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SENIOR RABBI Aryeh Azriel
RABBI Josh Brown
CANTOR Wendy Shermet
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Dennis DePorte
DIRECTOR OF LIFELONG LEARNING Deborah E. Massarano
PROGRAM DIRECTOR Wendy Goldberg
DIRECTOR OF YOUTH ENGAGEMENT Nikki Flatowicz
STAFF WRITER David Golbitz
RELIGIOUS SCHOOL COORDINATOR Jen Goodman



Kol Rina and St. Paul United Methodist Church Choir

Sunday, April 27, 11 a.m. - Noon, St. Paul United Methodist Church, 5410 Corby St.

Friday, May 2, 6 p.m. Temple Israel

Come enjoy the combined choirs sing Jonathan Comisar's Hashkiveinu, Samachti b'omrim Li, 'Early Will I Seek Thee' and 'Go Not Far From Me' (Psalm 21), as well as regular service songs conducted by St. Paul United Music Minister Jerry Brabec.

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Upcoming Events

Music in Transition: Adult Study with Cantor Shermet
Thursdays, March 20 - May 1, 10 a.m.

Grade 10 L'Taken Trip to Washington D.C.
Friday, March 21 - Monday, March 24

Grade 3 Trip to the Zoo
Sunday, March 23

Tot Shabbat
Saturday, March 29, 9 a.m.

Experience Shabbat
Saturday, March 29, 4 - 6 p.m.

Rosh Chodesh
Tuesday, April 1, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Scholar-in-Residence Daniel Smith - Monkey Mind: A Memoir of Anxiety
Wednesday, April 2, 7 - 8 p.m.

April First Friday with Kindergarten and Grade 1 Teacher Appreciation Service
Friday, April 4, Candle lighting and Kiddush in the Community Court, 5:30 p.m., Service, 6 p.m., Dinner immediately following. Stay for Shabbat Lounge featuring Guitarist Jeff Scheffler and Trumpeter Doyle Tipler

Sababa Sheva: Awesome 7K Relay Run
Sunday, April 6, 8 a.m.
Starting at Beth El Synagogue

Chess Tournament
Sunday, April 6, Noon - 2 p.m.

"StandWithUs" Israeli Soldiers Stories During Services
Friday, April 11, 6 p.m.

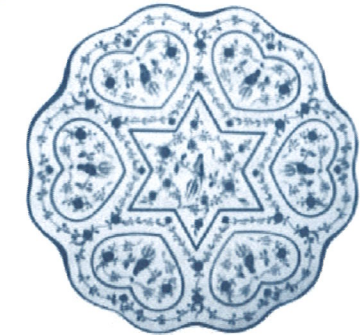
OTYG Lock-In with JYG Eighth Graders
Saturday, April 12 - Sunday, April 13

Grade 8 Trip to Mahoney
Friday, April 25 - Saturday, April 26

Tidings

MARCH • ניסן / אדר • 5774

Join us for Passover



Family Seder: Let Us Make the Seder for You!

Tuesday, April 15, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Join us for our family friendly Passover Seder with delicious food, thought provoking discussion, joyful song and activities for children. The Passover Seder is one of the Jewish peoples' most treasured traditions. To this day, in every corner of the world, Jewish families come together to reconstruct that original Passover Seder, again and again, year after year. And every year, there is more to learn. We look forward to sharing this tradition with you and your family this year at Temple Israel.

Dinner will include matzah ball soup, roast brisket, potato kugel, salad, chocolate-dipped macaroons for dessert, and all the traditional favorites such as charoset, gefilte fish and, of course, matzah. Kids are advised to get their detective skills ready to search for the afikoman.

Reservations are a must! Please contact the Temple Israel office, 402-556-6536 or RSVP@templeisraelomaha.com, by April 4 to reserve your seats. Cost of the dinner is: \$25 for adults, \$12 for children ages 6 - 12, and no charge for children ages five and under.

If you would like to attend Seder on the first night of Passover or you have room for a guest, contact Program Director Wendy Goldberg and she will help make the connections.

Passover Schedule

Passover Morning Service
Tuesday, April 15, 10:30 a.m.

Concluding Passover Service and Yizkor
Monday, April 21, 10:30 a.m.

If you would like to have the names of your loved ones read at the concluding service, please contact Temple Israel, 402-556-6536 or mweidner@templeisraelomaha.com, by April 18 with the names.

Clergy Report

Am Yisrael Chai

Which of the following doesn't belong:

1. The leader of the Reform Movement addressing BBYO, the often perceived competitor of our youth movement NFTY, at their national convention.
2. African American Baptist Ministers, with hundreds of their parishioners, addressing the largest American-Israel Alliance and shouting at the top of their lungs, "Am Yisrael Chai - The People Israel Lives!"
3. Adults in our congregation who either no longer have school age children or never had children showing up for our Family Night Adult Learning on Wednesday night.
4. The President of the Reform Movement, the CEO of the Conservative Movement and the Vice President of the Orthodox Union sharing the stage together, hand in hand, supporting Israel.

As you may have guessed, all of the above scenarios have happened in the last year. As I write today there is news of Vladimir Putin trying to redraw the map of Europe and I cannot help but think of the analogy we might make in our own Jewish world. Borders are being redefined. Roles are being challenged and new people, people we never expected to see in our classrooms and shouting our anthems, are enthusiastically joining our community.

But don't be confused. Making the threshold lower or the border broader may increase access to Judaism, but it does not lower expectations. In fact, by my assessment, it does just the opposite. When African American preachers begin shouting "Am Yisrael Chai" they challenge us to raise our voices. When Rick Jacobs, President of the Reform Movement, addresses BBYO youth, he sets the tone for our NFTY leaders to step up and create bridges with their often perceived competitors. And when our adult learning sessions set aside for parents are overflowing the rooms we've just built, a new expectation is placed upon the parents of children in our own Religious School.

Nominating Report

Temple Israel's nominating committee, comprised of **Nancy Noddle** and **John Waldbaum** from our membership at large, **Dan Marburg** and **Louri Sullivan** from the Board, and **John Lehr** as immediate past president, met on February 25.

We are pleased to nominate the following executive committee members to serve one-year-terms:

President - Mike Halsted
Vice Presidents - Andie Gordman and Mike Norton
Treasurer - Jeff Schweid
Secretary - Paul Rabinovitz
President Elect - Rosie Zweiback
Immediate Past President - Sally Kaplan

In addition, we are pleased to nominate the following to serve three-year-terms on the Board of Trustees:

Ron Beach
Justin Cooper
Danielle Gordman
Troy Meyerson

Borders are being shifted and thresholds lowered. I hope all of us understand these moves as an invitation to those who have perhaps waited too long to receive such an invitation. But I also hope that those of us who have been actively involved in Jewish life recognize that the bar has just been raised and more is going to be expected of us. We are going to be expected to make a deeper commitment to Jewish education than previous generations. We are going to be expected to make a more serious and more public commitment to the state of Israel. And we are going to be expected to set aside denominational and historical barriers that segregated our youth. All of this is exciting and all of it requires work on our part.

Am Yisrael Chai... The People Israel lives. *Od Avinu Chai...* our forefathers live, so long as we are willing to put in the hours, engage in the conversations and do the work that will sustain us for another 4,000 years.



Rabbi Brown

Our Congregation

February Board Meeting

The meeting began with a Spaghetti Dinner report from OTYG President **Hannah Budwig**. She said that the event exceeded expectations and thanked the Board for their support.

WRJ President **Dana Gonzales** then updated the Board on the status of the Purim Wine Tasting fundraiser.

Howard Epstein, the Executive Director of the Jewish Federation of Omaha Foundation, was then introduced. He gave a brief presentation on the new Life & Legacy program the Omaha Jewish community has been invited to participate in.

Board President **Sally Kaplan** reported that the sale of the Cass Street building is "moving forward in a positive way."

President-Elect **Mike Halsted** teased a Long-Range Planning report that will be ready in April.

Sally announced that **Rabbi Josh Brown** has been named to the URJ Commission on Social Action.

President's Report

Things are finally starting to settle down at Temple Israel; we are more and more comfortable in our new home and we are all amazed at the new energy and community spirit it has brought us! As beautiful as it is, I don't think any of us realized how the space itself would create so much excitement and so much congregational engagement. It is a joy to watch our members use every inch of the new space; if you haven't visited on a Wednesday night you must come by and feel the buzz of activity and enthusiasm!

Beginnings and endings always seem to come together. Our Program Director of six years, **Wendy Goldberg**, has resigned effective the end of May, to pursue other exciting opportunities. There are no words to express my gratitude

Sally also met with Executive Director **Dennis DePorte**, **Cantor Wendy Shermet** and an acoustics expert to discuss the acoustics in the sanctuary.

Director of Lifelong Learning **Debbie Massarano** gave a high school report, stating that "it's not about a quantitative test score, it's about a qualitative connection with clergy." Ninety percent of Religious School students belong to a youth group and the students really enjoy the half hour beit cafe with the clergy on Wednesday nights. "The kids that we're engaging, we're engaging in a wonderful way," Debbie said.

Debbie also reported that it has been decided that OJC will not return next year and that the Federation would entertain proposals on how to spend money on 9-12 grade programming.

Treasurer **Alan Fredricks** gave a Treasurer Report and **Sharon Comisar-Langdon** gave a membership report, introducing new members **Joan Gottfried** and **Joan Marshall**.

for everything Wendy has done for our congregation, both as President of the Board and as Program Director. Her creativity, intelligence, technical knowledge and institutional memory have contributed in countless ways to the life of our community. We will have an opportunity to properly thank Wendy at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, June 1, but please be sure to thank her personally when you are at Temple!

I wish you all a very Happy Passover and a warm, renewing Spring!



Sally Kaplan

Temple Israel is Hiring!

Temple Israel is looking for a Program Director to join our professional staff. This individual will be responsible for planning and implementing programs and special events, overseeing all written and electronic communication and serving as the liaison with volunteer committees. Excellent communication, project management and technology skills preferred. Previous experience working with volunteers a plus.

Please include a personal statement of at least 500 but no more than 750 words. Your personal statement should include how your past experience has prepared you for this position and why you are interested in joining the professional staff at Temple Israel. Please send your personal statement and resumes including salary requirements to templeisrael@templeisraelomaha.com by Thursday, April 17.

Calendar

תפילות Pray

Rosh Chodesh

Tuesday, April 1, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m., Temple Israel

We will be learning about how Jews of many lands make different kinds of charoset. Bring an appetizer or dessert to share. Please let us know you are coming, rsvp@templeisraelomaha.com.

1st Fridays

April First Friday with Kindergarten and Grade 1 Teacher Appreciation Service

Friday, April 4, Candle lighting and Kiddush in the Community Court, 5:30 p.m., Service, 6 p.m., Dinner immediately following

Please join us in celebrating our amazing teachers and their commitment to our children's Jewish education. Parents are asked to have their children make a homemade Teacher Appreciation card for their teacher and bring it with them that night (or give it to Director of Lifelong Learning Debbie Massarano prior to Friday night).

We are going to host 12 talented energetic Israeli teachers who run successful twinning programs with our Partnership's communities.

Menu: Roast Chicken, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans with Almonds, Mixed Green Salad, Challah, Brownies, Ice Cream and Chocolate Sauce.

We hope you will join us for the final First Friday service and dinner of this school year. Regular services will be held during the summer, with First Friday beginning again on September 5, 2014. Please RSVP by Wednesday, April 2, 402-556-6536 or RSVP@templeisraelomaha.com.

Temple Israel First Fridays are sponsored by Bob and Elly Gordman, Andie Gordman and Dan Fitzgerald, and Lindsey Thomas, in memory of Brandon Thomas.

Shabbat Lounge will feature guitarist Jeff Scheffler and trumpeter Doyle Tipler. The duo will be playing music that encompasses a variety of jazz styles, both old and new, with a few popular tunes and originals thrown in for flavor.

Scheffler is a graduate of the famed Berklee School of Music in Boston. He has played with various groups, including the Omaha Symphony in their tribute to the rock bands Chicago, Steely Dan and Blood, Sweat and Tears.

Tipler has played with many groups in the area including The Continentals and Finest Hour. He has performed at the Omaha Community Playhouse for the Broadway touring show "Legally Blonde" and "Rave On!"

"StandWithUs" Israeli Soldiers Stories During Services

Friday, April 11, 6 p.m.

Two Israeli soldiers from "StandWithUs," an international, nonprofit organization supporting Israel around the world, will share their stories during services. StandWithUs is dedicated to correcting common prejudices about the Arab-Israeli conflict and promoting discussions and policies that can help promote peace in the region.

Kol Rina and St. Paul United Methodist Church Choir

Sunday, April 27, 11 a.m. - Noon

St. Paul United Methodist Church, 5410 Corby St.

Friday, May 2, 6 p.m., Temple Israel

Come enjoy the combined choirs sing Jonathan Comisar's Hashkiveinu, Samachti b'omrim Li, 'Early Will I Seek Thee' and 'Go Not Far From Me' (Psalm 21), as well as regular service songs conducted by St. Paul United Music Minister Jerry Brabec.

Yom Hashoah Service

Wednesday, April 30, Dinner for Grades 8 - 12, 6 p.m., Service, 7 p.m.

The Yom Hashoah service will include meaningful readings, a candle lighting ceremony for the local survivors, a speaker and youth involvement. This year's speaker will be Holocaust survivor, Sidney Finkel.

Today's youth will be the last generation to meet survivors and hear their testimony directly. We want young people to understand this privilege and the important role it will create for them in being the witnesses to this history and in helping future generations to remember.

למודים Learn

Religious School Grades K-12

Contact Director of Lifelong Learning Debbie Massarano for more information.

No Family School on Wednesdays, March 19 & April 16

No Religious School on Sundays, March 16, 30, April 13, 20 & Wednesday, March 19

Grade 10 L'Taken Trip to Washington D.C.

Friday, March 21 - Monday, March 24

OMAHA JEWISH REUNION

SEPTEMBER 12-14, 2014

SAVE THE DATE

Mark your calendars and return to Omaha for a Jewish Reunion!

Plans are underway for a weekend filled with social, educational and religious activities.

There will be something for everyone!

Get reacquainted with old friends or reminisce with family. See everything new and exciting in Jewish Omaha.

SEPTEMBER 12-14, 2014

HOSTED BY:



Calendar of Events

Engage פעילות

OTYG

Contact Director of Youth Engagement Nikki Flatowicz for more information.

OTYG Lock-In with JYG Eighth Graders

Saturday, April 12 - Sunday, April 13

Cost is \$25 and includes all food and activities.

Senior Function

Thursday, April 24 - Friday, April 25, St. Louis

Spring Chavurah

Friday, April 25 - Sunday, April 27, St. Louis

Registration is open now!

Community

Mah Jongg Lessons

Tuesdays, March 4 - April 29, 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.

(No session April 15)

\$45 per person, includes a 2014 Mah Jongg card. This is a great chance to get ready for our Temple Israel Mah Jongg tournament on Sunday, June 22. Watch for details. Contact Program Director Wendy Goldberg with questions or to volunteer.

Sababa Sheva: Awesome 7K Relay Run

Sunday, April 6, 8 a.m., starting at Beth El Synagogue

This point-to-point relay run starts at Beth El Synagogue, with relay points at the JCC and Beth Israel before finishing at Temple Israel Synagogue in Sterling Ridge. Get a team together or sign up individually. Entry fees benefit Jewish Day School Education. Registration information is on our website, www.templeisraelomaha.com.

Chess Tournament

Sunday April 6, Noon - 2 p.m.

Come and play for a few games or stay for the entire tournament. All ages and abilities welcome. Please bring your board, if you have one. \$3 registration fee includes lunch. To register, email RSVP@templeisraelomaha.com. For questions, contact Dan Gilbert, dmgilbert@gmail.com.

Blood Drive

Sunday, April 27, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Your blood donation is needed and appreciated more than ever right now. Schedule an appointment online at www.redcrossblood.org using code 009113, call 1-800-RED-CROSS or email Executive Director Dennis DePorte, ddeporte@templeisraelomaha.com. Bring a photo ID and drink plenty of water before you donate!

In Sympathy נחמה

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

Bernard "Bernie" Bogdanoff, survived by wife Esther Bogdanoff, daughters Sandee(Howard) Friedman, Cindy (Morris) Friedman, sons Adam Bogdanoff and Brian (Jennifer)Bogdanoff, grandchildren Samantha, Alan, Emily, Michael, Zach, Jocie, Courtney, Eli, numerous sisters and brother in-laws, nieces, nephews, extended family, and friends;

Dr. Bernard Bloom, survived by brother of Beverly (Richard) Fellman and Brent (Rebecca) Bloom, uncle of Susan (Isaac) Witkowski, Debbie Fellman, Jon (Michelle) Fellman, Rabbi Daniel (Melissa) Fellman;

Merriam Friedman, survived by her children Jim (Cheri) Friedman, Harold Friedman, and Cheryl Smith, and grandchildren, Julie Rystrom, Lisa Friedman, Alexa Petersen, and Graham Smith as well as her loving nieces;

...and extends sympathy to their bereaved families.

Edythe Blackberg Kass, survived by children Mark (Judith) Kass, PhD., Sharlene Kass, and Phil (Denise) Kass, grandchildren Aaron, Austin, Alex, David (Sheralynn) Kass, Rebekah (Jason) Callaway, and Ariel (Tyler) Lloyd, great-grandchildren Dominick Kass, Hall and Eleanor Callaway, and Jude Lloyd, and nieces and nephews;

Blanche Morris, survived by daughter Marcia Morris Brown (Toby), grandchildren Josh Brown (Carrie) and Rebecca Brown, great-grandchildren Hannah and Noah Brown;

Lorraine Reiss, survived by children Joe (Michelle) Reiss, Lainey (Robert) Nacron, Rob (Wendy) Reiss, grandchildren Anna Reiss, Lia (Gavin) Paul, Greg (Liz) Nacron, Danielle (Josh) Kyser, Abby Reiss, Ellie Reiss, Lane Romero-Reiss (Susanna), Blake (Astrid) Drolson, Derek Drolson five great grandchildren, many loving nieces and nephews, and special friend Bernie Altsuler;

Congregation

B'nai Mitzvah בני מצוה



Jack Simons, son of Tonya and Rob Simons, will celebrate his Bar Mitzvah on March 29. Jack is in the 7th grade at Kiewit Middle School, where he is also on the honor roll. For his mitzvah project, Jack served meals at Siena Francis House. He enjoys playing soccer, football and basketball.



Cameron Kully, son of Denese and Tim Kully, will celebrate his Bar Mitzvah on April 12. Cameron is in 7th grade and attends Westside Middle School. For his mitzvah project, Cameron is raising funds for local animal shelters. He believes that animals deserve a voice and hopes to make a difference in their world.

Cameron enjoys playing many sports, including hockey, baseball, football and basketball.



Adam and Alec Folsom, sons of Jim Folsom, will celebrate their B'nai Mitzvot together on April 5. Both attend Westside Middle School, where Adam is in the 8th grade and Alec is in 7th grade. For their mitzvah project, Adam and Alec volunteered at Lydia House, to help those in need.



Shelby Goodman, daughter of Jen and Scott Goodman, will become a Bat Mitzvah on April 26. She is in the 7th grade at Lewis and Clark Middle School. For her mitzvah project, Shelby watered the flower baskets that hang on the streetlights of the historic Dundee neighborhood each morning.

Shelby participates in theater productions at the JCC, plays volleyball, swims, spends her summers at Camp Sabra and loves hanging out with friends in downtown Dundee.

New Members



Joan Gottfried recently moved to Omaha from New Jersey to be closer to her grandsons Leo and Felix Grau, sons of Jackie and Justin Grau. She has visited more than 30 countries and also lived on a sailboat for several years.



Joan Marshall has lived in Omaha for most of her life. She was originally born in Ithaca, NY and has also spent time in San Diego. She is a registered nurse and has worked at

Sequoia National Park, Camp Herzl and at a Girl Scout Camp in Cape Cod. She and her daughter Lauren have a dog named Scruffy.

Marriage נישואין

Mazel tov on the marriage of...

Mr. & Mrs. Dustin Friedman. Mrs. Friedman is the former Candice Wong. Parents are Pam and Julian Wong, and Amy and Sandy Friedman, and grandparents are Molline and Fritz Cassman.