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FROM THE RABBI'S DESK

~Another Social Sermon: Understanding Esther~

I have had a life-long fascination with Queen Esther. As a child I wanted to be her. I would dress as princess. I never would have wanted to dress as the banished Queen Vashti. I would pretend to be in a beauty contest. When I was older these things made me squeamish. How could Queen Esther be my role model as a woman? It was no longer okay for Vashti to have been banished for failing to obey her husband. Who would I dress as today? How could Esther still be my hero? These are questions the rabbis thought about. In fact, the Book of Esther was likely the last book to be included in the Jewish Canon (it is the only book of the Hebrew Bible not found at Qumran as part of the Dead Sea Scrolls). These are questions I'd like to explore with you as part of our "Social Sermon."

Twice last year, a thoughtful and insightful group of people participated in the "Social Sermon." The sermons we crafted together were rich and learned. It was a great privilege for me to watch the sermons grow (through my emails and largely on our facebook page), to see people engage in Torah and respond to each other. So... here we go again! Our opportunity to study together when we have time, to reflect on our tradition and integrate it with our lives. Hopefully even more of you will have the blessing of being part of the Social Sermon this time around.

In case you're new to this, here's how it works:

1. *The Social Sermon will begin as you read this. You can connect to the Social Sermon via Facebook, email (scoran@rockdaletemple.org) or even sending me a note, but through Facebook, you will have a chance to see others' comments.*
2. *If you want to connect via Facebook, become a friend of Rockdale Temple on*



Facebook. I will begin the dialogue on Facebook on January 23rd.

3. *At the bottom of this article will be some text from the Book of Esther.*

Respond to it. Write something about how you feel—use research, things you have learned before or your own emotional and intellectual musings.

4. *Respond to what others will write. Let this be a conversation.*

I will continue to post other texts to which you might respond.

5. *The next step is on me: I will write a sermon that incorporates our dialogue and deliver it on Shabbat Zachor, February 22nd. If you would like your comments to be anonymous, let me know!*

6. *For all those that can't be at services on February 22nd, I will post "our" sermon on the Rockdale website.*

I look forward to seeing the Torah radiate on your faces, and sparkle from your keyboards (or pens). I pray that we all connect to Torah and one another.

Blessed are you, Adonai our God, who makes us holy by commanding us to engage in the study of Torah.

Please engage with these words of text as we consider relationships in the Book of Esther.

Esther, Chapter 4:13 – 17
(Mordechai has just discovered Haman's plot to kill the Jews. He turns to his ward the Queen to help her people in their time of need)

Then Mordecai returned this answer to Esther: Not for a moment should you think that by being in the king's palace you will escape any more than all the Jews. For if you remain silent at this time, then relief and rescue will come to the Jews from another place but you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?

Esther, Chapter 4:13 – 17

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Then Esther sent this answer to Mordecai: Go, gather together all the Jews in Shushan, and fast for me, and do not eat or drink for three days and three nights; I and my servant girls will also fast. Then I will go to the king, although it is against the law, and if I perish, I perish.

So Mordecai went on his way and did all that Esther had commanded him to do.

Commentary

Wendy Amsellem, an orthodox Jewish feminist and contemporary scholar, notes how Esther finds her own voice by developing a strong self-identity:

This is a moment of crisis for Esther. She is caught between conflicting obediences to her foster father and husband. In addition, to come before the king unsummoned is an abnegation of her role as Vashti's replacement. She was chosen to be queen since she represented the antithesis of Vashti's persona. Esther's position, her identity, and quite possibly her life are all closely tied to her obedience to the king. In this moment of fate, Esther looks into her mirror and discovers that she does not look quite so different from Vashti after all. She takes matters into her own hands and stands up to both sources of authority. Esther assumes control of Mordechai's plan,

Continued on page 5

PURIM

Shofar Soundings



Dinner & Shpiel

Saturday

February 23, 2013



5:30 p.m. Purim Dinner

6:30 p.m. Megillah Reading
& Purim Shpiel

Grease is the Shpiel

RSVP by
Wednesday, February 20, 2013

M E N U

Portabella Mushrooms

Mini-Sliders & Hot Dogs

Tater Tots

Mac-N-Cheese

Cole Slaw

Jello Mold
With Fruit Cocktail

Yummy Floats:
Root Beer or Orange



Reservations for Purim Dinner & Shpiel

Saturday, February 23, 2013, 5:30 p.m. Dinner

RSVP due by February 20, 2013

Name: _____ Contact #: _____

Please write in the number attending and check if you are requesting vegetarian:

Number Adults Attending
\$12.50 per adult

Number Children Attending
\$6.00 per child (4-12)

Number Toddlers Attending
Children under 3 are free

\$36 family max

We would like _____ vegetarian meals. Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

RSVP online or send checks, payable to Rockdale Temple.

8501 Ridge Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45236 ✦ 513-891-9900 fax 513-891-0515 ✦ www.rockdaletemple.org



FROM OUR RABBINIC INTERN ~YGOR Hosts NFTY-Ohio Valley Regionals~

Look out, Rockdale, 'cause here comes NFTY! During the weekend of April 4-7, our own Youth Group of Rockdale (YGOR) will be hosting NFTY-Ohio Valley Regionals. Approximately 150 Jewish teens from Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana, Tennessee, and West Virginia will descend on Rockdale Temple for four days of programming, services, social action projects, and fun!

Our teens will be planning all of the weekend's events, and are looking forward to sharing their talents, passions, and enthusiasm with the rest of the youth group region. The YGOR board and general membership are made up of energetic, gifted, and wonderful teenagers, all of whom are active in our congregation and Jewish life. They are teeming with ideas, and will be meeting regularly throughout the next few months to create an exciting and meaningful weekend for their counterparts across the Ohio Valley Region.

Rockdale teens, we hope that you'll join us for Regionals! Those who have attended regional events can already tell you how unique, special, and awesome



these weekends can be.

Regionals is an opportunity to connect with old friends, spend time with those you normally only see at camp, or make a whole bunch of new friends! It's also an opportunity to engage in Judaism through programming, services, and action meant just for you, along with an entire community of Jewish teens. By the way,

Rockdale 8th graders... a special perk of being the hosting congregation is that we are allowed to invite our 8th graders to the entire event- we hope to see you there!

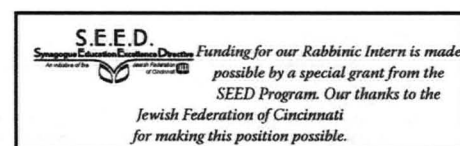
In addition to the excitement of hosting all their friends, I know that our YGOR members look forward to sharing their biggest regional event with our congregation. Hosting Regionals not only requires a serious commitment from the youth group, but also dedication from the sponsoring congregation. Rabbi Coran, Margaret, and our entire staff are excited to welcome this great group of Jewish teens to Rockdale, and I hope you will be, too. There will be several opportunities for all of you to get to know the NFTY-Ohio Valley teens throughout the weekend; in particular, we hope that you will be on hand to

welcome them to Rockdale at Rock Shabbat that Friday evening, and share in worship, dinner, and song with the youth groupers. Additionally, if you'd like to get further involved, there are plenty of roles for adults to play in our weekend! **We need adults to prepare, pick-up, and serve meals, families to host students overnight in their homes, and help with various other projects, tasks, and errands.** While it's not the most glamorous work, I can tell you, working with our youth groupers is beyond rewarding. Please contact me if you are interested in participating in the weekend with YGOR!

YGOR and I are so excited to be hosting NFTY-Ohio Valley Regionals here at Rockdale this April. We hope that all of our teens will be able to participate in this exciting event, and that our congregation will join in on the fun, as well! Please don't hesitate to contact me (mkahan@rockdaletemple.org, 891-9900 ext. 101) or YGOR's president, Adrianna Schneider (adrianna.schneider1@gmail.com) with any questions.

Meredith Kahan

Meredith Kahan
Rabbinic Intern



CALLING ALL Actors, Singers, Dancers, Comedians & Performers of all Kinds

We are looking for excited, enthusiastic, energetic people of all ages to perform in Rockdale's annual PURIM SHPIEL!! Whether you have tons of talent, or are just willing to be silly, we need your help! If your abilities lean more towards costumes, set design, and backstage management, we can use your talents, too!

Please come to our **organizational meeting on Sunday, January 27th after Kehal Kodesh Religious School** (around noon) to get a script and score, volunteer for a part, and find out about our rehearsals- we will provide a pizza lunch. Feel free to bring other interested friends and family along! If you can't make the meeting but still would like to be involved, please contact Meredith as soon as possible.

The PURIM SHPIEL is coming up on Saturday, February 23rd, so don't delay- join the cast of the PURIM SHPIEL today! (And by the way... GREASE is the Shpiel!) Please contact **Meredith Kahan** with any questions or concerns, or to sign-up for our Purim cast: mkahan@rockdaletemple.org or 891-9900 ext. 101.

The Social Sermon
continued from page 2

changing and amending as she sees fit. Like Vashti, she will appear before the king only when she decides that the time is right – in this case after three days of fasting. Instead of following Mordechai's suggestion and simply making her petition, she will throw a series of parties as Vashti did. In order to succeed, Esther realizes that she must take on aspects of the repudiated former queen.

From The Mirror Has Two Faces: An Exploration of Esther and Vashti, by Wendy Amsellem, in JOFA Journal (Winter 2003), p. 7.

Questions to Consider:

- * Is Esther in the palace for a reason?
 - * Does this make it okay for her to have been part of a harem and marry a non-Jewish king, hiding her identity until now?
- * Why does Esther use the old forms (holding parties) to affect the outcome?
- * How are Esther's actions different than how a man might have reacted?
- * How does she use her voice in a different way?
 - * Is it effective?
- * Does Esther make a decision about her identity?
- * Does Esther truly use her position for good?
- * Who should be our role model in this story?

Write, email, Facebook your thoughts and responses! Join the Social Sermon.

Sig F. C.

Rabbi Sigma Faye Coran

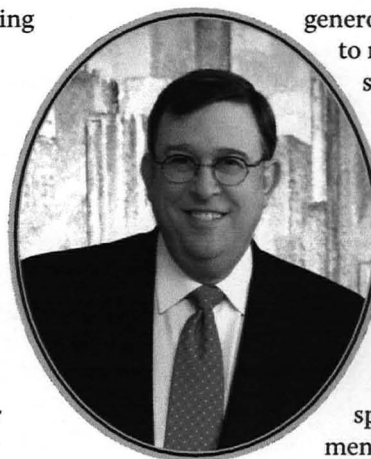
FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT

~Watch Your Mail~

No, we're not working with Publisher's Clearing House, but we are putting something important in the mail.

The Rockdale Temple Pledge forms are coming much earlier than previous years as we are fundamentally changing our budget process to better plan our spending based upon our available resources. Rockdale Temple asks members to pledge support—we do not assess dues, but instead rely on our members to pledge their support. Most recently, the Board of Directors asked each family to consider a minimum dues pledge—now at \$1750.

Like most congregations, Rockdale is fortunate to have a small number of members who are able to contribute far more than the \$1750. In fact, less than half of our members contribute 75% of our total dues and many of these same generous members make additional contributions for other specific causes. We are also fortunate to have an endowment—proceeds from the sale of the Rockdale property—that generates income supplementing the dues collected. Until 2009, membership dues were stable as a result of modest membership gains. While we continue to add new members, the economic downturn has taken a significant toll with some of our most



generous members being forced to reduce their pledges and some other members confidentially asking to pledge less than the suggested minimum. For the past four years, the total dues collected has fallen each year.

Our previous practice of distributing pledge forms in late spring gave us and our members little time to solicit responses before the start of our fiscal year. By asking our members to pledge now, your Board of Directors can deliver on its promise to create a balanced budget. You may return your pledge form by mail, fax, email or simply by calling Temple Administrator Margaret Friedman-Vaughan. On Sunday, February 10th, your Board of Directors will be individually calling members who may have questions before returning their pledges.

If you would like to support a specific program or function with your pledge in excess of the minimum, please note that on your pledge form or call the Temple Office. You will not be billed for any pledges until July—the purpose of this new procedure is simply to give us a better sense of what our members can afford to contribute.

Steven Ackermann
Board President



Friday, February 8, 2013
6:15 p.m.

Rock Shabbat

Welcoming New Members & Birthday Blessings
Followed by Shabbat Dinner

TEMPLE BUSINESSS

For the past ten years Rockdale Temple has not had anyone designated to work full-time to care for the business of the Temple. I am looking forward to having the opportunity to change that in the coming months by addressing many of the tasks that have been underserved in our recent history. Among my priorities over the next several months will be: planning for a sustainable future, continuing to grow our membership and engaging our current members, developing an updated Emergency Evacuation and Security Plan based on current industry standards and community needs, strengthening our profile in the community with regular articles and press releases about our activities and programs, organizing PJ Library events, and continuing to be a liaison with temple committees and the Board.

I also hope to have time to develop a network of volunteers to assist us with a variety of tasks. Over the past four years we have reduced our work force to counter balance our shrinking revenues while also increasing our programming—a formula that clearly presents challenges. We have a congregation full of people eager to



assist at all levels; however, there is often a lack of awareness of what kind of assistance we need and having access to a pool of people who ready to help when called. My goal is for this group of volunteers to be organized based on skills, availability, and interest. If you would like to help me in this endeavor, or you have specific tasks you are willing to assist with, please give me a call.

If you spend any time at temple during the month of February—and I certainly hope you will as there is a lot going on—you may notice that I seem to be absent. This may be confusing to some of you, especially since most people know that I have transitioned from my dual role as Educator and Administrator. Please don't worry, I have not resigned from Rockdale; I am merely taking a sabbatical for the month. I will return on March 4, ready to assume my duties as your full-time Temple Administrator. Thank you for affording me this time to renew myself and take a breath before engaging in my new role. I look forward to our future together with this historic congregation, K.K. Bene Israel Rockdale Temple.

Margaret Friedman-Vaughan

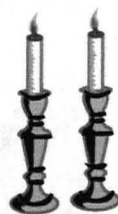
Margaret Friedman-Vaughan
Temple Administrator

Join the smiling faces of Tot Shabbat



Saturday
February 2, 2013

Tot Shabbat Service
Followed by Snack & Activity



K.K. Bene Israel
Rockdale Temple

Where you are valued... and values matter!

8501 Ridge Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45236 ~ Phone: 513-891-9900 ~ Fax: 513-891-0515 ~ www.rockdaletemple.org

Exodus! Passover at the Freedom Center

Exodus!
Passover at the
Freedom Center
A Multi-Generational Program
with Valley Temple
Sunday,
March 17, 2013
During Religious School
Watch Your Mail for the Upcoming Flier

Jewish Overnight Camping Program

The Jewish Overnight Camping Program provides grants for all Jewish youth from the Greater Cincinnati area who want to attend Jewish overnight camps. The grants are an investment in our children's future, made possible by the support and generosity of The Jewish Foundation of Cincinnati and other donors.

Grants are available for all children, regardless of whether or not they have previously attended a Jewish overnight camp. Grants are offered to first year and second year applicants. Children can apply for a grant of up to \$500 for a two-week summer session or a grant of up to \$1,000 for a three-week or more summer session.

Grants from the Jewish Overnight Camping Program are a gift. They are not need-based and are not contingent on other scholarship or financial aid dollars.

Further information and an application form are available at www.jewishcincinnati.org/camping

Application Deadline: May 1st

For information please consult Rabbi Coran.

This program is administered by the Jewish Federation of Cincinnati.

PURIM CARNIVAL

KEHAL KODESH ~It's How We Live...~

Did you hear? It's time for the
Grease
Purim Carnival

Just Lunch \$8 Tickets
Free Children's Tickets

Just Games \$5 For 15 Games

Combination Lunch & Games \$15 Under 12s \$10

Food
Fun
Games
Family & Friends

Purim Carnival

Sunday
February 24, 2013
12:00 p.m.
After Kehal Kodesh Religious School
At Rockdale Temple

YGOR
Youth Group of Rockdale Temple

In December, we were privileged to welcome Dan Nichols to Rockdale. Having the opportunity to hear him sing and interact with our congregation twice—both at the Rabbis' house for the adult party and with the kids during Sunday school—was a real pleasure. His music invokes such positive energy and spirit and these feelings stayed with me the entire week.

Sadly, barely two weeks later, our country was rocked by the news of the violent events that unfolded in Newtown, Conn. In the aftermath, many famous personalities called on the citizens of the United States to perform acts of random kindness in memory of the victims. Social media was filled with examples of these acts, as people were looking for some way to move forward in a positive direction in light of this unspeakable occurrence.

During the days following the tragedy, one of the ways I found peace was by listening to Dan Nichols' music; in particular, to his song "Kehillah Kedoshah", from his CD, "My Heart is in the East."

While the title of the song reminded me of the name of our religious school, I especially connected with the words in the bridge, found toward the end of the song.

Nichols sings, "It's how we help... It's how we give... It's how we pray... It's how we heal... It's how we live..."

With these words, he implores us to look at the way we live our lives, and to find meaning and inspiration in the everyday events. He encourages us to dig deep and find opportunities to

connect with those around us. These can come in the way of random acts of kindness, or simply in being kind in our actions and words.

While the music alone cannot erase the inconceivable events from our memory, I continue to return to the lyrics and find guidance in its message.

I am now looking ahead to the holiday of Purim, which falls at the end of this month.

As with many of our holidays that commemorate the strength of the Jewish people over evil oppressors, Purim is a time to celebrate and affirm our Jewish survival against all odds.

One of the messages of the Megillah (Book of Esther) is that the only way to defeat the culture of fear is to turn it into a culture of strength and power.

There are four mitzvot associated with the holiday. The first is to listen to the reading of the Megillah. The second is to give tzedakah. The third is to give gifts of food to friends (*Mishloah Manot*). And the fourth is to celebrate with a festive meal.

Here at Rockdale Temple, we can help you to fulfill these mitzvot.

Please join us at the end of the month. Come to the dinner, Purim shpiel and service on February 23rd. Come to the Purim carnival following Sunday school on February 24th. Come to both and celebrate our historical journey!

L'Shalom,

Alexia Kadish
Interim Director of Education

*Dan
Nichols
in
Concert*





WRJ/SISTERHOOD February Updates

Hello Everyone!

We sincerely hope the winter bug that was going around is long gone by the time you read this. It seemed to hit hard over the winter break, many people emailed and texted they were too sick to attend the meeting on January 6th. Good news is we have another meeting on February 3rd! We're finalizing whether we'll be having a speaker or an activity (maybe a bead party?!) so be sure to check your email for updates.

Remember: Sisterhood Events are Open to All Members of the Congregation!

(unless otherwise indicated, and that's a pretty rare occurrence.)

Our next big event is the Joint Brotherhood and Sisterhood Night at the Theater on March 2nd to see the Cincinnati Shakespeare Company's production of *Dangerous Liaisons*. See the flyer on the next page for full details or contact tcames@att.net for more information and to reserve your spot.



Teresa Ames & Alison Auerbach
Sisterhood Co-Presidents

Dessert Seder

We'll be hosting a multi-generational Women's Dessert Seder on March 15th at 7:30 (after services). If you've never been it's a really fun event! We'll have a Seder using a special woman's haggadah and our 'feast' will be desserts brought by participants (plus, since it's not Passover yet, you can bring any dessert you want!) In

addition, we'll be collecting tried and true Passover recipes to share. Bring your daughters, bring your sisters, bring your aunts! (I figured bringing your mother is a given). The seder is open to any woman affiliated with Rockdale Temple, and non-member guests are more than welcome to attend. You can RSVP to Becca at the office or to Alison at Auerbach.family@gmail.com. Look for a flyer in next month's bulletin with all the details. ** there is a slight possibility the date may be moved so double check with the office or Alison when making your reservation.**

We've had a busy and exciting year so far, and still have many more things planned. We look forward to an active spring, including an ART AUCTION on April 27th.

Sincerely,

Alison Auerbach &
Teresa Ames
Co-Presidents

**Sisterhood Presents
Cynthia Crane, PHD
Sunday, 2/3 10:30
Speaking on
Divided Lives:
The Untold Stories of
Jewish-Christian Women
in Nazi Germany**

DIVIDED LIVES uncovers the hidden life stories of ten women, children of Jewish-Christian marriages, whose families were persecuted during Hitler's Third Reich. These women, the Mischlinge ("half-breeds"), suffered the onslaught of anti-Jewish laws that divided spouses, families, and friends. From the early Nazi years through post-war Germany, this compelling, personal chronicle reveals the secret horrors these women endured as they struggled to survive in a nation that had betrayed them.

To all the volunteers who have helped
with our many fall and winter events:

Thank you!

Good actions give strength to ourselves and inspire good actions in others. - Plato

From the Art Show to the Kids Chanukah Fair to Soup Kitchen to helping at the gift shop to volunteering at Ronald McDonald House (and more!) we could not have accomplished all we did this fall and winter without YOU. *Thank you!*

RAK LIMUD Adult Education

Reform School

February 6th, 13th and 20th
Wednesday Evenings

7 PM

Four Questions to Ponder about the Future of Reform Judaism

Rabbi Coran

A project of the Reform Jewish Think Tank of the URJ, CCAR and HUC-JIR, these sessions and accompanying videos center around four questions: 1. What is the greatest contribution of Reform Judaism to Judaism? 2. Why are you a Reform Jew? 3. What is the greatest challenge of Reform Judaism? 4. What will facilitate the growth of Reform Judaism?

Exodus! Passover at the Freedom Center

Sunday Morning During
Religious School

March 17th

Multi-Generational Program with
Valley Temple

What I Learned When...

Wednesday Evenings

7 PM

5th Year HUC Rabbinic Students (soon to be rabbis)
share topics from their theses:

April 10th

Chocolate Moses

David Spinrad will discuss his research concerning a contemporary Jewish response to forced labor, child labor and human trafficking.

April 17th

Bonia Shur: Improviser

Jim Stoloff will offer a picture of the late Bonia Shur, composer and one-time Director of Liturgical Music at Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati. We will understand Bonia's impact on contemporary Jewish music and the modern rabbinate.

April 24th

How the Spirit Moves

Rockdale Temple's Rabbinic Intern, Meredith Kahan, will share research, music and stories about Children's Spirituality and how what moves us changes, or doesn't, as we grow older.

1948- 2013: Israel at 65

Sunday Mornings

10:15 AM

April 14th

1948

A survivor from the Speakers' Bureau of the Center for Holocaust and Humanity Education will give some perspective into the events of 1948 and beyond.

April 21st

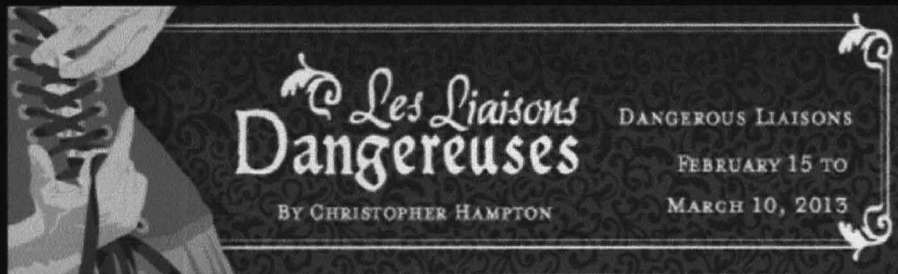
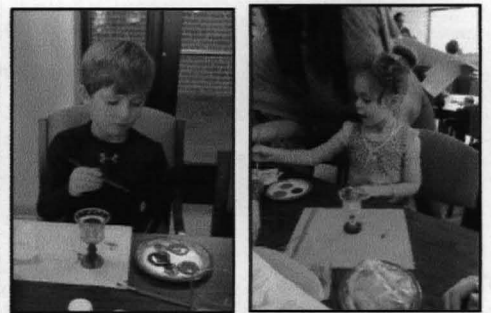
2013: The Israeli perspective of Israel at 65.

May 5th

Yair Cohen Cincinnati Shaliach
(emmissary)

Yair will speak about current issues of interest involving Israel.

Kehal Kodesh ~PreK-K-1st Grade~



Brotherhood & Sisterhood
Night at the Theater
Dangerous Liaisons
Saturday, March 2, 7:30 p.m.
Cincinnati Shakespeare Company
(Not recommended for children due to adult themes)

Ticket price: \$32
(or less if we qualify
for a group rate)
Reserve your space
now! RSVP to
tcames@att.net

FEBRUARY 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <h2>Purim</h2> <h3>Grease</h3> <h3>is the Shpiel</h3>					5:45 p.m. Shabbat Nosh 6:15 p.m. SHABBAT SERVICE	9:30 a.m. Sichat Torah (Torah Discussion) 10:00 a.m. Tot Shabbat Service Followed by Snack & Activity 10:30 a.m. Service-in-the-Round 
9:30 a.m. Kehal Kodesh Religious School With 4th Grade Family Education 10:15 p.m. Sisterhood Program 1:00 p.m. Kulanu (CRJHS) Wise Temple 6:00 p.m. YGOR Super Bowl Party Youth Lounge 3	4	4:30 p.m. Hebrew School 5	7:00 p.m. Rak Limud Adult Education Reform School: Four Questions to Ponder with Rabbi Sigma Faye Coran 6	7	 5:45 p.m. Shabbat Nosh 6:15 p.m. ROCK SHABBAT SERVICE Welcoming New Members & Birthday Blessings Followed by Shabbat Dinner 8	9:30 a.m. Sichat Torah (Torah Discussion) 10:30 a.m. Service-in-the-Round 9
9:30 a.m. Kehal Kodesh Religious School With 6th Grade Family Education 10:30 a.m. Environmental Committee 5:00 p.m. YGOR Board Meeting 7:00 p.m. Kulanu (CRJHS) Wise Temple 10	11	4:30 p.m. Hebrew School 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 7:30 p.m. Ritual Committee Meeting 12	7:00 p.m. Rak Limud Adult Education Reform School: Four Questions to Ponder with Rabbi Sigma Faye Coran 13	14	5:45 p.m. Shabbat Nosh 6:15 p.m. SHABBAT SERVICE 15	9:30 a.m. Sichat Torah (Torah Discussion) 10:30 a.m. Service-in-the-Round 16
NO KEHAL KODESH RELIGIOUS SCHOOL NO KULANU (CRJHS) 17	18	4:30 p.m. Hebrew School 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 7:00 p.m. Board Meeting 19	7:00 p.m. Rak Limud Adult Education Reform School: Four Questions to Ponder with Rabbi Sigma Faye Coran 20	7:30 p.m. Women's Book Club Library  21	5:45 p.m. Shabbat Nosh 6:15 p.m. SHABBAT SERVICE With Anniversary Blessings & Choir Singing  22	EREV PURIM 9:30 a.m. Sichat Torah (Torah Discussion) 10:30 a.m. Service-in-the-Round 5:30 p.m. MEGILLAH READING & PURIM SHPIEL  23
PURIM 9:30 a.m. Kehal Kodesh Religious School Followed by Purim Carnival 7:00 p.m. Kulanu (CRJHS) Wise Temple  24	25	4:30 p.m. Hebrew School 26	27	28		

MARCH 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div>Passover</div> <div></div>					<div>5:30 p.m. Tot Shabbat 5:45 p.m. Shabbat Nosh 6:15 p.m. SHABBAT SERVICE</div> <div></div>	<div>9:30 a.m. Sichat Torah (Torah Discussion) 10:30 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service With 7th/8th Grade Class Participation Followed by Shabbat Luncheon 7:30 p.m. Brotherhood/ Sisterhood Event Dangerous Liaisons at the Shakespeare Theater</div>
<div>9:30 a.m. Kehal Kodesh Religious School 10:15 a.m. Brotherhood Meeting 7:00 p.m. Kulanu (CRJHS) Wise Temple</div>		<div>4:30 p.m. Hebrew School</div>			<div>5:45 p.m. Shabbat Nosh 6:15 p.m. ROCK SHABBAT SERVICE With 2nd/3rd Grade Class Participation & Birthday Blessings Followed by Shabbat Dinner</div> <div></div>	<div>DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS</div> <div></div> <div>9:30 a.m. Sichat Torah (Torah Discussion) 10:30 a.m. Service-in-the-Round</div>
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<div>SOUP KITCHEN COOKING</div> <div>9:30 a.m. Kehal Kodesh Religious School With 6th Grade Family Education 7:00 p.m. Kulanu (CRJHS) Temple Sholom</div>		<div>4:30 p.m. Hebrew School 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 7:30 p.m. Ritual Committee Meeting</div>			<div>5:45 p.m. Shabbat Nosh 6:15 p.m. SHABBAT SERVICE 7:30 p.m. Sisterhood Multigenerational Dessert Seder</div>	<div>9:30 a.m. Sichat Torah (Torah Discussion) 10:30 a.m. Bar Mitzvah of Quint Kaufman Son of Sarah & Fred Kaufman</div>
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
<div>9:30 a.m. Kehal Kodesh Religious School Joint Freedom Center Program with Valley Temple 7:00 p.m. Kulanu (CRJH S) Wise Temple</div>		<div>4:30 p.m. Hebrew School 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 7:00 p.m. Board Meeting</div>			<div>5:45 p.m. Shabbat Nosh 6:15 p.m. SHABBAT SERVICE With Anniversary Blessings & Choir Singing</div> <div></div>	<div>9:30 a.m. Sichat Torah (Torah Discussion) 10:30 a.m. Service-in-the-Round</div>
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	<div>EREV PASSOVER</div>	<div>PASSOVER ~1ST DAY~</div> <div>10:30 a.m. PASSOVER MORNING SERVICE 6:00 p.m. Congregational Seder</div>	<div>PASSOVER ~2ND DAY~</div>	<div>PASSOVER ~3RD DAY~</div>	<div>PASSOVER ~4TH DAY~</div> <div>5:45 p.m. Shabbat Nosh 6:15 p.m. SHABBAT SERVICE</div>	<div>PASSOVER ~5TH DAY~</div> <div>9:30 a.m. Sichat Torah (Torah Discussion) 10:30 a.m. Service-in-the-Round</div>
<div>No KEHAL KODESH RELIGIOUS SCHOOL No KULANU (CRJHS)</div>						
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

Adults of February

- 1 Carol Frankenstein
- 1 Corinne Simkin
- 2 Elizabeth Chudnovsky
- 3 Sam Kocherov
- 5 Gail Friedman
- 6 Margaret Friedman-Vaughan
- 6 Marvin Kraus
- 9 Ralph Lowenstein
- 11 Gary Glassmann
- 13 Nancy Schwartz
- 14 Kelly Linch
- 19 Lora Kaufman
- 22 Joan Schaengold
- 23 Stanley Ruby
- 24 Erva Dick
- 25 Michael Goldman
- 26 Marcia Cohen
- 27 Alfred Cohen
- 28 Jerry Mellman

Children of February

- 5 Jessica Whayne~17 years old
- 8 Oliver Varland~14 years old
- 12 Adam Frankel~16 years old
- 13 Joey Mattis~15 years old
- 14 Zakary Kadish~16 years old
- 17 Emily Frankel~10 years old
- 19 Sue Auerbach~11 years old
- 21 Adam Dick~18 years old
- 21 Julia Steinberg~18 years old
- 22 Jordan Klette-Cusher~18 years old
- 22 Valerie Klette-Cusher~18 years old
- 22 Edward Rivin~17 years old
- 25 Blair Tieger~17 years old
- 27 Gabriel Kaufman~11 years old
- 28 Quint Kaufman~13 years old

Adults of March

- 1 Josie Brower
- 1 Ayzik Feldman
- 3 Florence Zaret
- 7 Janet Roger
- 8 Julie Lerner
- 9 Leah Levy
- 11 Jane Garfield
- 11 Samuel Greengus
- 12 Barbara Misrach
- 12 Becky Rubenstein
- 15 Stephen Cohen
- 15 Peggy Stricker
- 17 Gordon Margolin
- 20 Arthur Stern
- 21 Loris Ungar
- 22 Gerry Kraus
- 27 Larry Bratburd
- 27 Betty Wacksman
- 29 Barry Berman
- 29 Gene Hirschberg
- 29 Jessica White
- 31 Ruth Cole

Children of March

- 1 Grace Hageman~11 years old
- 1 Ellie Torem~10 years old
- 4 Arielle Seid~15 years old
- 13 Henry Schmulewitz~12 years old
- 18 Maya Jaffee~6 years old
- 18 Talia Martinez~3 years old
- 26 Sydney Kraus~8 years old
- 30 Laurie Heldman~14 years old
- 31 Evan Schmulewitz~10 years old

Adult Birthdays are listed every five years starting with the 40th birthday and for all members who have reached the age of 75. "Children of the Temple" are those who are 18 years old & younger.

Anniversaries

February Anniversaries

- 18 Gary & Viola Glassmann~57th
- 26 Milt & Estelle Galper~60th
- 28 Edwin & Ethyl Blatt~59th

March Anniversaries

- 14 Paul & Wilma Travis~59th
- 18 Jack & Nancy Messer~45th
- 30 Marvin & Gerry Kraus~55th

Anniversaries are listed every five years starting with the 10th anniversary. All anniversaries of 50 years and over are recognized.

Enrichment.



Welcome to Cedar Village. We are a retirement community located in Mason, Ohio, featuring 105 independent and assisted living apartments and 162 healthcare beds. Formed by the merger of two longtime Cincinnati Jewish nursing homes, Cedar Village opened its doors in March 1997.

It's about caring. It's at the core of everything we do. It's the gentle touch of a hand, the soft words of comfort. It's reaching out to steady and support, to encourage and console. It's the hallmark of all that we do at Cedar Village.

CEDAR VILLAGE SERVICES

- Driving Assessment Program
- Cedar Village Home Care
- Independent and Assisted Living
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- Nursing Care
- Specialized Dementia Care

Life begins at Cedar Village.

Cedar Village Retirement Community
5467 Cedar Village Drive, Mason, Ohio 45040
Telephone 513-754-3100, Fax 513-336-3174
www.cedarcvillage.org



Welcome New Members

Randy & Ila Frankel
and their daughter
Julia



**George Fels &
Feana Krimerman**

RITUAL COMMITTEE

The Ritual Committee serves as a liaison between the congregation and the clergy. Its goals are to promote and encourage participation in services for Shabbat and festivals and Shabbat Morning Torah discussions and services, to evaluate liturgy and music, to discuss issues raised by congregants, to understand rabbinic plans in order to explain them to congregants, and to participate in Temple activities.

Next scheduled meeting:

Tuesday, February 12th, 7:30 p.m.

Fay May, 779-2774

faybmay@fuse.net

**Barb Schneider
& Gary Bryant**

PHOTOGRAPHY

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Condolences To the Friends & Family of:

Aria Rose Brady
cherished daughter of
**Miranda Smith &
Tim Brady;**
dear granddaughter of
Michael Smith ;
beloved great granddaughter of
Barbara Nelson



Marian Fohlen
beloved wife of the late
Eugene Fohlen;
devoted mother of
Cathy & Tim Heldman;
loving nanny of
**Michael, Jennifer &
Aliza Weinberger**
and
Aaron & Owen Heldman



Warren Hardcourt
beloved uncle of
Glenn & Marilee Lerman



Milton Kantor
dear friend of
Sheryl & Scott Mattis



Pearl Lamberg
beloved mother of
Ann Zeff;
cherished mother-in-law of
Morton Zeff



**Mary Lou Loyanich
(nee Marks)**
beloved wife of the late
Peter-Paul Loyanich, Jr.;
cherished sister of
Edward & Anita Marks
Peter-Paul Loyanich, Jr.
beloved husband of the late
Mary Lou Loyanich;
dear brother-in-law of
Edward G. & Anita Marks

Mazal Tov

**Reeda Miracle
& Paul Shoop**
on the birth of their granddaughter
Aliyah Renee Miracle
daughter of
Vivian Miracle



**Live Art Auction
Wine Tasting &
Silent Auction
Saturday
April 27, 2013
6:30 p.m.**

**Hors d'oeuvres &
Appetizers**



513-891-9900

reberhart@rockdaletemple.org

Silent Auction,
including items & services
donated by congregants.
Those interested in
donating either items
or service should contact

Teresa Ames
513-289-5697
tcames@att.net

www.rockdaletemple.org

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

~Tu B'Shevat~

Tu B'Shevat is the holiday when we focus on our planet and how we are taking care of the environment. It is the Jewish equivalent to Earth Day and Arbor Day rolled into one.

Rabbi Steve Gutow and Rabbi David Saperstein are quoted as saying: "This month we celebrate Tu B'Shevat, the Jewish new year for trees. Building on this ancient celebration of nature, American Jews are, increasingly, expanding their observance by honoring our entire planet. Tu B'Shevat has become a time to reflect on Earth's fragility, its dwindling resources and humankind's impact on water, air and land, as well as on the people, animals and plants that dwell here."

Source: <http://coejl.org/resources/resources-for-tu-bshvat/>

In Midrash we are told, "Take care, lest you spoil and destroy my world, because if you do, there is no one after you to make it right again" (Kohelet Rabbah 7:13). In Deuteronomy, we are taught to "choose life, that you and your descendants may live" (30:20).

Source: http://action.rac.org/p/dia/action/public/?action_KEY=8513

Myron and I are blessed with two beautiful granddaughters, ages five years and nine months. What kind of world will they live in when they are our age? The scientific community talks about a world that will be very different from that which we live in comfortably. The warnings are here, yet many of us are in denial of the severity of the climate problem, and this may result in an unfamiliar world for our granddaughters.

Pulitzer Prize winning author Dr. Jared Diamond looks at ancient civilizations in his book *Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed*. He compares past societies that collapsed or vanished, such as Easter Island and the Mayan civilization, to similar societies of the time that survived. He notes that "the problems facing us today are the same eight that undermined past societies plus four new ones: human-caused climate change, buildup of toxic chemicals in the environment, energy shortages, and full human utilization of the Earth's photosynthetic capacity... that could

lead to a global rather than local collapse." However, he points out there are important differences between the ancient world and modern world. We have the capacity to create the solutions.

In *Storms of My Grandchildren*, Dr. James Hansen, head of the NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies, warns that the planet is hurtling even more rapidly than previously acknowledged to a climatic point of no return. He paints a devastating picture of what will happen in our children's and grandchildren's lifetimes if we follow our current course. But, he is also an optimist, showing that



2013 Tu B'Shevat

Friday, January 25, 2013

5:45 Environmental Discussions

6:15 p.m. Shabbat Service

Followed by Tu B'Shevat Kiddush

On Tu B'Shevat we look at the natural world with wonder and celebrate the abundance of earth's incredible resources. This Tu B'Shevat calls on us to save the very creation that we celebrate -- the planet that is ours in trust. We will begin the discussion of caring for our planet before our Shabbat Service.

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| ▶ Karen Zanger
<i>Recent Farmers' Market Vendor</i> | ▶ Bill Messer
<i>Meatless Monday Organizer</i> |
| ▶ Barry Cohen
<i>Apple Orchard Owner</i> | ▶ Steve Rock
<i>Lighthouse Community Garden Organizer</i> |
| ▶ Gerry & Marvin Kraus
<i>Southwest Ohio No Frack Forum</i> | ▶ Natalie Wolf
<i>Amberley Village Green Garden</i> |
| ▶ Bryna Bass
<i>Cincinnati Civic Garden Center & Green Umbrella</i> | ▶ The Rockdale Environmental Committee |

Come speak with our guests and learn how you can support activities and lifestyles that are beneficial to the environment. A special Shabbat Service will be followed by a Tu B'Shevat Kiddush.



K.K. Bene Israel

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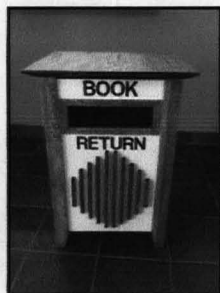
www.rockdaletemple.org

Environmental Committee

there is still time to take urgent, strong action that is needed.

On Tu B'Shevat we look at the natural world with wonder and celebrate the abundance of Earth's incredible resources. This Tu B'Shevat, which falls on Friday, January 25th, brings an awesome responsibility. We must act to save the very creation that we celebrate -- the planet that is ours in trust. We will begin the discussion of caring for our planet before our Shabbat Service, from 5:45 to 6:15. Come speak with people who are involved in activities and life styles that are beneficial to our planet and learn what you can do to make a difference. Join us in the task of tikkun olam, repairing our broken world. The seasons are turning, and time is not on our side.

Joanne Gerson
Environmental Committee Chair



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LIBRARY UPDATE ~Overdue Book Return~

As libraries go, our Rockdale collection chugs along on a very small budget while providing a rich resource of information, entertainment and inspiration to our congregants (children especially!). We function without paid library staff, although the Sunday School's librarian and her aide do get paid. On Thursdays, though, I and a small devoted crew of other volunteers (Frank Abate, Roger Abrams, Judy Heldman, and Chris Malhotra) take care of acquiring new books, getting them ready to circulate, making displays and reshelving. To me alone falls the task of trying to get returned any books people check out but don't return within three to six months or longer.

Two thoughts I'd like to pass along about this:

First, I understand how books, adult OR children's, get lost in the rush and clutter of life. They briefly come under our attention and then fade from view, overlaid by literally hundreds of other visuals---mail, magazines, other library checkouts, school and work things---not to mention clothes, shoes, and (in my house) dust!

I love everything about our library EXCEPT bothering people to bring back the books they check out. It's uncomfortable for all parties concerned, especially when the whatever is very long overdue. On the happy side, often congregants say they are so sorry and will look for what's overdue. Others say they feel certain that they have returned the books, and wonder if I might have misplaced them in our collection somewhere. (I never call



before I check the shelves and other likely spots.) Some folks leave to another congregation or another city with books, or their email or phone number changes. The trail goes cold. I have only about a 50% success rate with getting long-overdue things back. The upshot is that we often have to re-purchase the "lost" books and take time to process them (not new books) into the collection. It's a shame when there are so many great new books out there, and limited library money.

So thought number two: Please notice that a new landmark has

appeared in our temple's entrance foyer, next to the office window---a **Book Return box!**

It was lovingly designed and made as a service project by congregant and former library madrich Aaron

Roberts and his dad,

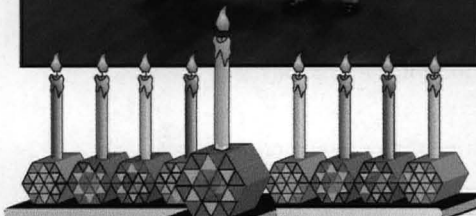
Bill Roberts. I can't thank them enough for this beautiful piece of furniture! Now, if every time you walk out of Temple, you let that box register on your consciousness, it can remind you to put that Rockdale book (or short stack of them) into the car. And then back at Temple, you can skip the trip upstairs and simply slide your returns through the slot.

Already some superb books have come back to the library by way of Aaron's Book Return. I can't wait to find even more in there when I meet with my volunteers on Thursdays!

End of low-level rant. Thanks for reading!

Karen Zanger
Volunteer librarian

CHANUKAH 2012 ~December 8, 2012~



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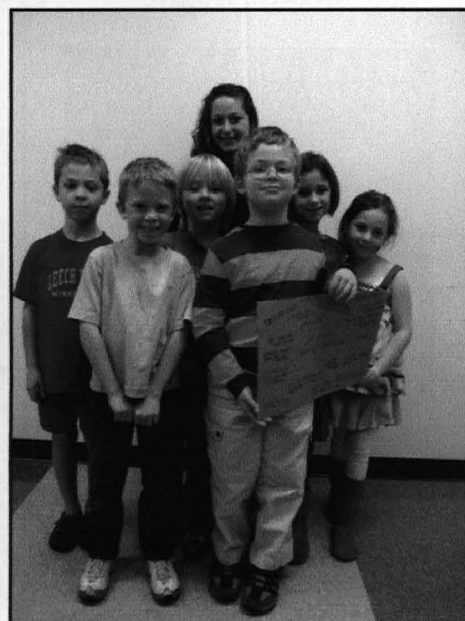
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- ☆ Deodorant ☆ Fingernail File
- ☆ Comb ☆ Hair Brush

Soup Kitchen

March 10th & 31st

Please volunteer and do not miss a fun Sunday with a nice group of people. Looking forward to working with you.

To volunteer please call:

Dolores Goldfinger
891-0725



The Literacy Network

of Greater Cincinnati Seeking Volunteers

Join the Literacy Network of Greater Cincinnati in the mission to change lives through reading, tutoring and character development. Volunteers are needed for various programs, including Cincinnati Reads, Winners Walk Tall, and office help. Contact Kathy Ciarla or Sarah Cranley, at (513) 621-READ, on how you can positively impact the lives of children in the community.



Jewish Hospital Needs Volunteers

The Jewish Hospital is a community faithful to its Jewish heritage and grounded in the Jewish and Catholic traditions of Service to the community. We are looking for volunteers that would like to share their time. A minimum of 4 hours a week is the commitment. We have many opportunities in various departments to make a difference! Join our team!

Contact Information: Volunteer Services PH#686-5330

Donate to the Silent Auction

Silent Auction, including items & services donated by congregants. Those interested in donating either property or service should contact:

Teresa Ames

513-289-5697; tcames@att.net

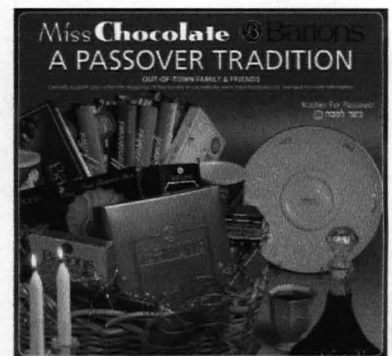
Everyone making a donation will receive a letter stating the value of the donation for tax purposes.

Help Kehal Kodesh

While Enjoying Passover

Chocolate

Miss Chocolate



Religious School students will be offering Miss Chocolate as part of their Passover Mitzvah again this year. Your orders are appreciated by each of our children, who are also in a contest to sell the most chocolate, so make sure to support their efforts.

**3rd Week of January through
3rd Week of February**

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Orders Must Be Received by **Tuesday, March 5, 2013**

Dolores Goldfinger

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Make Pick-up Arrangement after March 11, 2013

We will contact you with details regarding purchase pick-up (at Rockdale).

Name _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

All Orders Must Be Pre-Paid

Make Checks Payable to: Rockdale Temple

NOTE IN MEMO: "FOR COFFEE"

TRIBUTE FUNDS

~Donations from November 5, 2012-January 4, 2013~

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

General Donations:

Sheela Geraghty

Linda & Larry Zeff

In memory of the Yahrzeit of

Mollie N. Cohen

Helene & Philip Cohen

In memory of Amy Sanker Kappel

Vera Sanker

In honor of the B'Nei Mitzvah of

Cameron & Noah Csendes

Jodi & Scott Csendes

In honor of the wedding of

Sarah Winston & Dan Bush

Sarah Winston & Dan Bush

HELDMAN FAMILY FUND

In memory of Marian Fohlen

Dan Hoffheimer

HERITAGE OF LEARNING FUND

In memory of Doris Berman Farber

Lorraine Levine

SOUP KITCHEN FUND

General Donations:

In honor of the special birthday of

Vera Sanker

Helene & Philip Cohen

ALAN L. ROSENBERG FUND

In honor of the Holidays

Emmy & Bob Rosenberg

TEMPLE FUND

General Donations:

Alexia & Scott Kadish

Monica Meyer

In memory of Howard Jacobs

Ann Neuer

In honor of the 50th anniversary of

Mr. & Mrs. Jerome Itkoff

Ed Wertheimer

In honor of Meg Ackermann

with gratitude & wishes for

health & joy always

Fay May & Bob Prescott

In honor of the speedy recovery of

Marvin Kraus

Loris & Bob Ungar

In memory of Fred Freedman

Joan & Mel Schaengold

In honor of Renee Frankel

on her birthday

Elana Grubbs

In memory of Ludwig Tannhauser

Eva & Herbert Seelig

In memory of Dr. Gerson Lowenthal

Alica Lowenthal Shapiro

In memory Ann Zeff's mother

Loris & Bob Ungar

SACRED MUSIC FUND

In honor of Fay May

on all her devotion & service to the
music & choir of Rockdale

Barbara & Mark Michaelson

SHABBAT NOSH FUND

In honor of Maia Davidson

becoming a Bat Mitzvah

Adrienne & Ian Davidson

In honor of Cameron & Noah Csendes

becoming B'Nei Mitzvah

Jodi & Scott Csendes

In honor of the baby naming of

Mallory Asquith

Nancy & Barry Gibberman

In memory of

Irving D. Friedman & Robert Cahill

Margaret Friedman-Vaughan &

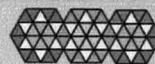
Meg Ackermann

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Advertise in the Rockdale Temple

Monthly Bulletin

Shofar Soundings



513-891-9900

We have openings in our bulletin
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that would like to advertise in the

Shofar Soundings

please refer them to the Temple office:

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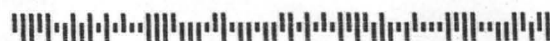
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LITURGICAL CALENDAR

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 for weekly *Rock-mail*

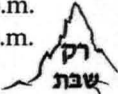
Friday, February 1, 2013

5:45 p.m. Shabbat Nosh
 6:15 p.m. SHABBAT SERVICE

Saturday, February 2, 2013

9:30 a.m. Sichat Torah
 (Torah Discussion)
 10:00 a.m.  Tot Shabbat
 Followed by Snack & Activity
 10:30 a.m. Service-in-the-Round

Friday, February 8, 2013

5:45 p.m. Shabbat Nosh
 6:15 p.m.  Rock SHABBAT SERVICE
*Welcoming New Members
 & Birthday Blessings*
 Followed by Shabbat Dinner

Saturday, February 9, 2013

9:30 a.m. Sichat Torah
 (Torah Discussion)
 10:30 a.m. Service-in-the-Round

Friday, February 15, 2013

5:45 p.m. Shabbat Nosh
 6:15 p.m. SHABBAT SERVICE

Saturday, February 16, 2013

9:30 a.m. Sichat Torah
 (Torah Discussion)
 10:30 a.m. Service-in-the-Round

Friday, February 22, 2013

5:45 p.m. Shabbat Nosh
 6:15 p.m. SHABBAT SERVICE
*With Anniversary Blessings
 & Choir Singing*

Saturday, February 26, 2013

Erev Purim
 9:30 a.m. Sichat Torah
 (Torah Discussion)
 10:30 a.m. Service-in-the-Round
 5:30 p.m. Purim Dinner
 6:30 p.m. MEGILLAH READING &
 PURIM SHPIEL
Grease is the Shpiel



Affiliated with the UR
 (Union for Reform Judaism)
 Serving Reform Congregation
 in North America

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