HAPPY CHANUKAH
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**Congratulations**  
to Rabbi Meredith Kahan and Sean Flowers on the birth of their daughter, Sari Gabriella Flowers, on September 29, 2020!
## Birthdays

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adults of December</th>
<th>Adults of January</th>
<th>Adults of February</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Lee Rozin</td>
<td>4 Janice Singerman</td>
<td>1 Madelyn Levy</td>
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<td>2 Sanford Paris</td>
<td>5 Judith Heldman</td>
<td>1 Corinne Simkin</td>
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<td>3 Evan Crouse</td>
<td>5 Jan Frankel</td>
<td>2 Elizabeth Chudnovsky</td>
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<td>4 Marion Levy</td>
<td>6 Rochelle Stutz</td>
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<td>5 Evan Flagel</td>
<td>7 Mark Goldman</td>
<td>4 Ramesh Malhotra</td>
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<td>6 Laurie Gup</td>
<td>9 Elaine Harris</td>
<td>5 Marvin Kraus</td>
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<td>7 Sydney Cropper</td>
<td>9 Kelly Waterman</td>
<td>6 Robert Altbaier</td>
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<td>8 Janet Grossman</td>
<td>11 Edward Marks</td>
<td>7 Jack Rubenstein</td>
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<td>9 Edward Levy</td>
<td>12 Joyce Alpiner</td>
<td>8 Craig Rozen</td>
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<td>10 Joanne Wolf</td>
<td>15 Michael Cook</td>
<td>9 Ralph Lowenstein</td>
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<td>11 Barry Guggenheimer</td>
<td>18 Susan Stern</td>
<td>10 David Gantner</td>
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<td>12 Donald Mischach</td>
<td>18 Allan Frankel</td>
<td>11 Robert Bass</td>
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<td>13 Michael Barham</td>
<td>20 Richard Friedman</td>
<td>12 Amanda Cohen</td>
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<td>14 Kenneth Sherman</td>
<td>24 Lynn Chaitetz</td>
<td>13 Nancy Schwartz</td>
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<td>15 Merrie Tessler</td>
<td>25 Viola Glassmann</td>
<td>14 Morton Mallin</td>
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<td>16 Deborah Kirshner</td>
<td>25 Jamie Flagel</td>
<td>15 Judith Seltzer</td>
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<td>17 Eira Tansey</td>
<td>26 Wavanne Weinstein</td>
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<td>18 Daniel Hoffheimer</td>
<td>27 Luc Bedard</td>
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<td>19 Joseph Shapiro</td>
<td>29 Jeanie Messer</td>
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<td>20 Elise Kravitz</td>
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<td>20 Haley Mailender</td>
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<td>24 Linda Olesov</td>
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<td>25 Jerry Mellman</td>
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Adult birthdays are listed every five years starting with the 20th birthday and every year for members who have reached the age of 75.

## Anniversaries

### December
- Barry & Chris Guggenheimer, 25th
- Robert & Risa Burstein, 15th
- Rebecca & Chris Price, 5th
- Don & Cora Steinberg, 30th
- Ralph & Frances Lowenstein, 65th
- Edward & Nancy Rosenthal, 63rd

### January
- Edward & Leah Levy, 63rd

### February
- Michael & Bridget Katchman, 40th

### Birthdays

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<tr>
<td>1 Michael Gantner</td>
<td>4 Rebecca Flowers</td>
<td>1 Ethan Weinstein</td>
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<td>2 Samuel Martin</td>
<td>6 Barry Waxler</td>
<td>5 Connor Rosensweet</td>
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<td>3 Barry Waxler</td>
<td>10 Dani Grossman</td>
<td>6 Declan O’Connell</td>
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<td>4 Dani Grossman</td>
<td>13 Adam O’Koon</td>
<td>8 Savanna Blackmore</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 Seth Flowers</td>
<td>14 Morgen Grover</td>
<td>9 Seth Liner</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 Nathaniel Barnhart</td>
<td>19 Ellie Friedman</td>
<td>11 Evie Clark</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 Phoebe Rubenstein</td>
<td>20 Nathan Rabin</td>
<td>12 Jacob Sponseller</td>
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<td>8 Zsofia Bonyhati</td>
<td>24 Ben-Yishay Sabath</td>
<td>13 Levi Lilenstein</td>
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<td>9 Ben-Yishay Sabath</td>
<td>30 Beil-Halachmi</td>
<td>16 Yedidya Sabath</td>
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<td>10 Ben-Yishay Sabath</td>
<td>31 Lilly Perlman</td>
<td>17 Beil-Halachmi</td>
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<td>11 Ben-Yishay Sabath</td>
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<td>18 Emily Frankel</td>
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<td>12 Ben-Yishay Sabath</td>
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<td>19 Joy Price</td>
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<td>13 Ben-Yishay Sabath</td>
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<td>20 Jake Feldman</td>
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<td>14 Ben-Yishay Sabath</td>
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<td>21 Clara Calico</td>
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<td>15 Ben-Yishay Sabath</td>
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<td>22 Jacob Sunberg</td>
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<td>16 Ben-Yishay Sabath</td>
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<td>23 Casey Shafoel</td>
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<td>17 Ben-Yishay Sabath</td>
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“Children of the Temple” are those who are 18 years old and younger.
Create a lasting legacy and enrich your community now and for years to come.

ROCKDALE TEMPLE

CHANUKAH

PARKING LOT

SHABBAT & MENORAH LIGHTING

WITH RABBIS KAHAN & JAFFEE!

FRIDAY,

DECEMBER 11

7:00PM

ROCKDALE TEMPLE PARKING LOT

RSVP BY WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9 AT ROCKDALETEMPLE.ORG/EVENT/CHANUKAHSHABBAT

*GOODIE BAGS FOR SATURDAY’S ROCKIN’ CHANUKAH PARTY MAY BE PICKED UP AT THIS EVENT!
**Rockdale Temple’s**

**Rockin’ CHANUKAH BASH**

**SPREAD THE LIGHT!**

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12**

**LIVE ON ZOOM!**

5:30pm FoRT Chanukiah Lighting & Songs

7-8:00pm Youth Events
   2nd & 3rd Grade Event
   Club 456 Escape Room
   Rak Noar Sufganiot Decorating Contest

8:00pm Chanukah All Congregation
   “Spread the Light”
   with Rabbis Kahan & Jaffee!
   - Greet & Show off your Chanukiot
     (Chanukah Menorahs)!
   - Candlelighting!
   - Chanukah songs!

8:30pm YGOR Event

8:30pm BREAKOUT ROOMS
   - Dancing!
   - Music!
   - Trivia!
   - Cooking Demonstration!
   - Interactive games for all ages!

To receive your Chanukah goodie bag, RSVP by Wednesday, December 9 at rockdaletemple.org/event/chanukah2020 or call 513.891.9900. This event is free for the Rockdale Temple community.

*You can pick up your goodie bag for this event at the Parking Lot Shabbat & Chanukah Candlelighting on Friday, December 11!*

Please consider naming Rockdale Temple in your will or estate plan.
A Message from Rabbi Shena Jaffee

Shalom Rockdale Family,

Here we are in December already! Right ahead of us is the beautiful and festive holiday of Chanukah. Just behind us is the American holiday of Thanksgiving. And this week, standing right in the middle of both holidays is all of us.

How are you doing this year? Really? While this Shofar Soundings letter may appear to be a one-way communication, please know it is also truly an invitation to check in with one another. Please, give me a call. 891.9900 x108 or send an email, SJaffee@rockdaletemple.org. Let's talk!

The Fall and Winter season is unlike any other we've ever been through. We have had to re-imagine our Thanksgiving and Chanukah celebrations.

There are definitely losses and new milestones to mark during our COVID era.

This particular year, as we approach Chanukah, I am thinking about the literal meaning of the word. In Hebrew, Chanukah, means dedication. This is the part of the story that takes place after the Macabees' miraculous victory over the Syrian army in 165 B.C. Once the winning is over, the difficult and tedious work begins—that of reclaiming the Holy Temple as a Jewish space. After a lot of sweeping and elbow grease, the Jewish people were finally able to re-dedicate the Holy Temple by lighting the Ner Tamid (Eternal flame). Instead of waiting another week to rededicate the space, they used a remaining single day's worth of oil, which miraculously lasted until more could be made—eight whole days.

On the website, ReformJudaism.org, one of the suggestions of how to celebrate this year is by considering what kinds of gifts we can share when we cannot physically be close. The suggestion? Stories. Family stories about who we are and how we are.

What a precious idea for a season when we may have extra time on our hands but we are not in the same room together. This year we are probably not running from one home to the next or preparing feasts and washing up from them. This year, we may have more time around the proverbial fire even if that fire is the glow of the computer screen.

In our family, this year, we are going to intentionally share with our children a bit of what makes our family our family. How did we come to America? Why and when did we arrive? What are the important things to know about our families and what values do we hold dear?

There is a Jewish tradition of parents writing down for their children and formally giving them an “Ethical Will” (Zava'ah in Hebrew). This document passes down ethical values from one generation to the next to be carried into the future.

So, for this Chanukah season, I invite you to consider a ‘rededication’ of your family. Share with one another your family’s precious stories. What are the names of grandparents, great-grandparents? What are the hometowns and who lived where? You can record the conversations on Zoom, or write them down longhand. Maybe even wrap them in a bow?

We are told on Chanukah, we are not to use the light of the candles to do any sort of work. That candles are intended solely to be a source of warmth, comfort and inspiration. Perhaps, by sharing gifts of our stories with one another, we can add to the light of the season and give each other a most special gift.

L'Shalom,

Rabbi Shena Potter Jaffee
Rabbi in Residence
Judaism values both study and the conversion of study into action. As one passage in Pirke Avot (Book of Fathers, a focus on ethical teachings) states, “It is not the study that is essential, but rather the action.”

Jewish scholars and Rabbis alike understood that while study and action are both fundamental parts of the Jewish life, they are also in tension with one another. So, how do we find the balance between these priorities in our current virtual setting?

On Sunday mornings and Tuesday afternoons, Kehal Kodesh studies. These are times full of energy for Kehal Kodesh families. Our virtual classes have included services, dance parties, puppet shows, art, costume appearances from biblical characters and movement games. It has been engaging, inquisitive, and active.

To help engage in action, we have created take-home boxes known as RockBoxes. Our RockBoxes allow for families to overcome Zoom-fatigue and act by bringing the learning into the home. Each RockBox is an opportunity for families to take a break from screens, use their hands, and connect with loved ones. In mid-November, our families received their first RockBox, delivered by our amazing B&G team and assembled by Kehal Kodesh Administrator Renee Rosensweet.

Our November RockBox was created in partnership with the Harlem JCC and focused on the Jewish intersection of Study and Action. In addition, families baked challot, created challah covers and designed Shabbat Candle luminaries. Their creations were highlighted as being part of a special Kehal Kodesh Shabbat learning before services on Friday, November 13.

In December families will receive a Chanukah themed RockBox that was created in conjunction with ISH—Cincinnati Jewish & Israeli arts and culture organization. The box will focus on how families can spread light and bring light into their homes this Chanukah season.

Nina Loftspring
Director of Education

NOVEMBER ROCKBOX

The De Falco Family created a candle luminaria as part of their November RockBox. They decorated their luminaria with an acrostic of Shalom:

Special, Holy, chAllah, Love, tOgether, and Memories running horizontally. They also drew picture of challah, wine, Shabbi the dinosaur, and a candle.

Send us your RockBox creations!
President's Letter

Dear Members of our Congregational Family,

I have been asked to write about Rockdale's future. I keep thinking about Yogi Berra’s statement: “It is hard to make predictions, especially about the future.” Well this report is an attempt to tell you where we are going. But there is so much going on, I will only report what is most relevant at this time.

I write this in October 2020 just after a most beautiful and meaningful High Holy Days with Rabbis Meredith Kahan and Shena Potter Jaffee. We had nearly 400 computers which could easily mean we had over 1,000 people view this holiday with us.

Rabbi Kahan, the day after Yom Kippur, gave us the newest member. What a great way to start the year!

As this is being written, Rabbi Jaffee is preparing for an interesting Sukkot and Simchat Torah and even Chanukah. Our future of religious services are here for you. Just visit our website, click a button, and you and others are creating a religious community electronically.

Some have asked about the status of Rockdale’s Senior Rabbi position as Meredith is serving as Acting Senior Rabbi.

Per the Amended and Restated Code of Regulations of Kehal Kodesh Bene Israel, section IX states that we must select a Senior Rabbi to be the chief spiritual leader of the congregation. (Section 9.1.1)

The Rules of Selection are found in section 9.1.2 and we must take in consideration and comply with the regulations of the joint Rabbinic Placement Commission of the Union for Reform Judaism, the Central Conference of American Rabbis, and HUC-JIR. (9.1.2)

The procedure for selection is that the President appoints the committee and is subject to approval of the Board. (Section 9.1.3) The committee will then report to the board and the voting members of the Temple (9.1.3) to approve the selection.

I have selected the committee. The following were my goals:

1. To have a minyan of half younger members and half seasoned members;
2. To have the committee reflective of age and philosophies and experience of the demographics of our Temple;
3. To establish the committee so that the seasoned members can relate the history and traditions of our temple and the younger ones indicate the future vector or direction;
4. To include officers who have been presidents and treasurers and secretaries;
5. To have an “Elder Statesman” member who is a specialist in charities, law and our regulations.
The following among you and many others of great quality were chosen:

a. Co-chairs: Jim Heldman, while President, chose the Co-Chair Abby Schwartz and suggested to me Aaron Herzig. I officially appointed Aaron Herzig as Co-Chair. For those who do not know Abby, she is a leader in our community. Jim was right to ask her to be a chair, as she was Co-Chair of the committee that brought Rabbi Coran, z”l, to us. Abby is a leader who has been instrumental in Cincinnati art and culture. One person should be the contact with HUC and that should be Abby. Aaron Herzig, the son of a former president, is an outstanding lawyer with a national reputation. He worked on the appointment of Rabbi Jaffee to help us through this trying time. He has spent much time and worked with the CCAR already. He is most familiar with the recent requirements and the personnel at CCAR. He knows the people there and the rules of the road. He will be our sole contact with the CCAR, as we should only have one person do so.

b. The youthful part of the minyan will consist of Frannie Kahan, Dani Reiss, Justin Levy, Stephanie De Falco, and Larry Smilg.

c. The seasoned part of the minyan will be Janet Cohen, Chris Malhotra, Sally Korkin, Jim Heldman, and Mark Schaengold.

d. The Elder Statesman is Dan Hoffheimer.

e. The alternate is Barry Gibberman. He will attend all meetings and participate in everything but the vote. He will have the right to vote in the event someone has to drop out for any reason.

f. I am ex-officio and will attend all meetings.

There are four former presidents; one future president; two spouses of former presidents; two treasurers; and former secretaries. There are participants on committees and our educational endeavors. There are 10 former board members. There are people who can tell you about their experiences with five or six former Rabbis and our congregation’s experiences with them; and, those who will tell you what they need for their weddings, baby naming, brits, and their entire life cycle experiences that so enrich their lives. Hence there are members of the committee that I appointed ranging from those young enough to be married by our future Rabbi to those who are further along in their life cycle.

The committee began meeting in October and will continue to do their work to choose the best person to be our spiritual leader. We will keep you abreast of the decisions as they become relevant.

Again, there is much to report on our committees, but I will report that at a later time.

John G. Cobey  
President
Executive Director’s Letter

The coronavirus pandemic has changed almost every aspect of congregational life. At this point I’m sure this is neither a surprise, nor anything that feels like news to you. But what is news is how our congregational family is not just coping but thriving and moving forward with positive and hopeful energy! Let’s take this opportunity to review just how far we have come, and how we are successfully preparing for our future in this most unusual time.

In May of 2020, in what we now think of as the early stages of the pandemic, our leadership wisely took a long hard look at the possible financial implications of the pandemic and structured a conservative budget for the new fiscal year. With careful fiscal management, the continuing support of our congregational family, and an uptick in the financial markets we are outperforming our budget! To date, overall revenues continue to exceed our budgeted expectations with overall expenses remaining at or below budgeted amounts. This is great news and we remain in a healthy financial position as we approach the second half of the current fiscal year.

Knowing that families could face financial hardship during the pandemic, we added a new personalized commitment option to our Sacred Annual Commitment pledge form. This enabled congregants for whom the Young Adult, Sustaining, or Chesed giving levels were not a good fit to commit to the right level of financial support for their individual needs. As reflected in our overall budget, Rockdale families have been wonderfully generous with their sacred annual commitments. Pledges exceeded our expectations and our leadership continues to send thank you notes to all who made pledges to express our gratitude for their continued support. Thank you.

As preparations for the High Holy Days started, our congregation, the Administrative and Buildings & Grounds teams, and the rabbinic team, came together to reimagine the season. By combining hand-delivered High Holy Days care packages, a sacredly distanced parking lot Shofar service, and our creative use of virtual platforms our community was able to worship together and to experience the full range of services, learning, and programming without the significant limitations COVID-19 places on in-person gatherings.

In our High Holy Days Appeal, we asked for your support to continue the work of reinventing ourselves as a congregation without walls—finding creative and safe ways to engage as a community while we safely navigate the pandemic. Again, your generosity was inspiring and to date over $12,000 has been raised to support these efforts. Thank you.

Now, the High Holy Days and festivals are past and we continue this adventure of living as a congregation without walls: coming together to create holy space and time each week for Shabbat; joining together virtually for exciting educational opportunities such as the Topics in Jewish Art series led by our own Abby Schwartz; our 20s and 30s are keeping it light with fun RUACH events such as Jackbox Havdalah. In short, we’re doing it! And we are going to continue this grand experiment with our upcoming community-wide Chanukah Bash. You’ll be joining us, right?

I know we all wish that we could predict how long this pandemic will continue and how long we have to maintain our socially distanced congregational life. Of course, we don’t know how the conditions of the pandemic will evolve. What we do know is that the Safety Committee and the Administrative and Buildings & Grounds teams are actively planning for that time and working with our Board of Directors to make the best decisions possible for the health and wellbeing of our Rockdale Family.

Even in the middle of a pandemic, Rockdale Temple is here for you, and we will continue to be here for each other as we reach forward, reinventing Jewish Space and Jewish Engagement, creating a Jewish future with faith, creativity, and generosity. With Chanukah around the corner, and the secular year rapidly coming to a close, I am looking forward to saying goodbye to the darkness of 2020 and hello to the growing light of the year 2021.

Laura Wright
Executive Director
Please consider naming Rockdale Temple in your will or estate plan.

Welcome New Members!

Jacob & Kim Kraus-Preminger
Catherine & Ritchie Newmark-Weishan
Frances Kahan
Jennifer & Stephen Dowd
Gwendolyn & Cora Barnhart
Lynda Monahan
Sarah Lohse
Toni Winston
Bar Mitzvah Celebrant

Ethan Weinstein was born in Bentonville, Arkansas, lived in Minnesota, and moved to Cincinnati, Ohio in late 2015. He's a virtual 7th grader at Sycamore Junior High School where he is an honor student, enjoys art, and science classes. In his spare time, Ethan participates in Boy Scouts and Tae Kwon Do, where he earned his black belt last year after years of training. Outside of school, Ethan loves playing with friends, is a voracious and creative Lego Builder, enjoys Minecraft and is a huge Star Wars fan. He also enjoys traveling with his family. A few of his exciting trips were London, Rome, Bahamas, Redwood National Park and Canada.

Today, Ethan has dreams of growing up and turning his desire to build structures into becoming either a Lego Master builder, an architect or an engineer. Wherever his path takes him, Ethan will certainly enjoy using his creativity and artistic skills to create great things.

Ethan would like to thank his Hebrew School and Religious School teachers, his Bar Mitzvah tutor, Jason Schapera, and Rabbi Kahan for helping him prepare for his big day. While COVID-19 might alter his celebration, it is the excitement of becoming a Bar Mitzvah, continuing his Jewish education and eventually getting to attend GUCI that keeps him excited. Ethan would also like to thank his parents, Sheldon and Waianne, and his younger brother, Jonah, for their admiration and support.

SHABBAT SHAL-OM YOGA

December 19, 1:00PM
January 16, 1:00PM
February 13, 1:00PM
via Zoom

Classes are suitable for both beginners and experienced practitioners. Everyone is welcome. During the classes, Lori Reidel, an experienced yoga instructor, will give practical instruction as we flow through our sequences with intention, braiding postures together that will open, stretch, and restore your body.

BENEFITS OF YOGA
- Increased flexibility
- Increased muscle strength & tone
- Protection from injury
- Improved respiration, energy & Vitality
- Lessen chronic pain

LORI REIDEL, INSTRUCTOR

ROCKDALE TEMPLE
8501 Ridge Road, 45236

Generously supported by the In the Beginning Fund of the Women of Rockdale
More than two years ago, Rabbi Coran z”l asked us to strengthen our community and abide by Deuteronomy 16:20: “justice, justice you shall pursue.” Through her direction, we did a broad listening campaign, and on Yom Kippur 2018, the congregation voted to work on gun safety. We then partnered with Ohioans for Gun Safety to get universal background checks for gun purchases on the ballot. Through February 2020, we attended and organized events, and contributed 1,200 signatures to the initiative.

Then came the pandemic; the deep loss of our teacher, rabbi, and friend; and the murder of George Floyd.

Obviously, we couldn’t be out collecting signatures. We committed to the congregation and to Rabbi Coran, and we will follow through. However, it was clear we had to respond to the issue of the moment (”Hineini”). And, our listening campaign indicated our passion for fighting discrimination.

Our Rockdale President, John Cobey, encouraged us by stating: to honor Rabbi Coran’s memory is not just to implement the vision she had for us, but to expand on it.

To be true to our listening campaign, we prioritized two actions through November: (1) seeking out ways to become more educated as a community about racial discrimination, and (2) get out the vote efforts particularly focused on populations that are generally disenfranchised.

With regards to racial discrimination, we invited Dr. John Ernst of Thomas More University to teach us about how implicit bias impacts our world, and our fellow congregant, Dr. Valerie Weinstein of University of Cincinnati, led us in discussion around the movie I Am Not Your Negro, and the book How to Be an Antiracist. All three of these sessions were deeply enlightening. We have also begun a connection with Bend the Arc, a Jewish organization that has training resources we plan to take advantage of.

With regards to Get Out the Vote, we partnered (a) with the Greater Cincinnati Voter Collaborative to get and distribute accurate information out about voting and to provide rides to the polls; (b) with RAC to mail 120 postcards to encourage disenfranchised voters to vote, (c) with the Ohio Organizing Collaborative and the Amos Project to “Vote Triple” by reaching out to our peers and encouraging others to do so; and (d) with the ACLU to be on their voter action team and became Social Media Monitors and Poll Monitors.

Now that the election is over, we must regroup. We will be reaching out to you to find out what we can accomplish together during this pandemic and to find out what draws congregants to social justice work. The actions will be tied to our two existing commitments of gun violence and discrimination. If you are passionate about an issue and think there is an action we can take, please reach out. We are fortunate that our congregation has such a deep member base of passionate and skilled individuals. Let’s keep up the momentum and find the ways we can pursue justice together.
Our family has a deep and an enduring relationship with Rockdale Temple. It was our duty and our also our privilege to become members of the Bene Israel Society. Rusty is a life-long member of Rockdale Temple, his grandmother and parents having been members. I became affiliated with Rockdale upon our marriage in June, 1962. There was never any question which temple we would join. However, my family did have some reservations when Rabbi Reichert forgot my name under the chuppah at our wedding!

Since 1962, we, our two sons Allan and Randy, their wives Sara and Ila, and our four grandchildren have participated at Rockdale Temple. Our sons attended Sunday School, and had Bar Mitzvahs, and were confirmed. Rabbi Coran married Randy and Ila. All of the grandchildren have had life cycle events at the temple, including baby namings and Consecrations, and Bar or Bat Mitzvahs. Adam and Max have graduated from Rockdale Sunday School, and we hope that Emily and Julia will follow in their footsteps. To complete our life cycle events, Rockdale Temple Rabbis attended our family’s funerals.

When we were fortunate enough to attend services and events in person, I always pictured in my mind my dear father-in-law, Dr. Herbert G. Frankel, sitting in one of the chairs of honor on the bima. I needlepointed one of the beautiful new Torah covers because I wanted my grandchildren to say when the ark was opened, "My grandmother made that one."

Rusty and I became Bene Israel Society members to ensure the continuation of Rockdale Temple for our children, our grandchildren, and generations to come. It is one of the ways to honor our ancestors and descendants and provide for our spiritual home for the future. We feel most fortunate to be able to do this.

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

*Doris* & *Stuart* Berman  
Max Joseph Bleich  
Rosemary & Frank Bloom  
Lynn Gross Chaifetz  
Anthony & Andrea Checroun  
Matthew* & Jean Chimsky  
Jennifer Clark  
John Cobey & Jan Frankel  
Max Cobey  
Alfred M. Cohen  
Barb & O.J. Cohen  
Ken & Janet Cohen  
Rabbis Sigma F. Coran*  
& Matthew Kraus  
Bernie Dave*  
Stephanie & Tony De Falco  
Bonnie & Darryl Dick  
M. James Ellis  
Mark & Nancy Feldman  
Lisa & John* Fox  
G. Allan & Sara Frankel  
Dr. & Mrs. G. Russell Frankel  
Gail* & Dick Friedman  
Robert Frohman  
Dr. Barry & Nancy Gibberman  
Dolores Goldfinger  
Rabbi Mark  
& Dr. Meryl* Goldman  
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Andy A. & Debbie Heldman  
Betty Heldman  
Gary & Austine Heldman  
Jim Heldman & Wendy Saunders  
Michael Heldman & Beth Franks  
Andrea & Dr. Edward Herzig  
Lauren & Aaron Herzig  
Daniel J. Hoffheimer  
Robert Ingberg, M.D.  
Johnny “JJ” Jones  
Rabbi Meredith Kahan  
& Sean Flowers  
David & Hildy Kerman  
Nancy & Jerry Klein  
Sally & Gerry Korkin  
Bennett Kottler & Family  
Jamey & Vanessa Kurtzer  
Justin Levy & Eira Tansey  
Lauren & Jake Lilenstein  
Deb & Joe Loewenstein  
Ralph & Fran Lowenstein  
Helene & Millard Mack  
Christine & Ramesh Malhotra  
Mara Marnocha  
Karen & Stewart Martin  
Sheryl & Scott Mattis  
Fay B. May & Robert E. Prescott*  
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Lisa & Jonathan Mezibov  
Mark Michaelson  
& Barbara Turner-Michaelson  
Dale Rabiner  
Loretta* & Gary* Rabiner  
David* & Marilyn* Reichert  
Leslie & Bernard Reiss  
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Matthew & Renee Rosensweet  
Jack & Mary-Bob Rubenstein  
Judith & Mark Schaengold  
Steven & Rachel Schild  
David & Abby Schwartz  
Joshua & Heather Shapiro  
Mark Sheldon  
Andrew & Sally Shott  
Hagit & Jeff Sunberg  
W. E. Blair Tillett*  
Julie & Shachar Torem  
Robert & Loris Ungar  
Sarah Weiss & Todd Schild  
Edward Wertheimer  
Karen & Stuart Zanger  
Anonymous Donors – 4

*Of blessed memory

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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.
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<th>SUNDAY</th>
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1. 4:30PM Hebrew School, virtual
2. 9:30AM Coffee Talk with Laura Wright, live via Zoom
3. 7:00PM B’nai Mitzvah meeting for 7th and 8th Grade Families live via Zoom
4. 6:15PM Shabbat Service, virtual
5. 9:30AM Sichat Torah (Torah Discussion), live via Zoom
10:30AM Shabbat Service, live via Zoom

6. 10:00AM Kehal Kodesh Religious School, live via Zoom
5:30PM Kulanu, virtual
7:30PM Are you Dreaming of a White Chanukah? The Jewish fascination with Christmas music with Cantor Lanie Katzew, live via Zoom

7. 8
8. 9:30AM Hebrew School, live via Zoom
7:00PM Board Meeting, live via Zoom

9. 9:30AM Coffee Talk with Laura Wright, live via Zoom
7:00PM B’nai Mitzvah meeting for 6th Grade Parents, live via Zoom
7:00PM Energy Conservation talk with Michael Forrester, live via Zoom

10. 11
11. 7:00PM Parking Lot Shabbat Service and Chanukah Menorah Lighting, Birthday Blessings, live or on website
10:30AM Shabbat Service, live via Zoom
Rockdale’s Rockin’ Chanukah Bash
5:30PM HoRT
7:00PM Youth Event
8:00PM All Congregant Event
8:30PM YGOR Event

12. 13
13. 10:00AM Kehal Kodesh Religious School, live via Zoom
5:30PM Kulanu, virtual

14. 15
15. 16
16. 9:30AM Coffee Talk with Laura Wright, live via Zoom
6:30PM Rockwern’s Chanukah Pajama Party, live via Zoom

17. 17
18. 18
18. 9:30AM Sichat Torah (Torah Discussion), live via Zoom
10:30AM Shabbat Service, live via Zoom
Rockdale’s Rockin’ Chanukah Bash
5:30PM HoRT
7:00PM Youth Event
8:00PM All Congregant Event
8:30PM YGOR Event

19. 19
20. 20
20. No Kehal Kodesh Religious School or Kulanu

21. 21
22. 22
22. No Hebrew School (winter break)
23. 23
23. 9:30AM Coffee Talk with Laura Wright, live via Zoom
7:00PM Jewish Apps & Tech, Part 2, live via Zoom

24. 24
25. 25
25. Temple Office Closed
6:15PM Shabbat Service, virtual

26. 26
26. 9:30AM Sichat Torah (Torah Discussion), live via Zoom
10:30AM Shabbat Service, live via Zoom

27. 27
28. 28
29. 29
29. No Hebrew School (winter break)
30. 30
30. 9:30AM Coffee Talk with Laura Wright, live via Zoom

31. 31

**CHANUKAH 1st CANDLE**
**CHANUKAH 2nd CANDLE**
**CHANUKAH 3rd CANDLE**

**CHANUKAH 4th CANDLE**
**CHANUKAH 5th CANDLE**

**CHANUKAH 6th CANDLE**
**CHANUKAH 7th CANDLE**
**CHANUKAH 8th CANDLE**

Calendars are subject to change.
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<td>4:30 PM Hebrew School, live via Zoom</td>
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<td>10:30 AM 6th Grade Family Education, live via Zoom</td>
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<td>8:00 PM TU B'SHEVAT SEDER, live via Zoom</td>
<td>4:30 PM Hebrew School, live via Zoom</td>
<td>6:15 PM Shabbat Service, virtual</td>
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<td>Friday, December 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:15PM Shabbat Service,</td>
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<td>6:15PM Live Rock Shabbat Service,</td>
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<td>Website and Facebook</td>
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<td>Saturday, December 5</td>
<td>Saturday, January 2</td>
<td>Saturday, February 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:30AM Sichat Torah, on</td>
<td>9:30AM Sichat Torah, on Zoom</td>
<td>9:30AM Sichat Torah, on Zoom</td>
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<td>10:30AM Shabbat Morning Service, on Zoom</td>
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<td>Friday, December 11</td>
<td>Friday, January 8</td>
<td>Friday, February 12</td>
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<td>7:00 PM Parking Lot Shabbat and Chanukah Candlelighting Service, Birthday Blessings, Live, and livestreaming on our website</td>
<td>6:15PM Shabbat Service, Website &amp; Facebook</td>
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<td>Saturday, December 12</td>
<td>Saturday, January 9</td>
<td>Saturday, February 13</td>
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<td>9:30AM Sichat Torah, on</td>
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<td>Friday, December 18</td>
<td>Friday, January 15</td>
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<td>6:15PM Shabbat Service,</td>
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<td>Anniversary Blessings</td>
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<td>Saturday, December 19</td>
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<td>Friday, December 25</td>
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<td>Friday, February 26</td>
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<td>6:15PM Shabbat Service,</td>
<td>6:15PM Live Shabbat Service,</td>
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Covid-19 continues to restrict us, however, Women of Rockdale remain active and purposeful as we continue our efforts to support our members and serve the Rockdale community. We have been holding our regular monthly meetings and Sip ’n Schmooze gatherings via Zoom. Attendance is strong and participation enthusiastic, recalling the observation that our long-time former president, Nancy Schwartz stated, “Like the Energizer bunny, we just keep going and going!”

The WRJ Central District Conference held November 6–8 hosted by the Reform Sisterhoods of Cincinnati went to a virtual format. It’s our pleasure to share the accomplishments of two Women of Rockdale members who are active on the WRJ-Central District Board of Directors: Alison Auerbach and Donna Gantner. Both were instrumental in making the recent WRJ-Central District Conference a rousing success. Participants enjoyed three days of ideas, camaraderie and support. Donna Gantner, co-led the Erev Shabbat Services and Alison Auerbach, the outgoing WRJ-Central District President, received thanks for her skilled leadership and dedication over the past two years. Donna has also stepped into the role of Area Director of Central Ohio, plus our own Emily McOsker will be the WRJ-Central District Co-Chair of Advocacy and Social Media. Congratulations to Barrie Kraus for being awarded the Deborah Honor for Women of Rockdale. Mazel Tov to Emily’s mother Liz McOsker for becoming the President of WRJ-Central District. We extend congratulations to fellow Cincinnatian, Karen Sim of Wise Temple on her nomination as 1st Vice President of WRJ - North America!
Women of Rockdale are focusing on four goals during this challenging year. We are in the midst of making plans to move the Joan S. Goldsmith Gift Shop to an online format. With fingers crossed we hope to have our inventory uploaded and ready to go in time for the Annual Chanukah Sale. Second, we have widened our search for a meaningful way to memorialize Rabbi Coran z”l that will reflect her dedication to the Women of Rockdale and will benefit the entire congregation. Rabbi Matthew Kraus recently met with our executive committee to suggest a possibility beyond the scholarship ideas that have already been proposed. We anticipate finalizing a selection at our next membership meeting. A special thank you to the Rockdale staff for tending to the Magnolia tree planted in the courtyard in memory of Rabbi Coran z”l.

Our third goal is to support our annual day of service for the Christmas dinner at Ronald McDonald House of Greater Cincinnati. The house is closed to volunteers this year so instead a donation was made to support a meal for the families residing in the house. It has been an annual tradition for us to bring our members and their children to the Ronald McDonald House for a day of mitzvot. May this be the only year in which this tradition is interrupted.

Our final goal is to plan for our annual WoR Shabbat Service. A date will be forthcoming whether it be in person or virtual. Check Rockmail for updates.

Just a note to let you know that our In The Beginning (ITB) Cookbook Endowment Fund has given more than $100,000 during the past 40 years towards social enhancement projects benefiting our congregation. Grant applications will be accepted beginning in January 2021. If you would like an application or have questions, contact ITB Chairperson, Cora Steinberg.

Respectfully submitted,
Tracy McMullen
Library Update

Hello Winter! Here we are, more stuck in our homes than we have been for decades, for our own safety in the face of a public health risk that we might have thought was somewhere off in the Global Warming Future. Nope. Pandemic arrived in 2020, just like the biggest hurricane season in decades in America. Yes, the summer offered its ways to relieve the sheltering stress—gardening, hiking, biking, swimming, eating outdoors with your “pod.” But that’s over and we still need to mask, distance and wash hands. At least Election 2020 has reached its climax/rock bottom and is in the rear view mirror, for better and/or worse. I don’t know about you, but the last time I sat down with a book to read (ie. not a magazine, not my phone, not an audio book for that long trip) was in late spring. I haven’t been able to concentrate on long reading much. But I read ONE book this summer.

It was a good book. I recommend it, if you have steely nerves, as it is set in the reality of the decimation of America’s old growth forests and how that fact radically alters the lives of a cast of characters whose stories have all been meaningfully connected to trees. But The Overstory, by Richard Powers, is not a book by a Jewish author or about a Jewish subject. So I would probably not suggest it for the Rockdale Book Group, which has been in hibernation since, honestly, the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In the last Shofar Soundings library column I put out the call for anyone who is newly interested in reviving the Rockdale Book Group to contact me. I received two replies, and that’s enough for me to begin again. If anyone else wants to read along and then discuss over Zoom with us three and any still-interested folks from the Book Group before, you are more than welcome. Just reply to my email, below.

Certainly there’s no point in touting to the Rockdale family via this column that they can find the whole Jewish world upstairs in the Library. “Just go up and enjoy, please, and let your kids revel in it, too.” Of course, no one is coming to Rockdale for anything! I have not stepped foot in the Library myself since late in the winter. If we’re going to connect about books, it must be from our homes. So there’s that. I pushed that fact away for several months, but I’m over it. Winter is coming.

The idea is that we will make Rockdale Book Group what WE want it to be. We will read what we choose, according to values we wish to buy into, follow a format and reading period that we choose, and meet to chat online on a day or night and hour that we choose. Hey, sorry to be so dogmatic…

I will wait a few weeks for responses from this last solicitation and then the group will convene (virtually) to say hello to each other and choose a first book. Folks will still be welcome to join up at any point, but it would be lovely to connect with YOU over some great reading this very winter! So feel free to RSVP to me,

Karen Zanger
Volunteer Librarian
karenszanger@gmail.com
Join us for two spectacular holiday events this winter,
Chanukah and Tu B’Shevat!

Chanukah, the Festival of Lights, recounts the fight for religious freedom through story and by lighting the menorah to recall the miracle of the oil that burned eight days in the eternal light in the sacred Temple. Stretch the meaning of this holiday to the lights in your home. Though you probably do not use oil lamps, you probably do use fossil fuels (coal, oil or natural gas) to provide the energy to keep your lights on. What if you could use renewable energy instead, such as solar, wind or biofuel for the same price, or maybe less than what you pay now?

Well maybe you can. Michael Forrester, newly appointed director of the City of Cincinnati Office of the Environment and Sustainability, will tell us how. He manages the new solar project and the aggregate energy solutions for the City of Cincinnati. On December 9, right before the first night of Chanukah, he will tell us about energy options available to you that are sourced from renewable energy producers. Renewable energy combined with energy efficiency reduces the amount of harmful carbon dioxide emissions that go into the atmosphere.

Mr. Forrester will also tell us about the City’s new solar project. Perhaps you heard that the City, through funding from Bloomberg Foundation, is installing a massive array of solar panels that will soon provide 25% energy power to 80,000 Cincinnati homes that opt-in. When completed this will be the largest municipally owned solar installation in the country.

For a stimulating conversation and learning with Michael Forrester and an introduction by Rabbi Shena Jaffee, join us on Zoom, Wednesday, December 9, at 7:00pm.

Tu B’Shevat, our Jewish environmental holiday, is on January 27 and 28. The Rockdale Environmental Committee is planning a special Tu B’Shevat Seder event to explain the importance of trees and their positive effect on the planet’s climate. Watch your Rockmail for more information and mark your calendar. Temple members are welcome to join the fun in making this a memorable and inspiring Tu B’Shevat.

Do you have a special Tu B’Shevat recipe to share? Send it to Joanne Gerson at joanne.gerson@earthlink.net.

SAVE THE DATE: WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9 AT 7:00PM

SPEAKER: Michael Forrester; Director, City of Cincinnati, Office of Environment and Sustainability with an introduction by Rabbi Shena Jaffee

TOPIC: Green Energy Providers: What are the options, how do they work, who do you trust, and what is a good choice for your home and for the environment?

HOW: By Zoom; hosted by Rockdale Temple's Environmental Committee

RSVP: www.rockdaletemple.org/form/green-energy
ROCKDALE CONGREGANTS CAN HELP
WITH THE REFUGEE CRISIS RIGHT HERE IN CINCINNATI

Rockdale Temple remains committed to helping refugees in the Cincinnati area. Our current active partners in this endeavor are Heartfelt Tidbits and Tikkun Farm. Both organizations directly serve refugees, undocumented immigrants and their families. Donations to either/both organizations are sure to help with rent, food, and schooling.

Volunteer opportunities: Tikkun Farm is utilizing in-person help, as they feed many local families wholesome meals. Jobs include: transporting food from FoodBank to the farm, transporting food to homes, preparing meals at the farm, and preparing ingredients at your own home. Heartfelt Tidbits is partnering with local schools to help students with a “Virtual Buddy” program. Volunteers “meet” on-line with a student and help with schoolwork.

Check them out on-line and on Facebook.

Please contact Cora Steinberg to get connected.

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

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ETHAN KADISH FOR Help Hope Live
To Benefit the Great Lakes Catastrophic Injury Fund
GIVE THE GIFT OF LIGHT DESPITE COVID-19

Ethan Kadish is a teenager from Loveland, Ohio, who suffered a brain injury after he was struck by lightning seven years ago. Everything changed for Ethan in that one moment. It costs over $100,000 each year to support Ethan’s uninsured medical expenses. Costs include co-pays and deductibles associated with three health insurance policies; caregiving costs, and nursing care; and a myriad of therapies to help him re-establish basic functions within his brain.

We cannot gather together this year, but we can still promote hope.

SAVE THE DATE: VIRTUAL EIGHTH NIGHT for ETHAN
a fundraiser to assist with uninsured medical-related expenses.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17TH, 2020
HAPPY CHANUKAH

Donations made in honor of a specific individual, or in response to campaign solicitations, are restricted by region only and do not obligate Help Hope Live to allocate funds toward a specific individual, as the IRS would deem such donations to be private gifts, which are not tax deductible. Patients receive support according to their medical and financial need. Help Hope Live is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. Information: 800.642.8399.
Your contributions to one of our philanthropic funds is a thoughtful way to commemorate special occasions, life cycle events, or to remember a loved one.

**Alan L. Rosenberg Memorial Fund:** funds temple beautification and enhancements including the acquisition of Rockdale artifacts.

**Barrows Music Fund:** funds musicians for special events or services.

**Bene Israel Fund:** Supports the role of Rabbi and Educator.

**Estelle Levine Fund for Special Children:** funds scholarships for differently abled or gifted children.

**Heldman Family Fund:** provides financing for special programs; provides special artifacts for Rockdale.

**Heritage of Learning Fund:** underwrites educational programming for temple members of all ages.

**Jules & Elizabeth K. Oppenheimer Fund:** provides Goldman Union Camp Institute (GUCI) scholarships for Rockdale youth.

**Library Fund:** funds the purchase and upkeep of our library books.

**Lillian and Dolph 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 Harold D. Hahn Fund:** funds the Sunday adult education series.

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

**Rabbi Sissy Coran Memorial Fund:** supports exciting innovations, meets challenges, and addresses Rockdale’s most pressing needs.

**Rabbi Victor and Louise Reichert Fund:** funds the Scholar-in-Residence programming.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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**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

Please consider naming Rockdale Temple in your will or estate plan.
TRIBUTE FUNDS DONATIONS AUGUST 1–OCTOBER 31, 2020

RABBI SISSY CORAN MEMORIAL FUND
In honor of the Bar Mitzvah of David Zuckerman
Zvi & Adele Zuckerman

In honor of the birth of Sari Gabriella Flowers
Fay May
Sally & Gerald Korkin

In honor of Janet Cohen’s Birthday
Hildy Clayton
Sharon & Steven Marshall

In honor of Rabbi Meredith Kahan
Ellen Gelles
Zvi & Adele Zuckerman

In memory of Aubie Coran
Edward & Andrea Herzog
Martin & Joyce Levin
Christine & Ramesh Malhotra
Fay May
Lynn & R. Glen Mayfield
Kenneth & Susan Sherman

In memory of Blair Tillett
Christine & Ramesh Malhotra

In memory of Dr. Meryl Goldman
Eleanor Shott

In memory of Joel Herzog
Sally & Gerald Korkin
Sharon & Jack Yosafat

In memory of Rabbi Sissy Coran
Michael & Teresa Ames
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Jan Armstrong Cobb
Carol Friedman
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Fay May
Michael Oestreicher
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ALAN L. ROSENBERG FUND
In memory of Rabbi Sissy Coran
Millard & Helene Mack

In memory of Dr. Robert Stein
Millard & Helene Mack
Lynn & R. Glen Mayfield

BENE ISRAEL FUND
For the speedy recovery of Daniel Hoffheimer
Patty & Robert Kaufman

HERITAGE OF LEARNING FUND
In memory of Blair Tillett
Bailey Romano

MEMORIAL FUND
In memory of Blair Tillett
Zvi & Adele Zuckerman

RABBI MEREDITH KAHPAN’S DISCRETIONARY FUND
In honor of the birth of Jude B. Levitt
Daniel Hoffheimer

In honor of the birth of Sari Gabriella Flowers
Laura & Mark Berger
Ruth & Steve Coppel
Steven & Shelley Goldstein
Robert & Teresa Harrod
Edward & Andrea Herzig
Aaron Walter Levinson
Bill & Julia Weinstein

In memory of Rabbi Shena Potter Jaffee
Daniel Hoffheimer

In honor of the marriage of Lisa Fox & Dick Trohman
Baruk & Marjorie Afergan

In honor of Edward G. Marks
Daniel Hoffheimer

In honor of the naming of Alina Darlene Jacobson
Jenae & Bernard Jacobson

In memory of Suzanne Dunbar
Christine & Ramesh Malhotra

In memory of Bernard Dave
Robert Frohman
Robert & Teresa Harrod
Sherri Tieger

In memory of Rhoda Leitner
Perry & Bobbie Leitner

BARROWS MUSIC FUND
In memory of Dr. Robert Stein
David, Joanne, and Abby Sapadin
Please consider naming Rockdale Temple in your will or estate plan.

Shofar Soundings Winter 5781

Call Paige Adkins
Rockdale Temple Office
513.891.9900

or make an online donation at
www.rockdaletemple.org

Click on “Donate” at the top of the screen.
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Cincinnati, OH 45236

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