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Eric Linder.....Rabbi
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Dennis DePorte.....Executive Director
Elyce Azriel.....Director of Religious Education
Wendy Goldberg.....Program Director
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Adam Kirshenbaum.....Men's Club President
Susan Freeman.....OTYG President

Reach Out...and Email Us!

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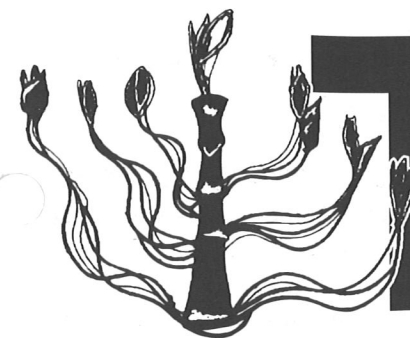
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Temple Israel Tidings

Omaha, NE Founded 1871 Vol. XCVII No. 4 Kislev 29, 5769 December 26, 2008

Turning the Torah...

There are some questions that I get asked time and time again, by both Jews and non-Jews. Some of them are:

- What made you become a rabbi?
- What do Jews think about Jesus?
- Are you allowed to get married? (one of my favorites)

From Jews, I often get the following question, and it is asked by children and adults alike. And the question?

"Rabbi, what does this mean?"

I think Lewis Carol was playing on this question when he composed *Jabberwocky*. If you haven't read it, please Google it and make sure to read it, and make sure its aloud! It is a series of fabricated words, made of senseless syllables strewn together, creating a cadence of rhythm, rhyme, and perhaps (perhaps!) meaning.

The poem means nothing. Or rather, the poem means nothing without a reader to interpret it. The interpretation depends on the reader, on the perspective of the person reading it, possibly even on the mood of the person reading it.

And so it is with Torah.

Whether we read the Torah in English or Hebrew, the words **are** real words, and the verses, chapters and portions do have a specific narrative. It's not quite accurate to say that the Torah can mean **anything**. But, it is also not quite accurate to say that a verse, or a chapter, or a portion, or a word means **something**. Its meaning does not exist without you and your thoughts, your experiences, your opinions.

One of my teachers always reminded us that, "Theology is autobiography." This is why I talk about A meaning of something, as opposed to **THE** meaning. A meaning is dependant on us – who we are, and what we're willing to bring to our tradition. When you read *Harry Potter*, you only need your imagination. When studying our *Torah*, however, you need to bring your full self.

I always say this to our *B'nai Mitzvah* students: "Anyone can read the Torah portion. But, not everyone gets to hear what **YOU** think about the Torah portion!" The rabbis remind us that, "The study of Torah is equal to everything." This is because our study and understanding is not, and should not, be solely an intellectual exercise.

It involves your history, your experiences, your passions, your fears... your full self.

So, if something in the Torah doesn't seem to make sense, I challenge you to **create** meaning from it. Perhaps it won't seem like such jabberwocky after all!

Eric Linder

Find A meaning for The Weekly Torah parasha (portion) every Saturday morning at the 9:15 a.m. Sparks Beneath the Surface discussion group.

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KNOW THYSELF; KNOW THY NEIGHBOR

2nd Annual Temple Israel Challah and Chicken Soup Cookoff

Sunday, January 11, 5 p.m.



Bring your appetite and your family to the Temple Israel Challah and Chicken Soup Cookoff. The event will highlight some of the most talented cooks in our community.

Celebrity judges will award coveted bragging rights in the following categories:

1. Best in Chow
2. Most Unusual Soup
3. Most Beautiful Challah
4. Best Tasting Challah
5. People's Choice Award

There will be two divisions for judging: Professional chefs and Recreational chefs. Dinner

is \$10 per family. No reservations required.

If you have any questions, please contact Program Director Wendy Goldberg, 556-6536 or wgoldberg@templeisraelomaha.com.

College Student Reunion

Tuesday, January 6, 6 p.m.

Upstream Brewing Co, 514 S 11 Street

Catch up with your Temple connections. Be our guest for appetizers and conversation with Rabbi Azriel. Please contact Maureen Kube, 556-6536 or mkube@templeisraelomaha.com, so we know to expect you.

Shabbat Shira

A Musical Journey: Worship, Dinner and Open Mic Night

Friday, February 6, 6 p.m.

Cantor Wendy Shermet, Kol Rina and the St. Paul United Methodist Church Choir, under the direction of Music Minister Jerry Brabec, will lead a musical journey in various languages as we observe the *Sabbath of Song*.

Worship services will be followed by an Israeli dinner and Open Mic Night. It promises to be an outstanding opportunity for spectators as we showcase our congregation's artistic voice through music and poetry. If you are interested in performing vocal, instrumental or poetic solo or forming a group to entertain the crowd, please contact Rabbi Eric Linder, 556-6536 or elinder@templeisraelomaha.com, to find out how to get on the Open Mic Night schedule.

Cost of the dinner is \$15 per person. Please contact the Temple office, 556-6536 or mkube@templeisraelomaha.com, to make a reservation.

Thanksgiving Service Raises Interfaith Awareness, \$1,000 and Food Donations



Approximately \$1,000 was raised by those who attended the annual Thanksgiving Interfaith Service, which was celebrated on November 23 at Temple Israel this year. An estimated 600 people from five Omaha churches, the Muslim community and Temple Israel attended. The financial donations, as well as three large containers of non-perishable food, were delivered to Together, Inc., a local independent, non-profit organization that assists those in need through a pantry, store and emergency services. Our thanks to Sandy Passer for chairing the reception committee.



God's To-Do List Book Club

End of Poverty by Jeffrey Sachs

Sundays, January 25, February 22 and March 22 Temple Israel

Attending a book club discussion is one of the opportunities listed on the God's To-Do List given to every Temple adult member during the High Holidays. Since then, eight men and women of various ages met with Creighton Professor Tracy Leavelle and Social Justice Co-Chair Mimi Silverman to talk about Dr. Ron Wolfson's book, *God's To-Do List*, which was generously given to each Temple family prior to the author's sermon on Rosh Hashanah.

The End of Poverty: Economic Possibilities for Our Time by celebrated economist Jeffrey Sachs has a plan to eliminate extreme poverty. Based on a tremendous amount of data and his own experiences working as an economic advisor to the UN and several individual nations, Sachs makes a strong moral, economic, and political case for why countries and individuals should battle poverty with the same commitment and focus normally reserved for waging war. The End of Poverty is a hopeful book - it not only makes the end of poverty seem realistic, but in the best interest of everyone on the planet, rich and poor alike.

Tim Wise's book, *White Like Me: Reflections on Race from a Privileged Son*, will be the third and final book club selection. Wise is the director of the new Association for White Anti-Racist Education. The dates for this book club are to be determined.

"We're trying to educate people on the social justice projects: health care; education and poverty; and religious and racial diversity/understanding/friendships that Temple as a congregation identified as important issues," Mimi explained.

She also emphasized that social justice needs extend beyond our community and even outside our nation. "Our country made a commitment to the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals to work to end extreme poverty in our lifetime" pledging less than one percent of the Gross Domestic Product to this cause. "We are not meeting our commitment," she pointed out. "Other countries are, and I want people to know that. We have not made it our priority."

Welcome New Members!

Barry Carnine

Barry initially joined Temple Israel in 1989 after a move from St. Paul, MN. He enjoys emailing, talking with family and friends and is a big UNL volleyball fan. He has four stepchildren and two adopted children. He is deeply committed to Reform Judaism and the future of our community.

Katherine and Dana Eaton

Katy and Dana moved to Omaha in September from Ames, IA. Katy, a family nurse practitioner, is originally from New York. Dana, a plant geneticist working with Greenleaf Genetics, is from Iowa. They have two children: Sarah, a vet living in Canada, and Sam, who is working on a Ph.D. in economics at the University of Texas in Austin.

Who's Who at Temple Israel:

556-6536 unless otherwise indicated

Baby namings, conversions, funerals, pastoral needs, weddings

Rabbi Azriel, Rabbi Linder,

Cantor Shermet or Executive Director Dennis DePorte

Caring Committee

Chair Bonnie Pfrenger (933-8658)

Junior Youth Group

JYG Advisor Leora Azriel

Membership Information

Co-Chair Denise Meyers (330-1999)

or Dennis DePorte

Men's Club

President Adam Kirshenbaum (965-8935)

Religious School

Director of Religious School Elyce Azriel or

Religious School Administrative Assistant Lori Bennett

Senior Youth Group

OTYG Advisor Amy Katz

Service Times and General Information

Office staff or Temple website (www.templeisrael-ne.org)

Sign up for Weekly eTidings

Administrative Assistant Misty Weidner

Sponsoring an Oneg Shabbat

Dennis DePorte

Temple Israel Cemetery

Chair Tom Friedman (493-6668) or Dennis DePorte

Use of the Facilities

Dennis DePorte

Volunteer

Program Director Wendy Goldberg

Women of Reform Judaism - Omaha

President Danielle Gordman (343-1435)

WRJ Gift Shop

Sandy Nogg or Office Staff

Adult Education

Four B's: Behaving, Belonging, Believing and Bagels

"Swimming Through the Seas of Talmud"

Sunday, January 11, 10:30 a.m.



"The Rabbis in the Talmud say..." Huh?! Many of us get confused with details from our Torah, let alone the Talmud! So what

is this Talmud, and how is it relevant to our lives? Rabbi Eric Linder will explain what the Talmud is and demonstrate its importance through stories and cultural reference.

Everyone is welcome to join us for the discussion and a bagel brunch.

Aleph Bet and Beyond

Wednesdays, January 7, 14, 21, February 4 and 11, 6:30 p.m.

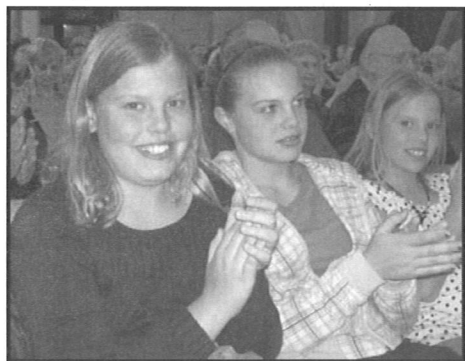
Hebrew isn't just for kids! If you'd like to learn or relearn it, native Israelis Na'ama Artzi and Mor Sheinbein will instruct beginning and intermediate adult students in Hebrew starting with the aleph bet. Class participants will learn to decode Hebrew words adding to the meaning of Shabbat prayers.

Na'ama, a Judaica/Hebrew instructor at Friedel Jewish Academy for the past seven years, has previously taught Hebrew Shabbat morning service prayers to adults and the B'nai Mitzvah class at Temple. Mor is a former camp counselor at Olin-Sang-Ruby Union Institute in Wisconsin and has been teaching fifth grade Hebrew in Religious School at Temple for two years.

Class fee is \$18 for Temple Israel members, \$25 for non-members and no charge for Family School enrollees. Please contact Program Director Wendy Goldberg, 556-6536 or wgoldberg@templeisraelomaha.com to register.

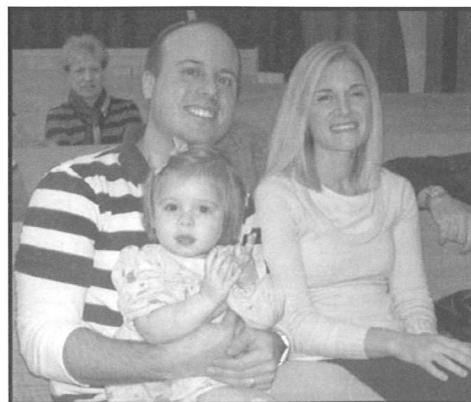
Support for Aleph Bet and Beyond is provided by the Howard and Judy Vann Temple Israel Family School Educational Grant.

Craig Taubman and Band Delight Concert Audience



Sisters Sophie, Hannah and Aleia Budwig show their appreciation for the music of Craig Taubman and his band at the concert on December 7 described by many as "really fun!" The musical event was sponsored by Temple Israel and Beth El Synagogue. (Pictured lower left) Taubman brought audience members, including (left to right) Benjamin Brodkey, Alexander Kraft (with Taubman), Wendy Raffel and her son Jordan (behind Taubman), and

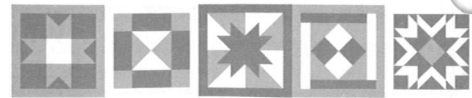
Alan Muskin up to the bimah at Beth El with him. Thank you to the concert chairs Jeff, Riley, and Kelly Nogg and the rest of the Nogg family.



Tapestry Project

Temple Israel is close to finishing its first tapestry with 17 blocks completed. Each block tells a story about a Temple family in a distinctive way, whether by needlepoint, fabric paint, sewn-on appliques, embroidery, beading, colored pencils, batik, quilting, photo transfer or other media. Each story block creates an enduring connection to Temple Israel that will adorn our walls with aesthetic originality.

If you would like to participate in the tapestry project, contact Program Director Wendy Goldberg, 556-6536 or wgoldberg@templeisraelomaha.com, or congregant Marge Bresel, 553-2667 or breselms@cox.net.



Women of Reform Judaism-Omaha



Book Sorting Day

Sunday, January 11, 10 a.m. - Noon

All are welcome and you get to select five free books just for helping. Questions? Please contact Danielle Gordman, dsgordman@cox.net, or Program Director Wendy Goldberg, 556-6536 or wgoldberg@templeisraelomaha.com.

We Need Used Books!

Please drop off any gently used books at the Temple Office during business and Religious School hours. Danielle Gordman is willing to pick up books if you don't have a way to get them to Temple. **The Book Sale is Sunday, April 26 - Tuesday, April 28.**

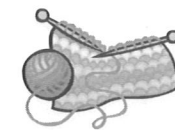
A Big Thanks!

Thank you to all who attended the luncheon with Dr. Ken Cowan, UNMC Professor Oncology and the Director of the Epply Cancer Center, on November 12. The donations of personal items for cancer patients were greatly appreciated!

Caring Committee Counts on Contributions

Numerous mitzvot are generously performed by Temple Caring Committee volunteers including making get well cards for congregants recently home from the hospital, baking treats for Blumkin Home residents, preparing condolence meals for families suffering the loss of a loved one, delivering meals to Temple members who have been recently released from the hospital or are otherwise in need, and knitting baby hats for newborns or healing shawls for congregants struggling with long-term illness. In addition to actually accomplishing these gestures of loving kindness, donations are made - sometimes in honor or in memory of someone - to Temple's Caring Committee Fund to pay for the materials and food that are then used to comfort those in need of healing or compassion.

Contributions to the Caring Committee Fund are always welcome. Call the Temple office, 556-6536 or mail a check to the office. Minimum fund donation is \$6.



Calling All Knitters and Crocheters!

Would you like to do *mitzvot* on your own time and at your own pace? We are looking for knitters and crocheters to make healing shawls for those in our community in need. All ages and skill levels are welcome.

Please contact Don'L Dacey, 292-0757 or dd2901@cox.net.

SAVE THE DATE!

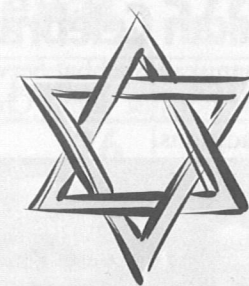
Women In Need

Tuesday, February 24, Noon

WRJ is joining forces with the YWCA to collect gently used professional attire to donate to the YWCA's Career Closet. Women in Omaha need our help. Imagine the difficulty of finding a job and having nothing appropriate to wear to the interview.

You can bring your donations to the Temple office during business hours or at the WRJ luncheon.

Please watch for more details in the next Tidings.



Remembering the Birth of the State of Israel 60 Years Ago

Howard Kaiman remembers that the declaration of Israel's nationhood "was very tenuous. It depended on the United Nations vote and if (United States President) Harry Truman would go along with it."

"If I remember," Howard reflected, "Truman's business partner in a clothing store was Jewish. He was very close to him." Truman's partner was Eddie Jacobson, and together they invested their savings in a men's clothing store in 1919 in Kansas City. However, the store failed, and Truman decided to seek a career in politics.

"I was still in high school in 1948," Howard recalled. But he kept informed by reading newspapers and listening to news on the radio. "I spent a lot of time with my uncle, Harry Sidman, who was a leader in the Jewish community." Harry encouraged Howard to keep up with the news. "We had the Marshall Plan going on in Germany," Howard remembered. "The British were keeping the Jews out of Palestine."

Jacobson talked to Truman about the creation of Israel, "which influenced him," Howard said. The UN voted on November 29, 1947, to end British control of Palestine and divide the country into a Jewish state and an Arab state. The War of Independence began the day after Israel became a nation on May 14, 1948. "It was a miracle Israel survived that." Nonetheless, the creation of a Jewish state "was very important to the Jews here," Howard said, "and there was a lot of celebration."

Chanukah Celebration

The Chanukah Shabbat Service and Dinner was not just about Chanukah fun and traditions.



Former Program Director Rosie Zweiback was presented with a leaf on the Tree of Life by President Jon Meyers on behalf of the Board of Trustees for her dedication to quality educational programs at Temple Israel for all ages.



Marcee and Chuck Rogers shared the simcha of their daughter's Hebrew naming with those in attendance. Mazel Tov to Renatta Rose and her family!

Men's Club

SAVE THE DATE!

Men's Club is Expecting a Full House for Poker Night!

Thursday, February 19, 6:30 p.m.

More details coming soon!

[YOUR NAME HERE] TO DO LIST

Here is a menu of items that you and your family can do. Please share your time, gifts and passions. Contact Program Director Wendy Goldberg, 556-6536 or wgoldberg@templeisraelomaha.com, to get involved.

If God made a To-Do List for you, tailored to your God-given talents and skills that could be used to make a difference in the world, what would be on the list? -God's To-Do List, by Ron Wolfson

VOLUNTEER

The basics - Set tables, make phone calls, baking/cook, coordinate events, welcome new members.

Share your passion or special skill - Are you a graphic artist? Do you play an instrument? Sing?

Support our Caring Community - Make cards, cook, deliver meals. Contact Chair Bonnie Pfrenger, 933-8658 or bpfrenger@yahoo.com, for more information.

Calling all Knitters and Crocheters! Make healing shawls. All ages and skill levels are welcome. Contact Don'L Dacey, 292-0757 or dd2901@cox.net, for more information.

Need Service Hours for High School? We have a wide variety of opportunities available.

Complete your personalized version of God's To-Do List.

ATTEND

Book Club - End of Poverty by Jeffrey Sachs Starts Sunday, January 25, 10 a.m.

Visit our congregants at the Blumkin Home - Members of our Caring Committee make weekly visits, Contact Judy Josephson, 498-9328 or judyjo612@aol.com, to get on the schedule.

Outreach - Join a discussion about becoming a Jew, interfaith issues, or mentor someone considering converting.

DONATE

OTYG "GO GREEN" Fundraiser - Purchase and install CFL bulbs today. Complete the CFL light bulb order form. Proceeds will help purchase blue recycle bins and recycled copy paper at Temple.

Used Books - Drop off used books at Temple any time during business hours or contact Danielle Gordman, 343-1435 or dsgordman@cox.net, to schedule a pickup. Remember, we cannot accept encyclopedias, text books, or magazines.

YWCA's Career Closet - WRJ is collecting professional clothing to donate to the YWCA's Career Closet. This vital community resource helps women in need prepare to enter the world of work. Donations maybe dropped off at Temple any time during business hours or at the Tuesday, February 24 WRJ luncheon.

Ribbon, fancy papers, old cards, ink stamp pads, stickers - Caring Committee could use your donations for our card makers.

December/January • Kislev/Tevet/Shevat 5769

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					26 Office Closed Candlelighting at Remington Heights 5:45 p.m. Shabbat Service 6 p.m. Light 6th Candle	27 Sparks Beneath the Surface 9:15-10:15 a.m. Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m. Candlelighting at Remington Heights 5:45 p.m. Light 7th Candle
28 NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL OTYG Chanukah Winter Outing 5 p.m. Candlelighting at Remington Heights 5:45 p.m. Light 8th Candle	29	30	31 NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL, FAMILY SCHOOL, MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL	1 Office Closed JANUARY	2 Office Closed Shabbat Service 6 p.m.	3 Sparks Beneath the Surface 9:15-10:15 a.m. Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m.
4 NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL	5	6 AA, Alanon & Gamblers' 12-step 7:30 p.m.	7 Religious School Grades 3-6 4-6 p.m. Family School 6-8 p.m. Grades 7-12 6-8 p.m. All School Dinner 6 p.m. Aleph Bet and Beyond 6:30 p.m.	8 Adult Study with the Clergy 10 a.m.	9 Shabbat Service 6 p.m.	10 Sparks Beneath the Surface 9:15-10:15 a.m. Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m. Bat Mitzvah of Madison Jensen
11 Teacher Meeting 9 a.m. WRJ Book Sorting Day 10 a.m. Religious School Grades PreK-6 10 a.m.-Noon Prayer Assembly 10 a.m. Four B's 10:30 a.m. Children's Choir Rehearsal Noon OTYG Planning Meeting Noon Challah/Chicken Cookoff 5 p.m.	12	13 AA, Alanon & Gamblers' 12-step 7:30 p.m.	14 Religious School Grades 3-6 4-6 p.m. Family School 6-8 p.m. Grades 7-12 6-8 p.m. All School Dinner 6 p.m. Aleph Bet and Beyond 6:30 p.m.	15 Adult Study with the Clergy 10 a.m.	16 Shabbat Comes to You at Remington Heights 4 p.m. Shabbat Service 6 p.m.	17 Sparks Beneath the Surface 9:15-10:15 a.m. Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m.
18 NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL	19	20 Executive Meeting 6 p.m. Board of Trustees 7 p.m. AA, Alanon & Gamblers' 12-step 7:30 p.m.	21 Religious School Grades 3-6 4-6 p.m. Family School 6-8 p.m. Grades 7-12 6-8 p.m. All School Dinner 6 p.m. Aleph Bet and Beyond 6:30 p.m.	22 Adult Study with the Clergy 10 a.m.	23 Shabbat Service 6 p.m.	24 Sparks Beneath the Surface 9:15-10:15 a.m. Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m.
25 NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL Social Justice Book Club 10 a.m.	26	27 AA, Alanon & Gamblers' 12-step 7:30 p.m.	28 NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL, FAMILY SCHOOL, MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL	29 Adult Study with the Clergy 10 a.m.	30 Tot Shabbat 6 p.m. Dinner immediately following Shabbat Service 6 p.m.	31 Sparks Beneath the Surface 9:15-10:15 a.m. Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m. OTYG Night at Film Streams 6:30 p.m.

Worship Services

Friday~December 26

6 p.m.
Shabbat Service

Saturday~December 27

9:15-10:15 a.m.
Sparks Beneath the Surface
10:30 a.m.
Shabbat Service
Torah Portion: Mikeitz
Genesis 41:1-44:17
Haftarah: Zechariah 4:1-7

Friday~January 2

6 p.m.
Shabbat Service

Saturday~January 3

9:15-10:15 a.m.
Sparks Beneath the Surface
10:30 a.m.
Shabbat Service
Torah Portion: Vayigash
Genesis 44:18-47:27
Haftarah: Ezekiel 37:15-28

Friday~January 9

6 p.m.
Shabbat Service

Saturday~January 10

9:15-10:15 a.m.
Sparks Beneath the Surface
10:30 a.m.
Shabbat Service
Bat Mitzvah of Madison Jensen
Daughter of Lynne and Patrick Jensen
Torah Portion: Va-y'chi
Genesis 47:28-50:26
Haftarah: I Kings 2:1-12

Friday~January 16

4 p.m.
Shabbat Comes to You
@ Remington Heights
6 p.m.
Shabbat Service

Saturday~January 17

9:15-10:15 a.m.
Sparks Beneath the Surface
10:30 a.m.
Shabbat Service
Torah Portion: Sh'mot
Exodus 1:1-6:1
Haftarah: Isaiah 27:6-28:13; 29:22-23

Friday~January 23

6 p.m.
Shabbat Service

Saturday~January 24

9:15-10:15 a.m.
Sparks Beneath the Surface
10:30 a.m.
Shabbat Service
Torah Portion: Va-eira
Exodus 6:2-9:35
Haftarah: Ezekiel 28:25-29:21

Friday~January 30

6 p.m.
Tot Shabbat
Dinner immediately following
6 p.m.
Shabbat Service

Saturday~January 31

9:15-10:15 a.m.
Sparks Beneath the Surface
10:30 a.m.
Shabbat Service
Torah Portion: Bo
Exodus 10:1-13:16
Haftarah: Jeremiah 46:13-28

Shop...Eat...Help Temple Israel, Too!



Whole Foods, Baker's, Bag 'N Save and The Bookworm Gift Certificates are available in the Temple office. Buy

them and keep them handy for shopping at these stores which are gracious enough to return a percentage to Temple. The reimbursements are used for camp scholarships. If you have children attending Religious School classes on Wednesday afternoons or Sunday mornings, stop in the Religious School office to purchase.

Sitter Service

is available...

- Wednesday evenings during Religious School hours so that parents can take advantage of adult education opportunities;
- each Friday evening except when there is a Tot Shabbat;
- Saturday mornings when there is a bar or bat mitzvah;
- Sunday mornings when there is Religious School.

Advance reservations and a \$5 donation are appreciated. Please email Maureen, mkube@templeisraelomaha.com for reservations. Young children, including infants, are welcome. Please sign in and sign out your child's name.

Birthday Blessings

Friday, January 9, 6 p.m.
Children and adults who celebrate their birthdays during the months of January will be called to the bimah and receive a special blessing from the rabbi.

Youth & Education

What's Happening in Religious School?

Last Day of Winter Break **Sunday, January 4**
School will resume Wednesday, January 7 for Grades 3-6, Family School and Middle/High School.

Family School Adult Education **Wednesdays, January 7, 14, 21**
Aleph Bet and Beyond will be taught by Na'ama Artzi, an Israeli native and 2007 Sokolof Teacher of the Year. See page 4 for more details.

Children's Choir Rehearsal **Sundays, January 11 & February 1**
Immediately following Religious School, choir participants will eat a pizza lunch before rehearsing with choir director Emily Meyer. Younger siblings are invited to stay for lunch and a craft project or story. Pick-up is at 1 p.m.

Family Prayer Assembly and 4Bs **Sunday, January 11**
Join your child(ren) at 10 a.m. for an enjoyable worship service and stay for the informative 4Bs session at 10:30 a.m. Rabbi Eric Linder will be our coach for *Swimming Through the Seas of Talmud*. See page 4 for details.

No Religious School **Sundays, January 18 & 25, Wednesday, January 28**



Do you love linguini?
Rave about rigatoni?

Save the date for the

Annual Youth Group Spaghetti Dinner and Auction!

Sunday, February 22
5 p.m.



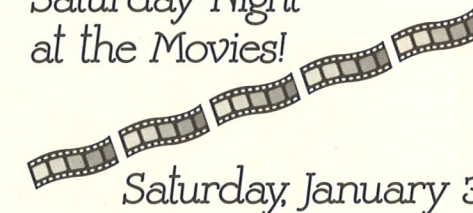
Proceeds benefit
Camp Rainbow
Camp CoHoLo
and Temple's Youth Groups!

Theme-filled baskets and cash donations are needed to make this popular event a continuing success!

Contact Youth Group Advisor
Amy Katz at 556-6536 or
akatz@templeisraelomaha.com



OTYG Presents...
Saturday Night
at the Movies!



Saturday, January 31
6:30 p.m.

We'll screen a flick at Filmstreams and have coffee in the Old Market. Save the date and join in the fun!

Summer Camp Sessions Filling Up Quickly

The following sessions are still open at OSRUI summer camp in Oconomowoc, WI:

- Kallah Aleph
- Kallah Bet
- Kallah Atid
- Gesher
- Tiferet Workshop (boys only)
- Tiferet Studio
- Mosh Bet (boys only)
- Tour La'Agam bike trip

Visit www.osrui.urjcamps.org for registration forms. Confidential scholarships are available - contact Executive Director Dennis DePorte (556-6536 or ddeporte@templeisraelomaha.com).

GOD'S TO DO LIST

What's Our Next Religious School Tzedakah Project?

During the months of January and February we will be helping Jewish Family Service stock its food pantry. Donations can be dropped off in the Religious School.

Some of the items needed are:

- Juices: apple, grape, tomato
- Soups: chicken noodle, Top Ramen (chicken or beef), tomato (and crackers!)
- Pasta/Rice: macaroni, egg noodles, spaghetti, rice, lentils, macaroni & cheese
- Canned fruits, vegetables & meats
- Condiments: ketchup, mustard, syrup, salad dressings
- Miscellaneous: hand soap, laundry detergent, toilet paper

A complete list of pantry items can be found on the Temple Israel website: www.templeisrael-ne.org.

Todah Rabah!

Many thanks to everyone who donated to the Liberty Elementary school supplies drive at the beginning of the school year, and to the annual Project Dreidel sponsored by Jewish Family Service.

(Pictured below) Leora Azriel, Elyce Azriel and Assistant Principal Maureen Sims carry the second load of donated school supplies into Liberty Elementary.



Look at All We've Done During the First Half of Our School Year!



JYG spent a great fall day in November at Chalco Hills Recreational Area learning more about "going green." Pictured above are (l to r) Nathaniel Teetzel, Joe Hack, Advisor Leora Azriel, Youth Advisor Amy Katz, Rachel Saag, Noah Grossman, Hannah Perry, Hannah Radler, Morissa Miller, Mallory Rogers and Jacob Arnold.

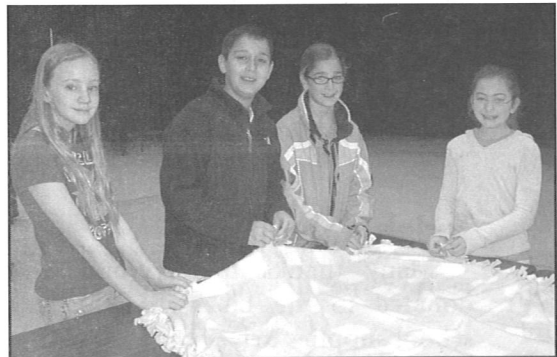


The first performance by the new Temple Israel Children's Choir on November 21 was a smash hit! Kudo to (front to back) Chloe Ray, Hannah Bargas, Alex Kraft, Laura Kirshenbaum, Destiny Howard, Mikayla Langdon, Dasha Ball, Abby Schondelmeyer, Ava Robinson, Spencer Arnold, Josie Platt, Kathleen Kirshenbaum, Ruby Platt and Naomi Teetzel.

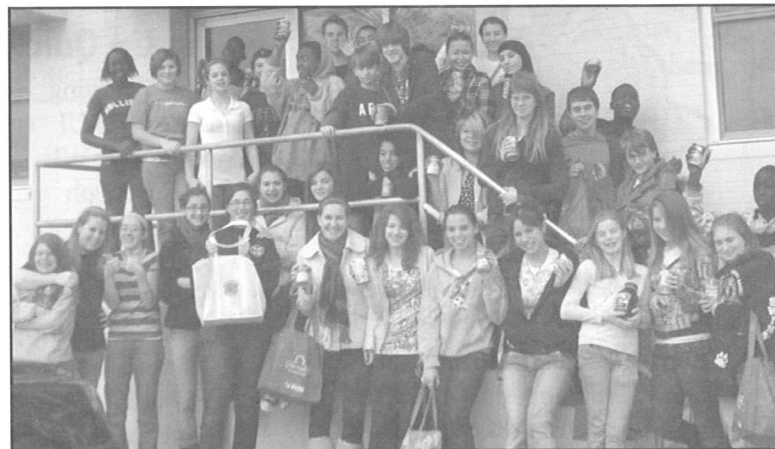


Freshman Emily Katz, Haley Burns and Grace Hack (middle of picture) joined teens from other Union for Reform Judaism congregations for a weekend of "going green." The *Lech L'Yarok: Going Green in the Jewish Way* program was held at the Cincinnati campus of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of

Religion November 14-16. Emily, Haley and Grace, OTYG board members, brought back ideas for this year's theme of Going Green.



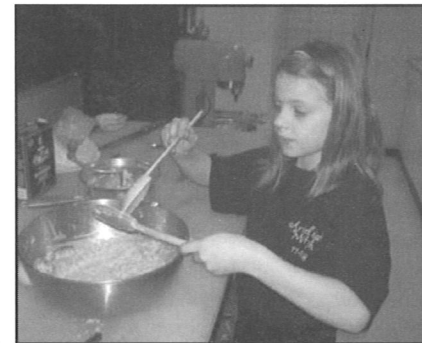
Chanukah Parties on December 14 were lots of fun! Sixth graders also participated in a mitzvah project. (Pictured above) Sarah Prescott, Tyler Schneiderman, Leah Miller and Sara Cohen helped tie fleece blankets to donate to Children's Hospital. (Pictured below) First graders in Dora Goldstrom's class enjoyed a traditional Chanukah treat – sufganiyot (jelly donuts) are always a hit!



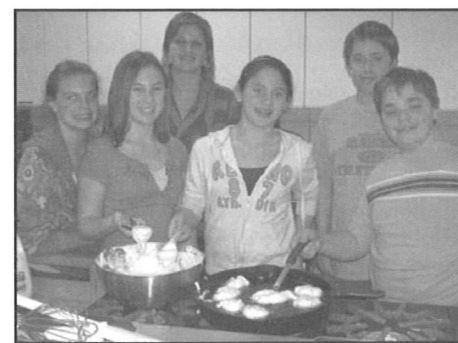
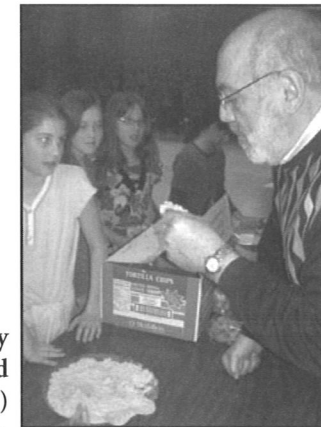
(Above) The Tri-Faith Youth Dialogue group spent time at the Omaha Area Food Bank sorting food, stocking shelves and getting to know each other on Sunday, November 23. Thirty-three Christian, Jewish and Muslim youth shared lunch and a rousing game of tag football at OTYG President Susan Freeman's house after time at the Food Bank. (Right) Alexis Slutzky and Yaniv Azriel buddy up on filling a box.



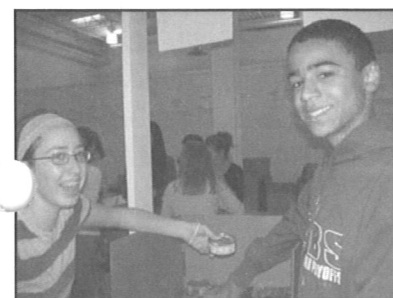
Second grade met lots of new furry friends at the Nebraska Humane Society during their November field trip. The group learned about *tza'ar ba-alay chayim*, kindness to animals.



Club 56ers showed off their culinary talents with homemade hummus and falafel. Madelin Miller (above left) ground the chick peas for the hummus. (Right) Sarah Pfenger, Abby Reiss and Sarah Krasno wait for a thumbs up from Rabbi Azriel.



(Pictured left) Hannah Budwig, Leah Brookstein, Katelin Zetzman, Ryan Hollst and Brandon Friedman learn the secret to making authentic sufganiyot from Tamar HaLevy, the J.C.C. shlichah and Israel native.



Yasher Koach!

The JYG Chanukah Hunger Drive brought in enough food to pack 70 backpacks for CampFire USA. CampFire USA gives children in need a backpack of easy-to-open nutritious food every weekend so that they do not have to go without a meal.

Thank you to Temple Israel's fourth grade for packing the food into individual distribution sacks.

Tot Shabbat

Temple Israel is Making Judaism Fun!

Friday, January 30
6 p.m.

The Tot Shabbat service is geared towards small children with short songs, prayers, stories and activities – but the fun appeals to parents and older siblings, too! It is a wonderful way for children to experience Shabbat with their friends, Temple's clergy and each other.

This once-a-month service designed for babies through second graders is held in the Livingston Chapel and includes the Bar'chu and Shema, a Torah hakafah and a parents' blessing over their children. Before leaving the chapel for dinner, the Kiddush and HaMotzi are recited. A fun art project follows dinner.

Dinner is \$5 per adult. Children eat for free. Please make a reservation by contacting Maureen Kube, 556-6536 or mkube@templeisraelomaha.com.



Travel Plans for All Interested 7th and 8th Graders!

From March 20- 22, Friday to Sunday, the JYG Chavurah will be held in beautiful St. Louis, MO at United Hebrew Congregation.

More information about housing, food, etc. will be coming shortly!

Questions? Please contact Leora Azriel @ 960- 5796 or leoraann@aol.com.

Keep Us Informed

Changes in privacy laws restrict hospital chaplain offices from notifying Temple about congregants who are patients. We want to visit our members.

You can help us keep in contact by:

- 1. Calling Temple prior to a scheduled hospital stay.
- 2. During admissions, inform the hospital staff of your Temple affiliation and give permission for your name to be released to the Temple office.
- 3. If you are unexpectedly admitted to the hospital, ask a family member or friend to call Temple.
- 4. Call and tell us if someone you know is ill or in the hospital and might be helped by a visit or telephone call.

Help us keep in contact with our Temple family!

Matan Chaim: The Gift of Life

Jewish tradition teaches that we are partners with God in continuing and sustaining the daily miracles of creation. Organ and tissue donation are an extension of this partnership. Through donation you have the unique and holy opportunity to give the gift of life and wellness from one of God's creations-you-to-another. With your gift, you respond *hineini* to God. For information, please contact Ron Brodkey, 334-1700.

What does Reform Judaism say about organ and tissue donation?

Reform Judaism has long been an advocate of Organ Donation. A 1968 Reform Responsum commented that the use of such body parts in order to heal or save a life is in keeping with the mood of Jewish tradition and a positive act of holiness.

From the URJ Department of Jewish Family Concerns

Our Sympathy

The Congregation records with sorrow the deaths of...

Lorraine Goldman, sister of Ron Budwig and aunt of Larry Budwig;

Eva Handleman, sister of Harold "Hal" Selner;

Leonard Gerald Finkel, husband of Helen Finkel and father of Joel Finkel;

Sheldon Harris, husband of Janice Harris and father of Jim Harris;

Arthur Henry, father of Jennifer Miller;

Harry Paskowitz, husband of Lucille Paskowitz and father of Rita Paskowitz;

Audrey Shapiro, mother of Lisa Lewis;

Elvin Silverman, grandfather of Adam Silverman;

...and extends sympathy to their bereaved families.

Healing

Mi Shebeirach, the prayer for physical and emotional healing, is recited at the Friday evening Shabbat service. If you are ill and would like a *mi shebeirach* recited on your behalf, please call the Temple office (556-6536) before Noon on 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.

Temple 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 Dennis DePorte, Executive Director, 556-6536.

\$6.00 fund contributions:

Rabbi Azriel's Fund for Jewish Professionals
Robert and Janice Batt Fund
David E. Beber Fund
David and Rachel Bleicher
Camp Scholarship
Mel and Genevieve Bornstein
Social Justice
Rabbi Sidney H. and Jane Brooks
Institute on Judaism for Clergy
Caring
Cemetery Improvement
Lorene R. Cohn Trust
Loyal B. Cohn Trust for the Advancement of Jewish Studies
Education
Erwin Eisenberg Campership Fund
Endowment
Harvey D. Ferer Scholarship Fund
Israel Travel Fund
Samuel and Ida Kaiman Endowment
Sol and Jeanette Krizelman
Social Justice
Landscape
Library
Jon Meyers Leadership Development
Music
Outreach
Ruth and Bernard Raskin
Youth Activities
Lewis and Flora Rubin Memorial Fund
Margaret and Arnold Robinson
Family Jewish Education
Milton and Rosalie Saylan
Jewish Education
Jennifer Soshnik Scholarship
Brad Sperling Memorial Fund
for Education of Young Children
Temple Youth Group
Elinor Whitman Religious Education
Norman Whitman Fund for Jewish Learning
Janis L. Yale Enrichment
Hermene Zweiback Fund for Lifelong Jewish Learning
Rabbi Azriel's Discretionary
Rabbi Linder's Discretionary
Cantor Shermet's Discretionary
Executive Director's Discretionary
Prayer Book (\$30 donation)

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

IN MEMORY OF: **Martha Cohen Cherniss:** LetaRae Cherniss; **Doris Cohen:** Amy Kwatek; **Leonard Finkel:** Ruth and Joe Erman, Ronnie and Art Jacobson, Harriett and Sherm Sperling, Shirley Weinstein and family; **Chuck and Craig Fisher:** Betty Fisher; **Irving Forbes, Herman Goldstein, Edward Saag:** Susie and Mike Norton; **Lorraine Goldman:** Dora Goldstrom and George Walker; **Eva Handleman:** Lois and Mel Epstein, Ronnie and Art Jacobson, Sandy and Jeff Passer, Miriam Brooks and Philip Wright; **Shelly Harris:** Phyllis and Harvey Aronson, Phyllis and Dick Glazer, Nancy Hornstein, Eileen and Leonard Jacobson, Karen and Gary Javitch, Sandy and John Lehr, Marilyn and Justin Manvitz, Ducky and Mike Milder, Phyllis and Bob Newman, Dodi and Steve Redler, Joie Simon, Janet and Jerry Slusky, Harriett and Sherm Sperling, Shirley Weinstein, Allyson and Chris Wilczewski, Kathy and Gene Wilczewski, Terri and Dick Zacharia; **Arthur Henry:** Denise and Jon Meyers, Susie and Mike Norton; **Michael Hollander:** Harriett and Sherm Sperling; **Frances Robinson Klein:** Lesly and I. Ozar; **Mary Kris:** Karen and Gary Javitch; **Adele and Nate Mandell:** Thelma Lustgarten; **Harry Paskowitz:** Karen and Gary Javitch, Denise and Jon Meyers; **Donald Perazzo:** Anne and Alan Cohen; **Janet Perlmet:** Harriett and Sherm Sperling; **Audrey Shapiro:** Babe Cohn, Linda and Steve Cohn, Lois and Mel Epstein, Bev Gendler, Phyllis and Dick Glazer, Nancy and Margaret Guziec, Karen and Gary Javitch, Ann Kaiman, Sandy and John Lehr, Denise and Jon Meyers, Susie and Mike Norton, Sandy and Jeff Passer, Dodi and Steve Redler, Margo Rosen, Jeff Schweid, Levea and Marty Shukert, Esther Siref, Debi and Jeff Smedlund, Harriett and Sherm Sperling, Flora Telpner, Rosie Zweiback and Mace Hack; **Harry Siref:**

Linda Siref-Simons; **Sol Yaffe:** Marilyn and Gary Colick, Nancy Hornstein, Sally Lieberfeld, Karen and Gary Javitch; **Roz Zoob:** Anne and Alan Cohen, Lisa and Gary Epstein, Barbara Frohman, Karen and Gary Javitch, Susie and Mike Norton, Dodi and Steve Redler

IN HONOR OF RECOVERY OF: **Phyllis Angrisane:** Shirley Weinstein; **Dave Meyers:** Debbi and Larry Josephson, Marilyn and Justin Manvitz; **Jeanne Neff:** Babe Nogg; **Larry Roffman:** Ann Kaiman; **Ted Seldin:** Joanie and Marty Lehr

IN HONOR OF THE BIRTHDAY OF: **Paul Epstein:** Lucille and Jack Epstein, Jill and Mike Erman, Debbi and Larry Josephson, Cheryl Kricsfeld and Richard Diamond, Denise and Jon Meyers, Nancy Noddle, Linda Patton; **Ernie Saltzman:** Vicki and Jerry Chesen; **Les Schneiderman:** Jenny and Scott Meyerson; **Sally Venger:** Phyllis and Dick Glazer

IN HONOR OF B'NOT MITZVAH OF: **Caroline Rockman:** Ducky and Mike Milder; **Kate Slosburg:** Lisa and Gary Epstein

IN HONOR OF YOUNG LEADERSHIP AWARD: **Dan Marburg:** Judy and Jerry Marburg

IN HONOR OF NEW HOME: **Edith Epstein:** Ann Kaiman; **Jamie and Troy Meyerson:** Debbi and Larry Josephson

IN HONOR OF PUBLIC CITIZEN AWARD: **Dr. Paul Fine:** Lourdes Secola

IN APPRECIATION OF: **Mary and Tom Bernstein, Judy and Jim Farber, Sharee and Murray Newman, Nancy Noddle:** Phyllis and Dick Glazer; **Cantor Karen Gilat,**

Rosie Zweiback: Lourdes Secola

IN APPRECIATION OF: **Rabbi Aryeh Azriel, Rabbi Eric Linder, Cantor Wendy Shermet, Dennis DePorte, Elyce Azriel, Lori Bennett, Willie Clark, Vicki Ducharme, Edith Gamble, Wendy Goldberg, Amy Katz, Maureen Kube, Claudia Sherman, Bonnie Sullivan, Misty Weidner, Lonnie Williams**

Women of Reform Judaism Tribute Fund

IN MEMORY OF: **Steve Parsow, Herman Goldstein, Jan Perlmet,** **Eva Handleman:** Marilyn and Marty Warren

IN HONOR OF THE BIRTH OF: **Seth and Eli Green:** Marilyn and Marty Warren



Tree of Life

Commemorating the joyous moments in families' and friends' lives.

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

Celebrating the Bar Mitzvah of Tyler David Siegel With Love, Grandma Anne & Pa Steve Siegel Dec. 6, 2008