CONGREGATION B'NAI ISRAEL

THE CHRONICLE TEMPLE June 2025 VOLUME 25 - ISSUE 6

June 2025 VOLUME 25 - ISSUE 6

THE RABBI SPEAKS

RABBI BARRY BLOCK



Dear Friends. Shortly before I became your rabbi, I attended a workshop for clergy of all faiths taught by Dan Hotchkiss, author of Governance and Ministry: Rethinking Board Leadership.

Hothkiss's central insight is that some people are happy volunteering to perform the service of religious institutions, while others are interested in being decision makers, but few people are eager to do both.

Hotchkiss offers the example of a man who built scores of houses with Habitat for Humanity. Soon, he was asked to be on Habitat's local board, and he dutifully accepted. Quickly, the eager volunteer to become an unhappy Board member. He had no interest in poring over financials or making institutional decisions. Instead, he wanted to hang sheetrock and nail shingles on roofs alongside the folks who would soon occupy the homes they built together.

At Congregation B'nai Israel, we are blessed with many volunteers who are actively engaged in the work of the congregation—in the kitchen or the office, on the bimah or in the Religious School, at Oakland Jewish Cemetery, with our youth, and more. We are equally blessed with thoughtful, discerning Board members, who examine financials and enact congregational policy.

Many both volunteer and engage in governance, in keeping with long B'nai Israel tradition. Unlike the man in Hotchkiss's

Continues on next page

WORSHIP AT-A-GLANCE

FRIDAY NIGHT SERVICES IN JUNE

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

> FRIDAY, JUNE 6 **Shabbat Service** Led by Rabbi Block

Sermon: "The Privilege of Blessing Others" Music: Jana Cohen and Perry Young Oneg Shabbat Host: Abbey Shoemaker in celebration of her birthday

> FRIDAY, JUNE 13 **Shabbat Service** Led by Meg Marion

Music: Teddy Ferguson and Kathy Cooper Oneg Shabbat Host: Marilyn Sorrells

FRIDAY, JUNE 20 **Pride Shabbat Service** Led by members of the LGBTQ+A Chavurah

Rabbi Block, with special guest speaker, Rabbi Nikki DeBlosi

Music: Josiah Wheeler, Sunny Baker, David Korenblat, & Kathy Cooper Oneg Shabbat Host: LGBTQ+A Chavurah

> FRIDAY, JUNE 27 **Shabbat Service** Led by Rabbi Block

Sermon: "Moses Perfection, and the Rest of Us" Music: Jana Cohen and Perry Young Oneg Shabbat Host: Gus Block in celebration of Rabbi Block's Birthday

(The Rabbi Speaks continued from front page) example, some who enjoy cooking a Shabbat dinner or leading music, for example, also happily engage in decision-making necessary to the business of the congregation. This year, leaders who had "signed up" for governance roles found themselves devoting untold hours of volunteer service. Let me describe but two of many.

Shelly Baron, our Administrative Vice President, envisioned and implemented an entirely new staff structure for our congregation. Sometimes, she worked in areas of her expertise, and other times less so. To quote Shelly, "We have a whole H.R. department where I work, and I'm not in that department!" She never let that stop her, even as she accessed expert assistance as needed.

At the same time, Darcy Krupitsky has found herself needing to be much more than the Treasurer, which is a time-consuming job under the best of circumstances. For several months, she was directly supervising our bookkeeper and overseeing the financial functions performed by our administrative assistant, both of which had been staff roles previously. Then, with the tragic death of Cheryl Brown, C.P.A., our bookkeeper, Darcy took on an even more active role in the day-to-day financial management of the congregation.

Volunteer service should never be thankless, as it is often described. We work hard if imperfectly to thank our volunteers. It's less clear, though, how and when we ought to thank officers of the congregation for their work, even when it's above and beyond the call of duty. Their work far from over, the season of our Annual Congregational Meeting is an appropriate time to thank Darcy and Shelly for their extraordinary service to Congregation B'nai Israel.

Zam H. Block

SATURDAY MORNINGS IN JUNE

Shabbat Torah Study at 9:30am, led by Rabbi Block on June 6, 21, and 28 and by Sam Kauffman on June 14.

Shabbat Morning Worship at 11am, led by Rabbi Block on June 6, 21, and 28, and by Emily Adams and Carmen Arick on June 14.



Thank You to our **Oneg Shabbat** Hosts for May:

May 2: Regina and Perry Young

May 9: Darcy Krupitsky and Jamie Axelroth

May 16: Sandi and Barry Uretsky

Oneg Shabbat Volunteer: Val Halbrook

May 23: Amber Thomas and Ben Teeter

May 30: Galina and Michael Krupitsky

Thank you to our **Security Sponsors** for May:

May 2: Debbie & Dr. Brad Diner

May 30: Lauren & Joseph Margolick

Thanks to our **Pulpit Flower Sponsors** for May:

May 30: Parents of the Confirmation Class of 2025

Thank you to **Shabbat Under the Stars Hosts**:

Susan Clark & Matthew Lopas and Hannah Lopas

Volunteers

Rita Fagan and Eugene Krupitsky

Pride Shabbat 5785-2025

Special Guest: Rabbi Nikki DeBlosi, PhD

Friday, June 20, at Shabbat Services

"Who Will Stay and Who Will Flee: Current Threats to Trans and Nonbinary Folks"

Saturday, June 21, Kiddush Luncheon

"Beyond Jacob, Leah, and Rachel: Jews & Polyamorous Relationships"

Free of charge.

Please make reservations for Luncheon by Wednesday, June 18 by contacting Luke, 501-225-9700 or lfrauenthal@bnai-israel.us

Saturday Evening Havdalah and Discussion at Rabbi Block's Home, 7:30pm

Conversation about Being an Inclusive Congregation: Where Can We Do Better?



Rabbi Nikki DeBlosi, PhD (she/her) connects folks to the breadth & depth of Jewish tradition through inclusive, innovative, & insightful Jewish teaching, speaking, & ritual.

She holds a B.A. in Women's and Gender Studies from Harvard University, an MA and PhD in Performance Studies from New York University, and rabbinic ordination from Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. She lives with her wife and children in Montclair, New Jersey.

From Lewis Krain, President

If you've ever attended a LifeQuest session, you know that you will see an impressive turnout from the Jewish community. I had the pleasure of teaching a class about mental health during the LifeQuest spring session, and every time I walked in the building I was amazed by how many faces from our Congregation were there, both attending and teaching classes. Rabbi Block himself taught a class this semester.

If you're not familiar with LifeQuest of Arkansas, you should really check it out. It's a not-for-profit interfaith organization dedicated to adult learning and continuing education for older individuals. Classes are organized in a mini-college model of 8 weekly sessions, and can cover any subject matter. Topics often range from art to technological skills to history to science. There were 56 classes offered this past semester, all taught by community volunteers. LifeQuest is currently supported by almost 20 faith-based organizations of widely varying religions (as well as a growing list of corporate sponsors), but Congregation B'nai Israel is one of the 11 founding organizations. Our support runs so deep, in fact, that while on the Budget Committee recently it was made clear to me (sometimes forcefully) by multiple congregants that the LifeQuest line item was not to be touched.

One of the things I love about Judaism is that education is a Jewish value. Being able to personally read, consider, and discuss the lessons of Torah is central to our way of life. Our emphasis on education is one of the things that has made us resilient as a people, and enabled us to keep our identity in Diaspora. This value is reflected in our support of LifeQuest and the impressive attendance I see there.

I'm proud of our congregation's sustained support for LifeQuest. I'm proud that we have always made it a priority to support education, even when our own budget has been tight. If you're unfamiliar with LifeQuest, give it a chance; whether you register for a class or volunteer to teach one yourself, it's a rewarding way to get engaged with the broader community and learn something along the way.



An endless passion for living and learning

NOTICE OF CONGREGATIONAL ANNUAL MEETING

Congregation B'nai Israel 158th Annual Meeting Tuesday, June 17, 2025 ~ 6:00 pm

OFFICERS ~ TERM EXPIRES June 2026

President Lewis Krain

Administrative Vice President Shelly Baron

Secretary Samuel Kauffman

Treasurer Darcy Krupitsky

Immediate Past President Annabelle Imber Tuck

TRUSTEES

First Year of First Term

Tenure expires June 2029

Second Year of First Term

Tenure expires June 2028

Jane Goff Lauren Berkman Margolick

Jay Lazerowitz Rita Fagan

Shawn Williams Heather Tolliver

First Year of Second Term Second Year of Second Term

Tenure expires June 2027 Tenure expires June 2026

Fred Levin Mark Himelfarb

Joanne Matson Dan Roda

Bonnie Nickol Perry Young

Ex-officio: Mira Krain, LAFTY President

Retiring Trustees: Alex Daniel, Brian Rosenthal, Micky Simon

Nominating Committee: Lewis Krain, Rita Fagan, Trudy Jacobson, Mark Levin,

Carol Parham, Annabelle Imber Tuck



LAFTY Shabbat — May 2

Pictured, left to right: Milo Krain, Reed Henderson, John Mackey Weber, Ben Casciano, Sadie Elson, Caroline Goldsholl, Sunny Baker, Findley and Roxy Sonnier (reclining)

Announcing the LAFTY Board, 5785/2025-6

President - Mira Krain*

Religious & Cultural Vice President — Caroline Goldsholl

Communications Vice President - Sadie Elson**

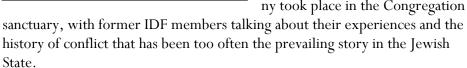
*Mira Krain also serves as the Programming & Partnerships Vice President on both the NFTY North American Board and the Board of NFTY's Southern Region.

**Sadie Elson also serves as Engagement & Recruitment Vice President on the Board of NFTY's Southern Region.



Memories of Religious School from May

Our last day of Religious School before the summer break was especially memorable, with our students joining together with our community for a celebration of Yom HaZikaron (Israeli Memorial Day) and Yom Ha'atzmaut (Israeli Independence Day). A solemn ceremony took place in the Congregation B'nai Israel



Afterward, a fun time was had in the Social Hall and Tenenbaum Center, as volunteers from the Jewish Federation of Arkansas made sure we had plenty of good things to eat and games to play. Just as in Israel, the seriousness of remembering those who have given their lives in defense of the state gave way to a joyous celebration of independence, all in honor of the 77th birth-day of Israel.

As I reflect on my first few months being involved with our Religious School, I can't help but be humbled by the strength and dedication of our teachers, volunteers, and madrichim. Singing songs and sitting in on lessons has given me such a sense of purpose, and Sundays are easily my favorite day to come to work. I look forward to many more years of seeing our students grow in knowledge, and I feel confident that the future of our community is in excellent hands.







Michael Roberts, Operations Manager

JULY BIRTHDAYS

1st	Milo Krain	12th	Ari Marie Margolick
1st	Daniel Rodell	13th	David Rosen
2nd	Mark Himelfarb	15th	Soraya Rudofsky
2nd	Virginia Thorndike	15th	Annabelle Tuck
3rd	Cherry Landfair	16th	Michael Roberts
4th	Melinda Tobian	18th	Roger Horn
5th	Susan Weinstein	20th	Leslie Brotman
6th	Ryan Dhall	20th	Marla Shivers
6th	Jon Flaxman	20th	Joseph Stafford
6th	Krysten Levin	21th	Jacob Collins
6th	Phillip Spivey	21th	Bobbye Levy
7th	Connie Fails	21th	Jeffrey Lux
7th	Ann Williams	21th	Sydney Shemper
8th	Samuel Kauffman	22th	Audrey Evans
8th	Kelsey Utne	22th	Caroline Goldsholl
8th	Richard Williams	22th	Stephen Jacobs
9th	L.R. Jalenak	23th	Richard Lowens
9th	Rabbi Eugene Levy	26th	Perry Young
9th	Hallie Pingel	27th	Karen Sherman
10th	Stephanie Metilly	28th	Rita Fagan
10th	Tad Phillips	28th	Vivian Mae Gerdes
11th	Nan Selz	29th	Matthew Lopas
12th	Karin Bara	30th	Elsa Helton
12th	Noah Cardona	30th	Ethan Strauss

JULY WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

3rd	Amanda Webb and Rush Parish	11 years
4th	Gay Block and Billie Parker	11 years
7th	Trudy and Jerry Jacobson	65 years
8th	Arleen and Brian Marshall	58 years
11th	B. J. and Jimmy Moses	54 years
11th	Mockie and Raymond Abramson	49 years
12th	Carol and Chester Storthz	49 years
16th	Thaïs Miller and Chad Fusco	10 years
22nd	Lynn and Bruce Greenberg	47 years
22nd	Horakova Lenka and Sam Strauss III	16 years
23rd	Pat Highley and Arnold Nachmann	47 years
23rd	Carole and Gary Weisbly	58 years
26th	Timothy Kessler and Josiah Wheeler	9 years
27th	Bari and Mark Himelfarb	8 years
30th	Susan and Robin West	45 years
31th	Ann and Richard Williams	70 years



Kathy and Jack Grundfest, on the birth of their first grandchild, Miles Dylan Orlansky, born to Blair and Adam Orlansky in Denver. Congratulations also to Miles's great-grandmother, Judy Grundfest.

Beth Miller, on the birth of her first grandchild, Evelyn Pearl Bankoff, born to Hannah Yoder and Richard Bankoff of Stony Brook, New York. Evelyn Pearl's middle name memorializes her grandfather, Paul Yoder. Congratulations also to Evelyn's great-grandfather, Harvey Miller.

Page 8 The Temple Chronicle



Fifty Years on Rodney Parham Road—And Before That...

In 2025, our congregation celebrates a half century in our magnificent building on Rodney Parham Road. Congregation B'nai Israel, though, was founded in 1866, 109 years before moving to our current location. Thankfully, information and images of our previous Temple buildings should be meticulously preserved in our Temple archives, lovingly maintained by volunteers led by Phillip Spivey, Archives Chair, and Jim Pfeifer.

In celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of our current building, Jim Pfeifer has mounted an exhibit about our first Temple, dedicated in 1872 on Center Street. Please be sure to peruse the photos and artifacts, clearly labeled and displayed in the lobby, whenever you are at the Temple.

Jim plans future exhibits to highlight the Temple's longtime home at the corner of Capitol and Broadway and our current facility on Rodney Parham Road, all leading up to an anticipated celebration of our building in the fall.

COOKING CLUB: JEWISH FOODS AROUND THE WORLD

In the Temple kitchen Sunday morning on June 1st

Jews around the world have developed unique cuisines. Arrive by 9ish for most recipes, 8am for soup recipe. B'nai Israel members & friends are invited to join in preparing a chef's tasting menu:

8:30am Sour cherry soup (Hungary) 10:00 Blueberry streusel torte (Austria) 10:30 Cheese Bourekas (Middle East)

11:00 Watermelon-Feta Salad (Greece)

Reservations Closed





SHAVUOT MORNING SERVICE WITH YIZKOR
11:00 AM MONDAY, JUNE 2
IN THE LIBRARY
LED BY RABBI BLOCK AND
E. LEE RONNEL STUDENT CANTOR DUBOV





Shabbat Under the Stars









DONATIONS

Yahrzeit Fund

In memory of Joseph Loebner
Janice Thurow

nemory of Richard Thu

In memory of Richard Thurow Janice Thurow

In memory of Emily S. Lasker

Harriet L. Katz & Family

In memory of Gus "Buddy" Blass II
Patricia Blass

In memory of Gus "Buddy" Blass II Gus Blass III

In memory of Noland Blass Jr.

Patricia Blass

In memory of Gus Blass Patricia Blass

In memory of Marjorie L. Baer

Milt Baer

In memory of Bena Schwartz Biondo

Mary Biondo

Bauman Music Fund

In celebration of the wedding of David Sheldon and Elli Samuels

Trudy and Jerry Jacobson

E. Lee Ronnel Cantorial Fund

In honor of Student Cantor Aleksandra Dubov

Michael Roberts

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In appreciation of Rabbi Block Carmen Arick and Emily Adams



Hallie Cohen Miller Archive Fund

In memory of Louis Cecil Cohen, Doris Meyer Cohen, and Hallie Cohen Miller

> Sandi and Jack Benjamin and Katelyn and Kori and Derek

Oakland Jewish Cemetery

In memory of Myar Franklin

Jane Franklin Goff

In memory of Ashtyn Lane Russell, Forrest Abrams, and Henry Myar Franklin

Joyce Franklin

Liebs Memorial Fund

In memory of Marilyn Robison Sylvia Trachtenberg

Wilma Diner Fund

In memory of Jo Lawton

Debbie and Brad Diner

Sustaining Fund

In honor of the marriage of David Sheldon and Elli Samuels

Bayla Abrams

JUNE YAHRZEITS

June 6/7

Louis J. Abramson

D. Justus Baumgarten

Daniel Disabato

Fran Eiseman

Adolf Feibelman

Gertrude Green

Charles Edward Joseph

Abraham Kempner

Eleanor Rockwitt Kiel

Minnie E. Lasker

Hannah Levinson

John D. Levinson

Fannie Pinkus Meyer

Lillian Epstein Miller

Arthur H. Pfeifer

David Roda

Ella Lyons Rudolph

Flora Sanders

Pauline Sanders

Mr. Joel F. Schlosberg

Joseph Shrader

Frank Wojs

Leo Wolff

June 13/14

Harry Balkin

Stanley M. Bauman Sr.

Jacob Blass

Jacob Brown

Bernard Cohen

Herbert Dicker

Leon Dreyfus

William Feldman

Seymour S. Fleisig

Charles Friedman

Joseph Goetz

Carolyn Levy Greenberg

Joan Hamburger

Dr. Mark Krain

Myron B. Lasker Sr.

Flora Loeb

Don M. Mann

Fay Smulian Pfeifer

Bernard Sabin

Lucille L. Sachs

Theodore M. Sanders

Anchel Schiffman

Hillel Sloan

Harry B. Solmson Sr.

Judy Kohn Tenenbaum

Karl Weil

Sara Weinberg

Sheila Young

June 20/21

Richard Bresnik

Dr. Jerry Bronfman

Lester Elenzweig

Evelyn Feit Lowenberg

Jules Ifrah

Gary Kaplan

Joan Storthz Moore

Joseph Brint

Juanita Gonzalez

Anna Stachmus

David Wuntch

Leatrice "Lit" Block Rosen

Miriam Anne Brown

Louis Singer

Belle Spiegelman

Marie Seeman Spitzberg

June 27/28

Louis J. Alexander

Fanny Besser

Sheryl Besser

Dr. Robert Bronfman

Max Bushman

Belle Pfeifer Cohen

Rose Mae Dante

E. Charles Eichenbaum

Joseph A. Franklin

Al J. Goodman Sr.

David Jacobs

Howard Kahn

Phil Kaplan

Myron B. Lasker Jr.

Henry Morris Levy

Bella Levy

Raymond Maer

Ida Navra

Phillip Ottenheimer

Leo Pfeifer

Robert Sakon

Selma Loeb Sanders

Ada Lee Shack

Dr. Stanley Edgar Sheets

Sylvia Hirsch Shrader

Morris Solomon

Siesel Thalheimer

Louis Yahm







JFAR Annual Meeting Annual Meeting A little nosh with bagels and lox!

Sunday, June 8 11am-12:30pm

Congregation Agudath Achim

PLEASE RSVP by JUNE 6 to federation@jewisharkansas.org or 501-663-3571

If you can't be with us in person Zoom



A Year in Review and a Year to Begin



Meet our Social Worker, Program Coordinator, and Office Administrator



Honor JFAR Volunteers



Thank retiring board members and welcome new board members



Be part of the JFAR conversation!



Click to see the Congregation B'nai Israel Brit Kehillah

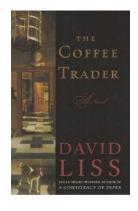


Oakland Jewish Cemetery

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



AL BARRON BOOK CLUB

Sunday, June 15 at 3pm, in the lobby

The Coffee Trader
by

David Liss

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:





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

Supporting the Temple

Endowment Fund Sustaining Fund Salinger Landscape Fund Ottenheimer Fund

Worship and Music

E. Lee Ronnel Fund for Cantorial Music Bauman Family Music Fund Mulkey Sacred Music Fund Memorial Prayerbook Fund

Service to the Wider Community

Pfeifer Community Outreach Fund Sisterhood Legacy Endowment Fund Newfeld Fund for Community Relations Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Education, Youth, Camp and Scholarships

Storthz Religious School Enhancement Fund Meir Chayim Camp Scholarship Fund Levy Fund for Camp Scholarships Diner Memorial Fund for Jewish Education Jordan Memorial Fund for Jewish Education Mayersohn Leadership Development Fund Grundfest Israel Scholarship Fund Rosa Pfeifer Isaacson Scholarship Fund Leibs Memorial Scholarship Fund Memorial Fund for Education and Youth

Supporting Congregational Programs

Hallie Cohen Miller Archive Fund Lois G. Stern Library Fund Knoff Family Fund

Lifecycle Support

Vogel Family Caring and Sharing Fund Oakland Jewish Cemetery Fund

THANK YOU TO OUR CHRONICLE ADVERTISERS





Voted Best Restaurant Best Desserts Best Caterer



Cabbage Rose 11220 N Rodney Parham Rd. STE 9 Little Rock AR 72212 501-664-4042





Leigh Graham

Owner

11121 Rodney Parham • Little Rock, AR 72212 Phone (501) 224-2639 Email: leigh@dianes-gourmet.com www.dianes-gourmet.com

