

CONGREGATION B'NAI ISRAEL

LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS

THE CHRONICLE

TEMPLE

DECEMBER 2024 VOLUME 24 - ISSUE 12

THE RABBI SPEAKS

RABBI BARRY BLOCK



Dear Friends,

Here in the northern hemisphere, December is the darkest month of the year. Hours of darkness outnumber hours of daylight.

This year, that's not all that seems dark. War rages on in Israel and the Palestinian territories. Israeli hostages languish in the darkness of Hamas's Gaza tunnels. Air raid sirens are frequently heard throughout Israel. Yes, Israel has an amazing missile defense system, thanks to the United States and to Israel's own acumen, but citizens must still scurry to shelters whenever the sirens sound. Some missiles penetrate the defenses, and more than a few Israelis have been killed and wounded in aerial attacks since last October 7.

November's violent attack against Jews in Amsterdam multiplied nightmares throughout the Jewish world. With growing numbers identifying with political extremes on both ends of the spectrum, the threat of antisemitic violence grows.

Here in America, we have entered a post-election period that strikes fear in many hearts. Yes, many are pleased by the election's results, including in our congregation, and we may all be thankful at the prospect of peaceful transition of power. Still, while some are jubilant, others who voted for President-Elect Trump did so unenthusiastically and with significant fears about both candidates when they walked into the ballot box. Others are terrified. Some gay and lesbian folks fear that their marriages are threatened. Trans and nonbinary people, including our congregants, have told me that they fear that they are increasingly likely to face discrimination and even hate crimes. Some people harbor even darker fears.

Continues 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 6
SHABBAT SERVICE

Led by Rabbi Block

Sermon: "Demonizing Immigrants"
Music: Jana Cohen and Perry Young
Oneg Shabbat hosts: Regina & Perry Young

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13
SHABBAT SERVICE

Led by Rabbi Block

Sermon: "Boundaries and Barriers in Communication
Across Political Lines"
Music: Jana Cohen and David Korenblat
Oneg Shabbat hosts: Janet & Scott Korenblat

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20
SHABBAT SERVICE

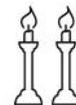
led by Rabbi Block

Sermon: "Monotheistic Religion, Pagan Roots"
Music: Richard Estelita
Accompanist: Diana Brandon
Oneg Shabbat hosts: Sheri & Micky Simon

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27
MUSIC FILLED SHABBAT CHANUKAH SERVICE
Led by Rabbi Block and E. Lee Ronnel Student Cantor

Aleksandra Dubov

Accompanist: Kathy Cooper
Oneg Shabbat hosts: Liz Lucker & Mary Machen, in
memory of Jerome Lucker



(The Rabbi Speaks continued from front page)

Chanukah comes at this bleak time of year, piercing the darkness with light. We kindle lights not only to chase the darkness of the season, but also to publicize the miracle of Chanukah. Whether we focus on the victory of the few over the many, the poorly armed over the mighty, or we concentrate on God's miracle to light up the Temple menorah for eight nights rather than only one, the lights of Chanukah demand that we seek to find hope to dispel the darkness.

In November, LAFTY, our youth group, hosted a regional conclave with a theme of *Survivor*. They emphasized that the current moment has brought neither the first nor the worst catastrophe of Jewish history. LAFTYites taught their peers about how Judaism has lit a path for the Jewish people not merely to survive but to thrive in dark days gone by. Our teens pointed toward the future, with light and with hope.

Let us all seek out the light this month, celebrating Chanukah and bringing the light of God and our Jewish people to the world.

Chag Urim Sameach, wishing you a bright Festival of Lights,



Interested in conversational Hebrew?

Several congregants have expressed an interest in learning conversational Hebrew. I am collecting names to determine if we have enough interest to form a group. Let me know if you are interested by text (501-766-2474) or email (sbrucegreenberg@gmail.com).

Regards,

Bruce

SATURDAY MORNINGS IN DECEMBER

Shabbat Torah Study at 9:30am, led by Rabbi Block on each Shabbat morning in December.

Shabbat Morning Worship at 11am, led by Rabbi Block on December 7, 14, and 21, and by Rabbi Block and Cantor Dubov on December 28



Connie Fails and **David Cooper** on the birth of their grandson, Cullen Cooper, to Scott and Madeline Cooper, in Oakland, California

Nan Selz, who was honored by the ACLU of Arkansas at its 55th anniversary celebration.

Ruthe Kaplan, on the engagement of her granddaughter, Emily Kaplan, to Sam Schwartz.

Annabelle Imber Tuck, who was honored at the 16th annual Sandra Wilson Cherry Awards Dinner. The award recognizes women who have excelled in both their careers and community service.

Amber Thomas and **Ben Teeter** on the birth of their son, Holden Oren Teeter, on November 3, 2024

Jennifer and **Steve Ronnel**, whose son David will receive the Barney Mintz Community Impact Award from the ADL South Central Region in New Orleans on April 2, 2025. Congratulations also to David's grandmother, **Dale Ronnel**.

Jana and **Perry Cohen**, on the engagement of their son Charlie to Morgan Martin. Congratulations also to Charlie's grandparents, **Trudy** and **Jerry Jacobson**.



KIDDUSH LUNCH

Hosted by Tish and Morris Estep

Saturday, December 7, following Shabbat
Morning Services

Rabbi Block will speak on:
“Judaism and Christianity: Similarities and
Differences”

—

No charge, but reservations requested by contacting
Lane, 501-225-9700 or TempleSecretary@bnai-israel.us,
no later than close of business on Wednesday,
December 4

Congregation B'nai Israel - Vogel Caring and Sharing Chanukah Luncheon

Please join us on Saturday, December 28 following morning services



Please RSVP to Lane at
templesecretary@bnai-israel.us or 501.225.9700.

This event is hosted by the Caring and Sharing Committee and made possible by a generous grant from the Vogel Caring and Sharing Fund

Caregivers and drivers are welcome as well.

**GAMES! FUN AND LEARNING FOR SINGING!
ALL AGES!**



**GEAR UP FOR CHANUKAH WITH
CONGREGATION B'NAI ISRAEL!**

Sunday, December 15, 5-7pm

**A PRE-CHANUKAH DINNER,
FEATURING LATKES AND
SUGFANIYOT!**

**This event is, among other things, our Religious
School session for December 15.**

Reservations requested to Lane,

TempleSecretary@bnai-israel.us or 501-225-9700

Cost:

**No charge for current Religious School Students, Faculty,
Madrichim, or other Children under 6.**

**All others: \$18 with reservation by Wednesday, December 11;
\$20 with reservation on December 12 or 13; \$25 at the door. If
the cost would make your attendance difficult, please contact
Rabbi Block, bblock@bnai-israel.us, for a reduced rate.**



**Thank you to all of our
Community Outreach
Program Thanksgiving
Basket Sponsors!**

Shelley Ballew

Gus Block

Rabbi Barry Block

Lane Boyd

Charley Penix and Richard
Estelita

Don and Audrey Evans

Trudy Jacobson

Rabbi Gene and Bobbye Levy

Susan and David Lowitz

Lee Razer

Annabelle Imber Tuck

Carole and Gary Weisbly





On Gratitude

From S. Bruce Greenberg, President

The days grow shorter in December. The very light changes gaining a somber yellow hue that invites reflection. Traditionally, the High Holy Days is the season for reflection and reform. The winter season gives us a second chance, allowing the inner light of introspection to grow and glow as the autumn light fades. This is a time of year that I especially remember people who have helped shape my path through life.

We acknowledge the help we receive near journey's end. A retirement party or promotion celebration customarily includes thanks to those who have helped along the way. In waiting for the right time to offer thanks we miss opportunities. Great influencers of our development in the distant past may have faded from our life over time. Some may have passed away without us ever taking the time to properly acknowledge their help.

In my professional life, I marked every promotion by contacting those who had an important influence on my life. After promotion to Professor, I wrote notes to a dozen people. The list included physician teachers from medical school and advanced training but also individuals from my high school days. Some of these were deceased by the time I retired. Gratitude deferred may never come to fruition.

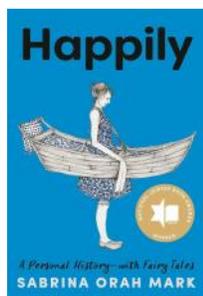
I have been President of Congregation B'nai Israel for only 6 months but realize the extraordinary fortune I have in working with this Executive Committee. Annabelle, Lewis, Shelly, Darcy, Sam, and Rabbi Block are wonderful partners. I constantly rely on all of them for consultation and the work they do to strengthen our community. I have a long standing preference for horizontal leadership rather than a strong hierarchy. Our work together as a team has validated my belief. I am grateful.

AL BARRON BOOK CLUB

Sunday, December 1, in the lobby at 3pm

HAPPILY: A Personal Story, With Fairy Tales

by Sabrina Orah Mark



WINNER OF THE NATIONAL JEWISH BOOK AWARD
A beautifully written memoir-in-essays on fairy tales and their surprising relevance to modern life, from a Jewish woman raising Black children in the American South—based on her acclaimed *Paris Review* column “Happily”

OFFICE hours

Bruce Greenberg will conduct office hours about twice a month for congregants to express their ideas or concerns. The December office hours are December 8 at 11am—12 pm. Office hours are casual (no appointments necessary) and will be conducted on Sunday mornings in the Temple lobby.

LAFTY Says Thank You!!!

LAFTY hosted NFTY-Southern for a fantastic Fall Conclave weekend, November 15-17

It would not have been possible without the extraordinary efforts of fantastic Temple volunteers!*

LAFTY wants to thank...

Conclave Advisor

Eugene Krupitsky

Shabbat Dinner and Lunch Chair

Rita Fagan

Housing Wrangler

Doris Krain

Airport Pickup and Dropoff Coordinator and All Weekend Hands-on-Deck

Shelly Baron

Sunday Morning Breakfast

Pete Weber
Erin Yokem

Oneg Shabbat and Snacks Coordinator

Sylvia Amsler

Challah

Ellyn Polsky
Shelley Blanksteen

Original Logo Design

Jon Flaxman

Shopping and Schlepping

Darcy Krupitsky
Sheri and Micky Simon

Home Hospitality Hosts

Shelly Baron
Shelley Blanksteen
Joy Figarsky and Jay Lazerowitz
Cherry Landfair and David Goldsholl
Miriam and Leonard Hasson
Doris Krain
Sylvia Amsler and Lewis Krain
Beth Levi
Krysten and Mark Levin
Susan and David Lowitz
Becky and Jay Marks
Julie Polsky
Regina and Perry Young

Kitchen and Setup Crew

Jill Bauman
Shelly Blanksteen
David Goldsholl
Trudy Jacobson
Darcy Krupitsky
Cherry Landfair
Becky Marks
Bonnie Nickol
Doris Krain
Carol Parham
Ellyn Polsky
Annabelle Tuck
Pete Weber

Oneg Shabbat, Snacks, Baking, Drinks, and Paper Goods

Sylvia Amsler
Debbie Bentley
Shelley Blanksteen
Rabbi Barry Block
Suzy Dhall
Jill Flaxman
Cherry Landfair and David Goldsholl
Trudy Jacobson
Candy Levy
Becky Marks
Ellyn Polsky
Jennifer Ronnel
Nan Selz
Marilyn Sorrells

Program Panelists

Jamie Axelroth
Galina and Michael Krupitsky
Jane and Scott Levine

Cemetery Social Action Project Coordinator

Richard Estelita

Friday Night Service Slides

Tim Kessler

LAFTY Advisor

Sunny Baker

LAFTY is also grateful to Rabbi Barry Block, Eileen Hamilton, Lane Boyd, and Milton Boyd of our Temple staff.

*If we left off anybody, we are **very** sorry. Please notify Lane, TempleSecretary@bnai-israel.us, because we **really** want to thank you!

November at Congregation B'nai Israel Religious School



DONATIONS

Endowment Fund

In honor of a very welcoming group of congregants

Kara and Barry Funt

In appreciation of Yom Kippur Services

Linda Mograbi

Yahrzeit Fund

In memory of Anna Attias

Morris Estep

In memory of Manford H. Levy

Paula Patton and Mort McKenzie

In memory of Nathan Axler and Dolores Greenberg

Lynn and Bruce Greenberg

In memory of Mollie Gordon

Marilyn Kay Sorrells

In memory of Leslie Marks Strauss

Tracye and Larry Townley

In memory of Ariel Barak Imber

Annabelle Imber Tuck

Bauman Family Music Fund

Glenn Block

In memory of Marilyn Robison

Joyce Franklin

In memory of Marilyn Robison

Jill and Steve Bauman

In memory of Marilyn Robison

Peter Chung and NFP (National Financial Partners)

In memory of Marilyn Robison

Hildy and Marc Sheinbaum

In memory of Marilyn Robison

Anne O'Grady and Skip Wells

In memory of Marilyn Robison

Jane Franklin Goff

Stern Library Fund

In memory of Bettye Korenblat

Steven Lane

Break-the-Fast Fund

Trudy and Jerry Jacobson

Vogel Family Caring and Sharing Fund

Van Gates

In memory of Hollis and Sandra Pruitt

Jim Pfeifer and Robynn Zinser

In memory of Dr. Jerome Sherman

Keith Sherman

In memory of Bettye Korenblat

Don and Audrey Evans

In memory of Bettye Korenblat

Carole and Gary Weisbly

Oakland Jewish Cemetery

In memory of Bettye Korenblat

Jane Franklin Goff

In memory of Flora Franklin

Jane Franklin Goff

Joyce Franklin and Family

In memory of Steve Goldman

Jane Franklin Goff

Levy Fund for Camp Scholarships

In memory of Robert Flemming

Rabbi Gene and Bobbye Levy

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In memory of Phil Kaplan

Ruthe Kaplan and family

In memory of Steve Goldman

Susan Lesser and the Jacobs Family

In memory of Bettye Korenblat

Susan Lesser

Anonymous

In memory of Charles "Chizzy" Davis

Gus Block

In memory of Dr. William Thorton and Jennifer Thorton

Karin Waugh Zucker

Storthz Religious Education Fund

In memory of Sandra Pruitt

Ann & Phyllis Storthz

Pfeifer Community Outreach Fund

In loving memory of Bettye Gentry Korenblat

Gene Pfeifer

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

2nd	Valeria Faber Jill Flaxman	13th	Corbin Levin Avery Webb	24th	Milton Baer Doris Krain
5th	Robert Block Thomas McGarry Robert Oliva Rebekah Scallet Patricia Solomon	14th	Sheila Bronfman Roland Lanoue Susan Rosenthal Kantrow	25th	Mira Krain
7th	Shelley Ballew Sandie Lubin Clover Wagner	16th	Jamie Axelroth Brent James Jordyn Johnson	26th	Marc Williams
8th	Lauren Berkman Margolick Eli Goldman	17th	Raymond Abramson	27th	Aaron Rabirowff David Ronnel
9th	Asiah Beck	18th	Benjamin Flaxman	29th	Regina Young
10th	Val Habrock John Austin Levin Margaret Sonnier	19th	Danette Devlin	30th	Stanley Goldberg Samuel Hoffman
11th	Karen Pear	20th	Tina Bernstein Elli Samuels	31st	Ella-Sofia Horn Missy Pear Allie Pear Liam Wagner
12th	Silvana Berlinski	21st	Cici Singer		
		23rd	Morris Estep Don Pfeifer Maci Schlesinger		

JANUARY WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

1st	Mickey Loeb & Michelle Lemaire	14 years
	Nancy & Steve Rousseau	47 years
3rd	Anna & James Moses	44 years
	Susie & Brian Rosenthal	38 years
7th	Flavia & Stephen Jacobs	15 years
10th	Julie & David Shindler	43 years
12th	Sheree & Doug Meyer	35 years
	Kelli & Scott Schlesinger	17 years
15th	Elizabeth Cohen & Lauren Johnston	3 years
17th	Elsa & Avi Helton	20 years
	Sam Storthz III & Suzanne Klimberg	32 years
18th	Patricia & Barry Solomon	61 years
	Joy Figarsky & Jay Lazerowitz	1 year
20th	Rebecca & Roger Horn	20 years

WELCOME TO OUR
NEW MEMBERS:

**Elizabeth and Ray
Weiner**

Tifundraiser@gmail.com

DECEMBER YAHRZEITS**December 6/7**

Jeff Bell
 Raymond V. Biondo M.D.
 Alice Blass
 Phyllis Block Brotman
 Alice Blass Cohen
 Bernard Cohen
 Louis Cohen
 Harry L. Ehrenberg
 Sheila Fine
 Flora S. Franklin
 Don Gordon
 Maurine Frauenthal Grundfest
 Sarah Leah Harberg
 Irving Harris
 Yosyp Himelfarb
 Gus L. Kahn
 Phyllis Lieberman Kauffman
 Ike Kempner
 Harry Koppel
 Susan Porter Levy
 Rose Bloom Malvin
 Morris Marcus
 Florence Morris
 Bill Parish
 Emma Jo Parish
 Paul Roda
 S. William Ross
 Nanette Altschul Samuel
 Barbara Schlesinger
 Florence Schuman
 Jerome Sherman
 Herbert L. Storthz
 Sandra Waxman
 Sidney Jacob White
 Richard Yoder
 Mike Yout

**WE RECORD WITH
 SORROW THE DEATHS OF
 OUR MEMBERS'
 RELATIVES**

Stephen Goldman
 Father of Barry Goldman
 (and Donna Kirkwood)

Geoffrey Bara
 Son of Ron (and Karin) Bara

December 13/14

Ted Baer
 Larry Bentley
 Sgt. Sherrill Bernstein
 Leslie R. Nunes Carvalho
 Sarah R. Cohen
 Jennie Ottenheimer Falk
 Barbara "Bobbi" R. Goldman
 Eleanor Gross
 Harvey "Ray" Jordan
 Justin Komiss
 Esfir Lyublinskaya
 Bertie Mack
 Captain Charles S. Narkinsky
 Elsie K. Pfeifer
 Blanche Roubain
 Marguerite Selz
 Carol Silverstrom
 Jacob Eli Smulian
 Sam Strauss Sr.
 Naomi D. Tanenbaum
 Julius Tenenbaum
 Sol Thalheimer Sr.
 Rose Skalmer Young

December 20/21

Mark Adler
 Louis Henry Altman
 Sophie Goldstein Back
 Fannie Kauffman Cline
 Robert Avington Cortese
 Irma "Chickie" Dollinger
 Caleen Estelita
 Linda "JJ" Factor
 Niman Freddie Friedman
 Julia Goldman Levy
 Salene Marks Lyons
 Irene Manning Mathis
 David Louis Menkus Jr.
 Catherine Nachmann
 Joseph Pfeifer
 Martin Reinsch
 Robert D. Remet
 Charlotta Ringelhaupt
 Gloria Sack
 M. J. Siesel
 Francis B. Stern
 Joseph Stern
 Alvin W. Strauss Jr.
 Alvin Weil Strauss Sr.
 Seymour S. Summerfield
 Herbert Wolf Sr.

December 27/28

Henry Altman
 David Behnke
 Leo P. Bott Sr.
 Elias Cohen
 Stanley Falk
 Oscar Fendler
 Gertrude Gans
 Sheldon Goldsholl
 Jesse Heiman
 Sam T. Heuer
 Laurence Jacobs
 Alan Kagan
 Abe J. Kempner
 Enid R. Kempner
 Louis Krain
 Harry S. Lasker Jr.
 John B. Levinson
 Morris Levy
 Phil Levy
 Rita Levy
 Gus Loewenberg
 Sandra Neloms
 Charlotte Netter Ottenheimer
 Lena A. Pinkus
 Hyman Reifer
 Bob Rosen
 Herbert Siegel
 Henry Simon
 Hannah Wagner
 Amelia Levy Weiss
 Annette Norma Yahn

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

Marilyn Thomas Robison
Bettye Gentry Korenblat
 Mother of Scott (and Janet)
 Korenblat

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



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 and 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:



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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