

CONGREGATION B'NAI ISRAEL
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS

THE CHRONICLE

TEMPLE JANUARY 2023/VOLUME 23 - ISSUE 1

THE RABBI SPEAKS

RABBI BARRY BLOCK



Dear Friends:

Abe Foxman, the retired former professional leader of the ADL, recently said: "I've always said that [my support of Israel] is unconditional, but it's conditional. I don't think that it's a horrific condition to say: 'I love Israel and I want to love Israel as a Jewish and democratic state that respects pluralism.'"

Foxman was referring to the new Israeli government, then in formation, including extremists of the so-called Religious Zionist party: Betzalel Smotrich, Itamar Ben-Gvir, and Avi Maoz, each slated to hold a cabinet position. They support Jews who commit terrorist acts targeting Palestinians, including Arab citizens of Israel. Maoz's primary platform is opposition to equal rights for LGBTQ Israelis. All three seek to end the rights of Jewish people whom they do not consider Jewish to immigrate to Israel and to restrict the already limited rights of Reform and Conservative Judaism in Israel.

What seems to bother Foxman most, though, is their plan to enable the Knesset, by simple majority, to overrule any action of Israel's High Court of Justice. Such a move would be catastrophic for minority rights in the Jewish State, essentially overturning Israel's Declaration of Independence.

I am as horrified as Foxman is by these developments. My family, friends, and colleagues in Israel are directly impacted—that is, people I know, love, and care about would be harmed by actions proposed by Smotrich, Ben-Gvir, and Maoz and agreed to by incoming Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in coalition talks. By the time you read these words, these nefarious agreements will likely be signed and sealed.

However, my love for Israel is not conditional.

Article continued on next page

WORSHIP AT-A-GLANCE

FRIDAY NIGHT SERVICES IN JANUARY

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

FRIDAY, JANUARY 6

MISHKAN T'FILAH SERVICE

led by Rabbi Block

Sermon: "Truth-telling and Its Limits"

Music: Jana Cohen

FRIDAY, JANUARY 13

MISHKAN T'FILAH SERVICE

led by Rabbi Block

Sermon: "Redeeming Captives"

Music: David Bauman

Welcome to First United Methodist Church of
Conway Confirmation Class

FRIDAY, JANUARY 20

MISHKAN T'FILAH SERVICE

led by Rabbi Block

Sermon: "Internalized Oppression"

Music: Jana Cohen

FRIDAY, JANUARY 27

MISHKAN T'FILAH SERVICE

led by Annabelle Imber Tuck

Music: David Bauman



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

(The Rabbi Speaks continued from front page)

Perhaps Foxman means that he will no longer support the Israeli government. One's support for any government should always be conditional on its commitment to democracy, justice, and equal rights, be that government Israel's or our own in the United States.

I will continue to love Israel by redoubling efforts with my advocacy for its fragile democracy. I will renew my support for our Reform Movement in Israel, growing by leaps and bounds as it spreads the message that Judaism demands justice and celebration of diversity. The Reform Movement has become a target of extremists precisely because it is increasingly successful! I will renew my support for social justice organizations in Israel who are under attack from the incoming government—the New Israel Fund and its grantees, the Israel Religious Action Center, and the Association for Civil Rights in Israel, led by Rabbi Noa Sattath, my Reform colleague. I have added A Wider Bridge to my list of *tz'dakah* recipients. A Wider Bridge advocates for LGBTQ rights in Israel and educates American LGBTQ leaders and communities about Israel.

The formation of this disastrous coalition calls all Reform Jews to the front lines of protecting Israel's democracy. Won't you join me there?

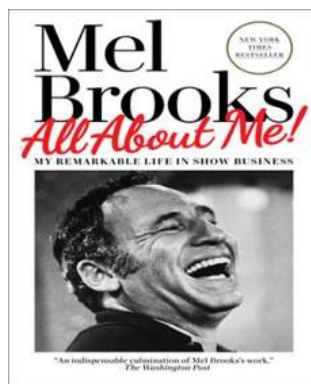
Faithfully,



AL BARRON BOOK CLUB

Sunday, January 8
3:00 pm
via Zoom

**'ALL ABOUT
ME'**
by Mel Brooks



SATURDAY MORNINGS IN JANUARY

Shabbat Torah Study at 9:30am,
led by Rabbi Block on
JANUARY 7, 14, 21
JANUARY 28 led by Sam Kauffman

Shabbat Worship at 11am,
led by Rabbi Block on
JANUARY 7, 14, 21
JANUARY 28 led by Ellyn Polsky



Save the Date

Little Rock Jewish Community-Wide

**Global Day of Jewish
Learning**

February 12, 2023

at Congregation B'nai Israel

*Look for detailed information,
coming your way in Temple emails
and the February Chronicle.*



FROM THE PRESIDENT, ANNABELLE IMBER TUCK

COMING TOGETHER AS A COMMUNITY AND BEING THERE FOR EACH OTHER

As I sit down to write this article, the deep freeze is still being felt here in Arkansas. Cold weather did not keep our members from joining together to celebrate Hanukkah several times during the Eight-Days devoted to kindling light during the darkest time of the year.

On the first night, adults and children gathered, beginning with Hanukkah activities for the children while adults learned about how the Maccabee’s late celebration of the Eight-day Sukkot Festival evolved into the Festival of Lights; followed by the blessings and lighting of the Hanukkah Menorah and a delicious meal of latkes, barbeque, salad, and sweets. The Chanukah luncheon on the second day brought together many of our elders who had not seen each other in over two years! Conversation and laughter filled the Tenenbaum Center. By the way, though the Vogel Fund welcomes all members to this luncheon, I now qualify to attend this luncheon hosted primarily for seniors by the Caring and Sharing Committee! Despite the below freezing temperature on Friday evening, our Shabbat in the Rock All Music Shabbat for Hanukkah drew a crowd to enjoy music performed by a full complement of musicians and singers: David Bauman and his daughters, Jana Cohen, Teddy Ferguson, Cheryl Streiff, Jonathan Holland, and Brent James. But we did miss having Steve Bauman and look forward to him returning with his guitar!

As our members come together at Temple, everyone is hungry for interaction, conversation, and connection. The pleasure and joy are palpable as folks gather around the Oneg Shabbat table and join in the Motzi. Sometimes it is difficult to get them to move into the Sanctuary for services! Similarly, after services conclude, visiting resumes in the lobby indefinitely, whereupon it becomes necessary to remind everyone that the time has come to let our security guard go home!

Neither COVID, nor freezing weather keeps our Temple community from gathering, virtually or in person.

As we face more cold weather during the upcoming winter months, please check on our members who are not able to get out and about, either because of illness, disability, age, or lack of transportation. They may need groceries, a ride to a medical appointment, or just a “listening ear”. Look through the list of members in our updated Temple directory. Is there someone you have not seen or heard from in a long time? Just the simple act of making a phone call or sending a text can make the recipient feel that they are not alone, that they belong and are part of our Temple community.

The universal experience of living through COVID, and social isolation has certainly caused a readjustment of our priorities. In other words, what do we really care about? For our Temple members, it is coming together as a community and being there for each other.

SCHMOOZERAMA

January 14, 2023

6:00 pm

Potluck dinner and movie.

THE LITTLE TRAITOR

Starring Alfred Molina and featuring Theodore Bikel, this is a coming of age tale of the unlikely bond between a kindly British soldier and a spirited Jewish boy set against the backdrop of the birth of the State of Israel based on a novel by acclaimed author Amos Oz.



REPORT AN ANTISEMITIC OR BIAS INCIDENT

We all have a responsibility to report and respond to antisemitism or hate when we see it.

TO REPORT AN ANTISEMITIC OR HATE INCIDENT, VISIT:
[ADL.ORG/REPORTINCIDENT-KULANU](https://www.adl.org/reportincident-kulanu)

**IF YOU FEAR FOR YOUR SAFETY OR THE SAFETY OF OTHERS,
CALL 9-1-1 IMMEDIATELY.**

What should I report?

You should report any incident you perceive as antisemitic, biased or hateful.

Here are some examples:

- Antisemitic or other hateful graffiti in public places, including synagogues and schools.
- Vandalism of religious artifacts such as mezuzahs or menorahs and holy places.
- Online harassment, including hateful social media posts and emails. Remember to take a screenshot!
- Verbal harassment, including emails and voicemails.
- Media-based incidents, including antisemitic or hateful content in a news story.
- White supremacist propaganda.

Make an impact in the fight against antisemitism and hate.

Scan this QR code to report an incident:



ADL[®]

kulanu
SYNAGOGUES IN ACTION
AGAINST ANTISEMITISM

COMMITTEE UPDATES:

SECURITY: It is up to all of us to help and be constant on safety matters. Reminder: we are requesting no purses or backpacks larger than 14x14x6 be brought into the building. You will be asked to leave any large bags in your car. The security committee could use a couple more members, If you are available, please contact Eileen Hamilton at ehamilton@bnai-israel.us.

KULANU: In the last bulletin, Annabelle, in her president’s letter, announced that the Temple is participating in an effort sponsored by the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), Union for Reform Judaism (URJ), and United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism (USCJ) to address the rise of antisemitism in our community. As Annabelle explained, the program is called Kulanu, which in Hebrew means “all of us.” Audrey Evans and Sue Weinstein are co-chairing and have formed a small working group to develop ideas for programs, one of which will include the Jewish Community while the other will reach out to our broader ecumenical community. The working group plans to sponsor an interactive program that asks, “What is anti-semitism” and “What can we do about it?”. We will reach out to all members of the Jewish community to help participate in these Kulanu programs.

Uniquely, Little Rock’s Kulanu efforts will truly be “all of us” because both Rabbi Biller (Congregation Agudath Achim) and Rabbi Ciment (Lubavitch of AR) have agreed to participate as much as they’re able. One of Kulanu’s goals is to help report all antisemitic incidents. Beginning this month, both Temple and Synagogue will provide information for reporting all antisemitic incidents.

COLLEGE HOMECOMING LUNCH

Calling All College Students



Join Rabbi Block and Eileen for lunch on Thursday, January 5 at 11:30 am at Three Fold—Pleasant Ridge Shopping Center.

We would love to see you all and catch up with anyone who’s home from college/graduate school, etc.

Please let Eileen know if you can attend ehamilton@bnai-israel.us

LAFTY PREPARES HYGIENE BAGS FOR CALS.....IN FEBRUARY

Help LAFTY by bringing in your hotel and sample sized toiletry products to Temple in the month of January. LAFTY will then complete individual 100 bags for distribution. CALS distributes hygiene bags to the unsheltered patrons at all of their branch locations.

Items needed for Hygiene Bags:

- insect repellent
- deodorant
- wipes (a couple of individual foil packages)
- Gold Bond body powder
- lip balm
- toothpaste/toothbrush
- mouthwash (non-alcoholic)
- razor
- comb
- small pack of tissues
- small soap
- small lotion
- Gallon-sized Ziplock bags



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

Madrichim (Hebrew for guides) are our teens who serve as teaching assistants for religious school each Sunday and beyond. They are also some of same teens who participate in our youth group, LaFTY, and attend NFTY So. activities, and in general, they are the ones who are very busy at school with excellent grades and extra-curricular activities. They are ‘do it all’ kind of teens who can be counted upon. As *Madrichim*, they guide younger students on their Jewish journeys, helping them to see that being Jewish is cool, a priority, and important.

If you recognize the names **Hannah Lopas, Roxy Sonnier, Mira Krain, Sam Hoffman, Rafa Levi, Ben Casciano, and Ben Flaxman**, then you recognize teen and *Madrichim* excellence. They show up at 8:30 am or other assigned times and put their ALL into teaching and helping. They come up with clever ideas, bring their own perspectives to the classroom, help organize and decorate, and add an amazing *ruach* (spirit) to all that happens during religious school. They take over when a teacher is out and prepare before class to make sure the lessons come alive.

The best part is that they are role models for our students so that one day, they too will want to be part of the Temple and be a *Madrich/ah* when they are in high school. Recently Ben F. moved all our art and craft supplies to a new organized closet. Mira and Roxy began the year with Judge Lee with a welcoming craft and way to enter their classroom. Hannah patiently works with our students who benefit from one-on-one learning; and Ben C. was able to keep Hebrew going when Ellyn was in Israel. Sam helps teach Hebrew at the end of each session with such patience and skill, and Rafa’s infectious laugh and smile put a smile on all the students’ faces. Our teachers love our *Madrichim* and rave about them all the time. They are good at what they do. It is my hope that one day they will teach religious school in this community or other because they want to, and they know how to and they recognize the *mitzvah* of passing Judaism from one generation to the next.

Next time you see one of these teens, thank them for their devotion and commitment to their temple, to our future, and to Jewish education. They are the best!

Mira as a dreidel on Dec. 18



Religious School dates for January

Sundays, January 8, 15, 22, 29 : 9:00 - 11:30 am

Confirmation Class dates: Wednesday, January 18: 6 - 8 pm

Religious Action Center
of Reform Judaism

January 26 - 30, 2023

And we are off to L’Taken—Bernard and Audre Rapoport Social Justice Seminar on January 26-30, 2023 with Ben Casciano, Caroline Goldsholl, West Kleinman, Rafael Levi, Hannah Lopas, Mira Krain, Hannah Reagler, Mimi Reagler, Roxy Sonnier, Justin Young, and Phillip Young. These teens will spend 4 fabulous days exploring our nations capital and learning about social justice issues. On Monday, our teens will present their issues and lobby our Senators and Representatives in their offices on Capitol Hill. Rabbi Block and Eileen Hamilton are so excited to accompany this fine

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1st Samuel Levin
- 2nd Adam Hoffman
- 3rd Alma Baker
Catherine Norwood
Dale Ronnel
- 4th Bonnie Nickol
- 5th Charles Alman
Eoin Dockter
Bruce Greenberg
Sam Nickol
- 6th Stacey Ronnel
Janie Thurow
- 7th Ellen Korenblat
Becky Marks
Terry Orgel
- 8th Greyson Reiss
Alex Skiba
- 9th Martha Alman
Irving Spitzberg
- 10th Tricia Gold
Clara Spivey
- 11th Aniko Diamant
- 12th Nancy Alexander
- 15th Shirley Friedman
- 16th Perry Cohen
Elaine Lowens
- 17th Harper Harris
- 18th Rylee Krupitsky
- 19th Jude Schlesinger
- 20th Debbie Brady
Eileen Hamilton
Jack Perin

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 6th Judy and John Selig 41 years
- 14th Harry and Rivka Ehrenberg 9 years
- 14th Lee and Ricky Harris 6 years
- 16th Betty and David Rosen 46 years
- 18th Elaine and Rick Lowens 19 years
- 19th Becca and Andrew Perin 11 years
- 19th Melinda and Lou Tobian 28 years
- 21st Alison and Austin Vann 9 years

MAZEL TOV to the Ronnel Family, on the naming of the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra’s life-long music engagement and education programs the **E. Lee Ronnel Music Academy**, in appreciation of a lifetime of support for the Symphony and a generous bequest.

February birthdays continued

- 21st Ellyn Polsky
Michael Ronnel
Erin Wolf
- 22nd Capi Peck
- 23rd Jill Bauman
Keith Nigro
- 25th Charlotte Rudofsky
Vivian Rudofsky
- 26th Andrew Casciano
Sean Gibson
William Siegel
- 27th Isabella Ifrah
Thalia Stuber



Thank you for this month’s office and building volunteers:

Shelly Ballew
Janet Korenblat

Thank you to Rita Fagan, Debbie Brady, Carol Parham, and Kirsta Nigro for the Hanukkah dinner and Janet Korenblat and Rita Fagan for the Hanukkah Luncheon.

DONATIONS

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In gratitude for Rabbi Block's participation in Joshua Epstein's memorial service

Anna Marks

In appreciation

Anonymous

In memory of Allen J. Becker

Gus Block

In memory of Hollis Pruitt

Sandra Pruitt

Yahrzeit Fund

In memory of Elsa Rosenthal

Byron and Susan Rosenthal Kantrow

In memory of Martin Rosen

David Rosen

In memory of Sgt. Sherrill Bernstein

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In memory of Harvey Luber

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In memory of Don Gordon

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In memory of Justin Komiss

Patty and Herb Monoson

In memory of Harry S. Lasker, Jr.

Harriet Katz and Family

In memory of Ted Baer

Milt Baer

In memory of Marguerite Selz

Nan Selz

In memory of Alvin Strauss Sr. and Alvin Strauss Jr.

Tracye and Larry Townley

In memory of Rita Slutsky

Galina and Michael Krupitsky

Bobbye and Rabbi Gene Levy Scholarship Fund

In gratitude for Rabbi Levy's participation in Joshua Epstein's memorial service

Anna Marks

In honor of Miriam & Leonard Hasson's 50th anniversary

In honor of Tracye & Larry Townley's 50th anniversary

In honor of Ruthe and Phil Kaplan's anniversary

In honor of Jesse and Janice Kane's anniversary

Bobbye and Gene Levy

Endowment Fund

In honor of Raida Snyderman

Carol and Chester Storthz

Bauman Family Music Fund

In memory of Paul Yoder

Trudy and Jerry Jacobson

Speedy recovery to Steve Bauman

Kathy and David Bauman

Vogel Caring and Sharing Fund

In honor of JFAR Tikkun Olam Recipients Nancy Rousseau,

Liz Lucker, Tim Kessler and Sue Weinstein

Jan and Larry Alman

In honor of Miriam and Leonard Hasson's 50th anniversary

Ellie and John Moore

In memory of Iris Oliva

Galina and Michael Krupitsky

Your donations are greatly appreciated...

We are reuniting at Temple for Friday Shabbat Services. Your sponsorship is greatly appreciated.



Bimah Flowers Sponsorship
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One officer
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Sponsorships can be planned in Honor of a special occasion or in Memory of a Loved One
Call the Temple office 501.225.9700 or email templesecretary@bnai-israel.us to reserve your sponsorship date.

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JANUARY YAHRZEITS

JANUARY 6

Louis Blass
 Max Block
 Ray Solmson Bluthenthal
 Barbara Brookes
 Sophie Ceitlin
 Dr. Wilma C Diner
 Jennie Book Diner
 Sarah Harris Donner
 Lucille K. Ehrenberg
 Eva Morris Elias
 Clarence Randel Epstein
 Norman N. Fein
 Irma Frankel
 Bettye Fullerton
 J.W. Fullerton
 Lillian Brenner Gealt
 Yale I. Glubok
 Maurice Joseph Jacobson
 Solomon Kaufman
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 Arnold Linn Mayersohn
 Janet Grundfest Mayersohn
 Arthur P. Pfeifer
 Henrietta Pfeifer
 Hollis Pruitt
 A. Allen Quick
 Annette Sanders
 Sam J. Storthz Jr.
 Bernard Tanenbaum

Yahrzeits continued on next page.

In the rising of the sun, and in its going sown, we remember them.
In the blowing of the wind and in the chill of winter, we remember them.
In the opening of buds and in the rebirth of spring, we remember them.
In the blueness of the sky and in the warmth of summer, we remember them.
In the rustling of the leaves and in the beauty of autumn, we remember them.
In the beginning of the year and when it ends, we remember them.
When we are weary and in need of strength, we remember them.
When we are lost and sick at heart, we remember them.
When we have joys we yearn to share, we remember them.
So long as they live, we too, shall live, for they are now a part of us, as we remember them.

JANUARY YAHRZEITS *CONTINUED*

JANUARY 13

David Alexander
 Blanche Alman
 Sol Alman
 Mabel Cohen
 Dr. Larry Dumont
 Debbie Friedman
 Martin Greenberg
 Mary Julia Heczal
 Doris M. Hoffman
 Charles W. Kaiser
 Rabbi J. Aaron Levy
 Marcus Eugene Mackey
 Edward Meyers
 Renee Miller
 Morris Phillips
 David Reagler
 Joanne Reagler
 Maurice Roby
 Morris H. Rosen
 Mary Rubin
 Harry Schneider
 Sam Schwartz
 Sylvia Schwartz
 Mamie Dreeben Spear
 Birdie Razeper Tenenbaum
 Mollie Liffland Utter
 Sol Waldman
 June M. Wolf

JANUARY 20

Gus Blass
 Arthur Bott
 Alice Young Camp
 Barnett H. Cohen
 Ernest E. Ellman
 Molly Fleisig
 Mary E. Gans
 Sarah Gold
 Ruth Goldsholl
 Marx Goldstein
 Ida Laner
 Lewis Laner
 Harvey Laner
 Marion Lee Levy
 Max Lifschitz
 Kate L. Mayersohn
 Jane B. Mendel
 Leonard J Ottenheimer
 Miriam Zavadoff Rabkin
 Anita Scherer Reikes
 Ralph Reutlinger
 Samuel Rosenberg
 Dan Schwartz
 Sydell Siegel
 Gertrude M. Solmson
 Adrienne R. Steppach
 Moses O. Stern
 Jess B. Thalheimer
 Pauline Ticker
 Haskell Wolff

JANUARY 27

Alan Harris Arsht
 John F. Bolts
 Rebecca Navra Cohen
 Pauline R. Crum
 James Davidson
 Carolyn Schott Ducker
 Flora Oppenheimer Fox
 Dorothy Joseph
 Lance Corp. Jeremy Kane
 Ellen Rae Kaufman
 Fannie Safferstone Klein
 Lionel H. Kohler
 Ruth Goldman Kretchmar
 Sam Herbert Levin
 Beatrice Brint Marks
 Dave Meyer
 Mary Nelson
 Charles "Bud" Neuhauser
 Jeanette Rubin
 Vernon Sahlin
 Leah Isolene Shindler
 Jennie R. Storthz
 Bettye Jeanne Butner Streiff
 Eva Wolff



We are using the Rakefet database to produce our yahrzeit lists from now on. If you believe a name of your loved one is missing from our lists, please call the Temple office to let us know. We appreciate you informing us so we can correct our records. Thank you.

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**Please contact Eileen Hamilton
(ehamilton@bnai-israel.us), or 501-225-9700.**



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Jacobs Camp is seeking COMMUNITY CARE DIRECTOR and MENTAL HEALTH INTERN- summer 2023

Camp Leadership Responsibilities:

- Serve as part of the camp's leadership team, contribute to the overall positive morale of the camp community, and take on responsibilities accordingly (night supervision, unit support, day to day policy decisions, etc.).

Participation in [Foundation for Jewish Camp's Community of Practice as part of our camp's grant for nurturing mental, emotional, social, and spiritual health at camp](#). This includes two or three virtual gatherings and one in-person gathering per year with other Jewish camp mental health professionals.

Maintain a consistent presence as a leader within the camp community with respect to role modeling of institutional and racial equity, diversity, and inclusion (REDI) principles, Jewish values, supervision and accountability for all rules and procedures, and dedication in all respects to the camp's mission and vision.

To learn more about the position or other camp staff positions, contact JACOBS CAMP at 601.885.6042.

DONATIONS: THANK YOU FOR YOUR ONGOING GENEROSITY TO YOUR TEMPLE**ENCLOSED IS MY GIFT OF DONATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ _____****From:** _____
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- ◆ KIMBRELY CAROL JORDAN MEMORIAL FUND
- ◆ MEMORIAL FUND FOR EDUCATION AND YOUTH
- ◆ 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
- ◆ MULKEY FUND FOR HHD MUSIC
- ◆ HALLIE COHEN MILLER ARCHIVE FUND
- ◆ 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

