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Craig H. Marantz.....Rabbi  
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Michelle Shkolnick.....Executive Director  
Joan Cooper.....Elementary School Coordinator  
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## 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.

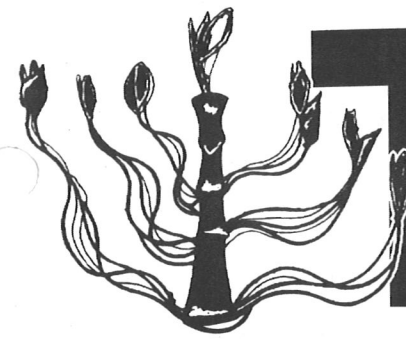
If you wish to contribute to any of these funds at a different level, please advise the Temple staff.

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  
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Cantor Shermet's Discretionary  
Michelle Shkolnick's Discretionary



Omaha, NE Founded 1871 Vol. XCII No. 9 Iyar 9, 5764 April 30, 2004

# Temple Israel Tidings

## Cantor Shermet Gets By With A Little Help From Her Friends Sunday, May 9, 4 p.m.

Every Temple Israel family has been given two free tickets to what Cantor Wendy Shermet describes as a "wonderfully diverse concert" at Temple. "The concert will be highlighted by fabulous singers of different backgrounds and faiths, all of whom are personal friends and colleagues of mine. We are getting together to sing selections from opera, oratorio, music theater and art song," said Cantor.

Singing with Cantor Shermet are: Dr. Tamara Field, a member of Temple Israel who often sings with or substitutes for Cantor Shermet; Jerry Brabec, music minister at St. Paul United Methodist Church; Riva Capellari from Westport Presbyterian Church in Kansas City; and Reverend Mister Michael Magiera, a 6<sup>th</sup> year seminary student at Our Lady of Guadalupe Seminary.

Thanks to generous donors, the concert's fund raising efforts will help support musical enrichment at Temple. Cantor Shermet said all proceeds will go towards music education and programming, and she hopes that additional members of the congregation will contribute to the Temple Israel Music Fund. "Any amount is deeply appreciated," she acknowledged.

Cantor Shermet, who has been with Temple since July 2001, graduated from the School of Sacred Music at Hebrew

Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. She also earned a Master of Music degree from the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston. In addition to serving congregations in the Seattle and Los Angeles areas, she has performed extensively as a singer, actress, composer, arranger, pianist and music director at venues such as the

Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.; Los Angeles Opera Company; Opera Metropolitana de Caracas, Venezuela; Seattle Choral Company; Sante Fe Desert Chorale; Washington Opera; and Annapolis Opera.

With a doctorate in vocal performance and vocal pedagogy from the University of Colorado as well as a bachelor of science in nursing, Dr. Tamara Field leads a busy life running a small private voice studio and working as a nurse manager for Alegent Midlands Hospital in the critical care and emergency departments. A soloist in Omaha and the surrounding areas, she has performed several major roles in operas and operettas including *The Tender Land*, *Gianni Schicchi* and *HMS Pinafore*. She also sings with the Omaha Soli Deo Gloria Cantorum and the Temple Israel Octet.

Riva Capellari has a Master's degree from the University of Michigan

School of Music and is currently an adjunct vocal instructor both the at Johnson County Community College in Overland Park and the Conservatory of Music at the University of Missouri in Kansas City. She has appeared in leading roles in *The Marriage of Figaro*, *Rigoletto* and *Lucia di Lammermoor*. Having performed with orchestras, choral groups and chamber music ensembles in several states, Riva is also a soloist at Seventh Church Christ Scientist in Kansas City.

Not a stranger at Temple, Jerry Brabec has been conducting the High Holy Days choir since 1999. Jerry received a Master of Music degree from the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

*continued, page 2...*



Published by Temple Israel  
7023 Cass Street  
Omaha, NE 68132  
Phone 402/556-6536  
Fax 402/556-6189

Member of Union for Reform Judaism

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
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### Coming This Weekend!

#### Scholar-in-Residence Rabbi Lee T. Bycel

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

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

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

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

"Finding Meaning in Life:  
Insights from Our Tradition"

**Sunday, May 2, 10 a.m.**

"Transforming the Ordinary into  
the Sacred: Creating a Life of  
Meaning...The Insights of  
Abraham Joshua Heschel"

**Sponsored by the Ida and  
Samuel Kaiman Memorial Fund**

He sang with Robert Shaw from 1994 to 1998 and with the Robert Shaw Festival Singers for their Carnegie Hall concerts in 1998. A member of Soli Deo Gloria Cantorum, Jerry was also the associate artistic director of the Omaha Clarion Chorale, artistic director of the Kaneshville Chorus and the Renaissance Faire of the Midlands and has sung in area theatre, cabaret and commercial productions.

Michael Magiera, starting out with Michael Korn and The Philadelphia Singers, has been a professional musician for 28 years. In addition to The Philadelphia Singers, Michael has been a featured soloist with The Philadelphia Orchestra, Opera Company of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Opera Theater, Baltimore Symphony, Delaware Symphony and San Diego Opera. A graduate of Philadelphia's Academy of Vocal Arts, Michael was a finalist in the International Luciano Pavarotti Competition. He has performed leading roles from *Rigoletto*, *Madama Butterfly*, *The Barber of Seville* and many other works throughout Germany and Switzerland. He hopes to be ordained a Roman Catholic priest in May 2005.

Additional tickets to the concert are \$10 each and can be reserved through the Temple office (556-6536). A brief reception will follow the concert.

"It'll be fun!" declared Cantor Shermet, "and it's a great way to spend part of Mother's Day and, at the same time, support music at Temple."

## Shavuot ~ Celebrating Our Responsibility As Caretakers

Temple Israel will honor adult learners and Religious School teachers, who will be called up to the *bimah*, at the *Erev Shavuot* service, **Tuesday, May 25 at 7 p.m.**

A study session, *Tikkun Le Shavuot*, will follow the service. "Traditionally, Jews stayed up all night to commemorate the giving of the Torah," explained Rabbi Craig Marantz. "Studying on *Erev Shavuot* symbolically ushers in the moment when Torah was given. Like the person who doesn't want to miss out, we study that evening so as not to miss a single moment."

Focusing on the nature of Reform Judaism and what it means to be a Reform Jew in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the clergy, staff and congregants will engage in informal learning as they read and discuss material furnished by the Union for Reform Judaism. "It is significant and interesting text," Rabbi Marantz said.

*Shavuot*, also known as the Feast of Weeks, falls on the sixth day of *Sivan*, just seven weeks after *Passover*. One of the pilgrimage festivals, *Shavuot* was a time for the first fruits of trees and fields to be brought to the Temple in biblical days.

Rabbis calculate that the Israelites accepted the responsibility of humanly crafting the Torah and living by its laws at Mt. Sinai on *Shavuot*. Studying the Torah is the primary way of observing the holiday. Particular consideration is given to the Book of Ruth calling special attention to those, like Ruth, who have chosen to become Jewish when she told her mother-in-law, Naomi, "Whither thou shalt go, I shall go, where thou lodgest, I shall lodge; thy people shall be my people and thy God my God..."

Symbolizing the sweetness of the Torah, it's customary to eat dairy foods such as cheesecake and blintzes on *Shavuot*. An *Oneg* will follow the service.

**If you would like to have names of your loved ones read at the morning Yizkor Service, Wednesday, May 26 at 10:30 a.m., please call the Temple office, 556-6536, with the names by Monday, May 24.**



## Welcome New Members

Jennifer and Scott Meyerson

Jeremy Passer

Dorothy Strauss

## Liberating Perspectives

**Pennie Z. Davis Gallery of Holocaust Education**

This exhibit featuring a series of photos taken during the liberation at Dachau Concentration Camp will be open through May 31. The Gallery, located at the Jewish Community Center, open Sunday - Thursday, 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.; Friday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; closed Saturday.

## Congratulations

**On the Birth of:**

**Elijah Maxwell Posman**, son of Kristin and Eric Posman. Grandparents are Judy Allred, Cullman, AL, Larry Allred, Cullman, AL, and Eva and Jerry Posman, New York City, NY. Great-grandparents are Frances and Elmer Kirts, Cullman, AL, and Ruth Hellman, Fort Lee, NJ.

**Samuel Benjamin Tews**, son of Ruth and Mark Tews. Grandparents are Erlinda and Sol Bloom, and Lynn and Al Tews. Great-grandparents are the late Sarah and Samuel Bloom, and Mary and Floyd Pastede.

**Mia Menolascino Zweiback**, daughter of Amy Menolascino Zweiback and Timothy S. Zweiback. Grandparents are Donna Menolascino and the late Dr. Frank Menolascino, and Judy Zweiback and the late Warren S. Zweiback. Great-grandmothers are Lillian Potthoff and the late Dorothy Gimp Brand.

**On the Marriage of:**

**Mimi Rogers and Scott Farkas**. Parents are the late Wilma C. Rogers, the late Franklin P. Rogers, Gerald M. Farkas, Boyton Beach, FL, and the late Evan B. Farkas.

## Three Cheers For Temple Volunteers!

*This month's stars are:*

**Josh Katelman**

**Magda Peck**

**Jane Rips**

**OTYG Families & Chavurah Host Families**

## Meet The Staff

### Religious School Secretary Gets Extra Credit for Artistic Design

Once known as "the clip art queen" at Temple Israel, Gloria Ketter is the Religious School secretary and works closely with Joan Cooper, Elementary School Coordinator, and Elyce Azriel, Middle/High School Director. Gloria really enjoys putting together layouts and doing design work which come in handy in her position.

In addition to all mailings to parents of Religious School children that cross her desk, Gloria compiles and produces the monthly calendars and year-round calendars for all grades. The layouts are "the fun part," she said. One year, the Religious School calendar received a national award for design, she recalled.

"We were really excited to go to color on the cover of the annual calendar," she reported. "That was a big deal for us last year! A lot of work goes into the calendars."

"There's always plenty to do at Temple," she admitted. "And things don't slack off in the summer months. It takes all summer to get ready for fall."

Gloria started as a temporary employee when she came to Temple 12 years ago. She likes working at Temple "because of the people who work here. I've been really lucky. (Ann Kibel Schwartz, former director of education), Joan and Elyce are wonderful people to work with. I've learned so much over the years. I feel like they're my friends. We all click on the artistic level."

A native Omahan, Gloria has a grown son, Christopher, who lives in Maryland. She spends considerable time in Missouri where a lot of her family live. "I've lived in Omaha most of my life, but my heart is in Missouri," she said.

In her spare time, Gloria is a scrapbook aficionado and has also researched her family's genealogy. "I found some real interesting stories," she said, including "an uncle who was knighted by Henry VIII and another uncle who was deemed a deserter from the Battle of the Little Bighorn in 1876, because his body was never found."

A veteran Henry Doorly Zoo volunteer of 13 years, Gloria also likes to read and was an avid photographer. She donated many of her photos to the zoo. Combining her interests in animals and photography, Gloria has been on three safaris to Africa.

## Birthday Blessings

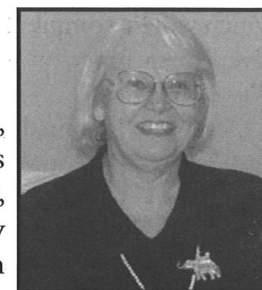
**Family Service**

**May 14, 6 p.m.**

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

• • • • •  
• **What can you do on** •  
• **Mitzvah Day, May 16?** •

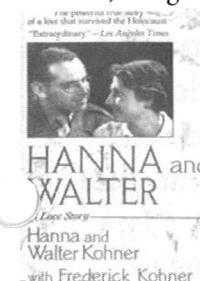
• **You can prepare a meal in** •  
• **Temple's kitchen for** •  
• **The Stephen Center,** •  
• **a shelter for men,** •  
• **women and children!** •  
• • • • •



## Book Available

Autographed copies of "Hannah and Walter, A Love Story" are available in the Temple Israel office for \$7. Julie Kohner, daughter of the authors, spoke at the community-wide Yom HaShoah service in April.

Don't miss this "powerful true story of a love that survived the Holocaust."



• • • • •  
• **What can you do on** •  
• **Mitzvah Day, May 16?** •

• **You can record books** •  
• **on tape for Castelar** •  
• **School students at the** •  
• **KGOR radio station** •  
• **OR** •  
• **help with housekeeping** •  
• **chores at the Ronald** •  
• **McDonald House!** •  
• • • • •

# Congregation Invited To Adult B'nai Mitzvah Friday, June 4, 7 p.m.

Exactly one year after they began, this year's adult B'nai Mitzvah class will lead the Shabbat worship service. Jennifer Glazer, Jill Idelman, Allison Latenser, Ellen Long, Lacie Morgan and Ellen Platt will all read from the Torah as they become *B'nai Mitzvah*.

"It's been an amazing journey of growth," said their instructor Betsy Marantz. "Some of them didn't know a letter of Hebrew when they started," she commented. "Now they can read the prayers and be full participants in the service."

Meeting once a week, the class studied the worship service and Jewish theology. They have all written *D'verei Torah* which will be compiled in a booklet and given to each person who attends their *B'nai Mitzvah*.

"Mostly, I wanted to learn Hebrew and learn about the prayers and the service," said Ellen Platt. "It was hard work, but when we were all together, it was cool," she added. "It was a good gathering. And now I can go to services

and know what we're praying about and the order of the service. It's more meaningful."

Lacie Morgan said she took the class "to connect more with Judaism. I never had a chance to have a *Bat Mitzvah*. This was definitely worthwhile and thought provoking. It inspired me to go learn even more."

"I wanted to have an understanding of what my son is going through," said Allison Latenser whose son, Daniel Pachman, will become a *Bar Mitzvah* next year. "I just wanted to attend his *Bar Mitzvah* and understand the prayers. I wanted to travel that road with him," she explained. Admitting that "an awful lot was put into one year," Allison said she could take the class again and learn just as much the second time. "I learned what the prayers mean and have become aware of different viewpoints of Judaism."

The entire congregation is invited to the service to share and celebrate the accomplishments of this amazing class.

## Tot Shabbat Friday, May 7, 6 p.m. Dinner following

Especially for families with young children, Tot Shabbat monthly worship services are an opportunity for youngsters to begin to enjoy praying together with their parents and the congregational community at Temple Israel. Services are in the Livingston Chapel followed by a Shabbat dinner. Cost for the dinner is \$5 and is planned with child-friendly favorites in mind.

Please call the Temple office by Wednesday, May 5, to make a reservation for the dinner.



## Shul Shuttle Ready For May Services



Thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor, the Shul Shuttle will make its third trip to Temple Israel on Friday, May 21. Anyone interested in attending the 7:30 p.m. Confirmation/Graduation service should call the Temple office, 556-6536, or Shelly Fox, 397-1578, by Thursday, May 20. There is no cost to ride the Shul Shuttle.

## Attend a Union for Reform Judaism Kallah in July 2004!

Explore "*Hechalutz: The Pioneer, Where and When Jews Reinvented Judaism*"

July 7-11

University of California, Santa Cruz  
July 21-25

Franklin Pierce College, Rindge, NH

For more information and online registration, visit the Kallah website, [www.urj.org/educate/kallah](http://www.urj.org/educate/kallah) or contact Sina Clark, 212-650-4087.

## Mazel Tov To Our Graduating Confirmands!

Becki Smedlund looks forward to returning to Omaha next year for the High Holy Days to see her classmates again. She'll be a freshman at the University of Kansas this fall. "All of us are really good friends," she said of the class of 12 high school seniors who will participate in the Confirmation/Graduation service, Friday, May 21, at 7:30 p.m.

This year's senior class "is an incredible group," according to Elyce. "They're sensitive towards each other and the subject matter which included social justice, activism in areas such as homelessness, immigration, equal opportunity, nuclear arms and lobbying." The students studied Jewish texts that relate to these topics and then took a four-day trip to Washington, D.C. that focused on Jewish values and social justice.

Becki acknowledged that "the maturity level" of a senior compared to a tenth grader "makes a difference on the trip to Washington. We were so much into the issues."

The Confirmation/Graduation Service focuses on social justice. Students selected readings from the Religious Action Center and Reform Movement activists including Al Vorspan (who will be a scholar-in-residence at Temple in October).

Twelfth grade teacher Barry Grossman said the seniors "are very passionate about the issues that they chose such as homelessness, Jewish identity, the political process and gay rights."

For the second year, a class at Temple will be both confirmed

and graduate in the twelfth grade. Previously, students were confirmed in the tenth grade. Since 1997, students have continued on for two more years on their way to graduation in the twelfth grade. Two more years makes a difference, said Elyce. "The added excitement and commitment is stronger when the students remain with us for the additional years."

"A celebration of our students and their accomplishments are something in which the entire congregation should gather and take pride," Elyce added.

In addition to the Confirmation/Graduation, seventh graders' mitzvah projects will be on display at the Oneg Shabbat which will be sponsored by the Noddle family in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Rebecca Noddle and the graduation class.

Temple offers a mazel tov to the following confirmands/graduates and their parents:

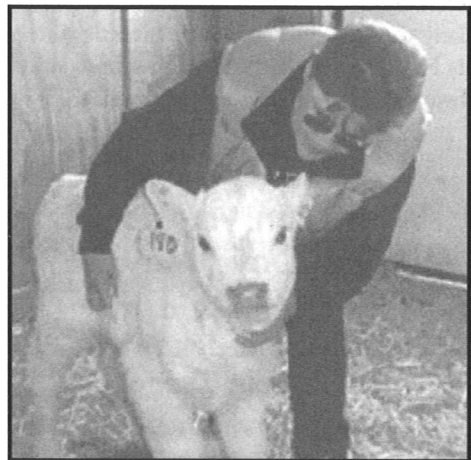
- Janet Elyse Baack**, daughter of Debbie Baack and Dennis Baack
  - Kyle Joseph Baines**, son of Brigitte and Kenny Baines
  - Alexander Samuel Bloom**, son of Rebecca and Brent Bloom
  - Sara Elizabeth Cowan**, daughter of Alison and Ken Cowan
  - Jacob Joseph Friedman**, son of Suzanne and Tom Friedman
  - Daniel Jacob Gutman**, son of Catharine Fogarty and Vic Gutman
  - Molly Elizabeth Needelman**, daughter of Lee and Howard Needelman
  - Aron H Neesman**, son of Maria and Steve Neesman
  - Sara Elizabeth Rips**, daughter of Jane and Harlan Rips
  - Rebecca Ann Smedlund**, daughter of Debi and Jeff Smedlund
  - Margaret Terry**, daughter of Michele Marsh and John Terry
  - Hannah Beth Wolf**, daughter of Nancy and Phil Wolf
- May they go from strength to strength!



## Mitzvot In Motion



On April 18—and for the fourth straight year—Temple Israel sponsored a team for Rebuilding Together (previously known as Christmas in April). Each year the team assists homeowners with minor home repairs. Pictured from left to right are John Thomas, a perennial assistant to the Temple Team; Tom Friedman; Melver Winn, the homeowner; Larry Gendler, team captain; and Jeff Schweid. Since 1996, Rebuilding Together Omaha has repaired 263 homes.



Debbie Alpert's second grade Religious School class has chosen to sponsor a Charolais calf at Gifford Farm with their weekly *tzedakah* collection. The money provides food and other necessities and offers the class an opportunity to track the calf's progress.

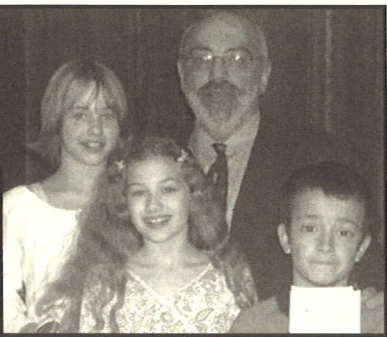
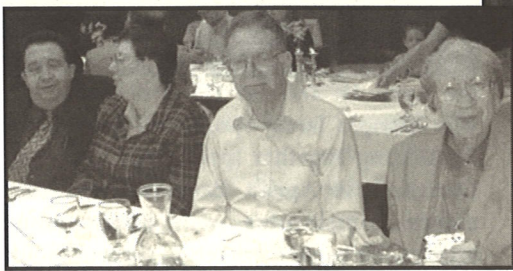
What can you do on Mitzvah Day, May 16?

You can play BINGO and visit with residents at the Thomas Fitzgerald Veteran's home!

# Caught In The Act...Of Having Fun, Worshipping And Sharing

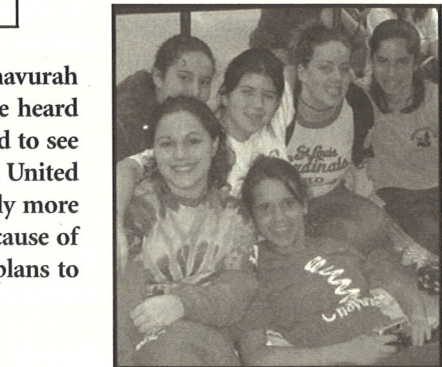
## Pesach 2004

(Below) Craig and Ellen Saylan, Steve Gottlieb and Hilde Gottlieb enjoy the Seder meal; (Right) Melanie Long, Jordan Jensen and Sam Burrell found the afikomen at this year's Seder.



Daniel Gutman, one of the tri-chairs of the Chavurah along with Shira Kronick and Sara Rips, said he heard "a lot of positive feedback." As a senior, "It's hard to see everybody leave. We're going to be all over the United States next year." He believes that he is "definitely more likely to join Hillel" when he attends college because of his NFTY involvement in high school, and he "plans to always stay in touch with these friends."

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• **What can you do on**  
• **Mitzvah Day, May 16?**  
• **You can make a tax**  
• **deductible donation**  
• **to Temple Israel!**  
• .....



Stephanie Grossman, Temple's Director of Youth and Informal Education, is thankful to all the host families and the clergy and staff at Temple for their guidance and help during the Chavurah. She is especially appreciative of the work done by the three Chavurah chairs as well as Committee Chairs Aron Neesman and Becki Smedlund.

## Easter Dinner at The Stephen Center

(Pictured below) After their Passover seder together, several families assembled 150 Easter baskets to distribute at The Stephen Center. (left to right) Alyson Friedman, Jessie Gotsdiner, Kate Gotsdiner, Dustin Lepp, Emily Friedman, Kelsey Lepp and J. J. Friedman.



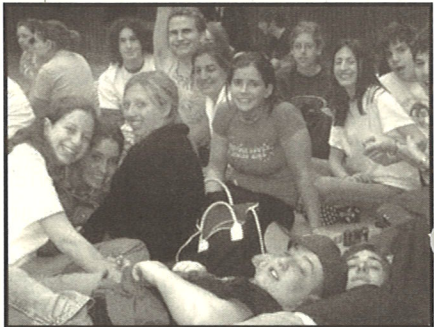
More than 100 people were served holiday meals at The Stephen Center on Easter thanks to scores of Temple Israel members who donated food and financial support. George Quittner (in photo) carved 100 pounds of turkey.



## The Faces of NFTY Spring Chavurah



Nearly 230 youth groupers came from all over the Midwest to join with Omaha teens for the NFTY Spring Chavurah, hosted by the Omaha Temple Youth Group (OTYG) during the third weekend in April.



Special thanks to Temple members Patrick Jensen and Jane Rips for all their help and support!



(Pictured left) Joan and Milton Marcus, Toby Fellman, Jonathan Rathsam and Howard Marcus take the food from Temple to The Stephen Center. Joan credits Temple member John Dacey with initially getting the congregation involved at The Stephen Center.

## Worship Services

### Friday~April 30

7:30 p.m.  
"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

### Friday~May 7

6 p.m.  
Tot Shabbat  
Dinner immediately following  
7:30 p.m.  
Shabbat Service  
Sermon  
Rabbi Craig Marantz

### Saturday~May 8

9:30-10:15 a.m.  
Bagels and Sacred Books  
10:30 a.m.  
Shabbat Service  
Bar Mitzvah of Maxwell Halsted  
Son of Mendy and Michael Halsted  
Torah Portion: Emor  
Leviticus 21:1-24:23  
Haftarah: Ezekiel 44:15-31

### Friday~May 14

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

### Saturday~May 15

9:30-10:15 a.m.  
Bagels and Sacred Books  
10:30 a.m.  
Shabbat Service  
Bat Mitzvah of Rebecca Frishman  
Daughter of Martha and Seth Frishman  
Torah Portion: Behar/Bechukotai  
Leviticus 25:1-27:34  
Haftarah: Jeremiah 16:19-17:14

### Friday~May 21

7:30 p.m.  
Shabbat Service  
Confirmation/Graduation

### Saturday~May 22

9:30-10:15 a.m.  
Bagels and Sacred Books  
10:30 a.m.  
Shabbat Service  
Bat Mitzvah of Rebecca Noddle  
Daughter of Kim and Jay Noddle  
Torah Portion: Bemidbar  
Numbers 1:1-4:20  
Haftarah: Hosea 2:1-22

### Tuesday~May 25

7 p.m.  
Erev Shavuot Service

### Wednesday~May 26

10:30 a.m.  
Shavuot Service and Yizkor

### Friday~May 28

6 p.m.  
Shabbat Service  
Sermon  
Rabbi Craig Marantz

### Saturday~May 29

9:30-10:15 a.m.  
Bagels and Sacred Books  
10:30 a.m.  
Shabbat Service  
Torah Portion: Naso  
Numbers 4:21-7:89  
Haftarah: Judges 13:2-25

### Friday~June 4

6 p.m.  
Tot Shabbat  
7 p.m.  
Shabbat Service  
Adult B'nai Mitzvah

### Saturday~June 5

9:30-10:15 a.m.  
Bagels and Sacred Books  
10:30 a.m.  
Shabbat Service  
Torah Portion: Beha'alotecha  
Numbers 8:1-12:16  
Haftarah: Zechariah 2:14-4:7

## Please Note Our New Emails...

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Vicki Ducharme (Bookkeeper)  
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Gloria Ketter (Elementary & Middle/  
High School Secretary)  
gketter@templeisraelomaha.com  
Maureen Kube (Secretary/Receptionist/  
Donations)  
mkube@templeisraelomaha.com  
Bonnie Sullivan (Clergy Secretary)  
bsullivan@templeisraelomaha.com  
Youth and Informal Education  
youth@templeisraelomaha.com

Don't forget...the Shul Shuttle is up and running for services on Friday, May 21! Anyone interested in riding along should call Temple, 556-6536, by Thursday, May 20.

.....  
• **What can you do on**  
• **Mitzvah Day, May 16?**  
• **You can paint the**  
• **classrooms at Temple!**  
• .....

Visit Temple's website  
[www.templeisrael-ne.org](http://www.templeisrael-ne.org)

| Sunday                                                                                                                                                     | Monday                                      | Tuesday                                                                                    | Wednesday                                                                                                                                 | Thursday                                                                                                                                     | Friday                                                                                                                                                    | Saturday                                                                                                                                                                 |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                            |                                             |                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                              | 30<br>Torah Tot<br>10-11:15 a.m.<br>Minister's Institute<br>10 a.m.-3 p.m.<br><br>Shabbat Service<br>7:30 p.m.<br>Rabbi Lee Bycel<br>Scholar-in-Residence | 1<br>Bagels & Sacred Books<br>9:30-10:15 a.m.<br>Shabbat Service<br>10:30 a.m.<br>Bat Mitzvah of<br>Amy Levinger<br>Rabbi Lee Bycel<br>4:30 p.m.<br>Havdalah & Reception |
| 2<br>Religious School<br>Teacher Meeting<br>9:30 a.m.<br>Kindergarten-Grade 6<br>10 a.m.-Noon<br>Rabbi Lee Bycel<br>10 a.m.<br>Club 34<br>Noon-2 p.m.      | 3                                           | 4<br><br>Family School<br>6:15-8 p.m.<br>AA, Alanon &<br>Gambler's 12-step<br>7:30 p.m.    | 5<br><br>Religious School<br>Grades 7-12<br>6:30-8 p.m.<br>@ Azriel Home<br>Adult B'nai Mitzvah<br>6:30-8:30 p.m.                         | 6<br>Adult Study with<br>the Clergy<br>10-11:30 a.m.<br><br>Religious School<br>Grades 3-6<br>4-6 p.m.<br><br>Kol Rina Choir<br>6:30-8 p.m.  | 7<br>Torah Tot<br>10-11:15 a.m.<br><br>Tot Shabbat<br>& Dinner<br>6 p.m.<br>Shabbat Service<br>7:30 p.m.                                                  | 8<br>Bagels & Sacred Books<br>9:30-10:15 a.m.<br>Shabbat Service<br>10:30 a.m.<br>Bar Mitzvah of<br>Maxwell Halsted                                                      |
| 9<br>Religious School<br>Teacher Meeting<br>9:30 a.m.<br>Kindergarten-Grade 6<br>10 a.m.-Noon<br><br>Mother's Day<br>Concert<br>4 p.m.                     | 10                                          | 11<br><br>Family School<br>6:15-8 p.m.<br>AA, Alanon &<br>Gambler's 12-step<br>7:30 p.m.   | 12<br><br>Grade 12 Rehearsal<br>5-6:30 p.m.<br>Adult B'nai Mitzvah<br>6:30-8:30 p.m.<br>WRJ-O Donor Tea<br>7 p.m.                         | 13<br>Adult Study with<br>the Clergy<br>10-11:30 a.m.<br><br>Religious School<br>Grades 3-6<br>4-6 p.m.<br><br>Kol Rina Choir<br>6:30-8 p.m. | 14<br>Torah Tot<br>@ the zoo<br>10-11:15 a.m.<br><br>Family Shabbat Service<br>6 p.m.<br>Early Worship Service<br>6 p.m.                                  | 15<br>Bagels & Sacred Books<br>9:30-10:15 a.m.<br>Shabbat Service<br>10:30 a.m.<br>Bat Mitzvah of<br>Rebecca Frishman                                                    |
| 16<br>Religious School<br>Teacher Meeting<br>9 a.m.<br>Kindergarten-Grade 6<br>10 a.m.-Noon<br>Prayer Assembly<br>11:30 a.m.<br>Mitzvah Day<br>Noon-4 p.m. | 17                                          | 18<br><br>Board of Trustees<br>7:30 p.m.<br>AA, Alanon &<br>Gambler's 12-step<br>7:30 p.m. | 19<br>Conversations with<br>Rabbi Azriel<br>Noon-1 p.m.<br><br>Grade 12 Rehearsal<br>5-6:30 p.m.<br>Adult B'nai Mitzvah<br>6:30-8:30 p.m. | 20<br>Adult Study with<br>the Clergy<br>10-11:30 a.m.<br><br>Kol Rina Choir<br>6:30-8 p.m.                                                   | 21<br><br>Shabbat Service<br>7:30 p.m.<br>Confirmation/<br>Graduation                                                                                     | 22<br>Bagels & Sacred Books<br>9:30-10:15 a.m.<br>Shabbat Service<br>10:30 a.m.<br>Bat Mitzvah of<br>Rebecca Noddle                                                      |
| 23<br><br>Annual Congregational<br>Meeting<br>7 p.m.                                                                                                       | 24                                          | 25<br><br>Erev Shavuot<br>Service<br>7 p.m.                                                | 26<br>Shavuot and Yizkor<br>10:30 a.m.<br><br>Office Closed                                                                               | 27<br>Adult Study with<br>the Clergy<br>10-11:30 a.m.                                                                                        | 28<br><br>Shabbat Service<br>6 p.m.                                                                                                                       | 29<br>Bagels & Sacred Books<br>9:30-10:15 a.m.<br>Shabbat Service<br>10:30 a.m.                                                                                          |
| 30                                                                                                                                                         | 31<br><br>Office Closed<br><br>Memorial Day | 1<br><br>AA, Alanon &<br>Gambler's 12-step<br>7:30 p.m.                                    | 2<br><br>Adult B'nai Mitzvah<br>6:30-8:30 p.m.                                                                                            | 3<br>Adult Study with<br>the Clergy<br>10-11:30 a.m.                                                                                         | 4<br><br>Tot Shabbat<br>6 p.m.<br>Shabbat Service<br>7 p.m.<br>Adult B'nai Mitzvah                                                                        | 5<br>Bagels & Sacred Books<br>9:30-10:15 a.m.<br>Shabbat Service<br>10:30 a.m.                                                                                           |

Temple Teens Take Off For Washington And New York

Eight high school seniors from Temple Israel's Senior Seminar class spent four intensive days in Washington, D.C. in March at *L'Taken: A Teen Social Justice Program*. The students focused on Jewish values and social justice and met with U.S. Senator

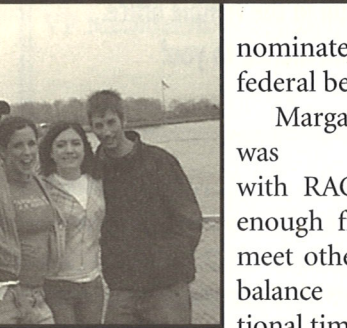
Daniel added that he "really liked learning about the issues that RAC sponsors." He also enjoyed seeing the sights that the nation's capital has to offer.

Aron Neesman indicated that "the coolest thing" was talking to Senator Hagel and the aides. "They actually listened to

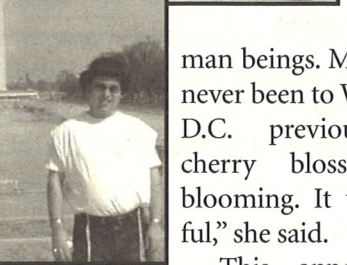
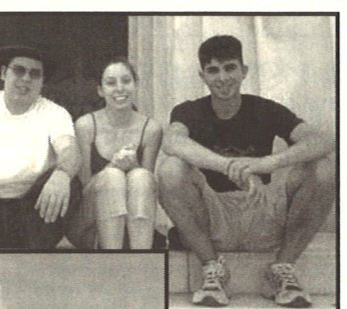


Chuck Hagel and aides from Senator Ben Nelson's and Representative Lee Terry's offices.

Sponsored by the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism (RAC), issues included AIDS, women's rights, Israel and environmental and economic justice. Seminars were designed to help students learn more about the complexities of public policy, how the American democratic system functions, and how to become more active and informed citizens.



time was very good. There was one program that completely turned my perspective of homelessness around," she added.



"It was excellent," reported Daniel Gutman, one of the students on the trip. "It was really an interactive way of seeing how politics work, especially in Washington, D.C." He felt that the students "were successful with our lobby visits. They listened to us and took notes." Daniel was pleased to see that "Senator Hagel voted in favor of a bill dealing with poverty that one of the students discussed."

This opportunity to participate in *L'Taken* was subsidized by Barbara Rips and Harlan and Jane Rips.

Temple tenth graders also took a trip to the east coast. Nine sophomores visited the "Big Apple" in March. They toured the Spanish Portuguese Synagogue, Ellis Island, the Lower East Side and attended a Broadway show among other attractions.

"I felt very welcome going to the Lower East Side and seeing so many Jews," said Chelsea Taxman. She found it interesting to see her classmates in "a different environment and their reactions" to the sights of New York City.

"I liked the trip a lot," remarked Anna Clark, about her first visit to New York and her first ride in an airplane. "It was amazing -- just so big! I liked the delis, the Statue of Liberty and riding the subway."

Josh Bleicher thought "it was fun to be with all our friends and experience New York that way. I liked the synagogue Friday night -- they had dancing during services. Times Square (at night) was really cool."

On their visit to Ground Zero, "I was thinking about what it would have been like to be in one of the towers or in one of the planes that day," said Sarah Sherman. She came away from the trip with "a feeling of awe."

Top photos (clockwise): Sarah Sherman, Sam Anderson, Rabbi Azriel and Samantha Long enjoy treats from street vendors in New York City; Temple 2001 sophomore class witnessed the destruction of 9/11--this year's class witnessed the rebuild; Josh Bleicher, Chelsea Taxman, Caroline Terry and Eli Bloom enjoy the ferry ride to Ellis Island.

Bottom photos (clockwise): Kyle Baines and Daniel Gutman enjoy sightseeing in Washington, D.C. with fellow *L'Taken* participants; Aron Neesman, Becki Smedlund and Kyle Baines outside the Jefferson Memorial; Aron Neesman stands at the end of the National Mall with the Washington Monument in the background.

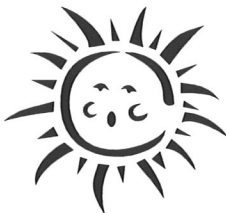
What can you do on Mitzvah Day, May 16?

You can bring non-perishable food items to be donated to Together Inc.!

# Jewish Summer Camp...An Incredible, Indelible Experience For Our Children--And You Can Make It Happen!

This summer's happy campers attending Herzl, OSRUI, Sabra and Schwayder camps are:

Jaclyn Adelson  
Yaniv Azriel  
Aaron Bleicher  
Sarah Bleicher  
Eliza Cowan  
Jessica Danon  
Josh Finnicum  
Emily Friedman  
Susan Freeman  
Hannah Grossman  
Noah Grossman  
Grace Hack



Joe Hack  
Jordan Jensen  
Kelsey Lepp  
Ally Levinger  
Amy Levinger  
Jessica Levinger  
Rachel Martin  
Sam Monsky

Jackie Neesman  
Bailey Newman  
Ben Noodell  
Ben Ozeroff  
Charles Parsow  
Anne Rips  
Alexis Slutzky  
Zach Spooner  
Chelsea Taxman  
Lindsey Thomas  
David Trubnikov  
Guy Weinstein



• • • • •  
• **What can you do on** •  
• **Mitzvah Day, May 16?** •  
• **You can sort food and** •  
• **stock shelves for the** •  
• **Omaha Area Food Bank!** •  
• • • • •

Here's how...buy grocery and merchandise certificates at Temple! Temple receives 5-10% of every certificate you buy and the proceeds go to our Jewish Camp Scholarship Fund!

- Use them like cash—100% face value.
- They're great gifts!
- Pay by cash, check, VISA or Mastercard.
- Call Temple, 556-6536, to set up your standing order!
- Pick them up in the Temple office... or have them mailed to you!



NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_  
Please send me the following certificates:  

| Store                                                                                                         | # Certificates | Total Cost |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|------------|
| Albertson's--no need to purchase certificates--just show your Community Partner's card at the checkout stand! |                |            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Please send me a Community Partner's card.                                           |                |            |
| Bag 'n Save _____ x \$ 10 \$ _____                                                                            |                |            |
| **Bag 'n Save certificates cannot be charged--cash or check only                                              |                |            |
| Bakers _____ x \$ 25 \$ _____                                                                                 |                |            |
| **Also redeemable for gasoline at area Kwik Shops                                                             |                |            |
| The Bookworm _____ x \$ 15 \$ _____                                                                           |                |            |
| The Gap _____ x \$ 20 \$ _____                                                                                |                |            |
| Spirit World _____ x \$ 25 \$ _____                                                                           |                |            |
| Add postage (\$.50 for regular/\$1.50 for certified)\$ _____                                                  |                |            |
| Total                                                                                                         |                | \$ _____   |

☐ Send me my certificates now.  
Please begin a standing order  
☐ Weekly ☐ Monthly ☐ Quarterly  
☐ Charge to the credit card listed below.  
☐ Enclosed is my check payable to Temple Israel.  
Account # \_\_\_\_\_  
Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

## 133<sup>rd</sup> Annual Congregational Meeting

### Election Of Officers And Trustees

Please join us as we celebrate a year of hard work and great success! Rabbi Aryeh Azriel and President Gary Kaplan will give reports on the state of Temple Israel. Congregants will also hear the plans for moving forward together as a vibrant congregation.

Reservations are not needed to attend the Annual Meeting.

### Nominations Presented for Board of Trustees

The Nominating Committee is pleased to present the following slate for approval at the Annual Congregational meeting.

Officers to serve one-year terms: President: Gary Kaplan; President-Elect: Dennis DePorte; Vice-Presidents: Wendy Goldberg and Andi Willensky; Secretary: Rick Fox; Treasurer: Jon Meyers; Assistant Treasurer: John Lehr.

Trustees to serve three-year terms: Ducky Milder, Ed Malashock and Vicki Perlmeter.

Trustee to serve two-year term: Stacey Rockman.

### Annual Reports

Committee, auxiliary and budget reports will be distributed at the Annual Congregational Meeting. If you are unable to attend this special evening, they will be available in the Temple office on Monday, May 24.

## Women of Reform Judaism-Omaha

The nominating committee of WRJ-O would like to announce the proposed new slate for the 2004-2005 Board:

President~Nancy Nogg  
President Elect~Cindy Goldberg  
VP Public Relations~Karli Newman  
Recording Secretary~Jill Baron  
VP of Finance~Michelle Bucher  
VP of Religious Living~Betsy Marantz  
Linda Saltzman  
VP Education~Deb Marburg  
Lynne Jensen  
VP Religious Action~Andie Gordman  
VP Development and Projects~Allyson Bradin-Wilczewski  
Marta Fox  
VP Membership/Leadership~Cindy Goldberg  
Danielle Gordman  
Rosie Zweiback



### Did you know...

• WRJ-O sold over 30 dozen Israeli roses at the J.C.C. during the Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration? We continue to support Israel by purchasing these roses and donating all proceeds to fund the planting of trees.

• WRJ-O board members Wendy Goldberg and Deb Marburg participated in the March for Women's Lives in Washington, D.C. on April 25.

• You can perform an extra mitzvah on Mitzvah Day by bringing your used books to Temple for WRJ-O's Used Book Sale. *Update: The date for the Used Book Sale has been changed to Sunday, August 1-Wednesday, August 4.* Please bring your books to Temple 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.

### Don't forget!!



Pick up your pre-ordered Mother's Day roses at Temple on Friday, May 7, Noon - 4 p.m.

### Jewish Genetic Testing

**Community Forum**  
**Monday, May 17, 7:30 p.m.**  
**Jewish Community Center**

Please come meet Boys Town National Research Hospital geneticists and professionals who will discuss the upcoming Jewish Genetics Testing event for the community. This will be the first opportunity to register for the free testing, which is limited to 100 participants. Please call Jean Duitch at 393-1141 for more information.

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• **What can you do on** •  
• **Mitzvah Day, May 16?** •  
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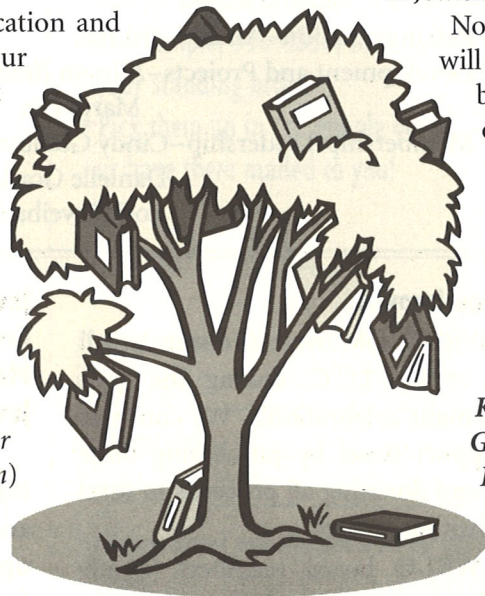
• You can prepare a •  
• Special Olympics mailing, •  
• Habitat for Humanity •  
• fundraiser (both at •  
• Temple Israel) OR •  
• assist with a mailing •  
• at the ADL office! •  
• • • • •

Your Name Belongs Here! \*

As the school year quickly comes to an end, we take this opportunity to thank the incredible teachers who have dedicated themselves to nurturing our children. This awesome responsibility is no easy task. Most of our teachers are parents themselves with fulltime family responsibilities and fulltime careers. Most of our teachers do not have a teaching degree. Their passion for Judaism and learning keep them returning year after year with the hopes of making a difference in the life of a child.

So how do we really honor and thank those teachers that have made this commitment to Temple Israel and our families?

As a congregation, we value education and want the best possible teachers for our children. With that in mind, what better way to show our gratitude than to offer opportunities for our teachers to continue their own Jewish education. With financial sponsorships to pay for classes, many teachers have enrolled in community based programs with *Jewish Education and Library Services* (JELS), attended national conferences such as *CAJE (the Coalition for the Advancement of Jewish Education)* and even enrolled in courses 'on-line' through the *Union for Reform Judaism*. In some instances, stipends have also been given to teachers so that they may participate.



Our teachers also have monthly in-service sessions with the clergy and, when possible, with the scholars-in-residence. Joan Cooper, Elementary School Coordinator believes, "If we can give teachers the tools that they need to be great educators, then we all benefit from their knowledge. Giving them the chance to continue learning, is just a small token of our appreciation. I hope every teacher knows how important they are to the school."

First-year fourth grade teacher Leslie Slutzky is currently attending a program established by JELS offered to all of the synagogue educators in the Omaha community. Leslie said, "I really do like it and look forward to the class. I like learning Jewish history, and classroom management is also helpful." This year-long teacher-in-service program was specifically designed to give religious school teachers, and others interested in teaching in our community, the chance to become the best that they can be. "Thanks to the class and the generous support of Temple Israel," Leslie feels "more knowledgeable as a teacher and as a Jew."

Anne Joseph, who currently teaches kindergarten in Temple's Religious School, feels "It has all been absolutely helpful. I think it is exceptional the way Temple supports their teachers." Because of designated funding for teacher training,

Anne was able to enroll in a two-year course through JELS, the Florence Melton Adult Mini-School and attend several CAJE Conferences during her almost 20 year tenure as a Temple teacher.

Jen Gates, now a graduate student at Brandeis University, was a second and third grade teacher at Temple Israel over a five-year period. During that time, she had the opportunity to take a course in Hebrew Bible and was also enrolled in the first year of the Florence Melton Adult Mini-School through JELS. Jen attended a CAJE conference in Colorado that she, "...loved. It was amazing and got me more excited for a career in Jewish education."

Not every Religious School teacher at Temple Israel will become a professional Jewish educator like Jen; but think of the possibilities for our school as our teachers become more knowledgeable about Judaism and the techniques of teaching others!

So congratulations to all of the teachers for another year of learning...for you and our children!

OUR HEARTFELT THANKS AND GRATITUDE TO:

Deborah Alpert, Elyce Azriel, Eileen Clignett, Katherine Finnegan, Deb Finnicum, David Goldberg, Dora Goldstrom, Rini Gonsher, Leigh Goodman, Lynne Jensen, Anne Joseph, Colleen Kennealy, Natasha Kraft, Ann Noodell, Marvin Parilman, Doris Parker, Rita Paskowitz, Sarah Schondelmeyer, Leslie Slutzky, Meg Snowardt, Jeff Taxman, Sasha Trubnikov, Patsy Wallace and Maya Wertheimer.

\* Anyone interested in finding out more about teaching in our Religious School should contact Joan Cooper, 556-6536 or jcooper@templeisraelomaha.com.

Please consider honoring a special teacher by making a donation to the Temple Israel Education Fund in his or her name to support teacher training.

What can you do on Mitzvah Day, May 16?

You can help clean and beautify the grounds at Together, Inc. OR the Temple Israel Cemetery OR right here at Temple Israel!

More adventuresome gardeners can help clear the grounds for an amphitheater at Temple's new retreat area near Mineola, IA!

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

IN MEMORY OF: **Harold Bloom:** Toby Fellman, Suzy Rubin, Linda and Kevin Saltzman, Jerry Slusky, Terri and Dick Zacharia; **William Diamond:** Fran and Norman Plotkin, Suzy Rubin; **Herman Eirinberg:** Jill and Bruce Baron; **Mother of Gloria Falk:** Harriett and Sherm Sperling; **Phyllis Frank:** Joe Frank, Lynda and Lee Sloan, Renee and Ken Wiseman; **Maggie Freeman, Brother of Merle Potash, Mother of Jim Wickstrom:** Anne and Alan Cohen; **Bill Kully:** Anne and Alan Cohen, Carol, Harold and Ben Forbes, Kendra and Frank McGree, Gale and Peter Tauberer, Ryder Wood and Laurence Merlis; **Ann Margolin:** Lillian and Jack Schrager; **Max Platt:** Jill and Bruce Baron, Anne and Alan Cohen, Susie and Marvin Cohn, Lillian and Jack Schrager; **Laura Plattner:** Anne and Alan Cohen, Susie and Marvin Cohn, Phyllis and Dick Slazer, Nancy and Don Greenberg, Terri and Dick Zacharia; **Enid Pollack:** Ruth and Norman Cain, Molline and Fritz Cassman, Roie and Bernie Meyers, Mrs. Ernest A. Nogg, Dodi and Steve Redler, Charney and Jerry Rosinsky, Joie Simon, Margie and Marlon Somberg; **Herman Roesberg:** Sharon Sobel and Jeff Schweid; **Bernice Rosen:** Darlynn and Tom Fellman; **Ruth Salomon:** Fran and Stan Katelman; **Mary Sternberg:** Bette Cohen, Dennis Baack, Kathy Fishman, Kerry Hollander, Courtney Jakal, Nancy Korb, Rose and Rolf Mayer, Charla Meyer and family, Joyce and Dan Rudman, Barbara Russell and family, Solomon Schwartz, Sharon Sobel and Jeff Schweid, Florence and Roger Spurgeon and family

IN HONOR OF RECOVERY OF: **Marjorie Lincoln:** Lillian and Jack Schrager; **Manya Nogg:** Harriett and Sherm Sperling; **Phyllis Roffman:** Judy and Buddy Roffman; **Nate Shukert:** Joe Frank

IN HONOR OF BIRTHDAY OF: **Pam and Dennis DePorte:** Debbi and Larry Josephson; **George Eisenberg:**

Joan and Milton Marcus; **Don Klein:** Nancy and Don Greenberg; **Henry Riekes:** Esther Canar, Dodi and Steve Redler, Lillian and Jack Schrager

IN HONOR OF ANNIVERSARY OF: **Charlotte and Art Adler:** Nancy and Don Greenberg, Lillian and Jack Schrager; **Ronnie and Art Jacobson:** Joanne and Joel Glotter; **Mr. and Mrs. Ben Levine:** Harriett and Sherm Sperling; **Dorothy and Henry Riekes:** Esther Canar, Dodi and Steve Redler, Lillian and Jack Schrager

IN HONOR OF B'NAI MITZVAH OF: **Adam Goldberg:** Kini and Don Polsky, Anne and Bruce Shackman; **Zachary Harris:** Anne and Bruce Shackman; **Avery Lehr:** Kini and Don Polsky

IN HONOR OF PRESS CLUB PRESIDENCY: **Howard Marcus:** Joan and Milton Marcus

IN APPRECIATION OF: **Rabbi Aryeh Azriel, Rabbi Craig Marantz, Cantor 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**

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.

Our Sympathy

The Congregation records with sorrow the deaths of...

**William Diamond,** son of Theresa Diamond and brother of Richard Diamond;

**Leona Kasin,** mother of Sandy Kasin and Dale Sofnas;

**Enid Levey Pollack,** mother of Daniel Bruce Pollack, Kathryn Ann Pollack and Sally Jo Pollack, sister of Joanne Levey Freeman, and aunt of Ellen Siref, John Freeman and Robert Freeman;

**Leah Siegel,** aunt of Alan Stoler;

**Phil Sokolof,** father of Karen Javitch and Steven Sokolof, brother of Soralee Cohn, and brother-in-law of Jerry Cohn, Doris and Rich Rosinsky, Charney and Jerry Rosinsky and Phyllis and Harvey Aronson

...and extends sympathy to their bereaved families.

It's not too late!  
You can still sign up for Mitzvah Day May 16

Contact the Temple office, tIsrael@templeisraelomaha.com or 556-6536, and make your mitzvot choice.

Kickoff is 11:30 a.m. in the Temple Sanctuary followed by lunch at Noon in the Friedman Social Hall.

Don't miss out on the fun!

Temple Israel 2004 Mitzvah Day