CONGREGATION B'NAI ISRAEL

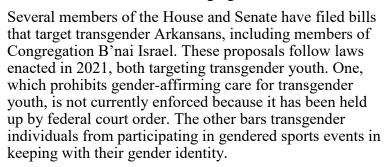
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS THE CHRONICLE FEBRUARY 2023/VOLUME 23 - ISSUE 2

THE RABBI SPEAKS RABBI BARRY BLOCK

Dear Friends,

The regular session of the Arkansas General Assembly is in session, and

two clusters of initiatives there may be of significant concern to members of our congregation.



The attempt to marginalize transgender Arkansans is terrifying, and not only to the transgender folks among us. Jewish history has taught us that, whenever a minority group is threatened, all minorities, including Jews, are vulnerable. At root, these legislative initiatives treat being transgender as illegitimate, insisting that gender is exclusively binary, i.e., that one can be only male or female, and that God has assigned each person their gender at birth with chromosomes and sexual organs. Jewish tradition, by contrast, has, for thousands of years, recognized multiple genders and expressions of gender. Our Reform Movement was proudly among the first in America to stand up for the rights of transgender and gender nonconforming individuals, and we will not stop now.

At the same time, Governor Sanders has vowed to end supposed political indoctrination in our public schools. None of us, of course, wants teachers to lead their students toward a particular political philosophy. One is tempted to dismiss this initiative: If Arkansas public school teachers have been indoctrinating their students to progressive thinking, they have been failing miserably!

WORSHIP AT-A-GLANCE

FRIDAY NIGHT SERVICES IN **FEBRUARY**

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

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3

MISHKAN T'FILAH SERVICE

led by Rabbi Block Sermon: "Black History and Jewish History"

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10

MISHKAN T'FILAH SERVICE

led by Rabbi Block Sermon: "Who Is a Jew" Welcome Confirmation Class from Second Presbyterian Church

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17

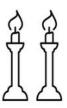
MISHKAN T'FILAH SERVICE

led by Rabbi Block Sermon: "Abortion Rights: Judaism Sees the Pregnant Person"

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24 ALL MUSIC, ALL-DEBBIE FRIEDMAN

SHABBAT

led by the Stars of David Band



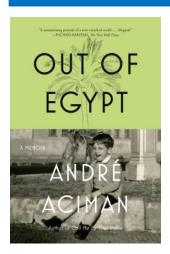
(The Rabbi Speaks continued from front page)

But the matter is serious. Laws in other states like ours prohibit teaching of anything that may make a student feel badly on the basis of their race, religion, gender, and other factors. That sounds good, but the goal of such laws is to mitigate teaching the truth about slavery, Jim Crow, and systemic racism in America, lest our students develop negative views of our country. We saw that such a law in Texas led at least one school district to believe that it was required to teach "alternative views" of the Holocaust, lest students of German extraction feel badly. Though not the intent of the law, that is its logical extension.

As I have written elsewhere, I am descended from American Jews who enslaved Black Americans and who fought to protect slavery in the Civil War. While I am not proud of that fact, I do not feel badly about myself, or about being white, as a result. However, Torah teaches that the sins of ancestors are visited on descendants. We live in a state, region, and nation that continue to be impacted by slavery's legacy. As a descendant and beneficiary of those who benefitted from slavery and white supremacy, I have a heightened obligation to teach about them truthfully and to combat continuing racism, and I am not alone.

We have work to do! *Faithfully*,





AL BARRON BOOK CLUB

Sunday, March 5 at 3:00 pm

Temple Library

'OUT OF EGYPT'

A memoir by Andre' Aciman

SATURDAY MORNINGS IN FEBRUARY

Torah Study at 9:30 am, Led by Rabbi Block on February 4 and 11, by Bruce Greenberg on February 18 and by Sam Kauffman on February 25

Shabbat Worship at 11:00 am, Led by Rabbi Block on February 4 and 11 and by Meg Goldenberg Marion on February 18 and by Emily Adams and Carmen Arick on February 25.

FROM THE CONGREGATION B'NAI ISRAEL T'SHUVAH TASK FORCE

As a sacred community, Congregation B'nai Israel (CBI) aspires to always act in accordance with the Jewish values of our tradition. These values include Kavod (Honor), Chesed (Loving Kindness), Tzedek (Justice), Avodah (Service), Kehillah (Community), Bitachon (Trust), Yosher (Integrity), and B'tzelem Elohim (Every human being is created in the Divine Image). Despite our best intentions, we as individuals and as an institution sometimes fall short of living up to our values.

At these times, the process of T'shuvah can help us return to the proper path. T'shuvah is a three-part process in which an individual, institution, or community: (1) Recognizes a shortcoming, (2) Feels sincere remorse for the shortcoming, and (3) Changes or turns from the actions which led to the shortcoming and adopts a new path which will lead to a better outcome should the same or similar circumstances occur again.

Article continues on next page

T'SHUVAH TASK FORCE continued

Recently several major institutions comprising Reform Judaism in North America, including The Union for Reform Judaism (URJ), The Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR), and Hebrew Union College (HUC), have engaged in a process of self-examination and T'shuvah. In addition, the Reform Movement has encouraged congregations to engage in a similar process with the goal of creating and adopting a Community Covenant. Such a process offers a community the opportunity to declare shared values which reflect who the community is and aspires to be.

In response to this movement-wide charge, CBI President Annabelle Imber Tuck formed the CBI T'shuvah Task Force. The Task Force met via Zoom with Rabbi Erica Asch, incoming CCAR President and former chair of the CCAR T'shuvah Task Force, who assisted us with clarifying our mission and process. Our goal is to engage in the process of T'Shuvah and build a Community Covenant that reflects the values and aspirations of our whole community.

If our work is to be successful, it is imperative that our entire community be involved. We want to know the following: Which Jewish values are most important to you? How would you like to see these values expressed in a Community Covenant? Where is CBI doing a good job of reflecting these values and where could we improve? Have you been hurt by an interaction with someone at CBI? Do you have a suggestion for how issues could be handled differently in the future? We want to hear from you.

Tachlis (How the process works):

The CBI T'shuvah Task Force will be available to meet with current and former members of our congregational community to discuss your experiences at CBI. Two members of the Task Force will meet with any congregant who wishes to speak with us. You may also choose to have Rabbi Block present during the meeting. Meetings will take place via Zoom (not recorded) or in a private space at the Temple. Your identity and any information you share during the meetings is confidential. We will not share your experiences outside of the Task Force. The purpose of the T'shuvah Task Force is to listen and learn from your experiences. Our ultimate goal is to help our congregation be a safe and supportive community for all of our members.

In lieu of a face-to-face meeting, individuals may elect to email comments and concerns to the committee. All emails will be treated confidentially.

In addition to the individual listening sessions, we plan to offer a series of educational opportunities that will allow us to explore in a communal setting issues that sometimes arise in congregations and how Jewish values can help us navigate these situations.

There are some things the CBI T'shuvah Task Force cannot do. We cannot "fix" the past. We cannot offer apologies for wrongs done by others. But we can learn from the past. Together we can build a better future.

To schedule a meeting or share concerns with the CBI T'shuvah Task Force, you can email Dr. Carmen Arick at <u>clarickmd@sbcglobal.net</u>. If you do not have access to email, you may call the Temple office (501-225-9700) to leave a message for a return call from a Task Force member.

Shalom.

Dr. Carmen Arick, Task Force Chair Dr. Brad Diner Elizabeth Cohen Carol Parham Nan Selz

The President's Column will return in March. Annabelle Imber Tuck asked the T'shuvah Task Force to utilize her Chronicle space this month.



THE FABELMANS

Saturday, February 11th - 6:00 pm

Young Sammy Fabelman falls in love with movies after his parents take him to see "The Greatest Show on Earth." Armed with a camera, Sammy starts to make his own films at home, much to the delight of his supportive mother. Aspiring to become a filmmaker as he reaches adolescence, he soon discovers a shattering family secret and explores how the power of films can help him see the truth.

Potluck dinner and movie Bring a dish or dinner item for 8 to share. Questions: kesslertimothy@gmail.com

SAVE THE DATE FOR PURIM—TUESDAY, MARCH 7



YO! GRAB THOSE GROGGERS AND GET YOUR
KEISTERS DOWN TO OUR SHMONY AWARD
WINNING, WAAAAY OVER THE TOP PURIM
SHPIEL FEATURING THE MUSIC OF
ARETHA FRANKLIN, BILLY JOEL,
DIANA ROSS & THE SUPREMES,
IKE & TINA TURNER, NEIL DIAMOND,
AND MORE!

The lyrics will be projected on the wall so you can sing along with us!!

COCKTAILS, NY STREET FOOD, AND SHPIEL: \$36
DESSERT, DRINK, AND SHPIEL: \$10

ATTIRE: CITY CASUAL COOL - BASIC BLACK, WITH A TOUCH OF COLOR, AND YOUR BEST WALKING SHOES CUZ WHO HAS CARS?

PRIZE FOR BEST NYC INSPIRED ENSEMBLE! T-SHIRTS ENCOURAGED.

PLEASE RSVP TO THE TEMPLE OFFICE NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, MARCH 3, BY PHONE AT 501-225-9700

OR BY EMAIL TO TEMPLESECRETARY@BNAI.ISRAEL-US

ADULT LEARNING

Sunday, February 12: 9:15 a.m.- Noon The Global Day of Jewish Learning at Congregation B'nai Israel 3700 Rodney Parham Rd. Little Rock, AR

You come, you nosh, you learn, you're wiser.



February 12, 2023 A project of Limmud North America

The Jewish Community of Central Arkansas welcomes you to the 13th Annual Global Day of Jewish Learning. Global Day offers us the opportunity to join together as a community and learn with stellar facilitators from diverse backgrounds as have 400 other communities around the world. Far from being lectures, these classes spark thought-provoking conversations that have something for absolutely everyone! You will be able to attend two classes and, naturally, there will be coffee and delicious Kosher noshables.

Rebuilding: This year's study theme explores the way Jewish tradition helps us reconstruct our lives, communities, and families after loss. You may attend two classes. Our classes and faculty are as follows:

Picking up, Dusting Off, and Bouncing Back
Rabbi Mark Biller, Congregation Agudath Achim with Michael
Roberts

Rebuilding After the Loss of a Loved One Rabbi Barry Block, Congregation B'nai Israel with Debbie Brady, LCSW

Rebuilding Family Relationships
Rabbi Pinchus Ciment, Lubavitch of Arkansas

Rebuilding the Past, Envisioning the Future
Lisa Sherwin, Ph.D Professor & Chair, Department of Psychology,
University of Arkansas at Little Rock

Please RSVP to Meg Marion in order to secure your class choices. Meg.marion@mac.com or via text or phone 501.951.3345

Sponsored by JFAR, with the support of Congregations B'nai Israel and Agudath Achim. Donations are always welcome.



FROM EILEEN HAMILTON, DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION, EDUCATION AND YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

PURIM IS COMING BACK IN FULL FORCE. LAFTY HAS BEGUN THE PLANNING.

At one of our first LAFTY meetings this year when we were all back together in one room, Purim came up in conversation over and over again. The fun, the planning, the memories. The teens made Purim sound like the best thing they had ever done in their whole lives. So, we decided that Purim would be the focal point of the year with our teens – a way to teach about how to organize, execute, fundraise, and more for this one event – Purim Celebration and Carnival. On January 15, we began the planning. Pulling out the old Purim materials and creating new ideas, all were so excited to make Purim come alive again this year and make it a favorite of our younger students and allow them to create wonderful memories too.

We hope you will support LAFTY's efforts this Purim by attending the celebration, donating your time to it, donating items needed, or even being a business, family, or individual sponsor.

So come on by for lunch, hamantaschen, games, social and more on Sunday, March 5 - 10:30 am - 12 noon. This is a true reunion of the B'nai Israel family from youth and beyond.



Celebration and Carnival is BACK!!!
Sunday, March 5
10:30 am - 12:00 pm
Join LAFTY for lunch, games, prizes
and more

Carnival Admission: FREE with donation to LAFTY!
Includes unlimited games.
Lunch is provided for all religious school students.
Lunch available for purchase for \$8.00.

Become a Purim Celebration and Carnival Sponsor by February 28. LAFTY appreciates your support to lift this program off the ground. Email ehamilton@bnai-israel.us to pledge your support this year.

Religious School dates for February

Sundays, February 5—5:00 pm, February 12, 26 - 9:00 am; Confirmation Class dates: February 8, 22 TUB'SHEVAT CELEBRATION ON SUNDAY, FEB. 5 AT 5 PM WITH DINNER, ACTIVITIES FOR STUDENTS & PARENTS

MARCH BIRTHDAVS

MARCH BIRTHDAYS			MARCH ANNIVERSARIES		
1st	Gus Blass III Tess Kramer Lee Thalheimer Katherine Tull Sam Vogel Jr.	5th 11th 21st 22nd	Kirsta & Keith Nigro Elizabeth & Alex Daniel Jill & Jon Flaxman Luci & Dan Rodell	14 years12 years24 years43 years	
2nd	Sheree Meyer John Oakes Harold Tenenbaum	25th		34 years 28 years	
3rd	Cidney Hulett	28th	Bonnie & Sam Nickol	58 years	
4th	Muriel Lederman	29th	Joan and Larry Nafe	43 years	
5th	Gay Block Astrid Dockter Susan Lowitz	30th	Rebecca & Alan Kauffman	39 years	
6th	Dan Berleant		A A		
8th	Leonard Hasson Sydney Lowitz		Mazel		
9th	Stephen Rousseau Brian Storrie		O Magor P		
13th	Joyce Franklin	17	Karin Waugh Zucker, who was named profe emerita after many years of devoted service to		
14th	Emily Hooks Vaughn				
15th	Joan Collins		versity's U.S. Army Graduate I		

professor ce to Baylor ogram in Health and Business Administration.

Pat Highley and Arnie Nachmann on the engagement of their son Victor to Cassie Childress.

22nd	William Friedman
24th	Brooke Doolittle Angelica Wolf
25th	Jerry Bendorf Jenny Boshears
26th	Leah Elenzweig Joseph Margolick Arnie Mayersohn

27th Ellen Lowitz

16th Kelli Schlesinger

17th Judy Grundfest

18th Franklin Richard 20th Nancy Rousseau

21st Lisa Coffey Hulett

Birthdays continued					
28th	Eli Krupitsky Michelle Lemaire Earl Sorrells				
29th	Brad Joseph				
30th	John Sokora				
31st	Don Evans Trip Strauss				

Did you know you can get your Chronicle by e-mail? If you receive a paper copy of the Chronicle, and would prefer to only receive it by e-mail, please let us know. Send an email to templesecretary@bnai-israel.us or call us at 501-225-9700

DONATIONS

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In appreciation
Anonymous
Speedy recovery to Larry Alman
Speedy recover to Jerry Jacobson
Susan Lesser

In memory of Paul Yoder In memory of Josh Epstein Wishes for good health to Steve Bauman Wishes for good health to Gus Block Happiness in a new home to Ruthe and Phil Kaplan

Bonnie and Sam Nickol In appreciation Audrey and Don Evans

Yahrzeit Fund

In memory of Catherine Nachmann
Arnie Nachmann and Pat Highley
In memory of Alan Arsht
Eileen and Larry Hamilton
In memory of Raymond V. Biondo, MD
Mary Biondo
In memory of Debbie Friedman
Gay Block

In memory of Blanche and Sol Alman
Martha and Charles Alman
In memory of Moses Stern

In memory of Moses Stern Bobbye and Rabbi Gene Levy

In memory of Samuel Herbert Levin Sandy and Fred Levin In memory of Samuel Rosenberg

In memory of LCpl Jeremy Kane Janice and Jesse Kane

In memory of Renee Miller Harvey Miller

In memory of E. Lee Ronnel

In memory of Birdie Tenenbaum

In memory of Jack Grundfest

Dale Ronnel

In memory of Ellen Rae Kaufman Melissa Rae Kaufman

In memory of Mac Lyons MaryEllen O'Connor

In memory of Leah Isolene Levy Shindler Lesley Shindler Hughes & Stephen C. Hughes

Sustaining Fund

Eric Siegel

Vogel Caring and Sharing Fund

In appreciation
Anna Marks and Dina Epstein
In honor of Miriam and Leonard Hasson's 50th
anniversary
Mary Lou Cohn
In memory of Martin Ferguson

In memory of Martin Ferguson
In memory of Joshua Epstein
Annabelle Imber Tuck
In memory of Dan Schwartz

In memory of Dan Schwartz
The Vogel Family

In appreciation of the Hanukkah Luncheon Van Gates

Endowment Fund

In honor of Steve Bauman
In honor of Leonard Hasson
In memory of Allan Mendel
Heidi and James Williams
Donation
Ann Owens

Adult Education Programming

In honor of Judy Lansky Kenneth Gould

Storthz Fund

Tricia, Jerry, Jack and Vivian Gold

Bobbye and Rabbi Gene Levy Camp Scholarship Fund

In honor and appreciation of Bobbye and Gene Levy Leslie Goodman Allen

So much fun catching up with B'nai Israel College Students over Three Fold and laughs. Eileen, Tillie Reagler, Lilah Goldman, Henry Kramer, Rabbi Block, Louis Reagler, Daniel Block, Isabella Ifrah (not pictured but was present at lunch, Sydney Shemper).



KULANU COMMITTEE

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

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:





FEBRUARY YAHRZEITS CONTINUED

FEBRUARY 3/4

Gittel Adler Betty Lasker Alexander Dr. Dorothy G. Axelroth Rose Besser David Bluthenthal Joan Bresnik Janice Brewer Roy B. Dumont Randall M. Falk Sr. Edith L Fleisig Albert R. Fox Louis Goldman Jack Grundfest Alan Hirsch Evan L. Korenblat Birdie L. Laser Bernice Marx Lion Lilah Ann Sewall Mulkey Beryl Harris Nordlinger Edna Frances Parker Lanoue Marvin Roberts E. Lee Ronnel Louis Maurice Samuel Lillian Schiffman William A. Stern

FEBRUARY 10/11

Shirley Strauss

Fran Abts Joyce Arick Delia G. Bloom Harry Bressler Albert K. Cohen Max Greenbaum Sam Grundfest Phyllis Lieberman Kauffman John Eric Kerner Leon Lansky Laura Reifer Shirley Schumann Dorothy Blass Storthz Carla Smith Webb Arthur Weiss Bessie Weller Eleonor Wolff

FEBRUARY 17/18

L. Julian Alexander Natalie Loeb Alexander Adolph Bluthenthal Don-Neil Brotman Nat M. Cohen Charles Herrman Dante Charles Fleisig Rhoda Lowenberg Gilbert Augusta Finger Goldman Mabel Feld Grundfest Lilian Cohen Horton Eugene P. Levy Chester E. Miller Milton Richard Vivian Brooks Rosen Morris B. Sanders Hulda D. Thalheimer Freda Granoff Thomas Catherine Towbin Donald Spradlin Wise



Sadie C.Bauduy Annah Cohen Flora L. Cohen Carrie L. Dosch Chai Rachel Epstein Hattie Jean Falk Isadore Goodman Robert Hestermann J.B. Heyman **Ruth Horton** Max Knoff Jean Lachmann Hattie Sickles Levy Mimi Lack Loeb Randy Maughan Daniel Ottenheimer Heloise Kaufman Pfeifer Irene Bott Pfeifer Henry Rephan Louis C. Salinger Levi Storthz Jean Waler Faye Block Weinstein Stella F. Weisman



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.

In the rising of the sun, and in its going down, 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 an 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.

Your support and sponsorship is greatly appreciated as we gather together for Shabbat and other events. Call our office to sponsor in memory or honor of someone special.







Oneg Shabbat Sponsorship \$54.00



To our office and building volunteers for this month: Shelley Ballew, Esther Gordon, Janet Korenblat, Sheri and Micky Simon.

Interested in becoming a Chronicle ad sponsor? It's another way to give back to your Temple...

Please contact Laurie Arnold (larnold032937), Alison Vann (melderalison@gmail.com), or Eileen Hamilton (ehamilton@bnai-israel.us), or 501-225-9700.





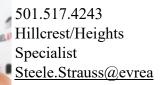




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DONATIONS: THANK YOU FOR YOUR ONGOING GENEROSITY TO YOUR TEMPLE

ENCLOSED IS MY GIFT OF DONATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$		
From:	ase print your name exactly how you want it to be listed in the Chronicle)	
(ple	ase print your name exactly how you want it to be listed in the Chronicle)	
In memory of:		
In appreciation of:		
Other:		
Send acknowledgm	ent to:	

- ♦ ENDOWMENT FUND
- ♦ SUSTAINING FUND
- VOGEL CARING & SHARING FUND
- ◆ THE KNOFF FAMILY FUND
- PFEIFER COMMUNITY OUTREACH FUND
- ♦ SALINGER MEMORIAL LANDSCAPE FUND
- ◆ CBI CEMETERY FUND
- ♦ RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND
- MAYERSOHN LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT FUND
- ♦ WILMA C. DINER FUND
- ♦ LEIBS REL. SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP FUND
- ♦ STERN LIBRARY FUND
- ♦ LUBER YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP FUND
- ♦ STORTHZ RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FUND
- ♦ 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.



