

THE Temple Chronicle

CONGREGATION B'NAI ISRAEL

MARCH 2020/ VOLUME 20 ISSUE 2

THE RABBI SPEAKS



RABBI BARRY BLOCK

Dear Friends:

Our sages consider the first *mitzvah* in the Torah to be, “This month shall mark the beginning of the months for you; it shall be the first of the months of the year for you” (Exodus 12:2). What month is Exodus describing? If you answered, “*Tishri*, the month of Rosh Hashanah,” that would be a good guess, but incorrect all the same. We celebrate the new year “*In the seventh month on the first day of the month*” (Leviticus 23:24). Instead, the first *mitzvah* is the obligation to recognize *Nisan*, in springtime, the month of Passover, as the first month of the year. That day falls on March 26 this year, just a few days after the vernal equinox and official beginning of spring.

How can the first day of the first month be some time other than the new year?

The *Mishnah*, our sages’ first Jewish legal code, explains: “*There are four new years*” (Mishnah Rosh Hashanah 1:1). We begin counting months in springtime. We celebrate the new year of the human soul on Rosh Hashanah. We mark the new year for the trees on *Tu B’shevat*. And the rabbis declared a fourth new year for a certain kind of tithe that was only in effect in Temple times.

If we think about it, our own lives include several “new years” each year. We celebrate on Rosh Hashanah and also on January 1. Each of us begins a new year in our lives on a birthday. Many of us experience life on an academic calendar, and we schedule accordingly, as we do at the Temple. And many companies and nonprofit organizations, including Congregation B’nai Israel, operate with a fiscal year that does not begin on January 1. (Ours is June 1.)

The Torah has a special reason for designating *Nisan* as the first month, and the rabbis had good cause to amplify that. The natural world is “reborn” in springtime—albeit at an entirely different time of year in the southern hemisphere, unknown to the authors of Torah or *Mishnah*. More importantly, the Israelites are born as a people with the liberation from bondage, pointing toward receiving the Torah at Sinai.

I would suggest one additional lesson from the fact that we celebrate multiple new years: Life often presents us with a need to “hit a reset

...continued on next page

Temple B’nai Israel Newsletter, Volume 20, Issue 2,
March 2020, published monthly by Temple B’nai Israel
3700 N. Rodney Parham Rd., Little Rock, AR 72212

Worship at a Glance

Friday, March 6

Oneg Shabbat 5:45 – 6:15 pm

UPB-Sinai Editon Service, led by Rabbi Block, at 6:15 pm

Music: Jana Cohen and Liz Cohen

Sermon: “King Achashverosh: What We Should Remember”

Candles and Kiddush: Kirsta and Keith Nigro,
in celebration of their anniversary

Reader: Daniel Berleant, in celebration of his birthday

Oneg Shabbat Sponsor: Sisterhood

Pulpit Flowers: In memory of Jane Roark,
on her birthday, by Catherine Rayburn

Security Sponsor: Susie and Brian Rosenthal,
in recognition of Rabbi Block’s outstanding contribution
to Reform literature and the publication of his edited
The Mussar Torah Commentary.

Saturday, March 7

Torah Study, led by Rabbi Block, 9:30 am

Shabbat Service, led by Rabbi Block, at 11:00 am

Friday, March 13

Oneg Shabbat 5:45 – 6:15 pm

Mishkan T’filah Service, led by Rabbi Block, at 6:15 pm

Music: David Bauman

Sermon: “God Incarnate”

Candles & Kiddush: Elizabeth and Alex Daniel,
in celebration of their anniversary

Reader: Jan Alman

Oneg Shabbat Sponsor: Sisterhood

Pulpit Flowers: Stacey and Michael Ronnel,
and family, in memory of Barbara Stern

Security Sponsor: Susie and Brian Rosenthal,
in recognition of Rabbi Block’s outstanding contribution
to Reform literature and the publication of his edited
The Mussar Torah Commentary.

Saturday, March 14

Torah Study, led by Rabbi Block, at 9:30 am

Shabbat Service, led by Rabbi Block, at 11:00 am

Friday, March 20

Oneg Shabbat 5:45 – 6:15 pm

Mishkan T’filah Service, led by Rabbi Block, at 6:15pm

Music: The MazelTonics

Sermon: “Israel’s Future: Jewish and/or Democratic?”

Candles & Kiddush: Joanne and Charles Matson,
in celebration of their anniversary

...continued on next page

The Rabbi Speaks continued...

button.” We need new beginnings: Examples may be new job, a new home and perhaps a new hometown, or a new life after a traumatic loss. Sometimes, we need to reset a relationship. We need to become the person we’re destined to be, but haven’t been—a process well known to converts as it is to those who have come out as LGBTQ, but not confined to those circumstances.

I pray that, just as we celebrate on January 1, and consider our souls on Rosh Hashanah, we will all find renewal in spring time, this year and every year.

Faithfully,



Rabbi Barry H. Block

Worship at a Glance continued...

Oneg Shabbat Sponsor: Sisterhood

Pulpit Flowers: In memory of our “Papa,” E.L. Scharff, with all our love, by Britt, Amber, Sara, and Anna Grace Mock

Security Sponsor: Nan Selz and Chris Barrier

Saturday, March 21

Torah Study, led by Meg Marion, at 9:30 am

Shabbat Services, led by Emily Adams and Carmen Arick, at 11:00 am

Friday, March 27

Oneg Shabbat 5:45 – 6:15 pm

Mishkan T’filah Service led by Rabbi Block, at 6:15 pm

Music: David Bauman, Isabella Ifrah, Teddy Ferguson

Sermon: “Sacrifice”

Candles & Kiddush: Bonnie and Sam Nickol,
in celebration of their anniversary

Reader: Jeff Nodelman

Oneg Shabbat Sponsor: Sisterhood

Saturday, March 28

Torah Study, led by Rabbi Block, at 9:30 am

Shabbat Services, led by Rabbi Block, at 11:00 am



*Gay Block is a member of Congregation B’nai Israel
and the mother of our rabbi.*

*Interested in carpooling to Russellville for this presentation?
Please contact Rabbi Block, bblock@bnai-israel.us.*



ARKANSAS
TECH
UNIVERSITY

*On behalf of artist Gay Block, you are invited
to attend the exhibition opening for*

“Rescuers: Portraits of Moral Courage in the Holocaust”

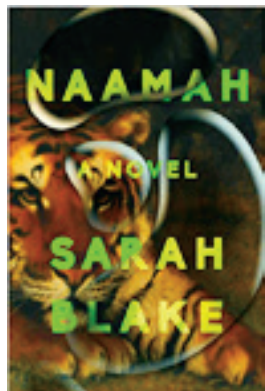
Sunday, March 29 at 2 p.m.

Reception to follow

Arkansas Tech University Techionery

1502 N. El Paso Ave.

Russellville, Arkansas



Al Barron Book Club

Sunday, March 15, 2020

3:00 pm -Temple Library

“Naamah”

by Sarah Blake

**THANK YOU TO OUR
OFFICE VOLUNTEERS:**

*Jan Alman
Aniko Diamant
Esther Gordon*

President's Message

Is it really March already? Soon everything will be blooming and the temperatures will be rising!

As always, there has been a lot of activity at Congregation B'nai Israel. The New Member Shabbat was wonderful! There were close to 100 attendees, including lots of adorable children. The dinner after the Shabbat service was delicious and a grand time was had by all. Seeing the kids running around and having fun brought back a lot of fond memories.

We also had a fantastic book signing reception for Rabbi Block and his recently published book: "The Mussar Torah Commentary". Congratulations to Rabbi Block and to Justice Anabelle Tuck who is one of the book's contributing authors.

LaFTY and CBI hosted the winter Kallah (conclave) in February. Over 80 teenagers (including LaFTY) attended, and the entire weekend was a huge success! Thank you so much to all of you who baked, housed, carted and helped in any way. An extra special thank you to Jan Alman and Rita Fagan who prepared two of the delicious meals. The collaborative effort contributed greatly to an overall great event!

Finally, I want to remind you of the Purim Shpiel that has been written by Meg Marion and Directed by Rebekah Scallet with music led by Dr. David Bauman on March 10th at 6:00 PM. The title of this year's Shpiel is "Hangin' With the Kings of England.... Arkansas! A Hog Wild Purim Shpiel". I hope you are as intrigued as I am by this title and will plan to attend. It really is a lot of fun, and I know this year will be no different.

I'd love to hear from you! Please let me know if we can do anything or if there is anything on your mind!

Thank you,

Carol Pfeifer Parham
President

Upcoming Tours

Cabot United Methodist Church - 3/6
Park Hill Presbyterian - 3/20

New Member

Cheryl Streiff • Cheryl.lynn.streiff@gmail.com

Adult Learning at Congregation B'nai Israel presents the conclusion of a series based on:

The Sacred Exchange: Creating a Jewish Money Ethic

Edited by Rabbi Mary L. Zamore
With an Essay by
Rabbi Barry H. Block



Sunday, March 1, 9:30-11 am
Temple Library

Our Final Session will address, "Jewish Institutions and Money."

Congregation B'nai Israel and Jewish Federation of Arkansas Invite You:

Coffee, Cake and Conversation

Tuesday, March 10, 2020 at 11:30 am
Congregation B'nai Israel Library

Ruth Weinstein will be speaking about her memoir,
"Back to the Land: Alliance Colony to the Ozarks
in Four Generations"

Contact Jewish Federation of Arkansas social worker Kelsey Dugger at
kelsey@jewisharkansas.org or call the Federation office at
501-663-3571, if you would like a ride to the event.

Coffee Cake, and Conversation is sponsored
by Congregation B'nai Israel and Jewish Federation of Arkansas.
All are welcome.

You bring lunch; we provide dessert and coffee.



From the Administrator

Eileen Hamilton

The website is and has been outdated for a long time. We get calls all the time to let us know the information is wrong. We still get calls that Chaverweb is not working well – and that is because we do NOT use Chaverware any longer and have not for some time. We use a system called Rakefet.

The calendar is kept up to date, but due to new technology and changing programs, we needed to update in a very bad way. It has taken years for this to happen. Years.

Thanks to Richard Estelita, the website will be launched very soon – new and improved, colorful, and user friendly. You will be able to see our activities with great clarity and even have access to what is happening week to week on a scrolling home page. While the great historical character is the same, the photos are new and reflect the dynamic programs B'nai Israel offers all the time.

And in time, hopefully another short wait, you will be able to view your statement, donations, yahzeits, and more on your account. With your private access, you can handle your giving and support of the Temple from your computer through our website.

Like with any new system, website included, there will be challenges and glitches. Please be patient, they all can be tweaked.

Another new system you may have noticed already is RMS. Basically, if you received a birthday or anniversary greeting from Rabbi Block, this is the RMS system. This has allowed Rabbi to be in touch with you on the exact date of your *simchah*/occasion, and it has allowed the Temple a reduction in mailing and postage. The best of both worlds.

I hope you are enjoying and will soon enjoy some new innovations from the Temple. Let us know your feedback.

HANGIN' WITH THE KINGS OF ENGLAND...ARKANSAS!

A Hog Wild Purim Shpiel!

Featuring the music of:

The Beatles, The Rolling Stones, The Monkees, David Bowie, The Animals, Billy Joel, and Neil Diamond!! Back by popular demand, hosts faux Bob Newhart and Mel Brooks with cameos by faux big stars, faux sure!

Vittles: Chef Rita Fagan's locally sourced delicacies

Drinks: Merrick's Custom Arkansauced Cocktail and other libations

Written by Meg Goldenberg Marion

Directed by Rebekah Scallet

Dr. David Bauman, Music Director

Tuesday, March 10th: Temple Social Hall

6:00 pm: Cocktails

6:30 pm: Dinner

7:30 pm: Hangin' with the Kings of England...Arkansas

Full evening of Cocktails, Dinner and Shpiel: \$24.00

Dessert and Shpiel only: \$5.00

Whatcha gonna wear: Arkansas Casual i.e. U of A, UALR, ASU, UCA, FBI, CIA or whatever

Come ready to gently swing your grogger and Bless Haman's Heart — we are in the South, after all!

Please RSVP no later than Friday, March 6th to Keila, by phone at 501-225-9700 or email at TempleSecretary@bnai-israel.us



Mazel tov to our Newest Jews-by-Choice

Mazel tov and welcome to the newest members to enter the covenant of Abraham and Sarah at Congregation B'nai Israel! On Sunday, February 16, Bari Himelfarb and Cheryl Streiff formally completed their conversion to Judaism. After years of study and active participation in the life of our congregation, Bari and Cheryl were enthusiastically accepted by the *Beit Din* (Jewish court) consisting of Rabbi Block, Eileen Hamilton, and Ellyn Polsky. Bari took the Hebrew name *Eliana* (God will answer); and Cheryl selected the Hebrew name *Shir-El* (God's song).

Bari and Cheryl have worshiped, studied, volunteered, and even taught at Temple so often, over a period of several years, that many members doubtless assumed they were already Jewish. Now they are!



March 2020

Adar 5780/Nisan 5780

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Adar 5 Continuing Hebrew: 8:30 am - 9:30 am Religious School: 9:00 am - 12:00 pm "The Sacred Exchange" Adult Learning 6" Jewish Institutions and Money" 9:30 am - 11:00 am Purim Shpiel Rehearsal 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	2 Adar 6 Adult B'nai Mitzvah Class 6:30 pm - 7:45 pm	3 Adar 7 Presidential Primary Election Voting	4 Adar 8	5 Adar 9	6 Adar 10 Oneg Shabbat 5:45 pm - 6:15 pm UPB-Sinai Edition Shabbat Service 6:15 pm	7 Adar 11 Torah Study 9:30 am - 10:45 pm Shabbat Morning Services 11:00 am Beginning Hebrew 12:30 pm - 1:45 pm
8 Adar 12 Continuing Hebrew: 8:30 am - 9:30 am Religious School: 9:00 am - 12:00 pm Purim Shpiel Rehearsal 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	9 Adar 13 Adult B'nai Mitzvah Class 6:30 pm - 7:45 pm	10 Adar 14 Coffee, Cake and Conversation 11:30 am Purim Shpiel 6:00 pm	11 Adar 15 Confirmation Class 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm	12 Adar 16 Torah Lunch and Learn 11:30 am - 12:45 pm Executive Committee Meeting 5:30 pm Judaism 101 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm	13 Adar 17 CHRONICLE DEADLINE NFTY 678 Retreat at Jacobs Camp Oneg Shabbat 5:45 pm - 6:15 pm Mishkan T'filah Shabbat Service 6:15 pm	14 Adar 18 NFTY 678 Retreat at Jacobs Camp Torah Study 9:30 am - 10:45 pm Shabbat Morning Services: 11:00 am Beginning Hebrew: 12:30 pm - 1:45 pm Schmoozenama: 6:00 pm
15 Adar 19 NFTY 678 Retreat at Jacobs Camp Continuing Hebrew: 8:30 am - 9:30 am Religious School: 9:00 am - 12:00 pm Fun Purim Games for Students: 11:00 am Megillah Reading: 11:30 am PJ Library and LaFTY Presents Kugels and Klezmer Purim Celebration!: 12:00 pm Al Barron Book Club "Naamah," by Sarah Blake: 3:00 pm	16 Adar 20 Adult B'nai Mitzvah Class 6:30 pm - 7:45 pm	17 Adar 21 Temple Board Meeting 7:00 pm	18 Adar 22 Confirmation Class 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm	19 Adar 23 Torah Lunch and Learn 11:30 am - 12:45 pm	20 Adar 24 Oneg Shabbat 5:45 pm - 6:15 pm Mishkan T'filah Shabbat Service 6:15 pm	21 Adar 25 Torah Study 9:30 am - 10:45 pm Shabbat Morning Services 11:00 am Beginning Hebrew 12:30 pm - 1:45 pm
22 Adar 26	23 Adar 27 Adult B'nai Mitzvah Class 6:30 pm - 7:45 pm	24 Adar 28	25 Adar 29	26 Nisan 1	27 Nisan 2 Oneg Shabbat 5:45 pm - 6:15 pm Mishkan T'filah Shabbat Service 6:15 pm	28 Nisan 3 Torah Study 9:30 am - 10:45 pm Shabbat Morning Services 11:00 am Beginning Hebrew 12:30 pm - 1:45 pm
29 Nisan 4	30 Nisan 5 Adult B'nai Mitzvah Class 6:30 pm - 7:45 pm	31 Nisan 6	CHRONICLE DEADLINE MARCH 13 FOR APRIL ISSUE			

BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARY CALENDAR

APRIL

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 Richard Bronfman	2	3 Karla Back Glenn Block Anna Moses	4 Susan Lesser Joy Williams	5
6	7	8 Paul Spitzberg	9 Kathy Bauman Sandi Uretsky Serene Stevens	10 Ron Bara A'11 Gary Ticker	11	12 Jay Lazerowitz
13 Wm. Siegel A'86	14 Mike Ronnel A'02 Robert Vogel Judith Zinser Spencer Nodelman Alaia Smouni	15 Bettye Korenblat	16 Brock Jacobs Larry Jacobs	17 Barbara Spitzberg Hallie McGarry	18	19 Laura Bushman Susan Strauss
20 Leon Marks Seth Stevens	21 Darcy Krupitsky	22 Bill Eiseman	23 Perry Young A'05	24 Charles Friedman Len Johnson	25 Michael Gastman A'98 Korenblat/Kramer A'98	26 Gene Weinstein A'67 Jamie McGarry Hollis Pruitt Marilyn Robison Phyllis Storthz
27 Dale Cohen Ann Storthz	28	29 Josiah Wheeler	30 Dorian Stuber			

If you would like to sponsor the flowers and/or oneg shabbat, or security for an upcoming Shabbat, please call the Temple office.

YAHREZITS: MARCH 2020

MARCH 6

William Back, Sr.
Ann W. Carb
Geraldine DeFrance
Norm Dollinger
Lilian Kay Eisman
Sidney Jacob Fields
Sarah Hannah Friedman
Felix Gans
Edward Leonard Gealt
Steven Gofforth
Irene Goldman
Sara Kempner Goodman
Agnes Golden Hunter
Jesse Kaiser
Elijah Ezekiel Palnick
James J. Pfeifer
Lendor Remy
Abe S. Rosen
Arthur O. Sanders
Jacob Slutsky
Gertrude Paul Solomon
Samuel J. Spitzberg
Nathan Ehrlich Steppach, Sr.
Barbara S. Stern
Lewis Alexander Storthz
Eleanor Pfeifer Strauss
Louis Wolsey
Esther Zeno

MARCH 13

Nathan Borrok
Frances Frank
Sylvia R. Friedman
Arnold S. Goodman
Al J. Goodman, Jr.
Norman Graber
Sarah Ackerman Greenberg
Virginia Harris
Dorothy Krain
Carolyn W. Kramer
Dan Levin
Elizabeth Levinson Levin
Abraham J. Louchhein
Olivia Lyons
Ruby Siesel Pfeifer
A. Dan Phillips
Barbara Laner Phillips
Peter Phillips
Jack Phillips
Ruth Rodell
Arthur D. Rosenthal
Edith Ottenrider Sachs
Charlotte Storthz
Tracye Altschul Strauss
August Simon Vogel
Etta Louchheim Wolf
Mathilde Zwirn

MARCH 20

Shara Adams
Hortense Rudolph Back
Rose Balkin
Shirley Weinstein Cohen
Rosa Cohn
Otis Dante
Herman Ehrenberg
Nathan H. Ehrlich
David G. Falk
Alfred Fendler
Joseph Earl Flowers
Joseph Geller
Rose Besser Gould
Miriam Graber
Nell Gray Greenbaum
Edna Kahn Kempner
Sophie Kempner
Harry Lasker, Sr.
Helen Maisel Lewis
Morris Marks
Gus Ottenheimer
Edna L. Roberts
Marsha Frances Rosen
Israel Louis Safferstone
Eduard L. Scharff, Sr.
Bernice Weisman Sherman
Maurice Herbert Soltz
Pete Yoder

MARCH 27

Samuel Abowitz
Lena Koff Bresler
Sophie Cohn
Theodore R. Fox
Maurice J. Friedman
Dave Grundfest, Sr.
Jennie Hartman
Max Jacob Hasson
Daniel B. Kohn
Roland Joseph Lanoue
Rosa H. Lasker
Mervin L. Leibs
Aida R. Levi
Fay Marcus Lewis
Albert Hughes McCann
Leon Pinkus
S. Clifford Scholem
Alma Jacobs Scott
Lilyan Stern
Fanny Thalheimer

Temple Funds

YAHREZIT FUND

IN MEMORY OF:

Joyce Arick

Dr. Carmen Arick
and Emily Adams

Alan Harris Arsht

Eileen and Larry Hamilton

Joan Bresnik

Her family

Albert R. Fox

Sandy and Fred Levin

Louis Goldman and Irene Goldman

Stephen Goldman

Ellen Rae Kaufman

Melissa Rae Kaufman

Fannie Klein

Susan Rosenthal Kantrow
and Byron Kantrow

Edna Frances Parker Lanoue

Her son and daughter

Samuel H. Levin

Sandy and Fred Levin

Barbara Phillips

Leslie Singer

Peter Phillips

Leslie Singer

Laura Reifer

Judy and Ken Reifer

Jeanette Rubin

The Polsky Family

Eleanor Levy Samuels

Barbara Samuels

Leah Isolene Levy Shindler

Lesley Shindler Hughes and
Stephen Charles Hughes

Moses O. Stern

Bobbye and Rabbi Gene Levy

Bessie Weller

Carol Silverstrom

THE RABBI'S
DISCRETIONARY FUND

IN HONOR OF:

Rabbi Block

Anonymous

IN APPRECIATION OF:

Rabbi Block

Van Gates

BAUMAN MUSIC FUND

IN MEMORY OF:

Freda Granoff Thomas

Marilyn Robison and
Bliss Thomas

GENERAL FUND

IN HONOR OF:

the birthday of Aniko Diamant

Van Gates

ONEG FUND

IN APPRECIATION OF:

Bernie Bevil

Van Gates

THE ENDOWMENT FUND

IN HONOR OF:

the 90th birthday of

Aniko Diamant

Judy Lansky and Ken Gould

VOGEL CARING AND
SHARING FUND

IN MEMORY OF:

Dan Schwartz

Vogel Family

IN HONOR OF:

the 90th birthday of

Aniko Diamant

lynn and Bruce Greenberg



Join Temple B'nai Israel for a Congregation and Community Passover Seder

Monday, April 13 - 6:00 pm

Adult Member - \$36

Non-Member - \$45

Children ages 6-12 - \$12

Please RSVP by April 7, 2020 by contacting the
Temple Office at
templesecretary@bnai-israel.us or call 225-9700

We have reserved seating to ensure families are not separated.
Tables seat 8. Vegetarian meals are available upon request.

If the cost would prevent you from attending, please contact
Rabbi Block at bblock@bnai-israel.us or 225-9700

Confirmation Class Lobbying Yields Results

The Confirmation Class of 5780/2020 traveled to Washington, D.C. in January to participate in the *L'taken* Social Justice Seminar of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism. At the culmination of their time in D.C., the Confirmation students presented talks to Sen. John Boozman, Rep. Bruce Westerman, and representatives of Sen. Tom Cotton and Rep. French Hill. In pairs, the students lobbied on issues that they had chosen, based on their own passions: Climate Change, Disability Rights, and Reproductive Freedom. Our representatives and their aides listened attentively to each presentation, pointing out areas of agreement as well as frankly—but in all except one case, politely---sharing how their views differ from those of our students.

A few weeks after the visit, Rabbi Block received notice from the Religious Action Center of Jewish Disability Rights Advocacy Day. Sen. Boozman and Lesley Hill in Rep. Hill's office had given the indication that they might support the Disability Rights bill about which our students had advocated. The bill--H. 1814 in the House and S. 651 in the Senate—would, at long last, fully fund the ABLE Act, enacted decades ago, requiring that students with disabilities be offered equal public education in the least restrictive and most mainstreamed environment possible. Rabbi Block followed up with Sen. Boozman and with Rep. Hill and his aide, Lesley Hill (no relation to the congressman). A week or so later, both wrote back to let Rabbi Block know that Sen. Boozman had signed on as a cosponsor of S. 651, and Rep. Hill had lent his name as a cosponsor of H. 1814. These moves are most significant, since both Sen. Boozman and Rep. Hill are Republicans, now cosponsoring a bill that previously had almost exclusively Democratic support.

Kol HaKavod (all honor) is due to our persuasive, passionate Confirmation students, and many thanks are due to Sen. Boozman, Rep. Hill, and Lesley Hill.

The Isabelle Peregrin Odyssey Professorship presents:

The Soviet Jewish Bookshelf: How Reading Shaped Soviet Jewish Identity and Culture

A Talk by Dr. Marat Grinberg (Reed College)



Wednesday, March 11, 2020

4:15 P.M. > Murphy Seminar Room


Open to the public; refreshments provided.



1600 Washington Avenue > Conway, Arkansas 72032

For more information, contact
Dorian Stuber (stuber@hendrix.edu).


Please support our generous sponsors

 **Voted
Best Restaurant
Best Desserts
Best Caterer**
221-3330

 **Italian
Restaurant**
CATERING AVAILABLE
Lunch Mon-Fri 11am - 2pm
Dinner Thurs-Sat 5:30pm - 9pm
405 W. 7th St.
Little Rock, AR 72201
501-372-0238

SPACE AVAILABLE
Call Rita Fagan
501-590-1406

iK Electric
power+communications
from the ground up
(501) 376-2081

 **42**
bar and table
Lunch, Dinner, and
now introducing...
Sunday Brunch!
Menus and reservations at
42barandtable.org

Congregation B'nai Israel Legacy Society

The Legacy Society honors those who remember the Temple in their estate plans. The following members of blessed memory bequeathed legacy gifts which have been realized. Despite a careful search of the records, some early legacy gifts may have been omitted.

Joan S. Abrams	Mark M. Cohn	Ellen Rae Kaufman	Robert Sakon
Blanche Alman	Lasker Ehrman, Jr.	Myron Lasker Jr.	Aline and Louis Salinger
Brunette Billstein	Rose and Jack Fine	Lena Latkin	Roz Snyderman
Helene Eisenkramer Block	Joe Goetz	Manford H. Levy	Eleanor Strauss
Raymond Emeil Block, Jr.	Adolph and Vera Goldberg	Janet and Arnold Mayersohn	Sam Vogel, Sr.
Raymond Emeil Block, Sr.	Dr. Hyman and Leah Harberg	Hallie Cohen Miller	Virginia Vollmer
Velma Taliafierro Block	Rosa Pfeifer Isaacson	Dora and Lena Pasink	

The following individuals have made legacy commitments which will benefit the congregation's future. Thirteen donors have chosen to remain anonymous.

Charles Alman	Amanda & Martin Ferguson	Janet & Scott Korenblat	Dr. Jerome Sherman
Jan & Larry Alman	Joy G. Figarsky	Ellen Korenblat & Luke Kramer	Marilyn Sorrells
Carmen Arick & Emily Adams	June & Edmond Freeman	Eugene & Darcy Krupitsky	Steven Strauss
Philip Axelroth	Loris M. Fullerton	Bobbie & Rabbi Eugene H. Levy	Susan Strauss
Shelly Baron	Laura & Allan Gold	Emily & Richard Lewis	Judy Kohn Tenenbaum
W. Christopher Barrier	Kennon Goldsholl	Maxwell (Mac) Lyons II.	Marianne Tettlebaum
Jill & Steve Bauman	Scot Goldsholl	Sallye Rosen Phillips Mann	Alan R. Thalheimer
Kathy & David Bauman	Esther Gordon	Meg Goldenberg Marion	Annabelle Imber Tuck
Glenn Block	Sylvia Ehrman Green	Anne & Dr. Laurence Miller	Regina & Perry Young
Rabbi Barry Block	Trudy & Jerry Jacobson	Herbert & Patricia Monoson	
Aniko Diamant	Ruthe & Phil Kaplan	Dale & Lee Ronnel	
Richard Estelita	Tim Kessler	Rebekah Scallet & Joseph Stafford	
Rita C. Fagan	Dr. Howie Knoff	Nan Selz	



Congregation B'nai Israel Purim Celebration Sunday, March 15, 2020

Please join us for a community celebration...

11:00 am ~ Fun Purim games for students
11:30 am ~ Megillah reading in the sanctuary
12:00 pm ~ Let the Purim Party begin!

Lunch with kugels and more... music, food, dancing and a Klezmer Band!
Family fun. Meet your kids at noon at the Temple to celebrate the joyous and freylech* holiday of Purim. *happy/merry

The PJ Library Bubbes
& Congregation B'nai Israel
invite the entire Jewish Community to
A PURIM PARTY: KLEZMER AND KUGELS
A Fraylecha Celebration!
Music! Food! Dancing! Fun!
Enjoy PJ Bubbes' Kosher Kugels!
(FBI and Mac n'Cheese for the kids)

Not Quite Kosher Klezmer Band
featuring
Perry Young, Charlie Friedman, James Moses
Jim Harper, Casey Huie & Roland Gladden
Sunday, March 15, 2020
12:00 pm
Congregation B'nai Israel
Please RSVP: ellyn.polsky@gmail.com

We'll send
The Kugel Valley Klezmer Band
by Joan Betty Struchiner
and Richard Row

PJ Library PJ

**TBI Sisterhood Judaica Shop
50% - 75% off**

Sunday, March 15th
10:00-2:00

From the Educator

Eileen Hamilton

Mezuzot cases are pieces of art. At religious school we usually teach about the mezuzah as a special symbol on the homes of Jewish families for protection. We teach that words of the Shema and V'ahavta on the handwritten parchment are tucked inside the case. We see them a collectable Judaica and they beautifully adorn many Jewish front, back and interior doors. As you may have noticed many times, the mezuzah is affixed on a slant. Do you know why?

In the 11th century, Rashi, a French rabbi and commentator said to hang the mezuzah vertically, while his grandson, wrote that the mezuzah should be affixed horizontally, just like the Ten Commandments and Torah scrolls were kept in the Temple. Hillel and Shammai were two schools of Jewish scholars in the first century CE, who had hearty debates on ritual practice and ethics. They had a very similar debate: Hillel believed that mezuzah should be hung upright reflecting the truth that a person should always stand before God. The scholars of Shammai believed the mezuzah should be affixed horizontally to represent we should always be prone and humble before God. Today the Ashkenazic population of Jews hang the mezuzah on a slant, while the Sephardic still hang it vertically.

The reason the mezuzah is hung diagonally with the top tilting toward the inside of the home is that it was a compromise. Instead of debating the 'correct' way to hang the mezuzah, both schools of thought compromised on the decision.

It's an important lesson for us all – to compromise – on our way, at school, at work, at home, and with others. We know and have learned that when we are unbending and only see black or white and no gray in between, we are rigid. Unbending people tend to cause conflict. Looking at the matter from different perspectives allows us to keep an open mind and avoid destruction, pain, and despair.

The mezuzah is a beautiful symbol of compromise and understanding. When we see the mezuzah hung, we can remember that all of us need to bend some and to keep an open mind, turning a matter over and over until we are satisfied with our decision.

Rabbi Ben Bag Bag said to 'turn it and turn it again...' when referring to the Torah. Now when we see the mezuzah, we can turn to compromise and understanding in our heads and remember that the world is a big place, one chock full of many opinions. Next time there is a big family decision to be made or a fork in the road in your home, meet at the front door and stand under the mezuzah and remember that all compromises make our people and families stronger, together.



**GET SOCIAL FOR A POT LUCK DINNER,
GREAT MOVIE, AND DISCUSSION.**

Saturday, March 14, 6:00 pm

"When Do We Eat?"

The story of the world's fastest Passover seder gone horribly awry. It's about an old school dad (Michael Lerner) who's as tough on his sons as his father (Jack Klugman) is on him. On this night, however, one of the boys (Ben Feldman) slips Dad a dose of special, hallucinogenic Ecstasy in order to give him a new perspective. Meanwhile, Mom (Lesley Ann Warren) brings a handsome stranger to dinner and the kids take sides. By the end of the night, however, Dad's visions turn him into a modern day Moses intent on leading this hungry group to the promised land of family forgiveness. Of course they're all so stubborn, it would be easier to part the Red Sea.

Bring a dish that serves 8. No RSVP is needed.
Facilitated by Tim Kessler and Meg Marion

Questions?

Contact Tim at 479-283-5923 or kesslertimothy@gmail.com
Contact Meg at 501-951-3345 or meg.marion@icloud.com

LaFTY News

February was a very amazing, fun, successful, perfect, and spectacular month for LaFTY, because we finally got to host NFTY SO Winter Kallah!!!! The theme was 'Olympics in the Rock', and we had so much fun all weekend long thanks to the amazing parents, Bubbes, Zaydes, and other extremely supportive Temple members who volunteered to help us behind the scenes as host families, chefs, interior designers, carpenters, and so many other jobs!

A special thanks is in order for three people at Temple B'nai Israel: Alana Schipper, Joy Figarsky, and Eileen Hamilton. These three people were there every single step of the way during preparation for Kallah. They were constantly encouraging program writers to meet deadlines, inspiring LaFTY with creative ideas, and pulling us to the finish line through blood, sweat, and tears. Without these three as our advisors, much of Kallah never would have left the ground, and LaFTY is so grateful for them.

Not only was the event smooth and well managed because of our adult volunteers, but also because of our amazing LaFTYites! All of our LaFTYites were more than willing to take leadership roles and step outside of their comfort zones, so that the event could run without a hitch! These LaFTYites thought up, wrote, and led original programs and services that were not only fun, but also thought provoking. Two programs in particular were the Opening Ceremonies written and led by Sydney Shemper and Tillie Reagler, and the Inclusivity Program written and led by Lilah Goldman and Louis Reagler. The Opening Ceremonies were a great way for people to meet people and form new relationships; and the Inclusivity Program was a meaningful and interesting activity that explored how young Reform Jews can be more inclusive in all areas of our lives.

I am personally so proud of LaFTY, and cannot wait to take this momentum and finish the year strong.

- Daniel Block,
LaFTY President 5779-5780

NFTY Southern Winter Kallah Thank You's!

It takes a village and we could not have done it without you all!

To those who housed teens for the weekend:

Barry Block, Jana and Perry Cohen, Donna and Barry Goldman, Kennon and Scot Goldsholl, Kathy and Jack Grundfest, Ellen Korenblat and Luke Kramer, Marina and Mikhail Ivanovsky, Krysten and Mark Levin, Chris Hackler, Melanie and Jeff Nodelman, Jennifer and Steven Ronnel, Madelon Scallet, Lori and Josh Shemper.

For food preparation and sponsorship:

Jan Alman, Jennifer Ronnel, Melanie Nodelman, Cori McGrath, Lori Shemper, Dina Ifrah, Rita Fagan, Barry Goldman, Ellen Korenblat, Janet Korenblat, Debbie Brady, Trudy Jacobson.

Other donations and gifts of time and support:

Cheryl Streiff, Meg Marion, Eoin Dockter, Emily Lewis, Carol Parham, Richard Estelita, Janet Korenblat.

Home baked desserts from grandparents:

Carol and Gary Weisbly, Judy Tenenbaum, Joyce Franklin, Dale and Lee Ronnel.

Religious School & Confirmation Class:

March 1:	Religious School
March 8:	Religious School
March 11:	Confirmation Class
March 15:	Religious School
March 18:	Confirmation Class

- No religious school on 3/22 or 3/29

*Purim Celebration is changed to March 15.
See ad for details.

Please support our generous sponsors



Chenal Country Club
is the perfect place to
host your next event
Call us at 821-752
for more information

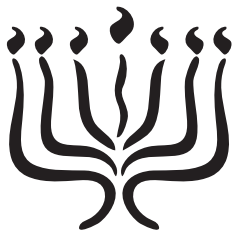


FIBER-SEAL®
FABRIC CARE SYSTEM
www.FiberSeal.com

Protecting and Caring for
Fine Interior Fabrics, Carpeting, and Rugs.
Len Johnson & Sarah Mendel Johnson
501-664-3343 • AR@FiberSeal.com



227-5000 • FAX 223-3166
email: info@rcpiOnline.com
website: www.rcpiOnline.com



Congregation B'nai Israel

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Little Rock, AR
Permit No. 1306

3700 N. Rodney Parham • Little Rock, AR 72212-2437
(501) 225-9700

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

THE TEMPLE CHRONICLE

BARRY BLOCK, Rabbi

CAROL PARHAM, President

AMANDA FERGUSON, Executive V.P.

RICHARD ESTELITA, Admin. V.P.

JANET KORENBLAT, Treasurer

JAN ALMAN, Secretary

CARMEN ARICK, Immediate Past President

EILEEN HAMILTON, Director of Administration, Education, and Youth Engagement

ELLYN J. POLSKY, Director of Lifelong Learning, Emerita

FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE IN MAKING DONATIONS

ENCLOSED IS MY GIFT OF \$ _____ DONATED:

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> In honor of | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ Anniversary | <input type="checkbox"/> Speedy Recovery |
| <input type="checkbox"/> In loving memory of | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ Birthday | <input type="checkbox"/> Confirmation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wedding | <input type="checkbox"/> Bar/Bat Mitzvah | |

FOR: _____

PLEASE SEND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO: _____

FROM: _____

PLEASE APPLY THE DONATION TO: _____

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Endowment Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Storthz Religious School Fund |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arnold & Janet Mayersohn Leadership Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Cemetery Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Memorial Fund for Education & Youth |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grundfest Israel Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Bauman Music Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Pfeifer Community Outreach Fund |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vogel Caring & Sharing | <input type="checkbox"/> Rabbi's Discretionary Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Memorial Fund for Prayerbooks |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Children's Library Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Salinger Landscape Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Rabbi Eugene & Bobbye Levy Fund for
Camp Scholarship & Youth |
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Lois G. Stern Library Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Meir Chayim Temple Camp Scholarship Fund |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pfeifer-Isacson Youth Scholarship Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Harvey Lubet Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Mulkey Sacred Music Fund |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hallie Cohen Miller Archive Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Ola & Mervin Leibs Memorial
Religious School Scholarship Fund | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Wilma Diner Memorial Fund
for Jewish Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Kimbrelly Carol Jordan Memorial Fund | |

ADDED INSTRUCTIONS: _____



CONGREGATION B'NAI ISRAEL

3700 Rodney Parham Road
Little Rock, AR 72212-2498

"Thou art the living God, Thy words bring life
and light to the soul."