

Temple Funds

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In honor of Rabbi Block
Anonymous

In appreciation of Rabbi Block, for his kindness during the loss of my father
Anne and Larry Miller

In memory of Peter Phillips
Bev Wittenberg, Josh Phillips
& Lauren Blair

Bauman Music Fund

In memory of Joseph Arnold Miller
Richard Estelita

Endowment Fund

In memory of Joseph Arnold Miller
Jill and Steve Bauman
Audrey and Don Evans
In honor of Leonard Hasson's birthday
Suzi Davis

Eugene M. Pfeifer, Jr. and Fay S. Pfeifer Community Outreach Fund

In honor of Jill Bauman & Janet Korenblat
for their work at Our House
Linda and Gene Pfeifer

Sustaining Fund

In memory of Joseph Arnold Miller
Van Gates

Cemetery Fund

In memory of Joseph Miller
Carole and Gary Weisbly
In memory of Audrey Miller Poritzky
Carole and Gary Weisbly

Yahrzeit Fund

In memory of David Axler

Lynn and Bruce Greenberg

In memory of Tillie Greenberg

Lynn and Bruce Greenberg

In memory of Ola and Mervin Leibs

Jackie and Jerry Bendorf

In memory of Elizabeth Levinson Levin

Sandy and Fred Levin

In memory of Gertrude Mossovitz Levin

Sandy and Fred Levin

In memory of Betty Levy

Rabbi Gene and Bobbye Levy

In memory of Edith Pfeifer Loeb and Milton Loeb

Jane and Scott Levine & Family

In memory of Samuel Lyons Sr.

Mac Lyons

In memory of Audrey Miller Poritzky

Anne and Larry Miller

In memory of Jane Roark

Mac Lyons

In memory of Florence E. Rubenstein

The Rubenstein Family

In memory of Joe Selz

Nan Selz

In memory of Abraham Alan Shindler

Lesley Shindler Hughes, Stephen C. Hughes & Family

In memory of Ruby Thalheimer Smith

Bruce and Barbara Thalheimer

In memory of Gertrude Solomon

Patty and Barry Solomon

The purpose of the **Congregation B'nai Israel Legacy Society** is to secure the future of our Reform Jewish congregation. Legacy gifts are deferred gifts that will benefit Temple B'nai Israel by sustaining our congregation for future generations. No gift is too small and every gift is a testament to your Jewish heritage.

Legacy gifts might include:

- A bequest in your will
- A portion or all of an existing life insurance policy
- A portion or all of an IRA or 401k
- A portion or all of an annuity
- A portion or all of a charitable trust
- Or some other deferred commitment

Legacy donors become members of the **Congregation B'nai Israel Legacy Society**. If you would like more information on making a legacy gift, please leave your name with the Temple office (225-9700) and a volunteer will contact you.



LEAVE A LEGACY
CONGREGATION B'NAI ISRAEL

This month's mini-Chronicle was prepared in the Temple office, not by River City Print and Imaging, because the COVID-19 pandemic required us to make changes right up to the date of printing.



The Rabbi Speaks

Dear Friends:

In March, my teacher, Rabbi Pamela Wax, and I were to present a workshop about *The Mussar Torah Commentary* at the Central Conference of American Rabbis Convention in Baltimore. That convention, including our workshop, ended up taking place online. Rabbi Wax and I redesigned our workshop. Instead of focusing on that week's portion, or on the book generally, we concentrated our teaching on traits of equanimity and trust that can help us through the current crisis. The discussion was robust and deeply meaningful.

Right now, our entire lives seem to be about the pandemic. We interact with each other, even our immediate relatives, and certainly as a congregation, in ways intended to mitigate spread of Coronavirus. Among those of us who are working, most of us are doing so in ways that are new to us and which require considerable flexibility and experimentation. We are traveling less, if at all, even within Central Arkansas. Long-planned events, including those that we had greatly anticipated, have been postponed and/or drastically altered. Some are facing harsh new financial realities—figuring out how to pay the rent or mortgage, keep the lights on, and keep groceries on the table—but all of us are concerned about the economy, our own and our nation's.

Thankfully, as Rabbi Wax and I learned, everything is in Torah. Our Jewish tradition offers us every resource we may need to endure this terribly difficult time in the life of our nation and the world.

Yes, Torah teaches us about equanimity and trust. It also teaches us about zeal—and yes, we need to be zealous right now, even if our passion must be directed toward staying within the four walls of our homes. Torah teaches about order, and we are learning about how maintaining some order to our lives can bolster our mental wellness at a time of unprecedented dislocation: We will do better if we wake up at a certain time in the morning and go to sleep at more or less the same time every night; if we eat regular meals; if we get dressed, even with nowhere to go; if we schedule times to talk with family, and do all the various things that we need to do.

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Worship at a Glance

Shabbat Services to be held via Zoom every Friday at 6:15pm, led by Rabbi Block and Temple musician, each from their own homes.

Torah Study will be led by Rabbi Block every Saturday, 9:30-10:45am, via Zoom.

We thank our Shabbat musicians, scheduled to lead us in prayer this month:

David Bauman (May 8 and 29), Jana Cohen (May 1), Richard Estelita (May 22), and Russ Parish (May 15)

Shavuot Yizkor

On Friday morning, May 29 at 11:00 am, Rabbi Block will conduct a Yizkor Memorial Ritual Holy Day Service for Shavuot and will read the names of all congregants and relatives of congregants who have died since last Shavuot.

A brief ritual will be sent out as a recording unless we are able to gather in person by that time.

TIKKUN LAYL SHAVUOT

Nighttime Study for the Eve of the Festival

Thursday, May 28, 8pm, via Zoom*

**Honoring Aging Parents
New Perspectives on the Fifth Commandment
in (and after) The Age of Coronavirus
with insights from**

*Inscribed: Encounters with the
Ten Commandments*

**Rabbi Oren J. Hayon, Editor
CCAR Press, 2020**

**Available now at ccarpress.org
and soon for Kindle on Amazon**

*Reading the essays on the Fifth Commandment
in Inscribed in advance of the session is
welcome but not expected.*

*If we are fortunate enough to be able to gather in person safely on May 28, we will do so in the Library with delectable dairy treats.

The Rabbi Speaks continued...

We learn in *Pirkei Avot*, Sayings of our Sages: “Ben Bag-Bag used to say of the Torah: Turn it and turn it again, for everything is in it” (*Pirkei Avot* 5.25). We may be grateful heirs of a tradition that could not have anticipated the specific predicament in which we find ourselves today, but that provides us with resources we need all the same.

Please join us for worship and study at this most difficult time—yes, via Zoom or YouTube, unfortunately not in the Temple—so that we may access Torah together and apply it to the challenges facing us today.

Faithfully,



Rabbi Barry H. Block

Mazel Tov to:

Anne and Larry Miller, whose granddaughter, Sophie Poritzky, has been elected President of the Student Government at Bronx High School of Science, with some 6,000 students. Sophie has also served as President of her BBYO Chapter in New York City.

...and

Becky Marks who received the Distinguished Service Award from the 20th Century Club at their annual Hope Ball.

...and

To Toos and Art Pfeifer, whose grandson Arthur Pfeifer is graduating from Catholic High School this month.

LaFTY Leaders Elected to NFTY-So Regional Board

Congratulations and Mazal Tov to LaFTYites Lilah Goldman, David Ronnel, and Tillie Reagler, who have been elected Vice-Presidents of NFTY’s Southern Region. The three LaFTY leaders comprise fully one-half of the Regional Board for 2020-21, 5780-81.

Lilah Goldman was elected Social Action Vice-President.

David Ronnel was elected Religious & Cultural Vice President.

Tillie Reagler was elected Communications Vice-President.

Our entire congregation and community may be proud of these youth leaders for this tremendous accomplishment, which is a sign of their deep commitment to Jewish life in the Deep South. Their dominance of the regional elections is also a testament to the fabulous youth program that is a great tradition of Congregation B’nai Israel, and the passionate pursuit of Eileen Hamilton, our Director of Administration, Education, and Youth Engagement; LaFTY advisor Alana Schipper, and volunteer LaFTY advisor Joy Figarsky.

President’s Message

Dear Friends,

You recently received your 2020-2021 Gift of the Heart pledge letter. It shows your pledge from last year and the calculation of our budget and endowment and how we arrive at the ‘cost per member’ rate if all families were to be assessed an equal amount for dues. These are strange and unusual times to say the least, but it is still very important for you to return your pledge letter by the due date so our budget committee can accurately and realistically prepare an operating budget. While times are tough right now and out of sorts, we are hopeful for a day when we congregate once again as a community in the walls of our Temple. At that time, we will all be glad we supported the Temple in our best ways possible to ensure its future.

How does our Gift of the Heart Pledge system work? This system of volunteer giving asks each congregant to examine his/her financial circumstances and conscience to pledge support to the Temple as able. The Temple leadership wants to convey gratitude for ALL gifts while encouraging a spirit of generosity and philanthropy.

Gift of the Heart is an annual pledge program. Because personal financial circumstances change, congregants have an opportunity to adjust their pledge from year to year. We hope this will avoid an accumulation of arrears from year to year. We calculate the “cost per member” rate so each congregant has a starting point of what it costs to operate the congregation.

If you choose not to return your form, you will be assessed the same rate as last year. Our new fiscal year begins on June 1, 2020.

On the back is the Gift of the Hand form for you to share your support in volunteering. There are many opportunities and we encourage you to give of your hand and time if you are able. We have had great success in the past with this system of pledging and support for the Temple. Our Congregation has been incredibly generous! We thank you for standing by Congregation B’nai Israel – always.

Shalom,
Carol Pfeifer Parham, President

Kindly remit all balances and payments for this fiscal year by May 26th. Our new fiscal year begins June 1, 2020.

June Birthdays & Anniversaries

1st	Charles Alman A’80	16th	Shelley Casciano Lewis Krain Lee Ronnel
2nd	Ed Back A’91 Paul Yoder A’85 Elizabeth Aronson Spencer Storthz	18th	Tom Sharp
3rd	Jim Pfeifer Mozell Zimmerman Josh Bernstein Emerson Reiss	19th	Mark Strauss A’93 Evelyn Harberg
4th	Tenenbaum/Tallon A’16 Amanda Ferguson	20th	Sadie Townley
6th	Art Pfeifer Raida Snyderman Grant Rosenthal	21st	Larry Hamilton
7th	Sarah Johnson Scott Jordan Rebecca Lackie	22nd	Don Evans A’67 David Bauman Denny Ticker
8th	Robert Vogel A’74 Jerry Gold	23rd	Sol Brotman Heather Gerson
9th	Wm Eiseman A’62 Arleen Marshall Michael Simon Chester Storthz	24th	Suzanne Klimberg
10th	Dave Grundfest, III A’90 Ed Back Matt Johnson	26th	Susan Axelroth
11th	Edmond Freeman A’50 Byron Kantrow Eugene Krupitsky	27th	Jay Fullerton A’92 Rabbi Barry Block Elaine Luber Marilyn Ronnel
12th	Circy Gastman Scott Korenblat	28th	Sol Brotman A’80 Larry Alman
13th	Evan Wilons Michael Schmitz Judy Tenenbaum Lilah Goldman	29th	J. Casciano A’02 Devon Webb
14th	Evalyn Berleant Susan Clark Jared Matson	30th	Mark Levin A’07 Jeffrey Lux A’06
15th	Eugene Levy A’69 Marc Williams A’96 Ron Bara Sallye Mann Tim Mcgrath		

Save the Date

The B’not Mitzvah
of
Madolyn and Sadie
Townley
originally scheduled for
May 8 - 9, 2020
has been rescheduled for
July 24 - 25, 2020

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