

CONGREGATION B'NAI ISRAEL

LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS

THE CHRONICLE

TEMPLE

MARCH 2025 VOLUME 25 - ISSUE 3

THE RABBI SPEAKS

RABBI BARRY BLOCK



Dear Friends,

American Jews have a vote in Israel! Really!

OK. I don't mean that American Jews who are not Israeli citizens can vote for

Israel's Knesset to choose the Prime Minister and governing coalition. Still, we can all vote in an election that makes a significant difference to how funds that come to Israel from Jewish communities here in Arkansas and around the world are allocated in Israel.

Here's what I mean: Every five years, the World Zionist Congress is elected. ARZA, the Association of Reform Zionists of America, puts forward a slate, which has been quite successful in past elections, thanks in no small part to voters from Congregation B'nai Israel, with about one hundred of us paying our \$5 dues to the American Zionist Movement and casting our votes for ARZA in 2020, when the last elections were held.

Why does it matter?

· We often complain about the disproportionate power that Orthodox and Ultra-Orthodox Jews have on the Israeli scene—and worse, by discrimination faced by Reform and Conservative congregations and rabbis. Orthodox rabbis, synagogues, and yeshivas are all supported by government funds and by monies allocated through the World Zionist Congress.

Continues on next page

WORSHIP AT-A-GLANCE

FRIDAY NIGHT SERVICES IN MARCH

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

FRIDAY, MARCH 7

Shabbat Service

Led by Rabbi Block

Sermon: "Knowing When to Leave"

Oneg Shabbat Hosts: Carol Parham

Music: Josiah Wheeler, Teddy Ferguson, and Sunny Baker

FRIDAY, MARCH 14

Shabbat Service

Led by Rabbi Block and E. Lee Ronnel
Student Cantor Aleksandra Dubov

Sermon-in-Song: "The Musical Legacy of Cantor Charles Davidson, z"l"

Oneg Shabbat Hosts: Annabelle Imber Tuck
Accompanist: Diana Brandon

FRIDAY, MARCH 21

Shabbat Service

Led by Rabbi Block

Sermon: Special Guest Speaker, Rabbi Alex Kovtun, Liberal Jewish Community, Hanover, Germany

Music: Jana Cohen and Perry Young

FRIDAY, MARCH 28

Shabbat Service

Led by Rabbi Block

Sermon: "Judaism, American Jews, and DEI"
Oneg Shabbat Hosts: Reecie Levin and Aaron Rabirotff

Music: Richard Estelita and Kathy Cooper

(The Rabbi Speaks continued from front page)

Our Reform Movement was funded, to a much lesser degree, by the previous Israeli government, but not currently. We need to elect a strong Reform delegation to the World Zionist Congress, where our delegates will vote in coalition with Conservative and other progressive slates to redress the imbalance in Israel.

- Reform Judaism in Israel, highly dependent on our success in the World Zionist Congress elections, is the largest, most successful, and fastest growing non-Orthodox Jewish movement in the Jewish State.

Our movement needs our support to continue its sacred work of growing contemporary, egalitarian Judaism in Israel, a Judaism that proclaims our values, celebrating Jews of all genders and sexual orientations, fully recognizing Jewish people who converted through Reform and Conservative communities worldwide, and building bridges to Bedouin, Druze, and Palestinian individuals and communities in Israel.

- Anti-Zionist Ultra-Orthodox Jews are highly organized and motivated to destroy Reform Judaism through this election.

How can you help?

- Visit Vote4Reform.org. Learn about our Reform Movement campaign. Click “Join Us” to be reminded to vote when voting opens on March 10.
- Vote early! You can do this on your own, as will be explained when you receive your reminder.
- Say “yes,” when a volunteer or I ask you to vote when you come to Temple, unless you’ve already voted on your own. This will take a few minutes, a couple of steps on a computer or tablet wielded by the volunteer, and will cost you \$5. This fee is assessed by the American Zionist Movement, which administers the election, and the Reform Movement has no control over that. Let me know, though, if the \$5 is a barrier for you.

Did I mention that, when you Vote Reform, you’ll be voting for me? I’m honored to be on the slate of ARZA candidates to be elected to the Congress. No, you won’t see my name on the ballot, but you will see my name on the list of the slate at Vote4Reform.org.

Throughout the last year and a half, we have all done much to support Israel at its time of greatest need. Now, we have a unique opportunity to help the Israelis to whom our own congregation is most closely connected. Please join me!

Faithfully,



SATURDAY MORNINGS IN MARCH

Shabbat Torah Study at 9:30am, led by Rabbi Block on March 1, 22, and 29, by Bruce Greenberg on March 8, and by Sam Kauffman on March 15

Shabbat Morning Worship at 11am, led by Rabbi Block on March 1 and 29, by Annabelle Imber Tuck on March 8, by Cantor Dubov and Annabelle Imber Tuck on March 15, and by Emily Adams and Carmen Arick on March 22.

A Wicked Popular Shpiel DEFYING TRAGEDY

March 15

6:30 Cocktails

7:00 Dinner

7:45 Shpiel

Shpiel Tickets

\$36 Dinner & Drinks

\$10 Dessert & Drinks

Kids free (Shpiel only)



Attire: Dress as your favorite Wicked or Purim Character, or just be GREEN!

Join the fun with a POPULAR cast full of kings, queens and ne'er-do-wells. Delicious themed dinner and surprisingly WICKED drinks to get you ready to sing along, make noise and enjoy Purim, 2025 as we get rid of Haman FOR GOOD!

Brought to you by: Howard Bresnik, Jana Cohen, Meg Marion, & Joanne Matson

You'll need to make your reservations by Wednesday, March 12th. Please contact Lane in the Temple office, LBoyd@bnai-israel.us or 501-225-9700.

THE LYRICS WILL BE PROJECTED ON THE WALL SO YOU CAN SING ALONG!

(Please indicate any dietary restrictions)



Jane and Scott Levine, on the arrival of their first grandchild, Cooper Scott Como, a son born to Rachel and Jared Como.

ANNUAL LAFTY PURIM CARNIVAL

Sunday, March 16: 10:30—12:00 pm

More details to come
about all the fun to be had.

**PLEASE CONSIDER BEING A
PURIM CARNIVAL SPONSOR** to help our youth group put on this
extraordinary event.

Carnival Admission is **FREE**
with a donation to **LAFTY!**

Includes unlimited games and lunch for all
religious school students.



↓ Scan to become a Purim Carnival Sponsor! ↓



Thank you to our
Oneg Shabbat hosts for February:

Pat Highley and Arnie Nachmann, Jan and
Larry Alman, Kirsta Nigro, and Ellyn
Polsky, in honor of Howard Bresnik's
birthday

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS:

Ellen Dreyfuss
Mary, Corbin, and Carlie Otwell
Kelsey Utne and Karl Rozyn
Amanda and Shawn Williams - Sloane,
Preston, and Raelynn

From Lewis Krain, President

Right now everyone is thinking about security in some way, shape, or form. For some, that means the basics of housing and food, while for many right now it means job security. As a Jewish community, on top of all these concerns we must also consider the security of our faith and place of worship. Antisemitism is on the rise, with a resurgence of threats my generation considered things of the past. There was never a police officer at the door of my congregation when I was growing up, and though I enjoy the sense of comfort I feel when I greet the officer in the entry to the building, I do lament that we feel the need for this precaution now when we didn't in the past.

At CBI, we are always thoughtful about security. Over the years we've implemented many changes to improve the safety of our congregants. Some of these are highly visible, from the police at the door to the frosted safety glass windows at the Religious School rooms, to ensuring exits from all places of worship. Some changes are less noticeable: we have added new cameras, a new PA system, additional exits, and a safe room in the office area. This has been the result of endless work by our Security Committee led by Brian Rosenthal and Carol Parham, with Board Member Joanne Matson, and of course nothing happens on our building or grounds without input from Janet Korenblat. My heartfelt thanks goes to these individuals for the hours spent on these projects.

If you've been by the building lately, you've noticed that we have broken ground on a driveway expansion that will enable a gate with a turnaround, as well as a fence around the grounds. Considerable thought has gone into making this addition not only functional, but also an attractive part of the entrance to our building; I've seen the plans and it looks really impressive. The project is the result of even more work by Brian, Carol, and Joanne, with Dave Grundfest as construction consultant, and also Janet and Scott Korenblat. Additional thanks goes to the Dave Grundfest Company and IK Electric Company for their patient and diligent work with us.

Like anything, security is not free. It costs approximately \$180 for each shift the Police spend guarding our doors, and construction is always expensive. The Security Committee has done an amazing job of finding outside support for these expenses through grants from the Ottenheimer Brothers Foundation, the federal government's Pray Safe Act, and the State of Arkansas, but in the end it's up to us to look after the safety of our congregation. I encourage you to sponsor one of these Police shifts, or donate funds towards the gate construction or one of our other security projects. Next time you're at the Temple take a moment to appreciate all the work that's gone into your feeling of safety at our home of worship, and please help us support that work.

**Safety
Security
Peace of mind**

*What you provide when you
sponsor security for Shabbat
worship*

Congregation B'nai Israel is committed to the safety of our Temple.

Will you help us keep our sacred Temple safe for worship? Your donation is greatly needed and appreciated more than ever.

Contact Lane at LBoyd@bnai-israel.us or 501.225.9700 to select a date.

Sponsor Shabbat evening or morning worship for \$180.00.

Learning Experience for Congregants, Friends and the Community

Rabbi Block will be teaching a class at LifeQuest in the Spring

What is LifeQuest? It was called the Shepherd Center when first incorporated many years ago, and Temple B'nai Israel was one of the original congregational sponsors. It is an independent, non-religious, 501(c)3 non-profit housed within Second Presbyterian Church in Little Rock. The courses are geared for those 55+ and are varied (e.g., topics such as arts, history, literature, science, health and well-being, and hands-on such as pickleball for beginners, visual arts, book discussions, movie analysis, knitting, yoga, tai chi, mah jongg, and many more). The program promotes a culture welcoming of any participant regardless of race, color, ancestry, religion, sex, national origin, sexual orientation, age, citizenship, marital status, disability, gender identity, or Veteran status. All are welcome!

LifeQuest's Mission: To promote healthful longevity and active ageing through lifelong learning and meaningful volunteerism within the community.

LifeQuest Vision: LifeQuest's programs are build on three pillars: intellectual engagement, social connection, and physical wellness.

When you register for the spring semester, you have access to 50+ courses, in-person, online and hybrid. The cost per semester is only \$85.00 for all these learning opportunities (scholarships available). Please visit Request LifeQuest Brochure to request email notification or snail mail sign up for when the spring brochure will be available.

Registration will open 9:00 am on March 11th online. If you can't register online you can go to the office on March 11th.

Registration will be at <https://www.lifequestofarkansas.org/>

Join the fun and learn something new!

11:00 A.M. - 11:50 A.M.
4 Weeks Only: April 9 - April 30

INTRO TO JUDAISM
Rabbi Barry Block, Instructor
Format: In-person, limit - 60; Not recorded

Interfaith education has often been focused on what unites us. We may gain even greater knowledge and respect as we emphasize our distinctiveness.

April 9: Jewish Views of God
April 16: Judaism and Christianity, Similarities and Differences
April 23: Afterlife
April 30: Reform, Orthodox and Conservative Judaism: History, Ideology and Practice

NFTY SO
SPRING KALLAH

MARCH 21-23, 2025
URJ HENRY S. JACOBS CAMP

Learn More at nfty.org/so

Save the Date
Congregational Sedar

Thursday, April 17
6pm

Detailed information forthcoming

February at Congregation B'nai Israel Religious School!



Share Temple B'nai Israel with our Neighbors

BE A TEMPLE DOCENT

And Learn More about the Temple Yourself in Training!

To let us know you are interested, please contact Lane, 501-225-9700 or LBoyd@bnai-israel.us. 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.

DONATIONS

Yahrzeit Fund

- In memory of Fannie S. Klein
Byron and Susan Rosenthal Kantrow
- In memory of Dan Schwartz
Vogel Schwartz Foundation
- In memory of Blanche and Sol Alman
Jan and Larry Alman
- In memory of Janice Butterfield Brewer
Becky and Jay Marks
- In memory of Samuel H Levin
Fred Levin
- In memory of Albert R. Fox
Fred Levin
- In memory of Leah Isolene Levy Shindler
Lesley Shinder Hughes and Stephen Charles
Hughes
- In memory of Ellen Rae Kaufman
Melissa Rae Kaufman
- In memory of Eve Bresnik
Howard Bresnik and Family
- In memory of E. L. Scharff, our papa
Britt, Amber, Sara, and Anna Grace Mock
- In memory of John Eric Kerner
Robert Oliva
- In memory of Dorothy Blass Storthz
Larry Storthz and Rosetta Urbach

Bauman Family Music Fund

- In memory of Lance Bogoslavsky
Laura, Lana, and Mattie Bogoslavsky and
Karah Smith

Pfeifer Community Outreach Fund

- In prayer for a speedy recover of Capi Peck
Gene and Linda Pfeifer

Oakland Jewish Cemetery Fund

- In memory of Ann Storthz
Jane Goff

Vogel Family Caring and Sharing Fund

- In memory of Ann Storthz
Becky and Jay Marks
- In memory of Bettye Korenblat
Becky and Jay Marks

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

- Anonymous
- In memory of Lance Bogoslavsky
Laura, Lana, and Mattie Bogoslavsky and
Karah Smith
- In honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Philip Ethan Levin
Krysten and Mark Levin

Ann and Sam Storthz Religious Education Fund

- In honor of the privilege of working closely with
Eileen Hamilton and all that her 8 phenomenal years
of service meant to the Temple
Meg Marion
- In memory of Ann Storthz
Jan Alman
- In memory of Ann Storthz
Sheri and Micky Simon
- In memory of Ann Storthz
Anne and Larry Miller

Levy Camp Scholarship Fund

- In memory of Ann Storthz
Rabbi Gene and Bobbye Levy
- In memory of Jimmy Plumlee, the father of Kelli
Schlesinger
Rabbi Gene and Bobbye Levy
- In honor of Philip Levin's Bar Mitzvah
Annabelle Imber Tuck

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

1st	Richard Bronfman	16th	Lee Harris
3rd	Karla Back	17th	Hallie McGarry
	Glenn Block		Barbara Spitzberg
	Anna Moses	19th	Laura Bushman
4th	Susan Lesser		Susan Strauss
	Joy Williams	21st	Darcy Krupitsky
8th	Paul Spitzberg	22nd	Aviendha Haseltine Daniels
9th	Kathy Bauman	24th	Len Johnson
	Sandi Uretsky	26th	Jamie McGarry
10th	Gary Ticker		Phyllis Storthz
11th	Amanda Bentley	29th	Josiah Wheeler
12th	Jay Lazerowitz		
14th	Spencer Nodelman		
	Alaia Smouni		
	Robert Vogel		
	Judith Zinser		

APRIL WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

10th	Karin and Ron Bara	14 years
13th	Melanie and Bill Siegel	39 years
14th	Stacey and Michael Ronnel	23 years
23rd	Regina and Perry Young	20 years
25th	Ellen Korenblat & Luke Kramer	27 years

MARCH YAHRZEITS**March 7/8**

Florence Marie Angel Allison
 William Back Sr.
 Irving Balto
 Barbara Chrisman
 Norm Dollinger
 Lilian Kay Eisman
 Felix Gans
 Steven Gofforth
 Sara Kempner Goodman
 Norman Graber
 Agnes Golden Hunter
 Jesse Kaiser
 Carol Lazerowitz
 David Lipschitz
 Clara Simon Loewenberg
 Karen McKim
 Rabbi Elijah Ezekiel Palnick
 James J. Pfeifer
 A. Dan Phillips
 Lendor Remy
 Abe S. Rosen
 Edith Ottenrider Sachs
 Arthur O. Sanders
 Jacob Slutsky
 Gertrude Paul Solomon
 Nathan Ehrlich Steppach Cole
 Charlotte Storthz
 Eleanor Pfeifer Strauss
 Tracye Altschul Strauss
 Rabbi Louis Wolsey
 Esther Zeno

March 14/15

Shara Adams
 Mary Ann Crafton Chevaz
 Rosa Cohn
 Geraldine Defrance
 Dr. Sidney Jacob Fields
 Frances Frank
 Sarah Hannah Friedman
 Sylvia R. Friedman
 Al J. Goodman Jr.
 Arnold S. Goodman
 Virginia Harris
 Dorothy Krain
 Carolyn W. Kramer
 Dan Levin
 Elizabeth Levinson Levin

March 14/15 Cont.

Abraham J. Louchhein
 Olivia Lyons
 Martin Nelson
 Ruby Siesel Pfeifer
 Barbara Laner Phillips
 Jack Phillips
 Edna L. Roberts
 Ruth Rodell
 Marsha Frances Rosen
 Arthur D. Rosenthal
 Lena Light Rubenstein
 Barbara S. Stern
 Mary Spann Underwood
 August Simon Vogel
 Etta Louchheim Wolf
 Mathilde Zwirn

March 21/22

Rose Balkin
 Shirley Weinstein Cohen
 Otis Dante
 Herman Ehrenberg
 Nathan H. Ehrlich
 Lansky Esther
 David G. Falk
 Joseph Earl Flowers
 Joseph Geller
 Irene Goldman
 Rose Besser Gould
 Miriam Graber
 Nell Gray Greenbaum
 Earl Hammond
 Edna Kahn Kempner
 Sophie Kempner
 Harry Lasker Sr.
 Helen Maisel Lewis
 Joseph Arnold Miller
 Gus Ottenheimer
 Paula Crafton Pagan
 Gilbert Rubin
 Israel Louis Safferstone
 Eduard L. Scharff Sr.
 Bernice Weisman Sherman
 Maurice Herbert Soltz
 Hyman Ticker
 Pete Yoder

March 28/29

Lena Koff Bresler
 Sophie Cohn
 Charles H. Elias Sr.
 Theodore R. Fox
 Maurice J. Friedman
 William Clyde Glover
 Dave Grundfest Sr.
 Jennie Hartman
 Max Jacob Hasson
 Daniel B. Kohn
 Roland Joseph Lanoue
 Rosa H. Lasker
 Mervin L. Leibs
 Aida R. Levi
 Edith Pfeifer Loeb
 Albert Hughes McCann
 Otto Olson
 Peter Phillips
 Leon Pinkus
 Norman Riemer
 Rina Beatrice Saltman Miller
 Daniel Sanders
 S. Clifford Scholem
 Alma Jacobs Scott
 Dorothy Singer
 Lilyan Stern
 Judy Taliaferro
 Fanny Thalheimer

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

Lina Himelfarb
 Mother of Mark (and Bari)
 Himelfarb

CEMIFY FOR OAKLAND JEWISH CEMETERY

Check out the mapping system at Oakland Cemetery. Find our loved ones' graves and get a lay of the land and history of our beautiful cemetery by using the QR code. Take a photo with your phone and open up the amazing program.



Oakland Jewish Cemetery

Sesquicentennial Year
1874-2024

Dear Members of Congregation B'nai Israel, effective May 31, 2024 the purchase price of a single cemetery space in Oakland Jewish Cemetery is now \$1250.00.

If you are interested in purchasing a space or spaces, please contact the Temple office by phone at 501-225-9700 or by email at templesecretary@bnai-israel.us



[Click to see the Congregation B'nai Israel Brit Kehillah](#)

LEAVE A LEGACY
CONGREGATION B'NAI ISRAEL



REPORT AN ANTISEMITIC OR BIAS INCIDENT

We all have a responsibility to report and respond to antisemitism or hate when we see it.

TO REPORT AN ANTISEMITIC OR HATE INCIDENT, VISIT:
ADL.ORG/REPORTINCIDENT-KULANU

IF YOU FEAR FOR YOUR SAFETY OR THE SAFETY OF OTHERS, CALL 9-1-1 IMMEDIATELY.

What should I report?

You should report any incident you perceive as antisemitic, biased or hateful.

Here are some examples:

- Antisemitic or other hateful graffiti in public places, including synagogues and schools.
- Vandalism of religious artifacts such as mezuzahs and menorahs and holy places.
- Online harassment, including hateful social media posts and emails. Remember to take a screenshot!
- Verbal harassment, including emails and voicemails.
- Media-based incidents, including antisemitic or hateful content in a news story.
- White supremacist propaganda.

Make an impact in the fight against antisemitism and hate.

Scan this QR code to report an incident:



DONATIONS: THANK YOU FOR YOUR ONGOING GENEROSITY TO YOUR TEMPLE

Your donations support so many of B'nai Israel's programs in so many areas.

All donations to B'nai Israel are appreciated!

To reduce our administrative costs, donations of \$10.00 and less will not be acknowledged to the donor or recipient separately by mail or email but will continue to be gratefully acknowledged in the monthly Chronicle.

ENCLOSED IS MY GIFT OF DONATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ _____

From: _____

In honor of: _____

In memory of: _____

In appreciation of: _____

Other: _____

Send acknowledgment to: _____

LIST OF NAMED FUNDS

GENERAL ASSISTANCE TO B'NAI ISRAEL

- Endowment Fund
- Sustaining Fund
- Salinger Landscape Fund
- Mulkey Sacred Music Fund
- Bauman Family Music Fund
- E. Lee Ronnel Fund for Cantorial Music
- Ottenheimer Fund

LIFECYCLE SUPPORT

- Vogel Family Caring and Sharing Fund
- Hallie Cohen Miller Archive Fund
- Oakland Jewish Cemetery Fund
- Rabbi's Discretionary Fund
- Pfeifer Community Outreach Fund
- Memorial Prayerbook Fund
- Stern Library Fund

EDUCATION, YOUTH, CAMP, AND SCHOLARSHIPS

- Mayersohn Leadership Development Fund
- Grundfest Israel Scholarship Fund
- Rosa Pfeifer Isaacson Scholarship Fund
- Storthz Religious Education Discretionary Fund
- Leibs Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Memorial Fund for Education and Youth
- Levy Fund for Camp Scholarships
- Meir Chayim Camp Scholarship Fund
- Diner Memorial Fund for Jewish Education
- Jordan Memorial Fund for Jewish Education
- Knoff Family Fund
- Newfeld Fund for Interfaith Relations
- Sisterhood Legacy Endowment Fund

THANK YOU TO OUR CHRONICLE ADVERTISERS

Steele Strauss
Realtor
(501) 517-4243
steele@jonunderhill.com
www.jonunderhill.com

JON UNDERHILL
REAL ESTATE

Interested in becoming a Chronicle ad sponsor? It's another way to give back to your temple.

TRIO'S
221-3330

Voted
Best Restaurant
Best Desserts
Best Caterer

Diane's
GOURMET LUXURIES

Leigh Graham
Owner

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

iK Electric
power+communications
from the ground up

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

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