

CONGREGATION B'NAI ISRAEL

LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS

THE CHRONICLE

TEMPLE

NOVEMBER 2020/VOLUME 20 - ISSUE 10

THE RABBI SPEAKS

RABBI BARRY BLOCK

Dear Friends:

Call it semantics, but I'm on a crusade to stop calling our lives "virtual." Yes, we are gathering virtually, that is, we are simulating the experience of being in the same space. However, once we have gathered, our interactions are real. Our worship is real. Our study is real, as is our learning. Attending a funeral online permits us to express grief. Celebrating online can bring us joy.

In short, our lives are *real*, even in this strange year.

Our existence this year may be compared to the exiles that the Jewish people has experienced throughout history. After the destruction of the First Temple, our ancestors were unable to go to the Jerusalem Temple, where they had worshipped God with sacrifice. In Babylon, the exiles "sat and wept while remembering "Zion" (Psalm 137:1), but that was not all they did. Spurred on by an anonymous prophet whose writings are in the latter part of the Book of Isaiah, they remained faithful to God. Then, when the Second Temple was destroyed, and our people again were without their accustomed place of worship, the Rabbis innovated, establishing the synagogue, where we would present "the offerings of our lips rather than those of the flocks and the herds."

The covenant would not die, despite inability to worship as our predecessors once did.

We fully expect to return to our holy Sanctuary much more quickly than our ancestors were able to rebuild the Jerusalem Temple after the first destruction, about eighty years. More importantly, wherever we worship, we hope to continue the Rabbis' spirit of creative innovation.

...continued on page 2



WORSHIP AT-A-GLANCE

*Shabbat worship continues virtually, via ZOOM: Friday nights at 6:15pm, Torah Study on Saturdays at 9:30am; and, new this month, **Shabbat Morning Worship at 11:00am, except November 7.** 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.*

FRIDAYNIGHT SERVICES IN NOVEMBER

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6

UPB-SINAI EDITION SERVICE
LED BY RABBI BARRY BLOCK

SERMON:

"Religious Certainty and Religious Liberty"

Music: David Bauman

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13

MISHKAN T'FILAH SHABBAT SERVICE
LED BY RABBI BARRY BLOCK

SERMON:

"What We Owe Indigenous People"

Music: Steve Bauman

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20

MISHKAN T'FILAH SHABBAT SERVICE
LED BY RABBI BARRY BLOCK

SERMON:

"Rebekah: Too Much or Not Enough?"

Music: Jana Cohen

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27

MISHKAN T'FILAH SHABBAT SERVICE
LED BY RABBI BARRY BLOCK

SERMON:

"Jacob: Merciful or a Loser?"

Music: David Bauman

(The Rabbi Speaks continued from front page)

During our exile of 2020, likely to stretch into 2021, we must allow ourselves moments to “lay down and weep.” Our losses are real. Then, let us get up, rebuild, and innovate. That’s our job at the Temple, as we presented High Holy Day worship—and, more recently, Atzeret-Simchat Torah Eve—in new, engaging, and meaningful ways. And that’s why, after a seven-month hiatus, we’re recommencing Shabbat morning worship, now via livestream. Continuing to live for real, and not merely “virtually,” is also a “job” for each of us individually. To whatever extent we can while taking great care to avoid the virus, let each of us “number our days” (Psalm 90:12), making every day count, even during the pandemic.

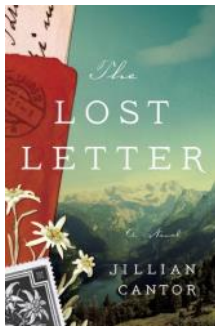
Faithfully,



Rabbi Barry H. Block

Al Barron Book Club
Sunday, November 8
3:00 pm via Zoom.

“The Lost Letter,”
by Jillian Cantor



A historical novel of love and survival inspired by real resistance workers during World War II Austria, and the mysterious love letter that connects generations of Jewish families.

ADULT LEARNING

**Coffee, Cake,
and Conversation
with
Jennifer A. Dillaha,
M.D.
State Epidemiologist,
Arkansas
Department of Health**



“Covid-19 and Possible Vaccines”

**Tuesday, November 10
11:30am, via Zoom**

Having joined the Arkansas Department of Health in 2001, Jennifer Dillaha, M.D., was named State Epidemiologist in March 2020, in addition to her roles as Medical Director for Immunizations and Outbreak Response. Her charge as the State Epidemiologist is to provide leadership and guidance for addressing Arkansas’ most pressing infectious diseases, including Covid-19. She is also charged with improving Arkansas’ immunization rates, particularly among adults. She is uniquely trained for that role as a physician with specialty training in internal medicine, infectious diseases, and geriatric medicine.

***Typically our program for Temple seniors,
this program is open to all.**

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



FROM THE PRESIDENT, AMANDA O. FERGUSON

Dear Friends,

I hope you and your families are all well and healthy as fall begins.

Here at Temple, one of our priorities this Fall has been providing meaningful and engaging religious school programming for your kids. There were so many questions! How long should the Zoom meeting last? Are teachers equipped to teach this way? Do the kids have devices and know how to work them? Will anyone even sign on for online religious school, or have they had enough of being online by Sunday morning?

Let me tell you, we needn't have worried. I have been amazed to hear from Eileen and Rabbi Block that they have had near perfect attendance for religious school. Thank you to all the students for logging on and participating. Thank you also to all the parents who make this happen.

Religious school provides a sense of community to our young children. During this eventful and often frightening pandemic, attending religious school provides a sense of continuity in their lives, builds on their learning from previous years, and keeps kids engaged with each other and the community.

The story below, which some of you heard at our volunteer appreciation event, was told to us by Rabbi Lipper when he was interim rabbi here a few years ago. With his permission, I want to share it with you.

In a mountain village in Europe many years ago, there was a nobleman who was concerned about the legacy he would leave to the people of his town and decided to build a synagogue. In the course of his planning, he decided no one would see the plans for the building until it was finished. He erected a wall around the building and began construction. The workers were sworn to secrecy. Day and night, they worked until the new synagogue was finished. When the work was completed, the townspeople were excited and curious about what they would find upon entering their new synagogue. They lined up early in the morning and anxiously waited for the wall to come down.

The doors opened and the townspeople began to enter. They marveled at the synagogue's magnificence. No one could ever remember so beautiful a synagogue anywhere in the world. They sat admiring the intricate designs and beautiful windows. They were in awe of the craftsmanship and attention to detail.

Then, noticing a seemingly obvious flaw in the design, one of them asked, "Where are the lamps? What will provide the lighting?" You built such a beautiful building and forgot to place lamps so that we could see when we worshipped. How could this be? And the crowd began to laugh ...

The proud nobleman held up his hand to silence the crowd. A hush came over the congregation. He then pointed to brackets which were strategically placed all along the walls throughout the synagogue. He then gave each family a lamp as he explained, "Whenever you come to the synagogue, I want you to bring your lamp, and light it. And your light will fill this place of prayer. But each time you are not here," he said, "a part of the synagogue will be dark. This lamp will remind you that whenever you are absent, some part of God's house will be dark. Your community is relying on you for light."

Right now, we can't all be in the building together, but each Sunday when your family logs on to religious school, you are supplying your light. Your children. Our future. Each child brings not just enough light for themselves, but by showing up and learning together they are lighting the way for others as well. Thank you for making this a priority in your children's lives.

Shalom,
Amanda

Thanksgiving Baskets



The Community Outreach Committee is filling baskets with food for needy families.

We are asking for donations. Each basket “costs” \$36. Sponsor as many as you like by sending a check to the Temple office, or by asking Keila to add any amount to your Temple bill, templesecretary@bnai-israel.us or 501-225-9700.

If interested, we will be assembling baskets on Wednesday, November 18 at 5:30 pm outside in the Porte Cochere.

Please wear a mask. We can only have 6 volunteers so we can socially distance. Call Jill Bauman to reserve your spot!

If you would like to deliver the baskets on Friday, November 20 to designated high schools, we need that also.

Any questions?
Contact Jill Bauman 501-960-8686
jarb223@yahoo.com

MAZAL TOV TO:

Jan Alman, who has been appointed vice chair of the board of directors of the Arkansas Repertory Theater.

Save the Date!

Sunday, November 8,



2020 THEME
HUMAN DIGNITY
כבוד הבריות

Global Day of Jewish Learning

Connect with the world! This year’s stellar lineup of courses and speakers has been put together by Limmud North America, which has adopted Global Day as one of its programs.

Stay tuned for course offerings and links in our e-blast.

For more information, please visit <https://limmudna.org/globalday/> or contact Meg Marion at meg.marion@icloud.com



Sponsored by JFAR, and supported by Congregations B’nai Israel & Agudath Achim.

MAZAL TOV TO:

Brandi and Greg Gruber, whose daughter Katie became Bat Mitzvah at Temple Israel in Memphis on October 10.



Join the congregation for a

Hanukkah Dinner Fundraiser

Thursday, December 10, 2020 ~ 6:45 pm.

Congregational candle lighting
followed by musical entertainment.

Delicious brisket, latkes, roasted veggies, salad, and dessert – all packed for you to take home! Pick up at Temple on December 10 between 1:00 – 6:00 pm in the Porte Cochere.

\$36.00/per person – family packs available.

Bottle of wine add on - \$18.00

Event sponsorships available by contacting Janet Korenblat or Jan Alman.

Reservations accepted until December 6.

A Zoom link will be sent to those who make a reservation in advance.



Back by popular demand.....a hit with congregants of all ages....

A Hanukkah Gift to Congregation B'nai Israel

SHIRA KLINE

Returns for our Hanukkah Party!

Sunday, December 13 - 5:00 pm, via Zoom

Made possible by a grant from the Sakon Rabbinic Discretionary Fund



FROM THE EDUCATOR, EILEEN HAMILTON

Take a big sigh of relief – it is the Hebrew month of Cheshvan – no Jewish holidays or special observances. For some this seems like bad news, for Temple staff this sounds like a break and a time to catch up. Let me tell you some of the things you can do this month of Cheshvan on the Jewish education front:

Register (if you have not already) for Jacobs Camp or other Jewish summer camp. You may be on a wait list at this point but get your name in there. The thought of camp gates opening in the summer of 2021 brings all great joy and hope.

Give Tzedakah – while we are still in this COVID situation, many families are undernourished and visit food pantries to survive. Others are recuperating from the damages of nature – both hurricanes and wildfires. Donate what you can to the many worthwhile organizations who are doing good in the world.

Zoom or call a friend who you have not seen or spoken to in a long while. There is no better time to make connections and rekindle friendships. We realize at these challenging times how much we miss each other and should be better about keeping in touch.

Read a Jewish themed book or watch a movie. Update your knowledge or pique your interest in a subject about Judaism – history, non-fiction, or even comedy. Celebrate your Jewish roots and culture and share family stories.

Pull out the photo albums. Show your kids, grandkids, and friends...family photos and tell them about life 20, 30, 40 or more years ago. What were the ‘challenges’ then?

Have Shabbat dinner together. Whether pizza, take out, or your homemade favorites, sit down at the table and light those candles, bless the wine, and do a motzi. There are resources online to help with the blessings if you need it, otherwise, just do it in ‘your style’.

Making memories and establishing new traditions may be the best way to spend a quiet month like Cheshvan.

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

Religious School dates for November: 1, 8, 15
 Confirmation: 4, 18

Shana Shel Shira

Lifting Every Voice & Spirit

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



November 1

Tzaar Ba'alei Chaim Early Childhood program for Team K/1 and PK and under families.

November 15

Hodayah T'filah for whole school

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1 st	Barry Goldman	14 th	Jana Cohen Beth Miller Joshua Shemper	21 st	Rebecca Kauffman Edward Scallet
2 nd	Aliza Brown Marina Ivanovsky Terri Moore	15 th	Betsy Mayersohn Marilyn Sorrells	23 rd	Herb Monoson
4 th	Alex Flaxman David Goldsholl Robin West	17 th	Bradley Diner	24 th	Carol Parham Dave Vrudny Marilyn Weinstein
5 th	Phillip Levin	18 th	Debbie Diner	26 th	Molly Axelroth Richard Estelita Bev Wittenberg
6 th	Jules Ifrah	19 th	Lynn Greenberg Ruth Itzkowitz	29 th	Alan Kauffman
7 th	Allison Lux Sebastian Wolf	20 th	Rose Back Monica Davidson Michael Gastman Alexandra Ifrah Sandra D. Pruitt	30 th	Donna Kirkwood Carol Silverstrom Libby Thalheimer
11 th	Fred Levin			31 st	Daniel Block Amanda Webb - Parish
12 th	Timothy Kessler				
13 th	William Cohen Gregory Gruber Candy Levy				



Please check our new website:
www.bnai-israel.us



DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

1 st	Brina and Levi Daniels - 2013 Jo and Andy Lawton - 1984 Becky and Jay Marks - 1984	22 nd	Janice and Jesse Kane - 1974
5 th	Muriel Lederman & Brian Storrie - 1971	24 th	Miriam and Leonard Hasson - 1972 Virginia and Irving Spitzberg - 1988
7 th	Tina and Nate Bernstein - 1985	25 th	Ruthe and Phil Kaplan - 1960
9 th	Tricia and Jerry Gold - 2006	26 th	Laura and Allan Gold - 1973
17 th	Monica and Joseph Davidson - 2011 Iris and Robert Oliva - 1966	29 th	Shirley and Bill Friedman - 1968
19 th	Carmen Arick and Emily Adams - 1986 Karla and Larry Back - 1971	30 th	Aliza and Jeff Brown - 1993
		31 st	Sarah Brady Stack & Jason Frisbie - 2019

LEAVE A LEGACY

CONGREGATION B'NAI ISRAEL

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
 Blanche Alman
 Brunette Billstein
 Helene Eisenkramer Block
 Raymond Emeil Block, Jr.
 Raymond Emeil Block, Sr.
 Velma Taliafierro Block
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 Rose and Jack Fine
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 Adolph and Vera Goldberg
 Dr. Hyman and Leah Harberg
 Rosa Pfeifer Isaacson

Ellen Rae Kaufman
 Myron Lasker Jr.
 Lena Latkin
 Bella and Manford Levy
 Janet and Arnold Mayersohn
 Hallie Cohen Miller
 Dora and Lena Pasink
 Robert Sakon
 Aline and Louis Salinger
 Roz Snyderman
 Eleanor Strauss
 Sam Vogel, Sr.
 Virginia Vollmer

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

Charles Alman
 Jan & Larry Alman
 Carmen Arick & Emily Adams
 Philip Axelroth
 Shelly Baron
 W. Christopher Barrier
 Jill & Steve Bauman
 Kathy & David Bauman
 Glenn Block
 Rabbi Barry Block
 Aniko Diamant
 Richard Estelita
 Rita C. Fagan
 Amanda & Martin Ferguson
 Joy G. Figarsky
 June & Edmond Freeman
 Loris M. Fullerton
 Laura & Allan Gold
 Kennon Goldsholl
 Scot Goldsholl
 Esther Gordon
 Sylvia Ehrman Green
 Trudy & Jerry Jacobson
 Ruthe & Phil Kaplan
 Tim Kessler

Dr. Howie Knoff
 Janet & Scott Korenblat
 Ellen Korenblat & Luke Kramer
 Eugene & Darcy Krupitsky
 Bobbye & Rabbi Eugene H. Levy
 Emily & Richard* Lewis
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 Meg Goldenberg Marion
 Anne & Dr. Laurence Miller
 Herbert & Patricia Monoson
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 Susan Strauss
 Judy Kohn Tenenbaum
 Marianne Tettlebaum
 Alan R. Thalheimer
 Annabelle Imber Tuck
 Regina & Perry Young

*of blessed memory

DONATIONS

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In honor of Rabbi Block

Anonymous

In gratitude for the beautiful High Holiday services

Ellyn Polsky

In memory of Michael Gorelick

Joshua Gorelick

In appreciation

Drs. Ellen Kraig and David Kolodrubetz

Connie Fails

Leslie Singer

In honor of Trudy Jacobson on her 80th birthday

Susan Lesser

In memory of Rosalie Jean Hardy

Sally and Michael Hardy

In honor of Richard Estelita and Jeff Nodelman
for their High Holiday magnificence

Meg Marion

Bauman Music Fund

In honor of the 80th birthday of Trudy Jacobson

Anne and Larry Miller

High Holy Days

In honor of Richard Estelita

Toos and Art Pfeifer

In honor of High Holy Days

Michael Caplan

Cemetery Fund

In memory of Eugene Weinstein

Suzi Davis

In memory of Jerry Tanenbaum

Suzi Davis

General Donation

Sylvia Green

Vogel Caring and Sharing Fund

In honor of Trudy Jacobson on her 80th birthday

Richard Estelita and Charley Penix

In appreciation of Keila Patton and Milton Boyd for all their hard work at Temple

Esther Gordon

**PLEASE WELCOME
OUR
NEW MEMBERS:**

**HANNAH SINGER &
CHILDREN, CICI (CERILIAN) &
(KJ) JAMES**
hlsinger07@gmail.com

**JOSEPH MARGOLICK &
LAUREN BERKMAN**
joseph.margolick@medportal.CA

SYLVIA E. GREEN
green.sylvia166@gmail.com

**PLEASE WELCOME
OUR
RETURNING MEMBERS:**

KIM AND FRANKIE ORTIZ
kimberlyortiz07@gmail.com

DONATIONS (CONTINUED)

Endowment Fund

In memory of Eugene Weinstein
Annabelle Tuck
In honor of the 80th birthday of Trudy Jacobson
Jill and Steve Bauman
In memory of Allan Mendel
Jennifer and Steve Ronnel

Bobbye & Rabbi Eugene Levy Fund for Camp Scholarships

In honor of Trudy Jacobson on her 80th birthday
Madelon Scallet

Hallie Cohen Miller Archives Fund

In honor of Trudy Jacobson on her 80th birthday
Jim Pfeifer and Robynn Zinser

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

In honor of the 80th birthday of Trudy Jacobson
Gene and Linda Pfeifer

Yahrzeit Fund

In memory of Helen Lockwood Eichenbaum
Peggy and L.R. Jalenak, Jr.
In memory of Maxwell Lyons, Sr.
Maxwell Lyons II
In memory of Eva Bresnik
Howard Bresnik
In memory of Eva Bresnik
Lauren Bresnik Gordon
In memory of Eva Bresnik
Daniel Bresnik
In memory of Avrome David and Jean T. Goldberg
Ellen Goldberg
In memory of Shirley Levin Sherman
Harriett Levin Balkind
In memory of Dan (Chink) Levin
Harriett Levin Balkind
In memory of William S. Sherman
Harriett Levin Balkind
In memory of Lee Greenberg
Alana Friedman
In memory of George L. Wolff
Eleanor Wolff
In memory of Gilbert Korenblat
Pamela Korenblat
In memory of Syd Waltzer
Bobbye and Gene Levy

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR CHRONICLE SPONSORS



YAHRZEITS NOVEMBER 2020**NOVEMBER 6**

William Back, Jr.
 Susan Forsyth Bauman
 Stanley Bauman, Jr.
 Mark J. Block
 Edwin 'Eddie' Ceitlin
 Howard R. Cohn
 Betty Bauman Davis
 Hortense Weil Ehrenberg
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 Evelyn Kohler
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NOVEMBER 27

Henry Berger
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 Minnie Kahn
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 Josephine Landauer Menkus
 David L. Reibstein
 Martin David Rosen
 Mary Snyderman
 Marie C. Storthz

NOVEMBER 13

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 Maurice L. Altheimer
 Robert Axelroth
 Joseph David Back
 Edward Samuel Back
 Ruth Ottenheimer Cohen
 Rosabell Dreyfus
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 Nona Pollock Summerfield
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NOVEMBER 20

Delsie Gans Altman
 Diane Anderson
 Almen Barron
 Albert Bloom
 Sol Branman
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 Joe Storthz, Sr.
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 Henrietta Volmer
 Louis Witt
 Naomi Zottoli

*May God comfort you among the
 other mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.*

Did you know you can get your Chronicle by e-mail? If you receive a paper copy of the Chronicle, and would prefer to only receive it by e-mail, please let us know. Send an email to templescretary@bnai-israel.us or call us at 501-225-9700

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*(please print your name exactly how you want it to be listed in the Chronicle)***In honor of:** _____**In memory of:** _____**In appreciation of:** _____**Other:** _____**Send acknowledgment to:** _____

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- ◆ GRUNDFEST ISRAEL SCHOLARSHIP FUND
- ◆ PFEIFER ISAACSON FUND FOR YOUTH GROUP
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- ◆ CHARLES NEWFELD FUND FOR INTERFAITH RELATIONS
- ◆ SISTERHOOD LEGACY FUND

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



LEAVE A LEGACY
CONGREGATION B'NAI ISRAEL

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.