Create a lasting legacy and enrich your community now and for years to come.

Shofar Soundings Fall 5782

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OF FALL (shown on the cover)

Rockdale Temple Board of Directors President John Cobey holds a Torah with the mantle made using a needlepoint designed from an original gouache painting, OF FALL, created by third generation Rockdale Temple member and Judaic artist Beth Goldstein.

OF FALL represents the beginning of the Seasons of Jewish life that is “our very own.” In Fall, the Tree of Life is a Shofar. From this traditional instrument made from a ram’s horn branch Fall foliage and fruits. The Shofar and the significant, specific notes it produces, announce the start of the Jewish New Year...“our very own.”

From the top of the Shofar spills the honey that sweetens the New Year as it drips over crisp Fall apples and all of the Season’s bounty. The rituals of eating apples dipped in honey; of lifting the Lulav; of dining under a Sukkah draped in fruits and figs; are all “our very own” new beginning.

MAZEL TOV!

To Sarah Weiss on being appointed by Governor DeWine to the Ohio Holocaust and Genocide Memorial and Education Commission

To Molly Goldberg and Anthony Hurt on their marriage on June 6, 2021 in Cincinnati, OH

To Jen Smilg on being honored by Help Hope Live with their “Help Award”

To Dr. Michael Meyer on the publication of his book Rabbi Leo Baeck: Living a Religious Imperative in Troubled Times

To Rabbi Shena Jaffee on her new role as Jewish Life and Learning Consultant at Rockwern Academy

To Sue and Ken Sherman on the birth of their grandson, Benjamin Allen Sherman

To Eden and Yotom Rabinowitz on the birth of their daughter, Lev Ayelet Rabinowitz

To Lisa Fox and Dick Trohman on the birth of their granddaughter, Tamar Rosa Fox

If you would like to contribute moments of congratulations, please send a request to Patty Kaufman, pkaufman@rockdaletemple.org.
THE COMFORT OF THE HIGH HOLY DAYS

“Disturb us from our complacency...” say we to God. Or so it goes in a reading in our Shabbat prayerbook, *Mishkan T’filah*. Jewish tradition believes in ruffling feathers. We are supposed to be awakened from our slumber, we are supposed to be bothered, we are supposed to be made uncomfortable sometimes. Why? In order to better ourselves, to better the world around us. We can’t be inspired to fix what is broken if our eyes aren’t open wide enough to see the cracks. Usually, we who are comfortable hope to be “disturbed from our complacency.” We hope that our daily experiences, the words we read, and the things we learn inspire us to do the work of *tikkun*, the work of repair.

This work is central to the High Holy Day season, especially the Days of Awe, the 10 days that encompass Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur. We call it *Cheshbon HaNefesh*—an accounting of our souls. Our tradition asks us to look deep within ourselves and repair our relationships with others, with God, and with ourselves. Surely, in this coming year, which is a *shmita* year, a sabbatical year for the earth, we will be thinking about how we repair our relationships with the physical world. This work is always important, and it is especially necessary during this holy season.

But what of this year we are about to conclude, 5781? And what of the year that is coming, 5782? Is this really the time to be disturbed? To be made uncomfortable? Haven't we done this enough over the past 18 months? The over-arching tenor of the season always feels well summed up to me by the title of a popular book about the High Holy Days, written by Rabbi Alan Lew: *This Is Real And You Are Completely Unprepared*. The title of the book seems to suggest that this is a solemn and awe-filled time, a time of seriousness and hard work, a time of discomfort and maybe even a little internal disturbance.

Our High Holy Days are all of that. But they are also a time of comfort. An opportunity to celebrate renewal and promise. A gathering of friends, neighbors, and community. A reminder of that which inspires, heals, and uplifts. Though also an incredibly holy, awe-some, and solemn moment, for me, standing in front of the open ark during *Avinu Malkeinu* brings me comfort. I wait to hear the beautiful music all year. I hear the requests for God to heal, to listen, to heed, to grant, to sustain—and I feel the possibility ahead. I know that we are all standing there together, and I know I’m not alone.

This season—especially *this* season—can be one of comfort. Even as we approach this time with introspection, with hard work, with humility, with awe, I pray we will also find in it comfort, strength, and healing.

I look forward to a meaningful High Holy Day season with our Rockdale Temple family. Sean, Seth, Becca, and Sari join me in wishing you a Shanah Tovah!

Rabbi Meredith Kahan

Senior Rabbi
After months of anticipation, it is thrilling to finally be here and I am so grateful for the warm welcome I have received from the Rockdale family!

As I continue to meet members of our community and get settled in Cincinnati, it is full steam ahead in my work as your new Assistant Rabbi and Educator. For most Jewish professionals, the Fall is the “high” season. Not only do we have the High Holy Days, but we also have the kick off for our youth education program, and a return to an active and engaging community schedule. This peak season feels especially true this year as the Fall also brings a return to spaces and gatherings that were notably absent this past year.

While it could be easy to focus on the arrival of 5782, we also take time to reflect on the year that is coming to a close. During Elul, the month leading up to Rosh Hashanah, and through the Yamim Noraim, the Days of Awe, there are many practices we can engage with in order to prepare ourselves mentally and spiritually for the High Holy Days. This is a strength and gift of Judaism—we are certainly welcome to go off book and get creative, and there are set rituals that we can turn to as a guide.

There are two practices in particular that I find meaningful. The first is the reading of Psalm 27, which is traditionally read each day during the month of Elul and through Simchat Torah. There are many contemporary offerings that I turn to, particularly those that are poetic or musical. The second is journaling. I’ll admit that this does not come as easily to me, but I have found some excellent prompts to help inspire more reflective writing as a practice. I use both of these as an opportunity to reflect on accomplishments of the last year, as well as ways I could have been better to myself and others.

This year, I’m adding a new practice to my preparation. On Sunday, August 29th, we have our kick-off for youth education with the Kehal Kodesh Opening Day! With all the necessary safety precautions taken into consideration, it will be an opportunity to sing together, to learn together, to reconnect with one another, and to have FUN! Rabbi Kahan has promised me that it is one of the best days of the year! Since the High Holy Days are “early” this year, it is perfect timing that we will have our opening day as the lead into this special season. I am very much looking forward to connecting with our families and teachers as we begin this new year of learning together!

This year has brought much change and transition into my own life, and also into the life of Rockdale Temple. Even through all the things that have brought pain and heartache, I still find a deep sense of joy and gratitude as we enter this new chapter together. Dr. Brené Brown teaches that joy and gratitude are intertwined: gratitude invites joy into our lives and joy is resilient, vulnerable, and grounded in gratitude. In this season of celebration, reflection, and renewal, may we all feel the blessing of the gratitude and joy that have helped us reach this sacred moment together.

Shana tova!

Rabbi Erin Binder
Assistant Rabbi and Educator
Monday, September 6
8:00PM
EREV ROH HASHANAH SERVICE*
with Installation of Board of Directors

Tuesday, September 7
ROH HASHANAH
MORNING SERVICES

FoRT Service
Infants to 1st Graders & Families
9:30AM (Mayerson JCC Tent)
followed by Interactive Kids’ Experience

Youth Service
2nd to 6th Graders
10:00AM (Mayerson JCC Tent)
followed by Interactive Youth Experience

Morning Service*
10:00AM
Followed by Rosh Hashanah Reception
in the Courtyard

Tashlich Service
5:00PM (French Park)
Meet in the first parking lot; access from
Section Road, just east of Ridge

Wednesday, September 15
8:00PM
KOL NIDRE SERVICE*

Thursday, September 16
YOM KIPPUR MORNING SERVICES

FoRT Service
Infants to 1st Graders & Families
9:30AM (Mayerson JCC Tent)
followed by Interactive Kids’ Experience

Youth Service
2nd to 6th Graders
10:00AM (Mayerson JCC Tent)
followed by Interactive Youth Experience

Morning Service*
10:00AM

Afternoon Study
1:00-2:30PM (Rockdale Temple)

Afternoon Service*
Healing and Return
3:00PM

Yizkor Service*
4:30PM

Neilah/Concluding Service*
with Havdalah
5:15PM

Break the Fast
6:00PM (Courtyard)

*These services will be held in the Mayerson JCC Amberley Room and streamed live on our website.
Announcing High Holy Days Youth Experiences at Rockdale Temple

- Interactive services for young children and their parents!
- Warm, meaningful services for elementary school kids!
- Hands-on, active experiences for kids 3yrs-6th grade following services!

Please register by September 1 at rockdaletemple.org/HHD4Youth.html

*We apologize that we are unable to offer childcare this year.

Sukkot

Erev Sukkot Service
Monday, September 20
7:00 PM
In the Rockdale chapel & live on our website/Facebook followed by Kiddush & Oneg in the Sukkah

Sukkot Morning Service
Tuesday, September 21
10:00 AM
In the Rockdale chapel & live on our website/Facebook followed by Festival Luncheon in the Sukkah

Simchat Torah

Congregational Dinner
Monday, September 27
5:30 PM
In the Rockdale parking lot & live on our website/Facebook

Erev "Rock" Simchat Torah & Consecration Service
Monday, September 27
6:30 PM
In the Meyerson JCC tent & live on our website/Facebook

Simchat Torah Service with Yizkor
Tuesday, September 28
10:30 AM
In the Rockdale chapel & live on our website/Facebook followed by Festival Luncheon on the Rockdale patio

Create a lasting legacy and enrich your community now and for years to come.
Caitlin Brazner is a rising 5th year rabbinical and education student at HUC-JIR, Cincinnati. After graduating college in 2010, Caitlin participated in AVODAH: The Jewish Service Corps in Washington, DC. After her deeply impactful AVODAH experience, she worked for five years in Reform congregations in Washington, DC and Baltimore, Maryland, as well as at URJ Camp Harlam, in Kunkletown, Pennsylvania. Caitlin is originally from Milwaukee, Wisconsin (Go Packers!), and a graduate of the University of Wisconsin, Madison (Go Badgers!). During her time as a rabbinical student, she has served as the student rabbi of Temple B’nai Israel in Kokomo, Indiana, Temple Israel in Paducah, Kentucky, and United Hebrew Congregation in Terre Haute, Indiana. Caitlin has also completed one unit of clinical pastoral education, serving as a student chaplain for The Jewish Hospital and the Daniel Drake Center for Post-Acute Care in Cincinnati, Ohio. Caitlin is looking forward to serving as the rabbinic intern for Rockdale Temple in Cincinnati, Ohio for her 5th Year TJF Fellowship. She is very happy to find herself living in the Midwest again with her husband, Scott Larsen (current Operations & Events Manager at Rockdale Temple), and their dog, Pig. In her free time, Caitlin enjoys reading, drawing, catching up on Netflix, and walks with Pig.

Scott Larsen is Rockdale Temple’s Operations & Events Manager. Scott manages our day-to-day operations, coordinates maintenance and housekeeping of the facility, and helps plan and execute all our meetings, programs, services, and lifecycle events. Scott originally hails from Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He met his wife at University of Wisconsin in Madison. His wife of course is none other than Caitlin Brazner, a fifth-year rabbinical/education student at HUC-JIR and our rabbinic intern. Their journey has taken them from Wisconsin to Israel as well as Washington, D.C., Baltimore, and rural Pennsylvania. Scott and Caitlin are enjoying their time in Cincinnati almost as much as their dog, Pig.

Scott has a history of operations and customer service work that has taken him from Shake Shack to Target to URJ Camp Harlam in the Poconos. Because of this experience, he consistently “comes from yes.” Scott always does his best to make things happen for our congregation—no matter how big or last minute. He was also the driving force behind our ability to transition so efficiently to virtual programs and services during the pandemic. Despite not being in his original job description, he took this initiative on with positivity, flexibility, and kindness.

We are so grateful for all Scott does for our congregation. Be sure to thank Scott for all his hard work the next time you see him!

We want to express our deep gratitude for Ilana Symons as she completes her summer internship with us. During her time at Rockdale, she has led our community in prayer, taught engaging adult education, provided care and connection for members of our community, and has been a valuable member of our staff. This summer brought a lot of transition and Ilana’s presence was a tremendous gift! We wish her all the best in her continued studies and internship experiences. She will always be a part of the Rockdale family!
The Teddy Bears introduced a song in 1958 which has the lyrics:

To know, know, know him
Is to love, love, love him,
Just to see him smile
Makes my life worthwhile,
To know, know, know him
Is to love, love, love him,
And I do.

This song, “To Know Him is to Love Him,” kicked off the fabulous music of the 60s and was written by Marshall Leib and Phil Spector. The lead singer was Annette Kleinbard who changed her name to Carol Connor and later wrote the theme for the movie Rocky.

It is a romantic song but applies to you and the Rockdale congregation.

First let me ask, what is Rockdale? Yes, it is an institution. But an institution that has no people is but an abandoned building. Our tradition tells us that we need to interact with people and that we need a minyan to say certain prayers. Aristotle says, “Man lives in a polis” or a gathering of people and that “a man who lives alone is either a Beast or a God.” Polis does not mean political but rather is the wonderful Greek philosophical word that means a state or society, especially when characterized by a sense of community.

The key to future success at Rockdale is to take the Teddy Bear lyrics lesson to mean that we need to know each other. We need members of our congregation to step out after the pandemic and ask each other, “Who are you, why are you here, and what can we do to make Jewish life better?”

When I was in college, one of the students who was there was Michael Schwerner. “Who was he,” you may ask, “and what difference did he make in our lives?” He had studied at Cornell and was in graduate school when he left and went south with another Jewish man named Goodman and an African American man named Chaney to help with voter registration in the African American community. He was so successful that he and his two companions ended up buried in a reservoir, victims of the Klan. Yet he made a difference. You too can make a difference by rethinking your priorities for this new year.

I hope your priorities include getting to know the congregation. Take out your directory and look for a name of someone you don’t know. Call them and meet them. If you do not know where, meet them at Rockdale. Or if you would like, join Team Rockdale in the Flying Pig. (Yes, we are having members walk and run in the “Pig.” Sounds appropriate for a Reform Temple?)

The strength of Rockdale is the people in it, you our members. The strength of Rockdale is not just its history, its endowment, or its mission. It is the people who know each other and enjoy similarities of faith. There are many differences and that is what makes us vital and interesting. But the similarities of caring for one another is the warmth, as well as the fabric, warp and weft of our congregation. I hope that during the High Holy Days, you lean over and invite the person you do not know out for coffee, lunch, or dinner sometime. You will find that one of the greatest benefits of your Rockdale experience is to know the person you do not know.

So, you may not “love, love, love him” as the song goes, but you should know your neighbor and in doing so, you might love Rockdale more. And like the theme of the song that helped start 60s Rock and Roll, you will help Rockdale roll on and on and on.

Jan and I, David, Max, Elia, and Leo wish you and yours L’Shanah Tovah. We all look forward to a bright new year at Rockdale.

John G. Cobey
President
200 YEARS OF LIVING JEWISH VALUES

Rockdale Temple will be celebrating our 200th Bicentennial Anniversary in 2024. During this past year, the Development Committee, under the direction of Stephanie De Falco and Aaron Herzig, has been working together, laying the groundwork and setting goals as we begin to prepare to celebrate this special milestone event in our congregation's history.

The event planning committee, led by Sue Sherman and Barrie Kraus, has been busy brainstorming a variety of events and programming that Rockdale's members will be able to enjoy all year long. The fundraising committee, chaired by Josh Shapiro and David Schwartz, is working on creating opportunities for congregants and other supporters of Rockdale to make their mark for this special occasion and help cement Rockdale's future.

At our Annual Gathering on June 6th, we proudly introduced our 200th Anniversary logo (pictured here) which reflects “200 years of living Jewish values” as the theme. Each of K.K. Bene Israel's five homes is represented in the logo, moving through time from left to right with layers of colors: our first home, the Broadway Temple built in 1836; a larger Broadway Temple at the corner of Sixth and Broadway completed and dedicated in 1852; Mound Street Temple, consecrated in 1869; Rockdale Avenue Temple, built in 1906; and our current home on Ridge Road, dedicated in 1969.

Amy Schwartz Bazelon, daughter of congregants Abby and David Schwartz, who grew up at Rockdale, and a professional graphic designer now living in Milwaukee, worked with our committee to design this logo. We are grateful to her for giving her time and talent to this special project.

Watch for more details during the High Holy Days as we introduce our plans to honor and celebrate our past, and look ahead to the next 200 years of the oldest congregation west of the Alleghenies.
EXCITING THINGS AHEAD!

Shortly before I was offered this job, I met with Board President John Cobey for breakfast. I had just completed multiple rounds of interviews with the Rockdale search committee, staff, and board members. I told John something that I believed to be true then, something I know to be true now. I was thinking that I had found this amazing hidden gem in our community. As many know, I grew up at Rockdale. I worked for the JCC right next door for 10 years. The vibes I got during the interview process were so warm and welcoming that I knew it was the place I wanted to be. If I have one regret it is that I did not formally reengage with Rockdale Temple sooner.

We managed to accomplish so much this summer together as a congregation. With the help of our amazing staff and leadership, we made some significant updates to our technology. Our online streaming infrastructure is now where it needs to be to provide a seamless experience, our Visual Tefillah program in the chapel literally could not get any bigger, and our staff has the technology they need to effectively run our day to day operation, allowing us to serve the congregation more efficiently. We were able to make some facility updates, modernize some of our office spaces, and implement pandemic learnings on how to be safer and healthier moving forward. The Rockdale staff joined the Cincinnati Jewish Community at Great American Ballpark for the Cincinnati Reds Jewish community night. Probably most importantly was the accomplishment of congregating together in person. Rock the Block was an amazing Shabbat evening, and it was so nice to be able to see and meet so many members of our congregation.

As we look towards the future, both near and far, it is hard not to get excited. The High Holy Days are around the corner and this year we will be able to congregate together for learnings, reflection, and prayer in person. I am blessed to be getting married at the end of August with some of my Rockdale family and former classmates in attendance. Shortly after it will be time to convert our wedding chuppah into a sukkah. And then we will be lighting our chanukiot before we know it. Over the summer we also started planning for our congregation's 200th anniversary, and are excited to share some of those plans in the coming weeks.

With so much greatness happening at Rockdale, our hidden gem continues to shine brightly, and I feel so fortunate and excited to be a part of it. The past few months have been a career high for me, and I look forward to many more to come. If I have not yet had the opportunity to meet you, please reach out. May you be inscribed and sealed for a good year. Shana Tova!

David Solomon
Executive Director
Many of us are familiar with Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel’s solidarity and activism with Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Interestingly, much of Heschel’s motivation for this work came from his deep drive for Jewish survival. He fled Poland six weeks before the country was invaded by Germany, and his mother and three sisters tragically died in the Holocaust. These experiences, of course, influenced his thoughts. In a 1965 essay, “No Religion is an Island,” Heschel writes out of a concern for Jewish safety: “the Community of Israel must always be mindful of the mystery of aloneness and uniqueness of its own being. ‘There is a people that dwells apart, not reckoned among the nations’ (Numbers 23:19), says Gentile prophet Balaam. Is it not safer for us to remain in isolation and to refrain from sharing perplexities and certainties with Christians?” The essay is focused on Jewish-Christian relations, but his points could be applied more broadly. Heschel answers the question: “We are all involved with one another…. Views adopted in one community have an impact on other communities. Today, religious isolationism is a myth.” Heschel argues throughout the essay that despite any disagreements that exist between communities, we are all made b’tezelem Elohim, in the image of God. Therefore, it is incumbent on us to identify where there is common ground and move forward on issues where we can agree.

This teaching reminds me of an event the Justice Collaborative hosted in September of 2019 at Rockdale when we provided training to gather signatures for universal gun background checks. As part of this event, we invited Bishop Ennis Tate, Senior Pastor of the New Beginnings Church of the Living God of Avondale. Bishop Tate discussed how gun violence results in tragic outcomes for Black people across the city and in his community. What was so moving about this, was the recognition that we, as Jews, are concerned for our safety due to the possibility of gun violence in a very different way than Bishop Tate's community; and yet, he was willing to share his narrative with us because we had the opportunity to unite around an issue. Those of us who volunteered to collect signatures were invited into other churches and communities and we felt safe in those spaces because of shared goals.

But safety is not a given for us right now. Rising antisemitism is of significant concern today domestically and abroad. It is a machine of division and fear that is increasingly being used by people who want power and material gain. We know how dangerous it is when Jews are targeted, and how it can lead to violence against us. However, this machinery of division and fear is the same machinery used to blame Black and brown people, people who are immigrants, people who are Muslim, people who identify as LGBTQ+, and many others. But no matter who the machinery is used against, when it is effective, it keeps all of us from working together to break the machine. We almost universally lift up Rabbi Heschel today, but he was a controversial figure among Jews during the time of his activism. Despite that, we have an example of what can be accomplished when Jews join together with our neighbors to break the machine of division and fear. If we build a world where we show up for each other when fear is used to divide us, we will fulfill a promise of freedom and safety for all of us, no exceptions.

The Justice Collaborative will continue to provide opportunities for our community to be involved with justice work that fights to break the machine. And we are also interested in lifting up all the justice work our congregants are doing. If you are doing justice work that you think the congregation should know about, including issues tied to antisemitism, let us know and we would be happy to make sure the message goes out. As we know, working on one issue lifts up the others, since an issue in one community impacts all others.
Noah’s Ark Mural: Tribute to an Artist and a Beloved Rabbi

If you have been a part of the Rockdale family for at least 20 years, you might remember a mural depicting the Noah’s Ark story covering one wall of the hallway leading from the main building to the education wing. It was there when I came to Rockdale in 2000. I was quite taken by the immensity of the project—the mural at that time was more than 100 feet long by 8 feet high—especially by the charmingly expressive eyes of the few animals that had been roughed in. After several months of observing the mural, I realized that there no one was making any progress on it. After I formally converted in 2001, I began to teach art in the Religious School, and asked then-Director of Education Dr. Meryl Goldman, z”l if anyone was planning to complete the mural. She told me that the woman who had begun it withdrew because of illness and said she would ask the artist’s family if they would permit someone else to complete the mural. For reasons unknown, that never happened. Then plans for the “New Rockdale” got underway and the mural disappeared when the education wing was demolished. Unfortunately, no one I’ve talked with at Rockdale has been able to name the original artist.

Fast forward to 2011. On my way to the music room for choir practice on a Tuesday evening, I was surprised to see that someone had affixed most of the original panels of the mural to both hallway walls on the temple’s lower level. After several weeks of observation, it again appeared to me that no one was completing the project. I went to our new Executive Director, Margaret Friedman Vaughan, and told her that I had previously offered to complete the mural, and that if no one else was planning to do so, I’d still be happy to take it on. She told me that two teens had added some work to it over the summer, but were not continuing, so that if I wanted to complete the mural I could have at it. I bought a lot of acrylic paint and a bunch of brushes and got busy.

Though the original artist’s rendering of the ark occupants was delightfully artistic, it appeared that she had not been able to complete her sketches of the story in sequence. I really wanted to honor her imagining of the story as well as preserve her artistry in depicting the animals she had roughed in. I also wanted to depict the entire story in a recognizable sequence of events, beginning on one wall and progressing to the other. In the 100 feet of mural that fills the hallway, that is what I have attempted, by both creating new scenes and completing the ones begun by previous artists who have worked on the mural. The ones I know of include the original artist, a young man who worked as a custodian for a summer, and Sally Peterson, z”l, with whom it was my privilege to sing in Shir Shalom Choir for several years.

The work continues. My current goal is to finish by Chanukah, but please don’t hold me to that. As apparent from the number of years I’ve been working on this project, real life has a way of hammering on a painter’s intentions. In the meantime, if you care to take a peek at the unfinished product, look at the eyes of the ibexes, striped fish and crocodiles to appreciate the talents of the original artist. Then look for several visual jokes among the renderings of the animals on the ark, (how many hearts can you count?) and a special message in the signature spider's web (yes there is such a thing as a signature spider). Also note Mrs. Noah picking peaches from a tree as her granddaughter observes from the folds of the family’s tent—that image was a request of our dear Rabbi Sissy Coran, z”l—and a nod to one of my favorite playwrights, Clifford Odets. His short story “The Flowering Peach” provided the inspiration for the musical Two By Two, (Broadway’s rendition of the Ark story) which was Richard Rodgers’ last opus and starred Danny Kaye. And if you happen to know who imagined and began the mural, please let me know!

By Tracy McMullen
Please consider naming Rockdale Temple in your will or estate plan.

Shofar Soundings Fall 5782

EXPERIENCE THE VALUE IN GIVING.
Maximize your tax deduction and grow your charitable dollars with one simple giving account.

OPEN YOUR DONOR-ADVISED FUND TODAY.

Contact Mindy Garvey
513.985.1534 | mgarvey@jfedcin.org
jewishcincinnati.org/DAF
Rockdale Temple Celebrates at Rock the Block

On Friday, July 2, Rockdale Temple celebrated its return to in-person Shabbat services with a Rock the Block celebration. Before and after the service, which took place in the Mayerson JCC tent, more than 200 members and guests enjoyed a multi-generational block party atmosphere in the Rockdale and Mayerson JCC parking lot, featuring a cookout dinner, beverages, a Kona Ice truck, music, and activities for children.

The Rockdale community welcomed Rockdale’s new Assistant Rabbi and Educator Erin Binder. She, Senior Rabbi Meredith Kahan, and Jewish Foundation of Cincinnati Fellows and Rabbinic Interns Caitlin Brazner and Ilana Symons, led services under the tent.

John Cobey, President of Rockdale Temple, commented, “Two hundred plus Rockdale members and friends came back in person to celebrate old friends and new beginnings. We socialized with each other, served food and ate together, made plans to reconnect, and then prayed together, led by our four knowledgeable, energetic, and engaging, clergy.”

Jennifer Clark, Chair of Rockdale’s Engagement Task Force that planned the event, remarked, “Seeing everyone together in person was so incredibly meaningful. What an amazing experience having all of our voices pray together in the same space, and it was truly a special night when we welcomed Rabbi Erin Binder to the Rockdale family.”

Stephanie De Falco, who co-chaired the Assistant Rabbi & Educator Search Committee with Larry Smilg noted, “I could think of no better way to reunite with our Rockdale family and to welcome Rabbi Binder than with Rock the Block. Celebrating Shabbat in person, dining together, catching up after all this time, watching the kids—who have really grown over the last 16 months—play and make memories together once again. The evening reminded all of us why we love Rockdale so much.”
Please consider naming Rockdale Temple in your will or estate plan.

Shofar Soundings Fall 5782
Upcoming Rock Shabbat
Dates:
October 8 & November 12

Look for more information in upcoming Rockmail emails!

2022 Family Retreat
SAVE THE DATE
FEBRUARY 4-6, 2022
Please register by December 6, 2021
www.rockdaletemple.org/form/retreat2022

Hueston Woods
5201 Lodge Road
College Corner, OH 45003

*Details may be subject to change

shabbatCTY
A joyful Shabbat in Cincinnati
Friday, November 5th
Drinks & Schmooze - 6:00PM
Shabbat Service - 6:30PM
Location TBA
SAMUEL NICHOLAS DE FALCO, October 2, 2021

Samuel will kick off the next Torah cycle with B’reishit on Saturday, October 2. He is extremely excited to be the first in his class to become a Bar Mitzvah and especially proud to be the first male in his family to celebrate this simcha in the United States since 1960!

A rising seventh grade student at Sycamore Junior High School, Samuel’s interests include reading Greek mythology and sci-fi books, old-fashioned video games, outdoor time and Beyblades. He also enjoys playing clarinet, piano and soccer. Samuel hopes to be an architect one day.

Samuel’s mitzvah project is collecting personal care items on behalf of Matthew 25: Ministries, an organization he has volunteered at since third grade. He will hold collection drives at the Religious School Kickoff on August 29 at Montgomery Park and at Religious School Sundays in September. Collection bins will be in the Rockdale lobby throughout September for congregants to participate with donations. Thank you!

Samuel would like to thank his Trope teacher Madeline Budman and his Bar Mitzvah tutor Jason Schapera who have made this time of preparation fun and enjoyable. He also wants to thank Rabbi Kahan for all of her encouragement and great advice. Samuel credits his Hebrew and Trope classmates, too, for motivating him to give this milestone event all he can, and his parents and siblings for their love and support.

EDEN CORAN KRAUS, November 13, 2021

Eden Coran Kraus went to Rockwern Academy for elementary school and is in the 7th grade at Walnut Hills. She loves learning and is most interested in Math and Science. Eden is actively involved in sports, especially softball, basketball, and skiing. In her free time, she loves anything to do with the Marvel Cinematic Universe, spending time with family, cuddling with her dog Cookie, hanging out with friends, and going to protests. Eden also enjoys traveling, playing games, and drawing. Every summer she is always excited to go to GUCI for summer camp. Other summer experiences have included Shakespeare Camp, Women Writing for a Change, and Zoo Camp. Her favorite Jewish holiday is Passover because of the food and having Seder with family and friends.

When she grows up, Eden would like to be an engineer because it’s fun and she likes helping people with technology. Eden would like to thank her Bat Mitzvah tutor, Madeline Budman, Rabbi Coran, z”l, and Rabbi Kahan for helping her prepare for becoming a Bat Mitzvah. She would like to thank all of her teachers and family for their love and support.

Samuel is especially proud to be the first male in his family to celebrate this simcha in the United States since 1960!

Eden loves learning and is most interested in Math and Science. She is actively involved in sports, especially softball, basketball, and skiing.
SHABBAT SHAL-OM YOGA

September 18, 1:00PM
October 16, 1:00PM
November 20, 1:00PM
via Zoom

with instructor Lori Reidel

REGISTER AT WWW.ROCKDALETEMPLE.ORG/ EVENT/SHABBATSHALOMYOGA

Generously supported by the In the Beginning Fund of the Women of Rockdale

BUILD A JEWISH COMMUNITY

THAT WILL CONTINUE LONG AFTER US.

With your help we can improve the lives of those who need us most.

DONATE NOW JEWSHICINCINNATI.ORG
In 1978, Rockdale initiated The Menorah Award to recognize congregants for exceptional volunteer service. Gary Heldman, a life-long member of Rockdale and a Past President of the congregation, was President during the crucial years when Rockdale was reimagining itself as a smaller congregation and led the re-organization effort of the Board with his vision and determined work on behalf of the congregation. We are proud to have named the award in his honor: The Gary Heldman Menorah Award. We honor the men and women who uphold the traditions of the past with this award.

We congratulate these three congregants who received the Gary Heldman Menorah Award at our Annual Gathering in June.

**STEPHANIE DE FALCO**

Stephanie and her husband Tony joined Rockdale in 2012 along with their two young kids, Samuel and Brie, and quickly got involved in Tot Shabbat. They welcomed their youngest, Sebastian, a few years later, and the whole family became active in our Religious School community. Stephanie led FoRT, our young family community, as its first chairperson, and has been the group’s biggest champion. She has helped Rockdale translate FoRT’s success to other initiatives. Stephanie joined the Rockdale Temple board a few years ago and was recently appointed the at-large member of the Executive Committee due to her wisdom, dedication, insight, and hard work. Stephanie has represented Rockdale out in the community and even at the URJ Biennial. After serving on the Senior Rabbi Search Committee, she agreed to co-chair the Assistant Rabbi and Educator search. Stephanie led the Search Committee with vision, expertise, and compassion. She made sure our committee was organized, focused, and operating in accordance with our values. And there is no rest for the weary—Stephanie is co-chairing our 200th Anniversary efforts! We can look forward to Stephanie’s leadership of KK Bene Israel as we approach our Bicentennial and beyond.

**JIM HELDMAN**

Jim is a multigenerational Rockdale member. He and his wife Wendy Saunders raised their two children, Dustin and Courtney, here at Rockdale Temple. For decades, Jim has served this congregation and our broader Cincinnati Jewish community. His leadership has extended to the Board of Overseers of HUC, the Jewish Federation Finance Committee, Jewish Vocational Service and American Jewish Committee Boards of Directors, just to name a few. Jim served for several terms as a member of the Rockdale Temple Board of Directors, as well as on the Executive Committee and eventually as our President. Jim’s presidency began three years ago under the best of circumstances and ended last summer under the worst, but his compassionate, level-headed, wise leadership never wavered. Even though Jim is an ex-officio member of our board, and only for one more year, we have kept him busy with rabbinic searches and the Nominating Committee—and we will press him into service as we approach our 200th.

**LARRY SMILG**

Larry, his wife Jen, and their three boys, Ethan, Noah, and Jacob joined Rockdale Temple almost ten years ago after a move to Cincinnati from Indianapolis. Larry has been a member of our Religious School Committee for many years, supporting the school and youth programs that have been important to his children’s growth. Larry has been a trusted part of our Safety and Security Committee for the last few years, ensuring that Rockdale is a safe place for us all to gather, learn, and pray. These past few months, Larry has put his engineering mind and risk-assessment skills to work as he joins weekly in the important work of designing our congregation’s safe reopening. And as many of you know, Larry co-chaired the Assistant Rabbi and Educator search process that brought us Rabbi Erin Binder. Larry brought his customary pragmatism, quiet nature, and thoughtfulness to the search and earned the admiration of everyone involved. Larry recently joined the Rockdale Temple board, and we look forward to many years of his leadership in our congregation and community.
L’dor v’dor. From one generation to the next. My favorite part of any Bar or Bat Mitzvah is the tradition of the generations of a family lined up on the Bimah handing the Torah from the oldest family member to the young person who will now take their place as an adult in the Jewish community. It always brings tears to my eyes. I remember my paternal grandfather crying at my brother’s Bar Mitzvah. I had never seen him cry and when I asked him why he did, this escapee from Nazi Germany said he never thought he would live to see a grandson have a Bar Mitzvah. This was proof to him that there would be a next generation of Jews in our family—a prospect that had not always been certain in his younger days. In my mind, Judaism is not just a religion or a culture. We are a people—a community. I have always loved the Midrash which teaches that we were all at Mt. Sinai receiving the Torah from Moses. Not just those who were alive at that moment, but ALL of the future souls who accepted the Torah from that day forward.

So why make a legacy gift to the Create Your Jewish Legacy Program? Because we believe that when you are part of a community, you give what you can. There have been years when we could not give much to support the Temple. Others who had the means had to make up for that. Now we are in a position to give more, so it is our turn. Just like the Torah is passed from one generation to another—the responsibility to support the community is passed from generation to generation. As a member of the Rockdale Board, I heard a presentation about the Create Your Jewish Legacy program. Before I heard the presentation, I imagined it was complicated and only the wealthy participated. But I was mistaken on both counts. Anyone who has a desire to take their place among those who have supported and will support Rockdale Temple and the Jewish community at large can do that through the Create Your Jewish Legacy program. Preserving the goodness of Rockdale Temple for future generations is important.
The Rockdale Temple Bene Israel Society

We thank our members of the Bene Israel Society listed below who have left a legacy to Rockdale Temple with a designated gift in their will, trust, retirement account, or life insurance policy. We invite you to join us in securing Rockdale Temple’s future financial stability with a legacy gift through Create Your Jewish Legacy.

Leonard Berenfield*
Doris* & Stuart* Berman
Max Joseph Bleich
Rosemary & Frank Bloom
Lynn Gross Chaifetz
Anthony & Andrea Checroun
Matthew* & Jean* Chimsky
Jennifer Clark
John Cobey & Jan Frankel
Max Cobey
Alfred M. Cohen
Barb & O.J. Cohen
Ken & Janet Cohen
Rabbis Sigma F. Coran* & Matthew Kraus
Bernie Dave*
Stephanie & Tony De Falco
Bonnie & Darryl Dick
M. James Ellis
Risa & Steve Feagins
Mark & Nancy Feldman
Lisa & John* Fox
G. Allan & Sara Frankel
Dr. & Mrs. G. Russell Frankel
Gail* & Dick Friedman
Robert Frohman
Dr. Barry & Nancy Gibberman
Dolores Goldfinger
Rabbi Mark
& Dr. Meryl* Goldman
Michael G. Hall
Andy A. & Debbie Heldman
Betty Heldman
Gary & Austine Heldman
Jim Heldman & Wendy Saunders
Michael Heldman & Beth Franks
Andrea & Dr. Edward Herzig
Lauren & Aaron Herzig
Daniel J. Hoffheimer
Robert Ingberg, M.D.
Neal Jacobs & Joan Schimmel
Johnny “JJ” Jones
Rabbi Meredith Kahan & Sean Flowers
David* & Hildy Kerman
Nancy & Jerry Klein
Sally & Gerry Korkin
Bennett Kottler & Family
Barrie Kraus
Jamey & Vanessa Kurtzer
Justin Levy & Eira Tansey
Lauren & Jake Lillenstein
Deb & Joe Loewenstein
Ralph & Fran* Lowenstein
Helene & Millard Mack
Christine & Ramesh Malhotra
Mara Marnocha
Karen & Stewart Martin
Sheryl & Scott Mattis
Fay B. May & Robert E. Prescott*
Lynn Rosenberg Mayfield
Tracy M. McMullen
Lisa & Jonathan Mezibov
Mark Michaelson & Barbara Turner-Michaelson
Dale Rabiner
Loretta* & Gary* Rabiner
David* & Marilyn* Reichert
James & M. Lori Reidel
Leslie & Bernard Reiss
Joan & William Roberts
Benjamin M. Rosensweet
Matthew & Renee Rosensweet
Jack & Mary-Bob Rubenstein
Judith & Mark Schaengold
Steven & Rachel Schild
David & Abby Schwartz
Joshua & Heather Shapiro
Mark Sheldon
Andrew & Sally Shott
Jen & Larry Smilg
Dr. Robert Stein*
Hagit & Jeff Sunberg
W. E. Blair Tillett*
Julie & Shachar Torem
Robert & Loris Ungar
Sarah Weiss & Todd Schild
Edward Wertheimer
Karen & Stuart Zanger
Mitchell* and Florence E. Zaret
Anonymous Donors – 3

*Of blessed memory

To learn more about our Bene Israel Society, contact the temple office at 513.891.9900.

Thanks to our talented congregant, Beth Goldstein, for creating the Bene Israel Society logo. The pomegranate image is adapted from a partial stained glass window belonging to and found on the site of the Rockdale Temple building at Rockdale and Harvey Avenues, the home of our congregation from 1906–1969.
# Birthdays and Anniversaries

## Birthdays

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adults of September</th>
<th>Adults of October</th>
<th>Adults of November</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Steven Goldstein</td>
<td>4 Lilly Narusevich</td>
<td>1 Andrew A. Heldman</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 Miriam Richman</td>
<td>7 Ila Frankel</td>
<td>2 Kate Tibbs</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 Joel Winston</td>
<td>7 Joseph Hirschhorn</td>
<td>2 Maurice Dick</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 Nancy Messer</td>
<td>9 Roberta Mallin</td>
<td>2 Bert Rosenberg</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 Ophra Weisberg</td>
<td>10 Matthew McLeod</td>
<td>4 Brian Phillips</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 Edward Felson</td>
<td>10 Rachel Schild</td>
<td>7 Ronald Roth</td>
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<td>12 Dr. Robert Ingberg</td>
<td>10 Ronald Rose</td>
<td>7 Johnny Jones</td>
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<tr>
<td>14 David Rosenberg</td>
<td>11 Sheldon Weinstein</td>
<td>8 Jan Muhlbaum</td>
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<td>16 Susan Klug Kahan</td>
<td>14 Jen Smilg</td>
<td>11 Sheryl Sheldon</td>
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<td>16 Sally Korkin</td>
<td>15 Rosemary Bloom</td>
<td>13 Donna Waterman</td>
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<td>16 Michael Zwick</td>
<td>17 Trisha Wolf</td>
<td>14 David Rickey</td>
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<td>18 Libby Fleischer</td>
<td>19 Sara Frankel</td>
<td>15 Dr. Michael Meyer</td>
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<td>20 Jeffrey Covel</td>
<td>20 Edward Wertheimer III</td>
<td>15 Doris Kramer</td>
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<tr>
<td>21 Mark Lillenstein</td>
<td>21 Heinke Lillenstein</td>
<td>17 Shirma Revelson</td>
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<td>23 Nancy Rosenthal</td>
<td>22 Ariela Kurtzer</td>
<td>20 Igor Rivin</td>
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<tr>
<td>26 Eleanor Shott</td>
<td>26 Bernard Jacobson</td>
<td>25 Renee Frankel</td>
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<tr>
<td>29 Heather Shapiro</td>
<td>31 Don Steinberg</td>
<td>26 Rita Newman</td>
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</table>

*Adult birthdays are listed every five years starting with the 20th birthday and every year for members who have reached the age of 75.*

## Anniversaries

### September

1. Allan & Sara Frankel, 30th
2. Rabbi Gary & Stefani Zola, 45th
3. Ramesh & Christine Malhotra, 50th
4. Douglas & Marilyn Shott, 45th
5. Douglas & Carolyn Goldberg, 35th

### October

1. Dr. Richard & Elisabeth Wiener, 45th
2. Gerald & Nancy Schwartz, 63rd
3. Steven & Jeanie Messer, 45th
4. Douglas & Carolyn Goldberg, 35th

### November

1. Andrew A. Heldman
2. Kate Tibbs
3. Maurice Dick
4. Brian Phillips
5. Ronald Roth
6. Johnny Jones
7. Jan Muhlbaum
8. Sheryl Sheldon
9. Donna Waterman
10. David Rickey
11. Dr. Michael Meyer
12. Doris Kramer
13. Shirma Revelson
14. Igor Rivin
15. Renee Frankel
16. Rita Newman
17. Alan Swiatek
18. Stella Swiatek
19. Andrew A. Heldman
20. Dr. Michael Meyer
21. Doris Kramer
22. Shirma Revelson
23. Igor Rivin
24. Renee Frankel
25. Rita Newman
26. Alan Swiatek
27. Stella Swiatek

### Children

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>September</th>
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<tr>
<td>3 Cameron Sheldon</td>
<td>1 Loralie Brady</td>
<td>1 Vada Reiss</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 Melanie Kraus</td>
<td>6 Julia Frankel</td>
<td>2 Eden Kraus</td>
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<tr>
<td>14 Sophia Checroun</td>
<td>8 Maya Pomeranz</td>
<td>7 Marley Perlman</td>
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<tr>
<td>16 Isabelle Bankin</td>
<td>21 Blake Rosensweet</td>
<td>8 Caitlin Barilleaux</td>
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<td>16 Miriam Kravitz</td>
<td>23 Alix Tibbs</td>
<td>11 Ethan Putz</td>
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<td>17 Margo Kane</td>
<td>28 Eve Baker</td>
<td>14 Sadie Putz</td>
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<td>17 Elias von Thomsen</td>
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<td>15 Henry Simon</td>
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<td>20 Sophia Shapiro</td>
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<td>24 Gideon Brady</td>
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<td>25 Samuel Burststein</td>
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<td>24 Naomi Millar</td>
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<td>29 C Magnus Knudsen</td>
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<td>30 Avi Levinson</td>
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<td>30 Zoe Lipstein</td>
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<td>30 Max Bankin</td>
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“Children of the Temple” are those who are 18 years old and younger.

*Anniversaries will be listed every five years starting with the fifth anniversary. All anniversaries of 50 years or more are recognized.*
Whether you or a loved one is looking for health and wellness programs, COVID-19 resources, an encore career, innovative ways to stay connected, or help with technology, AgeWell Cincinnati is your first step.

Contact us: 513-766-3333 | AgeWellCincy.org

Relax. Help is here. Delivering care where you are.

Non-medical home care that puts your loved one first.

Learn How We Can Help
513-766-3339
StarPointHomeCare.org

StarPoint Home Care is a subsidiary of Jewish Family Service of Cincinnati.
**September**

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<tr>
<th>SUNDAY</th>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY</th>
<th>FRIDAY</th>
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<td>Labor Day</td>
<td>Erev Rosh HaShanah</td>
<td>Rosh HaShanah</td>
<td>Rosh HaShanah</td>
<td>Shana Tova</td>
<td>5:45p Shabbat Nosh</td>
<td>6:15p Shabbat Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Erev Rosh HaShanah</td>
<td>9:30a FoRT Service</td>
<td>10:00a Rosh Hashanah Morning Service</td>
<td>10:00a Youth Service followed by activities</td>
<td>5:00p Tashlich</td>
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<td>8:00p Erev Rosh Hashanah Service with Installation of Board of Directors</td>
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<td>Kol Nidre</td>
<td>8:00p Kol Nidre Service</td>
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<td>Yom Kippur</td>
<td>Yizkor</td>
<td>10:00a Yom Kippur Morning Services</td>
<td>1:00p Yom Kippur Study</td>
<td>3:00p Yom Kippur Afternoon Service</td>
<td>4:30p Yizkor Service</td>
<td>6:00p Break the Fast</td>
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<td>Calendars are subject to change.</td>
<td>Create a lasting legacy and enrich your community now and for years to come.</td>
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<td>Shofar Soundings Fall 5782</td>
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<td>4:30p Hebrew School</td>
<td>7:00p Adult Education: From Paris to Pittsburgh</td>
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Calendars are subject to change.
**November**

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Calendars are subject to change.
Please consider naming Rockdale Temple in your will or estate plan.

September

Friday, September 3
6:15p Erev Shabbat Services

Saturday, September 4
9:30a Sichat Torah (Torah Study)
10:30a Shabbat Morning Services

Monday, September 6
8:00p Erev Rosh Hashanah Service with Installation of Board of Directors

Tuesday, September 7
9:30a FoRT Rosh Hashanah Service
10:00a Rosh Hashanah Morning Service
10:00a Rosh Hashanah Youth Service
5:00p Tashlich (French Park)

Friday, September 10
6:15p Erev Shabbat Services

Saturday, September 11
9:30a Sichat Torah (Torah Study)
10:30a Shabbat Morning Services

Wednesday, September 15
8:00p Kol Nidrei Service

Thursday, September 16
9:30a FoRT Yom Kippur Service
10:00a Yom Kippur Morning Service
10:00a Yom Kippur Youth Service
1:00p Yom Kippur Afternoon Study
3:00p Yom Kippur Afternoon Service
4:30p Yizkor and Concluding Services

Friday, September 17
6:15p Erev Shabbat Services with Aufruf of Adam Kahan and Lizzy Kirsch

Saturday, September 18
9:30a Sichat Torah (Torah Study)
10:30a Shabbat Morning Services
1:00p Shabbat Shal-OM Yoga

Monday, September 20
7:00p Erev Sukkot Services

Tuesday, September 21
10:30a Sukkot Morning Services

Friday, September 24
5:30p FoRT Shabbat Service
6:15p Erev Shabbat Services with September Birthday and Anniversary Blessings

Saturday, September 25
9:30a Sichat Torah (Torah Study)
10:30a Shabbat Morning Services

Monday, September 27
6:30p Erev Simchat Torah and Consecration Services

Tuesday, September 28
10:30a Simchat Torah Morning Services

October

Friday, October 1
6:15p Erev Shabbat Services

Saturday, October 2
9:30a Sichat Torah (Torah Study)
10:30a Bar Mitzvah of Samuel De Falco, son of Tony and Stephanie De Falco

Friday, October 8
6:15p Rock Shabbat Services with Birthday Blessings

Saturday, October 9
9:30a Sichat Torah (Torah Study)
10:30a Shabbat Morning Services

Friday, October 15
6:15p Erev Shabbat Services

Saturday, October 16
9:30a Sichat Torah (Torah Study)
10:30a Shabbat Morning Services
1:00p Shabbat Shal-OM Yoga

Friday, October 22
6:15p Erev Shabbat Services with Shir Shalom Choir and Anniversary Blessings

Saturday, October 23
9:30a Sichat Torah (Torah Study)
10:30a Shabbat Morning Services

Friday, October 29
6:15p Erev Shabbat Services Honoring Members of 40–49 Years

Saturday, October 30
9:30a Sichat Torah (Torah Study)
10:30a Shabbat Morning Services

November

Friday, November 5
6:00p shabbatCTY
6:15p Erev Shabbat Services

Saturday, November 6
9:00a Rabbinic Intern Caitlin Brazner’s 5th Year Sermon at HUC

Friday, November 12
6:15p Rock Shabbat Service led by 2nd and 3rd Grades, with November Birthday Blessings

Saturday, November 13
9:30a Sichat Torah (Torah Study)
10:30a Bat Mitzvah of Eden Kraus, daughter of Rabbi Matthew Kraus and Rabbi Sigma Coran, z”l

Friday, November 19
6:15p Erev Shabbat Services with Shir Shalom Choir and November Anniversary Blessings

Saturday, November 20
9:30a Sichat Torah (Torah Study)
10:30a Shabbat Morning Services
1:00p Shabbat Shal-OM Yoga

Friday, November 26
6:15p Erev Shabbat Services

Saturday, November 27
9:30a Sichat Torah (Torah Study)
10:30a Shabbat Morning Services
It is a Jewish imperative that our community supports and connects with refugees, people who have had to flee their homelands for safety and who are now strangers in a new land. The Torah teaches thirty-six times that we shall care for the stranger, for we were strangers in the land of Egypt.

Rockdale members are welcome to volunteer to help our new neighbors. Cincinnati is the newest home for many people from all over the world who hope to make better lives for themselves and their children. Some of these families have extensive and complicated needs. Most would like to make friends with Americans.

Here are two ways you can help!

Rockdale has partnered with two organizations serving this most vulnerable population:

HEARTFELT TIDBITS
This amazing organization needs help coordinating its many volunteers so that we can best serve the vast needs of the refugee population. Donations are critical for success. The link to donate is [www.heartfelttidbits.com/donate-1](http://www.heartfelttidbits.com/donate-1)

It would be amazing if the Jewish community provided support and showed that we are leaders who care for the strangers in our midst. Contact Cora for more information on how you can help.

TIKKUN FARM
Tikkun Farm, a 3.5 acre farm in Mt. Healthy, is a place of healing, restoration, and repair cultivated through meaningful work and spiritual practices. Tikkun Farm truly lives up to its name of “repairing the world,” culturally, socially, ecologically. Tikkun Farm has received grant money in the wake of the pandemic so that they can provide fresh produce and food to hundreds of families in need! Once you see and experience the humanity of Tikkun Farm, you will want to keep coming back!

Rockdale continues to partner with Tikkun Farms, including sponsoring a raised garden bed. We invite you to follow them on Facebook for lots of programs and volunteer opportunities. Currently, several Rockdale members regularly participate in Volunteer Days there on the first Saturdays of the month in the morning. Tikkun Farms provides fun, organized, and meaningful ways for people of all ages to help Heal the World!

Cora Steinberg
Chair, Rockdale Reaches Out
csteinberg999@gmail.com
What could be better on a chilly day during a pandemic than to take the kids outside to play in the dirt, meet friends, and help heal the world? Rockdale families have found the perfect place in Tikkun Farm, Mount Healthy.

When Pastor Mary Laymon bought the old dairy farm in 2010, the Jewish concept of tikkun seemed to summarize the work to be done; to repair the farm, to restore the soil, and most of all to bring healing to the people of the community, who gather there needing food, purpose, and solace. Currently, the farm has a free store, a service to deliver pre-prepped ingredients for crockpot meals (with volunteers who chop vegetables at home), and a work training program for young people finishing high school. Bhutanese Refugees grow their native foods in one patch of the farm. There are also classes and groups such as yoga, and whole-hearted-living based on the books of Brene Brown. The ethos of the place is spiritual though not religious.

Although volunteers are welcome every day, Mary gives families a tour around the farm on the first Saturday of each month to meet the pigs, chickens, and alpacas and to hear about the latest progress, before starting on half-day group projects. Last year, a barn had to be torn down, so one volunteer day we worked in teams to move the wood, clearing the way for the free store building and now the foundation of a greenhouse. The vision is to have a peaceful garden where people who come for free groceries can wait. Raised growing-beds were part of that vision, so Rockdale sponsored one of the beds. They were bursting with growing peppers, tomatoes, herbs, and squashes when I visited in July.

Last December brought the busiest volunteer day. Whole “pods” of quarantined families came out. Kids moved rocks or laid down newspapers for sheet-mulching. As pictured, Dani and Matthew Reiss and their children Vada and Shai helped create steps down to the lower field where there had only been a muddy slope. That day, Rabbi Matthew and Shirah Kraus worked in the orchard which is now bursting with fruit. We have had teams create a door for the (pet) pigs, and build a bridge across the stream. Since the alpacas have been shorn, some people have been making things from their wool. The farm is in need of a leader for more fiber-arts projects.

Please consider joining Rockdale friends for the next volunteer day, and bring the kids! More info is available from the Tikkun Farm Facebook page or on their website www.tikkunfarm.com

By Linda Chatterjee
Women of Rockdale

Women of Rockdale has new leadership as we begin planning for an active and exciting year. The Board consists of Susan Klug Kahan, President; Toni Winston, Vice-President; Chris Malhotra, Treasurer; Leslie Joseph, Secretary; Fay May, and Heinke Lillienstein, Members-at-Large. Many thanks to our outgoing president, Donna Gantner, our dedicated treasurer, Carol Frankensteint, and past president Tracy McMullen for keeping the group going during the restrictions of Covid.

This is the time for all post-college age Rockdale women to join WoR and contribute your ideas and enthusiasm as we build WoR to meet the needs of all our Rockdale women members. We are hoping and planning to resume our popular in-person events, including the Women's Shabbat, Chanukah Sale, and Women's Seder, as well as getting together again for dinners out at various restaurants around the region and sip-and-schmooze gatherings. We plan to kick off the year with a large end-of-summer outdoor gathering for all the women of Rockdale on Saturday evening, September 11. We will also join with the Men of Rockdale to celebrate the beginning of fall on Saturday evening, October 9.

We will have more social and fundraising events coming up as we continue to plan, with our first meeting on Sunday morning, September 19th, at Rockdale. We anticipate opportunities to meet, socialize and network with Rockdale women whom we already know and recognize, but have not yet met. We will continue to support the larger Rockdale community both socially and financially and continue our larger charitable activities. We are continuing our participation in the Christmas dinner at Ronald McDonald House. The Rockdale Temple Gift Shop is open, and we are seeking volunteers to help staff it. Please contact any of our board members if you are interested and available.

Women of Rockdale is also pleased to announce that we presented two Queen Esther Awards to Barrie Kraus and Jen Smilg at our 2021 Annual Meeting in May with many thanks for all they have done for our Sisterhood over the years. This honor is in recognition of members for their outstanding contribution of time, talents, and service to our community.

WoR hopes all women of the Rockdale congregation will join us and give their input as we work to meet the wants, needs and interests of our membership, and continue to support the Rockdale community. We are calling on all Rockdale women to move forward with us as we build WoR for the next 200 years of Rockdale Temple.

IN THE BEGINNING FUND

Every year the Women of Rockdale are happy to support social programming for the Temple through its In The Beginning Endowment Fund. We are thrilled to provide monies toward a variety of needs and groups within Rockdale. This year we have funded these exciting programs for July 1, 2021–June 30, 2022:

- High Holy Day Gift Bags
- Family Retreat Scholarships
- shabbatCTY
SHMITA: SABBATICAL YEAR, 5782 LOWERING OUR ENVIRONMENTAL DEBT

Every seven years, we are to give the land a rest and forgive all debts. This is known as the shmita or sabbatical year. This year, 5782, beginning Sept 6, 2021, is a shmita year. We have incurred a debt to the environment, because we are borrowing from our planet’s resources beyond what the planet can regenerate in one year. The debt we are creating will be passed on to our children and their children. Let’s begin this shmita year by lowering our debt with environmental actions through food themes for the three holidays: Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, and Sukkot.

Traditionally on Rosh Hashanah we dip apple slices in honey to bring in a sweet New Year. This shmita year is a good time to give thanks to the bees, because apple trees would not bear fruit without bees to pollinate the apple tree flowers. In keeping the biblical commandment of giving our natural resources a rest every seven years, make life easier for these hard working bees that provide us nutritious food. One of the largest threats to bees is the lack of food and habitat for their survival. Bees get most of their nectar from trees. Fall is a great time to plant a tree. When a tree blooms, it provides thousands of blossoms for bees to feed from. Trees are not only a great food source for bees, but also can supply an essential habitat for bees.

With the exception of honey bees, most bees are solitary creatures. Most solitary bees live underground with about 30% living above ground in holes inside trees or wood. Some species like bumble bees build their nests in undisturbed land. Leaving a small section of your yard natural provides a safe habitat for bumble bees. To control unwanted insects do not use chemical pesticides. Use natural solutions by letting the natural ecology function and add beneficial insects that keep pests away like ladybugs and praying mantises. Taking these simple steps will help the declining bee population.

This Yom Kippur consider our sins against the environment. Use this time to change habits that harm the environment. Studies show that Americans waste an estimated 30% to 40% of their food. The easiest way to reduce food waste is to put on your plate only what you will eat. Americans typically put their food waste in the trash destined for the landfill or in the sink disposal to grind it up with the waste water that goes into the municipal sewer treatment plant. Instead, use your vegetable food scraps to aid soil health by composting. Composting is surprisingly easy and, if done right, does not smell. There are composting bins for sale that keep curious critters out and help good bacteria grow to decompose vegetable food waste. Turning vegetable food waste into good soil can be achieved by mixing in a few dry leaves and sticks every time you add the vegetable food waste. Most importantly, by keeping your vegetable food waste out of the landfill and the sewer treatment plants, you help the environment.

During Sukkot we celebrate the fall harvest. In the Sukkah we can eat our meals under the stars. This shmita year celebrate Sukkot by eating a vegetarian Israeli diet of fruits and vegetables with foods such as falafel, hummus, msabbha, couscous, and spices like za’atar. Try foods made from different grains such as rye, spelt, barley, wheat and oat. People who currently eat a meat-heavy diet could shrink their food-related carbon footprint by one-third or more by moving to a vegetarian diet. Giving up dairy would reduce those emissions even further. Worldwide meat and dairy consumption account for 14.5 % of greenhouse gases each year. Too much carbon is upsetting the earth’s carbon balance causing the climate to change.

As we begin this shmita year, let’s bring the planet back into balance by helping bees, planting a tree, composting vegetable scraps, and eating vegetarian or vegan meals. Watch for program announcements about activities at Rockdale Temple that support your efforts to be better stewards of the earth.

Joanne Gerson
Chair, Environmental Committee
MEMORIAL HALL PRESENTS

NEFESH MOUNTAIN

PRESENTED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

MONDAY • DECEMBER 6 • 8PM

Nefesh Mountain is a Bluegrass and Old-Time band with a Jewish perspective.

Complete your Hanukkah experience with a special pre-show reception at 6:30, including a meet & greet with the artists, one drink ticket and an authentic Kosher-style heavy bites ($40 add on).

For every ticket sold using special code 'HOPE' Memorial Hall will donate $5 to Help Hope Live.

MEMORIALHALLOTR.COM
Your contributions to one of our philanthropic funds is a thoughtful way to commemorate special occasions, life cycle events, or to remember a loved one.

**Alan L. Rosenberg Memorial Fund:** funds temple beautification and enhancements including the acquisition of Rockdale artifacts.

**Barrows Music Fund:** funds musicians for special events or services.

**Bene Israel Fund:** supports the role of Rabbi and Educator.

**Estelle Levine Fund for Special Children:** funds scholarships for differently abled or gifted children.

**Heldman Family Fund:** provides financing for special programs; provides special artifacts for Rockdale.

**Heritage of Learning Fund:** underwrites educational programming for temple members of all ages.

**Jules & Elizabeth K. Oppenheimer Fund:** provides Goldman Union Camp Institute (GUCI) scholarships for Rockdale youth.

**Library Fund:** funds the purchase and upkeep of our library books.

**Lillian and Dolph Harteveld Fund:** enhances the musical program.

**Louise F. Reichert Flower Fund:** provides bimah flowers and outdoor plantings.

**Memorial Fund:** helps fund Shabbat, festivals, and other prayerbooks.

**Rabbi Erin Binder’s Discretionary Fund:** funds opportunities and charities chosen by Rabbi Binder.

**Rabbi Harold D. Hahn Fund:** funds the Sunday adult education series.

**Rabbi Meredith F. Kahan’s Discretionary Fund:** funds opportunities and charities chosen by Rabbi Kahan.

**Rabbi Sissy Coran Memorial Fund:** supports exciting innovations, meets challenges, and addresses Rockdale’s most pressing needs.

**Rabbi Victor and Louise Reichert Fund:** funds the Scholar-in-Residence programming.

**Sacred Music Fund:** provides for musical enrichment.

**Soup Kitchen Fund:** funds the Queen City Soup Kitchen.

**Stark Fund:** provides for musical enrichment of children.

**Steven E. Altman Fund:** funds the Youth Group of Rockdale (YGOR).

**Roll of Remembrance Fund:** funds the Yom Kippur Roll of Remembrance Book and other High Holy Days activities.

**Temple Fund:** provides annual support for the temple operations.

**Trager Family Music Fund:** funds brass instruments for High Holy Days.

**Ullman Cultural Fund:** funds community lectures at Rockdale.

**Warner Fund:** funds programs for temple seniors.

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**ROCKDALE TEMPLE TRIBUTE FORM**

Name

Address

City  State  Zip

Phone

Please make a contribution to the following fund:

- [$18 Contribution]
- [$36 Contribution]
- [Other, please specify: ]

Please make checks payable to Rockdale Temple and send to: 8501 Ridge Rd., Cincinnati, OH 45236

- [Check enclosed]
- [Visa]
- [MasterCard]
- [AmEx]

Tribute Occasion:

- [In Honor of]
- [In Memory of]
- [In Appreciation of]
- [Speedy Recovery to]

For (Bar Mitzvah, wedding, etc.):

______________________________

Name to appear on tribute:

______________________________

Please send acknowledgment to:

Name

Address

City  State  Zip

Number

Exp. Date  CVV

Billing Name

Please consider naming Rockdale Temple in your will or estate plan.
Create a lasting legacy and enrich your community now and for years to come.

**RABBI SISSY CORAN MEMORIAL FUND**

In memory of Rabbi Sissy Coran
Alan & Sara Frankel
Rabbi Matthew Kraus
Fay May
Jennifer Levy & Stephen Sheinkopf
Christian & Sarah von Thomsen

In memory of Elaine Harris
Stanley Timmer
Fay May

In memory of Henry Hersch
Gerry & Sally Korkin

In honor of the graduation of Emma and Lila Herzig
Gerry & Sally Korkin

In honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Rachel Herzig
Gerry & Sally Korkin

In honor of Fay May on her birthday
Jenny Broh
Gerry & Sally Korkin
Leba R. Litwack
Chris & Ramesh Malhotra
Sally Moffitt
Francine Pinoff
Joan & Bill Roberts
Ronda & Charles Young

In memory of Frank Messer
Rabbi Matthew Kraus
Mark Michaelson & Barbara Turner-Michaelson

In honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Jacob Shapiro
Joshua & Heather Shapiro

In memory of Larry Smilg receiving the Menorah Award
Fay May

**RABBI MEREDITH KAHAN’S DISCRETIONARY FUND**

In honor of Rabbi Meredith Kahan and her election as the Senior Rabbi of Rockdale Temple
Aaron Guldenshuh

In memory of Roger Abrams
Ken & Janet Cohen

In memory of Leonard Ballas
Daniel Hoffheimer
Scott & Sheryl Mattis

In honor of Rabbi Erin Binder and her election as the Assistant Rabbi and Educator of Rockdale Temple
Daniel Hoffheimer

In memory of Lawrence Bratburd
Karen Bratburd & Lauren Wolff

In memory of Josephine Brower
Glenn & Pamela Chundrlek

In memory of Wilbur Cohen
Ken & Janet Cohen

In memory of Elaine Harris
Lynda Monahan

In honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Rachel Herzig
Aaron & Lauren Herzig

In memory of Sara E. Kamholtz
Daniel Hoffheimer

In memory of Kathleen Kellar
Mark Michaelson & Barbara Turner-Michaelson

In honor of Fay May on her birthday
Larry & Jen Smilg

In memory of Frank Messer
Myron & Linda Greenberg
Daniel Hoffheimer
Laura Messer & J. Michelle Sage

In memory of Sondra “Sandy” Rib
Bonnie & Darryl Dick
Daniel Hoffheimer

In honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Jacob Shapiro
Joshua & Heather Shapiro

**In honor of David Solomon becoming Executive Director of Rockdale Temple**
Daniel Hoffheimer

**RABBI ERIN BINDER’S DISCRETIONARY FUND**

In honor of Rabbi Erin Binder and her election as the Assistant Rabbi and Educator of Rockdale Temple
Carol & Sandy Dochen
Lynne & Steve Gellman

**ALAN L. ROSENBERG FUND**

In memory Leonard Berenfield
Millard & Helene Mack

In memory Henry Hersch
Millard & Helene Mack
Abby & Dan Rosenberg

**ESTELLE LEVINE FUND FOR SPECIAL CHILDREN**

For the support of the Estelle Levine Fund for Special Children
Ebony Rucker

**RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND**

In honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Dani Grossman
Edward & Anita Marks

For the support of Kehal Kodesh School
Michael & Teresa Ames
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**ROCK THE BLOCK**

In support of future programming and events
Linda Chatterjee
Tony & Stephanie De Falco
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Elliot & Lynda Grossman
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Amy Klein
Gerry & Sally Korkin
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Howard Liberman
Christine & Ramesh Malhotra
Lynn & R. Glen Mayfield
Matt & Dani Reiss
Bernard & Leslie Reiss
Amy & Jason Shaiman
Please consider naming Rockdale Temple in your will or estate plan.

Shofar Soundings Fall 5782

Tribute Funds Donations  AUGUST 1, 2021–OCTOBER 31, 2021

Larry & Jen Smilg
David Solomon & Jaynie Levinson
Bill & Julia Weinstein
Tracy Yarchi

SACRED MUSIC FUND
In honor of Rabbi Meredith Kahan and her installation as the Senior Rabbi of Rockdale Temple
Alan, Gavrielle, Cindy & Connie Palmer

SHABBAT NOSH
Special thanks for those who chose to sponsor a nosh
Michael & Teresa Ames
Ed & Andi Herzog
Daniel Hoffheimer

SOUP KITCHEN FUND
In honor of Dolores Goldfinger on her birthday
Chris & Ramesh Malhotra

In memory of Frank Messer
Alan & Elaine Fishman

STEVEN E. ALTMAN FUND
In memory of Josephine Brower
Douglas & Carolyn Goldberg

In memory of Evelyn Liner
Aaron & Lauren Herzog

In memory of Frank Messer
Deborah Birckhead
Robert & Hildred Clayton
David & Karen Hoguet

In memory of Alan Sargeant
Aaron & Lauren Herzog

In memory of Dr. Robert Stein
Aaron & Lauren Herzog

In memory of Blair Tillett
Aaron & Lauren Herzog

For the support of the Temple Fund
Jon Hoffheimer

Honor & Remember Your Loved Ones
with a contribution to your favorite

Tribute Fund

Call Paige Adkins
Rockdale Temple Office
513.891.9900

or make an online donation at
www.rockdaletemple.org
Click on “Donate” at the top of the screen.

Condolences to the Friends and Family of:

Henry Hersch, beloved husband of Gloria Hersch and past president of Rockdale Temple
Elaine Harris, beloved mother of Lynda Monahan
Sondra “Sandy” Rib, beloved mother of Bonnie Dick
Frances Lowenstein, beloved wife of Ralph Lowenstein
Larry Dunn, beloved father of Susan Friedman

May their memories be for a blessing.
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Rabbi Meredith Kahan
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David Solomon
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