ROCKDALE TEMPLE SPRING 5784



# SHOFAR SOUNDINGS



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## 

To **David and Jaynie Solomon** on the birth of their son, Tobin Aaron Solomon

To **Dr. Michael Meyer** on receiving the Cross of Merit from the Federal Republic of Germany on November 6, 2023 in New York City

To Lee and Lynn Shaftel on the birth of their granddaughter, Naomi Hannah Speirs

To Lisa Schneider on the birth of her grandson, Charles Whitley Randall

To **Holden Iacob** on his Bar Mitzvah

To Abby and Dr. David Schwartz on the Bar Mitzvah of their grandson, Jack Bazelon

To **Rabbi Meredith Kahan** for completing the two-year 18Door Rukin Rabbinic Fellowship, increasing knowledge and practice around creating a more welcoming and inclusive Jewish future

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

# WELCOVE

## **NEW MEMBERS**

Mark Hafter & Piper Bold

Julia & Frederick (Brock) Fowler and Family

Gary & Ellen Weiss

## Senior Rabbi Meredith Kahan

## **LIGHT AND HAPPINESS, JOY AND HONOR**

As we marked the close of our remarkable Bicentennial Weekend Legacy Shabbat, our congregational family sang together the words that often open Havdallah: *La yehudim hayta ora v'simcha v'sasson v'ikar*—"The Jews had light and happiness, joy and honor" (Esther 8:16).

The words are rooted towards the end of the Book of Esther, upon Esther's success in rescuing her people. After a sudden turn of events, the Jewish people are saved from destruction and have cause for celebration and hope.

Luckily, when we came to our Bicentennial Weekend, our cause for celebration and hope did not stand in such stark contrast to what had been immediately before. On the contrary—our congregation's celebration arrived in the middle of a beautiful, eventful, joyful year commemorating the history of Rockdale and the story of our sacred community. Still, two hundred years do not go by without difficulty, tragedy, challenge, or strife. Our *Kehal Kodesh* has weathered many a storm, many a loss, many a transition. And yet, throughout our history, and indeed during our Bicentennial Gala Weekend and this Bicentennial year, we have "light and happiness, joy and honor."

This verse from the Book of Esther has a place in the Havdallah ritual precisely because, looking forward to a new week, we should remind ourselves that there is always joy to discover, light to create, hope to nurture. And just as each new week is full of possibility, so too is each new year—or even century!—of congregational life at K.K. Bene Israel Rockdale Temple.

I hope you all felt as I did during and after January's Bicentennial Weekend—light and happiness, joy and honor. Light—our congregation was aglow with the beauty of the past and hope for the future. Happiness—our community celebrated with love, friendship, and gladness. Joy—our gatherings lifted us beyond anything I could have imagined, bringing intense feelings of joy. Honor—Rockdale rightly enjoyed so much recognition and was both honored by and able to bestow honor on those who have built and sustained this holy congregation. I continue to bask in the light and happiness, joy and honor of the celebration—what a hopeful moment for our Rockdale family.

The celebratory year is not over yet, not even close. Together, we can look forward to weekends with our Musician-in-Residence, Alan Goodis, and Scholar-in-Residence, Karla Goldman, who will each, in their special way, help us to celebrate 200 years of Rockdale Temple. Soon, we will celebrate Purim, and then Passover, and then Shavuot—our Purim Shpiel, Congregational Seder, and Adult B'nei Mitzvah celebration will each elevate these holidays. And the year will conclude, after many more programs and events, with our Annual Meeting and Rock the Block. There is so much to look forward to!

As we begin Havdallah, right after we sing the verse from Esther, we immediately follow with *Ken tihye lanu*—"And so may it be for us!" We pray that the light of ages past will shine for us, as well. We celebrate the victories of our people, both long ago and in our own day. And we hope—hope that we will be a strong link in the chain of tradition, hope that we will carry forward a congregation worthy of our special story, hope that we will continue to share in light and happiness, joy and honor.

Ken tihye lanu—"And so may it be for us!"

Rabbi Meredith Kahan Senior Rabbi

realth Kalai,



"Our congregation's celebration arrived in the middle of a beautiful, eventful, joyful year commemorating the history of Rockdale and the story of our sacred community."

## Assistant Rabbi & Educator Erin Binder



"Being a part of this Bicentennial year has been awe-inspiring to witness the immense amount of pride we all have for our Rockdale family and legacy."

A phrase I have been thinking a lot about this year is *l'dor v'dor*, meaning "from generation to generation." It seems an appropriate motto for our Bicentennial Year as we have reflected on the past 200 years, celebrated our amazing present community, and committed to ensuring the future. There is no question that being a part of this Bicentennial year has been awe-inspiring to witness the immense amount of pride we all have for our Rockdale family and legacy.

The phrase *l'dor v'dor* most often comes up in lifecycle moments—as we pass the Torah down the generations to the *b'nei mitzvah*, as we name a new child to honor the memory of the ones who came before, and as parents pass their love and wisdom as they wrap a new married couple in a tallit for blessing. In truth, while these are prime examples of the connections between generations, *l'dor v'dor* happens in the smaller moments of life as well.

Two weeks after our big Bicentennial celebration weekend, our Kehal Kodesh families marked the 9th Annual Family Retreat at Hueston Woods. We gathered over 110 members of our community for a weekend of Shabbat rituals, rich learning, and endless schmoozing. In accordance with our congregational learning theme this year, our focus was on Rockdale's history, intermingled with the history and values of Reform Judaism, and topped off with some Taylor Swift.

One of the most meaningful learning activities was called "Values Shopping." While Rockdale may not have started in the early years as a Reform Jewish congregation, the community and its leaders eventually became important partners in the founding of the central institutions of Reform Judaism. Being a Reform Jew encourages us to define our Judaism and Jewish practice as it is meaningful to our modern lives, grounded in history and tradition. Around the room, we had slips of paper or stickers with many of the values that are outlined in the statement of principles of Reform Judaism. Together, families collected the values that spoke to their identity as Reform Jews. There is great power in being able to name the things you find important and that shape your family's connection to Judaism. No two families had the same collection of values and yet they all were able to express where they found meaning.

You'll see from the photos on page 24 that it was an incredible weekend and brought joy to all who participated. We are grateful to all our families for investing in Rockdale and more importantly, in their children, who will carry on the legacy of our beloved community. *L'dor v'dor*—may we go from generation to generation, passing on our stories and traditions, honoring the lessons of history to create a stronger future, and sharing in the sacred responsibility and joy to bring Rockdale into its third century.

ErinBinder

Rabbi Erin Binder Assistant Rabbi & Educator

## President Sally Korkin

Dear Rockdale congregants,

As of January 18, 2024, Rockdale Temple is now in our third century, 200 years since Joseph Jonas founded K.K. Bene Israel. During the weekend of January 26–28, we celebrated our 200-year history. On Friday evening at our Legacy Shabbat, the Messer Chapel was filled with all of our special guests—former rabbis who served this historic congregation and their family members, past presidents and their families, former congregants, and friends and leaders from other congregations and community organizations, community rabbis, and colleagues from Hebrew Union College. We were honored that Rabbi Rick Jacobs, President of the Union for Reform Judaism, joined us on the bimah to deliver the sermon. Rabbis Kahan and Binder led a meaningful service, and we enjoyed the beautiful music performed by our High Holy Day choir, hearing the organ played again in the chapel and the sounds of the inspiring brass quartet.

On Saturday evening, a sold-out crowd of 240 celebrated together at a spectacular Bicentennial Gala, a party 200 years in the making. The evening began in the Heldman Social Hall and then guests progressed to the Amberley Room at the Mayerson JCC, led by the saxophone player from our dance band, the Chuck Taylors. On Sunday morning, our Kehal Kodesh students enjoyed their own special gala, rocking to music provided by Zahnadu Productions. Many thanks to all the volunteers who ensured a wonderful weekend!

We received proclamations from national, state, and local politicians, and Monday, January 29 was proclaimed Kehal Kodesh Bene Israel Rockdale Temple Day in the City of Cincinnati, Amberley Village, and Hamilton County, Ohio. Rockdale had significant media coverage to honor our Bicentennial. We were featured in the *Cincinnati Enquirer* on January 21 in an article by Jeff Suess, history columnist, with the headline, "This local Jewish temple is older than the Reds."

Spring Bicentennial programs continue with our Scholar-in-Residence weekend, March 15–17, featuring Karla Goldman, Ph.D., scholar and author of the history of K.K. Bene Israel. We will celebrate the *In the Beginning* Cookbook created by the Rockdale Temple Sisterhood on Friday evening, April 5 when Rockdale member and rabbinic student Karen Martin will deliver the Shabbat sermon on the evolution of the cookbook. On Saturday evening April 6, we will enjoy a Taste of *In the Beginning* featuring a lecture by Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett, author, historian and professor emerita at NYU, about the unique historical moment that led to the success of Sisterhood cookbooks. We will share appetizers prepared by local chefs inspired by *In the Beginning, Beginning Again*, and *Beginning Light*.

If you haven't had an opportunity to walk through our historic art and artifacts collection which was highlighted at our Bicentennial Weekend thanks to Abby Schwartz, who created a special catalog, please join us on Sunday morning, April 14 for her presentation about The Art and Artifacts of Rockdale Temple. One of the stained glass windows from the Rockdale Avenue Temple that was rescued by Dr. Jeffrey Parker in 1972 is now on display in the Heldman Social Hall. Across from our Confirmation photos are five photo collages by J. Miles Wolf that trace the history of our congregation.

Included in this issue are photos and memories from our Bicentennial Weekend as well as Rockdale's plans for Purim, Passover, and Confirmation. I look forward to greeting you at Rockdale throughout the next few months and continuing our Bicentennial celebration!

Sally & Korken
Sally F. Korkin
President



"I look forward to greeting you at Rockdale throughout the next few months and continuing our Bicentennial celebration!"

## Message from Executive Virector Lisa Schneider



"This weekend was truly a labor of love and a testament to how our Rockdale community comes together (and throws a great party)!"

The winter was a whirlwind of activity for us, starting with multiple Chanukah activities and culminating with the Bicentennial Weekend! As I reflected on Rockdale's special weekend, I realized there are parallels between my family and Rockdale. A personal highlight for me during these last few months was becoming a Bubbie. Holding my new grandson, Charlie, added another perspective of what it means for our community to celebrate our Bicentennial and our future. Rockdale has been here for so many lifecycle events, from birth to death and everything in between. Another family parallel with Rockdale—the congregation was "born" 200 years ago on January 18—my oldest daughter's birthday.

I'd like to share a behind-the-scenes reflection of the Bicentennial weekend. I've supported Rockdale events before and co-hosted our Chanukah party for several years with Barrie Kraus while our now adult children were still in religious school. The weekend of January 26–28 felt like planning a wedding, a B'nei Mitzvah and all the High Holy Day activities at once. Just like any celebration you host—you have to get your house (Temple) ready, and we did just that! The Bicentennial weekend secured my status as an expert level juggler!

This weekend was truly a labor of love and a testament to how our Rockdale community comes together (and throws a great party)! I was fortunate to work with Barrie Kraus and Sally Korkin, who basically moved in and set up shop at the Temple for the weeks leading up to and including the Gala weekend. Happy to say, all of us are still on speaking terms and I was the lucky one to get to work with the dynamic duo for this celebration. Stay tuned—there are more Bicentennial programs and events this spring! Details coming soon to an email near you.

GALA WEEKENI BY THE NUMBER	
Event attendees over the entire weekend	558
Volunteers	36
Paper towels used to get the fingerprints off ALL the glass and mirrors	A lot
Number of smiles and joy I saw over the weekend <b>Too many t</b>	o count!

Thank you to the entire Bicentennial Gala Committee, Rockdale staff, and all our volunteers for everything you did for this celebration—200 years in the making! With sincere appreciation,

Lise Schned

Lisa Schneider
Executive Director

## KK BENE ISRAEL/ROCKDALE TEMPLE BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION EVENT CALENDAR

#### **BICENTENNIAL YEAR EVENTS**

Musician-in-Residence Weekend – Alan Goodis March 1–3, 2024

> Scholar-in-Residence Weekend Karla Goldman, Ph.D. March 15–17, 2024

## In the Beginning Celebration – Shabbat Sermon

by Karen Martin Friday, April 5, 2024 at 6:15pm

A Taste of *In the Beginning* Saturday, April 6, 2024 at 5:00pm

#### The Art & Artifacts of Rockdale Temple

led by Abby Schwartz Sunday, April 14, 2024 at 10:00am

#### **FEATURED EVENTS**

Closing Weekend of the KK Bene Israel Bicentennial June 7–9, 2024

Rock the Block – Friday, June 7, 2024 at 5:00pm

Annual Meeting – Sunday, June 9, 2024 at 10:00am

Events at Rockdale Temple unless otherwise noted.



Scan QR code for more information or to RSVP for events



# Karla Goldman, Ph.D. March 15-17

A Bicentennial Year Event



## Friday, March 15

6:15pm Erev Shabbat Lecture-Sermon

Speaking from On High: David Philipson, Rockdale Temple, and Classical Reform Judaism in Cincinnati

7:30pm Reception with Q&A

## Saturday, March 16

9:30am Shabbat Morning Study

"We Despise You and Your Pretensions:" Congregational Rivalries and the Authority of Tradition at K.K. Bene Israel, 1842-1855

10:30am Shabbat Morning Services

## Sunday, March 17

10:30am Rak Limud Adult Education

Why Is It Still Called Rockdale?: Changing Neighborhoods in the Journey of K.K. Bene Israel

RSVP for events at www.rockdaletemple.org/karlagoldman

## Birthdays and Anniversaries

#### **ADULT BIRTHDAYS**



**APRIL** 

3 Mary-Bob Rubenstein

1 Mark Berliant

2 Emily Hageman

Robin Moler

Jerry Klein

Adam Baker

Linda Chatterjee

13 Steven Ackermann

15 Lawrence Waldrop

Dr. Robert Lenobel

#### **MARCH**

- 3 James Albert 3 Florence Zaret
- 4 Dr. Barry Rubin
- Michael Sawan
- James Heldman
- Janet Roger
- Stewart Martin
- Leah Levy
- Dr. Samuel Greengus 11
- 12 Lori Zahn
- 12 Barbara Misrach
- 13 Dr. Edward Herzig
- 14 Lvnda Grossman
- 15 Alex Reed
- 16 Jay Kastan
- 17 Dr. E. Gordon Margolin

## 18 Jessica Israel

- Dr. Caroline Winstel-McLeod
- Chie Weil
- 21 Loris Ungar
- Gerry Kraus
- 22 Dr. Richard Trohman
- 23 Morton Cohen
- 24 Eric Rubinoff
- 27 Linda Ungar
- 28 Dani Reiss
- 28 Larry Phillips
- 29 Barry Berman 30 Laurie Heldman

#### 16 Lois Spahn 17 Samuel Potter

Alice Price

14 Kate Bowman

- 21 Wendy Saunders 23 Zvi Zuckerman
- Terri Lichtenstein
- 29 Donna Kabakoff 30 Dr. Richard Wiener

#### MAY

- 1 Ann Kane
- 1 Dr. Norman Hirsch
- Leonid Sigalov
- Maria Steinberg
- John Simon
- Marjorie Schaal
- Robert Ungar
- 12 Mark Grossman
- 15 Joanne Gerson
- Gerald Korkin 18
- 18 Lesha Greengus
- 19 Max Leitman
- 20 Cameron Csendes
- 20 Nancy Messer

- - 21 Eileen Greenberg
  - 23 Scott Waldrop
  - Natalie Schwab
  - Florette Hoffheimer
  - **Jacob White**
  - 2.7 David Donnett
  - 28 Matt Reiss
  - 28 Janice Ackman
  - 28 Anita Marks
  - 30 Dr. Ann Berenfield
  - 30 Beatrice Ballas
  - 31 Gary Heldman

  - 31 Madeline Berman

Adult birthdays are listed every five years starting with the 25th birthday and every year for members who have reached the age of 75.

## CHILDREN'S BIRTHDAYS

## **MARCH**

- 1 Amelia Phillips
- 3 Benjamin Peck
- 5 Peyton Shaftel
- Felix Nguyen
- Adina Schapera
- 17 Rebecca Friedman
- 18 Maya Jaffee
- Arielle Kahan 2.5 Miriam G. Vidmar
- Robert Rosensweet
- 27 Isabella Gollin

## **APRIL**

- Henry Levinson
- 2 Tate Sheldon
- 3 Haley Israel
- Ava Kane
- David Zuckerman
- Cora Shaftel
- Mira Zuckerman
- Shawn Zuckerman
- Zane Jacobson
- Isabelle Hoicowitz

- 13 Eric Schmulewitz
- 15 Alina Jacobson
- 15 Jacob Shapiro
- 17 Piper Brady
- 19 Clara Dunkelman
- Tess Shaftel
- Eli Jacobson
- Sienna Maltz
- 25 Sophia Peck
- 29 Shifra Preminger

#### **MAY**

- Johanna Blackmore
- Jackson Friedman
- Marina Kottler
- 15 Griffin Lynn
- 16 Penny Birmaher Jonah Weinstein
- 21 Noa Jaffee
- Nora Kahan
- 29 Cecelia Glaser

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

## **ANNIVERSARIES**



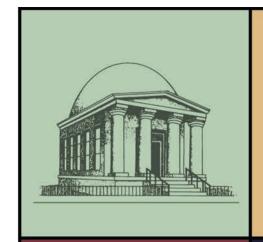
Anniversaries will be listed every five years starting with the fifth anniversary. All anniversaries of 50 years or more are recognized.

## MARCH

- 18 Jack & Nancy Messer, 56th
- 19 Shai & Claire Birmaher, 15th 30 Marvin & Gerry Kraus, 66th
- **APRIL**
- 11 Joseph & Marilyn Hirschhorn, 70th
- 16 Joel & Hilary Suddleson, 30th
- 30 Dr. Samuel & Lesha Greengus, 67th

#### MAY

29 Aaron & Lauren Herzig, 25th









1824 2024



# ROCKDALE THE ERASTOUR PURIM

Erev Purim Saturday, March 23

5:30pm - Dinner

6:30pm - Service, Megillah Reading, & Shpiel

RSVP by March 20 at www.rockdaletemple.org/purim

## Bicentennial Legacy Shabbat



## Bicentennial Legacy Shabbat



## Bicentennial Gala and Kehal Kodesh Gala



## Bicentennial Gala and Kehal Kodesh Gala



## Bene Israel Society Testimonial: THE KURTZER FAMILY

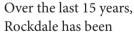


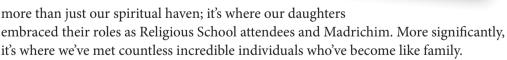
"Our hope
is to ensure
that future
generations
can experience
the same sense
of belonging,
support, and
enrichment
that has so
deeply blessed
our family."

Our family's journey, deeply intertwined with the Jewish community, underscores why we're committed to giving back through Create Your Jewish Legacy. It's a testament to how the community not only played a pivotal role in our coming together but also in enriching our lives in countless ways.

The story began on a snowy evening in 1994 in Bloomington, Indiana. Jamey, seeking a warm meal on a dreary night, and Vanessa, eager to meet others with shared values as she was new to IU, both found themselves at Hillel. Fate seated them together, sparking a conversation that, as Jamey lovingly jokes, Vanessa has yet to conclude. Fast forward nearly three decades, our marriage is still going strong, blessed with two wonderful daughters, Lauren and Ariela, all of us flourishing thanks in part to the local Jewish community.

Lauren and Ariela fondly recall their time at Camp Young Judea (CYJ) in Wisconsin as the highlight of their years, with Lauren serving as a counselor for two seasons. Both girls embraced the opportunity to visit Israel through Federation trips during their high school years, with Ariela making a second visit courtesy of UC Hillel. Vanessa's own journey to Israel in 2011, through a community group, and our collective anticipation for the postponed 2024 community trip underscore our deep connection to our roots and heritage.





Our story is a testament to the Jewish community's extraordinary ability to bring people together-from a boy from Dayton, Ohio, and a girl from McAllen, Texas, meeting in Indiana, to making a life in Cincinnati filled with rich Jewish experiences, friendships, and meaningful trips to Israel. It's this profound sense of community and the opportunities it has afforded us that inspire us to contribute to Hillels and Rockdale. Our hope is to ensure that future generations can experience the same sense of belonging, support, and enrichment that has so deeply blessed our family.



## 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\* Chimsky

Jennifer & Patrick Clark

John Cobey & Jan Frankel

Max Cobey

Alfred M. Cohen

Barb & O.J. Cohen

Ken & Janet Cohen

Rabbis Sigma F. Coran\*

& Matthew Kraus

Bernie Dave\*

Stephanie & Tony De Falco

Bonnie & Darryl Dick

M. James Ellis

Risa Spieldoch 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

Elvse Krause

Jamey & Vanessa Kurtzer Justin Levy & Eira Tansey

Heinke Lillenstein

Lauren & Jake Lillenstein

Deb & Joe Loewenstein

Ralph & Fran\* Lowenstein

calpir of Franciscon

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 Lvnn Nelson

& Kenneth Venick

Dale Rabiner\*

Loretta\* & Gary\* Rabiner

David\* & Marilyn\* Reichert

James & M. Lori Reidel

James & W. Lom Reide

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

Harit Or Laff Crumb and

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 - 4

\*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 donors listed here 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 community has enabled us to reach and exceed our \$1,000,000 goal as we began our Bicentennial year. Contributors to the campaign, including current members and former members, recognize the impact and significance of Rockdale Temple's Senior Rabbis in their lives. The campaign continues, so if you have not made a donation yet, please consider a meaningful gift of any amount so that all our members' names can be included on this growing list.

## 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 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 Shervl 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 David and Leslie Kantor Justin Levy and Eira Tansey Chris and Ramesh Malhotra Morton and Roberta Mallin Abby Marcus and Qui Nguyen Tracy McMullen Alice Perlman Joan and Bill Roberts The Rubenstein Family Judy and Mark Schaengold The Spievack Family Waldrop Frankenstein Family Fund Sarah Weiss and Todd Schild Trip Wolf

All donations listed as of 2.1.24. 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
Janet Guttman Cohen
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

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
Leah Levy
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
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## 2024 CHAVURAH UP TO \$999

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## Strategic Planning Update and Rockdale Roots

## STRATEGIC PLANNING

The implementation of the three-year Rockdale Temple Strategic Planning process will take place from 2024–2026. The goals, based on our new Vision and Mission, are:

- Nurture a thriving and sustainable organization.
- Foster an engaged, connected, inclusive community.
- Be a congregation for relevant, forward-thinking, joyful Jewish life.

Rockdale Temple clergy, staff, and lay leaders will implement the plan. Watch for more details!

Thanks to the Strategic Planning Committee: Dick Friedman, Chair; Rabbi Erin Binder, Stephanie De Falco, Aaron Herzig, Alexia Kadish, Rabbi Meredith Kahan, Sally Korkin, Barrie Kraus, Justin Levy, Abby Marcus, Dani Reiss, Rachel Schild, Lisa Schneider, Larry Smilg, David Solomon, Drew Spievack, and Sarah Weiss.

#### **VISION:**

A vibrant, inclusive, innovative congregation, creating connection to Judaism and each other.

#### **MISSION:**

Our Reform Jewish community celebrates lifelong learning, strives to repair the world, and creates meaningful worship and transformative Jewish experiences.

#### **FAMILY TIES**

My sister Lynn Friedman Chaifetz and I were 4th generation Rockdale members. Our children were our family's 5th generation members. Two of our children, my son Brad Coppel, and Lynn's daughter Lauren Lillenstein, also became members of Rockdale with their families. Now their children, Xander Coppel, and Jonah and Levi Lillenstein are our family's 6th generation members of Rockdale Temple.

Ruth Coppel

## FROM A DESCENDANT OF RANDOLPH TRAGER, Z"L, PRESIDENT, 1955–1957

In the 1960s, we represented the last of the Trager/Kahn generation at Rockdale. Like many who came of age then, we left the place of our births to start life elsewhere. The three generations preceding ours left their marks on this congregation. Many of our family members spent hours at Rockdale, studying and at worship. I speak for our much-loved cousin, Tom Trager, z"l, who so much wanted to be at the Bicentennial Weekend; my parents, Willard and Katherine Trager Kahn; and our aunts, uncles, and cousins who made this temple a central part of their lives. I was honored to travel with my family for the Bicentennial Weekend and say, "job well done."

Marge Kahn Bender



## Thank You

## TO OUR BICENTENNIAL WEEKEND SPONSORS

## **BROADWAY**

Mandell-Brown Plastic Surgery Center Marcus-Nguyen Family The Jewish Foundation of Cincinnati

#### MOUND STREET

Christine & Ramesh Malhotra

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## **BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION** SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Rabbi Sissy Coran Memorial Fund Women of Rockdale In The Beginning Cookbook Endowment Fund The Ames Family The American Israelite Zahnadu Productions

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
= Anniversary Bless = Birthday Blessing	,	= Shir Shalom Choir = Rock Shabbat			Musician-in-Residence Alan Goodis 6:15p Rock Shabbat Services 7:30p Congregational Dinner	Musician-in-Residen Alan Goodis 9:30a FoRT Shabbat & Brunch 9:30a Sichat Torah 10:30a Shabbat Morning Services led by Rak Noar
Musician-in-Residence lan Goodis :30a Religious School 1:30a Community oncert	4	5 4:00p Hebrew School	<b>6</b> 4:00p Hebrew School	7	8 6:15p Shabbat Services	9:00a 6th Grade Shabbaton 9:30a Sichat Torah 10:30a Shabbat Morning Services 7:00p YGOR Purim Lock-in
<b>10</b> :30a Religious School 'urim Carnival	11	4:00p Hebrew School 7:00p Adult B'nei Mitzvah Class 7:30p Seniors Event: Jewish Chamber Music	13 4:00p Hebrew School	14	Scholar-in -Residence Karla Goldman, Ph.D. 6:15p Shabbat Services 7:30p Reception with Q & A	16 Scholar-in -Residen Karla Goldman, Ph. 9:30a Sichat Torah 10:30a Shabbat Morning Services
cholar-in -Residence arla Goldman, Ph.D. :30a Religious chool 0:00a Special ongregational leeting 0:30a Rak Limud	18	<b>19</b> 5:00p Yom Ivrit	20 No Hebrew School 6:30p Women of Rockdale Dinner Out	21	<b>22</b> 6:15p Shabbat Services	Erev Purim 9:30a Sichat Torah 10:30a Shabbat Morning Services 5:30p Congregation Dinner 6:30p Purim Service Megillah, & Shpiel
o Religious chool urim  3 1 o Religious chool	25	<b>26</b> No Hebrew School	<b>27</b> No Hebrew School	28	29 6:15p Shabbat Services	9:30a Sichat Torah 10:30a Shabbat Morning Services

Calendars are subject to change.

## *April* 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2 4:00p Hebrew School 7:00p Adult B'nei Mitzvah Class	<b>3</b> 4:00p Hebrew School	4	6:15p Shabbat Services with In the Beginning Sermon	9:30a Sichat Torah 10:30a Shabbat Morning Services 5:00p A Taste of In The Beginning with Barbara Kirshenblatt- Gimblett
9:30a Religious School 10:00a Rak Noar Family Education 12:00p YGOR event	8	9 4:00p Hebrew School 7:00p Adult B'nei Mitzvah Class	<b>10</b> 4:00p Hebrew School	11	6:15p Rock Shabbat Services led by 4th, 5th, 6th graders	9:30a Sichat Torah 10:30a Shabbat Morning Services
9:30a Religious School 10:00a Rak Limud: Art & Artifacts of Rockdale 3:00p WoR Seder	15	<b>16</b> 4:00p Hebrew School	<b>17</b> 4:00p Hebrew School Seniors Event – TBA	18	<b>19</b> 6:00p shabbatCTY 6:15p Shabbat Services	9:30a Sichat Torah 10:30a Shabbat Morning Services 4:30p FoRT Parents' Nite Out
9:30a Religious School 12:00p Rak Noar event 6:00p RUACH Pre-Pesach Pizza	<b>22</b> First Seder	10:30a 1st Day Passover Festival Service 6:00p Congregational Seder No Hebrew School	<b>24</b> No Hebrew School	25	26 6:15p Shabbat Services	9:30a Sichat Torah 10:30a Shabbat Morning Services
28 9:30a Religious School	29 10:30a 7th Day Passover Festival Service & Luncheon	<b>30</b> 5:00p Yom Ivrit 6:00p Rockdale goes to <i>The Chosen</i>		eie	ersary Blessings ay Blessings	= Shir Shalom Choir = Rock Shabbat

Calendars are subject to change.

**Shofar Soundings Spring 5784** 

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
= Anniversary Ble		= Shir Shalom Choir = Rock Shabbat	1	2	3 6:15p Shabbat Services honoring Bene Israel Society followed by Reception	9:30a Sichat Torah 10:30a Shabbat Morning Services
9:30a Last Day Religious School 12:00p Club 456 Picnic	<b>6</b> Yom HaShoah	7	8	9	6:15p Rock Shabbat School Celebration	9:30a Sichat Torah 10:30a Shabbat Morning Services
<b>12</b> Mother's Day	13 Yom HaZikaron 6:30p RUACH at YP Blue & White Party	14 Yom HaAztmaut 12:00p Seniors Group Israel Discussion & Lunch 7:00p Adult B'nei Mitzvah Class	15	16	17 Camping Trip 7:30p Confirmation Shabbat Services	18 Camping Trip 9:30a Sichat Torah 10:30a Shabbat Morning Services
19 Camping Trip Baby Boomers event TBD 3:00p YGOR End of Year Celebration	20	21	22	23	24 6:15p Shabbat Services	9:30a Sichat Torah 10:30a Shabbat Morning Services
<b>26</b> Lag BaOmer	27 Memorial Day	28 7:00p Adult B'nei Mitzvah Class	29	30	31 6:15p Pre-HUC Ordination Shabbat Services	

Calendars are subject to change.

## Kehal Kodesh Family Retreat



## Winter Events at Rockdale



## Meet The Congregants

## RABBI MARGARET (MARGIE) AND DR. MICHAEL MEYER

Back in 1964, a young Michael Meyer received his doctorate from Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati and was sent by the President of the College, Dr. Nelson Glueck, to teach at a new campus in California. The building had previously been a camp for girls and Michael was part of the first faculty, teaching Jewish history there and at UCLA for 3 years before returning to Cincinnati.

Born in Berlin, Germany, Michael grew up in Los Angeles and considers it his hometown. He says, "It was a lot smaller than it is now." He and his brother grew up at Temple Israel of Hollywood. Michael enjoyed

the Reform youth movement, eventually becoming the National President of NFTY. He met his lovely wife Margie at a NFTY camp for youth leaders.

Margie was born in New York and moved to Canton, OH when she was 14. It was a huge culture shock to find that she was the only Jewish student at her high school, but Margie credits that experience for making her a stronger Jew—more

confident about who she is. She studied Education and English Literature, earning a Master's degree focusing on Romantic Poetry. Michael and Margie got engaged when she was in her senior year of college at Miami University. Michael's rabbi from L.A., Rabbi Max Nussbaum, who also married his parents in Germany, married them in Canton almost 63 years ago. Margie's first career was as an English teacher.

The couple has divided their time between Cincinnati and Israel. After living in Jerusalem for two years while Michael was on sabbatical there, Margie decided that she wanted to become a rabbi. She was ordained in Cincinnati in 1986.

All three of the Meyers' children went to Yavneh Day School (now Rockwern) and Walnut Hills High School while the family home was in North Avondale. Their oldest, Daniel (Danny), made Aliyah as a young man to help found a Reform Kibbutz, Lotan. He met his wife there and they have two children, including a daughter in the army. Danny is now a rabbi in Tel Aviv.

Jonathan, the next son, is General Counsel for the Department of Homeland Security for the Biden Administration. He is married to a Professor of Jewish Studies and they have three children, including a daughter who also moved to Israel.

The Meyers' third child is their daughter, Rebecca. She is married to a rabbi and lives in Massachusetts. She works for an organization called Team Impact which pairs chronically ill children with college athletic teams. She also has two children.

Dr. Meyer has worked at three different educational institutions in Israel. He has written a stack of books, most recently a biography of Rabbi Leo Baeck. His first book was *The Origins of the Modern Jew*, which describes 19th century religious modernization in Germany. Another is *Response to Modernity*, a history of the Reform Movement. Dr. Meyer says he enjoys teaching more than writing, until a book is finished and he's happy with it. He says he retired gradually and now enjoys playing tennis and is continuing to write.

After becoming a rabbi, Margie led a congregation in Middletown for five years, followed by a stint as a traveling rabbi for a congregation in Decatur, Illinois, staying there five days at a time. After that, she served as a part-time rabbi in Jackson, Tennessee.

More recently, she ran the Bar/Bat Mitzvah program at Temple Sholom and taught adult Hebrew in the community. Currently she is the Mentoring Coordinator for rabbinic students at HUC—matching them with recently retired rabbis. Although we are familiar with Rabbinic Interns at Rockdale, many HUC students are the only rabbis in the congregations they serve during their time in a student pulpit. The guidance of an experienced rabbi is invaluable.

Inspired by Rabbi Sissy Coran (of blessed memory), Michael and Margie joined Rockdale about 10 years ago. They regularly participate in Saturday morning Torah study and minyan where their scholarship and experience help make discussions more interesting. We are very pleased to have the Meyers as part of our congregation.

## Women of Rockdale and Brotherhood

Women of Rockdale is blooming this Spring. By the time you read this, we will be getting ready for one of our key annual events, the Women's Seder. Lori Zahn is the organizer this year and the theme is "Barbie." We are asking guests to bring a Barbie doll and/or accessories to donate to a local children's charity. This is traditionally "potluck", so please look for a signup in Rockmail.

Are you a Mom of a child or children in Kehal Kodesh Religious School? We would like to treat you to brunch at Café Alma on April 21 to make connections with Sisterhood members and find out more about our organization. I believe intergenerational friendships are great for everyone involved. Please watch for a signup sheet from Rabbi Binder.

In June, a group organized by Lauren Lillenstein will be going to see *Viet Gone*, written by Rockdale member Qui Nguyen, at Playhouse in the Park.

Women of Reform Judaism is planning a Regional Conference in Cincinnati in September. There will be multiple opportunities to enjoy our wonderful city with our guests.

Linda Chatterjee President, Women of Rockdale

It's finally Spring! We had a couple of fun joint events in the winter with the Women of Rockdale. The two groups teamed up with the Environmental Committee and had a fascinating lecture from Bennett Kottler who masterfully taught 200 years of Jewish Cincinnati environmentalism in honor of our Bicentennial. I highly recommend asking Bennett for the footnotes the next time you see them. We also had a great turnout for our first fowling outing. Fun and laughs were had, and we might have a couple of congregants pushing Joe Burrow for the Bengals' starting quarterback job this summer.

The Brotherhood will be doing its traditional volunteering at the Purim Carnival on March 10. Please come join Kehal Kodesh in your Taylor Swift or other favorite costume and help us set up and serve lunch. We also have another service opportunity on Sunday, April 21. We will be spending the day doing outdoor cleanup and maintenance at Camp Livingston about an hour from Cincinnati. Lunch will be served. Please let me know if you are available for one or both of these volunteer programs.

Finally, we are working on organizing an outing to a Reds Game in May or June. It's looking like an exciting young squad with some reinforced pitching. Let's go root, root, root for the home team!

David Solomon

Brotherhood President



## Tribute Junds

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 Harteveld Fund:** enhances the musical program.

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

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

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

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

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

Rabbi Sissy Coran Memorial Fund: supports exciting innovations, meets challenges, and addresses Rockdale's most pressing needs. **Rabbi Victor and Louise Reichert Fund:** funds the Scholar-in-Residence programming.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Please make a contribution to the following fund:  \$18 Contribution  \$36 Contribution  Other, please specify:	Name to appear on tribute:
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## RABBI MEREDITH F. KAHAN'S **DISCRETIONARY FUND**

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In Honor of the Marriage of Frannie Kahan & James Swan Dr. Fred Kahan & Susan Klug-Kahan

In Honor of the naming of Layla Kahan Dr. Robert Ingberg

In Memory of Laurie Ames Dr. Michael & Teresa Ames

In Honor of Rabbi Kahan's continued support of JBaby Marisa Philips & the Mayerson JCC

In Memory of Janet Stein Jimmy Stein

In Memory of Honey Angell Lee Daniel Hoffheimer

In Memory of Janis Lazar Colton Daniel Hoffheimer

In Honor of Rabbi Kahan's commitment towards Hesed and Kavod HaMet & In Memory of Cynthia Palmer Families of Alan Palmer & Connie McCammon

## RABBI SISSY CORAN **MEMORIAL FUND**

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In Memory of Fred Clark Fay B. May

In Honor of Daniel J. Hoffheimer's Birthday Michael Hoffheimer & Luanne Buchanan

In Memory of Fred Clark Rabbi Matthew Kraus

In Memory of Janis Lazar Colton Rabbi Matthew Kraus

In Memory of Honey Angell Lee Rabbi Matthew Kraus

In Memory of John Israel Vogel Sanders Rabbi Matthew Kraus

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In Honor of Sally Korkin Connie Dreyfoos

In Honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Jack Bazelon, grandson of Abby & Dr. David Schwartz Gerry & Sally Korkin

Thank you to the Rabbis and Noah Smilg for the naming of **Tobin Aaron Solomon** David Solomon & Jaynie Levinson

**General Donation** 

Dr. Lawrence & Pamela Faust

In Memory of Honey Angell Lee Gerry & Sally Korkin

In Memory of Janet Stein Gerry & Sally Korkin

In Memory of Anne Heldman Gerry & Sally Korkin

# Honor & Remember Your Loved Ones

with a contribution to your favorite





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# We Remember

Fred Clark, beloved father of Patrick & Jennifer Clark, grandfather of Gabe & Hannah Clark

Rabbi David Ellenson, beloved teacher and leader

Janis Colton, beloved sister of Joyce Alpiner

Honey Angell Lee, beloved sister of Andi Herzig and Dr. Ed Herzig, aunt of Aaron & Lauren Herzig, great-aunt of Emma, Lila & Rachel Herzig

## John Israel Vogel Sanders,

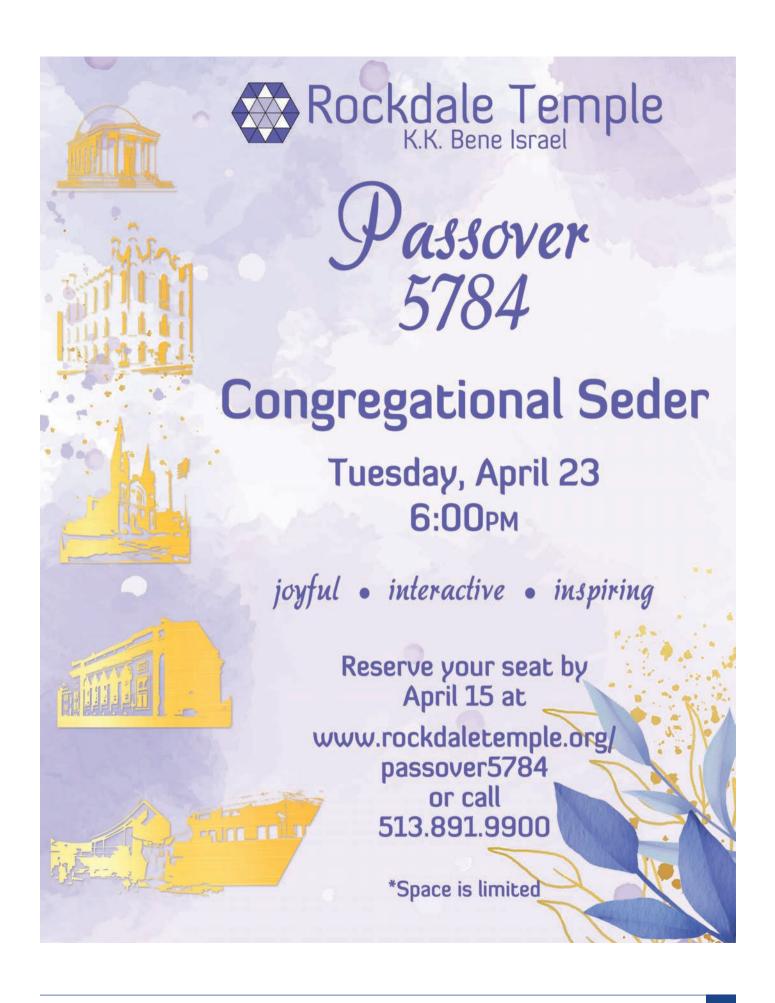
beloved father of Dr. Rebecca Sanders & Dr. Jeff Millar, grandfather of Naomi Millar

Cynthia Palmer, beloved cousin of Sheldon & Brenda Kahan and family

Janet Stein, beloved sister-in-law of Dan Stein

Anne Heldman, beloved mother of Paul Heldman & Deborah Kirshner

May their memories be for a blessing.





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