

An Important Initiative to Honor Rabbi Oleisky z"l



A sub-group of CAI's Cemetery Committee is spearheading an effort to have a bench installed near Rabbi Arthur Oleisky's z"l gravesite. It will be a peaceful place for those who want to spend a few moments reflecting in the cemetery. The Oleisky family is honored to have the congregation install this bench. The bench will be made of granite and installed by Evergreen Cemetery.

We are hoping to raise sufficient funds to cover the expenses associated with this project, with additional funds to support both the Rabbi Oleisky Education & Youth Endowment Fund and our Congregational Fund, ensuring the programs he held so dear will continue to inspire future generations.



Our fundraising goal is \$50,000, an ambitious goal, but we are hopeful that those who knew and loved Rabbi Oleisky z"l will give generously in his memory to support the synagogue he loved so much.

Please make your donation by **Friday, August 25, 2023**. A special service will take place during our Kever Avot Service on September 10, 2023 when we unveil the bench and honor Rabbi Oleisky z"l.

Thank you,

Madeline Friedman and Bruce Greenberg, Co-Chairs

Remembering our beloved Rabbi Emeritus, Arthur Oleisky z"l

In 1970, Rabbi Oleisky joined Congregation Anshei Israel in Tucson as the head rabbi, a position he held until he was named Rabbi Emeritus in 1999. During his time as CAI's Rabbi, he grew the congregation to over 1,200 family members, making the Synagogue one of the largest in the Tucson area and all of Southern Arizona. Rabbi Oleisky also led Anshei Israel to be more accepting and seeing women as equals, leading the congregation into an egalitarian era. He never saw anyone defined by anything other than their soul. He saw everyone as an individual, as someone created in the image of God. In addition, Rabbi Oleisky loved teaching, sharing his love of Judaism, and Torah with others. He also especially loved mentoring other rabbis.

The two major pillars of his rabbinic career at Anshei Israel were his love of Camp Ramah, in Ojai, CA and his support for the State of Israel. During Rabbi Oleisky's tenure, Anshei Israel sent the largest number of campers from a single synagogue to Camp Ramah in Ojai and the highest rate of one synagogue's camp's attendance in the country. His advocacy of Camp Ramah was relentless. He strengthened the USY (United Synagogue Youth) program adding a youth director to the staff bringing over 100 teenagers into the youth program. One Yom Kippur, he floated the idea of a Jewish day school in Tucson. That idea grew into the Tucson Hebrew Academy, which served over 250 children at the time of his retirement.

Rabbi Oleisky thought that counseling the bereaved was not only one of the highest *mitzvot* (commandments), but also that it was a pastoral skill that needed serious training. He studied with Elizabeth Kubler-Ross and lectured at the University of Arizona's School of Medicine on death and grief. Rabbi Oleisky was an active member of the Pima Community Interfaith Council (PCIC) and helped to found Accord, bringing together three different faith congregations to focus on community social action (Jewish, Catholic and Protestant). Accord became a program of the PCIC.

Rabbi Oleisky's legacy continues through his students' and community members' engagement with and commitment to Judaism, Israel, and his beloved Camp Ramah.

Please make your secure donation at caiaz.org



or fill out the form on the back and return to CAI, 5550 E. 5th St., Tucson AZ 85711



Congregation Anshei Israel
5550 E. 5th Street, Tucson, AZ 85711
(520) 745-5550 • caiaz.org

Rabbi Emeritus Arthur Oleisky z”l Memorial Bench Donation Form

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Name(s)	
Street Address	
City, State, Zip	
Daytime Phone Number	
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Name(s) to publish in Kolenu	
Donation Amount	
PAYMENT INFORMATION	
Check <input type="checkbox"/> Check # _____	Visa/MC/Discover #
Credit Card <input type="checkbox"/>	Signature
Exp.	Sec. Code

**Complete credit card information is required to complete your transaction, or
make a secure donation on our website at caiaz.org**

Thank you for your generous donation!

Please bring or mail your completed form to:
Congregation Anshei Israel
5550 E. 5th Street
Tucson, AZ 85711