

Temple Israel Staff and Officers

Aryeh Azriel.....Rabbi
 Craig H. Marantz.....Rabbi
 Wendy Shermet.....Cantor
 Michelle Shkolnick.....Executive Director
 Joan Cooper.....Elementary School Coordinator
 Elyce Azriel.....Middle/High School Director
 Stephanie Grossman.....Director of
 Youth and Informal Education
 Rosie Zweiback.....Program Director
 Claudia Sherman.....Communications Coordinator
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 M. Ronald Brodkey.....Vice President
 Wendy Goldberg.....Vice President
 Rick Fox.....Secretary
 Jon Meyers.....Treasurer
 John Lehr.....Assistant Treasurer
 Dr. Michael Walts.....Past President
 Stacey Rockman.....WRJ-O President
 Janet Baack.....OTYG President

Remember Our Funds

Your contributions to the following funds ensure the continuation and support of many vital activities of the Temple. Your thoughtfulness is appreciated.

If you wish to contribute to any of these funds at a different level, please advise the Temple staff.

Tree of Life leaves are \$300. Tree of Life Boulders are \$3,000. If you would like information on these donations, please call Michelle Shkolnick, Executive Director, at 556-6536.

\$6.00 fund contributions:

David Bleicher Camp Scholarship
 Mel and Genevieve Bornstein
 Social Justice
 Rabbi Sidney H. Brooks Institute
 on Judaism for Clergy
 Caring
 Cemetery Improvement
 Education
 Endowment
 Samuel and Ida Kaiman
 Endowment
 Sol and Jeanette Krizelman
 Social Justice
 Landscape
 Library
 Music
 Outreach

Ruth and Bernard Raskin
 Youth Activities
 Margaret and Arnold Robinson
 Family Jewish Education
 Milton and Rosalie Saylan
 Jewish Education
 Jennifer Soshnik Scholarship
 Brad Sperling Memorial Fund
 for Education of Young Children
 Temple Youth Group
 Elinor Whitman Religious Education
 Janis L. Yale Enrichment
 Hermene Zweiback Fund for
 Lifelong Jewish Learning
 Rabbi Azriel's Discretionary
 Rabbi Marantz's Discretionary
 Cantor Shermet's Discretionary
 Michelle Shkolnick's Discretionary

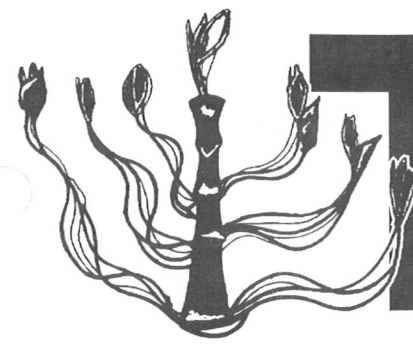
Please save Sunday, May 23 for
 Temple Israel's 133rd Annual Meeting!
 Watch your mail and the
 next Tidings for details!



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Rabbi Lee T. Bycel

Scholar-in-Residence

"Living as a Jew in the Modern World: Challenges and Opportunities"

April 30-May 2

Rabbi Bycel, senior fellow at The Skirball Cultural Center in Los Angeles, will be this year's Ida and Samuel Kaiman Memorial Fund speaker. The Skirball Center is dedicated to exploring connections between 4,000 years of Jewish heritage and the vitality of American democratic ideals.

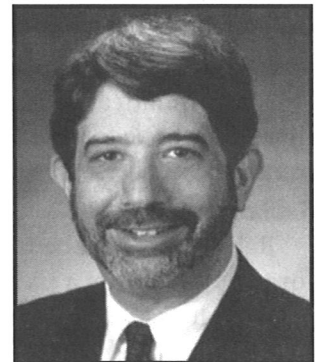
Formerly the president of The Brandeis-Bardin Institute, a national conference and retreat center for Jewish learning and culture in southern California, Rabbi Bycel is currently on sabbatical, studying, teaching and traveling. He served as a moderator for various leadership seminars at The Aspen Institute in Washington, D.C.

A graduate of the University of California at Berkeley, Rabbi Bycel earned his Master of Arts in Hebrew Letters at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion (HUC-JIR) in Los

Angeles and was ordained at HUC-JIR in New York in 1979. In 1995, he completed his doctoral studies at Claremont School of Theology in Claremont, CA.

At HUC-JIR in Los Angeles, Rabbi Bycel held the positions of dean for 15 years as well as senior academic and administrative officer of the campus. He was also the Smither Visiting Professor of World Religions at the Claremont School of Theology. From 1998 to 2000, he was senior rabbi at Fairmount Temple in Beachwood, OH, before serving with The Brandeis-Bardin Institute.

A member of the board of *Mazon: A Jewish Response to Hunger*, Rabbi Bycel has facilitated leadership retreats and programs and lectured and consulted on leadership and ethics throughout the United States. He is actively involved in interfaith, social justice, and educational organizations and activities.



In Israel, in the early 1990s, he participated in the Moriah Conference involving Jewish leaders from Europe, Israel and the United States.

Among the awards Rabbi Bycel has received is the 1999 Humanitarian Award given by the National Conference of Community and Justice and the Commendation for Service as President of the County of Los Angeles Commission on Human Relations.

Rabbi Bycel's residency is sponsored by the Ida and Samuel Kaiman Memorial Fund.

Friday, April 30, 7:30 p.m.

Sanctuary
 Shabbat Worship Service

"Living Out the American Dream:
 Why Remain Jewish?"

Oneg Shabbat following

Saturday, May 1, 4:30 p.m.

Milder Center

"Finding Meaning in Life:
 Insights from our Tradition"

Havdalah

Cheese and Fruit Reception

Sunday, May 2, 10 a.m.

Milder Center

"Transforming the Ordinary into the Sacred:
 Creating a Life of Meaning~

The Insights of Abraham Joshua Heschel"

Bagel Brunch

There are 613 commandments in the Torah and rabbinic law.

You don't have to do all of them on the same day,
 but you can do one of them on...



Sunday, May 16

•Meet at 11:30 a.m.
 in the Sanctuary

•Have lunch at Noon
 in the Friedman Social Hall

•Then do your mitzvah...
 and have some fun!

Return the flyer inside this
 Temple Tidings
 with your choice of miztvot!

President's Tidings

Gary Kaplan

Temple Dues

Thanks to all of you who promptly returned the Fair Share self-assessment. We have received over 350 so far. It is budgeting time and it is important to receive all forms as soon as possible. Call the office, 556-6536, if you need a copy. All information is kept confidential.

Cost of membership is never a prohibiting factor for belonging to Temple. Please contact Executive Director Michelle Shkolnick if there are special circumstances that you want us to consider in addition to what is reflected on your self-assessment.

Your generous Temple commitment will help assure a strong temple for us, our children and grandchildren.

New Building Site Update

The committee has been working hard, but there is nothing firm to report at this time. They hope to have one or two options for us this summer, but there is no way to rush the process. We will keep you informed.

Sabbatical

Rabbi Azriel will be taking his long-delayed sabbatical this year. It is customary for temples to grant a six month sabbatical to their rabbi after seven years of service. Many years ago, our Board made a commitment to Rabbi Azriel to fulfill his sabbatical in 1998. However, he has generously deferred his sabbatical until this year to mentor new staff.

His sabbatical begins this June. Rabbi Azriel will return for the fall, and then continue his sabbatical from December 20 through March 20. Much of his time will be spent studying in Israel and at other centers of Jewish learning, and more importantly, relaxing and spending time with his family.

While we will all miss Aryeh's advice, teachings and hugs while he is deepening his Jewish learning and restoring his beautiful soul, our spiritual needs will still be met at Temple Israel by the warm and enriching sustenance of Rabbi Marantz and Cantor Shermet.

I wish you and your family a very Happy Passover.

Three Cheers For Temple Volunteers!

This month's stars are:

Robyn Freeman
Leslie Graul
Allison Latenser
Marcee Rogers

Birthday Blessings

Friday, April 23

6 p.m.

Children and adults who celebrate their birthdays during the month of April will be invited to the *bimah* for a special blessing at the Shabbat Family Service.

Keep Us Informed

Recent changes restrict hospital chaplain offices from notifying Temple about members who are patients. We want to visit our members. You can help us keep in contact by:

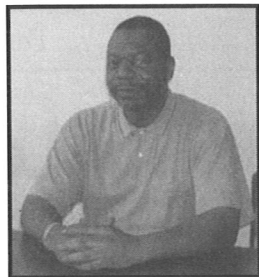
1. Calling Temple prior to a scheduled hospital stay.
2. During admissions, inform the hospital staff of your Temple affiliation and give permission for your name to be released to the Temple office.
3. If you are unexpectedly admitted to the hospital, ask a family member or friend to call Temple.

Temple's clergy want to continue these important visits; Temple's office staff calls each hospital every day to update our hospital list.

Meet The Staff

A Face Of Temple For Over 30 Years

Lonnie Williams worked at Temple Israel part-time when he started 33 years ago. Sidney Brooks was the rabbi of Temple then, Manfred Kuttner was cantor and Wilma Reeves was the executive secretary. Lonnie has been at Temple longer than any other current staff member.



Things have changed over those three decades. "There are more activities and shorter summer breaks," Lonnie noted. He has seen generations of families observe lifecycle events.

A full-time employee (and then some), Lonnie makes Temple run smoothly by setting up for meetings, services, dinners, Religious School...and whatever else is happening! "Anything that goes on here, I have a hand in it somehow," he said. It may be changing light bulbs, checking the sound system or removing snow from the entryways and the sidewalks. "I make sure everything is clean and that everything runs." On the alert for malfunctions (especially in the kitchen), Lonnie coordinates the caterers by helping to make sure table trays are full and beverages are available.

His favorite part of the job is "working with the congregants."

Lonnie has spent virtually all his life in Omaha except for two years at Fort Ord, CA, when he was stationed in the U.S. Army. The father of three and grandfather of six, Lonnie attended Omaha Technical High School where he played middle linebacker for the Trojans. On his time off, he still enjoys watching college and professional football and basketball.

Unraveling The Impact Of "The Passion"

Dr. Michael J. Cook

April 29 & 30



Dr. Michael J. Cook, the Sol and Arlene Bronstein Professor of Judaeo-Christian Studies at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion (HUC-JIR)

in Cincinnati, will be the speaker at this year's **Rabbi Sidney H. Brooks Memorial Lecture** at the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO) and at the Institute on Judaism for Clergy at Temple Israel.

Professor of Intertestamental and Early Christian Literatures at HUC-JIR, Dr. Cook was one of seven Catholic and Jewish scholars selected to assess an advanced script of Mel Gibson's controversial film, *The Passion of the Christ*, released in February. It was the report of these scholars that ignited much of the ensuing heated controversy making the news.

Speaking on *Jesus and 'the Jews' in Hollywood and DVD-Lessons We Must Learn from the Mel Gibson Ordeal*, Dr. Cook is the guest lecturer on **Thursday, April 29 at 7:30 p.m.** in the recital hall of the UNO Strauss Performing Arts Center. "Long after *Godspell*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, and *The Last Temptation of Christ*, Mel Gibson's film, *Jesus' Passion*, has indelibly altered Christian-Jewish relations," remarked Dr. Cook.

On **Friday, April 30**, Dr. Cook will be the guest lecturer at the 64th annual **Rabbi Sidney H. Brooks Institute on**

Judaism for Clergy at Temple Israel on the topic, *Jesus' Passion: Charting Our Ways Through the Mel Gibson Maze*. At 10 a.m., he will discuss *Help or Hindrance? Talmudic Perspectives on the Passion Theme-Last Supper and Passover; Sanhedrin and Capital Punishment; Blasphemy and Barabbas*. Following a 12:15 p.m. luncheon, the attendees will be invited to a lecture at 1:30 p.m. on *Why the Mel Gibson Melee Spun So Out of Control: Avoiding the One Scholarly Approach that Might have Worked*.

At Haverford College where Dr. Cook did his undergraduate work, he specialized in classical history and early church literature. After studying at Hebrew University in Jerusalem, he earned a Master's degree in Hebrew literature. He was ordained at HUC-JIR in 1970 in New York. His doctoral work focused on the Second Temple period with a concentration on the New Testament.

Dr. Cook travels widely addressing Jewish and Christian audiences. His numerous publications address evolving Jewish views of Jesus and Paul, studies on the various Gospels and on a wide spectrum of specialized subjects including the trial of Jesus, images of Judaism in Christian art, the history of anti-Semitism, the role of Passover in modern Christianity, and how Jews may attempt to neutralize missionary encroachment.

Dr. Cook is currently writing a book on *Modern Jews and the New Testament: Removing the Veil*.

"The Lost Wooden Synagogues of Eastern Europe"

Wednesday, April 14, 7 p.m.

This award winning film tells the story of six wooden synagogues that miraculously survived the Holocaust in Poland, Lithuania and Latvia. The Nebraska Jewish Historical Society is hosting this special event in the J.C.C. theater.

Just a reminder...



Daylight Savings time begins Sunday, April 4. Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour!

Mother's Day Concert

Sunday, May 9

4 p.m.

Temple Israel

Featuring Cantor Wendy Shermet with a little help from her friends.

Bring Mom, Grandma and the whole family for a special treat on this special day!

Each family receives two complimentary tickets! Additional tickets, \$10 each.

Please call the Temple office, 556-6536, to reserve your seats!

All proceeds benefit Temple Israel's Music Fund.

Attention Jewish Trivia Titans!!

Sunday, April 25

Jewish Community Center

Temple is organizing a team to compete in the B'nai B'rith Jewish Trivia Quiz at the community's Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration. The 25-question contest covers Jewish personalities, Israel, popular culture, the bible, movies and more. Interested? Contact Colleen Kennealy, colleenkennealy@hotmail.com or 431-8431.

Mazel Tov To Stephanie DePorte!

On May 17, Stephanie DePorte, the daughter of Temple members Pam and Dennis DePorte, will graduate from Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion (HUC-JIR) in Los Angeles. She will receive two Masters degrees-one in Jewish education and another in Jewish communal service. She expects to be working in southern California after graduation.

"Growing up in Omaha made me realize the importance of a strong Jewish education," said Stephanie. "A clear Jewish identity was important for my family, because we were often in situations where we would be the only Jewish family. Our Jewish life as a family developed because we were active in our synagogue and in the greater Jewish communal life."



A product of Temple Israel's Religious School through tenth grade, Stephanie became active in Temple Youth Group while her parents pursued leadership roles in the congregation. "Being active in my youth group, attending a Jewish camp as both camper and staff, attending a college with a significant number of Jews, and teaching religious school exposed me to the vast and vibrant life of Jews in America," she explained.

"I realized how important it is to educate people about Judaism," Stephanie continued, "passing on our traditions, our values, and our history. I think it is imperative that we embrace our Jewish communities and continue to educate our people so that they can make informed choices as to how to live as Jews."

A 1999 graduate of the University of Wisconsin, Stephanie earned a Bachelor's degree in Hebrew and a certificate in Jewish studies. She spent her junior year in Jerusalem at Hebrew University. That's when she decided that a career in Jewish education was "where my passion is."

Even prior to her graduation from Burke High School, Stephanie embarked on her career as a counselor at Olin-Sang-Ruby Union Institute in Wisconsin where she had been a camper herself. As a college student, she taught third and fourth grade at Congregation Beth El in Madison. Later she was a head counselor at Camp Shalom Noar in Madison, taught at congregations and was a mentor to B'nai Mitzvah students in Illinois and California.

Administratively, Stephanie will continue as a graduate intern and a third and fourth grade unit head at Temple Beth Shalom in Santa Ana until she graduates. She was a graduate intern for the Department of Jewish Community Programs at Jewish Family Service in Los Angeles. She was also a youth director at Temple Chai in Chicago from 1999 to 2001. In addition, Stephanie has been working at HUC-JIR as an admissions and recruitment intern.

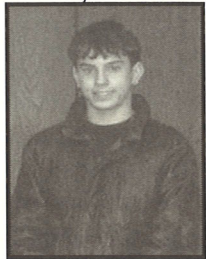
Stephanie believes that "one of the challenges facing Reform Jewish education in the 21st century is the question of how Reform Jewish life in this country will continue and what role education will play. As liberal Jews, Reform Jews in particular, we value being part of the Jewish community as well as being a part of the larger American society. Reform Jewish education needs to help Jews embrace Jewish values, traditions and the culture of Judaism as well as value the differences between all communities in American society. Jews ultimately need to maintain their Jewish identity and still feel comfortable in secular America."

May she go from strength to strength.

A portion of Stephanie's graduate studies has been funded by the Rabbi Azriel Education Fund for Jewish Professionals. The fund was established in 1998 in celebration of Rabbi Azriel's tenth anniversary at Temple. Thanks to the ongoing generosity of Temple congregants, the fund has helped many Jewish professionals realize their educational goals.

Temple Youth Attends RAC Social Justice Weekend

Sam Anderson, a sophomore at Omaha North High School and a Temple Israel Religious School student, was among approximately 80 high school youth from throughout the United States and Canada who attended the RAC Social Justice Weekend. The February program was sponsored by Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion (HUC-JIR) and the Religious Action Center (RAC) in Cincinnati.



Among other activities, the students participated in a poverty simulation, Sam explained. Each student was given a packet about a different person involved in a separate scenario. "We had to calculate how much money we had to spend on the necessities of life." Each teen visited four stations including emergency services, a welfare office, a food stamps office and a local market.

Sam's imaginary circumstance was that of a single mother of six children living with the woman's sister and her boyfriend. "The goal of the activity was to go to three stations to get enough money to buy a nutritious meal," Sam said. "There were all kinds of roadblocks set up to frustrate us. I had \$9 left to spend. Most of the others had only \$1." Sam admitted he felt frustrated by the activity, but it was enlightening.

He and the other students also had an option to help make about 800 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches or sew mittens together for local shelters. Sam noted that he also learned some new things and met new people. The weekend "opened a lot of their eyes."

Please remember to turn off your pagers and cellular phones before entering the sanctuary or chapel.

Worship Services

Friday~April 2

6 p.m.
Tot Shabbat
Dinner immediately following
7:30 p.m.
Shabbat Service
Sermon
Christianity Through Jewish Eyes Series
"A Taste of the Gospels and Their Significance"
Rabbi Craig Marantz

Saturday~April 3

9:30-10:15 a.m.
Bagels and Sacred Books
10:30 a.m.
Shabbat Service
Bar Mitzvah of Samuel Salzinger
Son of Lynn and Fred Salzinger
Torah Portion: Tzav
Leviticus 6:1-8:36
Haftarah: Malachi 3:4-24

Friday~April 9

6 p.m.
Shabbat Service
Sermon
Christianity Through Jewish Eyes Series
"The Jewish Messiah"
Rabbi Aryeh Azriel

Saturday~April 10

9:30-10:15 a.m.
Bagels and Sacred Books
10:30 a.m.
Shabbat Service
Exodus 33:12-34:26
Haftarah: Ezekiel 37:1-14;
Song of Songs 2:7-17

Friday~April 16

7:30 p.m.
Shabbat Service
Led by Omaha Temple Youth Group

Saturday~April 17

9:30-10:15 a.m.
Bagels and Sacred Books
10:30 a.m.
Shabbat Service
Bat Mitzvah of Julianna Scheet
Daughter of Lisa and Gordon Scheet
Torah Portion: Shemini
Leviticus 9:1-11:47
Haftarah: II Samuel 6:1-7:17

Friday~April 23

6 p.m.
Grade 3 Family Shabbat Service
6 p.m.
Early Worship Service
Union Prayer Book

Saturday~April 24

9:30-10:15 a.m.
Bagels and Sacred Books
10:30 a.m.
Shabbat Service
Bar Mitzvah of Charles Parsow
Son of Margo Parsow and the late Dr. Jay Parsow
Torah Portion: Tazria/Metzora
Leviticus 12:1-15:33
Haftarah: II Kings 7:3-20

Friday~April 30

7:30 p.m.
Shabbat Service
"Living Out the American Dream: Why Remain Jewish?"
Rabbi Lee Bycel
Scholar-in-Residence

Saturday~May 1

9:30-10:15 a.m.
Bagels and Sacred Books
10:30 a.m.
Shabbat Service
Bat Mitzvah of Amy Levinger
Daughter of Bonnie and Steve Levinger
Torah Portion: Achare Mot/Kedoshim
Leviticus 16:1-20:27
Haftarah: Amos 9:7-15

Passover Services

Tuesday~April 6

10:30 a.m.
Passover Service

Monday~April 12

9:45 a.m.
Moments of Remembrance
10:30 a.m.
Passover Service & Yizkor

Yizkor

If you would like to have names of your loved ones read at the Morning Yizkor Service, **Monday, April 12**, please call the Temple office, 556-6536, with the names by **Thursday, April 8**.

Moments of Remembrance Monday, April 12 9:45 a.m.

To prepare yourself for Yizkor and to experience the comfort of being in a community of mourners, please join us for a special gathering before the 10:30 a.m. service. In a supportive and caring setting, we invite you to share with others your memories and feelings for those whom you will say *Kaddish*. Consider bringing a photo or important memento to help convey the essence of your loved ones. All who have lost someone dear welcome to participate in this comforting experience.

Marla Cohen, M.S., N.C.C., will lead this special time.

Visit Temple's website
www.templeisrael-ne.org

Please Note Our New Emails...

Temple Israel-tisrael@templeisraelomaha.com
Rabbi Azriel-aazriel@templeisraelomaha.com
Rabbi Marantz-cmarantz@templeisraelomaha.com
Cantor Shermet-wshermet@templeisraelomaha.com
Michelle Shkolnick-mshkolnick@templeisraelomaha.com
Joan Cooper-jcooper@templeisraelomaha.com
Elyce Azriel-eazriel@templeisraelomaha.com
Rosie Zweiback-rzweiback@templeisraelomaha.com
Stephanie Grossman-sgrossman@templeisraelomaha.com
Claudia Sherman-cgwriter1@cox.net

Lori Bennett-lbennett@templeisraelomaha.com
(Administrative Assistant)
Vicki Ducharme-vducharme@templeisraelomaha.com
(Bookkeeper)
Gloria Ketter-gketter@templeisraelomaha.com
(Elementary & Middle/High School Secretary)
Maureen Kube-mkube@templeisraelomaha.com
(Secretary/Receptionist/Donations)
Bonnie Sullivan-bsullivan@templeisraelomaha.com
(Clergy Secretary)

April 2004 • Nisan/Iyar 5764

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Adult Study with the Clergy 10-11:30 a.m. Religious School Grades 3-6 4-6 p.m. Kol Rina Choir 6:30-8 p.m. Blame and Bloodshed: The Ethics of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict 7-8:30 p.m.	2 Torah Tots 10-11:15 a.m. Tot Shabbat & Dinner 6 p.m. Shabbat Service 7:30 p.m.	3 Bagels & Sacred Books 9:30-10:15 a.m. Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m. Bar Mitzvah of Samuel Salzinger
4 No Religious School	5 1st Seder	6 Office Closed Passover Service 10:30 a.m. Congregational Seder 6 p.m.	7 No Religious School	8 Adult Study with the Clergy 10-11:30 a.m. No Religious School	9 No Torah Tots Shabbat Comes To You @ Remington Heights 4 p.m. Shabbat Service 6 p.m.	10 Bagels & Sacred Books 9:30-10:15 a.m. Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m.
11 No Religious School	12 Office Closed Moments of Remembrance 9:45 a.m. Passover Service & Yizkor 10:30 a.m.	13 Basic Judaism 6:15-8 p.m. Family School 6:15-8 p.m. AA, Alanon, Gambler's 12-step 7:30 p.m.	14 Religious School & Dinner Grades 7-12 6:30-8:30 p.m. Adult B'nai Mitzvah 6:30-8:30 p.m.	15 Adult Study with the Clergy 10-11:30 a.m. Religious School Grades 3-6 4-6 p.m. Kol Rina Choir 6:30-8 p.m. Blame and Bloodshed: The Ethics of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict 7-8:30 p.m.	16 Torah Tots 10-11:15 a.m. Shabbat Service 7:30 p.m.	17 Bagels & Sacred Books 9:30-10:15 a.m. Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m. Bat Mitzvah of Julianna Scheet
18 Religious School Teacher Meeting 9:30 a.m. Kindergarten & Grades 2, 5 & 6 10 a.m.-Noon Grade 3 @ Blumkin Home 10:15-11:45 a.m. Grade 4 @ Federation Library 10:15-11:45 a.m.	19	20 Family School 6:15-8 p.m. Board of Trustees 7:30 p.m. AA, Alanon & Gambler's 12-step 7:30 p.m.	21 Conversations with Rabbi Marantz Noon-1 p.m. Religious School Grades 7-12 @ Yom HaShoah Service Yom HaShoah Community Service @ Temple 7 p.m.	22 Adult Study with the Clergy 10-11:30 a.m. Religious School Grades 3-6 4-6 p.m. Blame and Bloodshed: The Ethics of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict 7-8:30 p.m.	23 Torah Tots 10-11:15 a.m. Grade 3 Shabbat Family Service & Dinner 6 p.m. Early Worship Service 6 p.m.	24 Bagels & Sacred Books 9:30-10:15 a.m. Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m. Bar Mitzvah of Charles Parsow Jewish Omaha Tour @ J.C.C. 3 p.m.
25 Teacher Appreciation Breakfast 9 a.m. Religious School Kindergarten-Grade 6 10 a.m.-Noon Family Prayer Assembly 10 a.m. The 4B's 10:30 a.m.-Noon Yom Ha'atzmaut Celebration @ J.C.C. 12:30 p.m. Senior Prom @ Blumkin 7 p.m.	26	27 Basic Judaism 6:15-8 p.m. Family School 6:15-8 p.m. AA, Alanon & Gambler's 12-step 7:30 p.m.	28 Religious School Social Justice Club & Dinner 5:30-6:30 p.m. Grades 7-12 6:30-8:30 p.m. Adult B'nai Mitzvah 6:30-8:30 p.m.	29 Adult Study with the Clergy, 10-11:30 a.m. Religious School Grades 3-6 4-6 p.m. Grade 5 Parents Meeting 5 p.m. Kol Rina Choir 6:30-8:00 p.m. Brooks Lectureship @ UNO 7:30 p.m.	30 Torah Tots 10-11:15 a.m. Ministers' Institute 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Shabbat Service 7:30 p.m. Rabbi Lee Bycel Scholar-in-Residence	1 Bagels & Sacred Books 9:30-10:15 a.m. Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m. Bat Mitzvah of Amy Levinger Rabbi Lee Bycel 4:30 p.m. Havdalah & Reception OTYG Elections, Dinner, Installations 4-10 p.m.



Sunday, May 16

Kick-Off: 11:30 a.m. *
Temple Israel Sanctuary

Lunch: NOON

Afternoon mitzvah projects to follow

* Religious School culmination activities: 11:00 a.m.

Please complete the form on the opposite side and mail it to Temple.
We will then send you a confirmation postcard with the details of your mitzvah.

YES!!! Sign me up as a Volunteer for Mitzvah Day

Please complete and return by April 26th to Temple Israel, 7023 Cass, 68132

NAME _____

AGE (children) _____

Address _____

Phone: Day _____ Evening _____ E-mail _____

I (we) am (are) interested in: (please rank your first 3 choices since spaces are limited)

1. ___ Temple's new retreat area -- clearing area for amphitheater (teens and above)
2. ___ Special Olympics -- prepare mailing at Temple
3. ___ Omaha Area Food Bank -- sorting food and stocking shelves (teens and above)
4. ___ Blumkin Home -- special Olympic activities for the residents
5. ___ Temple Israel Cemetery -- clean and beautify grounds
6. ___ Temple Israel building -- painting in classroom areas
7. ___ Temple Israel grounds -- cleaning and beautifying, including playground area
8. ___ Record books on tape for Castelar students at KGOR, 50th and Underwood Streets
9. ___ Lothrop and Castelar schools -- prepare teacher appreciation gifts at Temple
10. ___ Habitat for Humanity -- help with preparations for a fundraiser
11. ___ Stephens Center -- cook and prepare meal in Temple kitchen
12. ___ Together, Inc. -- cleaning and enhancing grounds
13. ___ Ronald McDonald House -- housekeeping services for common areas (teens and above)
14. ___ Thomas Fitzgerald Veteran's Home -- bingo and visiting with residents
15. ___ ADL -- assist with a mailing
16. ___ I am unable to participate on May 16th, however, I will make a tax deductible donation of \$_____ (please enclose)

** If you need transportation, please phone the Temple Office at 556-6536 **

*** PLEASE BRING NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS TO BE DONATED TO TOGETHER, INC ***

Mitzvah Day T-shirt order (100% cotton preshrunk): Make check payable to Temple Israel Mitzvah Day Project -- proceeds from the sale of shirts will defray costs of Mitzvah Day

of Adult T-shirts _____ @ \$7.50 = \$_____ +
of Youth T-shirts _____ @ \$5.50 = \$_____ Total Enclosed \$_____
Number of each size: Adult L _____ Adult XL _____ Youth L _____

Questions??? Contact Sandy Passer, 330-4289 or Dorothy Spizman, 399-9490



Shul Shuttle to Take Off Again April 30

From all accounts, the Shul Shuttle, which provides seniors safe, door-to-door transportation from their homes to Temple, is an undeniable success!

Hilde Gottlieb took the shuttle on its first trip in February. "It was very comfortable," she said. "It didn't bother me at all. Everything went well." Hilde was picked up at her home, and "the driver walked me up the driveway" when she was returned home.

Kate Ferer, who lives at Remington Heights, said, "Everybody was very nice on the shuttle."

Anyone interested in attending worship services to hear Scholar-in-Residence Rabbi Lee T. Bycel on Friday, April 30, should call the Temple office, 556-6536 or Shelly Fox, 397-1578, by Thursday, April 29. There is no cost to ride the Shul Shuttle.

Help keep the Shul Shuttle running...become a sponsor! Sponsorship is a perfect opportunity to honor a special occasion or the memory of a loved one. Interested? Call Shelly Fox, 397-1578.

A New Twist For Senior Prom

It's springtime and that means high school students have Senior Prom on their minds.

There's another prom in the works complete with a festive atmosphere including streamers and a suspended rotating mirror ball. There will be a catered dessert reception and a magician. Black Tie, a rhythm and blues band, will perform. Roses will be given to every lady and the men will wear boutonnieres.

This Prom is at the Rose Blumkin Jewish Home, and guests will be Blumkin Home residents and students from Temple Israel's Middle/High School.

Scheduled for **Sunday, April 25 at 7 p.m.**, "this Senior Prom emphasizes the importance of the Jewish value of showing respect and honor for the older generation," explained Elyce Azriel, Director of Temple's Middle/High School. She wants to see the teenagers get dressed up and spend the evening talking and dancing with the residents.

Celebrate Israel!

Sunday, April 25

12:30 p.m.

Jewish Community Center

What better way to conclude our studies of Israel than with a community-wide celebration of Yom Ha'atzmaut - 56 years of Israeli Independence!

Come connect with our community and with Israel - eat falafels, do Judaic crafts, enjoy a Rose Theater Storytelling Workshop, learn Israeli dancing, sign up for an Israeli e-pal on the computers in the library, see what our *Partnership With Israel* project is doing, and purchase roses and keepsakes from Israel. Get ready for a joyous afternoon that offers something for everyone!

Watch the *Jewish Press* for more information or contact Rachel Blum at 334-6404.

Get Your Ticket For A Trip Down Memory Lane!

Destination:

Jewish Omaha

Date: Saturday, April 24

Time: 3 p.m.

Tour Guides: Louise Abrahamson and Kevee Kirshenbaum

Join us for sight seeing, snacking and schmoozing as we tour the history of Jewish Omaha. We begin our journey at the Jewish Community Center where we load a bus and head to points north, east and south.

Highlights include the Dr. Sher Home, the Kupilier Synagogue, the old Temple Israel on Park Avenue and old neighborhoods that used to be centers of Jewish commerce and life. The trip concludes with a beautiful *havdalah* service in a full-size replica of the sanctuary of the Kupilier Shul located in the Henry and Dorothy Riekes Museum at the J.C.C.

Whether you are new Omaha or old Omaha or somewhere in between, you will love this historical journey with our expert tour guides!

Reserve your spot through the Temple office, 556-6536. There is no fee for this program hosted by Temple Israel's Outreach Committee.

NFTY MoValley Spring Chavurah

April 16-18 in Omaha

Hosted by OTYG at Temple Israel

If you can help by housing some teens at your home, providing transportation or helping supervise events,

please contact

Stephanie Grossman at
sgrossman@templeisraelomaha.com
or 556-6536.

Community Holocaust Observance

Wednesday, April 21, 7 p.m.

Temple Israel

Julie Kohner, the daughter of a Holocaust survivor, will present *Voices of the Generations*, a unique second generation account of survival against all odds at this year's Yom HaShoah observance.

Hanna and Walter Kohner represent one of the few Holocaust stories that ended happily. The two were childhood sweethearts in Czechoslovakia before World War II. They had big plans for the future until Hitler's armies closed in. Walter managed to get to America where he had brothers. Hanna was captured and survived internment in four concentration camps including Auschwitz.

After the war, Walter heard from an American who had liberated camps that Hanna was alive. The couple reunited and settled in Los Angeles where Walter became a theatrical agent. Hanna wrote their amazing story in a book, *Hanna and Walter*.

Millions of Americans watched in 1953 as Ralph Edwards, the host of *This Is Your Life*, told Hanna's story, the first time a Holocaust survivor's account was told on national television. Hanna was reunited with people from her past,

some of whom like her, survived concentration camps.

Julie Kohner carries on her parents' legacy by telling their story to school and community groups throughout the country. Her presentation has won



warm reviews from rabbis and educators. Trained as a teacher and educational counselor, Kohner was inspired by her parents to meet with other second generation survivors and is a past president of Sons and Daughters of the 1939 Club

In addition to Julie Kohner's presentation, Temple's Kol Rina choir will sing at the Yom HaShoah observance.

Sitter Service will be available with advance reservations only; call the Temple office, 556-6536. A \$2 donation per family is suggested.

Please join us for

The 4B's: Behaving, Belonging, Believing and Bagels

Connecting with Israel: How and Why?

The love of Israel is a time-honored *mitzvah*, but that doesn't mean we automatically feel passion for a place that seems so far away. Even if you have never been to Israel, that doesn't mean you can't develop an abiding affection for the land and its people. Even with the ever-present strife, Israel is bursting with great social and cultural riches that can draw our curiosity and nurture our interest.

Please join Rabbi Craig Marantz for an important session on how we can develop a greater love for Israel and why it is so vital that we do. We will explore fascinating elements of Israeli society and culture in an effort to draw Israel closer to our hearts.

Hineini: Strengthening Our Ties To Israel

Last month, Temple Israel's Board of Trustees adopted a new project to support Reform Judaism in Israel called *Hineini: Embracing Our People, Building Our Future*. Over the next two years, Reform congregations in North America that are participating in the project will be raising money for the construction of synagogue buildings for two Reform congregations in Israel.

Kehilat Yozma, located in Modi'in, is one of Israel's fastest-growing Reform communities with 150 members. Kehilat Mevasseret Zion, a congregation located just outside Jerusalem in the Judean Hills, has grown from 6 families in 1993 to more than 130 families today.

These congregations lack the most basic of congregational needs--a place to meet and worship. In addition to helping these communities make real their dream of having their own synagogues we will have the opportunity to create lasting relationships with members of Kehilat Yozma and Kehilat Mevasseret Zion, and learn more about the traditions and experiences of Reform Jews in Israel.

The initiative was proposed by Rabbi Eric Yoffie, President of the Union for Reform Judaism, to strengthen the Movement's connection to Reform Judaism worldwide. The initiative was adopted at the Biennial in November 2003.

Temple Israel is asking each household to contribute at least \$18 each year to support the construction of these two synagogues.

You will be receiving a letter soon asking for your commitment to the project. Please consider the impact of your contribution as we join with Reform Jews around the country to make a difference in embracing our people and building our future. Please contact Andrea Willensky, *Hineini* Project Coordinator, at 493-6393, if you have any questions.

Rabbi Grollman Meets Old and New Friends at Temple

Rabbi Earl Grollman (at left) reunited during his February residency at Temple Israel with Joy Johnson (second from left) with whom he has written a series of booklets for children on death.



Johnson and her husband Marvin are the co-founders of the Centering Corporation and KidsKamp, which focus on teaching children and families how to deal with grief. Becki Frishman and her brother Isaac became involved in the Centering Corporation's support group for grieving children after their grandmother died.

Becki and Isaac, along with their mother Martha Frishman, attended Rabbi Grollman's session on "Dealing with the Inevitable Losses of Life." "I enjoyed him immensely," Martha said. "Going through grief facilitation, we've read many of Rabbi Grollman's books, but it was an honor to be enlightened by him personally."

Rabbi Grollman's residency was co-sponsored by the Hermene Zweiback Center for Lifelong Jewish Learning along with Thomas Belford Jr. and John A. Gentleman Mortuaries.

A special opportunity....

If you missed "When Life Isn't Always Fair," the Scholar-in-Residence weekend with Rabbi Earl Grollman, videotapes of his talks are available for check-out in the Temple office. Please contact Rosie Zweiback, 556-6536 or rzweiback@templeisraelomaha.com, to reserve a copy.

A DELI-ghtful Night For Everyone!

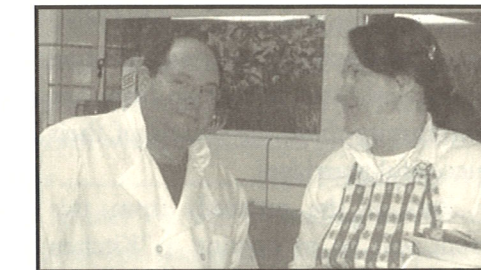
Great food and good company all made for a wildly successful Deli Night 2004. Nearly 400 people, one of the largest crowds ever, noshed and schmoozed on Sunday, March 21.

Our many thanks to the following for their generous donations: Aksarben Beef, Bag 'n Save, Hobart Sales, Omaha Compound, Omaha Steaks and Rotella's Bakery.

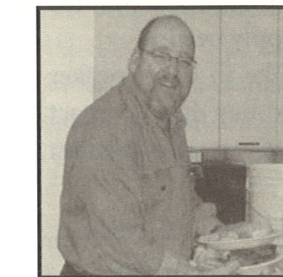


Ann Kaiman and Doris Cohn enjoy the delicious food and each other's company during Deli Night.

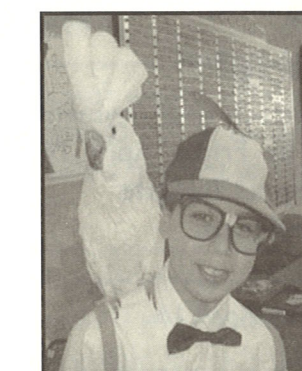
Thank you to the volunteers who worked to make it happen: Kathy Beauchaine, Jim Clark, Laurie Clark, Justin Cooper, Dennis DePorte, Toby Fellman, Rick Fox, Shelly Fox, Paul Gerber, Dora Goldstrom, Gary Javitch, Lynne Jensen, Patrick Jensen, Jeff Laudin, Todd Manvitz, Wendy Manvitz, Jon Meyers, Howie Needelman, Lee Needelman, Maria Neesman, Steve Neesman, Ann Noodell, Dave Noodell, George Quittner, Sharon Quittner, Gretchen Radler, Jeff Schweid, Jeff Skog, Ricki Skog, Debi Smedlund, Jeff Smedlund, Dorothy Spizman, Lois Wine and Norman Wine.



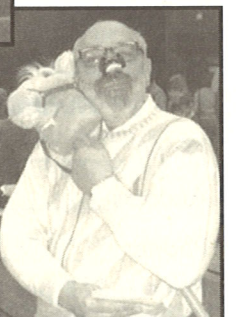
Dennis DePorte, Gretchen Radler (above) and Rick Fox (left) work to keep the orders moving along.



Peppy Parody And Purim Pratfalls



(Left) Ari Yoel and Charlie the Cockatoo take a break from games. (Above) Purim revelers enjoy the barnyard Spiel. (Right) Mordechai Horse (a.k.a. Rabbi Azriel) poses for the camera.



(Above) Carnival goers wait patiently in line for Sara Rips to stir up some cotton candy. (Right) Haman Pig (a.k.a. Cantor Shermet) and Judy Zweiback enjoy the carnival festivities.



Women of Reform Judaism-Omaha



Did you know...?

~248 women came to the Women's Seder on March 17! This event was co-sponsored by WRJ-O, NCJW, Hadassah, Beth El Sisterhood, Women of Beyt Shalom and Jewish Women International. Temple's own Andi Willensky was on the planning committee along with Rosie Zweiback, who also chaired the event.

~Part of the proceeds from the Donor Tea will help upgrade the kitchen's equipment and supplies.

~We made over 850 hamantaschen for the Purim box dinner! Yum!

~on Friday, April 30, WRJ-O will assist with the Minister's Institute. We are looking for volunteers to help with registration, set-up, serving lunch and clean-up. Please help! Contact Andie Gordman, andiegord@cox.net.



Mother's Day is Sunday, May 9

Time to order your roses from Israel!

Just complete the order form below, attach your payment and return it to the Temple office by Friday, April 16.

All orders must be picked up at Temple on Friday, May 7, Noon-4 p.m.

Mother's Day Roses from Israel - order by Friday, April 16.

Name: _____

Address: _____

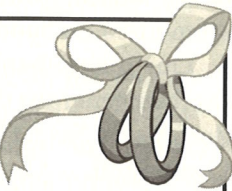
Phone: _____ Email: _____

Price is \$18 per dozen ~ choose from *Red Champ* (classic red, large bud size), *Golden Gate* (yellow, medium bud size), *Prophyta* (peach, medium bud size).

Please indicate # of dozen you would like in each color:

Red Champ	Golden Gate	Prophyta (Peach)	Total \$ Due

Please make all checks payable to WRJ-O and mail to: Temple Israel, 7023 Cass Street, Omaha, NE 68132.



Donor Tea Wednesday, May 12, 7 p.m. Temple Israel

Join us for a night of wedded bliss! Enjoy the display of beautiful wedding gowns and listen to women from our community share the secrets of their successful marriages.

Part of the proceeds from this event will go to hosting a "Kitchen Shower" for Temple that will address equipment and supply needs.

If you would like to be a speaker or display your wedding dress, contact Stacey Rockman at stacey14@cox.net or 578-7930.

Invitations will be mailed soon!

The March For Women's Lives Sunday, April 25, Noon Washington, D.C.

The Reform Movement will join with hundreds of thousands of people from around the country in a historic march in Washington, D.C., to protect reproductive freedom and women's health. The Religious Action Center (RAC) of Reform Judaism is coordinating our Movement's participation, working closely with the Women of Reform Judaism.

We are working to bring a delegation from Temple Israel to the rally, to strengthen the voice of the Reform Movement at this crucial time! For more information, contact Wendy Goldberg, wgoldberg@cox.net, visit www.urj.org/choice, or contact RAC, choice@rac.org or 202-387-2800.

The weekend's activities include:

Saturday, April 24

8 p.m.-Havdalah service at the Jefferson Memorial

Sunday, April 25

9:30 a.m.-special breakfast and program

Noon-march starting at the Lincoln Memorial

1-4 p.m.-rally at the National Mall

Needed: Used Books

The Women of Reform Judaism will be holding their Used Book Sale June 27-July 1. It's not too late to bring your books to Temple Israel or call the office, 556-6536, for a pick-up.

We are unable to accept any magazines, travel guides prior to 2000, Reader's Digest magazines or condensed books, textbooks or encyclopedias.



What's Happening in Religious School

Joan Cooper, Elementary School Coordinator

New Torah Tots Session..... Friday, April 2

me enjoy a variety of activities with Jewish topics for parents and toddlers (age 18-48 months) to explore together. Call 556-6536 for additional information.

No School or Keep-Up..... April 4-April 11

Family School resumes on Tuesday, April 13. Grades 3-6 return on Thursday, April 15 and all grades on April 18.

Grade 4 at Jewish Federation Library..... Sunday, April 18

Fourth grade will meet at the Kripke Federation Library at the J.C.C., 10:15-11:45 a.m. If transportation is a challenge, please call the Religious School office as soon as possible.

Grade 3 at Blumkin Home..... Sunday, April 18

Third grade will meet at the entrance to the Rose Blumkin Home at 10:15 a.m. We will be performing a play for Yom Ha'atzmaut, Israel's Independence Day. Parents are encouraged to join us for this special celebration with the residents of the Home.

Grade 3 Family Shabbat Service and Dinner..... Friday, April 23

This is an incredible month to be in third grade! We will be leading the Family Shabbat Service at 6 p.m. followed by a dinner for family and friends. Advanced reservations are required for our dinner but the entire community is invited to join us in the Sanctuary to welcome in Shabbat.

Teacher Appreciation Day..... Sunday, April 25

Our wonderful teachers will begin their morning with breakfast sponsored by WRJ-O. Anyone interested in helping with this special tribute, please call Joan at 556-6536, ext. 255.

Family Worship Assembly..... Sunday, April 25

Parents, please remember that the assembly is a wonderful time for our children to come together as a community and feel comfortable praying in the Sanctuary. Everyone is encouraged to join Religious School for our family worship assemblies! (10-10:30 a.m.). The 4B's topic for this morning (10:30 a.m.-Noon) will be *Connecting with Israel: How and Why?* (see page 6)

Grade 6 Project Presentations.....Sundays, April 25, May 2, & 9

As a highlight of a year of studies and research, sixth graders will share their individual research projects with the school. Student projects will be on display in our main hallway for the next several Sundays. Please take a moment to learn about a Jewish hero and admire the sixth graders' hard work.

Grade 5 Parent Meeting..... Thursday, April 29

Fifth grade parents will meet at 5 p.m. with Rabbi Azriel and Cantor Shermet in preparation for their children's Bar/Bat Mitzvah. If you are unable to attend, please call the Religious School office as soon as possible to reschedule this important meeting with our clergy.

The Bake Sale and Jewelry Sale FUNdraiser was a HUGE success! The children seemed to enjoy the event as much as the adults.

Thank you to everyone who worked on this project; those who donated jewelry, Judaica and baked goods; those who helped set up and staff the market; and those who shopped! It was truly a FUNdraiser.

With sincere thanks,
The Religious School Partnership

Tot Shabbat Is For Every Age Friday, 6 p.m. April 2 and May 7

Guess who came to Tot Shabbat In February? It was Crush, the sea turtle, and Nemo, the little fish from the movie, *Finding Nemo*! Rabbi Craig Marantz likened Nemo to the Midrashic character Nachshon who was the first to run into the sea before it parted when the Hebrews hurriedly left Egypt. "We introduced the children to *Song of the Sea* and *MiChamocha*. I thought it would be fun to link them to *Finding Nemo*," commented Rabbi Marantz.

Tot Shabbat is for families with children about five years old and younger. "Everybody's welcome," insisted Rabbi Marantz, including older siblings, parents and grandparents.

The fast-paced, energetic service that is no more than 30 minutes long, is followed by a kid-friendly meal organized and prepared by Jennifer Cohn, Betsy Marantz, Wendy Vann. "A key value of Tot Shabbat is the prayer experience," Rabbi Marantz said. "But it's also about building community, and it's easier to get to know people at a dinner."

Rabbi Marantz explained that Tot Shabbat incorporates the basic components of an abridged Shabbat worship service. Striving to keep the children's attention, the rabbis teach in an age-appropriate way as they introduce Shabbat values and rituals such as lighting candles, *kiddush*, *challah*, *tzedakah* and Torah. "We try to foster strong family values in the service. The parents recite the blessing over their children, and the kids hug their parents during the service. We want them all to be happy to come to Temple."

A group of parents have agreed to help Rabbi Marantz write some additional skits and dialogue using fictional characters from books and television. Who knows who might show up next at Tot Shabbat! Would your children like to spend Shabbat with Dora the Explorer, Belle from *Beauty and the Beast*, or Bob the Builder?

Thank You For Supporting Our Congregation Through Donations That Remember And Honor Family And Friends

IN MEMORY OF: **Dorothy Gimp Brand:** Marcella Gilbert; **Helen and Jay Cherniack:** Lisbeth Cherniack Stiffel; **Celia Fleischman:** Judy and Herb Kaiman; **Alan J. Fleishman:** Mrs. Alan J. Fleishman; **Ida Forbes:** Elinore and Ben Kutler; **Morris Gitlin:** Ann R. Cohen; **Gladys Jacobs:** Charles D. Peebles, Jr.; **Irv Kaplan:** Fran and Norman Plotkin; **William Kully:** Shelly and Arnie Ban, Fran and Louie Blumkin, Jean Briardy and Bruce Forbes, Carol and Pete Brodkey, Esther Canar, Bonnie and Marty Colton, Fran and Mickey Coren, Vickie and David Cullan, Jerry and Janey Dann, Pam and Dennis DePorte, Lois and Mel Epstein, Sandy and Paul Epstein, Darlynn and Tom Fellman, Donald Fiedler, Mrs. Al Fleishman, Irving Forbes, Roz Friedman, Phyllis and Dick Glazer, Cindy and Bruce Goldberg, Kay Lynn and John Goldner, Ann and Donald Goldstein, Jill and Joe Goldstein, Shirley and Bud Goldstein, Barbara and Eddie Gorelick, Nancy and Don Greenberg, Joy and Paul Grossman, Janice and Shelly Harris, Adele Hornstein, Nancy Hornstein, Karen Javitch, Gary Javitch, Sheryn and Arnold Joffe, Myron Kaplan, Lorrie and Gary Katelman, Sharon and Howard Kooper, Manny Kreitstein, Mrs. Louis Kulakofsky, Shirley Kulakofsky, Barbara and Marshall Kushner, Elinore and Ben Kutler, Geraldine LaPierre, Joanie and Marty Lehr, Bobbi and Mike Leibowitz, Sidney and Annette Merlis, Lee and Howard Needelman, Betsy Newman, Karli and Jody Newman, Marvin Parilman, Suzanne and Harry Pocras, Rhoda and Harlan Priesman, Iris and Marty Ricks, Carl Riekas, Margo and Steve Riekas, Stacey and Jonathan Rockman, Margo and Bill Rosen, Harriet Singer, Jerry Slusky, Marsha and David Soshnik, Harriett and Sherm Sperling, Susie and Jim Silverman, Suzanne Singer, Tevee and Bernie Turkel, Sally Venger, Robert Weinstein, Shirley Weinstein, Terri and Dick Zacharia, Debbi and Speedy Zweiback;

Milt Lewis: Shirley Weinstein; **Betty Lerner:** Marilyn and Justin Manvitz; **Ann Margolin:** Roz Friedman, Joan and Milton Marcus; **Joel Milder:** Terri and Dick Zacharia and family; **Jerry Miller:** Sandy and Paul Epstein; **Sherman Neff:** Sarah and Ted Seldin, George Shafer; **Harold Novak:** Judy and Jack Baker; **Max Platt:** Joanne and Jerry Freeman, Renee and Mo Handleman, Connie and Bob Kully, Barbara and Marshall Kushner, Nate Mandell, Stacey and Jonathan Rockman, Bea Schimmel, Jerry Slusky, Barb and Stan Widman; **Freda Raduziner:** Roz Friedman; **Beulah Robbins:** Stacey and Jonathan Rockman; **Loue Silverglat, Nina Svenson, Phil Sperling:** Harriett and Sherm Sperling; **Mel Shalek:** Phyllis and Harvey Aronson; **Mary Sternberg:** Andi, David, Amy and Allie Willensky; **Bruce Vann:** Esther Canar, Nancy and Don Greenberg, Renee and Mo Handleman, Leo Kamisar, Bev and Abe Krasne, Barbara and Marshall Kushner, Marilyn and Justin Manvitz, Dodi and Steve Redler, Terri and Dick Zacharia **IN HONOR OF RECOVERY OF:** **Jeff Cooper:** Pam and Dennis DePorte, Phyllis and Dick Glazer, Mrs. Ernest A. Nogg, Dodi and Steve Redler, Margo and Bill Rosen, Audrey and Morrie Shapiro; **Bella Eisenberg, June Goodbinder:** Suzy Rubin; **Howard Kooper:** Nancy and Don Greenberg; **Marjorie Lincoln:** Helen Soiref; **Fran and Jerry Milder:** Janey and Jerry Dann; **Margo Rosen:** Cindy and Bruce Goldberg; **Seymour Schneider:** Joe Frank; **Nate Shukert:** Audrey, Morrie and David Shapiro; **Patricia McGill Smith:** Joan and Milton Marcus **IN HONOR OF BIRTHDAY OF:** **George Eisenberg:** Joyce and Shelly Cohen; **Tim Galligan:** Audrey, Morrie and David Shapiro; **David Gilinsky:** Suzanne and Harry Pocras; **Buddy Herzog:** Pearl Herzog; **Marshall Lobin:** Renee and Mo Handelman; **Henry Riekas:** Bettie Fisk; **Barbara Rips:** Marilyn Cohn, Debbie and Scott Friedman, Helen and Milt Glazer,

Sheryn and Arnold Joffe, Harriet Mill Lyra Ann Monasee, Kathy and Steve Simon, Eleanor and Stanley Slosburg, Sarah Taxman, Terri and Dick Zacharia; **Suzy Rubin:** Toby Fellman; **Isidore Tretiak:** Lois and Don Stern; **Hazel Turchen:** Joan and Milton Marcus **IN HONOR OF ANNIVERSARY OF:** **Ronnie and Art Jacobson:** Eileen and Leonard Jacobson, Harriet and Sonny Marko; **Dorothy and Henry Riekas:** Bettie Fisk **IN HONOR OF B'NAI MITZVAH OF:** **Aaron Bleicher:** Iris and Marty Ricks; **Lauren Davis:** Fran and Louie Blumkin; **Adam Goldberg:** Frances and Sam Fried, Anne, Ed and Nate Joseph; **Jory Goldstrom:** Andi and David Willensky; **Zachary Harris:** Fran and Louie Blumkin, Barbara and Dean Frankel, Frances and Sam Fried; **Avery Lehr:** Frances and Sam Fried **IN APPRECIATION OF:** **Rabbi Aryeh Azriel, Rabbi Craig Marantz, Cant Wendy Shermet, Michelle Shkolnick, Elyce Azriel, Joan Cooper, Stephanie Grossman, Claudia Sherman, Rosie Zweiback, Lori Bennett, Willie Clark, Vicki Ducharme, Gloria Ketter, Maureen Kube, Bonnie Sullivan, Lonnie Williams**



Tree of Life Commemorating the joyous moments in families' and friends' lives

The following leaf has
been added to our Tree of Life:

In Honor of the
70th Birthday of
Fefe Passer
By Her Friends

Our Sympathy

*The Congregation records with
sorrow the deaths of...*

Harold Bloom, father of Brent Bloom;

Herman X. Eirinberg, father of Lewis Eirinberg;

William D. Kully, husband of Leslie Kully, father of Cathy, Denese and Tim Kully, brother of Bob and Tom Kully, and son-in-law of Irving Forbes;

Max Platt, husband of Dorothy Platt, father of Connie Stilwell and Michael Platt, and grandfather of Jeff Platt, Kim Noddle, Lisa Leopold, Jill Swanberg, Joe Platt, Scott Singer, Carolyn Zastera and Margie Singer;

Laura Plattner, mother of Judy Brodsky and grandmother of Joel Brodsky, Karen Brodsky-Dierkhising and Peter Brodsky;

Beulah "Bea" Robbins, grandmother of Courtney Ferer;

Mary E. Sternberg, wife of Walter Sternberg, mother of Steven, Emily and Rebecca Sternberg, daughter of Shirley Karp, and sister of Marilyn Gawronski and Helen Neuman;

Khonon Ben Michael Trubnikov, father of Alexander Trubnikov
*...and extends sympathy to
their bereaved families.*

Healing

Mi Shebeirakh, the prayer for physical and emotional healing, is recited at the Friday evening Shabbat service. If you are ill and would like a *mi shebeirakh* recited on your behalf, please call the Temple office (556-6536) before noon, Fridays, so the congregation may offer its prayers for you.

If you know another person who needs the same, please ask the individual for permission to read his/her name before calling the office.

Congratulations

On the Birth of:

Luke David Steiner, son of Melissa and Gary Steiner. Grandparents are Nancy and David Friedland, and Vern Steiner and the late Phyllis Steiner.

On the Engagement of:

Amy Carolyn Bernstein and Eric Steven Shivvers. Parents are Mary and Tom Bernstein, and Shari Benstock, FL, and Linda and Mel Shivvers, Des Moines, IA.

Sarah Bay and Adam Yale. Parents are Cindy and Mogen Bay, and Donald Yale, Englewood, CO, and the late Janis Yale.



In The Mail

Dear Rabbi Azriel,

Thank you for coming into my classroom. Your personal insights into the situation in Israel were greatly appreciated. My students have a better understanding, but even more importantly they are asking questions. I hope you realize the impact you have made on these students...kids who often don't think of the world beyond Omaha.

Brent Snow
Millard North High School

Two letters from local pastors prompted by *The Passion of the Christ* movie:

I watched the ABC News interview on Mel Gibson's (movie). Part of the interview featured Abe Foxman of the ADL voicing his concern over the film creating and heightening anti-Semitism.

I know his concern is valid. I recently read an article comparing the current level of anti-Semitism in the world to that of 1930-era Germany. I have seen the local news stories about racists distributing their trash around Omaha and at a local ADL meeting.

On behalf of myself and the people of 3Rivers Church, let me say this: who touches Israel, touches us. Who offends a Jew offends us. The enemies of the Chosen People are the enemies of all G-d's people.

We reject anti-Semitism in any form. We reject the lie of Jewish deicide. We reject the hellish fantasy that says to love Christ, we must hate the Jew. We absolutely reject placing the guilt for Christ's death on all Jews for all time.

With the upcoming release of (the movie), and in the days and weeks that follow, please know that we stand with you. If we can be of any assistance to you, please feel free to contact me or the church directly.

Peace,
Leo Marks
3Rivers Church

The reason for my letter is that I am concerned that there would be a rift or misunderstanding between the Jewish and Christian communities in Omaha over (the movie).

It has pained me to realize that some of our dear friends in the Jewish community have been offended by the production. While the leader of the Anti-Defamation League said on 20/20 he did not believe that the movie was anti-Semitic, he did say that he feared it could be used to stir up anti-Semitism.

Please be assured that our support for (the movie) in no way indicates any lessening of our affection, prayers and support for the Jewish people. I have taught my people in the past that while the event of the crucifixion took place historically in Israel, the New Testament epistles specifically teach that, in the eyes of G-d, all men everywhere are responsible for the death of Jesus.

Les Beauchamp, Senior Pastor
Trinity Church Interdenominational