

CONGREGATION B'NAI ISRAEL

LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS

THE CHRONICLE

TEMPLE

OCTOBER 2020/VOLUME 20 - ISSUE 9

THE RABBI SPEAKS

RABBI BARRY BLOCK

Dear Friends:

Voting is a *mitzvah*. We learn in Deuteronomy that we should pay attention to leadership at every level: “chiefs of thousands, chiefs of hundreds, chiefs of fifties, and chiefs of ten, and officials for your tribes” (Deuteronomy 1:15).



While much focus has been at the very top of the November ballot, and for good reason, those of us who live in Little Rock School District would do well to pay particular attention also to an election near the bottom: For the first time in many years, we have the opportunity to elect a School Board! In between, Central Arkansas is faced with a competitive race for U.S. Congress, and many of our members live in Arkansas Senate and General Assembly districts that are up for grabs. Each of these elections will shape the future of our community.

Our congregation’s Board of Trustees has taken the exceptional step of endorsing the Union for Reform Judaism’s 2020 Resolution on Free and Fair Elections, which you may find here: <https://urj.org/what-we-believe/resolutions/urj-resolution-free-and-accessible-elections>. Of greatest importance, our Board authorized Amanda Ferguson and me to encourage **100% voter turnout from the eligible voters who are members of Congregation B’nai Israel!**

To that end, I encourage each and every adult member of our congregation to:

- Register to vote! If you are not yet registered, the deadline to do so is October 5.

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WORSHIP AT-A-GLANCE

Shabbat worship will continue, Friday nights at 6:15pm, with Shabbat Torah Study on Saturday mornings at 9:30am, via Zoom livestream only, until further notice.

If you do not receive Temple emails and would like to listen to the service on the telephone, please contact Keila for instructions, 501-225-9700.

SERVICES IN OCTOBER

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2

SERVICE FOR SHABBAT AND THE FIRST NIGHT OF SUKKOT, LED BY RABBI BLOCK FROM THE SUKKAH
Music: David Bauman

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9

Service for Shabbat and Atzeret-Simchat Torah, with special guest Shira Kline (ShirLaLa), brought to us by the Bauman Music Fund. Consecration of our newest Religious School students.
Siddur (prayer book) presentation to those beginning formal Hebrew studies.
Yad (Torah pointer) presentation to those celebrating Bar/Bat Mitzvah in 2020-21.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16

MISHKAN T’FILAH SERVICE LED BY RABBI NIKKI DEBLOSI
SERMON:

“Unrecognized Moments in Our Lives.”
Music: Jana Cohen

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23

“Left Side of the Page” Service led by Rabbi Block, Special Musical Guest Noah Aronson, and our Temple musicians. Noah Aronson’s “visit” is made possible by a grant from the Bauman Music Fund

...continued on page 2

Rabbi Block to Hold Distinguished Lectureship in Rochester, New York

Rabbi Peter Stein, Senior Rabbi of Temple B'rith Kodesh in Rochester, New York, has invited Rabbi Block to serve as the congregation's Bernstein Scholar, October 16-17. The lectureship honors the memory of Rabbi Philip S. Bernstein, who was the spiritual leader of Temple B'rith Kodesh from 1927 to 1973. As editor of *The Mussar Torah Commentary*, Rabbi Block is to speak about the impact of Mussar during Shabbat Eve worship and to conduct Mussar-based Torah study on Shabbat morning.

Temple B'rith Kodesh has honored Rabbi Block on this occasion with a gift to our Rabbi's Discretionary Fund, which enables our congregation to be served by Rabbi Nikki DeBlosi on the Shabbat when Rabbi Block will be unavailable. Both Rabbi Block's visit to Rochester and Rabbi DeBlosi's to Little Rock will be via Zoom.



Rabbi Nikki DeBlosi

Live, from New York:

Rabbi Nikki DeBlosi Shabbat Services, Friday, October 16 Torah Study, October 17

Named in 2015 by the *Forward* as "one of America's Most Inspiring Rabbis," Rabbi DeBlosi is a freelance speaker, teacher, and spiritual counselor. Ordained at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in 2013, she combines a high-level academic background with an approachable presence. Her interests include queer and feminist theory, sexuality and relationships, pastoral care, liturgy, and expanding the lifecycle ritual. A convert herself, Rabbi DeBlosi helps folks find community and belonging. She and Rabbi Block serve together on the CCAR Board of Trustees.

Rabbi DeBlosi's visit via Zoom is made possible by a grant from Rabbi Block's Discretionary Fund

WORSHIP AT-A-GLANCE (CONTINUED)

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30

**MISHKAN T'FILAH SERVICE LED BY
RABBI BLOCK**

SERMON:

"Maintaining the Covenant with
All Americans"

Music: David Bauman

Morning Service for Shabbat and Atzeret-Simchat Torah to Include *Yizkor*

Shabbat and festival services for the last day of our fall Holy Day cycle, Atzeret-Simchat Torah morning, are scheduled for Saturday, October 10, at 11am, via Zoom. Rabbi Block plans to officiate from the Chapel, with music led by David Bauman from his home. *Yizkor* – Memorial prayers will be offered during this service, and Rabbi Block plans to read the names of members and relatives of members who have died since last Atzeret-Simchat Torah.

(The Rabbi Speaks continued from front page)

- **Make a plan to vote!** Now is the time to decide whether you plan to vote by mail or in person, early or on Election Day. Whatever your plan, make sure you have a backup and a plan for how you're going to carry out your plan. (For that reason, planning to vote on Election Day may be best as a backup plan.)
- If you wish to vote by mail, be aware that request to receive a ballot must be received by the Pulaski County Clerk no later than October 27. However, please do not wait until the last minute. Submitting a request for a mail-in ballot as late as October 27 will give the Clerk's office little time to send you a ballot and would give you little time to return it in time for it to be counted.
- If you choose an absentee ballot, be sure to mail it soon after you receive it, giving the County Clerk's office plenty of time to process it and to count your vote on Election Day. You may also drop off your ballot in person at the County Clerk's office. Note that Arkansas election law does not provide for ballot drop boxes about which we've read elsewhere in the country.
- **Ask your friends and family, including particularly your young adult children, about their plan to vote!** Having a conversation about whether and how to vote need not entail a discussion about preferred candidates.
- **Join our congregation's gathering via Zoom with Terri Hollingsworth, Pulaski County Clerk, Monday, October 5, at 7pm, via Zoom.** Hollingsworth will discuss the three ways to vote this year and will answer your questions.
- **Execute your plan! Vote!** Having made your plan, make sure that you vote!
- **Let us know that you voted!** If you use social media, post a photo of yourself with the hash tag **#BnaiIsraelVotes**. If you're not on social media, or you don't want to post, send me the photo, or just a note to tell me that you voted, bblock@bnai-israel.us. The photo, if you have voted in person, might be a "selfie" with your "I voted!" sticker. Or maybe you'll take a photo of yourself sealing your mail-in ballot, dropping it off at the Clerk's office, or dropping it into the mailbox.
- **Be proud that Congregation B'nai Israel is opening its doors to Election Day voting!** Our congregation is the grateful beneficiary of the Payroll Protection Plan. When asked if we would permit our building to be used as a polling place, our Executive Committee and Eileen Hamilton asked a lot of good, tough questions, and ultimately decided that our sacred and civic duty would be to make the Temple available as always. We typically deep-clean our building before the High Holy days, which we have delayed to the day after Election Day this year. Therefore, **our office will be closed November 3 and 4.**

Please join me, celebrating American democracy and the long American Jewish tradition of civic engagement by casting your ballot for your chosen candidates on or before November 3!

Faithfully,



Rabbi Barry H. Block

ADULT LEARNING



Adult Learning at Congregation B'nai Israel welcomes back...

Anat Hoffman

**The Beginning of a Beautiful Friendship:
The Israel Religious Action Center's (IRAC's)
Plans to Work with the New Israeli Government
Sunday, October 11, 10:30am**

Via Zoom

**Make & Execute
Your plan to
VOTE!!!**

A conversation with
Pulaski County Clerk
Terri Hollingworth
Monday, October 5,
7pm, via Zoom



Congregation B'nai Israel welcomes
Anat Hoffman's
return to Little Rock, even if her visit is
virtual this time, and we are grateful that
Ms. Hoffman will join us free of charge.
Donations are always welcome at
www.irac.org/make-a-donation-to-irac.

Anat Hoffman has served as Executive Director of IRAC since
2002. She has fought (and won) recognition of
Reform and Conservative conversions by the State of Israel and
has led the struggle against gender segregation in the public do-
main, including on public buses, airplanes, and
a national radio station.

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

Coffee, Cake and Conversation

Tuesday, October 13 at 11:30 am via Zoom*

**“From Checkbox Diversity to Culturally-Responsive Change: how organizations
and communities can move from shallow, cosmetic approaches to systemically
impactful ones that advance equity and inclusion.”**

**Presented by:
Donald Wood, Executive Director
Just Communities of Arkansas (JCA)**



Join us via Zoom*
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2565589617> or call in at 312-626-6799
Meeting ID: 256 558 9617

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



FROM THE PRESIDENT, AMANDA O. FERGUSON

Dear Friends,

By the time you read this, we will be close to the end of the High Holidays. I hope with all of my heart that everyone enjoyed and felt comforted by our streaming High Holiday services.

Seeing so many participants sharing it virtually with all of you has been a wonderful experience for me. And one that will go down in history (or at least be documented in our archives).



There are so many folks to thank for the production of our High Holiday Streaming Experience. First and foremost, Richard Estelita and Jeff Nodelman. Richard and Jeff have spent countless hours filming and editing, often working late into the evening, to provide us with beautiful streaming High Holiday services. They selflessly gave their time away from their families and put their hearts into their work. Thank you, Richard and Jeff.

Our musicians have also been hard at work, finding new and safer ways to sing together while remaining apart. Thanks to our volunteer Cantorial Soloist, Richard Estelita; to our fabulous Temple musicians—David Bauman, Liz Cohen, Jana Cohen, and Charlie Friedman; The MazelTonic—Meg Marion and Josiah Wheeler, alongside Richard and Liz—, as well as the Shechinotes, for providing us with beautiful music in what I know was a whole new format for everyone. Your music enhances our worship experience and is one of my favorite parts about our Temple. The time and energy you put in every year, and the extra time and energy you put in this year, are much appreciated.

Thanks to Tim Kessler who also helped with streaming and was able to help us troubleshoot throughout the process. Tim is our IT guru! Thanks, too, to Doris Krain, for generously providing and organizing hundreds of her magnificent photographs to make us all feel as if we were surrounded by our fellow congregants even while streaming from home.

Thank you to Jane and Scott Levine for organizing and running our Shofar Drive Through theater, and to Rita Fagan and the countless bakers who made delicious treats for putting together the wonderful goody bags given out at that service. Thank you to Merrick Fagan and William Cohen for providing us with the sounds of the Shofar as well. Thank you to Laurie Arnold and Cheryl Streiff, who planned our meaningful Tashlich event. These two chances to see our fellow congregants in person, even at a distance, helped us provide the sense of community that so many of you have told us you are lacking during the pandemic.

So many of you recorded your service parts at home and sent them in to be included with the holiday services. It was so wonderful to see everyone, speaking from their own homes yet bringing us all together. Thank you to every person who took the time to do this. I know being in front of the camera is not a favorite for a lot of folks, but you were all brave and your participation greatly enhanced our worship experience.

A very special thank you goes to the Ottenheimer Brothers Foundation, for seeing our need and our vision and providing us with the funds to make it happen. Not only were we able to record and stream our beautiful High Holiday services due to their generosity, we will enjoy enhanced sound quality in the Sanctuary and be able to continue to stream with high quality sound and video in the future, even when we are able to hold in person services again. We are truly grateful to the Ottenheimer Brothers Foundation for making this possible.

I would be remiss if I didn't thank our staff, Eileen Hamilton, Keila Patton, and Milton Boyd. They have kept our Temple office going, taken reservations for all events, kept us informed through weekly eblasts, and been there to answer questions and help along the way. The hours they put in and their dedication to making things run smoothly is commendable and appreciated.

...continued on page 6

...continued from page 5

On top of all of that, Eileen has managed to open online Religious School with near perfect attendance in the first few weeks!! The extraordinary registration, attendance and participation levels are testament to Eileen's creativity in planning to deliver Jewish education under unprecedented circumstances and the confidence she has built among Religious School families. I know Eileen joins me in thanking the parents and students for being so enthusiastic about our new normal way of doing things. Eileen has told me that seeing your smiling kids is her favorite part of the week!

I would like to thank Rabbi Block. His vision, hard work, and trust in our lay leaders and volunteers have been instrumental in making the High Holidays happen. When the Board of Trustees made the decision to go all virtual this year, he didn't blink. He simply moved forward. He helped coordinate volunteers, wrote cue sheets and run throughs, and was there every step of the way. The constant refrain from Rabbi Block was "we need to make sure everyone feels included." Rabbi Block ran High Holiday input sessions over the summer to hear what you wanted to see, and he made sure we included those things in our streaming experience. I am grateful to have a Rabbi whose first and foremost concern is the well-being of our congregants, and their connection to our community.

Finally, I would like to thank you, our congregants. So many of you have reached out asking how you can help, or to thank us for the work happening at Temple. You have volunteered your time, attended adult learning programs, tuned in for zoom services, made sure your children participated in Religious School, attended in person events like Tashlich and the Shofar Drive in, or joined us for our streamed services and events. Thank you all for being a part of this *Kehilah Kedosha*, holy Community. I wouldn't want to be anywhere else.

Shalom,
Amanda

B'nai Israel Religious School
Keeping the קשר
2020-2021
Keshet = Connection



You're Invited...
SUKKOT CREATIVE STATIONS
at Temple

Visit the Sukkah in the Amphitheater area in daylight or dusk hours from Sunday, October 4 – 11 for a family day of discussion and fun in Sukkot inspired activity stations.

Wave the lulav and smell the etrog, discuss the meaning of Sukkat Shalom (shelter of peace) and Ushpizin (Sukkot guests), make a family Sukkah decoration, and have a snack in our Sukkah.

Social distancing and masks required if other families are in the vicinity. Just stop by...plan for an hour.

RS dates for October and special events:

October 4 – Religious School and Shana Shel Shira Sukkat Shalom Concert

October 4 – Amphitheater Sukkah is up, and Creative Stations are open. See details.

October 11 – Religious School

October 18 – Religious School and Shanah Shel Shira Simchat Torah Concert

October 25 – Religious School

Confirmation Class meetings:

October 7, 21, and November 4: 7 – 8 pm

Join Shirlala (aka Shira Kline)
For a magical celebration for
Atzeret Simchat Torah:
A celebration of Shabbat, music,
and Simchat Torah
Friday, October 9 ~ 6:15 pm
Dance in celebration of the Torah.



The Bauman Music Fund Presents...

“Left Side of the Page”
Shabbat Worship with
Artist-in-Virtual-Residence
Noah Aronson
and our Temple Musicians

Known for his unique, engaging, and deeply soulful approach, Noah Aronson is one of the most sought-after Jewish musicians in North America.

With a degree in Jazz Composition and Piano from Berklee College of Music, Noah has released four full-length albums: *Am I Awake*, *Left Side of the Page*, *More Love*, and *I Want to Sing Your Song*.

Mazel Tov to the many students who will be honored on Friday, October 9 for Atzeret Simchat Torah:

CONSECRATION for our newest Religious School students:
 Harper Bizzell
 Nathan Cousins
 Eleanor Virginia Daniel
 Astrid Dockter
 Steven Dranoff
 Julian Keith

SIDDUR presented to students beginning formal Hebrew study:
 Ryan Dhall
 Philip Levin
 Elizabeth Wagner

YAD Ceremony for those becoming Bar/Bat Mitzvah in 2020-21:
 Benjamin Flaxman
 Maci Schlesinger



FROM THE EDUCATOR, EILEEN HAMILTON

Hakarat HaTov— translated as gratitude, gratefulness, and thankfulness has cropped up more and more in Jewish learning. We teach about it, try to emulate it, discuss the value and ethical nature of gratitude. Having gratitude is never underestimated – expressing thanks can never lead you in the wrong direction. So, I need to express my deepest gratitude to the students and parents of B’nai Israel Religious School. You know who you are....

We entered a very difficult season of religious school registration. To Zoom or not to Zoom. We opened registration with a plan, the same tuition scale for school, and Zoom links. And you registered. You showed up on screen, picked up materials as needed, and have supported the efforts of our teachers as they too navigated new waters. Each week when I sign on to class, I am amazed and humbled on how each of our students is ready and waiting to join in on what the teachers have prepared and have to offer. The kids participate, smile, sing and play along. It is such a pleasure seeing and hearing the parents in the background, knowing they are there for support, and knowing that Jewish education means so much for this community.

Soon we will begin to introduce a little more and thankfully, the larger community of Jewish professionals are planning too. We instituted a new Hebrew in Harmony program with Jewish superstars Noah Aronson and Eliana Light. They make learning Hebrew amazing, interesting, and pleasant to listen to. We were led in Shabbat with Rick Recht in August, and soon Shira Kline will lead us into an exciting Simchat Torah celebration on October 9. We will be ready with our Torah kits and completed projects in hand. Shira and Rick have also collaborated on a new Shana Shel Shira (a year of song) series that we were fortunate enough to acquire thanks to the generosity of the Storthz Fund, we will see much more of Shira and Rick this year. And, later in October, we will once again hear from Noah Aronson, Jewish musician extraordinaire as he leads us in Shabbat worship. Indeed, B’nai Israel is very fortunate due to the many wonderful funds such as Storthz Fund and Bauman Family Music Fund who treat us to these enriching opportunities.

Perhaps Thank You is not enough. But it’s a great place to start.

Shana Shel Shira

Lifting Every Voice & Spirit



A Year of Song & Celebration with Rick Recht, Shira Kline, & Rabbi Josh Warshawsky

Sunday, October 4 – Sukkah Shalom Concert (shown during religious school for classes, grades K – 6 as scheduled)

Sunday, October 18 – Simchat Torah Concert (shown during religious school for classes, grades K - 6 as scheduled)

Sunday, November 1 – Early Childhood Concert: Tzaar Baalei Chaim (kindness of animals) for Team K/1 and all children PK and under at 9:00 am.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1 st	Brian Marshall	14 th	Julie Shindler
2 nd	Chris Barrier Janet Korenblat Andrea Neloms	15 th	Aaron Cousins Joy Figarsky Jay Marks
3 rd	John Selig	16 th	Billie Parker
4 th	Suzi Davis Scott Levine Sarah Brady Stack	17 th	Gus Block
5 th	Heather Tolliver	18 th	Judy Pearlstein
7 th	Pat Highley Maddie Townley Samuel Willis	19 th	Ed Figarsky Dianne Richard Leslie Singer
8 th	Susan Rosenthal-Kantrow	20 th	Russ Webb-Parish
9 th	Emilia Daniels Neil Elenzweig Brandi Gruber Steve Ronnel Carole Weisbly	21 st	David Gerson Jo Lawton Robert Rosen
10 th	Jessie Curtis	22 nd	Jackie Leibs Bendorf Phyllis Kaplan Susan Schmitz
11 th	Judith Lansky	23 rd	Jay Fullerton
12 th	Jordan Collins Justin Collins	24 th	Elizabeth Daniel
13 th	Annette Arnold Allan Gold Vivian Gold Cheryl Streiff Eleanor Wolff	25 th	Howard Knoff
		26 th	Mary Machen
		27 th	Janice Kane Sue Maddison Cohen Townley
		28 th	Shelly Baron Harper Johnson
		29 th	Janet Crafton



JOIN US FOR AN HOUR OF
MUSIC, FUN, AND SUKKOT
CELEBRATION
HONORING
ALL TEMPLE VOLUNTEERS
AND ESPECIALLY
TRUDY JACOBSON
ON HER 80TH BIRTHDAY
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 7PM, VIA
ZOOM

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

2 nd	Laura and Brad Joseph - 1990
4 th	Dina and Patrick Ifrah - 2000
10 th	Jan and Larry Alman - 1984
18 th	Kennon and Scot Goldsholl - 1990
22 nd	James Pfeifer and Robynn Zinser - 1984
23 rd	Marilyn and Earl Sorrells - 1985

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- In appreciation of Rabbi Block
John Sokora

Bauman Music Fund

- In gratitude to Trudy Jacobson for her
steadfast commitment to the Shechinotes
Joanne Liebman Matson

Vogel Caring and Sharing Fund

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- In memory of and in gratitude for Kelsey Dugger-Ragland
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- In memory of Mark Krain and in gratitude to Doris Krain
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- In memory of Sam Morris Vogel
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- In memory of Harry Reich
Doris Krain

Cemetery Fund

- General Donation
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- In memory of Eugene Weinstein
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Endowment Fund

In honor of the 95th birthday of Alan Thalheimer

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and Lasker Ehrman, Jr.

Sylvia Green

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Kathy and David Bauman

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Bobbye and Rabbi Gene Levy

For the continuing recovery of Fred Levin

Bobbye and Rabbi Gene Levy

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Joanne Liebman Matson & Charles Matson

In memory of Betty Liebman

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In memory of Selma Berman

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Diane Tidwell

In memory of Betty Lyons

her husband, Mac

In memory of Joseph Jacob Kaufman

Melissa Kaufman

OCTOBER 2

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 Samuel Wolff

OCTOBER 9

Alice Kramer Altheimer
 Phillip O. Back
 Pauline Blass
 Sybill Griffith Block
 Eva Bresnik
 Morris N. Donner
 Lee Greenberg
 Kim Grundfest
 Rosa Samuels Hess
 Kimbrelly Carol Jordan
 Theodore Kokes
 Elizabeth Pfeifer Levy
 Maxwell Joseph Lyons, Sr.
 Lawrence Rudolph
 Harry Rubenstein
 Thelma Imogene Sawrie
 Manie Schuman
 Shirley Levin Sherman
 Fay Miller Sloan
 Fred M. Smoler
 Cynthia Weintraub Weber
 Mae Louise Strauss White
 Lillian Wuntch
 Samuel Young

YAHREZEITS - OCTOBER 2020

OCTOBER 16

Jerome Averbuch
 Nathan Axler
 Joe Berger
 Raymond Block, Sr.
 Bessie Brown Carb
 Berta Rosenberg Cohn
 Patricia Fendler
 Adolph Gruner
 Harry Kahn
 Gilbert Korenblat
 Emanuel G. Levy
 Sol Lockwood
 David Louis Menkus, Sr.
 Rita Carolyn Moses
 Jacob Oberfest
 Esther Polsky Ostrow
 Nathan Perlstein
 James B. Pfeifer
 Loryeen Samuels Rose
 Pearl G. Rosen
 Patsy Stern Ruben
 Eva Dreeben Safferstone
 Bertha Alyce Shlenker
 Henry Edward Spitzberg
 George Wolff
 Philip Wuntch

OCTOBER 23

Vernon L. Adams
 Marvin F. Cohen
 Jonas Hirsch Epstein
 Tillie Feibelman
 Dorothy Berger Goldberg
 Dolores Greenberg
 Rosa Kahn
 Arthur E. Korenblat
 Minnie Frank Lasker
 David Baer Levi
 Bernard Levi
 Max Mayer Moses
 Joseph Pasink
 Jewel Altschul Pollock
 Mervin Reines
 Charles Rocker
 Louise Belle Rudolph
 Andrew Scallet
 Mike Seligman
 Rita Slutsky
 Ben S. Thalheimer
 Syd Waltzer

OCTOBER 30

Bob Arnold
 Elizabeth Weitzenhoffer Blass
 Helene E. Block
 Shelton Block
 Anna Heiman Cone
 Robert Joel Covin
 Rose B. Deitz
 Emanuel Dreidel
 Flora Seisel Dreyfus
 Ann Glubok
 Sam Goldenberg
 Gladys Ottenheimer Hirsch
 Pauline Levy
 Manford H. Levy
 Glenn Lowitz
 Benjamin Raff
 Maurice S. Rubenstein
 Aline S. Salinger
 Rose Schwartz
 Liliane Smart
 Joseph Spiegelman
 Paul Wald
 Henry Dave Wexner

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