



# SHOFAR SOUNDINGS

# ROCK THE BLOCK 3! JUNE 9

ROCKDALE  
ANNUAL  
MEETING  
June 11  
\*Details Inside

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## MAZEL TOV!

To **Robbie Rosensweet** on becoming a Bar Mitzvah

To **Elon Katz** on becoming a B'nei Mitzvah

To **Alison Auerbach** on being honored for serving  
on the WRJ North American National Board

To **Sally and Gerry Korkin** on the Bat Mitzvah  
of their granddaughter Maya Abigail Afergan

To **Zakary Kadish and Emily Farbman**  
on their marriage

To **Mark Rosenthaler and Jules Guerin**  
on their marriage

To **Dani Reiss** on her new position as the Introduction  
& Eligibility Supervisor, Hamilton County DDS

To **Lynn Mayfield** on the birth of her granddaughter,  
Claire Elizabeth Olman, daughter of Liz and Scott  
Olman and sister of Avery

To **Beth Goldstein** whose personal interview  
with the editor and the story behind her original  
artwork for Rockdale's five new Torah mantles are  
featured among only 53 Judaic artists worldwide  
in the newly released, highly regarded publication,  
*Modern Judaica – Today's Makers,  
Today's Sacred Objects*  
by Jim Cohen, past president of the  
American Guild of Judaic Artists and an acclaimed  
Judaic artist, sculptor and silversmith.

To our **Rockdale Temple high school, college,  
and advanced degree graduates**

*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**





## A JEWISH SUMMER

As June approaches, we find ourselves “winding down” the Jewish year. Sure, 5783 won’t conclude until we usher in Rosh HaShanah 5784 (it’s not too early to mark your calendars—September 15–16!). But the conclusion of the Kehal Kodesh and secular school years, coupled with the arrival of Shavuot on May 25–26, our last “big” holiday of the year, signal for us the transition into the summer season. Over the summer, as kids head off to camp, adults enjoy time off, and families and friends take vacations, we take the opportunity to slow down here at Rockdale, too. The summer season allows for more free time, more relaxing days, a little extra daylight and lazy evenings—it brings a change in rhythm that for many is sorely needed. And while I love summer, too, I sometimes worry that it will slow our Jewish engagement, as well.

Though Rockdale’s summer calendar may not offer as many opportunities as the spring (we hope you enjoyed the many amazing programs, events, and celebrations!), there are still plenty of ways to engage Jewishly throughout this season. We are excited that so many of our children and teens will enjoy Jewish day camps and overnight camps; Rabbi Binder and I look forward to visiting our students at Camp Livingston and serving on faculty at GUCI! We are thrilled for our teens, college students, and young adults who will travel to Israel for intensive summer trips, internships, and study. We look forward to gathering with each of our age-and-stage and affinity groups, all of whom will enjoy programs and events throughout the summer months. And of course, Shabbat continues to be our anchor in time, no matter the season—we will join together throughout the summer on Friday evenings and Saturday mornings to pray and sing, study and reflect. I look forward to spending these days of rest together in this especially restful season.

I recently read an article in a Jewish publication (interestingly titled “Jewish Secrets to Summer Success”) that explained that the Hebrew word for “summer,” *kayitz*, shares a root with the word for “end,” *ketz* and the word for “chopping (wood),” *katzaz*. Why is that significant? The author, Rabbi Adam Simon, explained that being chopped into firewood was often the final act in the life of a tree, and that the summer holiday of Tu B’Av (Judaism’s day of love—this year August 1–2) was said to be the optimal time to bring firewood to the altar in Jerusalem. Just as the firewood tree completes its purpose in the summer season, so do we complete our 5783/2022–23 programmatic year at Rockdale Temple.

To me, our formal year of programming really concludes with the weekend of June 9–11. On Friday, June 9, I look forward to the “party of the summer” with our Rockdale family at our 3rd Annual Rock the Block! We’ll celebrate our year together, kick off a slower, relaxing summer, and look forward to the year ahead—our 200th year! And on Sunday, June 11, we’ll celebrate the fulfillment of many of our tasks, efforts, and goals at the 199th Annual Meeting of KK Bene Israel/Rockdale Temple—please join us for brunch, conversation, and celebration at 10am. “This is what a ‘Jewish Summer’ is all about,” says Rabbi Simon: “putting the finishing touch on all that we’ve done throughout the rest of the year, and coming one step closer to completion, peace, and fulfillment.”

I look forward to putting the finishing touches on an amazing year 5783 with all of you! I’m excited for a summer of Jewish engagement, relaxation and rest, and fun with family, friends, and community. And I am anxiously awaiting the year ahead, Rockdale’s Bicentennial—200 Years of Living Jewish Values. I can’t wait to celebrate all that we’ve been and all that we’ll be.

Wishing you a safe, happy, healthy, and fulfilling summer!



Rabbi Meredith Kahan  
Senior Rabbi



*“I am anxiously awaiting the year ahead, Rockdale’s Bicentennial—200 Years of Living Jewish Values. I can’t wait to celebrate all that we’ve been and all that we’ll be.”*

# Assistant Rabbi & Educator Erin Binder



*"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."*

## CELEBRATING OUR KEHAL KODESH COMMUNITY!

As we conclude our 2022–2023 / 5783 year of learning, Rabbi Kahan and I are so proud of all that our learners, families, educators, and madrichim have accomplished together.

This year we...

- Opened the school year with a special program and picnic at Swaim Park.
- 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*, Shachar & Mika.
- Shared in Shabbat and learned about Israel at our 8th 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:

### This year we offer thanks to:

Frannie Kahan – PreK  
Owen Weiss – K/1st Grade  
Amy Shaiman – 2nd/3rd Grade  
Marisa Papell – 4th Grade  
Madeline Budman – 5th/6th Grade,  
6th Grade Hebrew  
Rabbi Matthew Kraus – Rak Noar  
Jason Schapera – Rak Noar

Israella Ginsberg – Hebrew Through Movement

Melanie Kraus – Art

Rabbi Judy Spicehandler – Hebrew

Rabbi Sam Schapera – Hebrew

Caroline Winstel-McLeod – Hebrew

Zak Lempert Draznin – Hebrew

Ben Rosen – Rak Ivrit (7th Grade Hebrew)

Dani Reiss – Student Support Specialist

Renee Rosensweet – Kehal Kodesh

Admin Support

### Madrichim:

Cait Barilleaux

Rachel Herzig

Libby Hoicowitz

Ava Kane

Magnus Knudsen

Matias Knudsen

Sydney Kraus

Ethan Weinstein

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

Karla Blackmore

Rob Burstein

Mark Friedman

Jennifer Glaser

Alana Levy

Lauren Lillenstein

Ellen Lipstein

Renee Rosensweet

Craig Rozen

Adele Zuckerman,  
chair

As always, we are thankful for our Rockdale Temple staff—Lisa Schneider, Andrey Azirbayev, Noah Smilg, Patty Kaufman, Sean O'Brien, Jennifer Weinberger, 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 5784 school year—Save the date for our Opening Day in the Park on Sunday, August 27, 2023!**

A handwritten signature of Erin Binder in black ink.

Rabbi Erin Binder

Assistant Rabbi & Educator



# KK Bene Israel Rockdale Temple Bicentennial Year

Hello Rockdale Family! The final countdown to 5784 is rapidly approaching. Which, of course, means the KK Bene Israel/Rockdale Temple Bicentennial year of celebration is getting closer. By the time you read this article, our calendar of events will be close to publication and the kickoff event will be just a few months away. As Co-Chairs of the Events Committee, Sue Sherman and I, want to take this moment to extend a huge thank you to the 30 plus members of the original Bicentennial Events Committee that met on Zoom throughout the Covid quarantine. We brainstormed more ideas than we could possibly initiate in one year. Your enthusiasm and creativity gave focus and direction to guide many of the plans that are set in motion. Be assured, there will be something of interest throughout the year for everyone in our community to enjoy. Furthermore, we want to thank those individuals who have taken on the additional responsibility of chairing specific events. It's a huge lift; this would not be possible without your dedication.

Celebrating the 200th anniversary of our historic congregation will flow naturally with the Jewish calendar. Everything we do this year, from large celebrations, lectures, and events to our everyday moments, will all include a nod to our Bicentennial. Without divulging too much information, please save the following dates to your calendars. More specific details will come soon.

**Our Bicentennial year begins with the High Holy Days.** Erev Rosh Hashanah begins at sundown on Friday, September 15, 2023, and Kol Nidre is September 24, 2023.

**The Bicentennial Kickoff is Saturday evening, September 30, 2023.** We will ring in our Bicentennial with a multigenerational, congregational harvest celebration at Tikkun Farm. Below is a link to their website if you would like to get to know the farm. Many members of our congregational family volunteer there. It was with intention that this location was chosen to celebrate the Festival of Sukkot and host our opening event.

<https://tikkunfarm.com/>. Co-Chairs Jane Garfield and Leslie Reiss, along with several committee members, have worked hard to create this meaningful, initial moment of our celebratory year. Currently, Rockdale volunteers are in the process of building a pergola, on site at the farm. The pergola will be a permanent structure at the farm and it will also be our sukkah for this event to enjoy for years. Lots of hands will be needed to bring the event to fruition. Please contact either Jane or Leslie, if you would like to volunteer to help coordinate: [jgarfield@apgof.com](mailto:jgarfield@apgof.com) and [Lesliereiss623@gmail.com](mailto:Lesliereiss623@gmail.com).

**The Gala Anniversary Weekend is January 26–28, 2024.** There are many special moments planned for this “Homecoming Weekend” including an Erev Shabbat celebration, a formal Gala on Saturday night, and a special Religious School Celebration on Sunday. Feel free to reach out to Co-Chairs Jen Smilg and Jennifer Clark if you have an interest in volunteering on any of the many committees needed to develop these events. [Jennifersmilg@gmail.com](mailto:Jennifersmilg@gmail.com) and [jennifersedleyclark@gmail.com](mailto:jennifersedleyclark@gmail.com).

We are actively looking for individuals and/or companies to be sponsors for the Gala Anniversary Weekend. If you are interested in being a sponsor, please reach out to Aaron Herzig at 513-503-6956.

**Save the date for The 4th Annual Rock the Block on Friday, June 7, 2024.** This Rock the Block will knock your socks off!

There are many opportunities to get involved with planning and implementing all the various events that fill out our Bicentennial calendar. Thank you again to all who took a few minutes to fill out the congregational survey. The information has been compiled and organized. If you said you want to help with special events, you will be contacted soon if not already. Cheers to 5784!

Barrie Kraus  
*Bicentennial Events Committee Co-Chair*

*“The final  
countdown  
to 5784  
is rapidly  
approaching.  
Which,  
of course,  
means the KK  
Bene Israel/  
Rockdale  
Temple  
Bicentennial  
year of  
celebration  
is getting  
closer.”*



200 YEARS OF LIVING JEWISH VALUES

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# STRATEGIC PLANNING SURVEY

**We want to hear YOUR voice!**

As part of our strategic planning process, please take two minutes to complete an online survey regarding Rockdale Temple. Your response is confidential and will be received by an outside, third-party data collector, Anne M. Maxfield, LLC. The results will be part of our upcoming strategic planning initiative this fall.

**Thank you!**



**SCAN THE QR CODE  
OR VISIT**

[bit.ly/rockdaleSPS](https://bit.ly/rockdaleSPS)

**SURVEY IS OPEN  
JUNE 1ST-30TH!**



**K.K. Bene Israel  
Rockdale Temple**



## President Sally Korkin

Dear Rockdale congregants,

As we embark on our 200th anniversary year, we are beginning our Strategic Planning initiative under the leadership of board member Dick Friedman, and have hired Anne Maxfield as our consultant to guide the process. The goal is to include the entire congregation in planning for the future, and we want to hear from each of you via an online congregational survey. Our congregational survey will be available from June 1–30.

Adjacent to my letter is a page about the survey and a QR code/link to access it. Please take the time to complete this important survey. We want to make sure each congregant's voice is heard. Every adult member is invited to reply and all responses will be confidential. If you have any questions, need technical assistance completing the survey, or if you do not have access to email, please contact the Rockdale office, 513-891-9900.

Please join our 3rd Annual Rock the Block on Friday evening, June 9. The block party begins at 5:00 p.m. We will celebrate Shabbat with a camp sendoff for our youth, and enjoy dinner, music, and fun for all ages. On Sunday morning, June 11, please plan on attending our Annual Meeting in the Heldman Social Hall. We will honor our Gary Heldman Menorah Award recipients and share all that has taken place during the last year, as we look forward to our Bicentennial celebration which begins on September 30 at Tikkun Farm where we will observe Sukkot together. We are grateful to Jane Garfield and Leslie Reiss who are chairing this event. Rockdale volunteers have been helping build a pergola at Tikkun Farm as our gift in honor of our 200th anniversary. The pergola will be a permanent structure and our creative committee will transform it into a sukkah.

Our gala anniversary celebration weekend will be January 26–28, 2024. The weekend begins with a special Shabbat service on Friday night, January 26. Jen Smilg and Jennifer Clark are co-chairing our Bicentennial Gala on Saturday night, January 27. Many members completed our Congregant Interest Survey and indicated that they would like to help with special events during our 200th anniversary as well as be involved in many other aspects of congregational life at Rockdale. The response to the survey was overwhelming. If you did not reply but would like to be part of planning and implementing these events or any other part of our whole year's worth of programming, please let me know how you would like to be involved.

A lot has been happening at Rockdale! Our Congregational Seder was very joyous and meaningful. On May 5, we honored our members of the Bene Israel Society at a Shabbat service and dinner where we finally were able to dedicate our beautiful pomegranate Bene Israel Society piece of art recognizing our legacy donors. We welcomed Musician-in-Residence, Dan Nichols, during the weekend of May 12–13. Rockdale is rocking! I look forward to seeing you at Rockdale throughout the next few months. Have a wonderful summer!

Best,



Sally F. Korkin  
President



***“As we embark on our 200th anniversary year, we are beginning our Strategic Planning initiative under the leadership of board member Dick Friedman.”***

## Message from Executive Director Lisa Schneider



*“Rockdale continues to meet and exceed our budget expectations thanks to the important work of our board, committees, and staff.”*

My past few months as Executive Director have been busy with many different special events and programs at Rockdale and in the community. Participating has given me the opportunity to experience many firsts as Executive Director. Attending each of these programs and events has given me a comprehensive understanding of what is available to all our congregants. By being present, I have been able to observe and assess the execution of our processes, see what works well, and evaluate how things can be done more effectively to better serve our congregation. This has also offered me the opportunity to interact with and get to know many of you whom I would not have had the opportunity to meet prior to moving into this position. I am enjoying getting to know members of our congregation and seeing how engaged our community is. It truly is an honor to be part of the Rockdale Temple family! I have enjoyed the many volunteer positions I've held over the years as a congregant, but feel even more fortunate to be in this role as Executive Director and get to work with each of you.

The staff and I have spent time getting to know one another better and are continuing to learn how to work cohesively to serve our members. We welcomed our new Executive Assistant, Jennifer Weinberger, in late March. Jennifer is getting acclimated to her role, and we are very happy to have her here.

Rockdale continues to meet and exceed our budget expectations thanks to the important work of our board, committees, and staff.

Some current and recent projects include:

- **Facade Restoration**—You may see scaffolding or lifts around various parts of the building as this work is being completed.
- **Congregational Survey Follow-up**—We are beginning to reach out to those of you who have indicated how you want to volunteer.
- **Budget**—I worked with Sean O'Brien, our Senior Accountant, and the Finance Committee on the annual budget which will be presented to the congregation for approval at the Annual Meeting.

As we plan our 200th year, I look forward to all the events that we will participate in and get to enjoy together.

I look forward to seeing you at Rockdale throughout the summer.

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Lisa Schneider". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline.

Lisa Schneider  
Executive Director



## *Staff Spotlight: Jennifer Weinberger*

Jennifer Weinberger, a lifelong Cincinnati, is excited to join the Rockdale family as the new Executive Assistant. This is a return of sorts, as she attended preschool here at Rockdale! Jennifer was born in Miami, Florida, but grew up in nearby Blue Ash. She briefly returned to Florida during college to fulfill her passion as a Disney fan of working at Walt Disney World before graduating from the University of Central Florida. Post-college, she has spent her professional career working as a teacher in our Jewish community, including the JCC Early Childhood School. During her free time, Jennifer likes to read, go to concerts, and work on puzzles. She's also a lover of musical theater, and has even volunteered at the only Broadway-focused fan convention, BroadwayCon. Jennifer is excited to be part of the community here at Rockdale, especially since her mother and stepfather, Cathy and Tim Heldman, have been so at home here for so many years.



## *Welcome Back Rabbinic Intern Madeline Budman*



If we haven't yet met, my name is Madeline T. Budman. I am thrilled to be returning to Rockdale Temple as Rabbinic Intern for my second summer, as well as continuing the role during the upcoming academic year! I am a rising fifth year rabbinic student at HUC, and I've been lucky to be involved with Rockdale Temple since my second year of HUC, during which I served as the 2020–2021 TJF Education Fellow with Rak Noar. I have also served as the Summer 2022 Rabbinic Intern, 5th and 6th grade Kehal Kodesh teacher, 6th grade Torah Trope teacher, B'nei Mitzvah tutor, and Rak Noar youth advisor. Rockdale Temple has been central to my rabbinic education and time in Cincinnati, and I'm ecstatic that I will be able to continue to deepen my involvement, especially during Rockdale's historic Bicentennial year. I look forward to learning, praying, celebrating, and being in community with you all this year!

# Birthdays and Anniversaries

## ADULT BIRTHDAYS

### JUNE

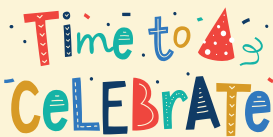
- 6 Mark Moler
- 6 Edward Rosenthal
- 13 Judy Schaengold
- 15 Carly Kahan
- 16 Marvin Siegel
- 18 Michael Kahan
- 19 Abby Schwartz
- 20 Rabbi Margaret Meyer
- 20 Alice Perlman
- 30 Fay May

### JULY

- 2 Neal Jacobs
- 2 Betty Heldman
- 3 Carol Wolf
- 5 Max Cobey
- 5 Zina Zmood
- 6 Lilly Rubenstein
- 7 Jean Abrahamson
- 8 Benjamin Levy
- 8 Lisa Schneider
- 8 Diane Turner
- 8 Gary Greenberg
- 8 Maxine Potter
- 11 Andrea Herzig
- 13 Jennifer Dowd
- 15 Joei Forrest
- 15 Marilyn Hirschhorn
- 17 Carol Fletcher
- 17 Margo Itkoff
- 18 David Lipps
- 19 Donna Waxler
- 19 Michael Heldman
- 19 Dr. Lawrence Faust
- 20 Cathy Altbaier
- 21 Gerald Schwartz
- 22 Jack Messer
- 23 Wilma Travis
- 25 Jeffrey Rubenstein

### AUGUST

- 1 Ken Cohen
- 2 Evan O'Koon
- 6 Rona Simon
- 8 Alice Shapiro
- 11 Natalie Gerstein
- 12 Michael Greenberg
- 13 Anne Roth
- 13 Boris Auerbach
- 14 Lois Widlansky
- 16 John Cobey
- 17 Andrea Checroun
- 19 David Seltzer
- 20 Daniel Flagel
- 20 Gabe Clark
- 20 Alan Schriber
- 20 Nancy Klein
- 21 Rabbi Matthew Kraus
- 21 Dr. G. Russell Frankel
- 25 Joan Weinberg
- 27 Pamela Chundrlek
- 28 Glenn Lerman



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

## CHILDREN'S BIRTHDAYS

### JUNE

- 1 Sanders Wall
- 4 C Matias Knudsen
- 6 Sam Flagel
- 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
- 22 Michael Schapera
- 25 Harry Lohse, V
- 27 Jonah Lillenstein
- 28 Leah Schild
- 29 Emily Burstein

### JULY

- 5 Teddy Shaiman
- 5 Baylor Dowd
- 7 Ari Kane
- 13 Zelda Wilks
- 14 Alice Bowman
- 17 Sam Nguyen
- 19 Brie De Falco
- 23 Eric Waterman
- 26 Jack Dunkelman
- 27 Miriam Schapera

### AUGUST

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

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



## ANNIVERSARIES



### JUNE

- 7 Dr. Barry Rubin & Sandra Kordis-Rubin, 15th
- 17 Dr. Rusty & Renee Frankel, 61st
- 18 Mark & Judy Schaengold, 40th
- 21 Ronald & Anne Roth, 53rd
- 21 Dr. Myron & Joanne Gerson, 54th
- 23 Dr. Ed & Andi Herzig, 55th
- 25 Dr. Michael & Rabbi Margaret Meyer, 62nd
- 26 Gerry & Sally Korkin 55th

### JULY

- 5 Rebecca & Charles Barilleaux, 25th
- 7 Robert & Loris Ungar, 66th
- 10 Steve & Jan Muhlbaum, 35th
- 10 Doug & Linda Sawan, 40th
- 15 Ken & Janet Cohen, 50th
- 30 Scott & Sheryl Mattis, 45th

### AUGUST

- 5 Dr. Robert & Cissy Lenobel, 45th
- 7 Edward & Anita Marks, 58th
- 14 John Cobey & Jan Frankel, 40th
- 14 Brenda & Sheldon Kahan, 40th
- 16 Gary & Austine Heldman, 50th
- 28 Michael & Eileen Greenberg, 57th

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





### **BENJAMIN PECK, June 3, 2023**

Benjamin Peck is a 7th grade student at Mason Middle School. He enjoys school, especially the subjects of science, literature and math. He also plays the viola in the school orchestra and participates in the Mason Track and Field Team. Over the summer, he competes with the Lifetime Fitness Swim Team. Benjamin loves the outdoors and takes advantage of every opportunity to be outside to ride his bike, go fishing, swim, hike, and build tree forts.

In his free time, Benjamin likes to read, and challenges his parents to keep enough books in the house. He likes to play the piano, guitar, drums, and video games. Benjamin is the oldest of three children, and is a great brother to his younger sisters, Sophia and Lyla. He has grown up with animals his entire life, with his favorites including fish, various exotic reptiles, and several dogs. He is particularly close to his Australian Shepherd, Motley Blue, and the two are rarely apart at home.

Benjamin is passionate about the environment and loves to learn about ways that he can make a difference in the world. His compassion for the world and the people in it inspired his Mitzvah Project. Recently, Benjamin noticed how many people stay in their car and leave it running while they are waiting for their children at extracurricular activities. Understanding the negative impact of car exhaust on both the environment and the health of people around, he decided to try to partner with local businesses to encourage them to put signage up about the dangers of car exhaust, especially close to buildings in which young people are engaging in physical activity. Benjamin would like to thank his Bar Mitzvah tutor, Madeline Budman, for all the help to prepare for the service, Rabbi Binder and Rabbi Kahan, Hebrew school classmates, and his family for giving him so much support during this process.



### **BRIE DE FALCO, August 19, 2023**

Brie (She/They) is a 7th grader at Sycamore Junior High School where her favorite classes are Spanish and math. She loves doing school theater and starred as Snow White in the fall production of *The Brothers Grimm* and as Bickle in the spring musical *Footloose*. Brie plays flute, takes singing lessons, crochets projects big and small, and is a member of a Kings Hammer soccer team. She's excited to have *Shoftim*, a Torah portion about justice, because it's a topic that is very important to her. From the environment to social justice, Brie is passionate about many causes. Her B'nei Mitzvah project is to start a club that encourages youth to volunteer locally. She also plans to participate in the movement, Judaism Has No Gender. Brie would like to thank her Trope teacher and B'nei Mitzvah tutor Madeline Budman for helping her to prepare for this important milestone and Rabbis Kahan and Binder for all of their support.



# Rockdale Family Retreat 2023

The Kehal Kodesh Religious School enjoyed the 8th Annual Family Retreat in February, held at Hueston Woods. The Family Retreat is generously supported by The Jewish Foundation of Cincinnati and is a joyous weekend of Shabbat, learning, community, and fun!





# Rockdale Family Retreat 2023





## *Bene Israel Society Testimonial:* SHARON NELSON AND KEN VENICK

***“Creating our Jewish legacy is fulfillment of a promise and sacred responsibility to support vital ideas and institutions.”***

East Coast, Long Island Conservative young man meets Southern, small-town Reform young woman. That's one way to start this story. Sharon and I traveled different paths to Cincinnati. For Sharon, Cincinnati was a familiar city where with her parents and brother she would come to visit family and friends; for Ken, Cincinnati was a new city to explore while studying at UC.

It was the 1980s. Sharon had returned from Israel, where she'd lived and worked on a kibbutz, and also at Carmel Medical Center in Haifa. Moving to Cincinnati, she began her professional career at UC Medical Center. She quickly involved herself in young Jewish leadership, made lasting friends, joined Rockdale, then drifted away for a time. Ken was a cultural Jew, but not an affiliated one, moving in different social circles. Sharon's parents, Bernice and Marvin, relocated to Cincinnati in the mid-1980s. They left a small, but active, Jewish community in Williamson, West Virginia, and found a larger, welcoming Jewish community at Rockdale Temple. Both were active in Temple activities; Bernice was recognized with a Menorah Award.

In the 1990s, when Sharon and I met, I was happily drawn into her family and the Rockdale family as well. I attended Rockdale High Holy Day services with her parents and grew comfortable with Reform practice. When we decided to marry, we asked Rabbi Gary Zola, a Nelson family friend dating back to Gary's HUC student pulpit in Williamson, to perform the ceremony. Happy to do so, he asked one thing in return: that we join a congregation. And we took that request seriously, visiting several congregations, trying them on to see how we might fit. Rockdale was a good fit. Rabbi Goldman was a vibrant presence; the congregation was growing and busy; and we could join the Nelsons at Temple and in making a new Jewish home in Cincinnati.

We brought up our son, Arie, at Rockdale: Brit Milah, Sunday School, Consecration, Bar Mitzvah, Youth Group, Confirmation. One of Rockdale's keystones is attention and commitment to social justice, a philosophy that Arie has carried with him and made his own. He takes his Jewish identity seriously. We like to think that comes not only from the home we created for him, but the opportunities available to him in the larger Jewish community. Arie participated in the March of the Living, interned at the American Jewish Archives, and lived, worked, and traveled for a year in Israel. With joy we saw that these experiences made indelible and lasting markings on his character and his soul.

When we thought about creating our Jewish legacy, it was important to include organizations that have resonance for us and for Cincinnati's Jews, now and in the future. We believe in the mission of the American Jewish Archives. It is an essential national resource. The collections and the on-going research there document and keep alive the many streams

of Jewish life in America. A key piece of Cincinnati Jewish life is our cemeteries, and we included the Jewish Cemeteries of Greater Cincinnati in our bequest. They serve our local community but are also a resting place for Jews from smaller Jewish communities like the one from which Sharon's family comes. Chestnut Street Cemetery, recently rededicated, was a cornerstone of creating Jewish life in Cincinnati and is central part of Rockdale's heritage. The strength of our Cincinnati Jewish life is rooted in Rockdale Temple, also part of our bequest, the city's oldest congregation with a forward vision of open-minded Reform Judaism and our spiritual home.

For us, creating our Jewish legacy is fulfillment of a promise and sacred responsibility to support vital ideas and institutions. It is with pleasure and gratitude that we join others in creating our Jewish legacy.



# 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\*  
 Dr. Michael & Teresa Cohen Ames  
 Leonard Berenfield\*  
 Doris\* & Stuart\* Berman  
 Rabbi Erin Binder  
 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 Spielfeld Feagins  
 & Steve Feagins  
 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  
 Roger Rosenthal  
 Jack & Mary-Bob Rubenstein  
 Judith & Mark Schaengold  
 Steven & Rachel Schild  
 Joan Schimmel & Neal Jacobs  
 Lisa Schneider  
 David & Abby Schwartz  
 Amy & Jason Shaiman  
 Joshua & Heather Shapiro  
 Mark Sheldon  
 Andrew & Sally Shott  
 Jen & Larry Smilg  
 David & Jaynie Solomon  
 Dr. Robert Stein\*  
 Cora & Don Steinberg  
 Hagit & Jeff Sunberg  
 W. E. Blair Tillett\*  
 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 to endow and secure the Senior Rabbi position. The extraordinary generosity of our incredible community has enabled us to reach and exceed our \$1,000,000 goal as we approach our Bicentennial year. Our campaign donors recognize the impact and significance of Rockdale Temple's Senior Rabbis in their lives. The campaign continues although we have reached our initial goal. The next goal is 100% congregational participation so that every congregant can be included on this growing list. Please consider a meaningful gift of any amount.*

## **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  
The 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 Spielfeld 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 Cushner  
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  
Joshua and Heather Shapiro

## **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  
Mark Friedman  
Barry and Nancy Gibberman  
The Kadish Family  
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  
The Rubenstein Family  
Judy and Mark Schaengold  
The Spievack Family  
Sarah Weiss and Todd Schild  
Trip Wolf

*All donations listed as of April 30, 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  
Andrew and Patricia Gollin  
Lesha and Samuel Greengus  
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  
Sheldon and Waianne Weinstein  
Edward Wertheimer  
Richard Wiener and Elisabeth Haley

## 2024 CHAVURAH UP TO \$999

Anonymous – 4  
Karen and Fred Abel  
Jackie and Adam Baker  
Robert A. Bass  
Mark and Laura Berger  
Ellen Byington  
Brad and Evanjelina Coppel  
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  
Mike Heldman and Beth Franks  
Jon Hoffheimer  
Rabbi Ken and Toni Kanter  
Jay and Dee Kastan  
Patricia Kaufman  
Sue Levy Klau  
Robert and Hannah Krebs  
Dr. Heinke Lillenstein  
Lauren 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

# June 2023

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY



= Anniversary Blessings

= Birthday Blessings



= Shir Shalom Choir

= Rock Shabbat

1

2

6:15p Shabbat Services



3

9:30a Sichat Torah  
10:30a Bar Mitzvah of Benjamin Peck

4

5

6

7

8

9

5:00p Rock The Block  
6:15p Service with Camp Sendoff



10

9:30a Sichat Torah  
10:30a Shabbat Morning Services

11

10:00a Annual Meeting

12

13

7:00p Adult B'nei Mitzvah Class

14

15

16

6:00p shabbatCTY



17

9:30a Sichat Torah  
10:30a Shabbat Morning Services

18

19

20

21

Seniors Group Event  
TBA

22

23

6:15p Pride Shabbat Services



24

9:30a Sichat Torah  
10:30a Shabbat Morning Services  
10:00a Rockdale at Pride March

25

26

27

28

12:00p Rak Limud:  
Adult Ed

29

30

6:15p Shabbat Services

שבת  
שלום

Calendars are subject to change.

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY



= Anniversary Blessings

= Birthday Blessings



= Shir Shalom Choir

= Rock Shabbat

1

9:30a Sichat Torah  
10:30a Shabbat Morning Services

2

3

Temple Office Closed

4

Temple Office Closed



5

12:00p Rak Limud:  
Adult Ed

6

7

6:15p Shabbat Services



8

9:30a Sichat Torah  
10:30a Shabbat Morning Services

9

10

11

12

12:00p Rak Limud:  
Adult Ed

13

14

6:15p Shabbat Services



15

9:30a Sichat Torah  
10:30a Shabbat Morning Services

16

17

18

19

12:00p Rak Limud:  
Adult Ed

20

21

6:15p Shabbat Services



22

9:30a Sichat Torah  
10:30a Shabbat Morning Services

23

11:00a Baby Boomers  
Tour @ The Taft  
Museum

24

25

26

12:00p Rak Limud:  
Adult Ed

27

28

6:15p Shabbat Services



29

9:30a Sichat Torah  
10:30a Shabbat Morning Services

30

31



Calendars are subject to change.



# August 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 = Anniversary Blessings  = Birthday Blessings  = Shir Shalom Choir  = Rock Shabbat		<b>1</b> Seniors Group Event TBA	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 5:30p FoRT Shabbat & Dinner 6:15p Shabbat Services 	<b>5</b> 9:30a Sichat Torah 10:30a Shabbat Morning Services
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Brotherhood Cookout, location TBD	<b>11</b> 6:15p Shabbat Services 	<b>12</b> 9:30a Sichat Torah 10:30a Shabbat Morning Services
<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 6:15p Rock Shabbat in the Park  	<b>19</b> 9:30a Sichat Torah 10:30a Bat Mitzvah of Brie De Falco
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 6:15p Shabbat Services  	<b>26</b> 9:30a Sichat Torah 10:30a Shabbat Morning Services
<b>27</b> 9:30a Kehal Kodesh Religious School Opening Day	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>		

Calendars are subject to change.

Dear Rockdale Temple Family,

It is with great pleasure that we announce that Rockdale Temple has been awarded a significant grant from the Jewish Federation of Cincinnati Special Projects Fund to launch and establish a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee and support its subsequent work. This grant will enable us to deepen our commitment to fostering an inclusive and welcoming community that reflects the diversity of our members and the world around us.

With the support of this grant, we will be able to expand our programming and outreach efforts to better serve the needs of our communities within our congregation and beyond. This includes engaging and collaborating with local organizations, listening to the needs of our community members, and creating a plan of action to address those needs.

This special program grant will also be used to provide training and education to our leadership and members, helping to build a more culturally competent and aware community. This will include staff training, adult education, family and community programming, and opportunities for participation and involvement for our members.

We are excited about the opportunities that this grant presents and are committed to using it to create a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive synagogue community. In order to do this, it is essential that we involve members with a diverse range of voices and perspectives. In doing so, we can ensure that our efforts are informed by the needs and experiences of the community we serve.

We believe that this work is central to our Jewish values and our mission to create a just, peaceful, and compassionate world. We look forward to sharing more details about our DEI initiatives in the coming months and hope that you will join us in this sacred work.

Dani Reiss  
Rockdale Board Member, DEI Committee Chair



# Purim 2023





## Meet The Congregant: Leslie Joseph BY LINDA CHATTERJEE

When Leslie Joseph and her husband Dr. Mark Lybik arrived in Cincinnati five years ago, Leslie already had one friend in the area. She knew Jen Smilg who had been her neighbor years before in Indianapolis. Her grown sons, Alec, Noah, and Joseph, remembered Rabbi Sissy Coran, z”l, from GUCI, so Leslie was happy to join Rockdale. She immediately volunteered to become the Secretary for the Women of Rockdale while Jen was President, and Leslie has continued to serve in that position.

Mark is a gastroenterologist. Alec is in law school at the University of Minnesota and looking forward to marrying Hannah Bloomberg next year and moving to Los Angeles. Hannah is at Hebrew Union College training to become a Rabbi. Noah will soon start a medical residency at Northwestern University, and Joseph is in a PhD program at the University of Michigan studying environmental engineering.

Leslie grew up in Minneapolis where her family were members of Temple Israel. She attended the University of Michigan and earned her degree in English. While there, she worked in the bookstore. Mark was preparing for the MCAT and needed to make many trips to the bookshop. For their first date, he invited Leslie to dinner at his place. She later discovered that his Mom had made the food!

Mark is from Michigan but after he finished his medical training, the couple moved to Indianapolis. Their boys, now 28, 27 and 24, attended preschool at the local temple. It was a huge congregation. Moms of students quickly became friends and joined Sisterhood together. Leslie obtained a Master’s degree in journalism from Northwestern University and worked as an editor—freelance from home after her youngest son was born. Leslie’s specialty was academic publications including school text books. She also worked for M.I.T. Press for a while. Around the time of the move to Cincinnati, the profession of editing was shrinking. People are getting most of their information unedited online these days. Leslie decided to “retire” and do other things that she enjoys.

At Rockdale, she works with the Justice Collaborative and previously worked with the RAC on the “get out the vote” initiative. She is currently Rockdale’s liaison with the ACLU in the effort to get abortion rights on the Ohio ballot.

One day a week, Leslie volunteers at the food pantry at Valley Interfaith Community Resource Center in Lockland. She also serves on their board.

For fun, Leslie and Mark love to travel. Their next trip will be to Acadia National Park in Maine where they will meet up with their sons. Leslie also plays Mahjongg and tennis. She studies yoga and barre at a studio near the couple’s condo in Montgomery.

*“At Rockdale, Leslie works with the Justice Collaborative and previously worked with the RAC on the ‘get out the vote’ initiative.”*



# Rockdale Reaches Out



## ROCKDALE'S CONNECTION TO HELP LOCAL REFUGEES AND OTHER NEIGHBORS IN NEED

### HEARTFELT TIDBITS

<https://www.heartfelttidbits.com>

One of the best organizations for helping local refugees.

Volunteer opportunities include: monetary donations, assisting at classes for ESL, mentoring local children or families, helping with English-learning.

Several of our Rockdale members are involved with these ESL classes, and enjoy this meaningful activity!



**SPONSORING A REFUGEE FAMILY** — we are gathering interest from Rockdale members who would like to assist resettling a family. Please let Cora know if you would like to lend your support financially and/or with your time.

### TIKKUN FARM

<https://tikkunfarm.com/volunteer-here/>

is located in Mt. Healthy at 7945 Elizabeth Street. A wonderful space of healing with many volunteer opportunities. Visit their website for all kinds of sign-ups.



As a thank you to Tikkun Farm for using their space for our 200th Anniversary Kickoff on September 30 for Sukkot, Rockdale is assisting with the building of a pergola onsite.

Volunteers are still needed to help with this project!

Please contact Cora Steinberg: [csteinberg999@gmail.com](mailto:csteinberg999@gmail.com) to get involved and/or for any questions about Heartfelt Tidbits, refugee resettlement, and Tikkun Farm.

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







# ANNUAL MEETING AND BRUNCH JUNE 11, 2023 10:00AM



200 YEARS OF LIVING JEWISH VALUES

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





***“The  
Environmental  
Committee  
appreciates  
your  
consideration  
of everyday  
choices that  
can ultimately  
improve our  
air quality  
and create  
a healthier  
community.”***

## FROM TU B'SHEVAT TO EARTH DAY: WEEKLY GREEN TIPS

In the spirit of tikkun olam, repairing our world, the Rockdale Environmental Committee shared weekly green tips from Tu B'Shevat, the birthday of the trees, to Earth Day 2023 via Rockmail. The environmentally friendly tips are recapped below. We hope that these tips reminded you, encouraged you, and/or taught you to live mindfully so that we can collectively care for our environment and reduce our carbon footprint.

1. Work to reduce Styrofoam, paper and plastic plates, cups and utensils at work, home, school as well as at our beloved Rockdale Temple.
2. Work to conserve water by taking a short shower rather than a bath. Consider installing a low-flow shower head and faucet aerator. You'll reduce water use and save money on water bills.
3. BYOB! Bring your own bottles and bags. Drink from a reusable water bottle or coffee mug, and keep shopping bags in your car.
4. Be intentional with driving routes. Combine trips to save gas and money. Telecommute when able. Transportation is one of the biggest producers of greenhouse gases, and thus less travel is an easy way to decrease carbon released into the atmosphere. Consider a fuel-efficient vehicle such as a hybrid or electric car when you are ready for your next automobile.
5. Find clothing made from recycled materials, or purchase clothing made from natural fibers. Avoid petroleum-based fabrics such as nylon, polyester and fleece. Like plastic bags, petroleum fibers are non-biodegradable. The production, consumption and waste handling of synthetic fibers generates greenhouse gas emission.
6. In winter, wait until the inside temperature is below 68 degrees to turn on your heat. In the summer, turn on the air conditioning when the inside temperature is 78 degrees or higher. Invest in a programmable thermostat to make these changes easy.
7. Invest in a ceiling fan. In warm weather, run it counter-clockwise to cool. In cold weather, run it clockwise to force warm air down into the living space.
8. Consider cutting beef, pork, chicken and dairy intake. Animal production systems emit significantly more greenhouse gases than plant-based food systems.
9. Turn it off. Make it a habit to turn off the lights and electronics when leaving a room for 15 or more minutes.
10. Buy local to eliminate long distances traveled.
11. Recycle, recycle, recycle. You can recycle plastic bottles, paper, batteries, electronics, glass, textiles, metal, tires. Reduce our dependence on landfills and incinerators.
12. Summertime sunshine is heading our way. Avoid sunscreen with harmful chemicals and replace it with one that contains zinc oxide or titanium dioxide as active ingredients. These are safe for us and our planet.

*The Environmental Committee appreciates your consideration of everyday choices that can ultimately improve our air quality and create a healthier community.*

# Women of Rockdale

We have been busy this Spring, offering opportunities for gathering, having fun, building community, connection, and fundraising.

Our Annual Women's Seder was held on Sunday afternoon, April 2, with many Rockdale members, and guests from other area Sisterhoods. The seder was led by Rabbis Kahan and Binder. Many recipes and photos were shared to honor women from previous generations.

We met at DeSha's for dinner out in March, resuming a popular tradition. We continued to co-host our virtual cooking classes with the Environmental Committee. Chef Marshall Goldstein provided excellent recipes and helpful cooking tips with both his patience and humor.

Our Art Auction Fundraiser in February included live bidding on beautiful art pieces, plus karaoke and delicious food and beverages. Thank you to all of our guests who attended.

On May 4, we welcomed Dee W. Ieye back for an exciting evening filled with comedy and lots of Tupperware!

Our Nominating Committee presented our new board slate that was voted on at our Annual Meeting in May. Linda Chatterjee will become our new President, and Alana Levy will be our new Treasurer. We would like to thank them both for previously serving on the board and for stepping up into these new roles. Thank you to Chris Malhotra for having served as Treasurer, for remaining on the board as an at-large member, and for continuing as our Membership Chair. Leslie Joseph will continue as Secretary, and Heinke Lillenstein will remain as an at-large board member. Susan Klug Kahan is the immediate Past President.

**WOR's In the Beginning (ITB) Cookbook Endowment Fund** has provided over **\$350,000** over the last 40 years for social enhancement programming and needs.

**WOR's ITB Endowment continues the funding tradition for the upcoming year!**

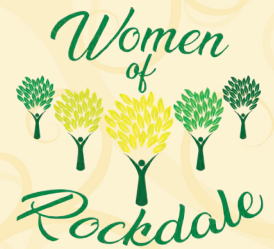
At our Spring meeting, Women of Rockdale approved and allocated **\$16,000** for specific Rockdale programming in 2023-2024.

These funds will support:

- Rock the Block — May 2024
- High Holy Day Gift Bags — Delivered to each congregant home!
- Musician-in-Residence, Fall 2023 — Monies will support a variety of festive musical celebrations over three days.
- New initiative for special outings and experiences for the Kehal Kodesh community.

The WOR's ITB Fund will also provide **\$18,000** to support Rockdale's 200th Anniversary Kickoff—Sukkot celebration at Tikkun Farm on September 30, 2023.

Susan Klug Kahan  
*Women of Rockdale President*





*“We also look forward to exploring the ways that the Brotherhood can support and celebrate Rockdale as we approach our historic 200th anniversary.”*

It's exciting to be back in the fold. I am honored that Sally has asked me to take the reins as Brotherhood President. I am grateful to Andy Gollin for passing me the torch and his incredible commitment to the Brotherhood and to the Temple community at large over the last couple of years. Andy and Co-President Mark Friedman, were selfless with their time and talents in their efforts. I look forward to building on the momentum that they have established for our group. Thank you, Andy and Mark.

We plan to keep the traditional programs that always seem to be fan favorites going strong. Be on the lookout for more information about events like the annual Brotherhood Rockdale Cookout, Bourbon Under the Sukkah, and opportunities for us to give back in the form of service projects to both the Temple and the community. We will continue to partner with the Environmental Committee and Women of Rockdale while also looking toward the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism for ways that we can make a collective impact. We have some new ideas in the works for activities that haven't been done before like Fowling—a form of bowling but with a football! We also look forward to exploring the ways that the Brotherhood can support and celebrate Rockdale as we approach our historic 200th anniversary. If you have ideas for programs, are willing to support with the planning or execution of programs, or just want to touch base, please drop me a line—[davidmsolomon1@gmail.com](mailto:davidmsolomon1@gmail.com).

David Solomon  
Brotherhood President



**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 \*  
\* FUN FOR ALL AGES \***



## PRAYING WITH YOUR FEET THIS SUMMER

In previous issues of Shofar Soundings, we have outlined the urgency to take action on several of our campaigns. Here are two ongoing campaigns with ways to get involved:

**1. Reproductive Freedom:** This is an urgent issue that we must fight for to ensure a narrow ideology is not imposed on all of us. We are collecting signatures through July 5th for a November ballot initiative. We need everyone to get trained to collect signatures, and then collect signatures. Check out the picture in this article of our April training for the Jewish community. Please also log all of your signatures with the RAC here:

<https://racj.wufoo.com/forms/zj0nvab10exdhg/>

to show the power of the Jewish community in our coalition. We have ongoing trainings and events across the Jewish community, and you can always pick up signature collection packets directly from Rockdale once you are trained. Also, keep up with training and signature collection events at:

a. Ohioans for Reproductive Freedom:

<https://ohioansforreproductivfreedom.org/events/>

b. Protect Choice Ohio:

<https://www.mobilize.us/protectchoiceohio/>

c. Let Emily Levinson know you are interested in working on this issue at [elevinson3@gmail.com](mailto:elevinson3@gmail.com)

**2. Gun Safety:** This was the first issue our committee worked on based on a congregational vote. Rockdale has developed a reputation in Greater Cincinnati for being a powerful actor on this issue and it is important that we show our partners our commitment by continuing to show up. Four ways you can take action:

a. Pray with your feet! Join Rockdale in attending the annual Wear Orange event at Fountain Square on June 3 at 10am. Feel free to register here:

<https://act.everytown.org/event/moms-demand-action-event/52449/signup/>

b. Sign up to the mailing list of our partner, Whitney/Strong:

<https://www.whitneystrong.org/>

c. Keep informed about our partner Save Our Youth: Kings & Queens:

<https://www.saveouryouthcincinnati.com/>

d. Let Mark Michaelson know you are interested in working on this issue at [mmichaelson56@gmail.com](mailto:mmichaelson56@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 \_\_\_\_\_



Save the Date!

# shabbatCTY

A joyful Shabbat in Cincinnati

Friday, June 16<sup>th</sup>

Location TBD

Drinks & Nosh - 6:00PM

Shabbat Service - 6:30PM



RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

**OPENING  
DAY!**

SUNDAY,  
AUGUST 27

\*PARK LOCATION TBD



## **RABBI MEREDITH F. KAHAN'S DISCRETIONARY FUND**

**In memory of Mark Lillenstein**  
Heinke Lillenstein

**In honor of the Bat Mitzvah of  
Maya Afergan, granddaughter  
of Gerald and Sally Korkin**  
Leslie & Bernie Reiss

**In memory of Michael Gordon Hall**  
Daniel J. Hoffheimer  
Cissy & Dr. Bob Lenobel  
Lynn Chaifetz

**In honor of Jennifer Clark  
for her new adventures**  
Julie Torem

**In honor of Rabbi Meredith Kahan  
and the Cincinnati Jewish Community**  
Rabbi Ari Lorge

**In memory of Maurice Dick**  
Harold & Sherri Tieger  
Dr. Barry & Nancy Gibberman

## **RABBI ERIN BINDER'S DISCRETIONARY FUND**

**In memory of Jerry J. Mellman**  
Family of Jerry Mellman

## **RABBI SISSY CORAN MEMORIAL FUND**

**In honor of Rabbi Shena Potter  
Jaffee's birthday**  
Rabbi Matthew Kraus

**In memory of Maurice Dick**  
Fay May  
Rabbi Matthew Kraus

## **BENE ISRAEL FUND**

Hildy Kerman  
Cora & Don Steinberg

## **ESTELLE LEVINE FUND FOR SPECIAL CHILDREN**

**In memory of Maurice Dick**  
Michele & Doug Amoroso



## **HIGH HOLY DAY APPEAL**

Charles Zax

## **JULES & ELIZABETH K. OPPENHEIMER FUND**

**In memory of Emilia Lewis**  
Tracy McMullen

## **LIBRARY FUND**

**In memory of Philip T. Cohen**  
Amy Diamond & Eddie Wolf

## **MEMORIAL FUND**

**In memory of Michael Gordon Hall**  
James Albert & Christine Kuhr

**In memory of Maurice Dick**  
Marcia & Richard Goldberg

## **RABBI VICTOR AND LOUISE REICHERT FUND**

**In memory of Philip T. Cohen**  
O.J. & Barbara Cohen

## **SHABBAT NOSH**

**For the support of a nosh**  
Joyce Alpiner

## **TEMPLE FUND**

**In honor of Dr. Edward Herzig  
receiving the Ohio Association  
of Rheumatology Lifetime  
Achievement Award**  
Dan Hoffheimer

**In memory of Shael Bellows**  
Gerald & Sally Korkin

**In honor of the Bat Mitzvah of  
Maya Afergan, granddaughter  
of Gerald and Sally Korkin**  
Fred & Patti Heldman  
Dr. David & Abby Schwartz  
The Cooper Family

**In memory of Winston Emile Propp**  
Eugene Propp

**In memory of Irma P. Lowenthal**  
Stephen & Alice Shapiro

**In memory of Maurice Dick**  
David & Karen Hoguet  
Michael L. Friedman  
Andrea & Dr. Ed Herzig  
June & George Brennock  
Larry & Jen Smilg  
Don & Debby Bailey

**In support of Kehal Kodesh  
Religious School students**  
Alan & Cheryl Schriber

**In support of the Temple Fund**  
James Albert & Christine Kuhr

# *We Remember*

**Luc M. Bédard**, beloved husband of Marti Bédard, father of Eli Bédard

**Jerry J. Mellman**, beloved father of Peggy Loshin, Howard Mellman,  
Nancy Mellman, and Lori Mellman, and longtime partner of Alice Horn

**Robert Stutz**, beloved husband of Rochelle Stutz, father-in-law of Wende Stutz

**Michael G. Hall**, beloved partner of Lynn Chaifetz

**Dan Kiefer**, beloved cousin of Sally Korkin

**Sandra Begel**, beloved friend of Joyce Alpiner

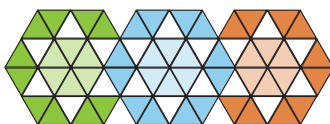
**Maurice Dick**, beloved husband of Erva Dick,  
father of Gary, Scott, Darryl, and Kevin Dick,  
brother-in-law of Michael Zwick

*May their memories be for a blessing.*

## *Honor & Remember Your Loved Ones*

with a contribution to your favorite

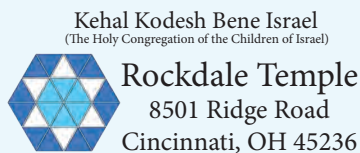
### *Tribute Fund*



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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Phone: 513-891-9900

Fax: 513-891-0515

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

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

**Rabbi Meredith Kahan**

*Senior Rabbi*

**Rabbi Erin Binder**

*Assistant Rabbi & Educator*

**Lisa Schneider**

*Executive Director*

**Rabbi Mark N. Goldman, D.D.**

*Rabbi Emeritus*

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CREATE YOUR JEWISH  
**LEGACY**