



# SHOFAR SOUNDINGS



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## MAZEL TOV!

To **Reis Golden** on becoming a Bar Mitzvah

To **Barrie Kraus** on her new position as Guest Experience Manager  
at the Nancy & David Wolf Holocaust and Humanity Center

To **Jennifer Clark** on her new position as the Cincinnati Community Manager  
for the Jewish Fertility Foundation

To **Larry Smilg** on his new position as Senior Principal Cybersecurity Engineer  
for Collins Aerospace

*If you would like to contribute moments of congratulations,  
please contact Patty Kaufman, [pkaufman@rockdaletemple.org](mailto:pkaufman@rockdaletemple.org).*





200 YEARS OF LIVING JEWISH VALUES

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

# *Save the Dates!*

## **Bicentennial Opening Event at Tikkun Farm**

In Celebration of Sukkot  
September 30, 2023  
3:00-8:00pm

## **Gala Anniversary Weekend at Rockdale Temple**

January 26-28, 2024  
Bicentennial Shabbat Services,  
Gala Celebration, and more!



# JOIN July 7-16, 2024 ROCKDALE TEMPLE IN ISRAEL

Subsidies of \$4,000 per person,  
up to \$12,000 per family, available!

Registration opens April 30, 2023.

*Unforgettable. Joyous. Connected.*

For more information:  
[jewishcincinnati.org/mission](http://jewishcincinnati.org/mission)



Strengthening **Jewish Cincinnati**





### CELEBRATE ROCKDALE'S BICENTENNIAL WITH A TRIP TO ISRAEL!

Our entire Rockdale Temple family looks forward to the coming year, 2023–24/5784, in which we'll celebrate 200 years of our *Kahal Kodesh*—sacred community. There will be a myriad of opportunities to celebrate, learn, reflect, and come together to mark this milestone. Looking to the end of this landmark year, there will be a truly unique opportunity to rejoice together—with a congregational trip to Israel!

After waiting eight long years, our Cincinnati Jewish community will once again be traveling together on a community mission to Israel, July 7–16, 2024! Rockdale, along with other congregations and a few organizations, will have our own buses and itinerary, coming together as a congregational family to experience the trip of a lifetime.

Registration will open on April 30, 2023, with an early bird discount offered to those who register in the first month. Thanks to the Jewish Foundation of Cincinnati, generous subsidies are available of \$4,000/traveler with a \$12,000 household maximum. We anticipate the ground cost of the trip to be about \$6,000/traveler, not including airfare. I am working to create an exciting itinerary with our community's tour company, J<sup>2</sup>, and look forward to sharing it with you soon.

Whether you're ready to sign on the dotted line, interested in the trip, or just curious, here are a few next steps:

1. Sign up for general updates via the Jewish Federation's Israel Mission website:  
<https://www.jewishcincinnati.org/mission>
2. Attend an informational meeting for Rockdale members on Wednesday, May 3rd.
3. Talk to friends and family about traveling together!

Traveling to Israel as a congregational family is a truly special and meaningful experience. I look forward to sharing it with both veteran and first-time travelers. What a blessing it will be for this sacred community to conclude our 200th year in the holy land together!

At the end of every Passover seder, we conclude with the traditional phrase "*L'shanah haba'ah b'y'rushalyim...* Next year in Jerusalem!" This spring, when we say these words, we can rejoice in the knowledge that our words of hope may indeed come to be true.

Next year TOGETHER in Jerusalem!



Rabbi Meredith Kahan  
Senior Rabbi



*"Traveling to Israel as a congregational family is a truly special and meaningful experience. What a blessing it will be for this sacred community to conclude our 200th year in the holy land together!"*

## Assistant Rabbi & Educator Erin Binder



***“The Festival of Shavuot celebrates the powerful moment of receiving Torah and encourages us to embrace and be inspired by the wisdom Jewish tradition has to offer.”***

In the Book of Nehemiah, we hear of the first ever public Torah reading. It describes a scene where Torah is read and translated, ensuring all in attendance had a sense of its teaching. After the reading, it says, “*Ezra opened the scroll in the sight of all the people.*” (Neh 8:5) This is the foundation for the ritual of *hagbah*, of lifting the Torah for all to see.

For many people, they don’t usually see the inside of a Torah scroll closely aside from lifecycle moments of B’nei Mitzvah and Confirmation. A few weeks ago at our family retreat at Hueston Woods, we opened the Torah scroll and lifted it up during our Torah reading. While this is a Sephardic practice and not usually one our primarily-Ashkenazic community engages (except for Simchat Torah when we unroll the whole Torah scroll), as Rabbi Kahan and I chanted *Shirat HaYam*, the Song of the Sea, we wanted everyone to see what it looked like in Torah. This is the text that our member, Magnus Knudsen, is lifting up on our front cover.

Why does it matter if we hear the words of Torah being chanted that we also need to see them? I would suggest two reasons: The first being that this practice meets the needs of both oral and visual learners; to hear and see in order to know and understand. The second is that being witness to Torah is an honor, a moment of distinction that truly belongs to us all as we claim its teachings and meaning in our own lives.

The Festival of Shavuot celebrates the powerful moment of receiving Torah and encourages us to embrace and be inspired by the wisdom Jewish tradition has to offer. The observance of Shavuot typically includes a late-night study in addition to our festival worship. This reflects the very first Torah reading by lifting up the importance of not just reciting the words, but actually hearing them in accessible ways and having a sense of their meaning.

As we celebrate Shavuot at the end of May, we are excited to engage in some wonderful Torah learning with poet, liturgist and scholar, Alden Solovy. His new book, *These Words: Poetic Midrash On The Language Of Torah*, ties in beautifully with our study theme for this year exploring the art of translation. Rather than a late-night study, we hope you join us for a Shavuot Sunrise Study & Breakfast on Friday, May 26 at 9am, followed by our Shavuot Festival Morning & Yizkor Memorial Service at 10:30am.

As I like to say, “*It’s good Torah!*” Looking forward to our study and celebration in May!

*Erin Binder*

Rabbi Erin Binder  
Assistant Rabbi & Educator



## President Sally Korkin

Dear Rockdale congregants,

As Rockdale Temple enters our 199th year, we are less than a year away from our official 200th anniversary in January 2024! **Our Bicentennial festivities will begin on September 30, 2023 on the afternoon of Sukkot, and our gala anniversary celebration weekend will be January 26–28, 2024.** Please save the dates and watch for details about all of our special plans for these two signature events, as well as many other programs to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the oldest congregation west of the Allegheny Mountains and 200 years of living Jewish values! We are very grateful to the Women of Rockdale's In the Beginning Cookbook Endowment Fund for their generosity as the presenting sponsor of our opening event.

On behalf of the Bicentennial Campaign Committee chaired by Dr. David Schwartz and Josh Shapiro, I am pleased to announce that our Bicentennial Campaign to endow the Senior Rabbi position has reached and exceeded our \$1,000,000 goal. We began the quiet phase of the campaign in the late Fall of 2021, and met overwhelming success thanks to our dedicated campaign solicitors and our generous congregants and friends of Rockdale. To those of you who have already contributed, thank you for your support of this important initiative. If you have not yet made a donation, we hope you will help us reach our next goal of 100% congregational participation. We want everyone to be included!

I hope you had the opportunity to take our Congregational Survey to determine our members' skills, talents, hobbies, and passions, and to let us know how you would like to be engaged and involved, especially as we approach our 200th anniversary year. If you haven't already completed the survey, please take a few minutes to do so. We hope you will also indicate in which of our many affinity groups and committees you would like to participate. We have wonderful ways to involve everyone, from our youngest FoRT (Families of Rockdale Temple) members to our Seniors (ages 75+) who have been enjoying monthly programming. We recently received a generous grant from the Jewish Home of Cincinnati to enhance our programs and transportation for Rockdale's Seniors, especially leading up to and during our Bicentennial year.

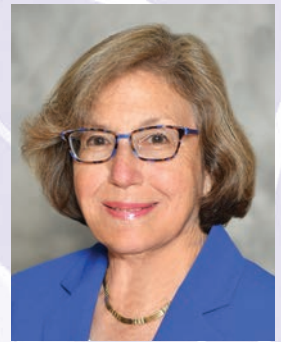
Recently, a congregant who is newer to Cincinnati and Rockdale asked me why we refer to our congregation as "Rockdale" Temple. I explained that our fourth home, built in 1906, was located in South Avondale at the corner of Rockdale and Harvey Avenues, and eventually, members began referring to it as Rockdale Temple. So even when we moved to our next congregational home on Ridge Road in 1969, the Rockdale name for our historic congregation remained.

Included in this issue are our plans for Purim, Passover, Shavuot, and Confirmation this Spring. I look forward to seeing you at Rockdale throughout the next few months.

Best,



Sally F. Korkin  
President



*"Our  
Bicentennial  
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celebration  
weekend  
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January 26–28,  
2024."*

## Message from Executive Director Lisa Schneider



***“When my family joined Rockdale many years ago...I had not imagined that our membership would become more than just that, but it did, it became our community and our family.”***

I already know many of you, but there are some congregants that I have not met or had the opportunity to get acquainted with, so I want to start by (re) introducing myself. My name is Lisa Schneider and I have been an active member of the congregation for about 23 years. When my family joined Rockdale many years ago my daughters were very little and I had not imagined that our membership would become anything more than just that, but it did, it became our community and our family. From the beginning, I was very involved with the Religious School Committee and the Women of Rockdale (formerly referred to as Sisterhood). While that was at the beginning of my time at Rockdale, I have worn many other hats in the past 23 years. My two daughters, Gabrielle and Adrianna, grew up at Rockdale, were very active in the youth groups, and both were President of YGOR. My oldest daughter, Gabrielle, also taught Religious School on Sundays while attending the University of Cincinnati.

During my first 2½ months as the Executive Director, many exciting programs and events occurred. During my first week we had a very meaningful Chanukah Shabbat Service followed by the Chanukah Party where we had approximately 160 people in attendance. The week continued with several other Chanukah celebrations for different affinity groups. To say that I have never seen or eaten so many doughnuts is an understatement. Programming continues to be in full swing as we have had events for many different affinity groups as well as programs from other committees and other congregational offerings.

The staff also gathered for our annual holiday/end of year celebration. This year we went to Matt the Miller's Tavern for lunch and then headed to the Main Event for bowling and arcade games. I want to thank all the Rockdale staff for their hard work as well as their warm welcome to me.

As part of getting acclimated to my new role, I have been attending as many Shabbat Services, events, and programs as I can so that I can meet as many of you as possible and also take the time to see how things are running. I have been on the receiving end of programs for many years as a congregant, so this gives me an opportunity to view things from a different perspective.

Some additional updates from my office:

- The upgrade to our doorbell intercom system is complete and we will receive the remainder of the grant money awarded to pay for this enhancement.
- I met with SAFE Cincinnati to get trained on our Emergency Preparedness Plan.
- The Congregational Survey is now live!
- I have become the liaison to the Bicentennial Campaign Committee and the Create Your Jewish Legacy team and am supporting many committees.

We have lots of things happening over the next several months, so please check Rockmail weekly as well as our website for all the opportunities that are coming up.

I look forward to deepening relationships and creating new ones. If I have not yet had the opportunity to meet you, please reach out. My door is always open.

Best,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Lisa Schneider". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Lisa Schneider



## Staff Spotlight: Sean O'Brien

In this Staff Spotlight, we're highlighting the most veteran member of the Rockdale team! Sean O'Brien, Rockdale's Senior Accountant, may not be someone our congregants often see, but he plays an integral role in making sure our congregation continues to thrive.

Sean grew up in Centerville, Ohio and attended The Ohio State University (which helped to shape his OSU fandom). In his professional career, Sean served in the United States Army, working in Supplies and Logistics. He was also the Vice President of Finance at Neighborhood Health Care. Sean has served Rockdale Temple since 2005 and was promoted to Senior Accountant in 2020. In his free time Sean loves to participate in anything that involves sports, including cheering on the Cincinnati Bengals and of course the OSU Buckeyes! He stays active by lifting weights, hiking, and biking. Sean is also a bit of an audiophile, and really loves the musical genres of Rock, Contemporary Jazz, and Old School Rap!

When asked about his favorite part of being a Cincinnati, Sean replied, "besides the excellent Indian food, Cincinnati is the right size. Not too big and not too small." So next time you see Sean, be sure to ask him about the best Indian food spots around town, and don't forget to shout a "Who Dey" in his direction!



## Committee Spotlight

### ROCKDALE TEMPLE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Rockdale Temple has many vibrant committees that help to provide meaningful engagement and important services to our congregation. One of these is the Rockdale Temple Finance Committee. Chaired by Larry Smilg, our Treasurer, this committee works with Sean O'Brien, our Senior Accountant, and Lisa Schneider, our Executive Director, to build the temple budget each year.

"It's really important work," said Larry. "Allocating our funding properly sets our priorities for what we can do in the coming year. We have to make choices that set us up for success."

Joan Roberts, a member of the committee, says the work the committee does is important because it helps keep the temple running smoothly. "We set a budget every year and this helps us see how we are doing so we can keep providing the services wanted by our congregants," noted Joan.

The Finance Committee is always looking to add to their team. If you are interested in learning how you can put your financial savvy to use for Rockdale Temple, please contact Larry, at [lsmilg@gmail.com](mailto:lsmilg@gmail.com).

# SPOTLIGHT ON THE GARY HELDMAN MENORAH AWARDS



Each year, our congregation honors members of Rockdale Temple with a Gary Heldman Menorah Award. The individuals we honor are chosen for their longtime dedication to the Rockdale Temple family and its mission. Honorees are celebrated for their many years of building Rockdale and helping our sacred community grow toward the future, while honoring our historic past. We are grateful to all those who volunteer their time to contribute to our congregation. We particularly honor the annual award winners for their tremendous contributions over the years. The Menorah Award carries with it the opportunity for each to direct a significant

donation to a Rockdale project or fund of their choice, made possible by a generous gift from congregant Gary Heldman. We look forward to our honorees' new gifts as we thank them for all of their past donations of resources, time, energy and heart.

We celebrate those who have been honored with a Gary Heldman Menorah Award in these past three years, listed below along with their chosen Rockdale initiative.

## 2020

**Janet Cohen** – *Rabbi Meredith Kahan's Discretionary Fund*

**Justin Levy** – *Rabbis' Discretionary Funds*

**Karen Martin** – *Rabbi Sissy Coran Memorial Fund*

## 2021

**Stephanie De Falco** – *Kehal Kodesh Religious School*

**Jim Heldman** – *Heldman Family Fund*

**Larry Smilg** – *Rabbi Erin Binder's Discretionary Fund*

## 2022

**Jennifer Clark** – *Kehal Kodesh Religious School*

**Bennett Kottler** – *Environmental Committee and Rabbi Sissy Coran Memorial Fund*

**Tracy McMullen** – *Estelle Levine Fund, Sacred Music Fund, Rabbi Sissy Coran Memorial Fund*





# shabbatCTY

A joyful Shabbat in Cincinnati

**Friday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**New Ish Garage**

4089 Langland Street, Northside

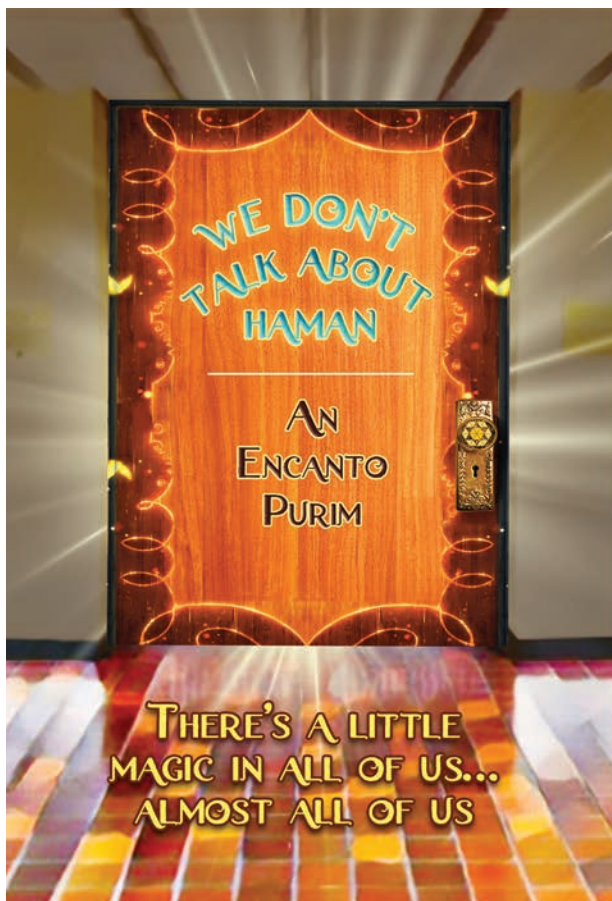
Drinks & Nosh – 6:00PM

Shabbat Service – 6:30PM

**\*Optional dinner from Mash Roots, \$18 per person**

Register at [rockdaletemple.org](http://rockdaletemple.org)

**Save the Date for shabbatCTY on April 21!**



**ROCKDALE TEMPLE**  
PRESENTS

**AN**  
**ENCANTO PURIM**

**MONDAY, MARCH 6<sup>TH</sup>**

**DINNER 5:30PM**

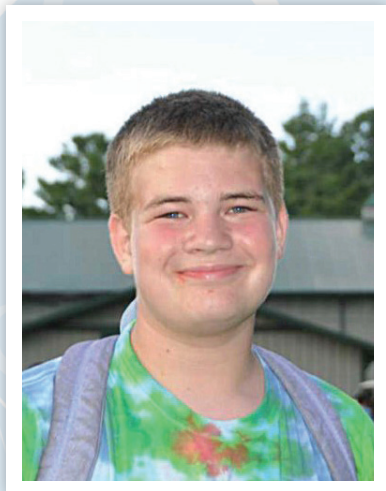
**SERVICE, MEGILLAH READING, & SHPIEL 6:30PM**

**PURIM CARNIVAL**  
**SUNDAY, MARCH 5<sup>TH</sup>**

**[ROCKDALETEMPLE.ORG/PURIM](http://ROCKDALETEMPLE.ORG/PURIM)**



## B'nei Mitzvah Celebrants

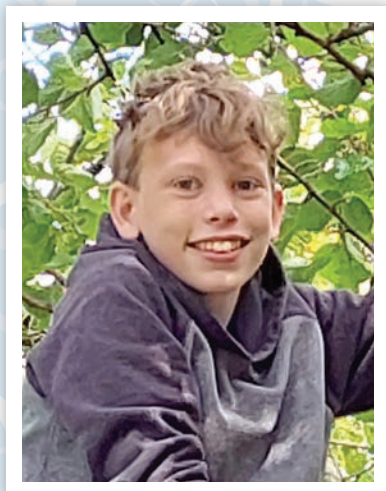


### **ROBBIE MARTIN ROSENSWEET, April 1, 2023**

Rob is a 7th grader at Sycamore Junior High School, where he is a great student and is also involved in the International Club. Rob attended Rockwern Academy from Preschool all the way to 6th grade. He spends his summers at Camp Livingston, and also enjoys a good game of Jeopardy, Pokemon or a video game.

When he grows up Rob wants to be either a Paleontologist, as he's had a lifelong love of all things dinosaurs, or a Hollywood Film Director like his heroes Steven Spielberg and George Lucas. For his Mitzvah Project, Rob has chosen to help Circle Tail, which trains dogs to be Service and Emotional Support Animals. One of Circle Tail's favorite ambassadors works regularly at Camp Livingston, and Rob cannot wait to help support them on their mission.

Rob wants to thank his tutor, Aaron Torop, for all of his help, and of course Rabbi Kahan & Rabbi Binder. He also wants to thank Rabbi Karen Halasz and Temple Israel of Dayton for lending him the Torah that he will read from at his Bar Mitzvah, and of course his parents Matt & Renee Rosensweet, his siblings Morgen, Lydia & Isaac, his Num Judi Rosensweet & his favorite practice partner Coco.



### **ELON KATZ, May 13, 2023**

Elon Katz is a 7th grade student at Seven Hills Middle School. Elon enjoys school, especially the subjects of Science, Math, Art, and Chinese. They have also been in several middle school plays and are on the Squash Team. Elon likes to play the piano, hang out with friends, draw, play video games, compose music, climb trees, and volunteer at the animal shelter as a cat socializer.

Elon has a kind heart and cares about others. This interest in helping people led them to their Mitzvah Project. They are organizing a food and personal care item drive for Jewish Family Service, benefiting people who are currently unhoused and have low incomes.

Elon would like to thank their B'nei Mitzvah tutor, Aaron Torop, for all the help to prepare for the service, Rabbi Binder and Rabbi Kahan, Hebrew school classmates, and their family for giving them support.



# Birthdays and Anniversaries

## ADULT BIRTHDAYS

### MARCH

- 1 Ellie Torem
- 3 James Albert
- 3 Florence Zaret
- 4 Barry Rubin
- 7 Janet Roger
- 9 Leah Levy
- 11 Scott Rubenstein
- 11 Jane Garfield
- 11 Dr. Samuel Greengus
- 12 Rebecca Rubenstein
- 12 Barbara Misrach
- 13 Dr. Edward Herzig
- 16 Jay Kastan
- 17 Dr. E. Gordon Margolin
- 21 Paul Jacob
- 21 Loris Ungar
- 22 Gerry Kraus
- 25 Rabbi Shena Potter Jaffee
- 28 Gregory Dick
- 28 Larry Phillips
- 29 Jessica Shaw-White
- 29 Barry Berman
- 31 Evan Schmulewitz
- 31 Janet Cohen

### APRIL

- 1 Mark Berliant
- 3 Mary-Bob Rubenstein
- 4 Harvey Richman
- 4 Jerry Klein
- 9 Zachary Katchman
- 12 Andrew Spievack
- 14 Mark Schaengold
- 15 Professor Lawrence Waldrop
- 16 Lois Spahn
- 17 Samuel Potter
- 19 Alice Price
- 20 Courtney Rosensweet
- 22 Elaine Fishman
- 23 Caroline Routh
- 24 Douglas Goldberg
- 29 Donna Kabakoff
- 30 Elyse Kadish
- 30 Jacob Kraus
- 30 Dr. Richard Wiener

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

### MAY

- 1 Norman Hirsch
- 1 Leonid Sigalov
- 4 Henry Simon
- 5 Bridget Katchman
- 7 Stephanie De Falco
- 7 Marjorie Schaal
- 8 Robert Ungar
- 12 Cissy Lenobel
- 13 Barbara Cohen
- 15 Joanne Gerson
- 16 Rebecca Wall
- 17 Michael Hennessey
- 17 Lisa Mezibov
- 18 Gerald Korkin
- 18 Lesha Greengus
- 19 Max Leitman
- 20 Matthew Rosensweet
- 20 Dr. Tony De Falco
- 20 Nancy Messer
- 21 Eileen Greenberg
- 24 Molly Goldberg
- 28 Yaffa Muhlbaum
- 28 Thomas Fairbanks
- 28 Janice Ackman
- 28 Anita Marks
- 29 Daniel White
- 30 Ann Berenfield
- 30 Beatrice Ballas
- 31 Gary Heldman
- 31 Madeline Berman

**Time to CELEBRATE**

## CHILDREN'S BIRTHDAYS

### MARCH

- 1 Amelia Phillips
- 3 Benjamin Peck
- 5 Peyton Shaftel
- 6 Kellen Jackson
- 7 Felix Nguyen
- 9 Adina Schapera
- 17 Rebecca Friedman
- 18 Maya Jaffee
- 25 Ari Kahan
- 26 Miriam G. Vidmar
- 26 Sydney Kraus
- 27 Robbie Rosensweet
- 27 Isabella Gollin

### APRIL

- 2 Henry Levinson
- 2 Vito Pesola
- 2 Tate Sheldon
- 4 Ava Kane
- 8 David Zuckerman
- 9 Cora Shaftel
- 11 Mira Zuckerman
- 11 Shawn Zuckerman
- 12 Zane Jacobson
- 12 Isabelle Hoicowitz
- 13 Eric Schmulewitz
- 15 Alina Jacobson
- 15 Jacob Shapiro
- 17 Piper Brady
- 19 Tess Shaftel
- 19 Clara Dunkelman
- 19 Eli Jacobson
- 22 Sienna Maltz
- 25 Sophia Peck
- 29 Shifra Kraus-Preminger

### MAY

- 2 Johanna Blackmore
- 3 Ariana Pesola
- 5 Tripp O'Connell
- 7 Marina Kottler
- 7 Jackson Friedman
- 15 Griffin Lynn
- 16 Jonah Weinstein
- 21 Noa Jaffee
- 26 Isaac Phillips
- 27 Nora Kahan
- 27 Harper Jackson
- 29 Cecelia Glaser-Hennessey

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

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY to you**

## ANNIVERSARIES

### MARCH

- 18 Jack & Nancy Messer, 55th
- 30 Marvin & Gerry Kraus, 65th

### APRIL

- 11 Joe & Marilyn Hirschhorn, 69th
- 30 Dr. Samuel & Lesha Greengus, 66th

### MAY

- 1 M. Robert & Jane Garfield, 40th
- 12 Polina & Paul Ruuge, 10th
- 14 Andrew & Dr. Sally Shott, 40th
- 23 Todd & Jamie Flagel, 25th
- 24 Leanne & Jed Golden, 20th
- 29 Kenneth Venick & Sharon Nelson, 30th
- 30 Scott & Alexia Kadish, 30th
- 30 Alan & Elaine Fishman, 40th
- 31 Benjamin & Courtney Rosensweet, 15th

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

## Winter Rockdale Events









## *Bene Israel Society Testimonial: James and Lori Reidel*

***“K.K. Bene Israel/Rockdale Temple is a community of history, tradition, newness, and comfort. With that, we are proud to be members of the Rockdale Bene Israel Society, our legacy society.”***

As lifelong members, our Rockdale Temple has always played an important role in the life of our family. Lori's parents, Sue and Skip Richard, set the example especially with Sue becoming Rockdale's first woman President. As young girls, Sally and Lori would almost look forward to Religious School at “Old” Rockdale as mom usually picked us up with a bag of White Castles! Those were the very early days when we sang in the choir with Student Rabbi Mark Goldman as our choir leader.

From “Old” Rockdale to “New” Rockdale, we have enjoyed seeing our family photos along the photo hallway. Observing the Women of Rockdale create, taste test, and publish the In the Beginning cookbooks brought a sense of pride in what Rockdale could make happen. Jim's devotion to Judaism led to conversion study with the celebration ceremony in New York City by Rabbi Richard S. Chapin, fellow alumnus of Lori's Hamilton/Kirkland College. Through our NYC travels and Jersey life, it always brought us joy to find previous Rockdale Religious School teachers—now Rabbis—at each town we chose as home until we returned to Cincinnati.

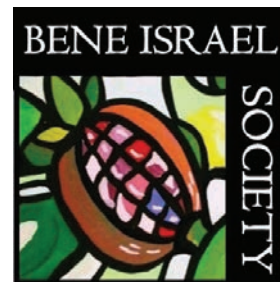
Shortly after we returned to Cincinnati, sadness entered our family when Lori's brother Eddie was killed in an automobile accident. Rabbi Mark Goldman came to Cincinnati prior to his installation to officiate at Eddie's funeral—a somber, meaningful memory for us all that was blessed with kindness. And who lived on the same street as us at our first Cincinnati home but Rabbi Randi Musnitsky, one of Rockdale's rabbinic interns and then Assistant Rabbi! Our second Cincinnati home also brought a great rabbinic connection. The boys' favorite babysitter was Shena—now Rabbi Shena Potter Jaffee. I remember well the moment when teenage Shena shared her future hopes and dreams and knowing that the rabbinate would likely be a part of her path. Those were great early years.

Becoming involved with Rockdale seemed obvious! Involvement was key through participation on various Rockdale committees including elementary, high school, and adult education, social action (yes, Rabbi Sissy Coran, z”l, and Lori came up with the ongoing annual event of Mitzvahpalooza!), and our Board of Directors. We raised all three of our sons at Rockdale. Lifecycle events including weddings (Rabbi Norman Cohen married us), Bar Mitzvahs (and Lori an adult B’nai Mitzvah with Rabbi Coran's, z”l, first group in 2008), Confirmations, and so on. Sharing the observance of Shabbat and the practice of yoga with our Shal-OM yoga circle brought a sense of community for those who sought an alternative spiritual connection under our Rockdale roof or by Zoom in our sacred homes. K.K. Bene Israel/Rockdale Temple is a community of history, tradition, newness, and comfort. With that, we are proud to be members of the Rockdale Bene Israel Society, our legacy society.

With devotion,  
James and Lori Reidel



# 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. Our newest members are listed in bold.

Steven Altman\*  
 Sylvia (Sukey) Altman\*  
 Leonard Berenfield\*  
 Doris\* & Stuart\* Berman  
 Max Joseph Bleich  
 Rosemary\* & Frank Bloom  
 Lynn Gross Chaifetz  
 Linda Chatterjee  
 Anthony & Andrea Checroun  
 Matthew\* & Jean\* Chinsky  
 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  
 Bernie Dave\*  
 Stephanie & Tony De Falco  
 Bonnie & Darryl Dick  
 M. James Ellis  
 Risa Spieldoch Feagins  
 & 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  
 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.  
 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  
 Joan Schimmel & Neal Jacobs  
 David & Abby Schwartz  
**Amy & Jason Shaiman**  
 Joshua & Heather Shapiro  
 Mark Sheldon  
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 Jen & Larry Smilg  
 David & Jaynie Solomon  
 Dr. Robert Stein\*  
 Hagit & Jeff Sunberg  
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 Julie Torem  
 Robert & Loris Ungar  
 Sarah Weiss & Todd Schild  
 Edward Wertheimer  
 Karen & Stuart Zanger  
 Mitchell\* & 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.*



# The Bicentennial Campaign

*Thank you to the following donors who have already made pledges and gifts to the Rockdale Temple Bicentennial Campaign. The extraordinary generosity of our amazing community has made the \$1,000,000 goal a reality. Through these donations, the future of Rockdale's Senior Rabbi position is secure.*

The Bicentennial Campaign Committee, chaired by Dr. David Schwartz and Josh Shapiro, would like to thank our fundraising consultant, Anne Maxfield, for working with and guiding the committee since the inception of the campaign.

## **BROADWAY 1836 CHAVURAH**

**\$50,000 TO \$99,999**

Dr. Anthony Checroun and  
Mrs. Andrea Checroun  
Janet and Ken Cohen  
Linda and Gary Greenberg  
The Anne Heldman Family  
Gary and Austine Heldman Fund  
of the Greater Cincinnati  
Foundation  
Jim Heldman and Wendy Saunders

## **BROADWAY 1852 CHAVURAH**

**\$25,000 TO \$49,000**

Anonymous - 1  
Steve and Risa Spieldoch Feagins  
Jan M. Frankel and John G. Cobey  
Dr. and Mrs. G. Russell Frankel  
Alan and Sara Frankel and Family  
Randy and Ila Frankel and Family  
Andrea and Dr. Edward Herzig  
Daniel J. Hoffheimer  
Sally and Gerry Korkin  
Ed Rosenthal  
Jeff and Susan Routh & Family

Rachel and Steven Schild  
Abby and David Schwartz  
Drs. Kenneth and Susan Sherman  
Eleanor, Andrew, and Sally Shott

## **MOUND STREET CHAVURAH**

**\$10,000 TO \$24,999**

Anonymous- 1  
Steve and Meg Ackermann  
Boris Auerbach and Kathy Patchel  
Stephanie and Tony De Falco  
Dick Friedman  
Dr. Fred and Susan Klug Kahan  
V. Ruth Klette and Andrew Cusher  
Lauren Koon and Aaron Herzig  
Cissy and Bob Lenobel  
Anita and Ed Marks  
Sheryl and Scott Mattis  
Lynn Rosenberg Mayfield and  
Glen Mayfield  
Mark Michaelson and  
Barbara Turner-Michaelson  
Leslie and Bernie Reiss  
The Rubenstein Family  
Joshua and Heather Shapiro  
Sarah Weiss and Todd Schild

## **ROCKDALE AVENUE CHAVURAH**

**\$5,000 TO \$9,999**

Dee Ellen G. Bardes  
Rosemary and Frank Bloom  
Gifting Fund of The Greater  
Cincinnati Foundation  
Barb and O.J. Cohen  
Amy Diamond and Eddie Wolf  
Gary Dick and  
Michele M. Siglowski  
David and Kari Ellis  
The Frankel Family Foundation  
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Barry and Nancy Gibberman  
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Rabbi Meredith Kahan and  
Sean Flowers  
Justin Levy and Eira Tansey  
Chris and Ramesh Malhotra  
Abby Marcus and Qui Nguyen  
Tracy McMullen  
Alice Perlman  
Joan and Bill Roberts  
Judy and Mark Schaengold  
The Spievack Family  
Trip Wolf

*All donations listed as of February 15, 2023.*

*Please let the Temple office know if your name is not listed correctly or if you would like to make a change.*

# The Bicentennial Campaign



200 YEARS OF LIVING JEWISH VALUES

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

## RIDGE ROAD CHAVURAH \$1,000 TO \$4,999

Anonymous-1  
Jim Albert and Christine Kuhr  
Rabbi Erin Binder  
Patrick and Jennifer Clark  
Ruth and Steve Coppel  
Robert and Gretchen Dinerman  
Charitable Fund  
Donnett Family  
Larry and Pam Faust  
Joanne and Myron Gerson  
Lesha and Samuel Greengus  
Andrew and Patricia Gollin  
Andrew A. and Deborah Heldman  
Tim and Cathy Heldman  
Florette B. Hoffheimer  
Robert Ingberg, M.D.  
Rabbi Shena and Brian Jaffee  
Brenda and Sheldon Kahan  
Rabbi Jan and Cantor Alane Katzew  
Bennett Kottler and  
Valerie Weinstein  
Barrie Kraus  
Bobbie and Perry Leitner  
Ralph Lowenstein  
Mark Lybik and Leslie Joseph  
Melissa and Ken Mailender  
Debbie and Kevin Mattis  
Howard Mayers

Jerry Mellman  
Michael and Margie Meyer  
Jimmy Moskowitz and Kelly Linch  
Sharon Lynn Nelson and  
Kenneth Venick  
Dani and Matthew Reiss  
Lisa Schneider  
Mark and Megan Sheldon  
Jen and Larry Smilg  
David and Jaynie Solomon  
Waldrop Frankenstein Family Fund  
Edward Wertheimer  
Richard Wiener and Elisabeth Haley

## 2024 CHAVURAH UP TO \$999

Anonymous – 4  
Karen and Fred Abel  
Jackie and Adam Baker  
Ellen Byington  
Ciro De Falco  
Adrienne and Ian Davidson  
Bonnie and Darryl Dick  
Tom and Ellen Drake  
Bruce Feldman  
Lisa W. Fox and  
Richard G. Trohman, M.D.  
John J. Frank, Jr.  
Michael Friedman and  
Helayne Angelus

Susan Friedman  
Jane and Bob Garfield  
Viola Glassmann  
The Goldberg Family  
Elizabeth A. Goldstein  
Jon Hoffheimer  
Rabbi Ken and Toni Kanter  
Jay and Dee Kastan  
Sue Levy Klau  
Robert and Hannah Krebs  
Dr. Heinke Lillenstein  
Scott and Carrie Lipps  
Helene and Millard Mack  
Karen and Stewart Martin  
Anne M. Maxfield  
Fay B. May  
Rabbi Elle Muhlbaum and  
Cantor Vladimir Lapin  
Barb and Mike Reed  
Shirma Revelson  
Marina and Igor Rivin  
Dan and Abby Rosenberg  
Barry and Sandra Rubin  
Nora and Eric Rubinoff  
Cora and Don Steinberg  
Julie Torem  
Diane and William Turner  
Joan Weinberg  
Rabbi Gary and Stefi Zola



# March

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			<b>1</b> Hebrew School	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 5:45p Shabbat Nosh 6:15p Erev Shabbat Services 6:00p shabbatCTY 	<b>4</b> 10:30a Emily Dana's 4th Year Sermon at HUC (no services at Rockdale)
<b>5</b> 9:30a Kehal Kodesh Religious School 10:00a Purim Carnival 5:30p Shelanu	<b>6</b> Erev Purim 5:30p Congregational Dinner 6:30p Purim Megillah Reading & Shpiel	<b>7</b> Purim Hebrew School 	<b>8</b> Shushan Purim Hebrew School	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 5:45p Shabbat Nosh 6:15p Erev Shabbat Services 	<b>11</b> 9:30a Sichat Torah (Torah Study) 10:30a Shabbat Morning Services
<b>12</b> 9:30a Kehal Kodesh Religious School 5:30p Shelanu	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Hebrew School 7:00p Adult B'nei Mitzvah Class	<b>15</b> Hebrew School 7:00p Cooking Class with Chef Marshall	<b>16</b> 5:00p Seniors Theatre Trip	<b>17</b> 5:45p Shabbat Nosh 6:15p Rock Shabbat Services with <i>Birthday Blessings, Welcoming New Members</i> 7:30p Congregational Dinner 	<b>18</b> 9:30a Sichat Torah (Torah Study) 10:30a Shabbat Morning Services with 7th & 8th Grade Participation 11:30a Congregational Luncheon 7:00p RUACH w/Wise NextGen at Wise Temple
<b>19</b> 9:30a Kehal Kodesh Religious School 10:00a Parent Schmooze 10:30a Adult Ed: This is How we Jew It - Part 2!	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 5:00p Yom Ivrit 7:00p Board Meeting	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 5:30p FoRT Shabbat 5:45p Shabbat Nosh 6:15p Shabbat Services with <i>Shir Shalom Choir &amp; Anniversary Blessings</i> שבת שלום	<b>25</b> 9:30a Sichat Torah (Torah Study) 10:30a Shabbat Morning Services
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 7:00p Adult B'nei Mitzvah Class	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 5:45p Shabbat Nosh 6:15p Erev Shabbat Services 	

Calendars are subject to change.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						<b>1</b> 9:30a Sichat Torah (Torah Study) 10:30a Bar Mitzvah of Robbie Rosensweet
<b>2</b> 3:00p Women of Rockdale Seder 5:30p Shelanu	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Erev Passover 	<b>6</b> Passover 10:30a Passover Festival Service 6:00p Congregational Seder	<b>7</b> Chol Hamoed Passover 5:45p Shabbat Nosh 6:15p Erev Shabbat Services 	<b>8</b> Chol Hamoed Passover 9:30a Sichat Torah (Torah Study) 10:30a Shabbat Morning Services
<b>9</b> Chol Hamoed Passover	<b>10</b> Chol Hamoed Passover	<b>11</b> Chol Hamoed Passover 7:00p Adult B'nei Mitzvah Class	<b>12</b> Passover 10:30a Passover Festival Service with Yizkor 11:30a Passover Luncheon	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 5:45p Shabbat Nosh 6:15p Erev Shabbat Services with Anniversary Blessings 	<b>15</b> 9:30a Sichat Torah (Torah Study) 10:30a Shabbat Morning Services
<b>16</b> 9:30a Kehal Kodesh Religious School 10:00a 4th & 5th Grade Family Ed 5:30p Shelanu	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Yom HaShoah Hebrew School 7:00p Board Meeting 	<b>19</b> Hebrew School 7:00p Cooking Class with Chef Marshall	<b>20</b> 12:00p Seniors Program: Recipe with a Memory	<b>21</b> 6:00p shabbatCTY 6:15p Pre-recorded Services 	<b>22</b> 9:30a Sichat Torah (Torah Study) 10:30a Shabbat Morning Services
<b>23</b> 9:30a Kehal Kodesh Religious School 10:00a Rak Noar Family Ed 5:30p Shelanu	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Yom HaZikaron Hebrew School 7:00p Adult B'nei Mitzvah Class 	<b>26</b> Yom HaAtzmaut Hebrew School 	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 5:45p Shabbat Nosh 6:15p Erev Shabbat Services with Birthday Blessings 	<b>29</b> 9:30a Sichat Torah (Torah Study) 10:30a Shabbat Morning Services
<b>30</b> 9:30a Kehal Kodesh Religious School 10:30a Adult Ed: This is How we Jew It - Part 2! 5:30p Shelanu						

Calendars are subject to change.



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2 5:00p Yom Ivrit	3 7:00p Israel Trip Meeting	4 6:30p Women of Rockdale Tupperware Party with Dee W. Ivey	5 5:45p Shabbat Nosh 6:15p Erev Shabbat Services with Anniversary Blessings and Honoring the Bene Israel Society 	6 9:30a Sichat Torah (Torah Study) 10:30a Shabbat Morning Services with Aufruf of Zakary Kadish and Emily Farbman
7 9:30a Kehal Kodesh Religious School 10:00a Parent Schmooze 5:30p Shelanu	8 	9 Lag BaOmer 11:00a Seniors Fireside Cookout Lunch 7:00p Adult B'nei Mitzvah Class	10	11	12 5:45p Shabbat Nosh 6:15p School Celebration Rock Shabbat Services and Birthday Blessings 7:30p Congregational Dinner <b>Dan Nichols Musician-in- Residence</b>	13 9:30a Sichat Torah (Torah Study) 10:30a B'nei Mitzvah of Elon Katz <b>Dan Nichols Musician-in- Residence</b>
14	15	16 7:00p Board Meeting	17 7:00pm Cooking Class with Chef Marshall	18  JERUSALEM	19 Yom Y'rushalayim Rockdale Camping Trip 5:45p Shabbat Nosh 6:15p Erev Shabbat Services שבת שלום	20 Rockdale Camping Trip 9:00a HUC Ordination at Plum Street Temple 5:00p FoRT Havdallah in the Park
21 Rockdale Camping Trip	22	23 7:00p Adult B'nei Mitzvah Class	24	25 Erev Shavuot 7:30p Shavuot Festival Services 	26 Shavuot 9:00a Sunrise Study & Breakfast 10:30a Shavuot Festival Morning & Yizkor Services 7:30p Confirmation	27 9:30a Sichat Torah (Torah Study) 10:30a Shabbat Morning Services 
28	29 Memorial Day	30	31			

Calendars are subject to change.



Rockdale Temple



**CONGREGATIONAL SEDER**

**THURSDAY, APRIL 6, 2023**

**6:00PM**

*joyful · interactive · inspiring*

**[WWW.ROCKDALETEMPLE.ORG/PASSOVER5783](http://WWW.ROCKDALETEMPLE.ORG/PASSOVER5783)**







# SENIORS ARONOFF CENTER TRIP

WITH HAPPY HOUR  
DINNER & DRINKS!

**THURSDAY, MARCH 16**

5:00PM - Dinner & Drink Social

6:30PM - Leave for the theater in an accessible bus

7:30PM - Showtime!

\$36 for Rockdale members, \$54 for guests

Space is limited! Register at  
[www.rockdaletemple.org](http://www.rockdaletemple.org) call 513.891.9900

*Musician-in-Residence*

*Dan Nichols*  
*May 12-13*



Rockdale Temple



## Meet the Congregants: The Shaiman Family BY LINDA CHATTERJEE

When Jason and Amy Shaiman visited Rockdale with their son, Teddy, for Purim in 2017, they felt immediately welcome, finding the atmosphere to be very relaxed without pressure to join. They had been “Shul-shopping” and were impressed that the Rockdale Community cared about people and accepted everyone.

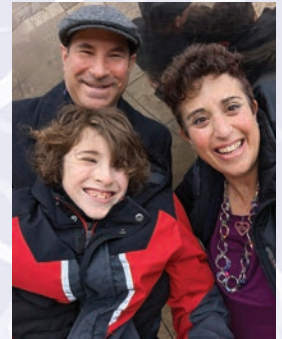
The Shaimans reside in Oxford, OH where Jason is the Curator of Exhibitions at the Art Museum at Miami University. He was born in Brooklyn, New York, but grew up in the suburbs of Philadelphia. His parents encouraged him and his brother to go through the Bar Mitzvah experience, even though they considered themselves more spiritual than religious and were not regular attendees at their congregation. After becoming Bar Mitzvah, Jason said he was “done”. He chuckles that his brother was interested enough in religion to continue through Confirmation but is not religious now, whereas Jason now happily keeps a Kosher home. Jason went on to study Art History at a state college in Pennsylvania, before graduate work at the University of South Carolina. He accepted his current position at the museum in 2010.

As Jason settled into life in Oxford, numerous people asked him if he knew a delightful Jewish woman who worked on campus. Friends were also recommending Jason to Amy, and of course they were right. The marriage was “bashert”.

Amy was born in Cleveland, OH, her father’s hometown, but she grew up in suburban Minneapolis with visits to Cincinnati, her mother’s hometown. In 1987, she started studying Chemistry at Miami but was inspired to switch to Comparative Religion, and later attended Hebrew Union College. She enjoyed working in various congregations across the country from Montana to Ohio, including tutoring B’nei Mitzvah students at Wise Temple. Her first year at HUC was spent in Israel. It was Amy’s first visit to Israel and she loved it. During Passover that year, Amy was invited to a family Seder where the custom was to share stories. The father shared stories of his own military experience with his daughter who was about to start her military service. He had never told her those stories before, and Amy found it very moving. Her own grandfather had fought in WW2 and her great-grandfather in WWI but they had never talked about it. “It pulls people together,” she says, and when she returned to Cincinnati, she served as a Chaplain Candidate in the Naval Reserves.

In the mid 2000s, she worked for Hillel at Miami, work that included organizing groups of people to visit Israel. She recalls one group with participants from 13 countries. Covid prevented Amy from going back to Israel with Jason and their son, Teddy who was born in 2013, but she hopes to take them soon and show them her favorite places.

The Shaimans enjoy the Kehal Kodesh Family Retreats—Amy teaches the combined 2nd and 3rd grade class and also serves on the In the Beginning Endowment Fund Committee for the Women of Rockdale. Jason is active on the Temple Membership Committee and in The Men of Rockdale group. Teddy looks forward to seeing his Kehal Kodesh friends, especially his 4th grade classmates. Most Friday nights, they stream Rockdale services online and have Shabbat dinner as a family before watching a Star Wars series or playing with Legos, two things that Teddy enjoys. Amy, Jason, and Teddy are looking forward to the Rockdale Congregation camping trip this Spring. They encourage everyone to sign up and enjoy the outdoors together.



*“The Shaimans enjoy the Kehal Kodesh Family Retreats—Amy teaches the combined 2nd and 3rd grade class. Jason is active on the Temple Membership Committee... Teddy looks forward to seeing his Kehal Kodesh friends, especially his 4th grade classmates.”*



# Environmental Committee



The 2nd Annual Rockdale Camping Trip is May 19–21, 2023 at Brown County State Park in Indiana. Brown County State Park is the largest state park in the state, offering 18 miles of trails throughout its 16,000 acres. We chose this location because Brown County is close enough to drive to after a work day, but far enough away to feel like a getaway! Lauren Lillenstein, who is helping to organize this trip, tells us, “while my family and I love to spend time playing in the park trails, creeking, horseback riding, etc; we also enjoy walking through the nearby village of Nashville. There are fun shops, boutiques, and tasty treats to explore...not to mention, popping into Brozinni’s Pizzeria for a slice!”

Participants are welcome to explore both in and out of the park at their leisure, or participate in activities created by the Environmental Committee. We are excited to share that 10 campsites have been spoken for already! If you have any questions, contact Lauren Lillenstein at [laurenlillenstein@gmail.com](mailto:laurenlillenstein@gmail.com).

By Lauren Lillenstein



Not all bugs are bad! In fact lots of insects are beneficial to the garden! These helpful bugs aid in decomposing plant material, pollinating crops, and devouring pests. For this reason, you should consider keeping them in your garden or yard. We know the good that comes from common pollinating insects, like bees and butterflies, but there are others who bring benefits such as lacewings (chrysopidae), a native insect found all over North America.

Commonly used in the garden for non-toxic pest control, lacewings are voracious eaters of many soft-bodied insects that attack plants, such as aphids, small caterpillars, mealybugs, moth eggs, and mites. They are attracted to beneficial plants such as daisies, dandelions, asters, coreopsis,



dill and angelica. The Rockdale Environmental Committee will be giving each family from our Kehal Kodesh Religious School Green Lacewings as a last day of Religious School parting gift. Please help us reduce our need for pesticides and introduce the Green Lacewing into your garden, yard, or nearby green space.

By Mike Heldman

Spring will be here before we know it, and the renewal of spring reminds us of Tikkun Olam, our responsibility to repair and improve the world. Starting with Tu B'Shevat and weekly through Earth Day, the Rockdale Environmental Committee will share tips for living a more sustainable life via Rockmail and on our social media pages. Try new actions as we raise environmental awareness!

By Risa Spieldoch Feagins

The Environmental Committee and RUACH (Rockdale's 20s & 30s group) teamed up to maintain the Rockdale hillside. Rockdale members periodically remove invasive plants and replace them with native flowers and trees. Even with limited maintenance, the small restored ecosystem looks very different from the adjacent hillside. Rather than an impenetrable understory of the nonnative and shallow-rooted honeysuckle, you can see an open environment with surprising plant biodiversity including coneflowers, goldenrod, joe pye weed, and milkweed. We know deep-rooted native plants better prevent erosion and slope failures, manage water, and support birds and helpful insects such as bees. The cool, wet Fall is a favorite time to install plants and over-winter seeds. Rather than fret about unpredictable spring weather or hot and dry summers, our plants will sleep all winter and will be well established to grow in the Spring. In addition to a mix of wildflower seeds collected in late Summer in our area, we installed six more shrubs, including arrowwood viburnum, fragrant sumac, and lead plant. Native plants may be slow growing, but they are steady and reliable additions that weather the changing climate of our region.



By Bennett Kottler

The Women of Rockdale have had an active presence this year, with many more upcoming events planned specifically for WoR members, and for all congregants of Rockdale Temple. Keep an eye on Rockmail and your personal email to stay informed about upcoming events and planning meetings.

In December, WoR organized a group of Rockdale volunteers to cook and serve our annual Christmas Day lunch at the Cincinnati Ronald McDonald House. It was a very rewarding experience and much appreciated by the staff and guests. The Judaica Shop was open for Chanukah shopping on Sunday mornings, and is open most Sunday mornings during Religious School or by appointment; just email [womenofrockdaletemple@gmail.com](mailto:womenofrockdaletemple@gmail.com). We also hosted an evening filled with good food and fun in January with a chili cookoff complete with pub-style trivia. In addition to this, a reprise of last winter's virtual cooking classes with Chef Marshall resumed in January and continues on the third Wednesday evening of each month through May, focusing on vegetarian recipes.

Our membership voted to approve \$18,000 from our In The Beginning Cookbook Endowment Fund to be used to underwrite a significant amount of the expense of the opening event for the Rockdale 200th anniversary celebration. These funds will be used for aspects relating to "social enhancement" as specified in the bylaws of the Fund. We are happy to support our Rockdale community in this way, as we celebrate our Bicentennial!

We hosted a fundraiser on February 25 at Rockdale to raise funds for a retractable awning over the patio off the Social Hall. The main event featured a virtual art auction presented by Marlin Art of Deer Park, NY. This fun evening included heavy hors d'oeuvres, desserts, drinks and karaoke. Thanks to everyone who joined us, and for your ongoing support.

Our popular monthly dinners at local area restaurants will resume in March, giving our Rockdale women a chance to socialize with new and old friends. The Women's Seder is scheduled for Sunday afternoon April 2, at 3:00pm, and is always a fun experience for Women of Rockdale members and their daughters, so please save it on your calendar.

Anyone who is interested in becoming a member or more active in Women of Rockdale, either attending or planning an event, please contact Susan Kahan at [womenofrockdaletemple@gmail.com](mailto:womenofrockdaletemple@gmail.com). Keep your eye on your email for WoR notices and RSVPs.

Susan Klug Kahan

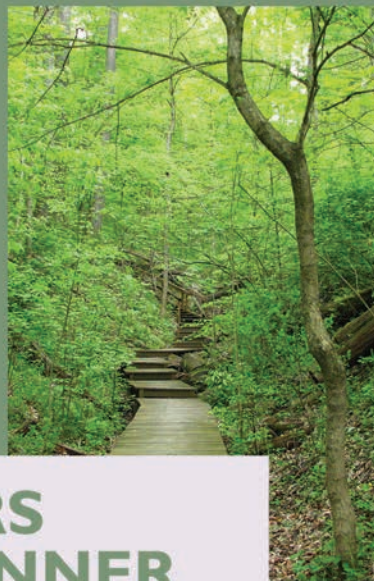


# WELCOME

## NEW MEMBERS: Stephen & Alice Shapiro







## BABY BOOMERS NATURE HIKE & DINNER SATURDAY, MAY 13

More details coming to your inbox soon!

## *Celebrate Shavuot at Rockdale Temple!*

*Thursday, May 25*

### **EREV SHAVUOT**

7:30PM Erev Shavuot Services, followed by Dessert Oneg

*Friday, May 26*

### **SHAVUOT**

9:00AM Shavuot Sunrise Study and Gourmet Breakfast with  
Scholar-in-Residence Alden Solovy

10:30AM Shavuot Morning & Yizkor Memorial Services



Scholar-in-Residence  
**Alden Solovy**  
Reform Liturgist & CCAR Author



# Rockdale Reaches Out



**Rockdale Reaches Out – focusing on the needs of local refugees and new-to-the-USA neighbors. Many organizations exist in Cincinnati which assist our neighbors in need, and they can use Rockdale’s help!**

**Tikkun Farm** – on Elizabeth Street in Mt. Healthy, Tikkun Farm is working to “repair the world” by providing a variety of resources, programs, and opportunities, including culinary programs, nourishing care, animal care, and care for the environment. It’s easy to volunteer at Tikkun Farm with their user-friendly schedules and sign-ups on their website (<https://www.tikkunfarm.com>) and Facebook

page. We hope you can spend time at the location to experience the very special space.



During the early morning hours on December 24, 2022, Tikkun Farm’s main house, living space,

and headquarters suffered a total and devastating

fire. Thankfully, everyone made it out to safety even while windows were blowing out of the farmhouse all around them. Tikkun Farm’s owners and volunteers are working to keep all programs and the farm operational, despite this terrible loss and set-back.

We are so pleased to announce that Tikkun Farm will be the site for Rockdale’s opening event on Sukkot (September 30, 2023) for Rockdale’s 200th celebration!



**heartfelt  
tidbits**

**Heartfelt Tidbits (HFT)** – this refugee-support organization provides any resources necessary for local families to be successful in their new lives in the USA.

HFT has teamed with several Cincinnati Public Schools, which support new-to-American students and their families. They are in need of volunteers to help with several programs after school.

**Immigration Refugee Law Center of Cincinnati (IRLC)** – this amazing not-for-profit provides essential legal needs to those new to the USA.

IRLC has a Volunteer Attorney Program for training law students and lawyers, and has recently partnered with Withrow High School to help students (with refugee or undocumented status) to learn how to build a business.

Rockdale was proud to be a sponsor of IRLC’s 5th Anniversary Celebration.

Visit their website (<https://www.irlawcenter.org>) for more information about how to connect and volunteer.

**Please contact Cora Steinberg, [csteinberg999@gmail.com](mailto:csteinberg999@gmail.com) with any questions and to help get connected to a volunteer opportunity!**

Thank you,  
Cora Steinberg  
*Chair, Rockdale Reaches Out*





## ABORTION ACCESS IS EVERYONE'S CONCERN

Shortly before writing this article, I spoke with a fellow congregant who talked about the last generational fight for abortion access during the 1960s and 1970s. There's a lot about the landscape that has changed in the preceding decades. However, one thing that remains true is that the groups fighting to restrict abortion access then and now, say that they are fighting for Christian values. Of course, these groups do not speak for all Christians. Across many issues, the Justice Collaborative, and the Reform Movement more broadly, have built coalitions with like-minded Christians. However, the Christian groups that are fighting to eliminate access to abortion are pushing to assert a narrow ideology on all of us. There are so many reasons to support abortion access: a pregnant person's right to bodily autonomy, pushing back against patriarchal dominance, increasing access to healthcare, to name only a few. The myriad of issues abortion touches is why this has become such a focus for groups that insist on forcing their ideology on all of us. There's a reason why it seems all Jewish denominations are against a hegemonic view of abortion.

We, as Reform Jews may approach this issue differently from Orthodox Jews, though Jewish law clearly permits and even insists on abortion in certain cases. What unites us, along with many others, is that we do not want one perspective mandated on all of us. In a pluralistic democracy, we all deserve the ability to determine what is the right decision when we are dealing with issues that have differing moralistic perspectives. If you have been in the fight for decades, if you are new to the fight, or if you don't think this is your fight, it is crucial to acknowledge how a hegemonic force exerting their will upon us does not make anyone safer. This is all of our fight because we need to protect pregnant people, and people with wombs, and women, and anyone else who deserves the right to determine what is right for themselves. Abortion is the start of many of the issues we fight for because we cannot allow a single narrow viewpoint to be the law. And so we must draw the line here. So join us in pushing back against hegemonic perspectives. And join with all other minorities and marginalized groups that deserve to make their own determinations about their own bodily autonomy. If you are not already involved with the Justice Collaborative or another group pushing for abortion access, please reach out to Justin Levy (LevyJus@gmail.com) or Emily Levinson (elevinson3@gmail.com).

Justin Levy

*Chair, Justice Collaborative*



**ROCKDALE'S  
JUSTICE  
COLLABORATIVE**

# 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.

**Bicentennial Fund:** endows the Senior Rabbi position.

**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 Hartevelt 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.

## 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

Number \_\_\_\_\_

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 \_\_\_\_\_





# Confirmation 5783

Friday, May 26, 2023

7:30pm

## Confirmands:

*Julia Frankel*  
daughter of J. Randall & Ila Frankel

*Rachel Herzig*  
daughter of Aaron & Lauren Herzig



*Marina Kottler*  
daughter of Bennett Kottler &  
Valerie Weinstein

*Adam O'Koon*  
son of Neal & Michelle O'Koon



JOIN US FOR THE  
PARTY OF THE SUMMER!

## SHABBAT CELEBRATION & BLOCK PARTY!

ROCKDALE TEMPLE PARKING LOT

- 5:00PM Block Party Begins!
- 6:15PM Shabbat Celebration  
with Camp Sendoff and  
June/July Birthday Blessings
- 7:15PM Block Party Continues!

★ DINNER ★ MUSIC ★ GAMES  
★ DRINKS BY FOXTAILS ★  
★ FUN FOR ALL AGES ★

## RABBI MEREDITH KAHAN'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

### In honor of Rabbi Meredith Kahan

Robert & Risa Burstein  
Nancy & Steve Frank  
Jewish Home of Cincinnati  
David & Susan Ostreicher  
Warren & Charlene Robbins

### In memory of

Betsy Ann Meyers Guttman  
Kimberly Guttman

### In memory of Dr. Stephen Berg

Sallie Berg and Family

### In honor of the special birthday of Renee Frankel

Bernard & Leslie Reiss

### In honor of the special birthday of Dean Richard E. Friedman

Daniel Hoffheimer

### In memory of Estelle Gerson

Edward & Anita Marks

### In memory of Barbara Harshman

Melissa Harshman

### In honor of the naming of Robbie Shott

Andrew & Sally Shott

## RABBI ERIN BINDER'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

### In memory of Dr. Stephen Berg

Sallie Berg and Family

## RABBI SISSY CORAN MEMORIAL FUND

### In memory of Rabbi Sissy Coran

Jewish Congregation of  
South Lake Tahoe

### In memory of Estelle Gerson

Rabbi Matthew Kraus

### In memory of Alan David Nacht

Daniel Hoffheimer  
Gerald & Sally Korkin  
Barrie Kraus  
Rabbi Matthew Kraus



Fay May  
Scot Perlman

## ALAN L. ROSENBERG FUND

### In memory of Rosemary Bloom

Helene & Millard Mack

## BENE ISRAEL FUND

Lawrence & Pamela Faust  
Scott & Sheryl Mattis

## BIMAH FLOWER FUND

### In memory of Helen Bruson Frankel

Beth Hammerman

## ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

### In support of the Environmental Committee

Bill & Joan Roberts

## ESTELLE LEVINE FUND FOR SPECIAL CHILDREN

### In memory of Alan David Nacht

Elizabeth Goldstein

## RABBI HAROLD D. HAHN FUND

### In memory of Melanie Hahn Roche

Dr. G. Russell & Renee Frankel

## RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

### In support of Kehal Kodesh: Our Sacred Community

Elliot & Lynda Grossman

## SHABBAT NOSH

### In honor of the baby naming of Alice Bowman

Kate & Nathan Bowman

## SOUP KITCHEN FUND

### In honor of the special birthday of Renee Frankel

Frances & Dr. Lawrence Unger

### In honor of Sally Korkin's appointment as Board President

Sherie Koshover

## TEMPLE FUND

### In support of the Temple Fund

James Albert & Christine Kuhr  
Dr. Lawrence & Pamela Faust

### In honor of Janet & Ken Cohen and their grandchildren, Ezra & Zoe

Steven & Rachel Schild

### In honor of the special birthday of Richard Friedman

Gerald & Sally Korkin

### In memory of Nathan Leventhal

Mark Leventhal

### In memory of Rose Leventhal

Mark Leventhal

### In memory of Alan David Nacht

Dr. Edward & Andrea Herzig  
Mark Leventhal  
Steven & Rachel Schild



## *Condolences to the Friends and Family of:*

**Suzanne Roberts**, beloved mother of **Bill & Joan Roberts**,  
grandmother of Brian Roberts and Aaron Roberts.

**Estelle Anita Gerson**, beloved mother of **Myron & Joanne Gerson**,  
grandmother of Craig & Nancy Gerson and Linda Gerson,  
great-grandmother of Violet Gerson and Laurel Gerson.

**Barbara Anne Harshman**, beloved mother of Beth Harshman Dolinger,  
and Melissa Harshman & Frank Saggus.

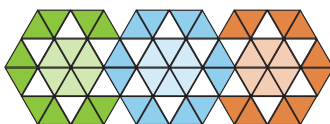
**Dr. Stephen Berg**, beloved husband of **Sallie Berg**,  
father of **Jennifer & Stephen Dowd**,  
grandfather of **Gavin and Baylor Dowd**.

*May their memories be for a blessing.*

## *Honor & Remember Your Loved Ones*

with a contribution to your favorite

*Tribute Fund*



Call the Rockdale Temple Office  
**513.891.9900**

Or make an online donation at [www.rockdaletemple.org](http://www.rockdaletemple.org) Click on "Donate" at the top of the screen.



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[www.rockdaletemple.org](http://www.rockdaletemple.org)

Affiliated with the URJ  
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**Rabbi Erin Binder**

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CREATE YOUR JEWISH  
**LEGACY**