

WHAT WILL IT TAKE TO BUILD A NEW BUILDING
FOR TEMPLE ISRAEL? IT TAKES **YOU!**

JOIN US
SUNDAY, MAY 15, 11 A.M.
FIND OUT **WHY AND HOW**

Attend the 140th Annual Meeting of the
Congregation of Temple Israel to celebrate
the incoming and outgoing Board of Trustees.

The meeting will feature compelling reports from
the Building Coordinating and Capital & Endowment
Campaign committees on location, cost and
available funds for the New Building Project.

The Board of Trustees will offer a motion in support
of the campaign to build our new building and
endow Temple Israel's future operations.

Please come and have your voice counted!



Calendar

Shabbat Service
Adult B'nai Mitzvah Ceremony
Friday, May 13, 6 p.m.
followed by Clergy Unplugged
and Congregational Dinner

Annual Meeting & Report
The Campaign to Build Our New
Building and Endow Temple Israel's
Future Operations
Sunday, May 15, 11 a.m.

Grade 12 Graduation/
Confirmation Service
Friday, May 20, 6 p.m.

Habitat For Humanity
Sunday, May 22, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Erev Shavuot Service and
Grade 10 Confirmation Service
Tuesday, June 7, 6 p.m.

Shavuot Service and Yizkor
Wednesday, June 8, 10:30 a.m.

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WHAT WILL IT TAKE TO BUILD
A NEW BUILDING FOR TEMPLE ISRAEL?
IT TAKES YOU!



JOIN US SUNDAY, MAY 15, 11 A.M. FIND OUT WHY AND HOW
A NEW BUILDING. A NEW HOME.
MAKING IT POSSIBLE TOGETHER.

As I See It ...

Unrealistic expectations and materially-oriented prayers can lead only to a disappointment that dims our children's awareness of God, and diminishes their desire to continue the search. Our lessons about the perfect, omnipotent deity teach our children to blame God for all in our world that isn't perfect.

As the child in each of us matured, we outgrew the anthropomorphic picture of the Divine. Having outgrown this infantile god, with many questions still unanswered, we diminish our search until one day, we discover that we are no longer asking questions. God may very well be in this place, but we don't know it - for like our biblical patriarch Jacob, we have become spiritually blind.

But then, one day we are awakened from our spiritual slumber, often in a most unexpected way. Like Jacob, something seems to jolt us from our quiet ways - we begin to understand that, indeed, God is in this place, in us and in our lives! We realize that in our once desperate attempt to run after God, we have run away from what has been present within us all our lives.

We want to learn about the Divine in the same way we learn about any mere object. For many, it is a difficult realization that such a search is unproductive. We must learn to recognize, as did our teacher Jacob, that the gateway to God is in this place - in our hearts and in our lives.

To begin our search for God, we need to teach our children that the initial experience with God is the experience of the universe around us. They should learn that being touched by God is not only a matter of beautiful sights and special places, but of the ability to marvel at the common place: "In the faces of men and women I see God and in my own face in the glass." (Martin Buber)

We need to teach our children to have values. We can help children to understand the notion of God in people's lives as an opportunity to live righteously. When is God experienced? When a person engages in prayer or gives tzedakah; or comforts a friend or visits the sick; or when a person learns or teaches; or accepts new responsibilities or recognizes his own personal growth. Then he might never echo the words of Jacob, "God was there, but he knew it not."

We must teach our children to also accept doubt. Doubts prod us to grow - to extend the limits of our capability. We must teach that only in the child's own personal experience can God be met and not in the experience of others. All of us have important questions which we need to continue asking if we are to undertake the personal search for the various entrances to holiness. Once past the entrances, the experiences of our attempts to make ourselves more God-like will lead us to exclaim: "Surely God is in this place!"

Let's look at the coming summer as an entrance to wholeness, rest and joy.



Rabbi Azriel

Ask the Clergy

Cantor Shermet

Q: Are Torah and Haftarah cantillation (trope) the only two melodies for Jewish text?

A: We have separate trope melodies for all our scrolls: Torah, High Holiday Torah, Haftarah (Prophets), Esther, Ruth and Lamentations. The te'amim, or accents, look the same for each trope group, but the melodies attached differ. For example, the melodies for Torah trope are in more of a major mode than for Haftarah, which can sound melancholy to western ears. The te'amim also show which syllable of the Hebrew word gets the accent. Some scholars have tried to trace all Jewish modes back to these te'amim. Until we get a time machine, we will never know for sure!

Do you have a question for the clergy? Send it to templeisrael@templeisraelomaha.com.

New Temple Israel Board Members Elected

Sunday, May 15, 11 a.m.

At Temple Israel's Annual Meeting and Report The Campaign to Build Our New Building and Endow Temple Israel's Future Operations, the nominating slate for 2011-2012 Board of Trustees will be presented.

Officers proposed are: John Lehr, president; Sally Kaplan, president-elect; John Waldbaum, vice president; Mike Halsted, vice president; Alan Fredricks, treasurer; Katherine Finnegan, secretary.

Justin Cooper, Danielle Gordman, Jeff Nogg and Rob Reiss have each been nominated for three-year Board term. In addition, Scott Goodman and Susan Rothholz are nominated for two-year Board terms.

Outgoing board members: Ted Friedland, Jordana Glazer, Jill Idelman, Mike Norton and Stacey Rockman

Members of the Nominating Committee included Jon Meyers, chair; Ted Friedland and Judy Josephson from the Board of Trustees; and Louri Sullivan and Mel Epstein representing the congregation-at-large.

Note From the President



John Lehr

It is Our Time (at 11a.m. on Sunday, May 15!)

On May 15, we are holding an annual congregational meeting that will be like no other. Of course, we will briefly install the new Board and have written committee reports available, but

since it has been 60 years since we have had the chance to re-establish and re-envision our physical presence, every attendee will truly be able to say "I SECURED THE FUTURE OF REFORM JUDAISM IN OMAHA!"

As a congregation, we will have the rare and wonderful opportunity to stand as one, to vote to accept the pledges and gifts that have been made to date, and to move ahead to fully fund, endow and build our future congregational home at Sterling Ridge (128th and Pacific).

Our Capital and Endowment Committee has done a remarkable job raising the beginning funds necessary to lift this undertaking off the ground, they have only talked to one-fifth of our congregants. Beginning May 15, each and every one of us will make our own gift, thereby assuring we can transform our dream of a modern and sustainable synagogue for the 21st century into reality, and demonstrating to each other that by each doing our part, we will all move forward together.

There is a palpable sense that we are, indeed, making history, and in so doing we will benefit our community for generations to come. Please join us on May 15, and share in our communal proclamation that Reform Judaism in Omaha is worthy of our time, and our money, and most definitely is here to stay!

Temple Israel Staff

Contact information is available on our website templeisrael-ne.org/aboutus/.

templeisrael@templeisraelomaha.com

In the News

Earlier this month, **Mike Silverman**, who has been the executive director of the Rose Blumkin Jewish Home since 2002 and Jewish Social Services since 2008, was named to fill the newly-created position of chief executive officer of the Jewish Federation of Omaha by the Federation Board of Directors.

A freshman at Westside High School, **Hannah Miller** set a new school relay record and placed third in the state swim meet. She swam in two individual events and two relays.

PeggyBank.com, a new business venture for **Jim Simon**, converts film into DVDs, scans old photos, and burns the images to CDs. For no extra charge, the converted files can be stored on a server which customers can access at anytime. **Adam Zweiback**, who grew up in Omaha and attended Temple Israel, is a co-founder of the new venture.

Omaha Westside came in second place at the 20th Annual Bellevue University Invitational Quiz Bowl in March. **Zane Fletcher** and **Joe Hack**, sophomores at Westside, have been on the team for two years. Their team qualified for the state Quiz Bowl in April.

NBC's "Celebrity Apprentice" Show, which aired on April 17, featured Omaha Steaks owners **Bruce Simon** and **Todd Simon**. Hosted by real estate magnate Donald Trump, the episode involved two teams accomplishing a task presented by Bruce and Todd who then evaluated the teams and made recommendations to Trump. The same night, Omaha Steaks hosted a charity event benefiting *The Painted Turtle*, part of the Association of Hole in the Wall Camps for seriously-ill children, and the Omaha Performing Arts Society.

Westside High School freshmen **Jacob Arnold** and **Justin Norton** were members of the four-person team that took first place honors in the State of Nebraska's Junior League Certamen competition in the Latin I division. The all-day event included written tests, the Certamen (quiz bowl format) competition, a toga contest, and an Olympic-style sports contest.

Westside High's Amazing Technicolor Show Choir won Best Band and Best Vocals and Grand Champion titles at the FAME Orlando Show Choir Competition in Florida. Members of the show choir include **Laura Gilinsky**, **Molly Gilinsky**, **Chloe Heyman**, **Jordan Jensen**, and **Sydney Robinson**. In the band, **Julian Fox** plays the saxophone and **Emily Katz**, trombone.

Seth Norton, a sixth grader at Oakdale Elementary School, was named first place winner in the 2010-2011 Kiwanis Elementary Speech Contest for the Westside School District. **Jacob Wigodsky** won top honors at Paddock Road Elementary School, one of ten elementary schools that competed in the contest. The top three will present their speeches to the Westside Kiwanis Club later in April.

Denise Meyers has been named Alegent Hospice Volunteer of the year. She was recognized at the Annual Awards Banquet of the Nebraska Hospice and Palliative Care Partnership for her service over the past eight years. She also received the President's Volunteer Service Award, bronze level, for more than 100 hours of service to Alegent Hospice in 2010.

Rita Paskowitz is one of five UNO alums who will be recognized at the UNO School of Communication 56th Annual Awards Banquet on April 28. Rita, a storyteller, will be presented with the Alumni Community Service Award.



Shabbat Evening
Friday, April 29
Service, 6 p.m.

Shabbat Morning
Saturday, April 30
Sparks Beneath the Surface,
9:15 a.m.
Service, 10:30 a.m.

Shabbat Evening
Friday, May 6
Service, 6 p.m.
8th Grade Blessings

Shabbat Morning
Saturday, May 7
Sparks Beneath the Surface,
9:15 a.m.
Service, 10:30 a.m.

Shabbat Evening
Friday, May 13
Shabbat Comes to You at
Remington Heights, 4 p.m.
Service - Adult B'nai Mitzvah
Ceremony, 6 p.m.
May Birthday Blessings
followed by Clergy
Unplugged "Who Is a Jew?"
and Congregational Dinner

Shabbat Morning
Saturday, May 14
Sparks Beneath the Surface,
9:15 a.m.
Service, 10:30 a.m.

Shabbat Evening
Friday, May 20
Grade 12 Graduation /
Confirmation Service, 6 p.m.
Family Dinner following

Shabbat Morning
Saturday, May 21
Sparks Beneath the Surface,
9:15 a.m.
Service, 10:30 a.m.

Shabbat Evening
Friday, May 27
Service, 6 p.m.

Shabbat Morning
Saturday, May 28
Sparks Beneath the Surface,
9:15 a.m.
Service, 10:30 a.m.

Shabbat Evening
Friday, June 3
Service, 6 p.m.

Shabbat Morning
Saturday, June 4
Sparks Beneath the Surface,
9:15 a.m.
Service, 10:30 a.m.

Erev Shavuot
Tuesday, June 7
Shavuot Service / Grade 10
Confirmation Service, 6 p.m.
Family Dinner following

Shavuot
Wednesday, June 8
Service and Yizkor, 10:30 a.m.

Shabbat Evening
Friday, June 10
Shabbat Comes to You at
Remington Heights, 4 p.m.
Service, 6 p.m.

Shabbat Morning
Saturday, June 11
Sparks Beneath the Surface,
9:15 a.m.
Service, 10:30 a.m.

Shabbat Evening
Friday, June 17
Service, 6 p.m.

Shabbat Morning
Saturday, June 18
Sparks Beneath the Surface,
9:15 a.m.
Service, 10:30 a.m.

Community Yom HaShoah Service

Wednesday, May 4, 7 p.m., Beth Israel Synagogue
Robbie Waisman, survivor of the Buchenwald concentration camp and a subject of the documentary film "The Boys of Buchenwald," will be the guest speaker. Born in Poland in 1931, Waisman and his sister were the only survivors of their entire family. He has lived in Canada since 1949 raising his family and running a children's clothing business. He speaks to thousands of students each year about his experiences during the Holocaust. Along with the Institute for Holocaust Education, the Jewish Federation, Beth Israel Synagogue, Beth El Synagogue and Temple Israel sponsor the yearly commemoration.

Yom Ha'Atzmaut

Tuesday, May 10, 5 - 8 p.m., Jewish Community Center Pavilion
With the music of the Chuck Penington Band in the background, Israel's 63rd birthday celebration will feature inflatables and Israeli games for kids, the Balloon Brigade and an air brush tattoo artist, food by Star Catering, and the B'nai B'rith Bible Quiz at 7 p.m. in the Child Development Center lobby. The entire community is welcome.

Shavuot - Feast of Weeks

Tuesday, June 7, 6 p.m. Worship Service and 10th Grade Confirmation
Wednesday, June 8, 10:30 a.m. Shavuot Service and Yizkor
Shavuot celebrates God giving the Torah to the Children of Israel. Shavuot also was an opportunity to thank God for giving the people, most of whom became farmers after entering the Promised Land, good harvests.

At worship services, the clergy will read the Book of Ruth about a young Moabite woman who left her land to go with her Jewish mother-in-law to the Land of Israel. In addition, Temple Israel's tenth graders will be confirmed. In observance of Shavuot, the office will be closed on Wednesday, June 8. There will be a holiday worship service that day, and yizkor will be read. Please contact the Temple Israel office, 402-556-6536, by Friday, June 3, with the names of your loved ones to be read.

Lay Leadership and Clergy Partner to Plan High Holy Day Observance

In response to a Board of Trustees charge, a committee of congregants has been reconsidering the High Holiday tradition we have inherited, and has been discussing ways to make them vital and resonant in our own lives. Through a process of appreciative inquiry which builds on strengths, committee members identified three themes for the High Holy Days of 5772 (2011) as well as focused on the Days of Awe three to five years from now.

Scott Goodman, Cat Rawlings and Miles Remer will discuss the theme of preparation, using Shabbat worship during the summer and during the month of Elul which precedes Rosh Hashanah to prepare for the High Holy Days. Dan Gilbert, Joanie Lehr, Jane Rips and Louri Sullivan will concentrate on the theme of participation or getting more people involved in worship and observance. Both groups will weave the theme of community, building more and stronger relationships during the holidays, into their discussions.

templeisrael-ne.org

Adult B'nai Mitzvah Ceremony at Shabbat Worship Service followed by Temple Israel Clergy Unplugged: "Who is a Jew?" and Congregational Shabbat Dinner

Friday, May 13, 6 p.m.

During the worship service, four adults who have been studying with Na'ama Artzi, Rabbi Azriel, Rabbi Linder and Cantor Shermet since last fall to become B'nai Mitzvah, will help lead the service.

Todd Hutton, one of the B'nai Mitzvah, explained that after his father died in May 2010, "His absence renewed the sense of loss I knew with the passing of my mother seven years ago. This time of grief drew me closer again to the nature of Judaism. As Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel describes in his book, *God in Search of Man*, 'The Jewish way of life is to reiterate the ritual spirit, to meet the spirit again and again, the spirit in oneself and the spirit that hovers over all beings.'"

"My parents provided unconditional support throughout my life which offered me the freedom to discover Judaism. In many ways, their trust in my choice to choose Judaism is the most loving gift they could have ever given me," Todd said. "My hope is that my Bar Mitzvah honors their memory."

Another adult Bar Mitzvah student, **Mike Halsted** mentioned that "My wife and I joined Temple Israel when we returned from Dallas in 1989. I formally converted a year and a half ago. Following my conversion, it seemed appropriate to pursue this next step to further learn and offer opportunities to participate in worship."

In addition to learning Hebrew, reciting and understanding a worship service, chanting Torah, becoming familiar with trope among other class accomplishments, Mike enjoyed "Making new friends with my fellow students and our mentor Na'ama. I really appreciated the help and dedication of our clergy and our Hebrew teacher and having the opportunity to share the learning process with my fellow classmates!" Mike complimented Cantor for being "so brave as to ask me to chant trope!"

"I have been a member of Temple Israel for about 14 months," said **Jessica Cohn**. "My husband and I participate in various activities through Temple Israel and also enjoy going to services on Friday nights. I completed my conversion in September of last year and wanted to continue my Jewish education. By participating in the B'nai Mitzvah class, I am able to achieve greater understanding of my faith. Additionally, I feel like this is kind of like a completion of the conversion process."

Jessica added, "Na'ama has been such a joy to work with. She is so knowledgeable and has made this effortless! I was surprised by our ability to learn Hebrew so quickly! This has been an amazing experience, and I would strongly recommend it to anyone who has not had a Bar or Bat Mitzvah."

templeisrael@templeisraelomaha.com



Mike Halsted, Todd Hutton, Jessica Cohn, Na'ama Artzi and Debbie Chasen

"We have belonged to Temple Israel since about 1989," said **Debbie Chasen**, another B'nai Mitzvah. Since she didn't have a Bat Mitzvah when she was younger, Debbie thinks "this is the perfect time, because I have the time." Since having surgery on her back, she has given her body the time to heal which "brings you into full focus. It's time to actually channel in."

Debbie has enjoyed "learning from other people and seeing how they've learned. Just because I was born Jewish, doesn't mean I know everything. You can be Jewish, but you may have pulled back and then recommitted yourself. You woke up." She confided, "Watching her three classmates, people who had never spoken Hebrew before, was amazing. It was challenging for me, too."

"I'm actually doing this for people who came before me who didn't have a Bat Mitzvah such as my grandmothers, my mother and my aunts," Debbie said.

All members of the congregation are invited to attend the congregational dinner. The cost of the dinner is \$8 for adults, \$5 for children and no charge for children five and younger. Please make a reservation by contacting the Temple Israel office, 402-556-6536 or mkube@templeisraelomaha.com. Following the dinner, the clergy will answer questions posed by congregants.

Congregation

New Members



Joel Alexander was born and raised in Omaha and has lived here his whole life. Currently a customer solutions agent for PayPal, Joel is married to Karen who is director for WPS (Wisconsin Physicians Service). They have a daughter, Sarah, who is in ninth grade at Millard North High School. "We are rabid Husker fans," insisted Joel who also likes

to play online computer games and build personal computers. The family has two dogs: a seven-year-old yellow lab, Buddy, and a three-year-old Dachshund, Heidi.



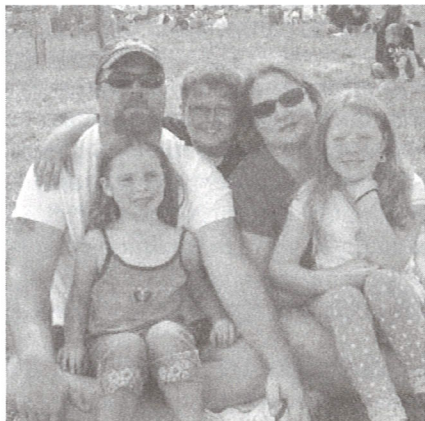
Christina and Matthew Blumkin were born and raised in Omaha. "We have been together since the first night we met 20 years ago," said Christina. "We love to travel and have new experiences. We actually moved to the Caribbean on a whim about five years ago. That was short-lived though." They returned to Tucson, AZ, where they

both graduated college. "Omaha was always home though," Christina added. After their son Ari was born, they moved back to Omaha in June 2010, "to raise our son around family. It was, and is, important to us to raise Ari around his grandparents and great-grandparents." Matt is a special projects analyst at Nebraska Furniture Mart, and Christina is currently a full-time mom. They both enjoy the outdoors, camping, hiking, biking and just spending time as a family. "We love dining out and just enjoying what life has in store for us."



New members **Jeanne and John Katelman** are also newlyweds. They both have lived in Omaha the majority of their lives, and Jeanne was confirmed at Temple Israel. John is an attorney with Husch Blackwell, and Jeanne is in sales with Cisco Systems. Between them, they have five children. John is the father of Josh Katelman, who is also a

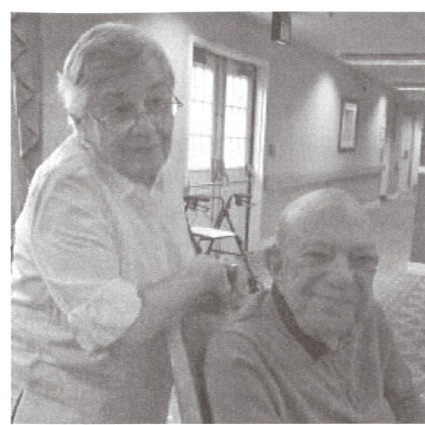
member of Temple Israel, along with his wife Jamie Heller. John's other children are Julie and Jay. Jeanne's sons are Danny, who attends the University of Minnesota, and Mitchell Raznick, who's graduating from Millard North High School and planning to attend the University of Kansas in the fall.



Another family that enjoys camping is the **Dana and Stephen Ratute** family. Along with their children Ryan, a sixth grader; Katelyn, a fifth grader; and Danielle, a first grader; they also like to go fishing, participate in sports, watch movies and play games together. Having lived in Omaha most of their lives, Stephen is now a mechanical inspector

with the City of Omaha, and Dana is a human resources manager at Cabela's.

Clarification: In last month's Temple Tidings, it was reported that new member David Barg will participate in the Jewish Community Center's artist exchange program. He will actually be in the Western Galilee with the Partnership with Israel Artist-in-Residency Program.



Harvey and Carol Roffman are former Omahans who moved to Green Valley, AZ, for about 15 years, and then moved back to Omaha last year. Harvey is originally from Omaha; Carol moved here originally in 1950. The couple were married in Omaha in 1970. Now retired, Harvey worked for the U.S. Department of Commerce in the U.S. and Foreign Commercial

Service. He's also a former member of the American Battle Monuments Commission appointed by then-President Nixon. Carol traveled with Harvey to Israel, France, Germany, Thailand, Singapore, Poland, Switzerland, and England. Now they are living "the easy life" at Remington Heights. Carol says she still enjoys playing cards.

Births לידה

Grace Tate Robinson, daughter of Julie and Arnold Robinson, Norfolk, NE. Grandparents are Karen and Steve Westerfield, and Betti and Dick Robinson, Norfolk, NE. Great-grandparents are Lea and Bob Pitlor, Lincoln, NE, Julia O'Brien, and Melba Westerfield.

In Sympathy נחמה

The Congregation records with sorrow the deaths of our members' relatives...

Carol Rae Brodkey, wife of Peter Brodkey;

Samuel M. Budwig, brother of Ron Budwig and uncle of Larry Budwig;

Jay Kenneth Filler, father of Amy Filler-Katz;

Sonia Lerman-Gluck, mother of Bonnie Pfrenger;

Leo Meyerson, father of Darlynn Fellman and grandfather of Scott Meyerson, Troy Meyerson, Heidi Schneiderman, and Louri Sullivan

Ben Norman, brother of Leslie Norman

...and extends sympathy to their bereaved families.

B'nai Mitzvah בני מצוה



On May 7, **Sophie Budwig** will become a Bat Mitzvah. The Westside Middle School seventh grader is the daughter of Larry and the late Kirsten Budwig. One of three girls, Sophie's sisters are Hannah, 14, and Aleia, 11. Sophie has been volunteering at Project Harmony, an agency that provides services to the community's most vulnerable children most of whom have been abused or neglected. Sophie sorts clothing,

stuffed envelopes for a gala fundraiser and, in general, does whatever is needed.



A Millard North Middle School student, **Sarah Krasno** will become a Bat Mitzvah on May 21. The daughter of Roxanne and Todd Krasno, Sarah has a sister Sydney, nine, and a brother Nathan, seven. On Sundays, Sarah volunteers at the Religious School at Temple Israel as a madricha. She works with children in the fifth grade and assists their teacher.

Brett Robinson's Bar Mitzvah will be on June 4. The son of Kimberly and Andrew Robinson, Brett attends Westside Middle School. He has two sisters: Brenna, 18, and Sydney, 16. For his mitzvah project, Brett is volunteering at the Rose Blumkin Jewish Home.



Madelin Miller, daughter of Jennifer and Paul Miller, will become a Bat Mitzvah on June 11. A student at Kiewit Middle School, Madelin has two older sisters, Sophia, 17, and Morissa, 15, as well as a younger brother, Brett, seven. Madelin, who loves animals, has been volunteering at the Town and Country Humane Society in Papillion walking dogs, sweeping, cleaning and whatever else she can do to help.



Steve Levinger, Dick Katz, Mike Halsted, Sarah Howard and Judy Feigin waited patiently to donate blood at Temple Israel's Annual Blood Drive in March. In all, 31 volunteers donated blood surpassing the goal of 25.

The Missing Ingredient Cookbook to Share Beloved Recipes and Memories

Recipes have a way of bringing back loving memories of family gatherings on holidays and other special occasions. That's exactly what *The Missing Ingredient*, a cookbook originally envisioned by Kathy Simon, will evoke when it's published in 2012. The cookbook is sponsored by the family of Stephen Simon, Kathy's late husband, and will be dedicated to the memory of loved ones missing from our lives.

Kathy, who now lives in Arizona, was here in March to meet with members of the cookbook committee including Chairs Andie Gordman and Danielle Gordman. Others at the meeting were Phyllis Glazer, Wendy Goldberg, Susie Norton, Jane Rips and Mimi Silverman.

Recipes such as Spaghetti Bolognese, Mom's Kugel, Cranberry Chicken, Rice-Spinach Pie, and lots of desserts have already been submitted. The goal is to fill the cookbook by the High Holy Days in September with 613 recipes, which corresponds to the number of commandments in the Torah. Recipes can be submitted on forms available at www.templeisrael-ne.org. Click on Congregation and then on WRJ Sisterhood. You can also contact Andie, 402-894-1889 or agordman@omahameca.com, or Danielle, dsgordman@me.com or 402-343-1435. Shellfish and pork recipes will not be accepted.

"The missing ingredient" will be loosely defined, according to the cookbook committee. The recipes can be submitted in memory of a family member or a friend or in honor of someone who lives far away, for example. Submissions may bring to mind warmhearted memories of someone who was not necessarily a great cook. A line in loving memory of someone or a paragraph describing a personal missing "ingredient" in your life, which will be printed in the cookbook, can be sent in with each recipe. Funds raised by the sale of the cookbook will be donated to Temple Israel's kitchen.

Women of Reform Judaism

"Using the Moment to Discover Life's Treasures"

WRJ Installation and Donor Luncheon
Thursday, May 5, Noon

Women of Reform Judaism will honor outgoing President Susie Norton and her Board and welcome incoming President Mimi Silverman and the new Board.

Rita S. Correll, an instructor in stress management for 11 years at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, will be the guest speaker. Rita has been practicing massage therapy for 30 years. Proceeds from the luncheon support WRJ's Donor Campaign providing funding for Temple Israel's Religious School and kitchen as well as holiday events and programming for women, children and families of the congregation.

To make a reservation for the luncheon, please mail the reservation card and your check, \$10 per person, to Temple Israel by Monday, May 2. Donor categories range from \$18 to \$200. If you are unable to attend the luncheon, donor contributions will be appreciated.

WRJ 2011-2012 Board

President Mimi Silverman
President-Elect Stacie Brodkey
Past President Susie Norton
Vice Presidents of Membership
Cat Rawlings, Sherrie Saag
Vice President of Religious Action Jennifer Miller
Vice President of Programming
Joi Brown, Debbi Josephson
Vice President of Finance/Treasurer Iris Ricks
Vice President of Public Relations Dana Gonzales
Vice Presidents of Young Family Programming
Carrie Fingold, Teresa Kramer-Ruback
Vice Presidents of Religious Living
Kate Kirshenbaum, Nikki Kirshenbaum
Vice Presidents of Development
Wendy Furst, Wendy Halsted
Recording Secretary Wendy Furst
Directors Mary Wampler, Allyson Wilczewski
Event Chairs Stacie Brodkey, Jen Goodman, Andie Gordman, Danielle Gordman, Bonni Leiserowitz, Denise Meyers, Tina Meyers

Social Justice

Temple Israel Volunteers to Help Build Another House for Habitat for Humanity

Sunday, May 22, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Meet at Temple Israel at 10 a.m.

Last November, 15 Habitat for Humanity volunteers from Temple Israel helped finish a house that was purchased by a refugee family from Southeast Asia. Families who move into the houses are required to spend 350 hours of sweat equity working on their new homes.

Temple Israel will again help build a house, announced Dan Gilbert of Temple Israel's Social Justice Committee. "We will paint, install, hang, hammer and do just about everything else to help finish a house for a family," said Dan. Volunteers must be at least 16 years of age and be in good physical health. No construction experience is necessary. Most Habitat homes are located in neighborhoods east of 42nd Street.

Host Picnic

Sunday, May 22

In observance of Lag BaOmer, there will be a no-host picnic at which all Temple Israel members are welcome. Watch the eTidings for more details.

Ongoing

Torah Study Continues in Summer

Saturdays, 9:15 - 10:15 a.m.

This summer, we are training some congregants to feel comfortable facilitating Torah study on some select Saturday mornings. The clergy will work with them to give them materials and help them feel comfortable leading a discussion on that week's Torah portion. Newcomers are always welcome.

Participants and Organizers Extol Success of Leadership Seminar

From August through January, 21 congregants participated in a leadership seminar planned by a committee led by former Board President Jon Meyers, President-Elect Sally Kaplan, and Rabbi Linder. Participants represented current and future leaders of Temple Israel.

Funded by the Jon Meyers Leadership Fund, established by Jon's parents, Sue and the late Dave Meyers, the seminar was a blend of what it means to be a Jew, interacting with the Jewish Federation, ethical leadership, the lay-clergy-staff relationship, the history of Reform Judaism and spirituality.

Paul Rabinovitz, outgoing chair of the Adult Education Committee, was one of the participants. "I think that having a shared foundation with my fellow leadership development participants will be vital as we work together to build Temple Israel's future," commented Paul who will be chairing Temple Israel's Education Council. "The sessions were informative and engaging."

Stacie Brodkey, president-elect of Women of Reform Judaism, added that she "had a wonderful experience with the leadership development seminar and was honored and humbled to be a part of it. I enjoyed the opportunity to be a part of such a dynamic and optimistic group of colleagues." She said she's "looking forward to becoming more involved within WRJ and Temple Israel."

Jon pointed out that "the success of the program this year was beyond expectations and will be repeated periodically. The program gave the participants an overview of many aspects of Temple Israel, Jewish Omaha, and the Union for Reform Judaism, and showed how we all inter-relate."

"Working on leadership development was one of the most enjoyable and rewarding projects I have ever done at Temple Israel," according to Sally. "Jon Meyers and Rabbi Linder were a joy to work with, and we were able to create a curriculum that was meaningful, instructive and hopefully, enjoyable for the participants! The group of leaders we assembled should make all of us proud and confident in our future!"

Tenative Speakers for Friday Night Summer Shabbat Services

Watch the eTidings for updates.

June 17 - Jonathon Rockman and Matt Ferer - mferer@msn.com

June 24 - Na'ama Arzi

July 1 - Debbi Josephson

July 8 - Miles Remer

July 15 - Gary Javitch

July 22 - Michael Silverman

July 29 - Lori Bennett

August 5 - Marty Ricks

August 12 - Jordan Jensen - jordie1915@gmail.com

OTY6 summer service?

Note From the Coordinator

Lori Bennett

Another wonderful school year is about to end, and we want to thank everyone who has partnered in our school to make it so successful: *Our school staff who have made Religious School a fun, loving and safe place to learn:* Na'ama Artzi, Rabbi Aryeh Azriel, Leora Azriel, Colin Brown, Eileen Clignett, Toby Fellman, Debbie Finnicum, Naomi Fox, Marlen Frost, Melany Fullenkamp, Jeff Gates, Grant Glazer, Sophie Goldberg, Wendy Goldberg, Dora Goldstrom, Jill Idelman, Natasha Kraft, Rabbi Eric Linder, Ann Noodell, Doris Parker, Rita Paskowitz, Cat Rawlings, Mor Sheinbein, Cantor Wendy Shermet, Jay Spiegelman, Patsy Wallace, Tereza Wigodsky and Taylor Workman. *Our madrachim (teen assistants) who make a big difference in the life of our children by setting good examples of leadership and commitment to their Judaism:* Jacob Arnold, Yaniv Azriel, Hannah Budwig, Haley Burns, Sara Cohen, Zane Fletcher, Max Gendler, Danny Glazer, Abby Hack, Haley Halsted, Cole Horner, Jordan Jensen, Maddie Jensen, Emily Katz, Sarah Krasno, Solomon Marburg, Morissa Miller, Sophia Miller, Justin Norton, Hannah Perry, Hannah Radler, Rachel Scheet, Alexis Slutzky, and Jacob Vann. *Our volunteer corps who helped make every activity a success:* Barton Arnold, Brenda Arnold, Sharon Bargas, Denise Blake, Stacie Brodkey, Sharon Comisar-Langdon, Justin Cooper, Rachel Dysico, Tami Field, Hillary Fletcher, Jill Folsom, Wendy Furst, Dan Gilbert, Jennifer Glazer, Cindy Goldberg, Jill Goldstein, Dana Gonzales, Jen Goodman, Scott Goodman, Danielle Gordman, Sarah Howard, Kate Kaminsky, Michelle Kazor, Jenn Tompkins Kirshenbaum, Roxanne Krasno, Randy Langdon, Deb Marburg, Jamie Meyerson, Jennifer Miller, Joe Murphy, Nancy Nogg, Susie Norton, Ann Osborne, Matt Ray, Shayna Ray, Tanya Seina, Mimi Silverman, Stacy Simon, Jeff Slutzky, Stacie Spies-Matz, Wendy Vann, Jody Vinci and Melissa Wax. *Our Religious School Steering Committee who has made a commitment to our children and our school:* Phil Bierman, Larry Budwig, chair Sharon Comisar-Langdon, Scott Farkas, Toby Fellman, Tami Field, Debbie Finnicum, Hillary Fletcher, Susan Rothholz and Wendy Vann.

Mark Your Calendars With First Day of Religious School Dates!

Grades Kindergarten – 6

Sunday, September 11, 10 a.m. – Noon

Grades 3 – 6

Wednesday, September 14, 4:15 – 6:15 p.m. (please note new start/end times)

Family School (optional choice for Grades 3 – 6 students and parents)

Wednesday, September 14, 6 – 8 p.m.

Middle School for Grades 7 & 8

Wednesday, September 14, 6 – 8 p.m.

Grade PreKindergarten

Sunday, September 18, 10 a.m. – Noon

Calendar

No Religious School

Sunday, May 8

Last Day for Family School and Middle School

Wednesday, May 11

Last Day for Grades PreK - 6 Family Prayer Assembly Jewish Family Service Pantry Collection

Sunday, May 11, 10 a.m.

Religious School Steering Committee Meeting

Wednesday, May 18, 7 p.m.

Eighth Graders "Graduation"

Friday, May 6, 6 p.m. Shabbat Service

All eighth graders will be called to the bimah for a special blessing from the clergy to commemorate their "graduation" from Temple Israel's Religious School program into the Omaha Jewish Chai School.

Confirmation and Graduation Service Rehearsals

Wednesdays, 5:30 p.m., Temple Israel

Grade 12 Graduation

May 11 and 18

Grades 10, 11 Confirmation

May 25 and June 1



Lily Books and Sophie Epstein made tzedakah boxes at Kindergarten Round up in April.



The PreKindergarten and Kindergarten seder was a family affair for Jamie and Troy Meyerson and daughters Ainsley, Aiden and Audrey.



Ari, Benjamin and Allyson Wilczewski enjoyed the Grade 2 Very Special Person Seder.

Twenty-one Students to Participate at End-of-Year Services

The clergy and educational staff of Temple Israel invites our congregational family to come celebrate the Confirmation and Graduation of our youth at two special services..

On **Friday, May 20**, the following high school seniors will lead the 6 p.m. Shabbat Evening Service in a special Confirmation/Graduation ceremony. This beautiful service marks the completion of the eight seniors' religious school journey through twelfth grade.

We are honored to present their names below:

- Haley M. Burns**, daughter of Helen and John Burns
- Samuel S. Burrell**, son of Cantor Wendy Shermet and Leonard Burrell
- Molly M. Gilinsky**, daughter of Katherine Finnegan and David Gilinsky
- Grace Z. Hack**, daughter of Rosie Zweiback and Mace Hack
- Haley Halsted**, daughter of Mendy and Michael Halsted
- Chloe Heyman**, daughter of Betsy Baker and Richard Heyman
- Emily Katz**, daughter of Amy Filler-Katz and Richard Katz
- Rachel Scheet**, daughter of Lisa Scheet and Gordon Scheet

At **6 p.m. on Erev Shavuot (June 7)**, thirteen students, who have studied this year with our clergy, will lead the congregation in a wonderful service followed by a dairy Oneg. *meal*

We are delighted to present our 2011 Confirmands:

- Zoe E. Cohen**, daughter of Marla and Robert Cohen
- Zane M. Fletcher**, son of Hillary and John Fletcher
- Laura E. Gilinsky**, daughter of Katherine Finnegan and David Gilinsky
- Dustin D. Ginsburg**, son of Cheri and Larry Ginsburg
- Aaron G. Glazer**, son of Jennifer and John Glazer
- Sophie R. Goldberg**, daughter of Wendy and David Goldberg
- Joe R. Hack**, son of Rosie Zweiback and Mace Hack
- Ariel T. Kohll**, daughter of Ivy Kohll and the late Louis Kohll
- Morissa B. Miller**, daughter of Jennifer and Paul Miller
- Alexander J. Pachman**, son of Allison Latenser and Louis Pachman
- Hannah R. Perry**, daughter of Beth and Jay Perry
- Caroline J. Rockman**, daughter of Stacey and Jonathan Rockman
- Cleo A. Rogers**, daughter of Mimi Rogers-Farkas and Scott Farkas

May they go from strength to strength!

חזק חזק ונתחזק

Temple Israel Seeking Youth Director

Temple Israel seeks a mature, creative, enthusiastic person to lead our informal youth programs, including our youth groups, Jewish summer camps, and outreach to college students. We are looking for someone who can communicate effectively with children, teens and parents while organizing exciting and powerful programs for Grade 5 through college students. Must be part of a creative professional team and have flexible scheduling.

Position is full or part time depending on the candidate. A full time package will include benefits. All resumes need to be received by May 16.

Please contact Rabbi Linder, elinder@templeisraelomaha.com or 402-556-6536, for more information.



scan to view
job description

Omaha Temple Youth Group



Emily Katz and Sophia Miller presenting a check to Ronnie and Allan Brockman directors of Camp Rainbow.

OTYG Spring Chavurah was A Success!

Everyone had a great time April 8-10 at spring chavurah making new friends, seeing old ones and learning. The kids do such a great job of spreading themselves out among the group.

We won the following awards:

Jordan Jensen: Honorable Mention for her D'Var Torah award at national convention

Sophia Miller: Best spaghetti dinner

Hannah Perry: Most creative service

Sophie Goldberg: Best fliers

Save the Dates!

OTYG Fall Rush - Sunday, August 21

Leadership Training Institute - Friday, September 2 - Monday, September 5

Omaha Jewish Chai School at the JCC

Miriam Gross, Director

It's been quite a year at the OJC. Thanks to our wonderful clergy, teachers and students, the JCC halls were illuminated each week with Torah study, discussion, debate and friendship. Next year we will be incorporating an exciting new group-learning experience each week, a way to keep it fresh all year long. Please stay tuned for more details and feel free to approach either Miriam Gross or your OJC Board Temple representatives, Tami Field, Katherine Finnegan, and Scott Farkas.

As for this year, we are nearing the end, but we aren't quite there yet! Please mark your calendar and prioritize these last two weeks:

On **Wednesday, May 4**, we will be attending the Community Yom Hashoah memorial at Beth Israel Synagogue, where our community's survivors will share their stories with the OJC students, personally. Please be sure not to miss this.

Who knows how much longer we will have to hear from the survivors themselves. When you have children, they will only remember vaguely if they do get to meet a Holocaust survivor in person, and none of your grandchildren will ever meet one. In many ways, you are the last generation to receive this important oral tradition. Every opportunity that we have to listen to and witness the stories of these courageous people gives strength and meaning to their own experiences as well as to the souls of the ones who did not survive. May their memories remain a blessing forever.

On **Wednesday, May 11**, we will be having an Israel Fair, Dinner Banquet and Graduation Ceremony, we will be honoring our 2011 graduates and Robert and Ellen Gordman Jewish Teen Leadership awardees Emily Katz and Yonatan Dotan with awards and a dessert reception.

Don't miss the last day of the first year of OJC

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Teacher Meeting, 9 a.m. Grades PreK-6 10 a.m. - Noon	2 Derek Torah Judaism 101 @ JCC 7:30 p.m.	3 Adult B'nai Mitzvah 6:30 - 8 p.m. AA, Alanon & Gambler's 12-step 7:30 p.m.	4 No Family School Grades 3-6 4-6 p.m. Grades 7-12 @ Teen Dinner & Holocaust Program @ Beth Israel, 5:30 p.m. Grades 7-12 @ Community Yom HaShoah Commemoration @ Beth Israel, 7 p.m.	5 Adult Study with the Clergy 10-11:30 a.m. WRJ Installation and Luncheon Noon	6 Shabbat Service 8th Grade Blessings 6 p.m.	7 Sparks Beneath the Surface 9:15-10:15 a.m. Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m. Bat Mitzvah of Sophie Budwig
8 No Religious School	9	10 Adult B'nai Mitzvah 6:30 - 8 p.m. AA, Alanon & Gambler's 12-step 7:30 p.m.	11 Grades 3-6 4-6 p.m. Grade 12 Rehearsal 5:30 p.m. School Dinner 6 p.m. Family School 6-8 p.m. Grades 7-8 6-8 p.m.	12 Adult Study with the Clergy 10-11:30 a.m.	13 Shabbat Comes to You @ Remington Heights 4 p.m. Shabbat Service Adult B'nai Mitzvah Ceremony 6 p.m. Congregational Dinner and Clergy Unplugged 7 p.m.	14 Sparks Beneath the Surface 9:15-10:15 a.m. Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m.
15 Teacher Meeting 9 a.m. Grades PreK-6 10 a.m.-Noon Prayer Assembly 10 a.m. Annual Meeting & Reports 11 a.m.	16 AA, Alanon & Gambler's 12-step 7:30 p.m.	17 Grade 12 Rehearsal 5:30 p.m. Religious School Steering Committee Meeting 7 p.m.	18 Adult Study with the Clergy 10-11:30 a.m.	19 Adult Study with the Clergy 10-11:30 a.m.	20 Grade 12 Graduation / Confirmation Service 6 p.m.	21 Sparks Beneath the Surface 9:15-10:15 a.m. Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m. Bat Mitzvah of Sarah Krasno
22 Jewish Genetic Testing @ JCC 9 a.m. Habitat for Humanity 10 a.m.	23 Jewish Genetic Testing @ JCC 3 p.m.	24 AA, Alanon & Gambler's 12-step 7:30 p.m.	25 Grade 10 Rehearsal 5:30 p.m.	26 Adult Study with the Clergy 10-11:30 a.m.	27 Shabbat Service 6 p.m.	28 Sparks Beneath the Surface 9:15-10:15 a.m. Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m.
29 Stephen Center Breakfast 7:30 a.m.	30 Memorial Day Office Closed	31 AA, Alanon & Gambler's 12-step 7:30 p.m.				

Volunteer Appreciation!



Born and raised in Kansas City, MO, **Myles Remer** and his wife Eileen have lived in Omaha since 1956. "I had some intentions of going to rabbinical school," Myles confided, "however, I changed my goal and ended up going into accounting."

Myles and Eileen met as students at New York University. She is from New York. They were married there in 1954 and became parents of four daughters: Laurie Remer Phifer, Prairie

Village, KS; Lynn Sweet, Omaha; Sharon Bisang, St. Louis, MO; and Fran Bieberly, Overland Park, KS. The Remers also have five grandchildren from 10 to 21 years of age. A CPA, Myles worked for Elmer Fox & Company, a large CPA firm in Omaha, in accounting and tax practice. Yet to retire, Myles continues to work these days from his home.

Although Myles and Eileen were long-time members of Beth El Synagogue, they joined Temple Israel a year and a half ago. Myles joined Kol Rina. "I love being in the choir," he said. "It's a marvelous opportunity and allows me to participate in something that is in my background. I also look forward to chanting Torah and Haftarah" at Shabbat morning worship services. The Remers are former co-presidents of L.O.V.E., the League Offering Volunteers to the Elderly, a subsidiary of the Rose Blumkin Jewish Home. They are still on the L.O.V.E. Board. Seldom absent from Shabbat worship services, Myles described Temple Israel as "an absolutely great environment. We love it!" adding, "I love the clergy and could listen to Cantor Shermet sing all day!"

Passover Greetings

The following college students received a WRJ Tribute card and Passover greetings from our clergy: David Anderson, Sam Anderson, Evan Baack, Brittany Baines, Ashley Bernstein, LaShanna Bernstein, Sean Bernstein, Aaron Bleicher, Josh Bleicher, Sarah Bleicher, Eli Bloom, David Bresel, Rachel Brodsky, Alex Brown, Monica Brown, Amanda Bucher, Anna Clark, Eliza Cowan, Michael Crabb, Rebecca Crabb, Jessica Danon, Austin Davidson, Lauren Davis, Zev Eisenberg, Alex Epstein, Hannah Ferer, Nick Ferer, Josh Finnicum, Gabriel Fox, Susan Freeman, Aly Friedman, Robert Friedman, Isaac Frishman, Rebecca Frishman, Spencer Gallner, Chloe Ginsburg, Adam Goldberg, Joe Goldberg, Molly Goldberg, Scott Goldberg, Benjamin Goldstrom, Jory Goldstrom, Hannah Grossman, Max Halsted, Leanne Harris, Zak Helm, Matthew Heyman, Andrea Holmberg, Justin Idelman, Lauren Josephson,

Long Range Planning Committee to Set Future Congregational Goals

Sally Kaplan, President-Elect

As we move ever closer to realizing our dream of a beautiful new building, the Board and staff of Temple Israel are initiating a long range planning process to determine "who we will be when we get there." What kind of congregation do we want to have? What kind of programs? What kind of worship experience? How can we build a sense of true community and engage every one of our congregants in some way? How can we best use our resources to reach our goals?

Under the leadership of Mike Halsted and myself, the Long Range Planning Committee will look at all of the components of our congregational life: worship, study and community. Using our mission statement as a starting point, we will evaluate our programming and efforts to engage our members in all three ways. To facilitate our goals in those areas we will look at our staffing and financial resources.

The goal of Long Range Planning will be to set strategic goals and action steps towards those goals for the next three to five years. The plan will be evaluated regularly and will be used to guide all the work of our staff and lay leaders. We will be assembling a diverse group of congregants who enjoy dreaming, planning and hard work! Please contact Wendy Goldberg, 402-556-6536, or me, 402-558-2448, if you are interested in being part of this exciting project!

Max Katz, Samantha Kenik, Avery Lehr, Kelsey Lepp, Ally Levinger, Amy Levinger, David Manvitz, Rachel Martin, Rachael Monsky, Samantha Montemarano, Zach Muskin, Jackie Neesman, Rebecca Noddle, Molly Noodell, Aviva Oberst-Marshall, Ben Ozeroff, Danny Pachman, Aaron Parsow, Charles Parsow, Aaron Passer, Josh Phillips, Aaron Placzek, Benjamin Prescott, Anne Rips, Brenna Robinson, Julie Sadofsky, Sarah Sadofsky, Dylan Saferstein, Ben Salzinger, Sam Salzinger, Julianna Scheet, Jack Schrager, Nikolas Schrager, Amy Schweid, Max Sherman, Sarah Sherman, Andy Siref, Joe Slosburg, Jordan Slutzky, Justin Slutzky, Sarah Spooner, Zach Spooner, Madison Stoler, Chelsea Taxman, Andrew Taylon, Alexander Terry, Caroline Terry, David Trubnikov, Michael Vann, Zoe Vann, Sam Weinstine, Naomi Wolfson, Lindsey Wolpa and Taylor Workman.

Donations

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IN HONOR OF THE ANNIVERSARY OF:

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IN HONOR OF THE MARRIAGE OF:

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Green: Betty Sanford

IN HONOR OF THE BIRTHDAY OF:

Harold Bernstein: Edythe and Lloyd Krasne

Nancy Noddle: Shelly, Rick and Naomi Fox

Stanley Perlmeier: Babe Nogg

Harlan Rips: Nancy Hornstein, Ellen and Richard Slosburg

Larry Roffman: Kim and Sheldon Gallner

Carol Roffman: Susie and Mike Norton

Rita Rosen: Betty Fisher

Joie Simon: Millie and Harold Bernstein, Phyllis and Dick Glazer

IN HONOR OF THE BIRTH OF:

Walden Wilhelm Beha: The Charles Sullivan Family

IN HONOR OF THE B'NAI MITZVAH OF:

Ali Brehmer, Sophie Budwig, Elias Ginsberg, Jack Goldstein, Abby Hack, Brandon Idelman, Cole Horner, Sarah Krasno, Solomon Marburg, Michael Miltzer, Madelin Miller, Ben Oyler, Phoebe Placzek, Abby Reiss, Brett Robinson, Gavin Rogers, Jordan Saag, Isaiah Schrier, Monica Siegel, Naomi Teetzel, Rachel Zetzman: The Pfrenger Family

IN APPRECIATION OF:

Jerry Brabec: Sheila and Ray Tomps
Katherine Finnegan: Andrea and Mike Siegel

Gifts donated to Temple Israel generations ago are still sponsoring speakers and classes, sending kids to summer camps, enriching religious education, and improving the cemetery grounds today. How about your gift?