

WRJ Presents: Women In Need

Tuesday, February 24, Noon

During these challenging economic times, the Women of Reform Judaism are dedicating their annual "Donor Event" to reaching out to "Women in Need". Proceeds will support Temple Israel, Jewish Family Services and the YWCA in strengthening the safety net for those who face economic hardships.

Please join us in learning more about Omaha's most vulnerable women. Sandy Nogg, assistance coordinator for JFS, and Laura Bergevin, education coordinator for the YWCA, will share stories from their work. Consider donating career-appropriate shoes, new or gently used, to the YWCA Career Closet or laundry detergent for the JFS pantry.

Cost for the lunch is \$10 per person. Please contact the Temple office, 556-6536 or mkube@templeisraelomaha.com, to make a reservation by Wednesday, February 17.

Please consider a contribution to our WRJ Donor to Support Women in Need: Helping Hand (\$18), Booster (\$36), Supporter (\$72), Benefactor (\$100), Philanthropist (\$200)

Women of Reform Judaism

Congregation of Temple Israel
7023 Cass Street
Omaha, NE 68132

Issue 1 Winter 2009

Non-Profit Org.
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Omaha, Nebr.
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6815431278 C047



Sisterhood

Our mission is to promote closer fellowship among women while supporting the mission of Temple Israel.

A Quarterly Newsletter

Issue 1 Winter 2009

Card Making

We are looking for volunteers who are interested in making cards to congregants for four occasions--get well wishes, welcome a new baby, birthday wishes to seniors, thinking of you cards for the bereaved.

Wednesday,
February 25 6:15 p.m.

Passover Gift Packages

WRJ is preparing Passover packages to send to college students. If you would like your child to receive a package, please send his/her name and address to Jennifer Miller, miller2486@cox.net

Before
Friday, February 20

Book Sorting Days

All are welcome and you get to select five free books just for helping.

Sundays,
February 22, March 29, & April 19,
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Attention Bakers!

Please join us for our annual Hamentaschen baking day to prepare for the congregation's Purim Celebration! No experience needed but please bring your rolling pins.

Sunday, March 1,
10 a.m.

Needed for Purim Carnival

Volunteers to help set up, work booths and help take down. Donate liter bottles of soda for Ring Toss and/or cakes for the Cake-Walk!

Sunday, March 8,
11:30 a.m.

Minister's Institute

Volunteers need to check in guests, set tables and serve the meal.

Friday, March 20,
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Family Shabbat To Honor Service to America

Friday, February 13, 5:45 p.m.

HIGHLIGHTS: CHILDREN'S CHOIR, CAPTAIN JONATHAN BEHA, HONORING BOY SCOUTS AND SERVICE PROJECT TO SUPPORT SOLDIERS

Come to the Oneg at 5:45 p.m. with the entire family to unwind and relax after a busy week. Sing, thank God for your blessings and be part of the Temple family. Hosts are Danielle and Jeff Gordman, and Susie and Mike Norton. Our Family Shabbat worship service will feature a Boy Scout ceremony, Temple's Children Choir and some deployment stories by Air Force Captain Jonathan Beha, who returned from his most recent of five Middle East assignments in October. Capt. Beha and his wife Lynn are members of Temple Israel. Military members of our community will also be honored.



Air Force Captain Jonathan Beha, who returned from his most recent of five Middle East assignments in October will share some deployment stories.

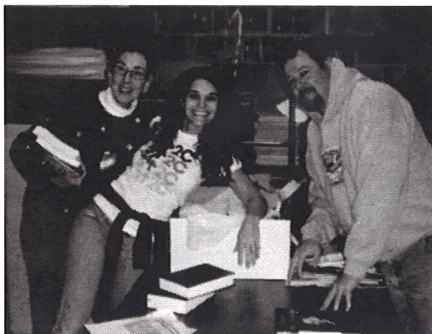
The congregation will observe the annual Scout Shabbat for Boy Scouts of America. Charlie Sullivan and Bennett Ginsberg, members of the Boy Scouts Mid-America Council Board of Directors, as well as Belinda Johnson, who works at the Mid-America Council office, will be honored with the Shofar Award. Adam Cooper-Kahn will receive his Maccabee emblem.

After services, WRJ invites everyone to help pack boxes with everything from beef jerky to speedstick deodorant. The boxes will be mailed to about 50 Jewish members of the armed forces who are serving overseas. If you are interested in sponsoring a filled box, the cost is \$36 per box and WRJ will do the shopping for you!

SUGGESTED DONATIONS

- athletic socks
- small light-weight blankets
- towels
- dried fruit
- hand sanitizer
- travel size toothpaste
- small containers of Pert shampoo

Donations can be dropped off before February 13 at the Temple office, or brought to Shabbat services that night. Participants of all ages will be asked to write notes, make cards, or draw pictures to be included in the boxes.



FROM THE WRJ PRESIDENT

Dear Women of Temple Israel,

It's the last few months of my two-year presidency of WRJ and I'm finally getting around to a formalized newsletter – better late than never, right? And that's my mantra for all of you – BETTER LATE THAN NEVER!

If you haven't been to a WRJ-O sponsored program lately – now's your chance. If you've never joined in on the fun of baking 750 hamentaschen – now's your chance. If you've always wanted to visit an elderly member of our congregation at the Blumkin home, but haven't done so – now's your chance. This newsletter clearly lays out the remainder of our calendar for 2008-09.

And please make special note of the new date for our Used Book Sale. We have moved it August 9, 10 & 11.

A special evening is in the works for a WRJ-O Shabbat service. March 6th the clergy will help the WRJ-O current and past board members and membership lead the Shabbat evening service. We hope you'll consider being a part of this unique evening whether you participate in the service, attend the service or help bake for the Oneg.

I personally invite and encourage you to join us in as many of our events from now through May 17th as you can. Your WRJ-O board has worked very hard on this calendar of events. Hope to see you all soon – Better late than never!

In sisterhood,

Danielle

Turn video about faith

Learn about our Tapestry Project

Wednesday, February 18, 6:30 p.m.

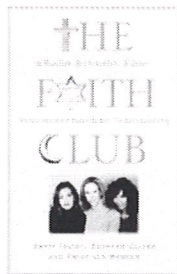
Come hear from the experts how to create a square that tells the story of your Jewish family through color, symbols, texture and collage. We will create multiple tapestries that tell the story of our congregation and will be displayed on a rotating basis. Come to see examples of completed blocks in order to get a jump start on ideas! For information, please contact Program Director Wendy Goldberg, wgoldberg@templeisraelomaha.com 556-6536, or Marge Bresel, breselms@cox.net 553-2667. A suggested minimum donation of \$18 is appreciated to defray some of the costs of this project.

The Faith Club: A Shared Journey to Understanding

Thursday, February 19, 10 a.m.

The Faith Club is the story of how three mothers – a Muslim, a Christian and a Jew – came together to write a picture book for their children that would highlight the connections between the three faiths. Those three mothers, Ranya Idliby, Suzanne Oliver and Priscilla Warner, are coming to Omaha to speak at Temple Israel. They made a commitment to meet regularly and as they talked, no question was deemed inappropriate no matter how rude or politically incorrect. As they talked about their religious beliefs and how to explain them to the children, they realized that before they could talk about what united them, they had to confront what divided them in matters of faith, God and religion.

This event is generously sponsored by The Hemene Zweiback Center for Lifelong Education, Betti and Richard Robinson, and The Tri-Faith Initiative. The event is open to the public and free of charge. Reservations are highly recommended, please contact the Temple office, mkube@templeisraelomaha.com, 556-6536. Space is limited.



Tot Shabbat

Fridays, February 20, March 20, April 17, & May 15, 6 p.m.

Tot Shabbat is a carefully orchestrated but yet informal child-oriented Shabbat worship service that brings a Shabbat experience to our youngest congregants and their families, suggested for birth to second grade. A fun art project follows dinner. Cost for the dinner is \$5 for adults and no charge for children. Please contact the Temple office, 556-6536 mkube@templeisraelomaha.com to make a reservation.

WRJ Shabbat Service

Friday, March 6, 7:30 p.m.

This is your chance to join with other members of WRJ/Sisterhood for this year's Sisterhood led Shabbat service. We are working on an original WRJ Shabbat service, using our new Women's Torah Commentary. You can choose to read in English or Hebrew, prepare a personal prayer about your connection to WRJ and our community, serve as a host or greeter, or select a recipe from our NEW WRJ recipe web page (<http://www.templeisrael-ne.org/community/sisterhood/recipes/>) and bake for the oneg. To sign up for one of these experiences please contact Danielle Gordman, 343-1435 or dsgordman@cox.net, or Susie Norton, 391-7333 or susie.norton@cox.net. We hope you'll sign on.

Pancake Man

Sunday, March 22, Noon

Stay after school for pancakes and have lunch with temple friends and family. Don't go out and fight those lunch lines stay and have pancakes!!

WRJ Brunch and Installations

Sunday, May 17, 10 a.m. 10 a.m. in the Milder Center

Please join us for sweets and coffee as we say thank you to our outgoing board and install our new board.

WRJ Annual Book Sale

Rescheduled: August 9, 10 and 11



Schedule a Visit with a member of our Congregation at the Blumkin Home

Pictured left to right: Wendy Manvitz, Judy Jospelson, Lisa Epstein, and Sandy Passeri visiting Temple Israel residents Margot Roesberg and Holly Abrahamson.

We are exploring a new method of scheduling these efforts. Would you like more information about how to sign up using the Temple Israel Volunteer Coordination, A Lotsa Helping Hands website? Contact Program Director Wendy Goldberg, 556-6536 or wgoldberg@templeisraelomaha.com for more information.

Are you interested in offering your time to help us with visits to our Temple Israel members who are living at the Blumkin Home. Meet promptly on Fridays at 1:30 p.m. at the Rose Blumkin Home reception desk. We visit 30-35 residents, so please allow approximately two hours for our visits. Our visits are a community effort and you will be joined by an experienced volunteer and most weeks a Temple Israel clergy/staff member. You are in for a satisfying and rewarding experience! Your effort to make this program a continued success is appreciated.