

CONGREGATION B'NAI ISRAEL
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS

THE CHRONICLE

TEMPLE

DECEMBER 2023/VOLUME 23 - ISSUE 12

THE RABBI SPEAKS

RABBI BARRY BLOCK



Dear Friends,

How do we respond to antisemitism? We must call it out. We must report it to ADL through the link provided in each weekly email newsletter, so that ADL can share the information with law enforcement and track the proliferation of hate. Where we have influence, we can reach out to leaders of institutions such as certain colleges and universities where our young people experience antisemitism, and demand that they do better. We can also applaud, or at the very least acknowledge, those who speak up to combat antisemitism. (Yes, even if they are “only doing what any decent person should do.”) And, it must be said, we can and do take security measures to assure that we are as safe as we can possibly be in our own homes and at our synagogue home, Congregation B’nai Israel.

For those of us in the Jewish community, something even more powerful we can and must do to frustrate the goals of antisemitism is to live full, active, engaged, and joyful Jewish lives.

In the immediate aftermath of October 7, Chabad worldwide called on men to wrap *t’fillin* and women to kindle Shabbat candles in order to inspire God to favor Israel at its darkest hour and perhaps even hasten messianic redemption. I don’t personally believe in a God who works like that, and Reform Judaism rejects the gendered division of rituals. Still, our ultra-Orthodox friends have a point.

Performing *mitzvot*, religious obligations, is the heart of Judaism. Those *mitzvot* include rituals like candles and kiddush, communal worship and private prayer, affixing a *mezuzah* on the doorpost, and studying Torah. They also include ethical duties—caring for those who are ill, bereaved, impoverished, or marginalized. Fighting injustice, as we seek to build a better world.

Article continued on next page

WORSHIP AT-A-GLANCE

FRIDAY NIGHT SERVICES IN DECEMBER

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

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1 SHABBAT SERVICE

led by Aleksandra Dubov, E. Lee Ronnel Student
Cantor of Congregation B’nai Israel
Oneg Shabbat Host: Janet and Scott Korenblat
Security Sponsor: Esther Gordon

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8 Chanukah-in-the-Rock/All Music Shabbat

Led by Rabbi Block
Music by David Bauman and Jana Cohen
Security Sponsor: Trudy and Jerry Jacobson

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15 MISHKAN T’FILAH SHABBAT SERVICE

led by Rabbi Block
Sermon: “Enduring Hard Times”
Music: Perry Young, Sunny Baker, Jonathan
Holland and Cheryl Streiff
Oneg Shabbat Host: Jana Cohen
Security Sponsor: Allison and Jeffrey Lux

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22 MISHKAH T’FILAH SHABBAT SERVICE

led by Rabbi Block
Sermon: “Judah, Netanyahu, and Responsibility”
Music: Teddy Ferguson, Isabella Ifrah, and Jana
Cohen
Oneg Shabbat Hosts: Sheri and Micky Simon
Security Sponsor: Meg Marion

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29 MISHKAH T’FILAH SHABBAT SERVICE

led by Rabbi Block
Sermon: “The Challenging Family of Israel”
Music: Perry Young, Jonathan Holland, Jana Cohen
Oneg Shabbat Hosts: Liz Lucker and Mary Machen
Security Sponsor: Bonnie Nickol

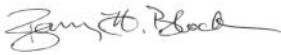
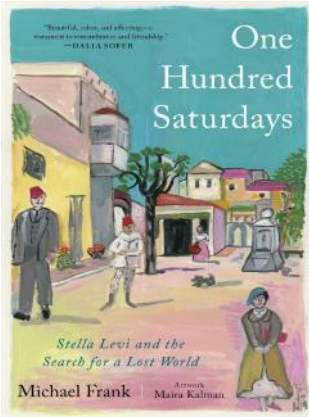
(The Rabbi Speaks continued from front page)

Our performance of *mitzvot* will not reverse or slow antisemitism. Instead, living Jewishly in meaningful and positive ways will remind us that being Jewish is so much more than being potential targets of hatred, even violence. Being Jewish is, now as always, about serving God through ritual and ethical *mitzvot*.

This month, we celebrate Chanukah, a festival of lights at the darkest time of the year. We are commanded to place our *chanukiah* (Chanukah menorah) in the window, to “publicize the miracle.”

This year, we place our *chanukkiot* in the window with renewed purpose. We are not hiding. We are proclaiming, publicly and proudly, that we are Jews, and we are joyfully celebrating a festive holiday. We permit ourselves moments of Jewish joy, even at a terrible time for the Jewish world. And we let the anti-semites know that they will not scare us away from our people or our religious tradition.

Faithfully,

AL BARON BOOK CLUB
WEDNESDAY, December 13th
3 PM AT THE HOME OF
LYNN AND BRUCE
GREENBERG

ONE HUNDRED
SATURDAYS:
STELLA LEVI AND THE
SEARCH
FOR A LOST WORLD

By Michael Frank

With nearly a century of life behind her, Stella Levi had never before spoken in detail about her past. Then she met Michael Frank. He came to her Greenwich Village apartment one Saturday afternoon to ask her a question about the Juderia, the neighborhood on the Greek island of Rhodes where she'd grown up in a Jewish community that had thrived there for half a millennium.

SATURDAY MORNINGS IN DECEMBER

Shabbat Torah Study at 9:30am, led by Sam Kauffman on December 2, and by Rabbi Block on December 9, 16, 23, and 30.

Shabbat Morning Worship at 11am, led by Cantor Dubov on December 2, by Rabbi Block on December 9, 23, and 30, and by Emily Adams & Carmen Arick on December 16.

Spend Shabbat in prayer and then a social Shabbat Dinner and a get-ready-for Hanukkah-Sing -Along

**Friday, December 1 at 7:00 pm with
 Student Cantor Aleksandra Dubov**

Shabbat dinner hosted by Janet Korenblat and Jan Alman

Reservations are required by Wednesday, November 29. \$18.00 per person, \$10.00 for children under 12.

Reservations received after 5 pm Nov. 29 are \$25 per person. At the door, \$30.00.

**Please join us for kiddush lunch for all.
 Saturday, December 23
 12:15 pm Temple Lobby**

Light Lunch hosted by Martha Alman,
 Bonnie Nickol, and Nan Selz

No charge, but reservations are required no later than close of business, Thursday, December 21,
 501-225-9700 or
 TempleSecretary@bnai-israel.us



Celebrating the Festival of Lights During Darkness

At this time when our community struggles with the daily news reports from Israel and Gaza and the rapid increase in antisemitism, one might be tempted to forego all celebrations and joy in December 2023. But such a reaction to adversity and suffering fails to uphold the wisdom handed down in the Torah, the Tanach, and the central text of Rabbinic Judaism, the Talmud. As stated succinctly by Rabbi Arthur Waskow, in the Introduction to his book *Seasons of Our Joy*, “This book is about the circle of the seasons, the round of the year, the festivals of joy with which the Jewish people dance our praise to God. There are moments of dryness,

sadness, in the cycle – but beneath them there is a deeper joy in the circling of the year. So, all the festivals, even those of sadness and solemnity, are seasons of our joy.”

Hanukkah begins at sundown on the twenty-fifth of Kislev, which this year is Thursday evening, December 7, 2023. The moon has gone into exile. The nights are dark and getting darker, and we are close to the moment of the winter solstice – when the sun is also in exile. The day is at its shortest, and night at its longest before the sunlight begins to return. It is the darkest time of the year, the moment when it feels like light will never return. At this dark moment, we celebrate Hanukkah by lighting candles for eight nights. Night after night, the candlelight increases according to the school of Hillel: One candle is lit the first night, and the number is increased by one each night. On the last night of Hanukkah, eight lights shine brightly. At this turning point from darkness to light, human fear of darkness is best soothed by increasing light. Night after night, we make our way into, through and out of the darkness. We feel the turn toward light from the moment of darkness and despair.

If we see Hanukkah as intentionally placed at the moment of the darkest sun and darkest moon, then one aspect of the candles might be an assertion of our hope for renewed light. The challenge is to transcend darkness and light up new pathways. Despite so much suffering and sorrow, our people continue to sow new seeds of light and hope.

I look forward to celebrating Hanukkah with you at Temple:

- * on Friday night, December 8, for Hanukkah in the Rock, All Music Shabbat.
- * on Sunday night, December 10, for the Congregation and Religious School Hanukkah Celebration and Party.
- * on Tuesday, December 12, for Congregational Hanukkah lunch given by the Vogel Caring and Sharing Fund.

Lamps Within by Alden Solovy

**A lamp glows inside your heart
With eight ways to light it,
Eight ways to keep it shining,
Eight ways to keep its glow.**

**Light it with your joy.
Light it with your tears.
Light it with this song.
Light it with the works of your hands.
Light it with hope.
Light it with service.
Light it with this prayer.
Light it with praise to God’s holy name.**

May Light and Hope be with you and your family during the Festival of Lights,

Annabelle Imber Tuck
President



ANNUAL HANUKKAH DINNER AND CELEBRATION SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10: 5 – 7 PM

Join your B'nai Israel friends and the religious school for an evening of
'MAD SCIENCE HANUKKAH'

Activities and games at 5:00 pm; dinner follows at 5:45 pm. More fun after
dinner until 7:00 pm.

Learn how to make crystals, glowing lava lamps, skittle art, and more. Games,
prizes, and bringing in the Hanukkah light together.

Bring your Hanukkiah from home to light as a community.

Dinner reservations are due by December 6th for all who wish to attend.

Religious School students are free. Parents, siblings, and congregation is \$10.00
per person if reservations are received by 12/6.

HANUKKAH AT B'NAI ISRAEL

Hanukkah Begins at sundown on Thursday, December
7—light first candles.

Friday, December 8: **Hanukkah in the Rock, All
Music Shabbat**—6:15 pm.

LaFTY Latkes, Laughs, and Lock In—7:30 pm

Tuesday, December 12: **Congregational Hanukkah
Lunch given by the Vogel Caring and Sharing
Fund**—11:30 am. Celebrate Hanukkah with your
B'nai Israel friends for lunch hosted by the Vogel
Caring and Sharing Committee.

Reservations are requested by December 8 for planning
purposes. Lunch is open to all, any age, and there is no
charge.



Hanukkah Candles
will be available for
purchase in the
Temple office from
November 27
through Hanukkah. Stop
by at your convenience,
8:30—5:00 pm. Limited
selections.

Hanukkah Blessings in
print and audio can be
accessed at:

www.reformjudaism.org



FROM THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

Gifts come in all sizes, shapes, and times. There is no way one can predict when a gift will arrive unless you know for sure you have planned your own birthday party. Hanukkah is a time of gift giving. Most Jewish kids know to expect at least 8 gifts, assorted in size and cost, over the course of Hanukkah. It's as rudimentary as saying the blessings and lighting the Hanukkah candles, gobbling a bit of food, and heading over to the gift area. I know it well because my kids were masters. They could choose one package each night, and they would mull over the wrapping, trying to feel what may be inside. Often, they would ask if they could open one more...especially if the one they chose in the first round was mundane, like cute socks or a novelty t-shirt. I never really knew what they were 'looking for' – as I often felt like nothing I could choose or afford would be good enough. Did we come to a time in teenager-hood when all gifts were underwhelming?

My kids are now grown. They desire gifts I really cannot afford or want to. But I do want to give them gifts other than my undying love and support as a token of this illuminated festival.

Larry and I talked about what to do: gift cards, cash, plane tickets...tchotchkes? So, we decided to be creative in their needs and things that have always been taken for granted. 1. We have now purchased our kids their own AAA card account. They are on their own, so...they need the emergency service, and it can no longer be under our account. 2. We have always taught about tzedakah, so we will donate to a charity of their choice. This will remind them that we as Jews, always need to help others. Our example of giving will lead to theirs. 3. I have a ton of Judaica in the house. It's mine, and some day may be theirs if they want. This year we are giving each boy travel candlesticks. They are small and unobtrusive and can even be stored in a small drawer. But if they want to light Shabbat and holiday candles...they have them handy. 4. Regarding light, we are also giving them a Hanukkiah. They have theirs from childhood (stored in my house), but we are giving them grown up Hanukkiah for their homes so they can possibly invite others over to light the candles or even nosh on a jelly donut without displaying the motifs of their childhood. 5. We will give them cash to buy something they want or need. 6. I will purchase the candy they like that I have given them over the last 20+ years as tradition. Tradition is a big part of being Jewish, right? 7. I will purchase a children's book to relay a message of how important they are to me – something sappy and sentimental, and I will write a note in the front so they can always have it and remember what I wanted to convey to them in that book and gift. 8. Finally, I have asked the boys to plan a family trip. Anywhere they want and think that we as the parents would like. Preferably somewhere new, but that is not a prerequisite. If they do not plan it, we will not go. I am turning the tables to allow them to decide what we will do as a family, all adults, and how that will happen. I want to make and have family memories with them more than ever because they say they do not remember our trips from when they were little...and this is the time because no one knows what tomorrow brings. These are my gift ideas. They may be met with excitement and gratitude or not...nonetheless, I put a lot of thought into them. I hope they appreciate the many gifts that come in many forms and fashions. You never know when one will be 'just right'!

Religious School Schedule for December

Sundays December 3 and 17 – 9:00 am

Sunday, December 10 – 5:00 pm for
Hanukkah Celebration and Dinner

Confirmation Class – Wednesday,
December 6, 6 – 8 pm.



Congregation B'nai Israel
Little Rock, Arkansas
Resolution in Support of Israel
October 17, 2023



Whereas, Israel is a vital ally of the United States and a bastion of democracy in the Middle East; and

Whereas, Israel has been the target of countless terrorist attacks and has faced existential threats to its very existence since its founding in 1948; and

Whereas, Hamas, the terrorist organization that rules the Gaza Strip, brutally attacked Israeli civilians on October 7, 2023, Shabbat-Atzeret Simchat Torah 5784, murdering some 1,300 of Israel's residents of all ethnicities and walks of life, most of them civilians; abducted nearly two hundred hostages of all ages, and wounded thousands; and

Whereas, Israel's right to self-defense is enshrined in international law and is a fundamental principle of the United Nations Charter; and

Whereas, Israel has been a beacon of hope and opportunity for Jews around the world, providing a safe haven for those fleeing persecution and oppression; and

Whereas, the United States and Israel share a deep and abiding friendship, based on common values, mutual interests, and a commitment to freedom and democracy;

Therefore, be it resolved that Congregation B'nai Israel, Little Rock, Arkansas stands in solidarity with the State of Israel and all of its residents and supports Israel's right to defend itself against all threats to its sovereignty and the lives of its residents.

Be it further resolved that Congregation B'nai Israel expresses gratitude to President Joe Biden, his Administration, and members of Congress of both parties who have demonstrated stalwart support for the State of Israel in this horrific time of crisis; and

Be it further resolved that Congregation B'nai Israel pledges to work tirelessly to strengthen the ties between the United States and Israel, and to promote peace, security, and prosperity in the Middle East and beyond.

RESOLVED AND ADOPTED BY BOARD OF TRUSTEES ON THE 17th DAY OF OCTOBER, 2023.



THANKSGIVING BASKETS SPONSORSHIPS

Jan and Larry Alman
Shelley Ballew
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Dale Ronnel
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Nan Selz
Annabelle Tuck
Carole and Gary Weisbly

NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER ONEG SHABBAT, KIDDUSH LUNCH AND SHABBAT DINNER HOSTS

Jan and Larry Alman
Karen Sherman
Rickie and Robert Oliva
Janet and Scott Korenblat
Jana Cohen
Sheri and Micky Simon
Liz Lucker and Mary Machen

Annabelle Tuck
Becca and Andrew Perin

Janet Korenblat and Jan Alman
Martha Alman, Bonnie Nickol, Nan Selz

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 2nd Valeria Faber
Jill Flaxman
- 3rd Mary Lou Cohn
- 5th Thomas McGarry
Robert Oliva
Rebekah Scallet
Patricia Solomon
- 7th Shelley Ballew
Sandie Lubin
- 8th Lauren Berkman
Eli Goldman
- 9th Asiah Beck
- 10th Val Habrock
John Austin Levin
Roxy Sonnier
- 11th Karen Pear
- 12th Silvana Berlinski
- 13th Corbin Levin
Alexia Webb
- 14th Sheila Bronfman
Ron Lanoue
Susan Kantrow
- 16th Jamie Axelroth
- 18th Ben Flaxman
- 19th Danette Devlin
- 20th Tina Bernstein
- 21st Fran Eiseman
Cici Singer
- 23rd Don Pfeifer
Maci Schlesinger

Birthdays continued....

- 24th Milt Baer
Doris Krain
- 25th Mira Krain
- 26th Marc Williams
- 27th Aaron Rabiروف
David Ronnel
- 29th Regina Young
- 30th Stanley Goldberg
Sam Hoffman
- 31st Liam Wagner

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- Jan 1 Michelle Lemaire and Micky Loeb 13 yrs.
- Jan 1 Nancy and Steve Rousseau 46 yrs.
- Jan 3 Anna and James Moses 43 yrs.
- Jan 3 Susie and Brian Rosenthal 37 yrs.
- Jan 7 Flavia and Stephen Jacobs 14 yrs.
- Jan 10 Julie and David Shindler 42 yrs.
- Jan 12 Sheree and Doug Meyer 34 yrs.
- Jan 12 Kelli and Scott Schlesinger 16 yrs.
- Jan 15 Elizabeth Cohen and Lauren Johnson 2 yrs.
- Jan 17 Elsa and Avi Helton 19 yrs.
- Jan 17 Suzanne Klimberg & Sam Storthz III 31 yrs.
- Jan 18 Patricia and Barry Solomon 60 yrs.
- Jan 24 Patty and Herb Monoson 59 yrs.



New Members
Katherine Stark and Jason
Kennedy, and their child,
Abigail Susan Kennedy.



**WE RECORD WITH SORROW
THE DEATH OF OUR MEMBERS
RELATIVE**

JOAN ALLENBERG GIRAUD

Mother of Scott (Jane) Levine

DONATIONS

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

- Anonymous
- In memory of Jerry Parham
Gus Block
- In memory of Dr. William and Jennifer Thornton
Karin Waugh and Martin Boyle

Endowment Fund

Anonymous

Yahrzeit Fund

- In memory of Paul Yoder
Beth Miller, Hannah Yoder, and Laura Yoder
- In memory of Joseph Spiegelman
Patricia and Barry Solomon
- In memory of Manfred H. Levy
Paula Patton and Mort McKenzie
- In memory of Mollie Gordon
Marilyn and Earl Sorrells
- In memory of Ariel Barak Imber
Annabelle Imber Tuck

Meir Chayim Camp Scholarship Fund

Tom Slatton

Mayersohn Leadership Fund

In memory of Becky Blass
Loris and Jay Fullerton

Hallie Cohen Miller Archive Fund

In memory of Irving Spitzberg
Trudy and Jerry Jacobson

General Donations

Anonymous
Bill, Hillary, and Chelsea Clinton Foundation
in support of Opioid Awareness
Angela and Christopher Kuntz

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

Please contact our office
ehamilton@bnai-israel.us, or 501-225-9700.

RESOLUTION CONCERNING CREDIT CARD USE AT CONGREGATION B'NAI ISRAEL

Please be aware that beginning on November 1, 2023, all transactions using credit cards will be charged 3% to cover the cost of processing fees. Please remember that there are many ways to pay and make donations. The fee will apply ONLY to credit cards.

- Credit cards will continue to be accepted as a form of payment for all functions at Congregation B'nai Israel.
- All donations, including annual gifts, and payments for goods and services, paid by credit cards will be assessed a 3% convenience fee to cover the expense that Congregation B'nai Israel is charged for use of the credit card as a form of payment. Payments may be made by check or ACH without such a fee (and other payment methods may be available in the future).

Please contact the office if there are questions or concerns.



Steele Strauss
Realtor
(501) 517-4243
steele@jonunderhill.com
www.jonunderhill.com



Cabbage Rose
11220 N Rodney Parham Rd. STE 9

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hello@crflr.com



DONATIONS CONTINUED

Security Donations

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 Laurie Arnold
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 Jennifer and Steven Ronnel
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 Beth Levi
 Liz Lucker and Mary Machen
 Carmen Arick and Emily Adams
 Cheryl Streiff
 Mark and Kelley McDonald
 Patty and Herb Monoson
 Lewis Krain and Sylvia Amsler
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 Trudy and Jerry Jacobson
 Dr. Suzy Dhall
 Candy Levy
 Milt Baer
 Anonymous
 Rabbi Barry Block
 Joyce Franklin
 Jewish Federation of Arkansas

NO BETTER TIME THAN NOW!

Thank you for all the generous support received since last month.

SAFETY, SECURITY,
and
PEACE OF MIND

Congregation B'nai Israel is committed to the safety and well-being of our congregants and guests. The Security Committee has been advised of the importance of having uniformed officers present when we are gathering, and this is quite costly. The Temple does NOT have a specific fund that covers the expense of security, rather we count on sponsorships and our operating budget.

Our security costs are on average \$180 each time we hire one officer on duty. This is a budget line of over \$25,000.00 a year.

Will you help us keep our sacred Temple safe for worship? Your donation is greatly needed and appreciated more than ever.

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

DECEMBER YAHRZEITS

December 1/2

Henry Berger
Joseph Cohen
Sheila Fine
Flora S. Franklin
Yosyp Himelfarb
Gus L. Kahn
Peggy Kramer
Hattie Kronberg
Adoph Meyers
Ronald L. Mulkey
Virginia Estelle O'Briant
Emma Jo Parish
May Lyons Pfeifer
Martin David Rosen
Barbara Schlesinger
Mary Snyderman
Gege Thalheimer

December 8/9

Jeff Bell
Sgt. Sherrill Bernstein
Raymond V. Biondo, MD
Alice Blass
Phyllis Block Brotman
Alice Blass Cohen
Bernard Cohen
Professor Louis Cohen
Harry L. Ehrenberg
Herbert J. Garon
Don Gordon
Eleanor Gross
Maurine Frauenthal Grundfest
Sarah Leah Harberg
Irving Harris
Ike Kempner
Harry Koppel
Louis Krain
Susan Porter Levy
Harvey David Luber
Rose Bloom Malvin
Morris Marcus
Florence Morris
Captain Charles S. Narkinsky
Bill Parish
S. William Ross
Lillian Rothkopf
Nanette Altschul Samuel
Florence Schuman
Jacob Eli Smulian
Herbert L. Storthz

December 8/9 continued

Julius Tenenbaum
Sandra Waxman
Sidney Jacob White
Richard Yoder
Mike Yout

December 15/16

Ted Baer
Larry Bentley
Leslie R. Nunes Carvalho
Linda "JJ" Factor
Jennie Ottenheimer Falk
Stanley Falk
Barbara 'Bobbi' R. Goldman
Harvey 'Ray' Jordan
Justin Komiss
Arnold Joseph Leff
Julia Goldman Levy
Salene Marks Lyons
Esfir Lyubinskaya
Bertie Mack
Catherine Nachmann
Elsie K. Pfeifer
Marguerite Selz
M. J. Siesel
Carol Silverstrom
Joseph Stern
Sam Strauss Sr.
Seymour S. Summerfield
Naomi D. Tanenbaum
Sol Thalheimer Sr.
Herbert Wolf Sr.
Rose Skalmer Young

December 22/23

Mark Adler
Louis Henry Altman
Elsie Axler
Sophie Goldstein Back
Leo P. Bott Sr.
Fannie Kauffman Cline
Robert Avington Cortese
Irma 'Chickie' Dollinger
Caleen Estelita
Oscar Fendler
Sylvia Fredman
Niman Freddie Friedman
Sheldon Goldsholl

December 22/23 continued

Sam T. Heuer
Irene Manning Mathis
David Louis Menkus Jr.
Charlotte Netter Ottenheimer
Joseph Pfeifer
Lena A. Pinkus
Martin Reinsch
Robert D. Remet
Charlotta Ringelhaupt
Gloria Sack
Herbert Siegel
Francis B. Stern
Alvin W. Strauss Jr.
Alvin Weil Strauss Sr.

December 29/30

Marcus Adler
Henry Altman
Sarah R. Cohen
Elias Cohen
Sallie L. Epstein
Gertrude Gans
Miriam Goodman
Jesse Heiman
Laurence Jacobs
Alan Kagan
Abe J. Kempner
Enid R. Kempner
Harry S. Lasker Jr.
John B. Levinson
Morris Levy
Phil Levy
Rita Levy
Gus Loewenberg
Bertha Oberferst
Walter H. Parker
Hyman Reifer
Bob Rosen
Irvin M. Shlenker
Henry Simon
Donal Vogt
Hannah Wagner
Amelia Levy Weiss
Annette Norman Yahn

Blessing of 50+ Year Members
 Congregation B'nai Israel
 Little Rock, Arkansas

November 3, 2023

Rabbi Barry H. Block

Dear God,

We come before you in gratitude
 For the love and the loyalty
 Of these women and men,
 Members of our holy congregation,
 Temple B'nai Israel,
 For a half century or longer.

Many and magnificent
 Are the blessings
 These women and men
 Have brought to their
 Synagogue home—
 Gifts of their time,
 Of their talent,
 Of their treasure.
 They have brought their best selves
 To Congregation B'nai Israel,
 Building the Temple
 Into a family.

Many changes have come to this Temple
 Over these decades.
 Some have been magnificent.
 Others have been harder to accept.
 In two synagogue homes,
 Through the tenures of several rabbis,
 In good times
 And in challenging ones,
 Even in times of disagreement and stress,
 These loyal members
 Have stood with Congregation B'nai Israel.

Among these longtime members
 Are women and men
 Who have led our congregation as President,
 Served on the Board and committees,
 Welcomed new members,

Cooked in the Temple kitchen,
 Decorated the Social Hall,
 Organized Sisterhood and Men's Club
 activities,
 Planned Chanukah parties,
 Taught Religious School,
 Volunteered in the office,
 Led interfaith visitors on a tour,
 Provided for the needy,
 Serving our congregation
 In ways too numerous to list.

Here, they have celebrated—
 Welcoming Shabbat and festivals,
 Greeting each new year
 In style.
 Here, they have brought their children into the
 Covenant,
 Celebrated Consecrations, Bar and Bat
 Mitzvahs, and Confirmations,
 Beautiful weddings,
 Sacred moment in the lives of family friends.
 Here, too, they have come to mourn,
 And to lighten the burdens of their friends

Tonight, O God,
 We ask:
 Return the blessings
 That these women and men
 Have lavished on this holy Temple
 For a half century and more.
 Grant them many more years
 Of service to God and humanity,
 Here at Congregation B'nai Israel,
 In their homes and on their way,
 In good health and in joy.

And let us say:
 Amen

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Every dollar counts. Together we can make a difference.

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