and beyond, with peers whose Hebrew reading skills are strong. Thanks to Eileen, and thanks to the parents and students who have taken her up on her offer to enhance their Hebrew, young people from Congregation B'nai Israel will be among those young Jewish adults who feel competent in Hebrew worship throughout their lives.



Rabbi Barry H. Block

### SHABBAT MORNINGS IN OCTOBER

Shabbat Torah Study at 9:30am, led by Rabbi Block on November 5, 12, 19. Led by Lynn and Bruce Greenberg on November 26.

Shabbat Worship at 11am, led by Rabbi Block on November 5, 12, 19 Led by Annabelle Imber Tuck on November 26.

#### Al Barron Book Club

Sunday, November 20, 3 pm,

Tenenbaum Center

Discussing "It Could Happen Here" by Jonathan Greenblatt



## Congregation B'nai Israel welcomes Saul Kaye



Friday,  
November 11  
6:15 PM

Please join us for an Oneg Shabbat reception at 5:45pm.

Services will also be streamed on Zoom.

For more information contact 501-225-9700 or TempleSecretary@bnai-israel.us.

Saul Kaye is an international touring artist whose music takes the listener on a journey from Torah to the Delta.



"Let them build Me a sanctuary that I may dwell among them."  
Congregation B'nai Israel  
Little Rock, Arkansas





## FROM THE PRESIDENT, ANNABELLE IMBER TUCK

### WITH GRATITUDE FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPAND OUR MUSIC OFFERINGS AT CONGREGATION B'NAI ISRAEL

Congregation B'nai Israel has an abundance of talented musicians who volunteer to lead music in our weekly services and during the High Holy Days. If I named all our volunteer musicians, this entire article would be a list of their names! Our congregation is truly blessed by the amount of time and talent generously given to enhance the congregational worship experience through song and instrumental music.

Many of us were able to attend this year's High Holy Day services in person and experience the "surround sound" of the Shofar and beautiful voices accompanied by various musical instruments. I always come away from those services uplifted and inspired by the High Holy Day liturgical music. There is no doubt that our congregation gravitates to programs that bring a variety of musical offerings for specific Jewish holidays, with many of those programs funded by the Bauman Family Music Fund.

It is now my honor to announce the establishment of a new fund that will enable our congregation (1) to engage cantors, whether on a fulltime or part-time basis or as guests; and (2) to enhance worship and synagogue life with professional instrumental musicians. This fund has been made possible through a generous bequest by E. Lee Ronnel, of blessed memory, who was a devoted member of Congregation B'nai Israel throughout his adult life. Lee was a concert pianist and a loyal patron of the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra, who worked tirelessly to bring first-class classical music to Arkansas. The E. Lee Ronnel gift to our congregation is the largest bequest to date in the Temple's history. The establishment of The E. Lee Ronnel Memorial Fund for Cantorial Music was approved by the congregation's Board of Trustees on October 18, 2022. This gift also reflects the desire of the Ronnel family to inspire present and future generations of Congregation B'nai Israel with cantorial and instrumental music and to encourage any other person or organization to make gifts to Congregation B'nai Israel for designation to The E. Lee Ronnel Memorial Fund for Cantorial Music. In other words, anyone may make a contribution to this fund!

On behalf of the Temple's Board of Trustees and the entire congregation, I wish to extend my heartfelt thanks to E. Lee Ronnel, of blessed memory, and the entire Ronnel family for this generous bequest which has culminated in the establishment of The E. Lee Ronnel Memorial Fund for Cantorial Music.

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## SCHMOOZERAMA—TANGO SHALOM

November 19, 2022 6:00 pm

Potluck dinner and movie. Bring a dish for 8 to share.



When a Tango dancer (Karina Smirnoff) asks Rabbi Yehuda (Jos Laniado) to enter a dance competition with her, there's one big problem—due to his Orthodox beliefs, he's not allowed to touch her! But since the prize money would save his school from bankruptcy and help her sick daughter, together they develop a plan to enter the competition without sacrificing his faith. Rabbi Yehuda enlists the support of a Catholic priest (Joe Bologna) and leaders of various other faiths who understand the burden the modern world can place on traditional religious beliefs. While also juggling the upcoming marriage of his brother (Claudio Laniado), dueling mothers-in-law (Renée Taylor, Lainie Kazan), and his questioning wife (Judi Beecher), the bonds of family and community are tested one dazzling dance step at a time in this lighthearted and comedic fable.

The Community Outreach Committee is filling **THANKSGIVING BASKETS** with food for underserved families. We are asking for donations. Each basket can be sponsored for \$36.

Sponsor as many as you like by sending a check to the Temple office, or applying the amount to your bill. Call 501.225.9700 or email [templesecretary@bnai-israel.us](mailto:templesecretary@bnai-israel.us)

If interested, we will be assembling baskets on Wednesday, November 16<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm. in the Temple lobby.

If you would like to deliver the baskets on Friday, November 18<sup>th</sup> to designated high schools, we need that also.

Any questions? Contact Kirsta Nigro, [kirstanigro1@gmail.com](mailto:kirstanigro1@gmail.com)



Fall Holiday Recap in Photos. Oh, did we have fun! From Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, to Sukkot and Simchat Torah, we made great memories together.



Rabbi Block's World's Worst Yom Kippur Puppet Show, Banner making for the Sukkah, Edible Torahs for Simchat Torah, Camp B:nai Israel sleepover and breakfast, Simchat Torah dinner before Consecration with Shira Kline.



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

I love children's books. When I have spare time, I like to sit on the floor of a bookstore in the children's section and read through picture books. I look for the ones with great lessons to share and ones I can adapt to teaching Jewish values. I have a small collection of my favorite books, and I pull them out when a lesson calls for them. I have not added a lot to my collection lately. One of my favorites is called *Snail Started It*. It's about a rabbit who tells snail that he is so slow and will never get anywhere. Snail shrugs off the insult and continues on his way until he sees the sleeping dog and tells the dog about how lazy he is. Snail did not have intent to insult the dog, but he was insulted by rabbit, and now the mood struck him to do the same to dog as rabbit did to snail. Dog then sees 'silly' goose, and goose sees 'fat' pig, and so on, until the rabbit is ultimately insulted, and full circle, all are equally hurt by words that were started early in the morning, far away, and not meant for any of them. It's like dominoes – they fall when one falls on them and the line keeps going – not one is spared. A few weeks ago, 'snail' started it before religious school began and my mood changed almost immediately. I was short fused and impatient. My mind wandered from the task of teaching children to annoyance and sharp tone. Luckily, I was called out on it quickly by our Madrichim. I recalibrated and had remorse about my tone. I thought about it for a while and realized that 'Snail Started It'. It was still my responsibility to correct the problem, to take responsibility for my actions and tone, and I reminded myself about the book and lesson therein. I allowed Snail to ruin my day and affect my mood, and as a result, it affected other moods too.

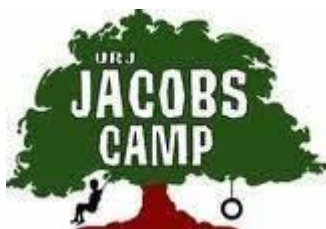
Words are a powerful force – they can heal, and they can hurt. I allowed myself to fall into the trap of Snail and I allowed myself to be a domino, swept over by inertia and force. I didn't have the stability to stop the running train at the moment, but I surely did later when I realized that each lesson is crucially important to living in the best way possible. The idea of being our best selves is a tough one for me. How do I treat not only myself, but others, fairly and nicely all the time? Being our best selves is a process and challenge, a lifelong pursuit even. There are a lot of 'snails' in the world, but then again there are a lot of hugs, kisses, embraces, and kind words to go around too.

Religious school dates for November: November 6 and 13—9:00—11:30 am.

Confirmation Class; November 9 and 30 at 6—8 pm

### LAFTY MEETING AND EVENTS:

Sunday, November 13 at noon—LEADERSHIP TRAINING WITH SUNNY. Come for lunch and stay for an amazing experience on how to be a leader!



Look who's already registered for Summer 2023!

Mollie Axelroth, Silas Curtis, Astrid Dockter, Gabe Elson, Sadie Elson, Vivian Gold, Jack Gold, Harper Harris, Daisy Keith, Julian Keith, Mira Krain, Milo Krain, Caroline Krupitsky, Eli Krupitsky, Rylee Krupitsky, Philip Levin, Sam Levin, Emerson Reiss, Caitlin Reiss, Charlotte Rudofsky, Vivian Rudofsky, Cici Singer, Andrew Stafford, Edward Stafford, Eden Willis ...Add your child's name to the list...but act soon, spaces are limited.

## DONATIONS

### Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In appreciation

By Anonymous

In memory of Mac Lyons

Trudy and Jerry Jacobson

### Vogel Caring and Sharing Fund

In memory of Mac Lyons

Muriel Lederman and Brian Storrie

In memory of Sam Morris Vogel

Sam M. Vogel, Jr. and Robert A. Vogel

In memory of Rose Vogel Schwartz

The Vogel Family

### Cemetery Fund

In memory of Mac Lyons

Jan and Larry Alman

Trudy and Jerry Jacobson

Patricia Blass and Connie O'Neill

In memory of Robin Inkles Baltzer

The Family of Robin Inkles Baltzer

### Endowment Fund

In memory of Mac Lyons

Doris Krain

### Pfeifer Community Outreach Fund

In memory of Mac Lyons

Linda and Gene Pfeifer

### Yahrzeit Fund

In memory of Louis B. Goldberg

Stanley Goldberg

In memory of Avrome David and Jean T. Goldberg

Ellen Goldberg

### Aline and Louis Salinger Memorial Landscape Fund

In memory of Mac Lyons

Peggy and LR Jalenak Jr.

Terri and Gene Jacobson

Jill and Steve Bauman

Sylvia Ehrman Green

Loris and Jay Fullerton

Donna and Thomas McClarty III

Fred Roberson

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LuAnn and Robert Baker

Don Pfeifer and Maggie Hogan

Sheri and Micky Simon

### General Fund

In memory of Mac Lyons

Trudy and Jerry Jacobson

### Hallie Cohen Miller Archives Fund

In memory of Mac Lyons

Trudy and Jerry Jacobson

*Mazel Tov*

JFAR Jane B. Mendel Tikkun Olam Awards honorees from Congregation B'nai Israel: [Nancy Rousseau and Liz Lucker](#); [Tim Kessler](#), [Ellyn Polsky](#), and [Sue Weinstein](#).

[Charlene and Chuck Prousnitzer](#) on the marriage of their son Gene to Meredith Heppel.

[Richard Williams](#) on being honored by LifeQuest Founders Day Award Celebration.



Welcome!

Office Volunteers who save the day...

- Shelley Ballew
- Esther Gordon
- Doris Krain
- Annabelle Tuck
- Carol Parham
- Jan Alman
- Bonnie Nickol

NEW MEMBERS

**Sunny and Eli Baker, Harriet and Alma Baker**

sunnybaker524@gmail.com;  
eliasjbaker@gmail.com

**Beck Witt Major, Major Griffin-Gracy, Asiah Major**

Beckoakland@gmail.com

**Maureece (Reecie) Levin & Aaron Rabirotff**

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aaronrab@gmail.com



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**Cabbage Rose**  
11220 N Rodney Parham Rd. STE 9  
Little Rock AR 72212  
501-664-4042  
[hello@crflr.com](mailto:hello@crflr.com)

**DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

1st Barry Goldman  
 2nd Aliza Brown  
 Marina Ivanovsky  
 Terri Moore  
 4th Alexander Flaxman  
 David Goldsholl  
 Robin West  
 5th Phillip Levin  
 Emily Wagner  
 Steve Weinstein  
 6th Jules Ifrah  
 7th Allison Lux  
 Sebastian Wolf  
 11th Fred Levin  
 12th Tim Kessler  
 13th William Cohen  
 Candy Levy  
 14th Jana Cohen  
 Beth Miller  
 Joshua Shemper  
 15th Betsy Mayersohn  
 Marilyn Sorrells  
 17th Brad Diner  
 18th Debbie Diner  
 19th Ruth Itzkowitz  
 20th Rose Back  
 Monica Davidson  
 Avi Helton  
 Alexandra Ifrah  
 Sandra Pruitt  
 21st Rebecca Kauffman  
 Teddy Rudofsky  
 Edward Stafford  
 23nd Herbert Monoson  
 Sophia Young  
 24th Carol Parham  
 Dave Vrudny  
 Marilyn Weinstein  
 26th Mollie Axelroth  
 Richard Estelita  
 Bev Wittenberg

**DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES**

December 1 Jo and Andy Lawton 38 years  
 Becky and Jay Marks 38 years  
 December 5 Muriel Lederman and  
 Brian Storrie 51 years  
 December 7 Tina and Nate Bernstein 37 years  
 December 9 Tricia and Jerry Gold 16 years  
 December 17 Monica and  
 Eowyn Davidson 11 years  
 December 19 Emily Adams and  
 Carmen Arick 36 years  
 Karla and Larry Back 52 years  
 December 22 Janice and Jesse Kane 48 years  
 December 24 Miriam and  
 Leonard Hasson 50 years  
 Irving Spitzberg and  
 Virginia Thorndike 34 years  
 December 25 Ruthe and Phil Kaplan 62 years  
 December 26 Laura and Allan Gold 49 years  
 December 29 Shirley and Bill Friedman 54 years  
 December 30 Aliza and Jeff Brown 29 years  
 December 31 Sarah Brady Stack and  
 Jason Frisbie 3 years

*December birthdays con-  
 tinued...*

29th Alan Kauffman  
 30th Donna Kirkwood  
 Libby Thalheimer  
 Daniel Block  
 Amanda Webb



## NOVEMBER YAHRZEITS

### November 4

Stanley Bauman Jr.  
Helene E. Block  
Mark J. Block  
Shelton Block  
Edwin "Eddie" Ceitlin  
Howard R. Cohn  
Robert Joel Covin  
Betty Davis  
Rose B. Dietz  
Emanuel Dreidel  
Flora Seidel Dreyfus  
Hortense Weil Ehrenberg  
Morris Navra Ehrenberg  
Joel A. Feibelman  
Aaron Frank  
Allan Glubok  
Sam Goldenberg  
Samuel Lasker  
Eugene M. Pfeifer Jr.  
Charles M. Simon Jr.  
Ella D. Small  
Joseph Spiegelman



### November 25

Henry Berger  
Priscilla Brown  
Clare Grabin Fein  
Saul Goodman  
Mose Hartman  
Bertha L. Heilbron  
Hattie Heiman  
Charles F. Hexler  
Amelia Kahn Jacobi  
Minnie Kahn  
Bertha Knoff  
Peggy Kramer  
Josephine Landauer Menkus  
David L. Reibstein

### November 11

Maurice L. Altheimer  
Robert Axelroth  
Joseph David Back  
William Back Jr.  
Susan Forsyth Bauman  
Ruth Ottenheimer Cohen  
Rosabell Dreyfus  
Lazarus Ehrenberg  
Samuel Lasker Epstein  
May Newman Gans  
Mollie Gordon  
Irving Greenberg  
Estelle Gurdin  
Max Heiman Sr.  
Vera Diamond Jacobson  
Nathan Kauffman  
Sol Fisher Klarberg  
Evelyn Kohler  
Naomi Lubner  
Nancy Myers  
Wolf Moses  
Betty Friedman Nash  
Percy C. Nordlinger  
Rachel S. Silbernagel  
Charles M. Simon Jr.  
Alan Cole Springer  
Leslie Marks Strauss  
Nona Pollock Summerfield  
Camille Heiman Thalheimer  
Louis L. Wolfort

### *November 25 continued*

Jacob Rephan  
Martin David Rosen  
Gayle Wise Slager  
Mary Snyderman  
Marie C. Storthz  
Joe Storthz Sr.  
Naomi Breitowich Zottoli

### November 18

Delsie Gans Altman  
Almen Barron  
Albert Bloom  
M.R. Carb Jr.  
Albert A. Ehrman  
Lee Eichenbaum  
Abraham Figarsky  
Ruth Berenson Forsyth  
Louis Froug  
Simon Gans  
Stanley Goodman  
Mark Z. Greenberg  
Dr. Hyman Harberg  
Ariel Barak Imber  
Lilian Kahn  
Marion Kaplan  
James Mendel Kempner  
Albert I. Korenblat  
Claire Levy  
Maurice Shae Lifschitz  
Rose Lemie Masur  
Hallie Cohen Miller  
Judy Miller  
Sallie Ottenheimer  
Edith Peiser  
Dan Reikes  
Elsa Klein Rosenthal  
Jerry Smart  
Bernese O. Thalheimer  
Henrietta Volmer  
Bernard Waltzer  
Sonia Waltzer  
Rabbi Louis Witt

We mourn the loss of

Our member

**IRIS BORROCK OLIVA**

Wife of Robert Oliva

and

**KATHY O'BRIANT**

Aunt of Alison Vann

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- ◆ 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.



**LEAVE A LEGACY**  
CONGREGATION B'NAI ISRAEL