

# UJCBR NEWSLETTER



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# LETTER FROM THE *PRESIDENT*

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This month for the newsletter, I will start by sharing with you the brief remarks I made Erev Rosh Hashanah.

Judaism provides both opportunities and challenges. We have an opportunity to help build a better world based on our Jewish values of justice, fairness, equality, and righteousness. At the same time, we enrich our own lives by trying to live our Jewish ideals and drawing upon the abundance of Jewish wisdom, knowledge, and spiritual practice. The challenge is that we live in an imperfect world. We live a life with many competing interests, and we live in a world where some hate and attack us just because we are Jews.

Building a Jewish community together also presents many opportunities and challenges. History, traditions, size, membership, differing opinions – all these and other aspects of synagogue life provide both opportunities and challenges. We have confronted those challenges in forming our Unified Congregation. In the early 20th century, Rabbi Abraham Isaac Kook was the first chief rabbi of Palestine and the future the State of Israel. He was the first influential religious Zionist and worked with Jews across the religious spectrum to establish the new State. In ancient teachings about storing and using old grain, Rav Kook found a powerful message of renewing modern spiritual life. The Rav offered the insight that "the old shall be made new, and the new shall be made holy." Old ideas and practices can be renewed. We can renew ancient spiritual practices and make them alive in our hearts and souls, sometimes in new and meaningful ways. We can turn to that old grain and find sustenance in it!

And sometimes we have to move the old ideas and teachings and practices to the side in order to make way for the new. Just as our priestly ancestors once moved the ashes off the altar so the eternal flame could continue burning, sometimes we need to let go of old interpretations, traditions or practices in order to make space for new ones that now resonate with us. We can sanctify new ideas and practices. We can make the new not only meaningful but holy. That's the work we must do as a community-turning to the "old grain" that's already in our granaries, while also trusting that the "new grain," the new ideas and teachings flowing now, are also a source of spiritual nourishment.

We are members of the Unified Jewish Congregation of Baton Rouge. We unified to honor our rich diversity, our cherished backgrounds and traditions, and our histories in order to create a new and vibrant future for Judaism in Baton Rouge. "The old shall be made new, and the new shall be made holy."

How do we accomplish this awesome goal? I will repeat my mantra:

Volunteer – we need you, we need your skills, your knowledge, your help

Spread the word – celebrate the success we are having, bring friends, advocate for us

Donate – operating the congregation costs as it does for any organization. We have a voluntary dues structure and dues do not cover all our expenses. We depend on other contributions particularly at this time of year our High Holiday appeal. Help us reach our goal.

Let's together take advantage of the opportunity we have to build the Jewish community of our present and future.

The old shall be renewed and the new shall be made holy.

Shanah tova, A Happy and sweet New Year.

Along with you, I look forward to the many events and activities we have planned in the coming months. PLEASE, if you have not yet contributed to our annual High Holiday Appeal, do so now. Reaching our goal is critical for our success. As always, the board and I are always available to hear your suggestions and any feedback.

L'shanah Tovah,

*Steve*

# Join us for Sukkot

## SUKKOT SERVICES

Erev Shabbat & Sukkot Service | Friday, September 29 | 6:00 PM

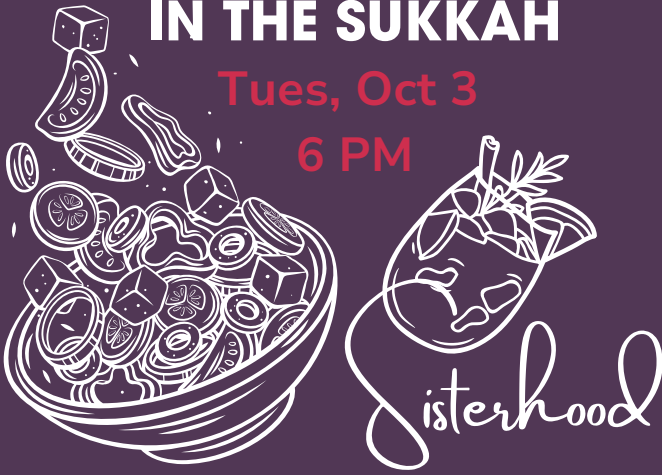
Shabbat Morning & Sukkot Festival Service | Saturday, September 30 | 10:00 AM

Erev Shabbat & Simchat Torah | Friday, October 6 | 6:00 PM | Oneg to Follow

Shabbat Morning Service with Yizkor | Saturday, October 7 | 10:00 AM

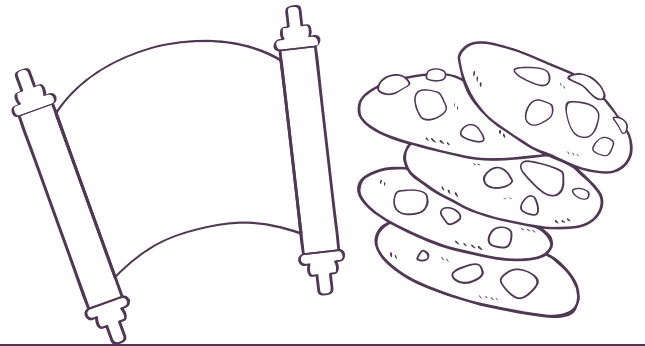
### SANGRIA AND SALAD IN THE SUKKAH

Tues, Oct 3  
6 PM



### SHABBAT & SIMCHAT TORAH WITH ONEG

Fri, Oct 6 at 6 PM



### SHABBAT MORNING & YIZKOR SERVICE

Sat, Oct 7 at 10 AM



# Tashlich Extravaganza

---



Thank you to everyone who joined us for Tashlich this year! We thank all our members who participate in Tashlich, those who blew the Shofar and our volunteers who created special activities, including card making, trail mix, sukkah decorations, spice mix, and games.

# Tahslich Continued...



# Thank You



for joining us for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. We are looking forward to a great year with each of you!

## 2023 Kindergarten Consecration



Picture Credit: Joy Lewis Pictured top left to right (1) Julie Tepper, Religious School Director, (2) Rabbi Sarah Smiley, (3) Leo Abraham, Kindergarten Teacher and son of Patty and Eric Abraham. Bottom left to right: (1) River Hutchinson, Kindergarten Teacher and son of Jenny and Jacob Hutchinson, grandchild of Donna and Jak Kunstler, (2) Bradley Wormser, son of Paige and Ben Wormser, grandson of Susan and Jack Dampf, (3) Reid Ross, son of Claire and Allan Ross, (4) Rose Morgan, daughter of Rachel and Steven Morgan, (5) Liam Svensson, son of Rebecca and Per Svensson, (6) Laine Cohen Kindergarten Teacher and LSU Hillel member.

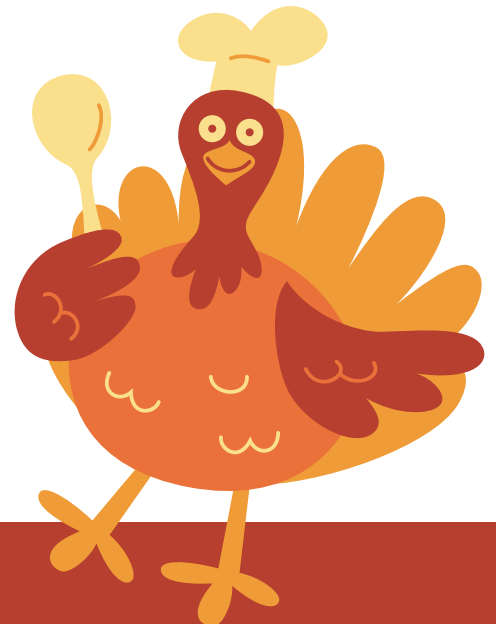
## THE TURKEY TRAIN IS COMING ON NOVEMBER 12!

Get your ticket aboard the 15th annual Religious School Turkey Train for families in need this Thanksgiving!

There are 2 ways you can participate in this mitzvah:

1. **Donate** money to purchase a turkey (\$32/turkey) by NOVEMBER 5th. Matherne's Market Downtown is joining us in the mitzvah by providing a discount and free delivery!
2. Bring a frozen turkey to Jefferson Hwy on the morning of Sunday, November 12th.

-Due to space restrictions we cannot accept frozen turkeys before this day-



**GEAUX TO SHUL**

# **MUSICAL BINGO**

**LET'S GET QUIZZICAL**

Wednesday, October 18

6:00 PM

UJCBR Social Hall

Pizza and Salad







## Fall Series

Sunday, October 22, 2023 at 1:00 p.m.

Sunday, November 19, 2023 at 1:00 p.m.

### **Einstein: His Life and Universe**

*Walter Isaacson*

.....

Based on newly released personal letters of Einstein, this book explores how an imaginative, impertinent patent clerk—a struggling father in a difficult marriage who couldn't get a teaching job or a doctorate—became the mind reader of the creator of the cosmos, the locksmith of the mysteries of the atom, and the universe. His success came from questioning conventional wisdom and marveling at mysteries that struck others as mundane. This led him to embrace a morality and politics based on respect for free minds, free spirits, and free individuals. **Discussion on October 22 and November 19, 2023 at 1:00 p.m.**

January 2024 - Date TBD

### **Künstlers in Paradise**

*Cathleen Schine*

.....

*Künstlers in Paradise*, by Cathleen Schine is a cross-generational saga. It's a tale of one family's history lived in two imperfect paradises – their fairytale home in Vienna before the Nazis began marching in the streets, and the California paradise known as Tinseltown, where three generations of Kunstlers were relocated to in 1939.

The Jewish Book Club meets once a month, generally on the third Sunday of the month at 1:00 p.m. The group is open to everyone ~ men and women. Come and join even if you haven't read the book. We read and discuss books with Jewish themes. If you have questions or suggestions for future books, please contact Susan Smolinsky ([hahtool@cox.net](mailto:hahtool@cox.net))



# ISRAELI FOLK DANCING

Unified Jewish Congregation | Baton Rouge



## Fall Series

**Sunday, October 1 at 7:00 PM**

**Sunday, October 15 at 7:00 PM**

**Sunday, October 29 at 7:00 PM**

**Sunday, November 12 at 7:00 PM**

**Sunday, November 26 at 7:00 PM**

**Sunday, December 10 at 7:00 PM**

Contact David Kirshner: [dkirsh@lsu.edu](mailto:dkirsh@lsu.edu); 225-284-7595, for more information. All ages, experience levels, singles, couples, families welcome.

# WELCOME

to our new members

Jamie and Michael Gurt  
Please welcome Jamie, Michael, and their daughter  
Jessica to UJCBR!

*Michael*

Cell: 225-202-6236 Email: [mjgurt@gmail.com](mailto:mjgurt@gmail.com)

*Jamie*

Cell: 225-252-0904 Email: [mjgurt@gmail.com](mailto:mjgurt@gmail.com)



OCTOBER 8, 22 @ 2PM

## LIFELONG LEARNING

The Writings of Josephus  
with Ben Shieber

The study of Josephus' History of the Jews will continue with Book VI, pages 325 to 391 in the Loeb Classical Library edition. on Sunday, October 8 at 2 p.m. at UJCBR.

# The Rayner Center

Rayner learned about community helpers with an on-campus field trip. Thank you to the East Baton Rouge Police Department, Acadian Ambulance, The EBR Public Library, and St. Bruno Bread Company for showing us what it means to be a community helper.



The Rayner Learning Center enrolls students ages 3 months to Pre-K. Call Latonia Douglas, Director of the Rayner Center for more information (225) 924-6772.



[Apply for Enrollement](#)

Check out our [website!](#)



**JEWISH  
ENDOWMENT  
FOUNDATION  
OF LOUISIANA**

## **YOUTH & CAMPING : GOLDRING JEWISH SUMMER CAMP EXPERIENCE**

The Jewish Endowment Foundation of Louisiana is pleased to announce that the Goldring Family Foundation has made a generous commitment to continue to underwrite the Jewish Summer Camp Experience Incentive Grant program for its 25th year.

This incentive grant provides up to \$1,500 for a Jewish child to attend a Jewish nonprofit sleepaway summer camp for the very first time. Eligible criteria for JEF funding, the children must be:

- Currently in grades 1 through 9
- Residents of Louisiana, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas or the Florida Panhandle
- Has never attended a nonprofit Jewish sleepaway summer camp

This program has helped send over 1,700 children to Jewish summer camps since 1999.

Please reach out to Sierra Sager, Board and Grants Manager with any questions. Phone: 504-524-4559 E-Mail: [Sierra@jefno.org](mailto:Sierra@jefno.org)

Applications open October 2, 2023, and the deadline to apply is March 1, 2024.

The application and eligibility requirements are available by clicking the "Youth & Camping" tab on the [JEF website](#).



# Mikvah Grand Opening



Sept 1, 2023

It was a night filled with sacred and heartfelt beauty.

In Isaiah 66, there is a verse that reminds us that G-d will not take anything away without allowing something new to bloom. And in my personal life, I have relied on that promise more times than I can count. As a community, this promise was fulfilled once again during the celebratory Mikvah opening.

On August 31, 2005, Hurricane Katrina flooded our once usable mikvah at Beth Israel in New Orleans. Many of us remember coming together as a larger community to support and assist our Jewish brothers and sisters from the New Orleans area as they were forced to leave their homes and not sure what, if anything, they would return to. I, myself, remember the pictures of rabbis in waist deep water wading into Beth Israel to recover Torah's from the Ark, to keep what is precious to all of us, as safe as possible.

Eighteen years after the beginning of an unknown future, on August 31, 2023, the Louisiana Community Mikvah officially opened its doors. I counted and estimated over 100 in attendance at the reception held at Shir Chadash in Metairie. It was not lost on us, it had taken 18 years, and how valuable that one number is in our day-to-day Jewish celebrations, good fortunes, toasts, and with this opening.

While listening to the numerous speakers, rabbis, beloved executive director, and committee chairs, I became aware that all of us, no matter how large or small, contributed to this moment. There was representation from all Jewish movements. We, as one Jewish family, with various backgrounds from Conservative to Chasidic, all came together to celebrate and mark this occasion. How incredibly beautiful this night was! We put our theological differences to the side and worked together to unite as one community and to focus on what truly mattered to us: building a space which would be open and accessible to all Jewish people, no matter the "hat" or label worn.

I had not visited the building before last night, but when I walked into the actual mikvah with its tasteful and modern décor, I began to feel a welcoming warmth. Walking further into the immersion room there is a most definite sacred energy which emerges. Even without an immersion last night, I among others, could feel the presence of divine energy, a welcoming and loving environment ready to engulf you in peace, in warmth, and in sacred being.

With love and light,

Joy Lewis



3354 Kleinert | Our Future Home

# BUILDING UPDATES



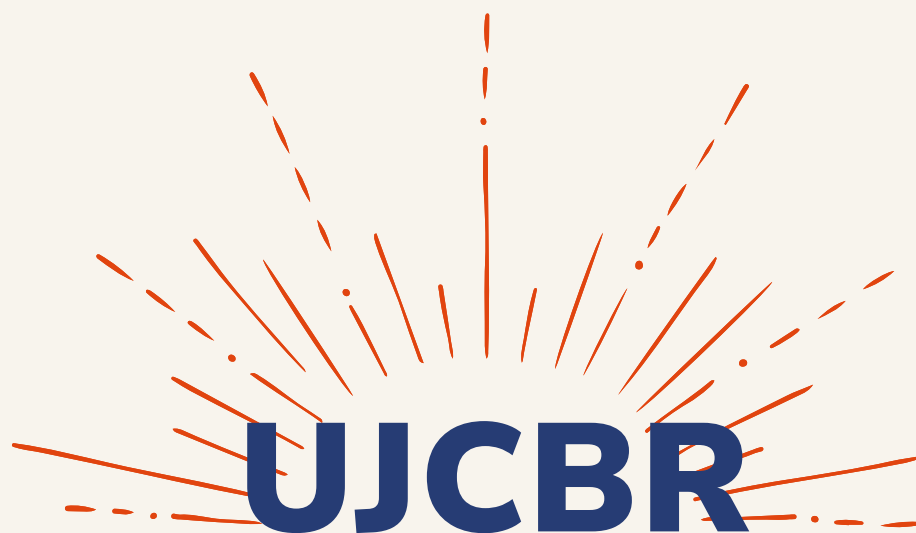
The construction of the UJCBR building is steadily advancing, and we are now just about three and a half months away from its much-anticipated completion. Exciting developments are taking place as the project moves forward. In the coming weeks, our historic stained glass pieces will be installed into our sanctuary's front entrance and our multipurpose room. Furthermore, a new canopy to cover the walkway from the front of the existing building to the new structure is set to be installed within the next week or two. New sidewalks and walkways are also being poured, bringing us closer to our first steps into our new home!



*Thank you for your donations to  
the capital campaign!*

Make a Gift





Building Dedication  
February 23 - 24, 2024



*Save the Date*



# MARK RUBIN

## JEW OF OKLAHOMA

JEWISH-AMERICANA FROM BAD LIVERS FOUNDER

# SUNDAY OCTOBER 15

"MARK RUBIN'S SONGWRITING SILENCES THE SUPERFICIAL CHATTER, REVEALING MYRIAD STORIES THAT TELL JUST AS MUCH ABOUT HIS COMMUNITY AS HIS ROLE WITHIN IT IN THE 21ST CENTURY"

- DOM FLEMMONS

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- GURE MORLIX

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# OCTOBER / 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1</b> 9:30A Religious School 10:30A Sukkot Program w/Consecration 7P Israeli Dancing	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 6P Sisterhood Sangria & Salads in the Sukkah	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 6P Simchat Torah Service with Oneg to follow	<b>7</b> 10A Festival Service
<b>8</b> 2P Lifelong Learning: The Writings of Josephus	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 6P Shabbat Service led by Joel Goldman	<b>14</b> 10A Minyan
<b>15</b> 9:30A Religious School 7P Israeli Dancing	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 6P Geaux to Shul - Musical Bingo with <i>Let's Get Quizzical</i> Host	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 6P Shabbat Service	<b>21</b> 10:30A Shabbat Morning Service - Sloane Marks becomes Bat Mitzvah
<b>22</b> 9:30A Religious School 11A 2nd Grade Family Ed 1P Jewish Book Club 2P Lifelong Learning: The Writings of Josephus	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 6P Shabbat Service	<b>28</b> 9:30A Torah Study 10A Minyan 10:30A Shabbat Morning Service
<b>29</b> 9:30A Religious School 11A Preconfirmation 12P Confirmation 7P Israeli Dancing	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>				

## NOVEMBER

5 Religious School and Kindergarten Family Ed  
 5 Lifelong Learning with Rabbi Smiley  
 10 Shabbat Celebrating our Veterans  
 12 Religious School /Turkey Train/Pre-Confirmation  
 12 Israeli Dancing

19 Jewish Book Club  
 23 Thanksgiving Day  
 26 Israeli Dancing

# Happy Anniversary

5 Shannon and Kyle Juneau  
8 Sarah Ferstel & Eric White  
13 Leslie and Scott Berg  
18 Drs. Marla and Joel Silverberg  
20 Ellen and Chunky Folks  
21 Melissa Beck and Alex Cohen  
22 Daniela and Seth Kaplan

28 Debbie and Dr. Randall Brown  
28 Emelie and Joseph Alton  
29 Patty and Carl Newman  
29 Teodora Peeva and David Weill  
30 Celia and Jamie Strickler  
31 Kathy Carroll and Stephen Beck

## OCTOBER

# Happy Birthday

1 Elaine Simon  
2 Ellen Bander  
2 Emily Kupersztoch  
3 Edna Silverman  
3 Dana Kahn  
4 Daniel Sage  
5 Joseph Alton  
5 Maggie Donald  
6 Teddy Svensson  
7 Richard Lipsey  
7 Randall Brown  
7 Lisa Binder  
8 Ashley Kober  
8 James Hickman  
8 Misty Simon  
8 Stephen Kober

9 Joel Goldman  
9 Susan Arnold  
9 David Weinstein  
10 Ann Edelman  
10 Michael Mamp  
10 Shoshanah Ferguson  
10 Cassandra Thomas  
12 Matthew Duncan  
13 Carol Wexler  
13 Sarah Rayner  
13 Donald Meltzer  
14 Lois Elisar  
14 Rochelle Mullenix  
14 Nathan Hausmann  
14 Ethan Smith  
15 Millie Brooks

15 Turner Smith  
15 Tighe Dieterich  
15 John Haffner  
16 Rebecca Silver  
17 Kara Kantrow  
17 Ivo Spalatin  
19 Rassie Brown  
19 David Koppelman  
21 Chuck Schwing  
21 Tamara Reznifkoff  
21 Steve Levine  
21 Lucas Bernard  
22 Gary Roth  
22 Mary Weinstein  
22 Rachel Hausmann

22 Laura Sachse  
22 Oscar Lewis  
23 Ronnie Marks  
24 Marc Samuels  
24 Laura Feld  
24 Hilary Shaw  
24 Jacob Ferguson  
24 Isla Welsh  
25 Sherry Mayer  
26 Debbie Koppelman  
27 Doris White  
27 Judy Feder  
29 Will Wilcox  
31 Maia Jalenak  
31 Eliza Pearce

# October

*Zichronam Livracha*

*May their memories be a blessing*



# *Yahrzeit Remembrance*

## 6 October/22 Tishri

Rose Marion Berg  
Leon Binder  
Seth Bombet  
Charles Buller  
Joseph Cicero  
Lowell Heisey  
Frances Seal Jalenak  
Josh Kantrow  
Larry Mann  
Selma Marks  
Shirley Marvin  
Selma Mayer  
Carrie Peal  
Isadore Peal  
Marilyn Rosenson  
Harry Lee Salomon  
Hyman Ellis Saltz  
Goldie Schiller  
Allan Lee Shackleton  
Leonard Shackleton  
Carolyn Silsby  
Charles Snyder  
Alex Watsky  
May Wolff Weill  
Charles Zucker

## 13 October/29 Tishri

Dr. Albert Abramson  
Louise Bergeron  
Joe Brooks  
Al Coen  
Abraham Dwork  
Bebe Frey  
Henretta "Bea" Hyman  
Gerald "J.J." Judge  
Moyse Kahn  
Ilse Katz  
Morris Lulky  
Lawrence Mann  
James Pickholtz  
Harry Razafsky  
Golda Rodman  
Ben Ronin  
Pauline Rubin  
Elisabeth Sachse  
Gail Hausmann Victor

## 20 October/6 Cheshvan

Richard Alcus  
Gerhard "Jerry" Bender  
Saul Brooks  
Carolyn K. Fineberg  
Fannie Ginsberg  
Henry Jacobs  
Lena Kanter  
Aranka Roheim  
Esther Spielberger

## 27 October/13 Cheshvan

Holly Clegg  
John Dardenne  
Joyce Fienberg  
Betty Fishbein  
Rich Gottfried  
Estelle Rosenberg Grossman  
Ruth Kahn  
Rene LeBlanc  
Rosalyn Goldfarb Liss  
Charles Maas  
Rose Mallinger  
Paul Marks, Sr.  
Charlotte McCall  
Freddie Miller  
Jerry Rabinowitz  
Victoria Vestel Anita Ramsey  
Sarah Razafsky  
David Reznikoff  
Shirley Cavalier Rice  
Cecil Rosenthal  
David Rosenthal  
Bernice Simon  
Sylvan Simon  
Daniel Stein  
Melvin Wax  
Sarah Wexler  
Irving Younger

# Donations

## RABBI DISCRETIONARY FUND

Ananska Carlo

*In memory of*

John Roheim from **Steven Paroczay**

"Tzedakah outweighs all  
other mitzvot."

*Talmud, Bava Batra*

תודה רבה  
Thank you!

# Thank you for your High Holidays Appeal Donation

Gary Baum  
Stephen Beck & Kathy Carroll  
Ellen Becker  
Ralph & Edie Bender  
Michael & Rochelle Beychok  
Dore & Lisa Binder  
Doug & Janet Black  
Sidney & Carol Anne Blitzer  
Barry & J'on Blumberg  
Charles & Carolyn Bombet  
Ronnie & Louann Bombet  
Don & Janet Bonaventure  
Harold & Laurie Brandt  
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Randy & Debbie Brown  
Derek Brownleader  
Joshua & Lindsey Burton  
Daniel & Jennifer Cassin  
Steve & Debbie Cavalier  
Karen Ceppos  
Michael & Julie Cherry  
Jack & Susan Dampf  
David & Diane Dean  
Melanie Fields  
Shawn & Jamie Folks  
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Randy & Donna Goldich  
Joel Goldman & Martha Littlefield

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Shalom Hurrey & Lynn Schechter  
Jay & Maia Jalenak  
Byron & Susan Kantrow  
Lee & Gretchen Kantrow  
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Paula Samuels  
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Chuck & Pam Schwing  
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Hamilton & Hilary Shaw  
Ben & Eileen Shieber  
Wesley Shrum & Susan Arnold  
Lucila Silva  
Harold & Edna Silverman  
Edward & Elaine Simon  
Ted & Donna Smiley  
Ashley Smith  
Henry Spielberg  
Joshua & Rachel Stephenson  
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Mary Ann Sternberg  
Joshua Usiskin  
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Elton & Doris White  
Mark & Janet White  
Steve & Kitty Wiessenberg  
Steve & Monica Winkler  
Will & Jean Wilcox

## UJCBR High Holiday

## Annual Appeal Status

**\$22,341**



**\$36,000**

Mike and Ayan Rubin's latest thriller,  
published by  
the University of Lafayette Press, is  
now out and available through local  
bookstores and on Amazon.



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"A gripping, propulsive thriller I couldn't put down."

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9191 Siegen Lane, Building 2

Telephone: 225.296.0060  
Facsimile: 225.291.2674  
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IF I AM NOT  
FOR MYSELF,  
*who will be for me?*

אם אין אני לי, מי לי?

BUT WHEN I AM  
ONLY FOR MYSELF,  
*what am I?*

וכשאני לעצמי, מה אני?

AND IF NOT NOW,  
*when?*

ואם לא עכשיו, אימת??

RABBI HILLEL | PIRKEI AVOT 1:14

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