ROCKDALE TEMPLE SUMMER 5782



SHOFAR SOUNDINGS



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Save the Date!

A GRAND
SHABBAT SERVICE
& BLOCK PARTY!

ROCKDALE TEMPLE PARKING LOT

Join us for the party of the summer! With food, drinks, music, and games, there will be fun for all ages!

Senior Rabbi Meredith Kahan

A PRAYER OF GRATITUDE

One of my favorite creative renderings of a traditional piece of Jewish liturgy is printed in our prayerbook, *Mishkan T'filah for Shabbat*. It seems to be a favorite of our young people, as well—each time I meet with a B'nei Mitzvah student to choose readings for their services, they almost always choose this particular piece. The prayer I speak of contains a responsive refrain, *Modim Anachnu Lach*—"we thank You!" Adapted from Eugene Picket, each stanza of this creative *Hoda'ah*—prayer of thanksgiving—invites the congregation to respond in gratitude. In the spirit of this most meaningful prayer, in awe of and in gratitude for this Holy Congregation, I invite you to join me in thanksgiving:

For the enduring participation, presence, and spirit of our Rockdale Temple Family, Kehal Kodesh Bene Israel—the Sacred Community of the Children of Israel... *Modim Anachnu Lach!*

For the dedication, hard work, and creativity of our Rockdale Temple staff: Andrey, Becca, Carolyn, Noah, Paige, Patty, Scott, Sean, Warren—ably led by David Solomon... *Modim Anachnu Lach!*

For the knowledge, compassion, and love of Torah and Jewish life of our clergy team, including Rabbi Binder and our rabbinic interns...*Modim Anachnu Lach!*

For the joy, enthusiasm, and love of learning of our students—young and old... *Modim Anachnu Lach!*

For the presence, determination, and commitment to mission of our volunteers... *Modim Anachnu Lach!*

For the responsibility, selflessness, and sacrifice of our Board of Directors... Modim Anachnu Lach!

For the imagination, time, and ingenuity of our committee chairs and members... *Modim Anachnu Lach!*

For the support of our community partners—Jewish, communal, and secular organizations, agencies, and leaders... *Modim Anachnu Lach!*

For the ongoing friendship of our neighbors as well as our fellow Jewish community members... *Modim Anachnu Lach!*

For those whom we have loved and lost, those who have made us who we are, and those who have built and sustained this congregation... *Modim Anachnu Lach!*

For the warmth, beauty, and familiarity of our sacred space on Ridge Road... *Modim Anachnu Lach!*

For the health and safety of our congregation, and all who have labored to make it so... *Modim Anachnu Lach!*

For the return to congregational worship, shared tables, and laughter-filled classrooms... *Modim Anachnu Lach!*

For the perseverance of our Rockdale Temple Family, Kehal Kodesh Bene Israel—the Sacred Community of the Children of Israel, who have thrived for almost 200 years and look forward to 200 more... *Modim Anachnu Lach!*

For all these things and more, we offer thanks.

Baruch Atah Adonai hatov shimcha ul'cha na-eh l'hodot. Praised are You, Adonai, your Name is good and you are worthy of thanksgiving.

Rabbi Meredith Kahan

Moreath Kalas,

Senior Rabbi



For the perseverance of our Rockdale Temple Family, Kehal Kodesh Bene Israel—the Sacred Community of the Children of Israel, who have thrived for almost 200 years and look forward to 200 more...

Modim
Anachnu Lach!

Assistant Rabbi & Educator Erin Binder



With the loving support of our community, we were able to sustain a year of in-person learning on Sunday mornings and maintain the health and safety of all.

CELEBRATING OUR KEHAL KODESH COMMUNITY!

As we conclude our 2021-2022 / 5782 year of learning, Rabbi Kahan and I are so proud of all that our learners, families, educators, and madrichim have accomplished together. With the loving support of our community, we were able to sustain a year of in-person learning on Sunday mornings and maintain the health and safety of all.

This year we...

- Opened the school year with a special program and picnic at Montgomery Park.
- Started the year in our outdoor learning spaces through the Fall.
- Prayed and learned with our families through musical and visual t'fillot.
- Learned with the Rabbis during Family Education programs.
- Felt the spirit of camp at Boker Baalagan (our crazy morning).
- Enriched our time together with music, art, and Hebrew Through Movement.
- Celebrated the High Holy Days, Sukkot, Simchat Torah, Chanukah, Purim, and Passover together.
- Hosted parent schmoozes to strengthen connections for all members of our community.
- Experienced Israel through our Chaverim, Lior & Nitzan.
- Honored Rabbi Binder as part of the installation weekend festivities.
- Shared in Shabbat and learned about Shmita at our 7th annual Family Retreat.
- Traveled with Rak Noar (7th & 8th graders) downtown for a special retreat.
- Closed the year with a celebratory Rock Shabbat, honoring our 8th grade graduates, all our exceptional educators, and the joy of learning together!

We are grateful for the wisdom, energy, and dedication of our wonderful educators. We are blessed with a group of Jewish role models who commit themselves to building a positive learning environment for our students. This year we offer thanks to:

Frannie Kahan – PreK Owen Weiss – K/1st Grade Amy Shaiman – 2nd/3rd Grade, Hebrew Alex Kaufman – 4th/5th Grade Kim Kraus-Preminger – 6th Grade
Rabbi Matthew Kraus – Rak Noar
Jason Schapera – Rak Noar
Jacob Kraus-Preminger – Music
Israela Ginsberg – Hebrew Through Movement
Gabe Clark - Art
Caitlin Brazner – Rabbinic Intern,
Madrichim Coordinator, and 4th/5th Grade
Rabbi Judy Spicehandler – Hebrew
Ashley Barrett – Hebrew
Caroline Winstel-McLeod – Hebrew
Madeline Budman – 6th Grade Hebrew

Madrichim:

Cait Barilleaux C Magnus Knudsen Rachel Herzig Sydney Kraus Libby Hoicowitz Cameron Sheldon

Ben Rosen – Rak Ivrit (7th Grade Hebrew)

Dani Reiss- Student Support Specialist

It takes a village to nurture learning and craft a meaningful experience. Our Religious School Committee is a group of parents who work to make Kehal Kodesh an amazing place of learning and growth not just for their own children, but for all of our congregation's young people! We are very grateful to:

Rebecca Barilleaux Alana Levy
Karla Blackmore Lauren Lillenstein
Rob Burstein Renee Rosensweet
Mark Friedman Craig Rozen
Lauren Herzig Adele Zuckerman, *chair*

As always, we are thankful for our Rockdale Temple staff—David Solomon, Scott Larsen, Paige Adkins, Andrey Azirbayev, Becca Blumer, Patty Kaufman, Sean O'Brien, Carolyn Baker, and Warren Raglin—who go above and beyond to support our school program.

We are thrilled to have spent a meaningful year together as a Kehal Kodesh—truly a Sacred Community. We look forward to the start of the 5783 school year—save the date for our Opening Day at Montgomery Park on Sunday, August 28, 2022!

Erin Binder

Rabbi Erin Binder Assistant Rabbi & Educator

President John Cobey

This being my last article for Shofar Soundings, let me recount where we have been and where I hope Rockdale goes.

Our Temple's growth and success is because of your Executive Committee's and Board of Directors' tireless work. Other Jewish institutions in America did not fare as well in these challenging years of civil unrest, financial challenges, and disease.

Here are some brief examples of how people at Rockdale have made our congregation strong and warm and welcoming:

- **1. Health and Safety** (headed by Dr. Edward Herzig): This was paramount in our goals.
 - a. We have a substantial increase in Antisemitic crimes and incidents in the country. We take this seriously and the Safety Committee has met to discuss improvements. Further the board has made efforts to improve our relationship with the Amberley Police, as they are risking their lives to protect us. So far, we have had no overt incidents, but we are planning to be prepared if we do have one.
 - b. The Health Safety Committee and your board worked long and hard to recommend policies that changed as the pandemic's danger increased and decreased. The result is that none contracted Covid while attending a service or meeting at Rockdale.
- 2. Staffing our Clergy and Executive Director: Various committees met to select a new Senior Rabbi (co-chaired by Abby Schwartz and Aaron Herzig); a new Assistant Rabbi & Educator (co-chaired by Stephanie De Falco and Larry Smilg); a new Executive Director, and a Congregational Engagement Professional. We now have a team of well educated dedicated people to run our temple, our religious life, and teach our children Rockdale and Jewish values. And our school has grown in size and quality with wonderful teachers.
- **3. Financial:** We are financially sound because:
 - a. The Finance Committee, chaired by Aaron Herzig, made ends meet. We only utilize about 3% of our investments because we kept expenses down and our membership paid their fair share in their Sacred Commitments to the temple.
 - b. The 200th Fundraising Committee (co-chaired by Dr. David Schwartz and Josh Shapiro) and the Bene Israel Society (chaired by Sally Korkin) have raised nearly \$2,000,000 in cash in hand and pledges.
 - c. The Investment Committee, chaired by Mark Schaengold, has raised our investments by over almost 15%.

4. Social Justice: To combat the civil unrest caused by the blatant murder of African Americans, the Social Justice Committee (chaired by Justin Levy) put into place programs and actions with other groups to repair the damages. The committee is taking action regarding various matters such as stopping the death penalty from being used. The death penalty is



- not only unfair to minorities, but innocent people have been found guilty of murder and put on death row, only to later to be found innocent.
- 5. Environmental Committee: Joanne Gerson's committee has taken the bull by the horns and encouraged us to divest our investments from companies that endanger the environment. They also have been active in the Shmita Year by informing of bad environmental regulations and legislation, by co-sponsoring cooking classes, and by giving out seeds and even Praying Mantis cocoons.
- **6.** The Women of Rockdale (now led by Susan Kahan) has contributed needed funds through the In the Beginning Fund to Rockdale as well as had a co-sponsored chili cooking event, and co-sponsored the cooking class.
- 7. The Engagement Task Force, led by Jennifer Clark, has had us congregate in our Rock the Block event, as well as bourbon and other tastings. It helped us to stay together.
- **8. Membership** (chaired by Gerry Korkin) has developed its structure and is active in recruiting new members.
- **9.** The 200th Anniversary Events Committee (chaired by Sue Sherman and Barrie Kraus) is planning a dynamite year-long anniversary celebration.
- **10. The age selected affinity groups** from youth to Seniors are having programs for all of you.

There are others, but I just wanted to give you all a taste of what you can do to participate at Rockdale, a growing in size and warmth congregation. We have experienced a Rockdale Renaissance and now are experiencing a Rockdale Spring. I suspect the next few years will be better than ever under the new great leadership.

John G. Cobey President

John & Cobey

Executive Virector Vavid Solomon



We congregated online, offline, in person, and everything in between.

Rockdale saw many accomplishments this year. We congregated online, offline, in person, and everything in between. To ensure meaningful experiences throughout the year, and in years to come, Rockdale implemented new strategies to engage our community and bring services to our congregants. We updated our streaming equipment, allowing us to deliver the highest possible online engagement experience for our services and programs, including those within our walls as well as those offsite. We also upgraded our Visual Tefillah equipment allowing everyone to easily engage in prayer. Additionally, we saw the renovation of the Senior Rabbi office, creating a warm and comforting meeting space for our congregation.

To further engage our congregants and our community, Rockdale collaborated both internally and externally throughout the year. Within Rockdale, the Health Safety Team met frequently (sometimes weekly) to keep us well during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. Our Security Committee also helped to ensure our safety by ensuring that we had a secure High Holy Day season. Outside of our temple we were a proud sponsor or participant of a variety of programs including Jewish Cincinnati's bicentennial events, the ish Festival and Mimouna, as well as the Amberley Village Police Department's open house.

In more internal news, Rockdale continues to meet, and often exceed our budget expectations thanks to the important work done by our board, committees, and staff. We continue to lead the pack in the Jewish Federation's Create Your Jewish Legacy program, had a successful High Holy Day appeal, and have laid important groundwork for the development efforts of our bicentennial. To help us navigate the ups and downs of this year's market the Investment Committee met at least quarterly, and our board and Finance Committee kept a watchful eye on our operating budget, working with staff to be strong stewards of our community's dollars. Additionally, our hard-working and compassionate staff continues to learn and grow. Together we learned at a staff training at Summit Park for our annual emergency preparedness training and took advantage of many individual professional development opportunities. Camaraderie was also built at events like the Cincinnati Reds Jewish Community night and our annual holiday party, held at Top Golf this year. Our staff also grew, welcoming new members of the team, and seeing the promotion of others. We welcomed our new Engagement Professional, Becca Blumer, and while we were saddened by the departure of our Facilities and Events Manager, Scott Larsen, we are excited to ring in the promotion of Andrey Azirbayev to the role, as well as hire Noah Smilg to the team. We are fortunate to have an incredible team, and we say thank you to Paige Adkins, Carolyn Baker, Patty Kaufman, Sean O'Brien, and Warren Raglin for their work.

Rockdale's future continues to shine brightly. As we look to the coming year and beyond, we are excited about many things. Work is being planned for our beautiful chapel, with the installation of new lights and reinvigoration of the exterior walls, and we are working to update some of our front and back end technological systems, helping us to increase our productivity and thus bring more to our congregation. Through strategic planning we are thinking about the big picture to ensure Rockdale's success for 200 more years. With a congregation of amazing individuals, and with the support of incredible board members, committee members, and lay leaders, Rockdale is strongly stepping into the future, and we are excited to see the path ahead.

David Solomon

Executive Director

WELCOME, MADELINE BUDMAN!

We are excited to welcome Madeline Budman to Rockdale Temple as our Summer Rabbinic Intern! Madeline is a

rising 4th year rabbinical student and joins us through the HUC/TJF Fellowship Program. She is a graduate of Georgetown University and has enjoyed learning at Hebrew University in Jerusalem and Yeshivat Hadar in New York. Madeline is an experienced youth leader and camp counselor, a former Nachshon Project graduate fellow



and Adamah fellow, and spent a year as a Religious Action Center Machon Kaplan Legislative Intern. Rockdale Temple students have been blessed to learn from Madeline these past few years in her roles as Rak Noar teacher, 6th grade trope teacher, and B'nei Mitzvah tutor. We look forward to Madeline's leadership this summer—she will be leading services and Torah study, offering adult education, working on Kehal Kodesh projects with Rabbi Binder, delivering Divrei Torah, connecting with congregants, and more! Madeline will begin her role at the end of May and continue through early August. She may be reached at rabbinicintern@rockdaletemple.org. Please welcome Madeline back to Rockdale!

WELCOME, NOAH SMILG!

In the month of May we welcomed a new member of the Rockdale team, Noah Smilg, who will be working on our

Building and Grounds team.

Noah is a graduate of Sycamore
High School where he was the
recipient of the Hero Award from
the Lovis Foundation. In the past
Noah has worked as a Kennel
Tech for Warren County Animal
Shelter and an Administrative
Assistant at Northern Hills
Synagogue. As someone who
enjoys giving back to his



community, Noah has volunteered as a teacher assistant and peer mentor, as well as a "cat companion" for the animal shelter. Playing video games, reading Manga (comics and graphic novels originating from Japan), and watching anime (an animation style also originating from Japan) are some of Noah's favorite things to do in his free time. Learning Japanese is a future goal of Noah's, and as a sushi connoisseur he will be happy to give you a recommendation to his favorite restaurant!

CONGRATULATIONS

ANDREY AZIRBAYEV!

We are excited to announce that our resident chef extraordinaire, Andrey Azirbayev, has been promoted to the role of Facilities and Events Manager here at Rockdale! You likely know Andrey from the delicious meals and treats he cooks up for the Rockdale community. In this new role he will help the Rockdale team execute congregational events as well as help to take care of our beautiful building. Outside of his roles here at Rockdale, Andrey has worked for

Kroger as an Assistant Store Leader and the local Oasis Mediterranean Grill as their General Manager. Andrey holds a bachelor's degree in Accounting and Finance from Kazakh State Academy of Management, and a master's degree in Business Administration from University of Phoenix. He can also be thanked for helping to grow and maintain our beautiful plants outside of the chapel, so be sure to ask him for some indoor plant tips and tricks when you see him next!



Rabbi Binder's Installation

The weekend of April 8–10 was a very special time at Rockdale as we formally welcomed Rabbi Erin Binder to her new position as our Assistant Rabbi and Educator. The celebration began Friday evening with an Erev Shabbat Installation service, followed by a catered cocktail party with Tapas and Cocktails. On Saturday, Temple held a brunch with Torah study led by Senior Rabbi Jeffrey Sirkman of Larchmont Temple in Larchmont, NY where Rabbi Binder served as rabbinic intern. Sunday morning



featured Rabbi Alan Freedman—Rabbi Binder's father leading a study session focused on the rituals and obligations of Passover.

This was a special homecoming event for Rabbi Binder and her parents,

Rabbi Alan and Lori Freedman. The family, including Rabbi Binder's sister Jessica, were members of Rockdale while Rabbi Freedman completed four years of rabbinic education at HUC-JIR's Cincinnati campus and served as our rabbinic intern for the two years before his ordination in May 2002. During that time, Rabbi Binder was confirmed and Jessica became a Bat Mitzvah. Rabbi Binder made the note that for as hard as high school was, being a teenager at Rockdale felt like home, a place where she found her own Jewish identity and voice.



Rabbi Kahan said she was pleased to welcome Rabbi Binder as her rabbinic partner and was sure that she would serve the Rockdale congregation with great wisdom and compassion. Rabbi Binder shared that, "To be a rabbi means being with people in moments of their highest highs and their lowest lows. I've had the honor of doing that with the people of Rockdale and every one of those moments remains close to my heart."

The weekend was wonderful. Rabbis Kahan and Binder led the Saturday morning service with participation by many of Rabbi Binder's family and friends. Following services, Rabbi Sirkman joyfully taught us about *Parashat M'tsora* (*Leviticus 14:1-20*). Even though the content of the Torah portion was unappetizing, the food was wonderful and the discussion was enlightening.

Kehal Kodesh's Family T'filah on Sunday morning began with a sweet surprise for Rabbi Binder. As she entered

the Messer Chapel, the parents and students were lined up on both sides of the center aisle holding tallitot high above their heads, to form a tunnel for Rabbi Binder to walk through to the bima. Her students had been



secretly working to create a colorful

Tree of Life art piece during the weeks leading up to this occasion, and our Religious School Committee Chair, Adele Zuckerman presented Rabbi Binder with this stunning piece of art. Additionally, Rabbi Binder's father, Rabbi Freedman, brought Passover to life in a seminar liberally sprinkled with his gentle humor and examples of his profound understanding of the real-life challenges of making Seder interesting and engaging.

It was a weekend to remember and a time to savor, we were all together in person, and it felt like real community again; we welcomed our new Rabbi whom our children already love and who will touch all our lives in many positive ways. We were treated to the ideas and words of inspiring and knowledgeable teachers; we had great fun, ate amazing

(continued on page 9)

Men of Rockdale Cookout

Is there anything better than a burger or hot dog fresh off the grill? The Men of Rockdale sure don't think so! To kick off the start of summer, the Men of Rockdale hosted a cookout on the patio. Co-presidents Andy Gollin and Mark

Friedman, with the help of past president Gerry

Korkin, put together an event for men of the congregation to come together, enjoy some good food, cheers with an ice-cold beer, and play a round or two of corn hole.

"This was our first time in two vears that we were able to get together in this way," said Mark Friedman. "We had an incredible turnout and response from the men in our community. We saw long term Rockdale members and several prospective

members who are excited to join us."

When asked why he wanted to be a part of the Men of Rockdale, and why others should join, Mark replied that, "outside of religious school for our children, this has been the best way to engage in our Jewish community and meet new people. Rockdale has a rich history of attracting families of various

backgrounds and geographies. Our social events reflect that and give new people to the area a means to meet new friends."

Andy Gollin can personally attest to how groups like Men of Rockdale help people who are new to the area find a connection. "When I came to this city and knew no one outside of work I went to a Men of Rockdale event and

> immediately felt welcome," said Andy. "Now my closest friends are guys that I met through us all taking our kids to religious school and creating our own social events."

"A temple is a community of many types," adds Gerry Korkin. "Spirituality is important but it's not everything to everybody. Our community should reach people with many types of Jewish needs,

> including just 'breaking bread' with one another."

"Having friends at temple makes it a more enjoyable experience," says Mark. "Being a part of planning fun events and seeing everyone enjoying them is something I look forward to. [This] provides a social outlet and a great opportunity to get to know other members in a relaxed and fun setting."

For more information on how to become part of the Men of Rockdale

please reach out to our Engagement Professional, Becca Blumer, at bblumer@rockdaletemple.org, or by calling 513-891-9900.



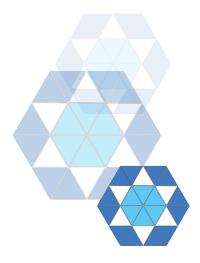
food, and came together as a community. We remembered Rabbi Sissy Coran, z"l, and saw her spirit reflected in our Senior Rabbi Kahan whom she mentored, and who is now Rabbi Binder's mentor.

Welcome, Rabbi Binder, Welcome Home!

Barrie Kraus led the Installation Weekend Committee which included: Frannie Kahan, Sally Korkin, Rabbi Matthew Kraus, Kim and Jacob Kraus-Preminger, Karen Martin, Tracy McMullen, Alexis Morrisroe, Dani Reiss, Renee Rosensweet, Craig Rozen, Jason Schapera, and Jen Smilg.



Introducing the 2022-2023 Board of Virectors



At the Annual Meeting on Saturday,
June 11, the Rockdale congregation
will elect a new leadership team for its
Board of Directors. Third generation
Rockdalian and lifelong Rockdale member
Sally Korkin will become our new board
President. Current Treasurer Aaron Herzig
will be the Vice President. Larry Smilg will
become our new Treasurer and Stephanie
De Falco will take Justin Levy's place as the
new Secretary. The new officers will serve
for two years. Also joining the board are
Mark Friedman, Richard Friedman, Dani

Reiss, and Cora Steinberg. As President John Cobey and Justin Levy wrap up their terms and Bennett Kottler and Tracy McMullen conclude their time on the board, we thank them for their service and dedication to Rockdale Temple. Board members who will continue to serve include Jennifer Clark, Risa Feagins, Barrie Kraus, Joan Roberts, and Abby Schwartz. Ex-officio directors include John Cobey, Past President; Susan Klug Kahan, Women of Rockdale President; and Andrew Gollin, Men of Rockdale President.

Rockdale 200th Anniversary Celebration Events Committee

The count-down to Rockdale's Bicentennial Celebratory year has begun! The 200th Anniversary Events Committee has been brainstorming some great ideas over the past year and is now working toward bringing those ideas to life. The



200 YEARS OF LIVING JEWISH VALUES

K K BENEISRAFI ROCKDALF TEMPLE // 1824-2024

committee, co-chaired by Barrie Kraus and Sue Sherman, consists of 22 dedicated people with a wide range of talent and lots of energy. We are so grateful for all their

input and time as we move closer to the big launch of events in September of 2023.

The brainstorming sessions have generated a myriad of exciting and creative programs that are currently on the drawing board. We are going to share only two of them in this article. Please keep these time frames in mind as your calendar starts to fill up for 2023-2024.

Our opening event will take place during Sukkot 2023 (5784). The event is being co-chaired by Jane Garfield and Leslie Reiss. The celebration will be held offsite, outdoors, under the stars at a farm or nature center. This will be a multigenerational, family friendly, fun evening to celebrate both Sukkot and to officially launch the bicentennial year. More details to follow!

The other big event that we will share is the Gala Celebration. The Gala date will correspond to the actual incorporation of Rockdale's founding January 24, 1824. The exact dates are still tentative; however, we hope to nail a date down soon. Reserve the last two weekends of January 2024 for now.

There are many other events still in the planning stages. It's going to be a very dynamic and significant year for our Rockdale family and the community at large. Please feel free to reach out to Sue or Barrie if you would like to join in the planning of any of the events. There is so much to accomplish and believe it or not, September 2023 is approaching very quickly. We look forward to sharing many more details in the coming months.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

ADULT BIRTHDAYS

JUNE

- 6 Edward Rosenthal
- 11 Regan Perlman
- 16 Marvin Siegel
- 20 Gitte Knudsen
- 20 Rabbi Margaret Meyer
- 20 Alice Perlman
- 21 Gary Dick
- 23 Alexis Morrisroe
- 23 Leslie Reiss
- 26 Bernard Reiss
- 30 Fay May
- 30 Frank Bloom

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

JULY

- 1 Honey Dunaway
- 2 Cora Steinberg
- 2 Preston Woodson
- 2 Betty Heldman
- 4 Jacqueline Cooper
- 7 Jean Abrahamson
- 8 Maxine Potter
- 11 Andrea Herzig
- 14 Mark Sheldon
- 15 Marilyn Hirschhorn
- 17 Kathleen Hart
- 17 Carol Fletcher
- 17 Margo Itkoff
- 20 Cathy Altbaier
- 21 Gerald Schwartz22 Jack Messer
- 23 Wilma Travis
- 25 Robert Frohman
- 31 Quinn Davidson

AUGUST

- 4 Frances Kahan
- 6 Marilyn Shott
- 8 Steve Muhlbaum
- 11 Natalie Gerstein
- 12 Michael Greenberg
- 13 Sophia Dick
- 13 Olivia Dick
- 13 Boris Auerbach
- 14 Lois Widlansky
- 16 Jacob Smilg
- 16 John Cobey
- 17 Michael Feagins
- 17 Renee Rosensweet
- 19 David Seltzer
- 20 Alan Schriber
- 20 Nancy Klein
- 21 Joshua Shapiro
- 21 Dr. G. Russell Frankel
- 25 Joan Weinberg

ANNIVERSARIES



JUNE

- 1 Sara & Fred Kaufman, 25th
- 10 Amy & Jason Shaiman, 10th
- 16 Elliot & Lynda Grossman, 20th
- 17 Dr. G. Russell & Renee Frankel, 60th
- 17 Maurice & Erva Dick, 71st
- 20 Robert & Teresa Harrod, 40th
- 21 Ronald & Anne Roth, 52nd
- 21 Dr. Myron & Joanne Gerson, 53rd
- 23 Dr. Edward & Andrea Herzig, 54th
- 25 Dr. Michael & Rabbi Margaret Meyer, 61st
- 26 Boris Auerbach & Kathy Patchel, 20th
- 26 Gerald & Sally Korkin, 54th

JULY

7 Robert & Loris Ungar, 65th

AUGUST

- 1 William & Joan Roberts, 30th
- 7 Jerry & Nancy Klein, 40th
- 7 Edward & Anita Marks, 57th
- 9 Mark & Sherri Hageman, 25th
- 20 Gary & Linda Greenberg, 45th
- 28 Michael & Eileen Greenberg, 56th

Anniversaries will be listed every <u>five</u> years starting with the fifth anniversary.
All anniversaries of 50 years or more are recognized.

CHILDREN'S BIRTHDAYS

JUNE

- 1 Sanders Wall
- 4 C Matias Knudsen
- 6 Sam Flagel
- 9 Harrison Gollin
- 11 Phillip Richman
- 12 Sydney Swiatek
- 15 Parker Calico
- 15 Rachel Herzig
- 16 Isaac Rosensweet
- 16 Lydia Rosensweet
- 16 Joel O'Koon
- 19 Sebastian De Falco
- 19 Maggie Rubenstein
- 25 Harry Lohse, V
- 27 Jonah Lillenstein
- 27 Kristen Marnocha

29 Emily Burstein

28 Leah Schild

JULY

- 5 Baylor Dowd
- 5 Teddy Shaiman
- 7 Ari Kane
- 13 Zelda Wilks
- 17 Sam Marcus Nguyen
- 19 Gabriella De Falco
- 23 Eric Waterman
- 26 Lev Rabinowitz
- 26 Jack Dunkelman27 Miriam Schapera
- 31 Griffin Ames
- 31 Tucker Ames

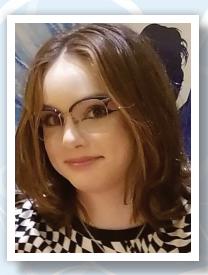
AUGUST

- 2 Jacob Morrisroe
- 4 Shai Reiss
- 17 Samuel Dunkelman
- 18 Robin Vidmar
- 23 Eli Putz
- 25 Abigail Friedman
- 27 Joel Martin
- 28 Chana Kravitz

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



B'nei Mitzvah Celebrants



CITY SWIATEK, June 11, 2022

Sydney Paige Swiatek, a.k.a. "City", is currently a 7th grader at Lakota Ridge Junior High. City enjoyed being in the Drama Club ensemble of their production of *Moana* last fall after school. This summer City swims for the Windwood swim team, competing against the local swim clubs.

City loves to spend time with friends on the trampoline and swinging from the trees in the hammock. Three guinea pigs, a dog named Kona and voice lessons occupy the rest of City's time.

We look forward to City's B'nei Mitzvah, June 11, 2022.

City would like to thank B'nei Mitzvah tutor Ben Rosen for the outstanding mentoring and tutoring, Rabbis Kahan and Kraus, Uncle Howard Liberman, the entire Rockdale Temple community and the best support team for being a big part of this special day.



JONAH LILLENSTEIN, June 25, 2022

Jonah Lillenstein just completed his 7th grade year at Mason Middle School. He is also part of the Camp Livingston community, spending a month there each summer (Rah Rah!). In addition to school & camp, Jonah enjoys playing baseball and basketball, hanging out with family and friends, creating video edits, and getting lost in the Virtual Reality metaverse!

Jonah wants to be a sports analyst when he grows up. He is quite knowledgeable when it comes to the stats of professional football and basketball players (and can talk to you about it for hours).

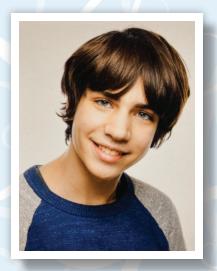
Most importantly, Jonah values family. In February, his grandfather, Mark Lillenstein, passed away. In Mark's memory, the family accepted donations to build the Mark Park, a community dog park, in Florence, KY. As part of Jonah's Mitzvah project, he will be building flower beds and providing landscape to the entrance of Mark Park. He will be collecting monetary donations to contribute to the creation of this project. A donation box will be available at Rockdale Temple during the Friday Shabbat nosh and before the Saturday morning service. Digital donations can be sent via Venmo @Lauren-Lillenstein. Please put Mark Park in the text box.

B'nei Mitzvah Celebrants



LIAM DUNKELMAN, June 25, 2022

Liam Dunkelman is the son of Rachel Westheimer and Evan Dunkelman, and big brother to Jack, Sammy, and Clara. He just finished his 7th grade year at Kings Junior High after graduating from Rockwern Academy. Liam thanks his Bar Mitzvah tutor, Aaron Torop, his Rockwern teachers, and especially his family for helping him prepare for his Bar Mitzvah. Liam is excited to share his celebration with his friend Jonah Lillenstein!



ELIAS VON THOMSEN, August 11, 2022

Elias attends the 7th grade at the Freie Waldorfschule in Schwerin, Germany where he has found close friends and classes that stoke his interest. Most recently, he has been passionate about crafting a skateboard from scratch and coming up with graphic designs for it. Hebrew letters form the center of the motif, showing us that he continues to form his Jewish identity in an environment where this is very unusual. Elias loves nature in all its manifestations. He loves maps, world building, different writing systems, reading and writing graphic novels, and asking questions about the nature of the universe. He is known for his spirited and passionate defense of teens' rights to not clean their room, and is a strong proponent of entropy. He has initiated several projects in our family's garden, such as designing his own succulent garden in a rock biotope. He enjoys French language and culture, but would also like to learn Swedish and Spanish. For the future, Elias has many ideas but is mostly looking forward to choosing his own path and exploring his interests as a writer of graphic novels. He would love to live on an island one day.

Elias would like to wholeheartedly thank Rockdale Temple, Rabbi Kahan, and his tutor Caroline Winstel-McLeod for helping him prepare under difficult circumstances. He would also like to begrudgingly thank his parents and his sister for their assistance, and his parents expect that a heartfelt thank you will be forthcoming twenty years from now.



Watch for information about plans for our

200TH Celebration!



200 YEARS OF LIVING JEWISH VALUES

K.K. BENE ISRAEL ROCKDALE TEMPLE // 1824-2024

MAZEL TOVE

To **Tate Sheldon** on becoming a Bar Mitzvah

To Johanna Blackmore on becoming a Bat Mitzvah

To **Rabbi Erin Binder** on her installation as Assistant Rabbi & Educator of Rockdale Temple

To **Sydney and Matthew Clark** on the birth of their son, Micah Joseph Clark, to Evie Clark for her new brother, to Sheryl & Scott Mattis on their new grandson, and to Bea Mattis on her new great-grandson

To **Jackie Congedo** on being awarded the Jewish Federation's Alice and Harris Weston Junior "Avodah" Professional Award for her work as Director of the Jewish Community Relations Council and for her new role as Chief External Relations and Community Engagement Officer at HHC

To **Abby and Dr. David Schwartz** on the Bat Mitzvah of their granddaughter Harper Bazelon in Milwaukee

To **Jacob and Kim Kraus-Preminger, Rabbi Matthew Kraus,** and **Gerry and Marvin Kraus**on the birth of their daughter, granddaughter, and great
granddaughter Shifra Tikvah Kraus Preminger

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

Confirmation 5782 Friday, June 3, 7:30pm

Confirmands:

Isabella Gollin
daughter of Andrew & Patricia Gollin
Libby Hoicowitz
daughter of Brad Hoicowitz & Dorette Mack
Phoebe Rubenstein
daughter of Scott & Amy Rubenstein

Sophie Shapiro
daughter of Foshua & Heather Shapiro
David Zuckerman
son of Zu & Adele Zuckerman

Save the Date!

Rabbi Meredith Kahan Senior Rabbi Installation Weekend August 26-28





Bene Israel Society Testimonial: Jen and Larry Smilg

As we searched for a synagogue that felt like home, Rockdale stood out as a warm and inclusive place for our family.

In 2011, shortly after moving to Cincinnati, we were introduced to a family who happened to be members of K.K. Bene Israel / Rockdale Temple. They invited us to join their family at a Rock Shabbat service. The immediate welcoming and friendship we felt was very special, and contributed to us being able to settle down comfortably in our new community. As we searched for a synagogue that felt like home, Rockdale stood out as a warm and inclusive place for our family.

Rockdale Temple has been an important part of our lives. We have had a meaningful community to share joyous times, to support us in difficult times, and we have participated in wonderful and tough times that others in this community have experienced. Our children have attended Kehal Kodesh followed by Kulanu. The boys experienced Jewish summer camp, YGOR and NFTY. Most importantly they learned and grew through their experiences.



As the boys have grown up, we have become more involved with Rockdale through volunteer opportunities. Both of us have served on many committees over the past few years. Larry was a member of the Education Committee, the Rabbinic Search Committees, and currently serves on the Health & Safety Committee and the Board of Directors. Jen has served on the Crystal Celebration Committee, and with Women of Rockdale as a Co-President, then President. She is also an active member of the Engagement Task Force and has been helping to proofread and co-edit the Shofar Soundings for several years now. We have each been honored to receive a Menorah Award to recognize our service to the community.

We have been asked about the amount of time and effort that we put into our volunteer efforts at Rockdale, and how we manage it. Jen likes to say she's a "serial volunteer". What we have found is that the more we put into the community, the more we get back. Our involvement has helped us to build strong bonds with other temple members, the clergy, and the staff.

The most important feature of Rockdale is its warm and welcoming nature. It is what drew us to Rockdale in the first place, and it has been the cornerstone of the successes of our temple. But a welcoming community doesn't just emerge—it has to be intentionally built. It starts with our leadership prioritizing that as a goal, and continues with each of us actively working to be welcoming to everyone.

As we have seen the importance of Rockdale to us and to others in our community, we have made the choice to not just support Rockdale with our time, we have also made the choice to support Rockdale financially. Our pledge to the Bene Israel Society through Create Your Jewish Legacy represents our belief that this is a critical institution that must be sustained now and in the future.

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.



Steven Altman*
Sylvia (Sukey) Altman*
Leonard Berenfield*
Doris* & Stuart* Berman
Max Joseph Bleich

Rosemary & Frank Bloom Lynn Gross Chaifetz

Anthony & Andrea Checroun Matthew* & Jean* Chimsky

Jennifer & Patrick Clark John Cobey & Jan Frankel

Max Cobey
Alfred M. Cohen
Barb & O.J. Cohen
Ken & Janet Cohen
Rabbis Sigma F. Coran*
& Matthew Kraus

Stephanie & Tony De Falco Bonnie & Darryl Dick

M. James Ellis

Bernie Dave*

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

*Of blessed memory

Andy A. & Debbie Heldman

Betty Heldman

Gary & Austine Heldman George* & Anne Heldman

Jim Heldman & Wendy Saunders Michael Heldman & Beth Franks

Idalynn Herzberg*

Andrea & Dr. Edward Herzig

Lauren & Aaron Herzig

Babette Hirsch*
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

Erick Madis

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

Sharon Lynn Nelson & Kenneth Venick

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* & Florence E. Zaret

Anonymous Donors – 3

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.



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3 7:30p Confirmation Shabbat	9:30a Sichat Torah (Torah Study) 10:30a Shabbat Morning Service 10:00a Rockdale at Wear Orange to End Gun Violence 7:30p Erev Shavuot with Elana Arian
10:30a Shavuot Morning & Yizkor Services, followed by luncheon	6	7	8	9	6:15p Rock Shabbat with Camp Send-off followed by dinner Celebrating Birthday Blessings	9:30a Sichat Torah (Torah Study) 10:30a B'nei Mitzvah of Sydney "City" Swiatek 6:00p Annual Meeting 7:30p Congregational Celebration
12	13	14 6:00p Safe Cincinnati Security Traniing	15 Rak Limud with Madeline Budman (Zoom only)	16	6:00p shabbatCTY at Café Alma *6:15p Prerecorded Rockdale services available*	9:30a Sichat Torah (Torah Study) 10:30a Shabbat Morning Services
19 Juneteenth	20	21	Rak Limud with Madeline Budman (Zoom only)	23	6:15p Erev Shabbat Services with Shir Shalom Choir Celebrating June Anniversaries	9:30a Sichat Torah (Torah Study) 10:30a B'nei Mitzvah of Jonah Lillenstein & Liam Dunkelman 10:30a Rockdale at Cincinnati Pride
26	27	28	29 Rak Limud with Madeline Budman (Zoom only)	30		

Calendars are subject to change.



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 6:15p Erev Shabbat Service	9:30a Sichat Torah (Torah Study) 10:30a Shabbat Morning Service
3	4 Independence Day Rockdale office closed	5	6 Rak Limud with Madeline Budman (Zoom only)	7	5:00p Rock the Block Shabbat and Celebration Celebrating Birthday Blessings	9:30a Sichat Torah (Torah Study) 10:30a Shabbat Morning Services
10	11	12	13 Rak Limud with Madeline Budman (Zoom only)	14	15 6:15p Erev Shabbat Service	9:30a Sichat Torah (Torah Study) 10:30a Shabbat Morning Service
17	18	19	20 Rak Limud with Madeline Budman (Zoom only)	21	6:15p Erev Shabbat Service	9:30a Sichat Torah (Torah Study) 10:30a Shabbat Morning Service
24	25	26	27 Rak Limud with Madeline Budman (Zoom only)	28	29 6:15p Erev Shabbat Service Honoring Long- standing Members	9:30a Sichat Torah (Torah Study) 10:30a Shabbat Morning Service
31					of 50+ years Celebrating July Anniversaries	Morning Service

Calendars are subject to change.

August

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	Rak Limud with Madeline Budman (Zoom only)	4	5 6:15p Erev Shabbat Service	9:30a Sichat Torah (Torah Study) 10:30a Shabbat Morning Service 10:00am FoRT Shabbat Sing & Swim (Kahan-Flowers home)
7	8	9	10	11 Bar Mitzvah of Elias Von Thomsen	6:15p Erev Shabbat Service Celebrating August Anniversaries	9:30a Sichat Torah (Torah Study) 10:30a Shabbat Morning Service
14	15	16	17	18	6:15p Erev Shabbat Service Celebrating Birthday Blessings	9:30a Sichat Torah (Torah Study) 10:30a Shabbat Morning Service
21	22	23	24	25	6:15p Erev Shabbat Service and Installation of Senior Rabbi Meredith Kahan	9:30a Sichat Torah (Torah Study) 10:30a Shabbat Morning Service Installation Celebration Continues
9:30a Kehal Kodesh Opening Day! Installation Celebration Continues	29	30	31			

Calendars are subject to change.

Liturgical Calendar

June

Friday, June 3

7:30p Confirmation Shabbat

Saturday, June 4

9:30a Sichat Torah (Torah Study) 10:30a Shabbat Morning Service 7:30p Erev Shavuot Services, study, and concert with Artist-in-Residence Elana Arian

Sunday, June 5

10:30a Shavuot Morning & Yizkor Services, followed by luncheon

Friday, June 10

6:15p Rock Shabbat with Camp Send-off, followed by dinner Celebrating Birthday Blessings

Saturday, June 11

9:30a Sichat Torah (Torah Study) 10:30a B'nei Mitzvah of Sydney "City" Swiatek

Friday, June 17

6:00p shabbatCTY at Café Alma *6:15p Prerecorded Rockdale services available*

Saturday, June 18

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

Friday, June 24

6:15p Erev Shabbat Services with Shir Shalom Choir Celebrating June Anniversaries

Saturday, June 25

9:30a Sichat Torah (Torah Study) 10:30a B'nei Mitzvah of Jonah Lillenstein & Liam Dunkelman

July

Friday, July 1

6:15p Erev Shabbat Service

Saturday, July 2

9:30a Sichat Torah (Torah Study) 10:30a Shabbat Morning Service

Friday, July 8

5:00p Rock the Block Shabbat and Celebration

Celebrating Birthday Blessings

Saturday, July 9

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

Friday, July 15

6:15p Erev Shabbat Service

Saturday, July 16

9:30a Sichat Torah (Torah Study) 10:30a Shabbat Morning Service

Friday, July 22

6:15p Erev Shabbat Service

Saturday, July 23

9:30a Sichat Torah (Torah Study) 10:30a Shabbat Morning Service

Friday, July 29

6:15p Erev Shabbat Service Honoring Long-Standing Members of 50+ years Celebrating July Anniversaries

Saturday, July 30

9:30a Sichat Torah (Torah Study) 10:30a Shabbat Morning Service

August

Friday, August 5

6:15p Erev Shabbat Service

Saturday, August 6

9:30a Sichat Torah (Torah Study) 10:30a Shabbat Morning Service

Thursday, August 11

Bar Mitzvah of Elias Von Thomsen

Friday, August 12

6:15p Erev Shabbat Service Celebrating August Anniversaries

Saturday, August 13

9:30a Sichat Torah (Torah Study) 10:30a Shabbat Morning Service

Friday, August 19

6:15p Erev Shabbat Service *Celebrating Birthday Blessings*

Saturday, August 20

9:30a Sichat Torah (Torah Study) 10:30a Shabbat Morning Service

Friday, August 26

6:15p Rabbi Kahan Installation Shabbat

Saturday, August 27

9:30a Sichat Torah (Torah Study) 10:30a Rabbi Kahan Installation Morning Shabbat

Environmental Committee



Rockdale Temple Family Camping

Last Fall, Rockdale's Environmental Committee approached the Sierra Club Miami Group chapter to assist us with a family camping program as part of the Environmental Committee's Shmita year project. The result was a collaboration with the Sierra Club Outings Committee to provide family camping instruction at Rockdale. In two sessions, five instructors covered topics



ranging from Leave No Trace Principle, camping clothing and gear, to campfire cooking tricks and recipes. More than a dozen families will put these lessons to use on a Rockdale

tent camping trip to Carter Caves over Memorial Day weekend. We will all be camping in the same section of the campground with one site reserved for group gatherings and campfires. Numerous activities are planned with plenty of free time, too. Watch for our stories about this fun trip.

The Hillside near Rockdale's entrance

Over the past few years, the Environmental Committee has organized Rockdale volunteer opportunities to remove invasive honeysuckle and plant native trees, shrubs, and wildflower seeds. Using shovels, loppers, other landscaping tools, and limited amounts of herbicide, a group of volunteers worked this spring to remove more honeysuckle along the steep hillside, while some individuals stay on the top of the slope to place woody debris in garbage bin. Stop by to see the beautiful wildflowers, native cedars, apple and spruce trees. In the fall, we plan to plant more trees. If you are interested in helping, contact Bennett Kottler at bkottler@hotmail.com

Praying Mantis Egg Sacks

Every Spring the Environmental Committee gives Sunday School children a gift to gain more appreciation of nature. This year each family received a bag with a Praying



Mantis egg sack and an instruction sheet on how to care for the egg sack. Children were very knowledgeable about Praying Mantis. These young people knew that Praying Mantis eat only insects including mosquitoes and that

they are the only predator of stink bugs, an invasive insect from China. They also knew that the only insects Praying Mantis do not eat are lady bugs. Each egg sack will yield from 50-200 baby Praying Mantis. Most hatch at once, but some hatching may take up to eight weeks. Encouraging Praying Mantis survival is simple. Stop pesticide use. With the many Praying Mantis in your yard, you will not need

to spray for insects. Leave that work to this natural, chemical free, solution and you will enjoy seeing your Praying Mantis working to keep your yard insect free for years to come!



Support for Environmental Instruction in Nigeria

The Environmental Committee raised over \$200 for the purchase of a slide projector by the D'Young nonprofit organization in Lagos, Nigeria. Students will learn about alternative means of cooking so families can stop cutting down trees to use for cooking fuel. Several cooking options are taught, including solar cookers that do not harm the environment or their health. We are grateful to all the people at Rockdale that donated to this cause.

For more information and to join the Rockdale Environmental Committee contact Joanne Gerson at joanne.gerson@earthlink.net

Joanne Gerson
Chair, Environmental Committee

Women of Rockdale

Women of Rockdale has been meeting monthly planning events for our members and the larger Rockdale community, and getting together socially as well.

We will have had six virtual cooking lessons by the time this article comes out, learning some delicious recipes as well as useful cooking tips from Chef Marshall. These were organized by Heinke Lillenstein in cooperation with the Environmental Committee,



Victoria Edeha-Anthony, founder of the D'Young Energy Project, teaching high school students about solar cooking and solar lanterns, in Lagos, Nigeria

recognizing the Shmita year observance by focusing on vegetarian recipes. We also raised funds 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 teaches families about solar energy resources to help protect their environment.

WoR held several Sip 'n' Shmooze social gatherings at members' homes. It was fun to get back together again to nosh, drink and socialize. We voted in our new slate of officers at our May meeting. We will announce those officers in Rockmail.

We held a lovely Women's Seder afternoon tea at Rockdale on Sunday, April 3, organized by Linda Chatterjee and Risa Feagins. A large group of Rockdale women, including some daughters, gathered at the temple for this special seder led by Rabbis Kahan and Binder. We enjoyed meaningful readings, music, tea, and both savory and sweet treats.

Women of Rockdale is excited to announce that we have approved funding from the In the Beginning Cookbook Endowment Fund of \$16,231 for the 2022–2023 fiscal year. The Fund serves programs and projects which socially enhance experiences for the Rockdale membership, and for next year include a Musician in Residence weekend with Dan Nichols, delivery of High Holiday gift bags to congregants' homes, support for Rabbi Kahan's installation in August, and monies to fund "Rock the Block." This Fund is celebrating its 41st year, and since 1999 has provided over \$365,000 for Rockdale projects. Our current committee, headed by Cora Steinberg, is thrilled to continue the tradition, all the while maintaining and honoring the memory of the hard-working and enterprising Rockdale Sisterhood women who made this Fund possible.

We hope everyone has taken pleasure from the beautiful magnolia tree WoR planted in memory of Rabbi Sissy Coran, z"l, in the outdoor space between the chapel and the social hall. The formal plaque will be dedicated in June at the Rockdale annual meeting.

We look forward to seeing many of you at the end of summer, if not sooner. We are planning a wine tasting event as an opportunity to reconnect as a community, as well as other gatherings and events for WoR members and the congregation. We have a lot of plans in the works, so women members of Rockdale, please remember to return your membership forms when you receive them in the mail.

Have a great summer! Susan Klug Kahan, *President*



Rockdale Reaches Out



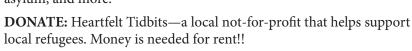
Rockdale continue to partner with local refugee-helping organizations to help support refugees from all around the world who are starting new lives in Cincinnati.

Currently, the best way to help Ukrainian refugees (whom we are anticipating arriving) is to DONATE to the Jewish Federation of Cincinnati.

When these individuals arrive, we will mobilize to support their needs, while working with our partner organizations.

How to help refugees, people who are new to USA, currently here in Cincinnati:

DONATE: Immigration and Refugee Law of Cincinnati—an amazing and crucial local organization for providing legal work to people seeking asylum, and more.





OPPORTUNITIES TO VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME:

- **Many recent refugee families from Afghanistan live in Cincinnati, and they would appreciate getting to know Americans and practicing English.
- ** Summer Programming in specific Cincinnati Public schools that support international/refugee kids and families.



Volunteers are needed weekdays in June from 7:30am-2:30pm. Sign-up for as many (or a single) days that you can assist in the classrooms.

Special summer enrichment programming at both Rising Stars (in Carthage) and at Academy of World Languages (Fairfax Avenue).

This is a great way to get to know the kids and build relationships.

Please contact Shannon Wilson at: shannon@heartfelttidbits.org

Or please contact Cora for any questions. Csteinberg999@gmail.com

Many thanks,

Cora Steinberg

Chair, Rockdale Reaches Out

Rockdale's Justice Collaborative

ABOLISHING THE DEATH PENALTY BUILDS JEWISH SAFETY

In the Fall 2021 issue of *Shofar Soundings*, I wrote about how fighting oppression in all its forms is fighting antisemitism. Fighting for racial justice is not something we should do just because it is the right thing (although it is). It is also not something we should do just because it is important to the safety of Jews of color. It is something we should also do because fighting for racial justice is fighting for the safety of all Jews by breaking the machinery of hate that is similarly used across races, ethnicities, and faiths.

Talking about safety is challenging because it is bound up in the many traumas Jews have experienced. Safety is a deep need we have as a people. However, in our desire for safety, we must consider if we support systems that have the impact of oppressing others, working against long-term Jewish safety.

One of the issues that Rockdale's Justice Collaborative is focused on is criminal justice. This is a racial justice issue because of the disproportionate enforcement of the criminal justice system on People of Color. Specifically, as a member of RAC-OH, we work on bail reform and death penalty abolition.

Rabbi Binder teaches that Maimonides said: "It is preferable and more proper that even a thousand guilty people be set free than to someday execute even one innocent person."

Since 1973, more than 185 Ohio death row inmates have been exonerated of all charges and released. For every five people Ohio has executed, one has been exonerated from death row. As of Fall 2020, fifty-six percent of Ohio's death row are People of Color, even though People of Color make up fifteen percent of the state population. These statistics show that the death penalty in Ohio is contrary to our Jewish values. And because it is also a racial justice issue, working to eliminate it also builds a future for our long-term safety.

Please join us and RAC-OH in abolishing the death penalty. One way you can get involved is through the Day of Hope on July 18. This event is being led by our broader coalition, #NoDeathPenaltyOH. We will be distributing more information, but feel free to reach out if you miss it. We hope to see your involvement.

Justin Levy

Chair, Justice Collaborative
levyjust@gmail.com



ROCKDALE TEMPLE AT PRIDE! JUNE 25, 2022



Purim

The 90's was the decade of boy bands, Nickelodeon cartoons, and some of the most classic Disney movies. All this fun nostalgia made it the perfect theme to celebrate Purim!

On March 13, the Kehal Kodesh religious school community and many others from our congregation donned their favorite costumes for the annual Purim Carnival, this year held at the JCC. Congregants of all ages enjoyed delicious chicken tenders and more hamantaschen than they could handle, and as the 90's tunes played, everyone enjoyed games, activities, prizes and a raffle, and of course, jumping around in bouncy houses.

On March 16, the Rockdale community got into the spirit with a 90's themed dinner in the Heldman Social Hall, followed by a Megillah reading and silly service led by our





rabbis. The Purim story was told through *Reality Bites the Megillah*, a shpiel featuring parodies of 90's musical hits. A special thanks to our amazing and talented cast members:

Rabbi Erin Binder Karen Martin **Emily Burstein** Dani Reiss Linda Chatterjee Shai Reiss Brie De Falco Vada Reiss Stephanie De Falco Joan Roberts Jack Dunkelman Isaac Rosensweet Seth Flowers Lydia Rosensweet Rabbi Meredith Kahan Amy Shaiman Eden Kraus Rachel Westheimer Rabbi Matthew Kraus Adele Zuckerman Ionah Lillenstein Mira Zuckerman Lauren Lillenstein Shawn Zuckerman

Passover

This year Rockdale celebrated Passover as a community at Festival services and our Congregational seder. Wine was poured, matzah was crunched, and gefilte fish was, as always, loved by some and tolerated by others! Our congregants came together as one big family, with members of all ages present. A beautiful seder was led by Rabbi Kahan and Rabbi Binder, and a delicious menu was prepared by our own Chef Andrey Azirbayev. Guests dined on freshly made matzah ball soup, slow-cooked brisket, sweet apricot chicken, and desserts from the local Sweet Butter Bakery.

Young members of our congregation had time to play games with one another, and even joined the rabbis to lead the Four Questions and other songs. Congregants were able to mingle and enjoy one another's company for a



meaningful Passover experience. With full hearts and full bellies, we remembered the history of our past, and looked forward to our exciting futures.

Meet The Congregant: Or. Bob Ingberg

When you approach the front doors of Rockdale Temple, in the warmer months of Spring and Summer, you will notice beautiful flowers and plants surrounding the building. With hues of yellow, purple, pink, and green, it is a welcome and colorful sight. Our congregant, Dr. Bob Ingberg, is who can be thanked for this vibrance.

Dr. Bob, as we know him, has been a member of Rockdale his entire life. His family joined the temple in the 1940s and Bob was born soon after. He participated in temple activities with his family until about 1955, and he became a member on his own around 1960. Bob was consecrated and confirmed at Rockdale, and throughout his years as a young adult away from home he always returned for the High Holy Days.

Bob attended the University of Cincinnati, where he received his undergraduate degree as well as his medical degree. His residency was done at the University of Cincinnati Hospital (at that time called General Hospital), as well as some time at Cincinnati Children's Hospital. As a member of the United States Air Force, he was a pediatrician at Westover Air Force Base in Massachusetts, returning to the area around 1969 to become a permanent member of the medical team at University of Cincinnati Hospital and CCHMC. Dr. Bob worked in the medical profession as both a practitioner and a teacher.

When asked about his green thumb, and how he came to love gardening so much, Dr. Bob replied, "my grandmother." He went on to tell the story of his childhood experiences with gardens.

"We had a home near the zoo... and my grandfather planted a lot of fruit trees and other plants. My grandmother loved gardening and house plants... I always enjoyed it."

Later, as an adult member of Rockdale, Dr. Bob would become part of the Building and Grounds Committee, and the team who would create the Biblical Garden. Although this garden is no longer part of Rockdale's grounds, Dr. Bob continued to keep our grounds

full of botanical beauty with other garden spaces, and our lush indoor plants. He continues his passion at home with his own plants and has even propagated a few clippings from the beautiful plants in Rockdale's halls.

Dr. Bob has been a part of the Rockdale Shir Shalom Choir for 20 years! And through the years, he has enjoyed other Rockdale activities such as decorating our chapel Sukkah and participating in



an Adult Confirmation class and celebration. He loves the music of all the holidays, but specifically enjoys the food of Passover and the joyousness of Hannukah. Bob has enjoyed many years with Rockdale, and we are so glad to have him as part of the Rockdale family!

Fun Facts:

- Favorite color: The spectrum! He loves them all!
- Favorite animal: Baby elephants
- Favorite travel destination: New England
- If Bob could have a superpower: Getting rid of war and poverty



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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.

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

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).

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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 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:
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Neil Goldberg, beloved father of Molly Goldberg & Anthony Hurt

Alex Weinstein, beloved father of Valerie Weinstein & Bennett Kottler, grandfather of Marina Kottler

Bernad Widlandksy, beloved husband of Louis Widlansky, devoted stepfather of Sara & Kevin Hill, loving step-grandfather of Michael and Leah Gardner

May their memories be for a blessing.

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Tribute Junds Ponations february 1, 2022-april 30, 2022

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In memory of Sam Kocherov

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Donna Kabakoff Marvin & Gerry Kraus Gerald & Sally Korkin Jen & Larry Smilg Rabbi Karen Thomashow Mark Michaelson & Barbara Turner-Michaelson



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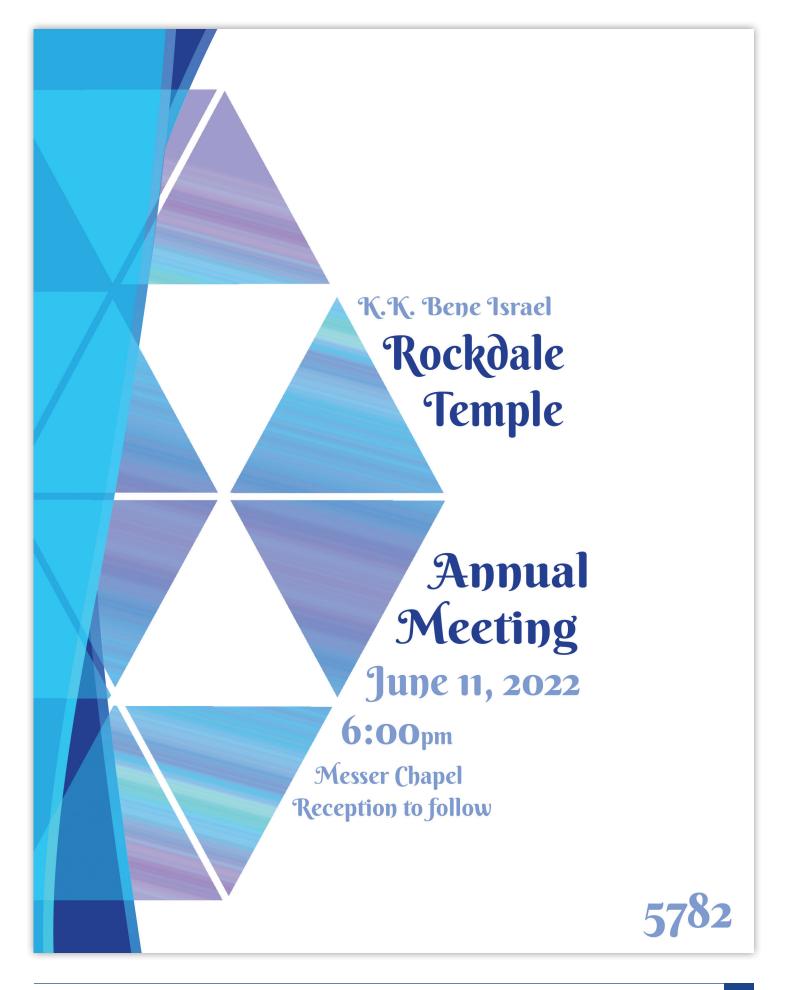
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