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

Shofar Soundings Winter 5782

Senior Rabbi Meredith Kahan
Assistant Rabbi & Educator Erin Binder
President John Cobey
Executive Director David Solomon
Staff Spotlight

200 Years of Jewish Living Values and Cemetery Rededication

The Windows from our Rockdale Avenue Temple
Celebrating Chanukah at Rockdale Temple
Bar Mitzvah Celebrant
Live it Up! / Eighth Night for Ethan
Kehal Kodesh Religious School

Bene Israel Society Testimonial: Barrie Kraus
The Rockdale Temple Bene Israel Society
Winter Birthdays and Anniversaries
December–February Calendar
Liturgical Calendar
Women of Rockdale
Environmental Committee
Rockdale's Justice Collaborative
Library Update
Rockdale Reaches Out

Tribute Funds

OF WINTER (shown on the cover)
This is the fourth in a five-part series of Shofar Soundings covers.

Recently ordained and newly appointed Rockdale Temple Assistant Rabbi & Educator Erin Binder holds the Torah with OF WINTER—the fourth of five new mantles created from original artwork by Beth Goldstein, third generation Rockdale congregant and Judaic Artist. Beth’s designs were lovingly hand stitched into beautiful needlepoint panels for five new mantles by members of the Rockdale congregation.

OF WINTER reminds us that though once torn down our Faith not only rebounded but thrived. One sees in the lower left corner, remnants of the Temple building in pieces, seemingly destroying Jewish life. A closer look reveals that one remaining drop of oil miraculously lasted not one but eight nights! Its warmth and light allowed flowers to regrow and in the image, new stems to grow upward. In celebration of life these new branches not only form the word “Shalom” in Hebrew but also the branches of a chanukiah! Further, each of eight new leaves represent a flame of light for the eight nights that the oil burned. And so, we have our holiday OF WINTER—Chanukah.

MAZEL TOV!

To Johnny Jones and Karen Glover on their marriage
To David Solomon and Jaynie Levinson on their marriage
To Samuel De Falco on becoming a Bar Mitzvah
To Eden Kraus on becoming a Bat Mitzvah
To Chris and Ramesh Malhotra on the reconsecration of their wedding vows on their 50th anniversary
To Adrianna Schneider and Nathan Randall on their marriage
To Lori and James Reidel on the birth of their granddaughter, Suzanne Frances Reidel, daughter of Jess and Max Reidel
To Sarah Weiss and Todd Schild and Rachel and Steven Schild on the birth of their daughter and granddaughter, Hannah Gal Schild
To Sally and Andy Shott and Eleanor Shott on the birth of their grandson and great-grandson, Robert Jude Shott, son of Jennifer and Daniel Shott
To Mark Sheldon and Megan Brickner on their marriage

If you would like to contribute moments of congratulations, please send a request to Patty Kaufman, pkaufman@rockdaletemple.org.
FULL OF LIGHT

Last year, in a time of difficulty, I wrote a special Chanukah message to our congregational family. Noting that Chanukah is celebrated at the time of year when days are at their shortest and the world is very dark, I acknowledged that we were all surely feeling a lot of darkness in our lives. The darkness of sadness and anger, grief and fear. But, like our tradition that has us add light to our chanukiyot (Chanukah menorahs) each night, I taught that in our darkest moments—whether devoid of actual light or the light of happiness, health, or security—we should remember that we have the power to add light to the darkness.

What a joy it is to write a message at this season one year later. Though we have not fully emerged from the darkness of this pandemic, the light has come pouring in—much of it thanks to our own efforts. We have far more tools at our disposal to fight this virus—and our congregation has overwhelmingly taken advantage of them, keeping ourselves and one another safe. We have reopened our physical doors, coming together again for Rock Shabbat, Kehal Kodesh Religious School, Torah Study, community meals, lifecycle celebrations, and much, much more. And we have identified “covid-keepers,” those special modalities and resources that further enhance our congregational life, even as they are no longer a necessity.

It is also a pleasure to be settling in as your Senior Rabbi, working hand-in-hand with our new Executive Director David Solomon and Assistant Rabbi & Educator Erin Binder, as well as our Board of Directors and vast group of lay leaders. We are reconnecting with our friends in the broader Cincinnati Jewish community, coming together for our joint Reform-Conservative “Hebrew High” program and rededication of the Chestnut Street Cemetery, just to name a few special opportunities. Of course, our Rockdale family is gearing up for our Bicentennial celebration—plans of all kinds are already underway to make the coming years, and especially 5784 (2023–2024) one of the most exciting ever. It’s hard to overstate how full of light life at Rockdale is today!

Chanukah reminds us that we cannot dwell in darkness, that we must do the work of bringing in the light, even when light seems to elude us. Chanukah also teaches that whether we are experiencing light or darkness or something in between, we must find ways to mark the days of our lives, to celebrate, to make meaning. One of the requirements of the Chanukah observance is to display the lit menorah proudly in our windows, to share our light. It is my prayer that as we celebrate Chanukah this year, we will be proud of who we are and what we have accomplished over this past year. I hope we will all continue to find the light, to seek it out and move—at our own pace—towards that light. I pray that this is a season of light, hope, renewal, and joy for us all.

Wishing you a season full of light,

Meredith Kahan
Senior Rabbi
In a podcast conversation with Brené Brown, author Karen Walrond distinguishes between happiness and joy. She offers that happiness is more circumstantial and fleeting, whereas joy is driven by purpose and meaning, infused with reflection and gratitude.

While I have had many happy moments at Rockdale so far, the joy has also been increasing day by day. Nowhere is that more evident than with our Kehal Kodesh Religious School! After a year of learning together on Zoom, it felt very important to our community that we have youth education and programming in person. We were able to use the back of the Mayerson JCC Campus to gather together every Sunday morning for Family T’filah, learning, community, and fun! Our educators have gotten very creative, using the outdoor space to enhance the experience and content. I am grateful to our Kehal Kodesh educators and families alike for their partnership in making this meaningful and engaging for our young learners.

As the weather grows colder, we are beginning the shift to moving learning indoors. We do so with great care and caution to keep our sacred community safe and together. We are also grateful for the science that is allowing even more of our young people to be vaccinated, offering more comfort and ease in being indoors. Sundays at Kehal Kodesh are without a doubt the most exhausting day of the week, but they are also by far the most exhilarating and joyful.

This sense of joy, as defined by Walrond and felt deeply by me, is how we bring light into the world for ourselves and others. The need for light feels urgent as the days grow shorter and the disparities of our world grow bigger. It feels appropriate then, that our holiday during this season is the Festival of Lights, Chanukah. As we light our Chanukah candles, increasing the light each night, we remember that there is always light in and after the darkness.

In times of darkness, Chanukah invites each of us to rededicate ourselves to purposeful pursuits and to notice and appreciate the effect that our light can have when shared. Throughout our tradition we are reminded to shine our light inward and outward. In Psalm 112:4, we are thus charged: “Glowing in the darkness, a light to the upright; Honoring God’s lesson of grace, compassion, and justice.” Now more than ever, I invite each of you to find your light. Whether that is by making donations or volunteering, engaging in advocacy work with our Justice Collaborative, calling a friend who might be in need of that personal connection, or by showing up to be a part of this sacred community—however you choose, you make a difference.

May this season be one of light and life, of reflection and gratitude, and most of all, of joy.

Rabbi Erin Binder
Assistant Rabbi and Educator
Last year at this time I wrote an article for the Shofar Soundings wishing you a Happy Thanksgiving and Chanukah. I wrote:

“Ah,” you might say, “How can he wish us Happy Thanksgiving or Chanukah at this time when families cannot get together in this archetype of American family holidays?”…. We have a short-term sacrifice as well. Our families will have missed so much this year. That seems minor compared to what our forefathers went through, because if we stay safe, next year we will hopefully celebrate together. And next year’s celebration will have added meaning.

Well, this year is a better one, full of people getting together because of the genius of science and your willingness to be safe.

How times have changed. We have slogged through this pandemic, which is still with us. But how are things changed? We have a good pipeline for members. The Membership Committee is actively looking at ways to increase membership and is working closely with David Solomon and our rabbis. Things look bright as the future membership is growing.

We are having in person Bar and Bat Mitzvahs. Samuel De Falco’s and Eden Kraus’s have occurred at this writing. Others are scheduled.

We are having in person services with our congregants wearing masks.

The Women of Rockdale and Brotherhood co-hosted a chili cookoff with participants singing karaoke. And our Brotherhood had a successful visit to the Reds’ game.

Our school is in person, up and running and is one of the best with a dedicated committee and an Assistant Rabbi & Educator who is well schooled in children’s education.

Our Environmental Committee is active in carrying out programming in our Shmita year. Our Saturday morning Torah Study is exciting, and I hope you will join us.

Have we transformed? Yes and no. We have services in person and with remote attendees. For instance, at Samuel De Falco’s in person Bar Mitzvah in the JCC tent, there was an aliyah led by relatives in Australia. It was as if they were here in person and the blessings they led came through loud and clear with wonderful joy.

And our High Holy Day services were well attended in person and online. Again, we had remote attendees from Europe, New York, Texas, and Spain. As Rabbi Matthew Kraus was heard to say, “The sun never sets on Rockdale members and attendees.”

This year is a better year than last for all of us, and it is all of our Board’s hope for an even better year.

In any case, my family wishes you more happy holidays.

John G. Cobey
President
EXCITING THINGS AHEAD!

What a wonderful autumn. Fall brought us the opportunity to atone and give thanks, perhaps watch a little football after Shabbat services on Saturdays and/or Sundays, and to enjoy the cool, Midwest air. As we look ahead that air will start to become a little brisker, but we have some exciting Chanukah programming planned to warm up with. We look forward to celebrating in a meaningful way while continuing to keep each other healthy and safe.

The Board of Directors, Health Safety team, and Rockdale staff have worked tirelessly to ensure that our community can continue to congregate safely. We have been keeping up with trends, reviewing articles and studies, been in constant communication, and continued revisiting our procedures and technologies. We have streamed programs and services from our homes, from within the Temple and in the parking lot, and even completely offsite in parks. We have sacredly distanced and in general watched out for one another's well-being. I am so thankful to everyone involved for helping make this a reality and to our congregation for your continued engagement and flexibility during these times.

I look forward to spending the winter celebrating and worshipping with our Rockdale community but also continuing to strengthen our enterprise. With the High Holy Day season behind us, I will shift my focus to growing and maintaining our strong membership base, revisiting our internal processes and systems to find opportunities to make us more efficient, ensure that our financial position remains healthy, and continue to plan for our 200th Anniversary in 2024 and the exciting events and opportunities that our Bicentennial will bring. We have gotten a lot done despite continuing to work through the pandemic and at this point the sky is the limit for our community.

On a personal note, I was blessed to be married to my best friend, Jaynie Levinson, in late August. What made it even more special is that in a surprise twist, we ended up having three Rockdale rabbis participate in our ceremony—Rabbi Mark Goldman, Rabbi Shena Jaffee, and Rabbi Meredith Kahan. All three simultaneously bestowed the priestly wedding blessing on us as we were wrapped in a tallis from my grandmother that I wore on the Rockdale bimah for my Bar Mitzvah over 20 years ago. Thank you, rabbis, for that special moment. Thank you to the Rockdale staff and leadership for supporting the Temple operation and me as High Holy Day planning and our wedding bliss coincided at the same time.

If I can ever be of service, or if you just want to say hello, please always feel free to reach out: dsolomon@rockdaletemple.org.

David Solomon
Executive Director
CAROLYN BAKER

A hard-working mother of five and grandmother of eight, Carolyn has been a dedicated, conscientious, and diligent employee of Rockdale Temple for twelve years. Carolyn brings her calm, tempered demeanor with her to help keep the Rockdale Building & Grounds crew in check. With a natural eye for design, Carolyn lends her skills as a former caterer to the Rockdale team, helping to achieve the vision for our events. An extremely well-rounded individual, we are able to call upon Carolyn to help with whatever Rockdale needs and know that she will help us to get to where we need to be. When Carolyn is not dedicating her time to Rockdale, she spends time with her many grandchildren—she often will watch them for the weekend, but be sure you don’t call it babysitting! She relishes the opportunity, and says that her grandkids “keep her young.”

A lifelong resident of Blanchester, OH, Carolyn enjoys a strong home life and deep familial connections. Carolyn is caring, compassionate, and excellent with kids, which help her build those deep familial connections with Rockdale congregants and their families as well. On bustling Friday nights, Carolyn stays almost as busy caring for members of our congregation as she does keeping the buffet line stocked! Ultimately, Carolyn serves as a backbone to the Rockdale Building and Grounds team. She remains a steadfast pillar of the staff, through various changes in management and leadership, and we are lucky to have her as a part of our team. We look forward to helping Carolyn grow and develop her passion for seamless events, and continuing to pile on (honorary) grandkids from the Temple community!

Scott Larsen
Operations and Events Manager
CHESTNUT STREET CEMETERY REDEDICATION

Kehal Kodesh Bene Israel (Rockdale Temple) is the oldest synagogue west of the Allegheny Mountains. The following is an excerpt from the first page of A History of K.K. Bene Israel, written by congregant, Vera Sanker, of blessed memory. The last time the publication was updated was in 2014 for Rockdale’s 190th anniversary. It will be brought up to date again for the 200th anniversary.

The history of K.K. Bene Israel is rooted in the early nineteenth century when a small group of Jews settled in Cincinnati, then a frontier town. One of the group emerged as the leader of those who devoted their energies to the formation and establishment of a congregation. The founder and first president, Joseph Jonas, recorded the first meeting which took place in 1824.

…a full convention of every make of the Jewish persuasion was convened…to form ourselves into a congregation for the purpose of glorifying God, and observing the fundamental principles of our faith, as developed in the laws of Moses.

The first Jewish cemetery west of the Alleghenies was established in 1821. A man named Benjamin Leib approached Joseph Jonas and Morris Moses, two of Bene Israel’s founders, to help create a Jewish place for burial for him. Jonas and Moses purchased land in what is now Cincinnati’s West End from philanthropist Nicholas Longworth, and established what became the Chestnut Street Cemetery. Between 1821 and 1849, when the last burial took place, some 85 Jews were buried there.

David Harris, Executive Director of Jewish Cemeteries of Greater Cincinnati (JCGC), explains that the establishment of a cemetery is one of the first things traditionally done when establishing a Jewish community. “The creation of the cemetery really represents the birth of an organized Jewish community and the establishment of a Jewish way of life in Cincinnati.” On September 26th, to launch the Jewish Cincinnati Bicentennial, the JCGC Board of Trustees held a rededication of the Chestnut Street Cemetery, the establishment of which formally marks the beginning of Jewish communal life in Cincinnati.

Rockdale past President Dr. David Schwartz co-chaired the careful, intensive restoration and renovation of the cemetery. In an interview last year, he remarked, “In the Jewish religion, it is a mitzvah to participate in the funeral of a fellow Jew. It is also a mitzvah to keep his or her memory alive. That is why I feel so strongly about the importance of restoring the beauty and sanctity of the Chestnut Street Cemetery as it is also a mitzvah and part of Tikkun Olam.”

The Rockdale Temple family proudly showed up for the rededication event; lay leaders and staff, members of every age and stage, multi-generational families, and even our 7th & 8th grade religious school class came to celebrate our congregation’s history. Rockdale members participating in the restoration and rededication of the Chestnut Street Cemetery included JCGC emeritus trustee Ed Marks, Rockdale board member
and director of the Skirball Museum Abby Schwartz, current JCGC board trustees Amy Shaiman and Karen Zanger, communications professional Elliot Grossman, and Rabbi Meredith Kahan, who offered prayers of rededication. Ed’s comments at the September 26th event lifted up K.K. Bene Israel’s unique position as the first congregation in the city, the congregation that established and cared for the Chestnut Street Cemetery.

Rabbi Kahan explained that though we gathered to rededicate a cemetery, the ceremony was really a celebration of life, of the Jewish community that has flourished and will continue to flourish in Cincinnati. She led the entire assembly in Shehecheyanu, thanking God for bringing the community to this sacred and special moment. The prayers of rededication included the following:

God has planted eternity within our hearts and souls, 
granting us a share in an unending life.
Standing in God’s sacred Presence, 
we dedicate this beit olam;
we call this cemetery the Chestnut Street Cemetery.
May this always be a place where two worlds touch.

O God,
in whose hands are the souls of all the living
and the spirits of all flesh,
with pride and honor we reconsecrate this ground
for the purpose of honoring members of our family and community
who have entered eternity.
As we rededicate this memorial,
help us, O God, to honor all of them
by our actions and our aspirations.
In the name of our departed
in the presence of this sacred community,
we reconsecrate the Chestnut Street Cemetery
as an enduring sign of love and respect.

We look forward to returning to the Chestnut Street Cemetery as a congregational community to continue our celebration of the Cincinnati Jewish community, reconnect with our history, and mark K.K. Bene Israel Rockdale Temple’s 200th anniversary.
Many of the windows were damaged and needed to be restored, and some windows had bullet holes and broken pieces in them.

OUR WINDOWS ARE HOME!

Dr. Jeffrey Parker, of blessed memory, was a medical student at the University of Cincinnati from 1970–1974. When he was a sophomore, he drove by the Rockdale Temple building at the corner of Rockdale and Harvey Avenues every day on his way to class. He kept noticing the progressive and accelerating signs of damage. In the fall of 1971, he and his wife Miriam went into the sanctuary that had been desecrated during the riots of 1968 following the assassination of Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. He was shocked by the state of disrepair and vandalism, and reached out to the Rockdale office several times to indicate he would like to save whichever of the stained glass windows he could, some of which were “dangling like a spider.”

He was told that it was not safe to enter the building and attempt to rescue the windows, but as a Jewish man whose wife is the daughter of Holocaust survivors, he felt it was a mitzvah and a priority. He was passionate about the project, and was motivated by his sense of mission and purpose. So, on his own, with Miriam as his partner and witness, and with help from some friends, he salvaged many of the windows and brought them to his house in Paddock Hills. Ten years later, he moved the windows to the basement of his next home in Hyde Park, with the intent of eventually returning them to their rightful home.

In the summer of 2020, Dr. Parker reached out to Rabbi Kahan to let her know that he had rescued some of the windows when he was a medical student and that he wanted them to be returned to the congregation. He noted that many of the windows were damaged and needed to be restored, and that some windows had bullet holes and broken pieces in them. He had even taken the window that was most in-tact and built a lightbox frame around it.
Because of the pandemic, the project was obviously put on hold. Sally Korkin, who grew up at the old Rockdale and who remembered the beautiful windows, took this endeavor on. She spoke to Dr. Parker in the fall of 2020, and learned the story of the rescue mission. Dr. Parker noted that he had protected them for generations since 1971, and wanted to return them home.

Conversations with Dr. Parker’s daughter Nurit followed, and once it was safe to pursue transporting the windows, at the end of June, David Solomon and Scott Larsen went to the Parkers’ home to begin the process. They engaged a professional company that specializes in moving large, fragile art pieces, and on November 1, 2021, the move took place. The window that was framed by Dr. Parker, along with six custom-built cases containing salvageable Rockdale windows that had been stacked against several walls in the Parkers’ basement for 40 years were transferred to Rockdale’s current basement. Dr. Parker also preserved three cartons of shards that were on the floor of the Rockdale Avenue Temple sanctuary.

Unfortunately, Dr. Parker passed away in September 2021 before the windows were transported to Rockdale Temple on Ridge Road, where the congregation moved in 1969, two years before he rescued the windows from Rockdale Avenue. We are grateful to the Parker family, Dr. Jeff Parker, z”l, his wife, Miriam, and their daughter, Nurit, for keeping, preserving, and protecting our windows for 50 years, and for making sure they arrived home.
Create a lasting legacy and enrich your community now and for years to come. Shofar Soundings Winter 5782

GIVE SMART
Reduce your tax bill and increase your charitable dollars with a Donor-Advised Fund.

OPEN A NEW DONOR-ADVISED FUND BY DECEMBER 31 WITH ONLY $5,000 AND WE WILL MAKE YOUR FIRST GRANT OF $100.

Contact Mindy Garvey | 513.985.1534 | mgarvey@jfedcin.org
jewishcincinnati.org/DAF
Please consider naming Rockdale Temple in your will, trust, retirement account, or estate plan.

Celebrating

CHANUKAH

at Rockdale Temple

FAMILY CHANUKAH CELEBRATION
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3RD

5:15PM Family Dinner
For Children (Infants-8th grade) & their Families
$18 Adults, $8 Kids (4-12), $50 Max

6:15PM Congregational Rock Shabbat Chanukah Service
with music by the Rock Shabbat Band and celebrating December birthdays

7:15-8:30PM Family Party
For Children (Infants-8th grade) & their Families

7:15-9:00PM YGOR Party
9th-12th Graders

CHANUKAH ROCK SHABBAT
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3RD

5:45PM Festive Nosh

6:15PM Congregational Rock Shabbat Chanukah Service

ADULT CHANUKAH BASH!
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4TH

7:30-9:30PM Drinks, Desserts, & Trivia
Adults 21+
Cost: $18

Register for the Family Shabbat Dinner & Party and the Adult Chanukah Bash by Wednesday, December 1
www.rockdaletemple.org/chanukah
Bar Mitzvah Celebrant

SAMMY MALTZ, December 4, 2021
Sammy is a seventh grade honor student at Sycamore Junior High School where he is most interested in math and history.

In his free time, he enjoys playing several different sports. Basketball and lacrosse are two of his favorites. He also enjoys playing video games and the guitar.

Sammy would like to thank his Bar Mitzvah tutor, Ben Rosen, and Rabbi Kahan for their guidance and encouragement and for helping him prepare to become a Bar Mitzvah. He would also like to thank his friends and family for their love and support.

SHABBAT SHAL-OM YOGA

Saturdays
December 18, 1:00 PM
January 22, 1:00 PM
February 12, 1:00 PM

Live on Zoom with instructor Lori Reidel

REGISTER AT
WWW.ROCKDALETEMPLE.ORG/
EVENT/SHABBATSHALOMYOGA
FOR ZOOM INFORMATION
At their annual Live it Up! gala, An evening of impact, inspiration and hope, Help Hope Live awarded Jen Smilg the Help Award for 2021. Due to the pandemic, this year’s in-person event was changed to a virtual video tribute for all attendees. Help Hope Live is a national nonprofit organization that assists people with fundraising for medical related expenses that are not covered by insurance. Jen was recognized for her extensive volunteer work with Team Ethan as their social media and fundraising coordinator.

Ethan Kadish was struck by lightning while attending Goldman Union Camp Institute summer camp just over 8 years ago. Jen and her family have been involved in supporting the Kadishes since the day of the tragic accident. The Kadishes connected with Help Hope Live a few weeks after Ethan's injury occurred, and Jen took the lead with his campaign via social media to assist the rest of Team Ethan raise money for Help Hope Live in honor of Ethan. She worked alongside many individual volunteers and local media and organizations to get the word out about Ethan's critical care needs, to assist with organizing fundraisers like 8th Night for Ethan, and to share updates about Ethan through social media channels like Facebook, Twitter, and the blog at www.jointeamethan.org. Her enthusiasm and dedication have not wavered over the last eight years of fundraising.

Jen was recognized with the Help Award for her extraordinary dedication and success with the campaign to support the Kadishes in their fundraising. The campaign's on-going success would not have been possible without all the support from the Rockdale community, the greater Cincinnati community, and people worldwide who have heard about Ethan's story and decided to help.

Eighth Night for Ethan

To Benefit the Great Lakes Catastrophic Injury Fund

GIVE THE GIFT OF LIGHT

Zoom and Schmooze with Ethan & Family
December 5, 2021
6:30 PM - 7:30 PM

Register to receive the event Zoom link:

To make a tax-deductible donation, click here http://bit.ly/ethankadish

Donations made in honor of a specific individual, or in response to campaign solicitations, are restricted by region only and do not obligate Help Hope Live to allocate funds toward a specific individual, as the IRS would deem such donations to be private gifts, which are not tax deductible.

Patients receive support according to their medical and financial need. Help Hope Live is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. Information: 800.642.8399.
Kehal Kodesh Religious School

Our Kehal Kodesh community had a joyous and engaging fall season with Consecration, outdoor religious school, YGOR events, and more!
Please consider naming Rockdale Temple in your will, trust, retirement account, or estate plan.

INSTALLATION OF

RABBI ERIN BINDER
as Rockdale’s Assistant Rabbi & Educator

APRIL 8–10, 2022

Watch for more details!
As I sit down to write this piece for the Bene Israel Society section of Shofar Soundings, I am thinking about the Women of Reform Judaism monthly meeting that I just left. In this meeting, we talked about upcoming events to be planned, ways to gather virtually and in person, how to collaborate with other committees in the congregation and ways to support our local community and even a community abroad. I got into my car feeling grateful to be able to participate in moments like this. I am proud to be a member of this creative community.

Many of you who know me, don’t know that I grew up without a typical Jewish education or connection to a specific Jewish community. When I was a child, my parents belonged to a Reform congregation long enough for my older brother to have the minimum education required to become a Bar Mitzvah and then left skid marks on the front staircase as they hightailed it out the front doors of the building. (My mother may have a different story to tell, but this is how I remember it.) Believe it or not, I begged them to let me go to Sunday School, but I was met with resistance. Ask my mother, she will confirm. As a preteen, on one of the many evening walks my dad and I would take, I approached the subject again. He shut the conversation down with this message: “It’s not required for girls to have a Jewish education. Bat Mitzvah is an egalitarian social construct and is unnecessary.” Well, while his assessment may be technically correct, his motivation to be disengaged was clearly a motivator to the opposite for me. Over the years, I tried various ways to become involved in Jewish communities, but none like Rockdale. The Rockdale Temple community has provided an inviting, warm, safe, non-judgmental environment for me to learn how to be an engaged Jewish adult and parent. Many of the members in this temple family have provided the role modeling I needed to accomplish this. My Jewish journey is still evolving, but I have thoroughly enjoyed sharing in what it has meant to my four amazing kids.

It is for this reason that I chose to make a legacy gift to CYJL, Create Your Jewish Legacy, on behalf of Rockdale Temple. Although I have only been a member of this historical congregation for 21 years, a blip in our timeline, it is important to me to be able to say I participated in creating a strong financial future to this treasure in the Cincinnati Jewish community. Any member of Rockdale can participate in this very important legacy program. I would urge all of you to take a moment and reflect on the impact Rockdale Temple has had in your life and what that impact could mean to your families in the future. I urge you to ask questions and learn about the Bene Israel Fund, how you can get involved, and what it means for future generations of Rockdale families.
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. G. Russell & Renee 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  
Kathleen Kellar*  
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 Marnoch  
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  
Steve & 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 Tillet*  
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.
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 JEWISHCINCINNATI.ORG
Please consider naming Rockdale Temple in your will, trust, retirement account, or estate plan.

| Birthdays and Anniversaries |

### ADULT BIRTHDAYS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DECEMBER</th>
<th>JANUARY</th>
<th>FEBRUARY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Lee Rozin</td>
<td>6 Rochelle Stutz</td>
<td>1 Madelyn Levy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Sanford Paris</td>
<td>7 Rabbi Mark Goldman</td>
<td>1 Corinne Simkin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Julia Mattis</td>
<td>8 Dr. David Schwartz</td>
<td>2 Elizabeth Chudnovsky</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Cantor Alane Katzew</td>
<td>11 Edward Marks</td>
<td>3 Sharon Nelson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Fred Kaufman</td>
<td>12 Gail Silverstein</td>
<td>3 Sam Kocherov</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Marion Levy</td>
<td>12 Joyce Alpiner</td>
<td>4 Ramesh Malhotra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Sherri Hageman</td>
<td>15 Tamas Bonyhati</td>
<td>6 Shelley Goldstein</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 Edward Levy</td>
<td>18 Susan Stern</td>
<td>6 Marvin Kraus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 Bobbie Leitner</td>
<td>20 Richard Friedman</td>
<td>8 Robert Althaier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 Donald Misrach</td>
<td>21 Anita Phillips</td>
<td>8 Jack Rubenstein</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 Lauren Herzig</td>
<td>25 Viola Glassmann</td>
<td>9 Ralph Lowenstein</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 Merrie Tessler</td>
<td></td>
<td>12 Adam Frankel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 Harold Tieger</td>
<td></td>
<td>12 Robert Bass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29 Scott Kadish</td>
<td></td>
<td>13 Nancy Schwartz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 Matthew Auerbach</td>
<td></td>
<td>14 Morton Mallin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 Alex Giberman</td>
<td></td>
<td>14 Zakary Kadish</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</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.

### CHILDREN’S BIRTHDAYS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DECEMBER</th>
<th>JANUARY</th>
<th>FEBRUARY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 Gavin Dowd</td>
<td>2 Rebecca Flowers</td>
<td>3 Ethan Weinstein</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Eleanor Nordrum</td>
<td>6 Samuel Martin</td>
<td>5 Connor Rosensweet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Hazel Spaulding</td>
<td>6 Lyla Peck</td>
<td>6 Noam Rabinowitz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Reis Golden</td>
<td>8 Barry Waxler</td>
<td>6 Declan O’Connell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 Samuel Maltz</td>
<td>10 Dani Grossman</td>
<td>8 Savanna Blackmore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 Anna Rose von Thomsen</td>
<td>13 Adam O’Koon</td>
<td>8 Elon Katz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 Samuel De Falco</td>
<td>14 Seth Flowers</td>
<td>9 Seth Liner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 Emerson Rosensweet</td>
<td>19 Liam Dunkelman</td>
<td>11 Evie Clark</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 Matthew Silverstein</td>
<td>19 Ellie Friedman</td>
<td>11 Jacob Sponseller</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 Micah Morrisroe</td>
<td>20 Nathaniel Barnhart</td>
<td>13 Levi Lilenstein</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 Gabriel Levy</td>
<td>24 Phoebe Rubenstein</td>
<td>23 Clara Calico</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 Noah Calico</td>
<td>26 Zsofia Bonyhati</td>
<td>23 Jacob Sunberg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>31 Lilly Perlman</td>
<td>24 Casey Shaftel</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“Children of the Temple” are those who are 18 years old and younger.

### ANNIVERSARIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DECEMBER</th>
<th>JANUARY</th>
<th>FEBRUARY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>29 Edward &amp; Nancy Rosenthal, 64th</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Boris &amp; Alla Masinovsky, 45th</td>
<td></td>
<td>14 Judith Seltzer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 Edward &amp; Leah Levy, 64th</td>
<td></td>
<td>17 Aaron Herzig</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 Ruth &amp; Steve Coppel, 45th</td>
<td></td>
<td>17 Rabbi Gary Zola</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 Matthew &amp; Ann Kane, 15th</td>
<td></td>
<td>17 Robert Stutz</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Anniversaries will be listed every five years starting with the fifth anniversary. All anniversaries of 50 years or more are recognized.
Create a lasting legacy and enrich your community now and for years to come.

Shofar Soundings Winter 5782

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUNDAY</th>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY</th>
<th>FRIDAY</th>
<th>SATURDAY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Chanukah</td>
<td>2 Chanukah</td>
<td>3 Chanukah</td>
<td>4 Chanukah</td>
<td>5 Chanukah</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7 Hebrew School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:00p shabbatCTY</td>
<td>9:30a Sichat Torah, Torah Study</td>
<td>10:30a Bar Mitzvah of Sammy Maltz</td>
<td>7:30p Adult Chanukah Bash</td>
<td>9:30a Religious School</td>
<td>5:00p Kulanu</td>
<td>6:30p 8th Night for Ethan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14 Hebrew School</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chanukah</td>
<td>Chanukah</td>
<td>Chanukah</td>
<td>9:30a Religious School</td>
<td>10:15a Women of Rockdale Meeting (Zoom)</td>
<td>5:00p Kulanu</td>
<td>5:45p Shabbat Nosh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Happy Chanukah!</td>
<td>Happy Chanukah!</td>
<td>Happy Chanukah!</td>
<td>9:30a Religious School</td>
<td>10:15a Women of Rockdale Meeting (Zoom)</td>
<td>5:00p Kulanu</td>
<td>5:45p Shabbat Nosh</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Calendars are subject to change.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUNDAY</th>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY</th>
<th>FRIDAY</th>
<th>SATURDAY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Calendars are subject to change.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUNDAY</th>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY</th>
<th>FRIDAY</th>
<th>SATURDAY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1 Hebrew School</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4 Family Retreat 5:45p Shabbat Nosh 6:15p Shabbat Services</td>
<td>5 Family Retreat 9:30a Sichat Torah, Torah Study 10:30a Shabbat Morning Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Family Retreat 5:00p Kulanu</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8 Hebrew School</td>
<td>9 6:30p Shmita Year Virtual Cooking Class</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11 5:45p Shabbat Nosh 6:15p Shabbat Services 6:00p shabbatCTY</td>
<td>12 9:30a Sichat Torah, Torah Study 10:30a Shabbat Morning Service 1:00p Shabbat Shal-OM Yoga</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 9:30a Religious School 1:00p Kulanu</td>
<td>14 7:00p Board Meeting</td>
<td>15 Hebrew School</td>
<td>16 9:30a Religious School 5:00p Kulanu</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18 5:45p Shabbat Nosh 6:15p Shabbat Services</td>
<td>19 9:30a Sichat Torah, Torah Study 10:30a Shabbat Morning Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 Presidents’ Day</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>22 Hebrew School</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>24 5:45p Shabbat Nosh 6:15p Shabbat Services led by 4th, 5th, and 6th Grade 7:15p 4th, 5th, and 6th Grade Class Dinner</td>
<td>25 9:30a Sichat Torah, Torah Study 10:30a Shabbat Morning Service 4:30p FoRT Havdallah and Dinner</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>27 9:30a Religious School 5:00p Kulanu</td>
<td>28</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Shofar Soundings Winter 5782

**December**

**Friday, December 3**
6:15p Chanukah Rock Shabbat Service Celebrating Birthday Blessings

**Saturday, December 4**
9:30a Sichat Torah (Torah Study)
10:30a Bar Mitzvah of Sammy Maltz, son of Steven and Claudia Maltz

**Friday, December 10**
6:00p shabbatCTY (ish Garage)
6:15p Erev Shabbat Services with Shir Shalom Choir and Celebrating Anniversary Blessings

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

**Friday, December 17**
6:15p Erev Shabbat Services

**Saturday, December 18**
9:30a Sichat Torah (Torah Study)
10:30a Shabbat Morning Services

**Friday, December 24**
(online only)
6:15p Erev Shabbat Services

**Saturday, December 25**
(online only)
9:30a Sichat Torah (Torah Study)
10:30a Shabbat Morning Services

**Friday, December 31**
(online only)
6:15p Erev Shabbat Services

**January**

**Saturday, January 1**
(online only)
9:30a Sichat Torah (Torah Study)
10:30a Shabbat Morning Services

**Friday, January 7**
6:15p Erev Shabbat Services

**Saturday, January 8**
9:30a Sichat Torah (Torah Study)
10:30a Shabbat Morning Services

**Friday, January 14**
6:15p Shabbat Shirah Services with Shir Shalom Choir and Celebrating Birthday Blessings

**Saturday, January 15**
9:30a Sichat Torah (Torah Study)
10:30a Shabbat Morning Services

**Friday, January 21**
6:15p Erev Shabbat Services Celebrating Anniversary Blessings

**Saturday, January 22**
9:30a Sichat Torah (Torah Study)
10:30a Shabbat Morning Services

**Friday, January 28**
5:30p FoRT Shabbat Service with PreK/K/1st Grade participation
6:15p Erev Shabbat Services

**Saturday, January 29**
9:30a Sichat Torah (Torah Study)
10:30a Shabbat Morning Services

**February**

**Friday, February 4**
6:15p Erev Shabbat Services with Shir Shalom Choir and Celebrating Anniversary Blessings

**Saturday, February 5**
9:30a Sichat Torah (Torah Study)
10:30a Shabbat Morning Services

**Friday, February 11**
6:00p shabbatCTY (offsite)
6:15p Erev Shabbat Services

**Saturday, February 12**
9:30a Sichat Torah (Torah Study)
10:30a Shabbat Morning Services

**Friday, February 25**
6:15p Erev Shabbat Services led by 4th/5th/6th Grades Celebrating Birthday Blessings

**Saturday, February 26**
9:30a Sichat Torah (Torah Study)
10:30a Shabbat Morning Services

4:30p FoRT Havdalah
Women of Rockdale co-hosted a fabulously fun Chili Cookoff and Karaoke evening with the Rockdale Brotherhood. Approximately 30 Rockdale adults enjoyed the lovely evening weather outside in the courtyard. If you weren’t there, we hope to see you at future events.

Women of Rockdale meets monthly on Sunday mornings. Our meeting dates are announced in Rockmail. At our October meeting, we welcomed Alana Levy to our Board of Directors, and spent time planning our upcoming programs. Meetings are open to those interested, so feel free to attend and bring your ideas and enthusiasm.

In November, we celebrated being in person for our Women’s Shabbat. It was a joyous evening complete with the Shir Shalom Choir leading us in song. A few days later we hosted our famously popular Chanukah Sale with our gift shop team, led by Barrie Kraus and Alison Auerbach. Sisterhood helped the Coran/Kraus family coordinate baking for the luncheon after the Bat Mitzvah of Eden Kraus. We are looking forward to resuming our ongoing participation in serving a holiday meal for Ronald McDonald House residents on Christmas Day.

Heinke Lillenstein has been busy planning a series of monthly virtual cooking classes for our community this winter with Chef Marshall. The classes will be held the second Wednesday of each month at 6:30 pm (1/12, 2/9, 3/9, and 4/13). Keep your eye out for sign up information in upcoming Rockmail. We will help observe the Shmita year by focusing on meatless recipes, both vegetarian and vegan. We’re hoping to begin with a Mediterranean menu. Donations to support the classes are intended to assist in providing a slide projector for activist Victoria who works with the Climate Reality Project where she lives in Lagos, Nigeria, and is teaching families about solar energy resources to help protect their environment. This program is reflective of a collaboration with and input from the Environmental Committee.

In the works for the spring is our Women’s Seder, plus a large outdoor event to include an art auction, music, and food in May. This will give the entire Rockdale community a great opportunity to reconnect and help WoR raise funds to support all we do for the Women of Rockdale and our entire congregation. We will also be joining the other local WRJ Sisterhoods by participating in and helping to organize a Women of Reform Judaism regional weekend event here in Cincinnati, May 14–15.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE: DIVESTMENT RECOMMENDATION

The Environmental Committee asked the Investment Committee to consider analyzing our portfolio and exploring options to divest funds from natural gas investments. We have moved forward with this recommendation and sold off our funds in natural gas and invested in the GMO Climate Change Fund. This fund seeks to deliver high total return by investing primarily in equities of companies GMO believes are positioned to benefit, directly or indirectly, from efforts to curb or mitigate the longterm effects of global climate change, to address the environmental challenges presented by global climate change, or to improve the efficiency of resource consumption.
Our guest speaker, Monet Stansbury, at Rockdale's Adult Education Program on Climate Change, inspired me to take the Climate Reality Project Training. It was an amazing experience (via Zoom) where I got to meet many talented, passionate people from around the world; like Aline from Brazil who is working to stop Amazon deforestation and Victoria from Nigeria who is teaching families about solar energy resources.

Oil and gas drilling spills and accidents in Nigeria's coastal waters destroyed the fish population, a main source of protein for Nigerians. These companies, including U.S. Exxon and Chevron, profit from the oil and gas mined in Nigeria by shipping it elsewhere, including to the U.S., bypassing Nigerian's need for electricity. Their use of firewood for cooking and other needs is resulting in deforestation which is causing flooding that is destroying farmers’ crop land. One solution is to teach people about solar resources for cooking and lights.

Brazilian farmers are burning the Amazon forest to create pasture land for more cattle and more corn to feed the cattle to meet the demand for more beef coming mainly from the U.S. The solution is for U.S. consumers to eat less beef. The Amazon had been one of the most important means of eliminating CO2 from the global atmosphere. Now scientists predict that if the rate of deforestation continues, the Amazon will become a Savannah and not sequester CO2 anymore. This transition process has already begun. https://bit.ly/3q5QbEp

These problems remind me of one of Rabbi Kahan’s sermons telling a Jewish fable of two men in a small boat. One man started drilling a hole under his seat. The other man yelled at him to stop! But the man with the drill said, “What’s your problem? I am only drilling under my seat, not your seat.” We in the U.S. are drilling under our seat and it is affecting people in countries far from us, like Brazil and Nigeria. We can and must stop drilling the hole in our boat—our planet.

The first step is to eat less meat! Rockdale Shmita projects will help make this easy and fun. Eating less meat reduces deforestation for more cattle pasture and feed-crop land. The Women of Rockdale are inviting Chef Marshall to give online vegetarian and vegan cooking classes this winter. Read more about this in the Women of Rockdale article.

At the October adult education program, Monet taught us why we must use less energy sourced from oil and gas. To achieve this, we can replace all our light fixtures with LED bulbs (Rockdale did a few years ago), get an energy audit and make our home more energy efficient (Rockdale did several years ago) and divest from fossil fuels (Rockdale is in the process of doing this now). The best energy solution is for each of us to produce our own electricity with renewal energy options like solar and geothermal and/or purchase an electric vehicle.

During this Shmita year, let’s patch the hole we drilled in our boat.

Joanne Gerson
Chair, Environmental Committee

A FEW SPOTS LEFT FOR THE ROCKDALE SUMMER CAMPING TRIPS

The family car camping trip will go to Kentucky Carter Caves State Park. This fun trip is for the whole family. Carter Caves offers hiking, boating and guided trips through their amazing caves. Learn family camping tips with other Rockdale families, share songs, stories, and s’mores around the campfire together.

The backpack camping trip, designed for the more adventurous, 15 years and up, is a great opportunity to bond with your teen in the company of other Rockdale members. (Minors must be accompanied by a responsible adult.) Following required instructional classes for beginners, all backpackers will have a local “Practice Overnight” before heading into the wilderness of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.

Experienced and beginners are all welcome. If you have camping equipment that you can loan to camping participants, please let David Solomon know.

This is your last chance to let David know if you want to learn more about these trips. Contact David today at dsolomon@rockdaletemple.org.
A Sephardic version of the full kiddush has a verse that translates to: “May there be abundant peace from heaven, life, satisfaction, help, comfort, refuge, healing, redemption, forgiveness, atonement, relief, and salvation for us and for all God’s people Israel, and let us say, amen.” The power of asking God for these things reminds us of what the world could look like.

Take a moment, right now, to close your eyes and envision a world of peace, satisfaction, help, comfort, refuge, healing, redemption, forgiveness, atonement, relief, and salvation.

Can you see a world where some, or all, of these are true? What might we achieve if we choose not to desist from working towards that world?

We are building that world and we need your help. The Justice Collaborative has leadership working on three issues:

1. **Gun Safety**—Mark Michaelson is leading our ongoing efforts to push for common sense gun reform. Mark is representing us on a committee being led by the JCRC, in partnership with Whitney Strong. Whitney Strong was co-founded by Whitney Austin, a surviving victim of a mass shooting at Fountain Square in 2018. Its goal is to find common ground to end gun violence through data-driven, responsible gun ownership solutions.

2. **Voting Rights**—Andi Herzig leads our efforts to ensure the protection and guarantee of our voting rights. The Religious Action Center has made the protection of voting rights a key pillar of its racial justice campaign since BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) individuals are primarily impacted by restrictions on voting. By the time of this publication, we’ll have participated in RAC’s Call-in-Week to urge our Senators and President to support the Freedom to Vote Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act.

3. **Criminal Justice Reform**—Molly Goldberg leads our work around criminal justice reform. In Ohio, we have a chance this year to abolish the death penalty and achieve meaningful bail reform. Both of these issues are racial justice issues as they both disproportionately impact BIPOC individuals. The death penalty in particular has been shown to impact innocent individuals, has a significant impact on our state budget, and is pursued inconsistently. We have lobbied our state legislators to abolish the death penalty, with more actions coming up. We have partnered with the Religious Action Center and Ohioans to Stop Executions (OTSE). OTSE is an inspiring coalition of a wide range of partners, showing that there is a broad base to support this work.

If you are interested in any of the work above, or other projects, let me know. We are also looking for help with individual reach-outs to congregants, communication strategies about our work, and data tracking of our progress. Please keep an eye out for announced programs and let us know if you can contribute time in any of the above areas. Through our collective efforts, we can build the world we envision.

Justin Levy
*Chair, Justice Collaborative*
levyjus@gmail.com
Winter is settling in, and while nature is down for a long nap, what could be better than a comfy chair, a hot beverage, a soft blanket and a good book? We immerse in reading all day on our frenzied screens, and at night, if we get the chance, we can hardly choose which show to watch. So, it’s a special moment when we are able to, or decide to, tune ALL the screens out and sink into another world. A book. And IF that book’s world is framed by someone’s Jewish outlook, our shared history, or issues we care about as Jews, we can absolutely call that act of reading an act of connection to our Jewish community.

No, it isn’t a face-to-face connection in the flesh, and it isn’t via a religious service or group event. Nevertheless, we are connecting, and by choice.

Our Rockdale Book Group connects, granted over Zoom, every six weeks or so through a book we have chosen to read together—to add to our shared Jewish consciousness. In September we explored our reactions to Jonathan Kaufman’s *The Last Kings of Shanghai: The Rival Jewish Dynasties That Helped Create Modern China*. In early November we tackled two new books, both by Dara Horn but extremely different, the novel *Eternal Life* and *People Love Dead Jews*. The second is a themed collection of her well-researched and acerbic writings about the world’s historical preference for happily mythologized Jews—AFTER their deaths, often at the hands of their later mythologizers!

Rockdale Book Group never exceeds a dozen people, and there is room for you too, if you’d like to join. Simply send me an email or text to include you and we will help you connect to this little Jewish community. And there is another option available as well, one that widens the possible community of Jewish readers: the Mayerson JCC’s (Virtual) Jewish Book Series. www.mayersonjcc.org/programs/jewish-book-series/

One session has already happened, but there are three more stretching into May 2022. The books up for discussion (over Zoom) are lively! Classic film geeks will get a look at the legendary director Billy Wilder in his pre-film days in Vienna, Berlin and Paris between the wars. Lovers of mysteries and thrillers will have multiples to dive into, all with a Jewish twist. And there is a strange and satirical collection of stories by a former Stephen Colbert writer. Readers get to hear the authors themselves tell personal stories and share their inspirations and approaches to writing. All the remaining book discussions in the series are free of charge, beyond your need to obtain the book. Mayerson JCC will even steer you toward a book source that kicks back a portion to local independent bookstores. Plus, of course, there is the public library, not to mention Amazon.

Take a look at the titles and treat yourself to a shared reading experience with your Jewish community. The commitment level is low, but the connection is real.

Karen Zanger
Rockdale Volunteer Librarian
karenszanger@gmail.com

---

**NOAH’S ARK MURAL UPDATE**

In the article about the Noah’s Ark mural that appeared in the Fall issue of Shofar Soundings, Bonnie Emmer’s name was accidentally omitted from the list of artists who have contributed their talents to the project. A huge ‘THANK YOU’ to Ruth Coppel, who let me know that the artist who began the project more than 20 years ago is Ronnie Kestin. I’m looking forward to a conversation with her and to writing more about how it all began. Meanwhile, painting progresses, I promise!

—Tracy McMullen
Whether you or a loved one is looking for health and wellness programs, an encore career, help with technology, COVID-19 resources, or innovative ways to stay connected, AgeWell Cincinnati is your **best first step**.

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

**Our Providers**
- Jewish Family Service
- Cedar Village
- Maverson JCC of Cincinnati
- JVS Career Services

**Our Funders**
- Jewish Foundation of Cincinnati
So many congregants and friends have asked how we can help Afghan refugees. Locally, Heartfelt Tidbits is navigating how we (individuals or groups) can sponsor an Afghan family to help them settle in the USA.

For now, the best way to support these efforts is through donations to:

1. HEARTFELT TIDBITS (Find them on Facebook at www.heartfelttidbits.com)
2. MIRY’S LIST (Find them on Facebook or at www.miryslist.org). This grassroots organization (based in Los Angeles) has ties and offers support to Heartfelt Tidbits. Donations directly go to needs of Afghan families, as this organization has been receiving and serving Afghan families in California.

Would you like to help or work with current refugees and in-need immigrants in Cincinnati? Heartfelt Tidbits has many volunteer opportunities, including assisting art or classroom teachers, providing transportation, or helping at ESL classes.

The biggest need is for mentors/buddies for students (children of refugees and immigrants).

Become a Virtual Buddy—mentor a local student. You can meet in-person or online with homework help weekly. HFT works directly with the Academy of World Languages to connect volunteers with students in need of assistance. Contact charity@heartfelttidbits.org.

For any questions or ideas about helping our newest community members, please contact:

Cora Steinberg
Chair, Rockdale Reaches Out
csteinberg999@gmail.com
Tribute Funds

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.

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

Exp. Date  CVV

Billing Name

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
Rabbi Sissy Coran, z”l, dedicated her life to Judaism and her rabbinate, making Rockdale a warm and welcoming place devoted to the study of Torah, spiritual meaning, and loving acts of kindness. She especially admired K.K. Bene Israel’s historical significance as the oldest congregation west of the Allegheny Mountains and its commitment to forward-thinking. Rabbi Coran firmly believed that Rockdale’s longevity and openness to change were connected. The Rabbi Sissy Coran Memorial Fund gives Rockdale the ability to meet its most pressing needs, whether responding to challenging circumstances or supporting innovations that move the congregation forward. Rabbi Coran helped sustain Rockdale through some of its most challenging times and introduced new initiatives that have made Rockdale a wonderful place to celebrate Judaism; this fund is a most fitting honor to her memory and legacy.

It is an unrestricted Board-Designated Fund. The intent is to be a fund that is flexible and that can be accessed to fund initiatives “in the moment.” This is not a formal endowment fund, rather a fund that can be spent down as needed.

The fund was most recently used over the summer to pay for the expenses related to Rock the Block. Held in early July, Rock the Block was a block party-style Shabbat that celebrated the first time our congregation met in person in well over a year. We officially welcomed Rabbi Binder while enjoying services, dinner, games, music, kid’s activities, craft cocktails, and shaved ice.

Condolences to the Friends and Family of:

Morton L. Harshman, beloved husband of Barbara Harshman
Margaret Friedman-Vaughan, beloved wife of Willard Vaughan and past Executive Director and Educator of Rockdale Temple
John A. Southworth, beloved father of Mary Southworth
William Donnett, beloved brother of David Donnett
Barbara Nelson, beloved grandmother of Miranda Brady and great-grandmother of Loralie, Gideon, & Piper
Dolores Goldfinger, beloved mother of Wendy Jodice & Steven Goldfinger
Tamara Zmood, beloved mother of Michael Zmood
Joey B. Zuckerman, beloved husband of Sheila E. Zuckerman
Selman A. Berger, beloved father of Mark Berger
Gary Handshaw, beloved brother of Chris Malhotra

May their memories be for a blessing.

Tribute Fund Feature: Rabbi Sissy Coran Memorial Fund

Rabbi Sigma Faye Coran

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.

Please consider naming Rockdale Temple in your will, trust, retirement account, or estate plan.
RABBI SISSY CORAN MEMORIAL FUND
In honor of
Jordan Auerbach's Graduation
Rabbi Matthew Kraus
In memory of
Margaret Friedman-Vaughan
Linda Chatterjee
Myron & Joanne Gerson
Daniel Hoffheimer
Rabbi Matthew Kraus
Fay May
In memory of Dolores Goldfinger
Fay May
In memory of Elaine Harris
Fay May
In honor of the Bat Mitzvah of
Eden Kraus
Fay May
In honor of Chris & Ramesh Malhotra
Barbara Turner-Michaelson & Mark Michaelson
In honor of Emilee Maxwell
Rabbi Matthew Kraus
In memory of Barbara Nelson
Rabbi Matthew Kraus
Chris & Ramesh Malhotra
In honor of the birth of
Benjamin Allen Sherman
Ken & Sue Sherman
In honor of the marriage of
David Solomon & Jaynie Levinson
Sally & Gerry Korkin
RABBI MEREDITH KAHAN’S DISCRETIONARY FUND
For the speedy recovery of
Allison Frankel
Jeffrey & Corinne Covel
RABBI ERIN BINDER’S DISCRETIONARY FUND
In memory of Frances Lowenstein
Myron & Joanne Gerson
BARROWS MUSIC FUND
In memory of Morton L. Harshman
Daniel Hoffheimer
In memory of Jim Mixter
Linda Chatterjee
In honor of Mary Southworth and her fellow musicians in our High Holy Day ensemble
Daniel Hoffheimer
BENE ISRAEL FUND
In honor of the special birthday of
Sally Korkin
Bonnie Deaner
HERITAGE OF LEARNING FUND
In memory of Margaret Friedman-Vaughan
Doug & Linda Sawan
In honor of the 50th wedding anniversary of Chris & Ramesh Malhotra
Daniel Hoffheimer
HIGH HOLY DAY APPEAL
Robert Abrahams & Deborah Dirr
Janice Ackman
Vickie Barham
Mark & Laura Berger
Richard Block
O.J. & Barbara Cohen
Amy Coppel
Jeffrey & Corinne Covel
Leanne Cropper & Susan Peskin
Tony & Stephanie De Falco
Susan & David Donnett
Emanuel & Ellen Doyne
Risa & Stephen Feagins
Lisa Fox & Richard Trohman
Barry & Nancy Gibberman
Steven & Shelley Goldstein
Rabbi Jonathan Hecht & Gladys Rosenblum
Andrew A. & Deborah Heldman
Ed & Andi Herzig
Tribute Funds Donations  AUGUST 1, 2021–OCTOBER 31, 2021

Joe & Marilyn Hirshhorn
Daniel Hoffheimer
Neal Jacobs & Joan Schimmel
Donna Kabakoff
Scott & Alexia Kadish
Josh & Sarah Kleymeyer
Gerald & Sally Korkin
Rabbi Matthew Kraus
Mark & Gail Lehman
Vivien Lehman & Ronald Curtis
Edward & Leah Levy
Justin Levy & Eira Tansey
Howard Liberman
Rachel Lofthouse & Daniel Pelchowitz
Ralph Lowenstein
Millard & Helene Mack
Christine & Ramesh Malhotra
Fay May
Lynn & R. Glen Mayfield
Tracy McMullen
Jack & Nancy Messer
Mark Michaelson & Barbara Turner-Michaelson
Bartley & Alexis Morrisroe
Alice Perlman
Janice Redmond
Bernard & Leslie Reiss
Shirma Revelson
Mary Ann Rosensweet
Steven & Rachel Schild
Todd Schild & Sarah Weiss
Joshua & Heather Shapiro
Kenneth & Susan Sherman
Don & Cora Steinberg
Robert & Loris Ungar
David & Chie Weil
Joan Weinberg
Edward Wertheimer III
Richard & Elisabeth Wiener
Toni Winston

LIBRARY FUND
In memory of
Margaret Friedman-Vaughan
Barbara Turner-Michaelson & Mark Michaelson

LOUISE F. REICHERT BIMAH FLOWER FUND
In honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Samuel De Falco
Tony & Stephanie De Falco
In memory of Joel Ira Herzog
Ed & Andi Herzog
In honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Eden Kraus
Rabbi Matthew Kraus
In memory of Beryl Sargeant
Linda Chatterjee

RABBI VICTOR & LOUISE REICHERT FUND
In memory of Helene Cohen
Amy Diamond & Eddie Wolf
Barbara & OJ Cohen

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND
For the support of Kehal Kodesh
Noah & Bree Shaftel
In memory of
Margaret Friedman-Vaughan
Bill & Joan Roberts

SAVED MUSIC FUND
For the support of the Sacred Music Fund
Lori & George Zahn
In memory of John A. Southworth
Shir Shalom Choir

SOUP KITCHEN FUND
For the support of the Soup Kitchen Fund
Barbara & OJ. Cohen
In honor of the first anniversary of Lisa Fox & Richard Trohman
Diane Rosenbaum Resnick
In memory of
Margaret Friedman-Vaughan
Stuart & Karen Zanger
Cora & Don Steinberg

In memory of Dolores Goldfinger
Barry & Madeline Berman
Robert Ingberg
Johnny Jones & Karen Glover
Patricia Kaplan
Bennet Kottler & Valerie Weinstein
Rabbi Matthew Kraus
Chris & Ramesh Malhotra
Sharon & Steve Marshall
Suresh B. Ravanam
Jeffrey & Susan Routh
Phyllis & Peter Schiff
Josh & Heather Shapiro
Cora & Don Steinberg
Barbara Turner-Michaelson & Mark Michaelson

In memory of Frances Lowenstein
Myron & Joanne Gerson
In honor of the special anniversary of Chris & Ramesh Malhotra
Patty & Robert Kaufman
Sally & Gerry Korkin

TEMPLE FUND
In memory of Ann J. & Alvin W. Bunis
Alvin W. Bunis, Jr., Henry J. Bunis & Catherine B. McDonough
In honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Samuel De Falco
Ruth & Steve Coppel
In memory of
Margaret Friedman-Vaughan
Sally & Gerry Korkin
In honor of Rabbi Mark Goldman
David Solomon & Jaynie Levinson
In memory of Rose Leventhal
Mark Leventhal
In memory of Gerson Lowenthal
Alice & Stephen Shapiro
In memory of Doris Charlene Shaevitz
Corinne Covel
ROCKDALE TEMPLE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President
John G. Cobey

Vice President
Sally Korkin

Treasurer
Aaron Herzig

Secretary
Justin Levy

Directors
Jennifer Clark
Stephanie De Falco
Risa Feagins
Bennett Kottler
Barrie Kraus
Tracy McMullen
Joan Roberts
Abby Schwartz
Larry Smilig

Ex-Officio Directors
James G. Heldman,
Past President
Susan Klug Kahan,
Women of Rockdale President
Andrew Gollin & Mark Friedman,
Men of Rockdale Co-Presidents

Rockdale Temple
Phone: 513-891-9900
Fax: 513-891-0515
www.rockdaletemple.org

Affiliated with the URJ
(Union for Reform Judaism)
Serving Reform Congregations in North America

Rabbi Meredith Kahan
Senior Rabbi

Rabbi Erin Binder
Assistant Rabbi & Educator

David Solomon
Executive Director

Rabbi Mark N. Goldman, D.D.
Rabbi Emeritus