# CONGREGATION B'NAI ISRAEL

# THE CHRONICLE TEMPLE JANUARY 2025 VOLUME 25 - ISSUE 1

#### THE RABBI SPEAKS Rabbi Barry Block



Dear Friends,

This month, the United States will have a new president. Reactions to this moment are polarized. About half of our country is delighted, while the other half dreads the next four

years. That would be fine, except that my teacher, Dr. Micah Goodman, in his book, Catch -67, emphasizes: "A disagreement between people each of whom believes that the other is wrong...That's how a good political debate ought to work. But what if I think you are not only wrong but evil? Reasonable disagreement collapses."

How can we have civil conversation in this environment?

First, we must acknowledge that, when people fear that their basic rights—to healthcare and to marriage, for example—are threatened, civil conversation with those who oppose those rights may be neither possible nor desirable.

At the same time, each of us would benefit from understanding that people on both sides of the American political divide are frightened by the party they oppose. Arguing that other people's fears are unfounded will accomplish nothing. We will only move forward as a united nation and society if we will all try to understand fears that we do not share.

Some thoughts about how to engage in these conversations:

 $\cdot$  Approach the conversation with curiosity. Do not assume that the person who voted

### WORSHIP AT-A-GLANCE

FRIDAY NIGHT SERVICES IN JANUARY Oneg Shabbat at 5:45 pm Services at 6:15 pm

#### FRIDAY, JANUARY 3 SHABBAT SERVICE

Led by Rabbi Block Sermon: "Judah and Joseph: Healing a Family Together, an Original Midrash " Music: Jana Cohen, accompanied by Perry Young Oneg Shabbat host: Bonnie Nickol

#### FRIDAY, JANUARY 10 SHABBAT SERVICE

Led by Rabbi Block and E. Lee Ronnel Student Cantor Aleksandra Dubov Followed by congregational Shabbat dinner Sermon in Song: "The Legacy of Cantor Charles Davidson, z"l" Accompanist: Diana Brandon Oneg Shabbat host: Emily Adams and Carmen Arick

#### FRIDAY, JANUARY 17 SHABBAT SERVICE Led by Rabbi Block

Sermon: "Moses and Dr. King: Partnering with God" Music: Jana Cohen, Perry Young, and David Korenblat Oneg Shabbat host: The Krain family in honor of the birthdays of Doris and Mira Krain

#### FRIDAY, JANUARY 24 SHABBAT SERVICE

Led by Philip Levin, Rabbi Block, and E. Lee Ronnel Student Cantor Aleksandra Dubov Sermon: "Preventing Plagues" Accompanist: Kathy Cooper Oneg Shabbat host: Kirsta and Keith Nigro, in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Philip Levin Flowers: Krysten and Mark Levin, in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Philip Levin

#### FRIDAY, JANUARY 31 SHABBAT SERVICE Led by Rabbi Block

Sermon: "The Message of the Daffodils" Music: Richard Estelita, accompanied by Perry Young Oneg Shabbat host: Ruthe Kaplan, in honor of Julie Kaplan's birthday

Continues on next page

PAGE 2

#### (The Rabbi Speaks continued from front page)

differently from you does not share your values; they may instead have a different view about how to accomplish the same goals you cherish.

 $\cdot$  Criticize policies you find troubling, rather than the people who are making them.

 $\cdot$  Do not assume that everybody who voted for a certain candidate supports everything on the candidate's agenda, even less that they share the views of extremists who also supported that candidate.

• Know and articulate your limits: Nobody should pretend that a conversation about your right to be the person God created you to be, with all the rights that every American enjoys, is a civil dialogue. When that's not the case, though, try, and then try harder, not to be triggered by arguments you find distasteful.

Dr. Goodman reminds us that our rabbinic sages almost always favored Hillel in his disagreements with Shammai. Why? Shammai and his followers lived and worked in what we call an echo chamber. They "refused to hear or listen to the positions of ... Hillel. They would study and teach their own opinions exclusively." Hillel and his disciples, by contrast, would examine Shammai's teachings before making their own rulings. "In the end, God chose Hillel" because he and his followers "were eager to learn from others. Ultimately, religious law is determined...by the side that is willing to listen."

If we will listen to one another, America will be the winner.

Faithfully,

Jam 20, Block

#### SATURDAY MORNINGS IN JANUARY

Shabbat Morning Worship for the Bar Mitzvah of Philip Levin: January 25 at 10:30am.

Shabbat Torah Study at 9:30am, led by Rabbi Block on each Shabbat morning in January. Please note that Torah Study on January 25 will be abbreviated, ending at 10:15am.

Shabbat Morning Worship at 11am, led by Rabbi Block on January 4 and 18 and by Rabbi Block and Cantor Dubov on January 11.

#### Thank you!

Thank you to our

Oneg Shabbat hosts for December:

Regina & Perry Young, Janet & Scott Korenblat, Sheri & Micky Simon, and Liz Lucker & Mary Machen

Our Chanukah Party volunteers:

Rita Fagan, Janet Korenblat, Eugene Krupitsky, Annabelle Imber Tuck, Merrick Fagan, and David Goldsholl, and all of our amazing religious school staff

And our Security and Bimah Flowers sponsors for November 15:

Jan & Larry Alman, in honor of their 40th anniversary and their daughter Sydney's wedding and birthday JANUARY 2025 VOLUME 25 - ISSUE 1

# SHABBAT DINNER

# WITH CANTOR DUBOV January 10, following services

Hosted by the Board of Trustees

\$18\* per person with reservations by Wednesday, January 8. \$20 for reservations between January 9 and 12:00pm on January 10. \$25 at the door.

RSVP to Lane: LBoyd@bnai-israel.us or 501-225-9700



During Shabbat services on January 10, Cantor Dubov will present selections from her recent recital on the work of Cantor Charles Davidson, 1929-2023, who composed some three hundred liturgical pieces.

Aleksandra Dubov is a third-year cantorial student at the Debbie Friedman School of Sacred Music of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion and the E. Lee Ronnel Student Cantor of Congregation B'nai Israel.

\*If the cost of the dinner would get in the way of your attendance, please contact Rabbi Block, <u>bblock@bnai-israel.us</u>, to arrange a discounted price.



Jan and Larry Alman, on the marriage of their daughter, Sydney Alman, to Dr. Kian Parsa, on November 16 in New York City. Congratulations, too, to Sydney's grandparents, Sallye Mann and Nancy and Tad Phillips

Katherine Ehrenberg, who earned her master's degree in clinical psychology from Grand Canyon University. Congratulations also to her parents, Kathey Ehrenberg and Rivka and Harry Ehrenberg, Jr.

Bettina Brownstein, on the birth of her first grandchild, Alby Brownstein Chu, born to Toby Brownstein Chu of Birmingham, Alabama.

John Sokora, on the engagement of his daughter Rachel to Wesley Flaa.

#### The Temple Chronicle

#### PAGE 4



Please Join Philip Ethan Levin and his family as he becomes a Bar Mitzvah on January 25, 2025 at 10:30 am

#### PHILIP LEVIN'S BAR MITZVAH PROJECT

#### FILL THE SHELVES OF THE ACCESS EARLY CHILDHOOD LIBRARY



For his Bar Mitzvah project, Philip Levin is channeling his inner bookworm to help transform the newly-renovated library at the ACCESS Stella Boyle Smith Early Childhood campus into a magical space where young children with developmental delays can explore the wonderful world of books.

Philip's goal is to create a place where every child can discover the enchantment of reading. He's organizing the shelves and adding classic children's titles, along with fun, multi-sensory learning materials that'll make the experience even more magical--just like the way he fell in love with books when he attended ACCESS as a preschool boy needing help.

#### WANT TO HELP?

You can donate new or gently used, preschool-appropriate picture and board books to help Philip enhance the library. Simply drop your book donations in the bin located in the lobby of the Temple.

Or, if you don't have books to donate but still want to help, Philip has curated an Amazon wish list filled with age-appropriate books and items you can purchase for donation. Just scan the code to view the wish list!



#### WE RECORD WITH SORROW THE DEATH OF OUR MEMBER

Ann Simon Storthz

mother of Phyllis Storthz and Sam Storthz, III (and Suzanne Klimberg)

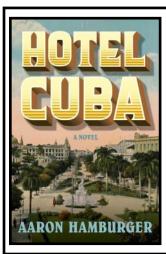
## From Lewis Krain, President

I'm writing this as 2024 wraps up and I wrap up the last of my Hanukkah presents. It's been a year of unexpected events for all of us, and most of us are ushering in 2025 with an agenda we wouldn't have anticipated last December. For me, the biggest thing on that agenda is the sudden arrival of my turn as President of Congregation B'nai Israel. I hadn't planned for this quite yet, and I don't think anyone is happy with the circumstances, but I feel up for the task and ready to embrace the challenge.

If you don't know me, I'm the son of New York Jews who moved here when I was three years old. I grew up in Little Rock and then went to college in Michigan, where there's an active on-campus Jewish culture. Thus my upbringing has been a mix of Jewish traditions from across the country. We attended the Synagogue growing up, but the Temple has always been a huge part of my life. I was in one of the first classes of Ati'Day Pre-School; one of my earliest memories is making clay menorahs in the glass-enclosed classrooms at the back of the Temple. As a teenager, when all my friends were working fast food jobs, I hurried to the Temple after school to be an assistant during the pick-up shift of Ati'Day daycare. On the weekends, I babysat for the Jewish kids I met there. When I returned to Little Rock after college my family had switched to the Temple and I went with them. Starting a family of my own, the Temple has been the anchor of my kids' Jewish experience; my children danced in the aisle at All-Music Shabbat and explored the nooks and corners of our expansive building (who are those chairs next to the sanctuary for, anyway?). I joined the Board to continue my parents' legacy of service to the Jewish community, and tried to build my reputation as a thoughtful listener who takes a measured approach to problem solving.

Now, in 2025, my goals as President are simple and concrete: keep the congregation moving forward, address gaps in staffing and policies, and most importantly, tend to the physical needs of our Temple. The building is 50 years old and is showing its age. We have a to-do list of HVAC, plumbing, structural repairs, roofing, and on and on. I'll bring as much attention as I can to these issues. Of course, we'll continue our Religious School for the kids, Adult Jewish Learning, and other programs as well.

If you'd like to learn more about me or the rest of the CBI leadership, the Board of Trustees will be hosting dinner for the congregation on January 10th. This is your chance to spend some time with the Board members, get to know us better, and tell us your thoughts and priorities on the direction of the Temple. I'd love to see you there, or on any Friday night, or any of the events coming up in the next year. Here's to a busy and productive 2025 and Congregation B'nai Israel.



AL BARRON BOOK CLUB — Sunday, January 19 at 3pm (Temple lobby)

# Hotel Cuba by Aaron Hamburger

Hotel Cuba follows Russian Jewish sisters Pearl and Frieda Kahn, who flee World War I and the Soviet Revolution for America but are turned away at Ellis Island due to discriminatory laws. They head to Havana, Cuba, where they face the vibrant but dangerous world of 1920s Prohibition-era life. As Frieda falls for the wrong man, Pearl finds unexpected freedom and romance, forcing her to confront her past and build a new future. The novel explores themes of displacement, courage, and reinvention.

#### The Temple Chronicle





#### Friday Evening: Musical Tribute Shabbat Service, followed by Shabbat Dinner Saturday Evening: Havdalah and Singalong at the Home of Jill and Steve Bauman

David Bauman, of blessed memory, followed his brother Steve into leading Temple worship music with guitar from time to time, then quickly grew that into weekly musical leadership by Temple volunteers on Friday nights as well as ever-growing involvement of volunteers on the High Holy Days and on other special occasions.

Rick Recht is one of the most influential and celebrated Jewish artists and leaders of our time. His innovations in Jewish music, media, and leadership training have had a profound impact on the fabric of Jewish life. He frequently collaborated with David as a guest of our congregation and at international gatherings of our Reform Movement, where David regularly accompanied Rick and others on bass.

Rick Recht's visit is made possible by a generous grant from the Bauman Family Music Fund.



#### And Learn More about the Temple Yourself in Training!

To let us know you are interested, please contact Lane, 501-225-9700 or <u>LBoyd@bnai-israel.us</u>. Training with Ron Lanoue will be scheduled at your convenience.

Our Congregation has played an important and often leadership role in the advancement of social justice issues in Arkansas beginning even before Rabbi Sanders' transformative tenure, 1926-1963.

So many people come through our doors looking to learn about the congregation and about Judaism.

This interest in the Jewish People continues to this day. Dale Ronnel, Trudy Jacobson, Emily Lewis, and Ron Lanoue have offered countless tours over the course of many years. Now is the time to expand our cadre of docents who can guide our visitors on their visits to Temple.

Requests for tours most often fall on Fridays in advance of services.



# Chanukah at Congregation B'nai Israel Religious School!

#### PAGE 8

#### DONATIONS

#### **Endowment Fund**

In memory of Geoff Bara Jennifer and Mark McCarty

Richard J. Thalheimer

#### Yahrzeit Fund

In memory of Elsa Rosenthal Byron and Susan Rosenthal Kantrow

In memory of Naiomi Breitowich Zottoli John Zottoli

In memory of Marguerite Selz Nan Selz

In memory of Betha (Bertie) Mack David Mack

In memory of Virginia O'Briant Alison, Austin, and Virginia-Kate Vann

In memory of Lauren Weintrob and Mark Greenberg Lynn and Bruce Greenberg

In memory of Dr. Raymond Biondo Mary Biondo

In memory of Alvin W. Strauss Jr and Alvin W. Strauss Sr. Tracye and Larry Townley

In memory of Justin Komiss Patty and Herb Monoson

#### **Bauman Family Music Fund**

In memory of Marilyn Robison Joshua and Emily Prince Lucy Dolman Lorraine Tartaglia Elizabeth and Wayne Fonio Abbe Rosenbaum

In memory of Bettye Korenblat Trudy and Jerry Jacobson

In honor of Jerry Jacobson's 90th birthday Bonnie Nickol

#### **Vogel Family Caring and Sharing Fund**

In memory of Bettye Korenblat Ellie Koenig Moore Doris Krain Bonnie Nickol

In memory of Marilyn Robison Bonnie Nickol

#### **Oakland Jewish Cemetery**

In memory of Bettye Korenblat Steven Strauss Joyce Franklin and family

#### Levy Fund for Camp Scholarships

In memory of Lottie Frankel Shapiro Rabbi Gene and Bobbye Levy

#### **Rabbi's Discretionary Fund**

In memory of Dr. William Thorton and Jennifer Thorton Karin Waugh Zucker

In memory of Charles "Chizzy" Davis Gus Block

In honor of the birth of their grandson Holden Oren Teeter Margie and Larry Teeter

In memory of Lollie Rosen In memory of Frances Fendler In memory of Sandra Pruitt Bonnie Nickol

#### **Diner Memorial Fund**

In memory of Bettye Korenblat Debbie and Bradley Diner

1st	Jonathan Aronson	8th	Greyson Reiss	20th	Debbie Brady
	Samuel Morris Aronson	9th	Martha Alman		Jack Perin
	Samuel Levin	10th	Samir Dhall	21st	Ellyn Polsky
2nd	Adam Hoffman		Tricia Gold		Michael Ronnel
3rd	Alma Baker		Clara Spivey	22nd	Capi Peck
	Linda Pfeifer	11th	Reed Dhall	23rd	Jill Bauman
	Dale Ronnel		Aniko Diamant		Keith Nigro
4th	Bonnie Nickol	12th	Nancy Alexander		Faith Wolf
5th	Charles Alman	14th	Jo Sears Harkins	25th	Charlotte Rudofsky
	Eoin Dockter	15th	Shirley Friedman		Vivian Rudofsky
	Bruce Greenberg	16th	Elaine Lowens	26th	Andrew Casciano
6th	Stacey Ronnel	17th	Harper Harris		Sean Gibson
	Janice Thurow		Robert Spector		William Siegel
7th	Ellen Korenblat	18th	Rylee Krupitsky	27th	Isabella Ifrah
	Becky Marks	19th	Jude Schlesinger	28th	Howard Bresnik
	Terry Orgel				David Shell

#### FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

#### FEBRUARY WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Rivka and Harry Ehrenberg	11 years
Judy and John Selig	43 years
Lee and Ricky Harris	8 years
Betty and David Rosen	48 years
Elaine and Rick Lowens	21 years
Becca and Andrew Perin	13 years
Melinda and Lou Tobian	30 years
Alison and Austin Vann	11 years
	Rivka and Harry Ehrenberg Judy and John Selig Lee and Ricky Harris Betty and David Rosen Elaine and Rick Lowens Becca and Andrew Perin Melinda and Lou Tobian Alison and Austin Vann

#### January 3/4

Marcus Adler David Charles Bauman Robert Bentley Jr. Clara Zinn Block Max Block Ray Solmson Bluthenthal Sarah Harris Donner **Eva Morris Elias Clarence Randel Epstein** Sallie L. Epstein Warren Faupel Norman N. Fein Irma Frankel Bettye Fullerton J.W. Fullerton Lillian Brenner Gealt Yale I. Glubok Miriam Goodman Mabel Feld Grundfest Sam Grundfest Nathan "Nate" Robert Hulett Maurice Joseph Jacobson Solomon Kaufman Arnold Joseph Leff Sandy Levin Sol H. Levv Arnold Linn Mayersohn Janet Grundfest Mayersohn Bertha Oberferst Bertha Wolf Ottenheimer Walter H. Parker **Robert Peiser** Hollis Pruitt A. Allen Quick **Brooks Rosen** Irvin M. Shlenker Sam J. Storthz Jr. Donald Vogt

#### January 10/11

David Alexander Blanche Alman Sol Alman Elsie Axler Louis Blass Barbara Brookes Sophie Ceitlin Mabel Cohen Dr. Wilma C. Diner

#### **JANUARY YAHRZEITS**

January 10/11 cont. Jennie Book Diner Dr Larry Dumont Lucille K. Ehrenberg Sylvia Fredman Debbie Friedman Henry Joseph Friedman Richard Steven Hillman Charles W. Kaiser Rabbi J. Aaron Levy Herbert Lux **Edward Meyers** Arthur P. Pfeifer Henrietta Pfeifer **Morris Phillips** Joanne Reagler Maurice Roby Annette J. Sanders Harry Schneider Sam Schwartz Sylvia Schwartz Mamie Dreeben Spear Bernard Tanenbaum Birdie Razeper Tenenbaum Mollie Liffland Utter

#### January 17/18

Gus Blass Alice Young Camp Harold Ceitlin Ernest E. Ellman Mary E. Gans Sarah Gold Martin Greenberg Mary Julia Heczel Doris M. Hoffman Renee Miller Leonard J. Ottenheimer **David Reagler** Ralph Reutlinger Morris H Rosen Gertrude M. Solmson Adrienne R. Steppach Moses O. Stern Sol Waldman June M. Wolf Haskel Wolff

#### January 24/25

Arthur Bott Barnett H. Cohen Rebecca Navra Cohen Pauline R. Crum January 24/25 cont. James Davidson Carolyn Schott Ducker Molly Fleisig Flora Oppenheimer Fox Marx Goldstein Ellen Rae Kaufman Fannie Safferstone Klein Ruth Goldman Kretchmar Marion Lee Levy Beatrice Brint Marks Kate L. Mayersohn Jane B. Mendel Dave Mever Miriam Zavadoff Rabkin Anita P. Scherer Reikes Marv Rubin Vernon Sahlin Dan Schwartz Sydell Siegel Jennie R. Storthz Bettye Jeanne Butner Streiff Jess B. Thalheimer **Pauline Ticker** Elaine Wolff

#### January 31/February 1

Alan Harris Arsht Rose Besser David Bluthenthal John F. Bolts Joan Bresnik Janice Brewer Roy B. Dumont Randall M. Falk Sr. Albert R. Fox Jack Grundfest Dorothy Joseph Lionel H Kohler Eva L. Korenblat Samuel Herbert Levin Max Lifshitz Mary Nelson Beryl Harris Nordlinger Edna Frances Parker Lanoue Mary Aleeta Reed Marvin Roberts Lee Ronnel Louis Maurice Samuel Lillian Schiffman Leah Isolene Shindler Shirlev Strauss Eva Wolff

# **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.





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





#### **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.
  - ember to take a
  - Online harassment, including hateful social media posts and emails. Ren 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:





#### Page 12

#### The Temple Chronicle

DONATIONS: THANK YOU FOR YO	OUR ONGOING GENEROSITY T	O YOUR TEMPLE
All donat To reduce our administrative costs, donations of \$1	nany of B'nai Israel's programs in ions to B'nai Israel are appreciated! 0.00 and less will not be acknowledged to the dor to be gratefully acknowledged in the monthly Ch	nor or recipient separately by mail
ENCLOSED IS MY GIFT OF DONATION IN THE A	MOUNT OF \$	
From:		
In honor of:		
In memory of:		
In appreciation of:		
Other:		
Send acknowledgment to:		
LIST OF NAMED FUNDS GENERAL ASSISTANCE TO B'NAI ISRA	THANK YOU TO	OUR CHRONICLE ERTISERS
Endowment Fund Sustaining Fund Salinger Landscape Fund Mulkey Sacred Music Fund Bauman Family Music Fund E. Lee Ronnel Fund for Cantorial Music Ottenheimer Fund	Steele Strauss Realtor (S01) 517-4243 steele@jonunderhill.com twww.jonunderhill.com twww.jonunderhill.com	Interested in becoming a Chronicle ad sponsor? It's another way to give back to your temple.
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	Voted Best Restaurant Best Desserts Best Caterer	Diune's Gourmet Luxuries Leigh Graham Owner 11121 Rodney Parham • Little Rock, AR 72212 Phone (501) 224-2639
EDUCATION, YOUTH, CAMP, AND SCHOLARSHIPS	221-3330 Best Caterer	Email: leigh@dianes-gourmet.com www.dianes-gourmet.com
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		KElectric power+communications from the ground up
Knoff Family Fund Newfeld Fund for Interfaith Relations Sisterhood Legacy Endowment Fund	Cabbage Rose 11220 N Rodney Parham Rd. STE 9 Little Rock AR 72212 501-664-4042	bar and table Lunch, Dinner, and now introducing Sunday Brunch!

Sunday Brunch! Menus and reservations at 42barandtable.org