

CONGREGATION B'NAI ISRAEL

LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS

THE CHRONICLE

TEMPLE

OCTOBER 2024 VOLUME 24 - ISSUE 10

THE RABBI SPEAKS

RABBI BARRY BLOCK



Dear Friends,

Last October 6, a Friday night, we danced with great joy on Shabbat Atzeret-Simchat Torah Eve. The next morning, on October 7, we held our Shabbat morning and festival worship service, including *Yizkor*, prayers of grief and memory.

We danced that Friday night, not knowing that thousands of Israelis, mostly young adults, were also dancing, not at a religious service but at the Nova Music Festival near Kibbutz Re'im in near the Gaza Strip. We and the festival's attendees danced thousands of miles apart, all of us blissfully unaware that Hamas was about to unleash a horrific massacre on the land and people of Israel. By Shabbat and Atzeret-Simchat Torah morning, Israel's "Envelope," the area surrounding the Gaza Strip, was occupied by Hamas terrorists. When we gathered for morning worship, though, details were scant; we only knew enough to pray for peace and to conclude our service with *Hatikvah*, Israel's national anthem.

The first anniversary of that ghastly massacre is upon us—this year, falling between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. We plan to gather as a broad Jewish community at the Temple on October 7 at 7pm, to hear from former Federation *shilchim*, Israeli representatives, Chen and Dan Reingold, and screen *We Will Dance Again*, a documentary about the Nova Music Festival massacre.

Continues on next page

WORSHIP AT-A-GLANCE

FRIDAY NIGHT SERVICES IN OCTOBER

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

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4
MISHKAN HA LEV SHABBAT SERVICE
for Shabbat Shuvah, the Shabbat of Repentance
between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur
led by Rabbi Block

Sermon: "High Holy Day Messages
from the Cutting Room Floor"
Oneg Shabbat host: Esther Gordon

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11
See the Yom Kippur Schedule on page 5.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18
Shabbat Sukkot Under the Stars, led by Rabbi Block
and Cantor Dubov, followed by 'Pizza in the Hut'
Shabbat dinner in the Sukkah and Camp B'nai
Israel

Oneg Shabbat host: Rabbi Barry Block

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25
SHABBAT SERVICE,
led by Rabbi Block and E. Lee Ronnel Student
Cantor, Aleksandra Dubov

Sermon: "The Gender(s) of the First Human in
Creation"

Oneg Shabbat host: Maggie Head



(The Rabbi Speaks continued from front page)

The documentary's title suggests the answer to a question about how we will celebrate Simchat Torah this year: Will we dance with the Torah scrolls on the Hebrew calendar's anniversary of the massacre? And what about Rosh Hashanah? Will we wish one another a *shanah tovah*, a good year, knowing how those greetings and prayers were answered three weeks after we offered them last year?

I have been thinking of that question for months. In July, I visited the site of the Nova Festival—but first, on the same day, my group went to Kibbutz Nir Oz. No community lost a higher percentage of its residents on October 7—over a quarter of its people were murdered or taken hostage. Among all the destruction I saw, none affected me more than the burned-out *gan*, the preschool, where I saw this *shanah tovah* frame, into which children placed their faces for a happy new year photo. Now, the frame is intact, but the pomegranates in front of it are charred. The pomegranate, *rimon* in Hebrew, is a prominent Rosh Hashanah symbol, more in Israel than here. The same word, *rimon*, also means “hand grenade,” a force of October 7 destruction.

We cannot, and we will not, glide through our Holy Days with traditional liturgy and customary messages only, ignoring the horror that befell our people during the past year. Still, we must not, and we will not, be consumed by the tragedy. When we wish one another a *shanah tovah*, we will think of the children whose lives were charred, or worse, by the massacre. We will also pray that our Rosh Hashanah greetings are heard on High—that 5785 will indeed be a better year.

And then, on Atzeret-Simchat Torah Eve, we will take a cue from the documentary title, *We Will Dance Again*. Our Jewish calendar has provided us with a *Yizkor* service for mournful memory the next morning.

L'shanah tovah,



SATURDAY MORNINGS IN OCTOBER

Shabbat Torah Study at 9:30 am, led by Rabbi Block on October 5 and 19, and by Sam Kauffman on October 26.

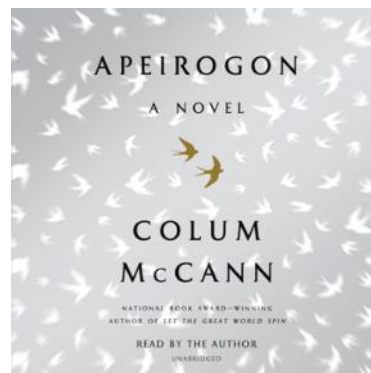
Shabbat Morning Worship at 11:00 am, led by Rabbi Block on October 5 and 19, and by Annabelle Imber Tuck and Cantor Dubov on October 26.

October 12: See Yom Kippur Schedule, page 5.

AL BARRON BOOK CLUB

Sunday, October 20 in the Temple Sukkah

APEIROGON



Based on a true story of two fathers, Israeli and Palestinian, who lost their daughters due to senseless violence.

OFFICE hours

Bruce Greenberg will conduct office hours about twice a month for congregants to express their ideas or concerns. The October office hours are October 6 and 20. Office hours are casual (no appointments necessary) and will be conducted on Sunday mornings in the Temple lobby from 11-12.

HIGH HOLIDAYS AT CONGREGATION B'NAI ISRAEL—5785/2024

Please join the Congregation for a Rosh Hashanah Gala Dessert Reception following Rosh Hashanah Services on Wednesday, October 2nd.

All are cordially invited to share in the sweetness of the new year with the B'nai Israel Family.

Wishes for a Shanah Tova to you and yours—a healthy and happy New Year!

Rabbi Barry Block, Student Cantor Aleksandra Dubov, Eileen Hamilton, Lane Boyd, Milton Boyd, & Cheryl Brown.



happy
Resh Hashanah

CANDLE LIGHTING FOR ROSH HASHANAH

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו וְצִוָּנוּ לְהַדְלִיק נֵר שֶׁל יוֹם טוֹב

Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu, melech ha-olam, asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav, v'tzivanu l'hadlik ner shel Yom Tov.

Blessed are You, Our God, Ruler of the world, , who has sanctifies us with mitzvot and calls upon us to kindle the lights of the Festival Day.

BLESSINGS FOR APPLES AND HONEY

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, בּוֹרֵא פְּרֵי הָעֵץ. יְהִי רָצוֹן מִלְּפָנֶיךָ יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ וְאֱלֹהֵי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ וְאִמּוֹתֵינוּ, שֶׁתְּחַדֵּשׁ עָלֵינוּ שָׁנָה טוֹבָה וּמְתוּקָה.

Baruch atah Adonai, Eloheinu melech ha-olam, borei p'ri ha-eitz. Y'hi ratzon milfanecha, Adonai Eloheinu v'Elohei avoteinu v'imoteinu, shetchadesh aleinu shanah tovah um'tukah.

We praise You, Eternal God, Sovereign of the Universe, Creator of the fruit of the tree. May it be Your will, Eternal our God, that this be a good and sweet year for us.

BLESSING THE HOLIDAY

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ, מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, שֶׁהִחַיְנוּ וְקִיַּמְנוּ וְהִגִּיעְנוּ לְזִמְנֵן הַזֶּה.

Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech ha-olam, shehecheyanu, v'kiy'manu, v'higiyanu laz'man hazeh.

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of all, who has kept us alive, sustained us, and brought us to this season.

CHILD CARE will be available for children ages 1—8 for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur Morning Worship as well as for the Yom Kippur *Yizkor* and *Neila* Service by advance reservation. Reservations will be accepted until October 9th for Yom Kippur. Reservations can be made by calling the office: 501.225.9700.

If you have not signed up for Rosh Hashanah Childcare, walk-ins will only be accommodated if enough staff are available.

ROSH HASHANAH

5785-2024

Wednesday, October 2 – Rosh Hashanah Eve

8pm – Rosh Hashanah Eve Worship and Gala
Oneg Rosh Hashanah

Sermon: “Crisis and Creativity
Persistence and Patience”

Thursday, October 3 – Rosh Hashanah Day

10am – Rosh Hashanah Morning Worship

Sermon: “Suddenly, A People”

4pm, at Oakland Jewish Cemetery – “Standing on Their Shoulders,” Tashlich, Daffodil Planting, and Congregational Picnic in Celebration of the 150th Anniversary of Oakland Jewish Cemetery. (This event is, among many other things, the Children’s Service for Rosh Hashanah.)

Music and Shofar for the High Holy Days



The music for our High Holy Day worship services has been prepared by Jana Cohen, Chair of our Music Committee, and Richard Estelita,

Cantorial Soloist, in consultation with Rabbi Block. Joining Jana and Richard in providing our music will be Elizabeth Cohen, Teddy Ferguson, Russ Parish, and Josiah Wheeler. Additional Temple singers will join in special music. Diana Brandon will be our piano accompanists throughout most of the High Holy Days, with Kathy Cooper at the piano on Yom Kippur Morning and for the My Jewish Journey Yom Kippur Symposium.

On Yom Kippur, our music will be enhanced by musicians from the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra (ASO), coordinated by Richard Estelita with Andrew Irvin, ASO’s Dora Paley Ronnel Concertmaster. Our *Yizkor* service on Yom Kippur afternoon will include string quartet in tribute to the memory of David Bauman, z”l.

Merrick Fagan will sound the shofar throughout the High Holy Days—at Selichot, on Rosh Hashanah services, evening and morning, as well as Tashlich on Rosh Hashanah afternoon, and at the Neila service to mark the end of Yom Kippur.

Temple members who provide our music are volunteers. The participation of our piano accompanist and string musicians is made possible by generous grants from the Mulkey Sacred Music Fund and the E. Lee Ronnel Fund for Cantorial Music.



Celebrate the Sesquicentennial of
Oakland Jewish Cemetery
on Rosh Hashanah Afternoon!

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3, 4PM

Join us to celebrate our beautiful, historic cemetery.



These Rosh Hashanah Afternoon activities will constitute our Children’s Service for Rosh Hashanah, including activities planned and led by LAFTY.

- | | |
|---------|---|
| 4:00 pm | Standing on Their Shoulders |
| 4:30 pm | Tashlich , led by LAFTY |
| 5:15 pm | Daffodil Planting |
| 6 pm | Congregational Picnic |
| | Marking the 150th Anniversary of
Oakland Jewish Cemetery |

Remember to bring sunscreen, hat, and sunglasses—
and above all, your picnic dinner and blanket.
Water will be provided.

Standing On Their Shoulders

to feature Rabbi Ira E. Sanders, Irene Samuel, and Rich Lewis

Written and produced by Meg Goldenberg Marion and Joanne Matson

You won’t want to miss this opportunity to meet Temple members from our past, as professional actors deftly bring them to life at Oakland Jewish Cemetery. This popular program will showcase Rabbi Ira E. Sanders, Irene Samuel, and Richard Lewis, all of blessed memory.

This program will be held in the Social Hall at Temple in the event of rain.

Please bring the following items to Oakland on Rosh Hashanah Day: bread for Tashlich, small shovels, spades, gardening gloves, hat, sunscreen, water, picnic for your family, ground cover/blanket, folding chairs.

NOTE: There is no bathroom at OJC.

YOM KIPPUR

5785-2024

Friday, October 11 – Yom Kippur Eve

8pm – *Kol Nidre* Service

Sermon: “Focusing on Our Own Failures when the World is on Fire”

Saturday, October 12 – Yom Kippur Day

9am – Yom Kippur Children’s Service

10am – Yom Kippur Morning Worship

Sermon: “The Secrets of the Jewish Calendar: The Peculiar Case of Yom Kippur,” Rabbi Dalia Marx, PhD, Scholar-in-Residence

12:15pm – “My Jewish Journey” Symposium
Speakers: Dr. Carmen Arick, Lewis Krain, and Bonnie Nickol

1:30pm – Yom Kippur Study

Isn't It Fun to Beat on Our Hearts?
Viddui (Confession) as an Act of Liberation,
Rabbi Dalia Marx, PhD

3:30pm – Afternoon Torah Service

4:15pm – *Yizkor*/Memorial Service

Sermonette: “Grieving Personal Loss amidst a Grieving Community”

5:30pm – *Neila*/Concluding Service

6:30 pm— Congregational Break the Fast



Rabbi Dalia Marx, PhD: Our Scholar-in-Residence for Yom Kippur

Rabbi Dalia Marx, PhD, is to be our Scholar-in-Residence on Yom Kippur. She will offer a Prayer for Israel during our Kol Nidre service on Friday evening, October 11 at 8pm. On Yom Kippur Day, she will deliver the sermon, *The Secrets of the Jewish Calendar: the Peculiar Case of Yom Kippur*, during the 10am morning service. Then, Dr. Marx will lead the Yom Kippur afternoon study session at 1:30pm, in the Library. The topic will be, “Isn't It Fun to Beat on Our Hearts? *Viddui* (Confession) as an Act of Liberation.”



On Sunday, October 12, congregants of all ages will have the opportunity to learn from Dr. Marx. Our 4th-6th grade Religious School students will be able to say that they have learned about Sukkot with the Reform Jewish world’s leading scholar of Jewish holidays. Adults building the Sukkah will have an opportunity to celebrate their successful work and enjoy a *nosh* with Dr. Marx.

Marx is the author, most recently, of *From Time to Time: Journeys in the Jewish Calendar*, first published in Hebrew in 2018 and now available in an English edition, not merely translated but prepared for North American Jews by Marx and CCAR Press. The book will be available for sale at a discounted price, and Rabbi Marx will be delighted to sign them, at the Yom Kippur Break-the-Fast and at 9am on Sunday morning.

Rabbi Dr. Dalia Marx is the Rabbi Aaron D. Panken Professor of Liturgy at HUC-JIR’s Taube Family Campus in Jerusalem. She is also the principal author and editor of *T’filat HaAdam*, the *siddur* (prayerbook) of the Israeli Reform Movement. Her visit to us is made possible by generous grants from the Lois G. Stern Library Fund and the Robert Sakon Rabbi’s Discretionary Fund.

2024 High Holy Day School Excuse Letter

Parents and teachers: To obtain our 2024 High Holy Day School Excuse Letter requesting that schools excuse Jewish students’ and teachers’ absence on Yom Kippur, Wednesday, October 12, please contact Lane Boyd in the Temple office, 501-225-9700 or TempleSecretary@bnai-israel.us. If necessary, Lane is able to provide a personalized version of the letter (i.e., specifically addressed to your child’s school).

IN PRAISE OF FALSE PROPHETS- FROM S. BRUCE GREENBERG, PRESIDENT



Pirke Avot 4:1 quotes Ben Zoma as saying: “Who is wise? He who learns from every person.” This is a testable hypothesis that should not be taken at face value. We must examine the proposition by logic and experience.

On the face of it, the idea suggests that we can gain something positive from all people that we encounter whether the person is a scholar or a street sweeper. It is a statement of humility. Life experiences suggest a different answer.

We are shaped by who we intrinsically are but also by our experiences. This begins in the family unit and then expands to the larger world. I have many of the physical and personality traits of close family members but grew up in such different circumstances that the adult me is quite different because of learning from different people. This would seem consistent with the hypothesis, but a more subtle interpretation lies deeper.

My teachers, particularly in my residency and fellowship training, taught me not only the knowledge that I would need to be a good pediatric radiologist but lessons in life as well.

No one seeks to become a false prophet. Men and women who leave the safe space of “conventional wisdom” through a door to the unknown may discover a path that reveals a previously unrecognized truth. The unknown way can also lead to a dead-end quagmire that traps the traveler. The dead end might seem real for a time, but as seasons change a false illusion is revealed. False prophets are those that have failed in their quest.

Those who remain in the safe space of passivity also fail since truth must be sought. Socrates recognized these people as living unexamined lives.

False prophets represent cul-de-sacs on the highway of life. It takes courage to go through a door into the unknown. Sometimes you discover a new insight or perspective and sometimes you fail. Studying the journeys of those that failed allows us to avoid dead ends. We can glance down those dead ends and avoid a larger trap that takes us away from a journey to wisdom. People seek wisdom in their own time with the accompanying benefits and limitations available. Some rabbinic and Talmudic teachings have stood the test of time, while others are now viewed as absurd. Still, just as I learned from the experience of bad teachers, we can learn from the mistakes of the past as well as the triumphs.

I would like to hear from people in our community who have walked through the door into the unknown and learn what truth they have discovered. I will share my experience in my next column.

October 7th
Marking One Year

7:00 - 9:00 PM Community Commemoration
Central AR: Congregation B'nai Israel
NWAR: Temple Shalom

Guest:
Shilcha Chen Reingold
Documentary Screening:
"We Will Dance Again"

Zoom Available
7:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Programming Provided by the
Jewish Federation of Arkansas



Special Screening: We Will Dance Again

The Statewide Community Commemoration on October 7 will feature a screening of the new documentary film **We Will Dance Again** about the Nova Music Festival Massacre. [Click here](#) to watch a trailer of the film.



Sukkot and Atzeret/Simchat Torah 5785 – 2024 At-a-Glance**

Sunday, October 13

Sukkah Building, 9am – All Welcome! When the Sukkah has been erected, builders will be invited to celebrate and enjoy a nosh with our Scholar-in-Residence, Rabbi Dalia Marx, PhD.

Wednesday, October 16, 5:30pm

Mark the beginning of Sukkot a brief ritual and pot-luck dinner in the Sukkah.

Thursday, October 17, 11am

Festival Morning Service for the First Day of Sukkot, in the Sukkah*

Friday, October 18, 5:45pm

Oneg Shabbat in the Sukkah

Shabbat under the Stars*

Pizza in the Hut, service in the Mendel Amphitheater and Camp B'nai Israel, with special guests, Henry S. Jacobs Camp Director Anna Herman and her team

Saturday, October 19

9:30am: Torah Study in the Sukkah*

11am: Shabbat Morning Service in the Sukkah*

12pm: Kiddush Lunch in the Sukkah

Sunday, October 20

9am-11:30am: Religious School students visit the Sukkah

3pm: Al Barron Book Club discusses *Apeirogen*, by Colum McCann, in the Sukkah

Tuesday, October 22, 11:30am

Sukkot Luncheon, hosted by the Caring and Sharing Committee and sponsored by the Vogel Caring & Sharing Fund

Wednesday, October 23, 5:30pm

Consecration Reception and Atzeret-Simchat Torah Eve Celebration, with special guest artist, Noah Aronson

Consecration of our newest Religious School students. *Siddur* (prayer book) dedication for our 3rd graders. *Yad* (Torah pointer) presentation to all celebrating B. Mitzvah in 5785 (2024-25).

Thursday, October 24, 11am

Atzeret-Simchat Torah Service, including *Yizkor* –Memorial prayers

*Outdoor events at the Temple, including those held in the Sukkah, will not be livestreamed, as we do not have Wi-Fi outdoors.

**In the event of inclement weather, all events planned for the Sukkah will be held but will be moved indoors at the Temple.

SAFETY, SECURITY, *and* PEACE OF MIND

The security committee of Congregation B'nai Israel has worked over the course of many years to plan the best safety protocol possible in case of emergency.

As we gather for Shabbat and the High Holidays, please keep your ears and eyes open to potentially volatile situations.

Here are some helpful guidelines for all:

- We are a welcoming community, but do not be afraid to speak up and ask someone to identify themselves. Introduce yourself and ask them for their name too.
- If you see something, say something. Do not ignore possible threats to your security.
- Our security officers are here to help you. Bring things to their attention; do not wait until it may be too late.
- If you hear an emergency announcement, do not second guess what you heard. Look for the nearest exit and/or the best place to shelter.
- Make your best assessment to RUN/AVOID, HIDE/DENY, or FIGHT/DEFEND. Each scenario is unique.
- Familiarize yourself with places to hide and survive. If you can safely get to a room with a lock, do so quietly and efficiently.
- Do not come out until you hear from an official source that all is clear.

REMEMBER: Dial 911 in case of emergency

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.

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

Sponsor for the High Holidays or Shabbat at \$180.00



5785 HIGH HOLY DAYS

SECURITY PASS

To be shown upon entry at

Congregation B'nai Israel

Little Rock, Arkansas

October 2 - October 12, 2024

THIS PASS IS FOR THE

MEMBER/FAMILY UNIT/

GUEST OF:

If you have not yet received your security passes by mail or if you need them for additional family and/or guests, please visit:

Bnai-Israel.us/hdd-pass-request

Or call our office

Please remember to bring them for each service. Check-in with an ID is available at the door if no pass is present.

This pass is non-transferrable.

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:



No large purses, bags, or backpacks will be permitted in the building during worship services. Kindly leave them in your vehicle. Diaper bags will be permitted once checked by security.

GET READY FOR A FESTIVE SIMCHAT TORAH CELEBRATION—WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23



DANCE AND SING

with Special Guest
Artist-in-Residence
Noah Aronson!

Celebrate with our Students!
Atzeret-Simchat Torah Eve
Wednesday, October 23

Begins with our Consecration Reception at 5:30pm.

This reception will include kid-friendly food that should suffice for supper for children (and for adults with kid-friendly palates).

This Celebration includes:

- Consecration of our newest Religious School Students!
 - Ezekiel Theodore Berry, Jaxon Wyatt Horn, Lucas Robert Pearlstein, Theodore Sebastian Rudofsky, and Sloane Jenae Williams
- Siddur (Prayerbook) dedication for our new Hebrew Students!
 - Noah Michael Barrios, Reed Jatin Dhall, Harper Ruth Johnson, Charlotte Bell Rudofsky and Vivian Mackenzie Rudofsky
- Yad (Torah pointer) presentation to those celebrating Bar/Bat Mitzvah in 5785 (2024-25)
 - Noah Robert Cardona, Gabriel Rubin Elson, Sadie Grace Elson, and Philip Ethan Levin

Noah Aronson's participation is made possible by a generous grant from the Bauman Music Fund and was arranged in cooperation with the Institute of Southern Jewish Life.



Shelly Blanksteen, whose son, Benjamin Casciano, was named a National Merit Semi-finalist. Ben is also the son of Jonathan Casciano.

Lucy Towbin, on the birth of her granddaughter, Brynn Rhodes Belknap, born to Elisa and Clay Belknap.

Mike Kaiser, who was recognized by Arkansas Access for Justice for outstanding pro bono service by a lawyer in a medium-sized firm.

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION, EDUCATION, AND YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

Eileen Hamilton



We know that sometimes we need to stand up for ourselves. Often, we let things slide to avoid conflict. As we approach the High Holidays, I am thinking back to my own childhood. One year in Junior High School, school pictures were scheduled on Rosh Hashanah. Of course, there is a make-up day for school photos, but then you are not pictured in the yearbook – rather a gray square. My mother called the principal of the school to relay her disappointment, and since Rosh Hashanah is on most calendars, this could have been avoided. We made a compromise, and I got dressed for services but dropped by school before Temple to get my picture taken. Then I promptly left.

My mother always sent a note to school when I was younger to let teachers know about the upcoming holidays and request that no tests be given on those days. It was a request – and some teachers were respectful of it, while others really didn't care. That's life. I graduated from school, and I did get into college after all.

When my kids were in school, they missed school for the holidays, no ifs, ands, or buts. The High Holidays were non-negotiable, and we all attended services together. I think the only exception was when they were in day care as infants. As they got older, things remained the same, and when sports were at stake, I was honest and upfront with their coaches that they will not 'play' on these holidays. Over the course of 30 years of being a Jewish educator, many students and sometimes parents tell me that they cannot miss school because they feel punished by the amount of make up work. Athletes tell me they cannot confront the coach about an absence, or they will get 'benched.'

This has not been my experience. Surely, we all must make up work missed, whether by absence or sickness, but if one speaks to your teachers and coaches in advance, one just may be pleasantly surprised by their support of you making religion a priority. Hardly anyone judges unfavorably when someone is true to their religion. If you are always available for everything first, over religious practice, Judaism falls to the bottom of the list of priorities. When almost everything else is more important, what does it say about our commitment and love for Judaism and being Jewish?

There are exceptions to every rule and in no way am I making judgement on anyone who must grapple with very delicate and complex decisions in their life. It's just that we know when the holidays are going to fall, so plan ahead and make the time to be in your Jewish place – a special place for those days. Sometimes in life we do not even get advance notice of things. We can be at school and at work almost all other days. These days are different. And mostly, do not be afraid to let others know you have priorities – give them notice and warning and move that meeting one day back...and ask your teacher and coaches to understand your life outside of school and the team. In the end, you may be rewarded; and if not, that is on them.



WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS:

John Mackey Weber ~ weber.john6607@gmail.com

Ricki Fram & Matthew Johnson, and children Jordyn & Jenna Johnson ~ ryfram@gmail.com; macffsta11@yahoo.com

Marilyn Fram ~ dextex@aol.com

Rebecca & Roger Horn, and children Ella-Sophia & Jaxon Horn ~ rhorn1305@gmail.com; rhorn@ualr.edu

Stephanie Metilly, and children Hadar & Shoshanna ~ ozarktwilight@gmail.com



WANT TO HELP LAFTY GET READY FOR NFTY SOUTHERN FALL CONCLAVE?

From housing teens to your donation of time and snacks, and more....

Just [CLICK HERE](#)

LAFTY Checks out BIG ROCK FUN PARK for 'big fun' for the upcoming NFTY Fall Conclave in November.

Back: John Mackey Weber, Caroline Goldsholl

Center: Ben Casciano, Roxy Sonnier, Mira Krain, Reed Henderson

Front: Milo Krain, Andrew Casciano



NFTY SOUTHERN FALL CONCLAVE



Date of conclave

NOVEMBER 15TH-17TH

Date of next meeting

OCTOBER 6TH @11:45

About Conclave

Conclave is an annual event where NFTY Southern teens come together for the weekend of learning, fun, social, and so much more.

We need YOUR help

How you can help us:

If you run into any pieces of literature, art, or ideas that symbolize or represent our theme, please take pictures of them and send them to us! (Message us if you have any questions)

Our theme: The survival of Jews throughout time

Other positions you can take part of to help us out:

Social Action

Research and find volunteer programs that need our help and evenly distribute the number of people at each organization. Do you already volunteer somewhere and if so, where? What are your favorite social action programs/projects?

Housing

We are seeking families to welcome their homes to our teens for the weekend. Do you have extra room in your house to house 2-3 teens for the weekend? If not, please ask others if they have room to host at their house! Please consider housing 2-3 teens for the weekend or ask others if they can host at their house!

Food

Help plan the meals for Friday's dinner, Saturday's lunch, Sunday's to-go breakfast, and **SNACKS!**

Signup for conclave here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/6080F4DA4AB29A0FC1-50876159-lafty#/>

DONATIONS

Rabbi Discretionary Fund

In memory of Ivis Westheimer

Gus Block

In honor of Jerry Jacobson's 90th Birthday

Gus Block

In honor of Jerry Jacobson's 90th Birthday

Susan Lesser

Yahrzeit Fund

In memory of Sam Strauss Jr

Trip Strauss

In memory of Anita Levinson Fox

Fred Levin

In memory of Sophie Knopping

Anne & Larry Miller

In memory of Maxwell J. Lyons II

Cathy & Jim Wills & Family

In memory of Elizabeth Loebner

Janice Thurow

In memory of Jerome Liebman

Joanne Liebman Matson

In memory of Sam Morris Vogel

Sam M. Vogel, Jr.

In memory of Joseph Jacob Kaufman

Melissa Rae Kaufman

Bauman Family Music Fund

In memory of David Bauman

Martha & French Hill

Pfeifer Community Outreach Fund

In honor of Jerry Jacobson's 90th birthday

Gene Pfeifer

Storthez Religious Education Fund

For Eileen Hamilton's fast healing

Trudy and Jerry Jacobson

Levy Fund for Camp Scholarships

To Tracye Townley for complete healing from surgery

In honor of the special birthday of Jerry Jacobson

In honor of the birthday of Arnie Nachmann

In honor of the birthday of Alan Thalheimer

Rabbi Gene & Bobbye Levy

CELEBRATE THE NEW YEAR BY SPONSORING HIGH HOLIDAY FLOWERS, GALA, AND BREAK THE FAST

As we prepare to welcome you home to the congregation to worship and celebrate together, please consider helping defray the costs of our pulpit flowers, Gala Reception Celebration, and the Break the Fast meal following Neila on Yom Kippur.

Oneg Shabbat hosts are also needed for the spring, 2025.

To make a donation, please call the Temple or send a check noted 'Gala/BTF/Flowers'

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

NOVEMBER WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

- 1st Brian Marshall
- 2nd Janet Korenblat
Andrea Neloms
- 3rd John Selig
- 4th Suzi Davis
Scott Levine
Amber Thomas
- 5th Lauren Johnston
Heather Tolliver
- 7th Pat Highley
Samuel Willis
- 8th David Mack
Susan Rosenthal
- 9th Steve Ronnel
Carole Weisbly
- 10th Jessie Curtis
- 13th Annette Arnold
Allan Gold
Vivian Gold
Justin Hillman
Susan Mack
Cheryl Streiff
- 14th Julie Shindler
Larry Townley
- 15th Joy Figarsky
Jay Marks
- 16th Billie Parker
- 17th Gus Block
- 18th Judy Pearlstein
- 19th Edward Figarsky
Dianne Richard
Leslie Singer
- 20th Russ Parish
- 21st David Gerson
Jo Lawton
Robert Rosen

- 2nd Laura & Brad Joseph 34 years
- 4th Dina & Patrick Ifrah 24 years
- 10th Jan & Larry Alman 40 years
- 21st Katherine Stark & Jason Kennedy 3 years
- 22nd James Pfeifer Jr. & Robynn Zinser 40 years



- 22nd Jackie Bendorf
Beck Major
- 23rd Jay Fullerton
- 24th Elizabeth Daniel
- 26th Mary Machen
- 28th Shelly Baron
Harper Johnson
Miranda Keith
- 29th Janet Crafton
Susan Willis
- 30th Katherine Stark

Thank you!

Thank you to our **Oneg Shabbat hosts** for August and September:

Annabelle Imber Tuck, Lynn and Bruce Greenberg, Joanne and Charles Matson, Sam, Susan, and Trip Strauss, Alison Vann, Laurie Arnold, and Heather Tolliver, Kirsta and Keith Nigro, Rickie and Robert Oliva, the Jacobson/Cohen Families.

Challah Bakers: Susan Clark, Heather Tolliver, Meg Marion, Trudy Jacobson, Ellyn Polsky

Office Assistance:

Shelley Ballew
Jennifer Jacobs

Birthdays continue to the right...

OCTOBER YAHRZEITS

October 4/5

Celia Adler
 James S. Binder
 Neva Bistolfi
 Rosetta Stiff Blass
 Sybill Griffith Block
 Helen Lockwood Eichenbaum
 Stanley Fine
 Jean Goldberg
 Charles H. Gurinsky
 Rosa Samuels Hess
 Nancy Keck
 Theodore Kokes
 William Simon Kramer
 Seward Louis Landauer
 Dorothy Lieff
 Milton Loeb Sr.
 Virginia Machen
 Armand Morton Marks
 Lee Eisen Marks
 Hannah Berger Ottenheimer
 Harry Reich
 Irvin H. Sachs
 Thelma Imogene Sawrie
 Manie Schuman
 Dr. Fay Miller Sloan

October 11/12

Alice Kramer Altheimer
 Garrett Asher
 Phillip G. Back
 Pauline Blass
 Eva Bresnik
 Janie M. Bushman
 Morris N. Donner
 Joshua A. Gill
 Lee Greenberg
 Kim Grundfest
 Joan Hestermann
 Mrs. Kimbrey Carol Jordan
 Elizabeth Pfeifer Levy
 William Wolf Lipson
 Maxwell Joseph Lyons Sr.
 Kathy O'Briant
 Nathan Perlstein
 Patsy Stern Rubin
 Lawrence Rudolph
 Shirley Levin Sherman

Continued from October 11/12

Fred M. Smoler
 Cynthia Weintraub Weber
 Mae Louise Strauss White
 Lillian Wuntch
 Philip Wuntch
 Samuel Young

October 18/19

Joe Berger
 Rabbi David L. Blaustein
 Raymond E Block Jr.
 Bessie Brown Carb
 Berta Rosenberg Cohn
 Patricia Fendler
 Adolph Gruner
 Harry Kahn
 Gilbert Korenblat
 Renee Rothenstein Leff
 Emanuel G. Levy
 Sol Lockwood
 David Louis Menkus Sr.
 Rita Carolyn Moses
 Jacob Oberferst
 Esther Polsky Ostrow
 James B. Pfeifer
 Jewel Altschul Pollock
 Loryeen Samuels Rose
 Pearl G Rosen
 Harry Rubenstein
 Louise Belle Rudolph
 Eva Dreeben Safferstone
 Bertha Alyce Shlenker
 Henry Edward Spitzberg
 Ray Edward Streiff, Jr.

October 25/26

Vernon L Adams
 Elizabeth Weitzenhof Blass
 Jonas Hirsch Epstein
 Tillie Feibelman
 Dorothy Berger Goldberg
 Gladys Ottenheimer Hirsch
 Robert Jacobson
 Rosa Kahn
 Arthur E Korenblat
 Minnie Frank Lasker
 Bernard Levi
 David Baer Levi
 Pauline Levy
 Sidney Solomon Mack
 Max Meyer Moses
 Joseph Pasink
 Mervin Reines
 Charles Rocker
 Aline R. Salinger
 Andrew Scallet
 Norma Scallet
 Rose Schwartz
 Mike Seligman
 Dr. Rita Slutsky
 Ben S. Thalheimer
 Paul Wald

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

FRANCES FENDLER

SANDRA PRUITT
Mother of Laura (Brad) Joseph



CEMIFY FOR OAKLAND JEWISH CEMETERY

Check out the mapping system at Oakland Cemetery. Find our loved ones graves and get a lay of the land and history of our beautiful cemetery by using the QR code. Take a photo with your phone and open up the amazing program.



Oakland Jewish Cemetery

*Sesquicentennial Year
1874-2024*

Dear Members of Congregation B'nai Israel, effective May 31, 2024 the purchase price of a single cemetery space in Oakland Jewish Cemetery is now \$1250.00.

If you are interested in purchasing a space or spaces, please contact the Temple office by phone at 501-225-9700 or by email at templesecretary@bnai-israel.us



[Click to see the Congregation B'nai Israel Brit Kehillah](#)

LEAVE A LEGACY
CONGREGATION B'NAI ISRAEL



**DEADLINE IS OCTOBER 1
YOM KIPPUR BOOK OF
REMEMBRANCE**

As we look forward to the High Holidays, we are beginning to prepare the special **BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE** with tributes to our beloved departed whose memories are consecrated at our Yizkor Memorial Service on the Day of Atonement.

This booklet, a fitting expression of devotion and respect for our relatives and friends, will be available at the Yizkor Service on Yom Kippur Day. The Yom Kippur Memorial Service is a hallowed tradition of our faith. We hope you will want to observe this sacred custom that combines the mitzvot of loving memory and tzedakah.

DONATIONS: THANK YOU FOR YOUR ONGOING GENEROSITY TO YOUR TEMPLE

Your donations support so many of B'nai Israel's programs in so many areas.

All donations to B'nai Israel are appreciated!

To reduce our administrative costs, donations of \$10.00 and less will not be acknowledged to the donor or recipient separately by mail or email but will continue to be gratefully acknowledged in the monthly Chronicle.

ENCLOSED IS MY GIFT OF DONATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ _____

From: _____

In honor of: _____

In memory of: _____

In appreciation of: _____

Other: _____

Send acknowledgment to: _____

LIST OF NAMED FUNDS

GENERAL ASSISTANCE TO B'NAI ISRAEL

- Endowment Fund
- Sustaining Fund
- Salinger Landscape Fund
- Mulkey Sacred Music Fund
- Bauman Family Music Fund
- E. Lee Ronnel Fund for Cantorial Music
- Ottenheimer Fund

LIFECYCLE SUPPORT

- Vogel Family Caring and Sharing Fund
- Hallie Cohen Miller Archive Fund
- Oakland Jewish Cemetery Fund
- Rabbi's Discretionary Fund
- Pfeifer Community Outreach Fund
- Memorial Prayerbook Fund
- Stern Library Fund

EDUCATION, YOUTH, CAMP, AND SCHOLARSHIPS

- Mayersohn Leadership Development Fund
- Grundfest Israel Scholarship Fund
- Rosa Pfeifer Isaacson Scholarship Fund
- Storthz Religious Education Discretionary Fund
- Leibs Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Memorial Fund for Education and Youth
- Levy Fund for Camp Scholarships
- Meir Chayim Camp Scholarship Fund
- Diner Memorial Fund for Jewish Education
- Jordan Memorial Fund for Jewish Education
- Knoff Family Fund
- Newfeld Fund for Interfaith Relations
- Sisterhood Legacy Endowment Fund

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