

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			FEBRUARY	3	4	5
			2	Sisterhood Adult Education 10-11:30 a.m.		Bagels and Bible 9:30-10:15 a.m. Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m.
			Religious School & Dinner Grades 7-12 6-8:30 p.m.	Religious School Grades 3-6 4-6 p.m. Ancient Israel 7-8:30 p.m. Kol Rina Choir 7-9 p.m.	Tot Shabbat 7 p.m. Shabbat Service 8 p.m.	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Religious School Pre-Kindergarten-Grade 6 10-Noon Dr. Freund Lecture 10 a.m. Jewish Spirituality 10:15-11:45 a.m. Prayer Assembly 11:30 a.m. OTYG Family Spaghetti Dinner 5:30 p.m.		Torah Tots 9:30-11:15 a.m. Family School 6:15-8:15 p.m. WRJ Executive Committee Meeting 6:30 p.m. WRJ Board Meeting 7 p.m. Introduction to Kabbalah 7-8:30 p.m. AA, Alanon & Gamblers 12-Step 7:30 p.m.	Midrashah 10-Noon Religious School JYG Dinner 6-6:30 p.m. Grades 7-11 6:30-8:30 p.m.	Sisterhood Adult Education 10-11:30 a.m. Religious School Grades 3-6 4-6 p.m. Ancient Israel 7-8:30 p.m. Kol Rina Choir 7-9 p.m.	Early Worship Service 5:30 p.m. Shabbat Family Service 7:15 p.m.	Bagels and Bible 9:30-10:15 a.m. Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m.
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Religious School Pre-Kindergarten-Grade 6 10-Noon Men's Club Brunch 10 a.m. Jewish History Class 10:15-11:45 a.m. Temple Tones 12-12:45 p.m. Jewish Spirituality 10:15-11:45		Torah Tots 9:30-11:15 a.m. Family School 6:15-8:15 p.m. Board of Trustees Meeting 7:30 p.m. Introduction to Kabbalah 7-8:30 p.m. AA, Alanon & Gamblers 12-Step 7:30 p.m.	Religious School Hebrew Club 5-6 p.m. OTYG Dinner 6-6:30 p.m. Grades 7-12 6:30-8:30 p.m.	Sisterhood Adult Education 10-11:30 a.m. Religious School Grades 3-6 4-6 p.m. Ancient Israel 7-8:30 p.m.	Shabbat Comes to You @ Blumkin Home 2 p.m. Shabbat Service 8 p.m.	Bagels and Bible 9:30-10:15 a.m. Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m.
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Study for Scholar 9-10 a.m. Religious School Pre-Kindergarten-Grade 6 10-Noon Doug Lipman Show 10-Noon Beginning Prayer Class 10-11:30 a.m. Sisterhood Friendship Tea 2-4 p.m.		Torah Tots 9:30-11:15 a.m. Family School 6:15 p.m. Introduction to Kabbalah 7-8:30 p.m. AA, Alanon & Gamblers 12-Step 7:30 p.m.	Midrashah 10-Noon Religious School Grades 7/8 Tikkun Olam Day 6:30-8:30 p.m. Grades 9-11 6:30-8:30 p.m. Parents' Book Club 7-8:30 p.m.	Sisterhood Adult Education 10-11:30 a.m. Religious School Grades 3-6 4-6 p.m. Ancient Israel 7-8:30 p.m. Kol Rina Choir 7-9 p.m.		JYG Conclave Bagels and Bible 9:30-10:15 a.m. Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m.
27	28	29	MARCH	2	3	4
JYG Conclave Religious School Pre-Kindergarten-Grade 6 10-Noon Beginning Prayer 10-11:30 a.m. History Class 10:15-11:45 a.m. Temple Tones 12-12:45 p.m. Jewish Spirituality 10:15-11:45		Torah Tots 9:30-11:15 a.m. Family School 6:15-8:15 p.m. Introduction to Kabbalah 7-8:30 p.m. AA, Alanon & Gamblers 12-Step 7:30 p.m.	1 Midrashah 10-Noon Religious School & Dinner Hebrew Club 5-6 p.m. Grades 7-12 6:00-8:30 p.m.	Sisterhood Adult Education 10-11:30 a.m. Religious School Grades 3-6 4-6 p.m. Ancient Israel 7-8:30 p.m. Kol Rina Choir 7-9 p.m.		Bagels and Bible 9:30-10:15 a.m. Shabbat Service & Scholar-in- Residence 10:30 a.m.
						Scholar-in-Residence 4:30 p.m.



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Shevat 29, 5760 Omaha, NE February 4, 2000 Vol. LXXXIX No. 6

Worship Services

Friday, February 4
7 p.m.

Tot Shabbat

Oneg Shabbat sponsored by
Wendy and John Vann in honor
of their daughter Cecelia's 1st Birthday

8 p.m.

Special Guest
Dr. Richard Freund
"Rabbi Sidney H. Brooks
The Remembrance of A Life"

Oneg Shabbat sponsored by
Middle School families

Saturday, February 5
9:30-10:15 a.m.
"Bagels and Bible"

10:30 a.m.
Shabbat Service

Torah Portion: Mishpatim
Exodus 21:1-24:18

Friday, February 11
5:30 p.m.
Early Worship Service
Union Prayer Book

7:15 p.m.

Family Service
Led by Grade Three Students

Storyteller
Rita Paskowitz

Oneg Shabbat sponsored by
Grade Three Families

Saturday, February 12
9:30-10:15 a.m.
"Bagels and Bible"

Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m.

Torah Portion: Terumah
Exodus 25:1-27:19

(continued on page 2)

Dr. David Ellenson
Scholar-in-Residence

Jewish History: The Crucial Moments
That Have Shaped Our People

March 3, 4, 5

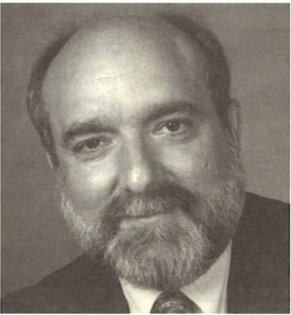
Critical moments in Jewish history have helped shape our character as a people. We have been able to survive and carry the message of our God throughout history because our ancestors were resilient and responded the way they did. What lessons can be learned from history to shape the future of the Jewish people?

Join us March 3-5, as our Scholar-in-Residence, Dr. David Ellenson, guides us through Jewish history and helps us reflect on the role of Jews today in shaping the future of Judaism, both as individuals and as a community.

Dr. Ellenson is the I.H. and Anna Grancell Professor of Jewish Religious Thought at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Los Angeles. This past summer, Ellenson was a Fellow at the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem, where he taught and pursued his own

research. He received his Ph.D. from Columbia University and was ordained a rabbi at HUC-JIR in New York. He also holds masters' degrees from Columbia, HUC-JIR and the University of Virginia and a bachelor's degree from the College of William and Mary.

Dr. Ellenson has published and lectured extensively on diverse topics in modern Jewish history, ethics and thought. His approach has allowed him to emphasize the interplay between Jewish religious tradition and modern society.



Rabbi Azriel will lead two short discussions on Dr. Ellenson's writings (Saturday, February 19 at 9:30 a.m. or Sunday, February 20 at 9:00 a.m.) to prepare congregants for Dr. Ellenson's visit.

Friday, March 3 8 p.m. Sanctuary
Exile and Return in Jewish History: The Recurring Pattern
Dialogue with Scholar Following Service

Saturday, March 4 9:30 a.m. Milder Center
Bagels and Bible Torah Study

10:30 a.m. Sanctuary
Shabbat Morning Service
"The Destruction of the Temples and Our People's Responses!"

4:30 p.m. Milder Center
"The Shoah and the Rise of the State of Israel"
Havdalah-Fruit and Cheese Reception

Sunday, March 5 10:00 a.m. Friedman Social Hall
"Judaism and Freedom – Emancipation and the American Experience"
Bagel Brunch

This program is made possible through The Hermene Zweiback Center for Lifelong Jewish Learning. All events are open to the community at no charge.

(worship services continued)
Friday, February 18
8 p.m.

Sermon
Rabbi Aryeh Azriel

Oneg Shabbat sponsored by
the friends of Martha,
David, Donna and Nicole MaFoda
in honor of their conversion

Saturday, February 19
9:30-10:15 a.m.
"Bagels and Bible"

10:30 a.m.
Shabbat Service

Torah Portion: Tetzaveh
Exodus 27:20-30:10

Friday, February 25
8 p.m.

**Shabbat Matanchaim-
The Gift of Life
Special Guest
Dr. Alan Langnas**

Oneg Shabbat sponsored by
the Women of Reform Judaism

Saturday, February 26
9:30-10:15 a.m.
"Bagels and Bible"

10:30 a.m.
Shabbat Service

Torah Portion: Ki Tissa
Exodus 30:11-34:35

Aryeh Azriel Rabbi
Debbie S. Stiel Rabbi
Jennifer G. Blum Cantor
Dorothy Spizman Executive Director
Iris J. Ricks Program Director
Joan Cooper Religious School
Coordinator
Elyce Azriel Middle/High School
Director

Stephanie and
Barry Grossman Youth Advisors
Paul Epstein President
Spencer Brookstein . . . Vice President
Sally Kaplan Vice President
Dr. Michael Walts Vice President
Andi Willensky Secretary
Dennis DePorte Treasurer
Dr. Larry Roffman Past President
Wendy Goldberg WRJ-O President
Marc Delman Men's Club President
Whitney Taxman OTYG President

Additional Worship

Friday, Erev Shabbat, February 11 5:30 to 6:15 p.m. Union Prayer Book Service

Come on your way home from work;
meet family and friends. This service is
especially planned so that, at its
conclusion, you may be home early to
enjoy a Shabbat meal and evening.

FREE BOOKS!!!

Would you like to increase your
Jewish knowledge and your home's Jewish
library? Temple can help. Over the next
few weeks, we will have a table in the
Temple lobby filled with wonderful Jewish
books that are yours for the taking.

These books came from Temple's old
library. In many cases we have several
copies of a book, so we have kept one for
the library and want to give away the other
copies. Some of the books have been
replaced with newer titles.

Everything is for the taking. From
Elie Wiesel's fiction to picture books on
Israel, from legends of the Jews to
biographies of Jewish statesmen.

Please come take a look and give
these books a good new home.

Welcome New Members

Roseann and David Christensen

Welcome

*"The giving of Torah happened at
one specific time, but the receiving
of Torah happens all the time, in
every generation."*

Meir Alter, the Gerer Rebbe

We welcome **Gregory Bramhall**
who has recently chosen Judaism:

May he go from strength to strength!

Temple's Website
templeisrael-ne.org

In the Library

Using some of the proceeds from the
November Temple Book Fair, the library
has purchased several of the books of
Rabbi Joseph Telushkin who will be our
scholar April 28-30..

Rabbi Telushkin's books, *Jewish
Humor, Jewish Literacy and Biblical
Literacy*, are all available to be checked
out. They are wonderfully informative and
entertaining and would be terrific
preparatory reading for his visit.

In addition, we have quite a few new
children's books. Among the captivating
children's literature we have added are,
*Grandpa's Gamble, King Solomon and
his Magic Ring, The Magic of Kol Nidre,
Annie's Shabbat and Jewish Holiday
Crafts for Little Hands*. Come and
enjoy!

Save The Date!

Friday, March 31, 2000

Shabbat Across America

Experience the joy of Shabbat
with your Temple Israel family!

Following a short 5:30 p.m.
service at Temple, we will meet in
congregants' homes to share a
delicious Shabbat dinner.

If you would like to host a dinner
or would like more information,
please call Iris Ricks at 556-6536.
Look for more details about this
event, brought to you by Synagogue
2000, in the next few weeks!

Birthday Blessings

Family Service

February 11 7:15 p.m.

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

Top Ten Excuses Not to Join the Kol Rina Choir

1) I can't read music

Neither can most of the choir members. We learn by ear, with reinforcement from
those who can read.

2) I don't know how to read Hebrew

You don't have to. Everything is transliterated into English and reads left to right.

3) I don't know the service

Many of our choir members didn't when they started; but by singing with the choir,
you will soon learn to follow the service and be able to participate in our worship.

4) I'm afraid to audition

There are no auditions. Just come and sing with us and see how it goes.

5) I have no choral experience

You don't need any. The cantor and conductor are unbelievably good teachers.
Their combined talents and enthusiasm infect and educate the rest of the choir.

6) I need a ride

We'll see if someone lives near you and can help out.

7) I don't know anyone

Most of us got to know each other in the choir, not before it.

8) I have stage fright

This is not a performance. It is your way of contributing to and participating in our
services. Besides, you'll be surrounded by fellow choristers.

9) I lead a very busy life and can't commit myself to every Thursday

We attend rehearsals to the best of our abilities. Sometimes conflicts come up and
we'll understand.

10) The choir is too good

If you're thinking of the High Holy Days, we sound extra good because we have a
professionally augmented choir for those services. Or possibly you heard us on a
good night. It varies widely.

All kidding aside, friends, we need you! We practice on most Thursday evenings
from 7-9 p.m. and usually sing on a monthly basis for services or special musical
programs. We have openings for all parts; men and women, young adults who
have become Bar/Bat Mitzvah, the talented, and those who simply love music.
Meet new friends, have fun, and make a joyful noise. Call Cantor Blum for more
information-she'd love to receive your call!

An Evening Adult Bar/Bat Mitzvah Class Begins in June

Don't worry - you do not need to
know how to speak or read Hebrew to
take this class!

Learn the parts of the worship
service; enhance your prayer skills - read
from the Torah, and study in a group
setting with some of the most
knowledgeable instructors in Omaha!

Are you interested? Please call Bonnie
Sullivan, Temple office, 556-6536. For
information.

Don't Forget This Sunday!

Spaghetti Dinner And Auction

Sunday, February 6, 5:30 p.m.

Adults \$7 each

Children (3-12) \$4 each

**ALL PROCEEDS TO CAMP RAINBOW AND
OMAHA TEMPLE YOUTH GROUP**

A Note From The Cantor

Jennifer G. Blum

Save the Date

Friday, March 24 8 p.m.



JAZZ SHABBAT

I'm thrilled to
announce the
return visit of
musician Mark
Bloom and his
spiritually uplifting Jazz Shabbat.

Come Friday evening March 24,
8 p.m. for a finger snapping, toe tapping
Jazz worship service.

The weekend continues on Saturday
evening, March 25, 7 p.m. with a
spiritually moving havdalah and concert for
our youth in grades 9-12. Sunday
morning religious school will continue to
rock and roll with special demonstrations
by Mark to individual classes. It will be a
weekend you won't want to miss!

Calling all instrumentalists!!!!

Interested in playing with Mark Bloom
for our 8 p.m. Jazz Shabbat service March
24? Several rehearsals will be established
prior to it. Contact Cantor Blum if
interested-556-6536.

Dr. Richard A. Freund Lecture Series

Sunday, February 6

10 a.m.

Professor Richard Freund, Director of
the Maurice Greenberg Center for Jewish
Studies and Greenberg Professor of
History at the University of Hartford,
Connecticut will deliver the third of a four-
lecture series. **His topic will be "Five
Medieval Figures They Forgot to Tell
You About in Hebrew School: From
Rav Amram Gaon to the Alfasi."** The
entire congregation is invited to attend.

MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL FOOTNOTES

Elyce Azriel, Director

Parents' Book Club for Parents of Students Grades 7 to 12

**Wednesday, February 23,
7- 8:30p.m.** we will hold our second
"Parents' Book Club."

The book to be reviewed is, "**How
Good Do We Have To Be? A New
Understanding of Guilt and
Forgiveness**" by Harold S. Kushner.

Facilitators for the evening are Rabbi
Debbie Stiel, Lee Needleman and Sally
Kaplan, L.C.S.W.

Rabbi Kushner motivates his readers
to discover what is important to them and
what matters to people they care about.
He cites that you cannot choose young
peoples' values for them, but you can
shape them by talking about and modeling
the values that are important.

Rabbi Kushner's book is now available
in the Temple Office at a 20% discount.

This "Parents' Book Club" is being
held two weeks prior to the **March 8th**,
Grades 7-12, All School Student/Parent
workshop, which will also deal with the
issues surrounding values and parenting.

Come and join our lively discussion.
Prior reading of the book is not essential.
You may reserve your book and "chair" by
calling Lori Bennett @ 556-6536 (after
hours, ext. 30).

Shabbat Dinner

The first Middle School Dinner will be
Friday evening, **February 4th**.

This promises to be an evening to
remember. The dinner will begin
promptly at 6:30 p.m., followed by a
special 8 p.m. Shabbat service honoring
the memory of Rabbi Sidney H. Brooks.

This dinner and Shabbat service
marks the culmination of our Middle
School Intermodules Month. Special
music during the Shabbat Service will
feature the Intermodules Youth Choir.

Rabbi Aaron Panken To Lead Workshop for Parents/Students

**Wednesday evening, March 8th,
6:30-8:30 p.m.**

We will
participate once
again in a
workshop for
students and
parents. This
session, entitled
"Ancient
Traditions-
Modern Life
Experiences: The
Teaching of
Jewish Values,"
allows parents and their teenagers to
talk about values.



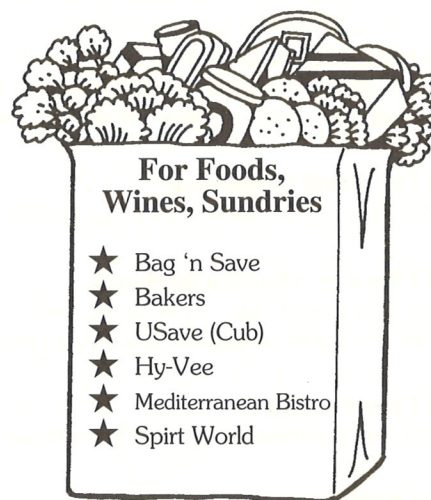
Rabbi Aaron Panken

Values are the foundation for the
choices our youth make and the way
they think. Clarifying values is critical
as young people explore who they are
and who they want to become. Values
should inspire, not just prohibit. In
addition to helping students avoid high-
risk situations, values should guide their
day-to-day actions and interactions in a
positive way.

Rabbi Aaron Panken is the Dean of
Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute
of Religion's New York School. Rabbi
Panken is a Wexner Graduate Fellow
and a Ph.D. Candidate in Talmud and
Rabbinical Literature at New York
University. Ordained at the College-
Institute in 1991, he served as Assistant
and Associate Rabbi of Congregation
Rodeph Sholom in New York City and
has worked extensively with students as
a Youth Director for Reform Movement
camps, youth programs and Israel trips.
Rabbi Panken has a special, unique gift
of working with youth.

This program is funded by a generous grant
from the Lazier L. Singer Memorial Foundation.

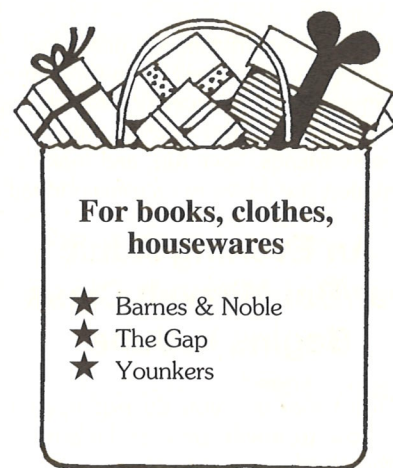
It's So Easy to Buy These
Certificates. And—
Temple Receives
5-10% Of Every
Certificate You Buy



For Foods, Wines, Sundries

- ★ Bag 'n Save
- ★ Bakers
- ★ USave (Cub)
- ★ Hy-Vee
- ★ Mediterranean Bistro
- ★ Spirt World

- You pay no more.
- Use them like cash.
- They're great gifts.
- Pay by cash, check,
VISA or Mastercard.
- Call the Temple office,
556-6536, to find out
how easy it is to order
these certificates.



For books, clothes, housewares

- ★ Barnes & Noble
- ★ The Gap
- ★ Youngers

**Proceeds go to our
Jewish Camp
Scholarship Fund.**

Youth Activities



What's My Point?

My Jewish Role in
the World

**Junior Youth Conclave
at Temple Israel
for 7th and 8th graders in
Missouri Valley Region
February 25-February 27**

We need your help:

HOUSING

A commitment in housing involves:

- Providing transportation to and from
the Temple and/or JCC for daily
programming
- Providing a Shabbat dinner and
Saturday breakfast
- Sleeping arrangements for
the weekend

MEALS

- Provide a dessert for Friday Oneg
- Help prepare, serve and clean up
Saturday lunch at Temple Israel
- Help prepare, serve and clean up
Saturday dinner at the JCC
- Help prepare, serve and clean up
Sunday breakfast

Contact:

*Mendel Kurland-Conclave Chair
323-8885

*Barry Grossman
Temple Youth Group Advisor
556-4596

*Stephanie Grossman
Regional Junior Youth Advisor
556-4596

bgrossmans@aol.com

Mark Your Calendar

February

Friday, February 4, 9:30-10:30 p.m.
JYG: "Coffee" after Services

Saturday, February 5, 6:00-10:00 p.m.
Club 56: Dinner, Ice Skating and
Havdalah

Sunday, February 6, 5:30

Spaghetti Dinner
3:00 Set up and Decorating for
Youth Group members

Wednesday, February 9, 6:00-6:25 p.m.
JYG Dinner

Saturday, February 20, 8:00-10:00 p.m.
OTYG Swim and Gym at the JCC

Wednesday, February 16, 6-6:30 p.m.
OTYG Dinner

February 25-27
Missouri Valley Junior Youth Conclave at
Temple Israel in Omaha



Tot Shabbat Services

**Friday, February 4
and
Friday, March 3**

7:00 p.m. Livingston Chapel

A short service of song and prayer,
followed by cookies and juice. Toddlers
through children in the primary grades are
encouraged to bring their families. **Come
enjoy a story with Rabbi Debbie Stiel
and songs with Patty Nogg.**

To Ensure a Future as Great as its Past
Remember Temple Israel
In Your Estate Plans

What's Happening In Religious School

Joan Cooper, Religious School Coordinator

Torah Tot Classes – New session beginning Tuesday, February 1

Torah Tot classes are growing. A few spaces are still open for this special learning time for
parents and their child between the ages of 18-48 months. Classes are from 9:30 a.m.-
11:15 a.m. Call 556-6536 for additional information.

Family Worship Assembly Sunday, February 6

Come celebrate with us for this family worship assembly from 11:30 a.m. to Noon
Sunday, February 6. Family worship assemblies are held once a month throughout the
school year.

Grade 3 Dinner and Family Service Friday, February 11

The congregation is invited to participate in the 7:15 p.m. family service that will be
conducted by the 3rd grade students. By sharing Shabbat, families get to know each other
better and strengthen our Temple Israel community. Sitter service is available during the
worship services by advance reservation. Please call 556-6536.

Grade 4 Visits Blumkin Home Sunday February 20

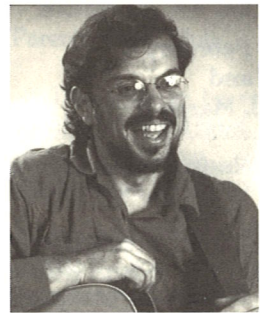
Fourth Graders will again be meeting at the Rose Blumkin Jewish Home at 10:15 a.m.
Our students will be studying a Torah portion from their textbook, Sedra Scenes, with
the seniors. This intergenerational learning is a remarkable experience for everyone who
participates.

Grade 4 Service and Luncheon Saturday, March 4

At 10:30 a.m., Fourth Grade students will conduct a Shabbat morning service that will
enable students to apply their study of Hebrew prayers and Bible to actual Jewish worship.
A family Shabbat luncheon will provide a wonderful opportunity for Fourth Grade Families
to extend their joy. The congregation is invited to attend the Shabbat morning service.
Anyone also interested in attending the luncheon should RSVP to Gloria at 556-6536 and
pay in advance. [\$7.50 for adults and \$4 for children (under two -no charge)]

Jewish Mystic Subject of Storyteller's Performance – Feb. 20

Massachusetts storyteller and musician, Doug Lipman, will perform his one-man show, *The Soul of Hope - An Epic Tale of the Baal Shem Tov*, at 10 a.m., Sunday, February 20, at Temple Israel. The story begins with a description of a time fraught with despair. A



prayer is offered: "Send us something to make it easier to hope."

What follows is a spiritual adventure packed with music, humor and joy. It weaves Jewish mysticism into the fabric of universal

wisdom and the timeless human struggle to change the world.

Mr. Lipman tells the story of how the Baal Shem Tov performed four sacred acts to keep hope alive in the world. In each successive generation, according to the story, one of the acts is lost. In the last generation, only the story itself remains, yet that is enough to keep hope alive.

The Baal Shem Tov, (a title meaning "Master of the Divine Name"), was a real person, born Israel ben Eliezer, around 1700 in Eastern Europe. We know very little about the facts of his life, but there are many wonderful legends about him. It appears he was a wandering storyteller and healer who rekindled hope for many of the poor. He did this by turning to the Jewish mystical tradition and saying that the spirit matters more than legalism. He felt that one could be close to God by being filled with God's spirit, the spirit of joy, and not only by mastering the intricacies of Jewish law.

Mr. Lipman says that storytelling is undergoing a revival these days because "it allows us to flex our imagination muscle..." He has been working as a freelance storyteller for many years following the completion of a bachelor's degree in mathematics and a master's degree in creative writing. He got his start while working in the children's ward of a Boston mental hospital. "The only way I could make a connection with the children was to tell stories and sing songs."

Learn more about a Baal Shem:

Manfred F. Kuttner, Cantor of Temple Israel from 1961 until his death, July 4, 1972, translated a book remembered from his childhood in Germany. "The Baal Shem of Michelstadt" was published in 1971 and is available in the Temple Israel library.

In his forward, Cantor Kuttner wrote that "Baal Shem is a name applied to certain rabbis who were considered great saints and in whose miraculous powers and deeds the people believed." He lists the seven men so named, including the famed Baal Shem Tov who is featured in Doug Lipman's show.

WRJ-O

Fun(d) Raisers

You have received your invitations to a wonderful series of get-togethers for all members of our congregation.

We've planned events to entice all ages.

This month's occasions:

Saturday, February 19

Wine Tasting at home of
Sandy and Paul Epstein

Saturday, February 26

Two Havdalah – and Dinner Events

Lori and Michael Miller's home
Stacie and Marc Brodkey's home

For more information or to make reservations, please call Stacey Rockman, 397-7930.

Men's Club

Sunday, February 13

10 a.m. Social Hall

Join us for our traditional lox and bagels get-together and a special guest speaker. Non-Men's Club members, \$3.

Looking For a Mitzvah? What could be more fun?

Chaperones Needed –

To take Belvedere Academy
Students To the
Children's Museum

April 4 and 5

Look for details in the March Tidings

A Temple Israel and Rainbow
Connectors Guild project.

Social Justice

Gary Kaplan and Allison Latenser

All Temple members invited to:

OTOC Delegates Congress

Monday, February 21, 7 p.m.

First United Methodist Church
(across from Temple - use rear entrance)

Updates on Issues:

- Police - Community Relations
- OPS - status of education in neighborhood schools
- Convention Center - Arena
- Immigration Office issues

This is our semi-annual meeting to review issues and begin preparation for the Issues Forums that we will sponsor before the May election.

Call Allison Latenser, 553-8853, for more information.

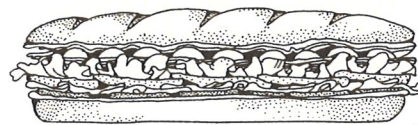
Omaha Together One Community

Crossing racial and religious boundaries to make Omaha a better place for families and children.

Habitat for Humanity

Temple Israel has received a certificate and letter thanking the congregation for helping build a house for a family with four children.

The organization newsletter thanked Temple member Margo Rosen at the end of her two-year term as chairman for her "dedicated leadership."



Get Your Taste Buds Ready! and Mark Your Calendars!

Temple's Annual New York
Deli Night

Sunday, April 9

Watch for more information

Between Us

Rabbi Debbie Stiel

The Gift of Life: A Gift of God and A Gift of Humanity

In the book of Deuteronomy, God instructs us to "Choose Life!" This is a foundational principle in Judaism. We heed these words when we commit to making a difference with our existence, when we see the positive in life, and when we appreciate that life itself is a miraculous gift.

When our health is good, it is easy to forget that the working of our body is a daily miracle. There are prayers in Judaism that remind us that God creates the body with incredible wisdom. One prayer says, "If any of our openings were to close, or our closed parts be open, we could not stand before God."

Judaism understands that one cannot perform mitzvot or serve God in any way if one lacks life. The concern for life must, therefore, take precedence over almost everything. In light of this realization, Reform, Conservative and Orthodox Judaism have all come out in great support of organ donation when it can save a life. The Orthodox Rabbinical Counsel of America has gone so far as to say, "No halachic barriers exist to donation of the deceased's organs if they are harvested in accord with the highest standards of dignity and propriety...When human life can be saved, it must be saved." Rabbi Elliot Dorff, a scholar on Jewish medical ethics, calls organ donation a "modern mitzvah."

Yet today thousands die waiting for transplants because there are not enough organs being donated. People fail to tell their family members that they want to be organ donors or they may never research the issue sufficiently to put their concerns to rest. Jews often do not become organ donors out of their misconception that this is not acceptable in our religion. Together we can help turn the tide.

Please join us on **Friday, February 25**, as we observe Shabbat Matan Chaim-The Gift of Life. This shabbat will include an uplifting and creative service celebrating the miracle of life and Dr. Alan Langas, Chief of Transplantation at UNMC, sharing his insights regarding the modern mitzvah of organ donation.

Two Shabbatot Whose Unifying Theme is CHAIM—Life

Rabbi Sidney H. Brooks
The Remembrance Of A Life

February 4 8 p.m.

Dr. Richard Freund, Director of the Maurice Greenberg Center for Jewish Studies and Greenberg Professor of History at the University of Hartford, will return to Omaha and to our pulpit to speak on "The Life and Thought of Rabbi Sidney H. Brooks" at this special erev Shabbat *Azkarah*, service of remembrance.

A booklet including some of Rabbi Brooks' writing and comments from friends, colleagues, congregants and students will be given to attendees at the conclusion of this unique service and tribute to our Rabbi.

Getaways for Seniors-55 and Older

SEE
(Senior Educational Experience)
at the Pere Marquette Lodge,
Grafton, IL May 8-11

Sponsored by the Midwest Council, UAHC

Fifteen years old, SEE offers study, leisure and social activities at a beautiful resort. Topics include Agam's art, home holiday celebrations, Jewish current events, Torah study. \$225, double; \$295, single. All inclusive.

Elder Hostel 2000
Olin-Sang-Ruby Union Institute
Oconomowoc, WI
April 9-14 May 14-19 Sept. 10-15

Choose from a variety of topics at each session. \$365 includes all meals, classes, recreation and activities; semi-private room with private bath in a beautiful and relaxed setting together with other adults.

Call the Temple office, 556-6536, for information on these two programs.

Dr. Alan Langnas
The Gift of Life

February 25 8 p.m.

Jewish Tradition teaches that we are partners with God in continuing and sustaining the daily miracles of creation. Come join us for Shabbat Matan Chaim-The Gift of Life, to learn how organ and tissue donation can be an extension of this partnership.

Dr. Langnas, a member of Temple Israel, will deliver the sermon about the myths and realities surrounding organ donation. He will also discuss the Jewish perspective on organ donation.

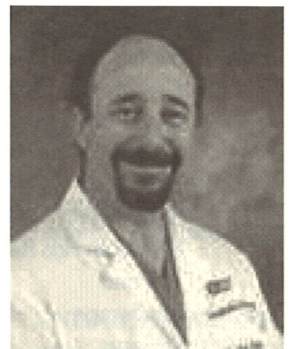
Dr. Langnas is the Chief of Transplantation at the University of Nebraska Medical Center's Department of Surgery. He has been performing liver and small bowel transplants at UNMC since 1988 and in 1990 was named Director of UNMC's Intestinal Transplant program, one of the first such programs in the world.

He has been active in several capacities with the United Network for Organ Sharing, the national organ allocation system in the United States. As a leading authority in the transplantation field, Dr. Langnas was asked to testify at a national hearing in Washington, D.C. dealing with the allocation process for solid organs.

Shabbat Matan Chaim will be a wonderful opportunity for you to learn how you can take part in the mitzvah of *pikuah nefesh*, the obligation to save lives. Jews are not only commanded to do everything necessary to save their own lives, they are also bound by the positive obligation to take steps to save the lives of others.

Sitter Service

Sitter Service is available each Friday evening and Saturday morning as well as Sunday mornings when there is Religious School. Please make a reservation through the Temple office so we may plan accordingly. Cost is \$2.00 per family. Sorry, there are no facilities for infants.



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.

\$6.00 fund contributions:

- Caring Cemetery Improvement
- David Bleicher Camp.Scholarship Fund
- Education Endowment
- Samuel and Ida Kaiman Endowment Fund
- Landscape Library Music
- Rabbi Azriel's Discretionary
- Rabbi Stiel's Discretionary
- Cantor Blum's Discretionary
- Dorothy Spizman's Discretionary
- Outreach Fund
- Charles and Jae Rosenstock Memorial
- Milton and Rosalie Saylan Jewish Education Fund
- Social Justice
- Jennifer Soshnik Scholarship Fund
- Brad Sperling Memorial Fund for education of young children
- Temple Youth Group
- Elinor Whitman Religious Education
- Hermene Zweiback Fund for Lifelong Jewish Learning

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

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.

Congratulations

On the Birth of:

Joshua Daniel and Eric Jacob Vann, sons of Judy and Martin Vann, Los Angeles, CA. Grandparents are Loretta Fram, Boston, MA, and Gloria and Donald Vann. Great-grandmother is Stella Meyer.

Jane Elizabeth Glazer, daughter of Jennifer and John Glazer. Grandparents are Jane and Bernie Diesen, Plattsmouth, NE, Don Heck and Phyllis and Richard Glazer.

Andrew Stephen Myers, son of Leslie Simon Myers and Curt Myers, New York, NY. Grandparents are Kathryn and Stephen Simon and Martha and Gerry Myers, New London, CT. Great-grandmother is Jean S. Weil, Cleveland, OH.

On the Engagement of:

Susan Stern and Alan Kohll. Parents are Lois and Donald Stern and Gail and Jarold Kohll.

Allison Leah Skid and Jay Howard Gordman. Parents are Nancy and Stephen Skid and Ellen and Robert Gordman.

On the Marriage of:

Dr. and Mrs. Steven Denenberg. Mrs. Denenberg is the former Tiffany Leigh Magid. Parents are Dr. Bernard and Carolyn Magid and Norman and Eunice Denenberg.

Out of respect for the sanctity of the Religious Service, please turn off your pager and/or cell phone before entering the Sanctuary or the Chapel.

Our Sympathy

The congregation records with sorrow the deaths of:

Lori Shanhouse, mother of Kini Polsky.

Leonard Friedman, father of Michael Friedman and grandfather of Jeffrey, Robert and Brandon Friedman.

Duane Bramsen, stepfather of Patricia Newman.

Morton A. Richards, husband of Vivian Richards, father of Suzanne Singer and Nancy Freedman, brother of Floyd Perlmeter, and grandfather of Emily Freedman, Howard Freedman, Debra Somberg, Daniel Somberg and Kenneth Somberg.

Irving Becker, father of Carol Goldberg.

Morris E. Roitstein, husband of Ann Roitstein, father of Lorraine Levy, Larry Roitstein and Lloyd Roitstein, and brother of Sonia Forbes.

Ben H. Simons, father of Sue Miller, Linda Gepford, Ron G. Simons, Dr. Stephen Simons, and brother of Dr. Milton Simons and Rose Theodore.

And extends sympathy to their bereaved families.

Recycle Cans Benefit Temple

Save your Aluminum beverage cans. They are worth \$\$\$ to Temple Israel.

Can-Pak, 85th and blondo, pays non profit organizations more than the individual rate for aluminum cans.

Take your empties to Can-Pak. 85th and Blondo, and ask them to credit Temple Israel.

Friedel Jewish Academy To Deliver Purim Shalach Manot Baskets

Friedel Jewish Academy will be delivering baskets to families in the Omaha community on Sunday, March 19. The deadline for ordering is Tuesday, March 7. The cost is \$4.00 for each of the first 18 baskets.

To send a basket or for more information, please phone the Friedel Jewish Academy, 334-0517.

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

IN MEMORY OF: **Brad Sperling, Paul Sperling, Isabelle Rosenblatt Taeger:** Harriett and Sherm Sperling; **Irv Rice:** Harriett and Sherm Sperling, Kathy and Allen Horwitz; **Harry Noodell:** Marge and Jim Bresel; **Norman Abrahamson:** Shirley and Herm Weinstein, Syd and Gigi Osten; **Bess Katzman:** Marilyn and Justin Manvitz, Shirley and Herm Weinstein; **Marilyn Pred, Irving Forbes:** Phil Sokolof; **Rose Nadler:** Barbara and Dean Frankel, Molline and Fritz Cassman, Danny Stoney, Barbara and Marshall Kushner, Margo, Jay, Aaron and Charles Parsow, Marilyn and Justin Manvitz, Frances and Sam Fried; **Max Phillip Silverstein:** Marian Silverstein; **Anita Marer, Jack Marer:** Gerald Marer; **Bert Weintrob:** Nancy, David, Rachel, Sara, Ben and Justin Goldstein; **Lucille Schwartz Benke Andrew:** Suzy Rubin, Noni and Hal Selner; **Abshalom Mizrahi:** Natalie, Jerry, Noreen and Allen Groner; **Rabbi Sidney H. Brooks:** Marianne and Rabbi A. Stanley Dreyfus; **Lillian Bergman, Marvin Gilinsky:** Mr. and Mrs. Stewart Gilinsky; **Hermene Zweiback:** Laura, Bill and Bob Foster, Anne and Frank Taylor, Mitzi, Marc and Ben Delman, Sandy and Alan Nogg, Anna and Ed Cohn, Mary and Tom Bernstein, Sandra and Ken Freed; **Lori Shanhouse:** Suzanne Singer, Barbara and Marshall Kushner, Ducky and Mike Milder, Dodi and Steve Redler, Joanie and Marty Lehr, Molline and Fritz Cassman, Barbara Frohman; **Irvin Singer:** Harriet Singer; **Marcya Weil:** Betsy and Art Davidson; **Ruth Goldstein:** Syd and Gigi Osten; **Cora Lenelle:** Dorothy Lipp; **Charles Lieberman, Adolph Frohman:** Barbara Frohman; **Ajon Farber:** Barbara Rips, Dorothy and Henry Riekes, Janice and Shelly Harris, Syd and Gigi Osten, Bettie Fisk, Margie and Marlon Somberg, Dr. John Thomas and Nancy Amsler, Susan and Jeffrey Perlmeter, Mary and Tom Bernstein, Doris and Bob Cohn, Phyllis and Bob Newman, The Law Firm of Marks, Clare and Richards, The Tigges Family, Anne and Alan Simon, Gloria and Don Vann, Marcia and Jack Cohen, Susie and Mike Norton, Litzie and Yale Trustin, Isobel and Raynor Moschetti, Harriet Singer, Natha and John Waldbaum, Beth and Ron Brodkey, Bernice Milder, Kathy and Steve Simon, Sandy and Alan Nogg, Frances and Norman Batt, Donald Yale, Linda and Jeff Noddle, Fritz Luefschuetz, Janey and Jerry Dann, Mitzi, Marc and Ben Delman, Shirley and Herm Weinstein, Noni and Hal Selner, Ducky and Mike

Milder, Susie Peebler, Sylvia Cohn, Marlene Gatz, Jodeen Peterson, Marge and Jim Bresel, Barbara and Leslie Kertes, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Shirley; **Morton Richards:** Frances and Sam Fried, Lisa and Denny Lewis, Kim and Matt Placzek, Penny and Randy Endelman, Dodi and Steve Redler, Barbara and Marshall Kushner, Connie Stilwell, Patricia, Jeff, Bobby and Emily Newman, Phyllis and Dick Glazer, Judy and Jerry Marburg, Barbara and Howard Krantz, Joie Simon, Molline and Fritz Cassman, Ducky and Mike Milder, Phyllis and Harvey Aronson, Rosalie and Ernie Saltzman and family, Renee and Sandy Kasner; **Morris Roitstein, Irving Gray:** Libby and Mickey Kaplan; **Irving Becker:** Michelle and Ron Bucher, Deb and Pat Hale

IN HONOR OF BIRTHDAY OF: **Tom Fellman, Howard Kooper:** Barbara and Marshall Kushner; **Howard Needelman, Hal Selner:** Howard Kaiman; **Betty Goldstrom:** Vicki and Jerry Chesen; **Nate Mandell:** Rosaline and Sam Epstein; **Barbara Taxman:** Fran and Jerry Milder; **Rabbi Aryeh Azriel:** Carol and Steve Bloch, Arthur and Debby Greene, Edith Epstein, Judi and David Goldstein, Harriett and Sherm Sperling, Morton and Helen Soiref, Rocky Lewis, Beth and Ron Brodkey, Michael Ross, Silvia and Larry Roffman, Jerry and Cookie Hoberman, Harriet Singer, Dorothy and Abe Brand, Susie and Mike Norton, Aileen and Leo Eisenstatt, Andi, David, Amy and Allie Willensky, Pearl and Jerry Gross, Ruth Luttbeg, Barbara Frohman, Myrna and Kevee Kirshenbaum, Ann Kaiman, Dr. and Mrs. Earl Wigodsky, Al and Juni Bloch, Lenore and Mickey Ross, Charney and Jerry Rosinsky

IN HONOR OF RECOVERY OF: **Bernard Altsuler:** Lorraine Reiss, Rocky Lewis, Lillian Hurwitz, Bernice Milder; **Sally Venger:** Judi and David Goldstein; **Bernard Magid:** Jerry Slusky; **Betty Rae Weiss, Mel Bornstein, Leonard Lewis, Ernie Weintrob:** Harriett and Sherm Sperling; **Charles Schneider:** Suzy Rubin; **Mrs. Edward Gerber:** Vicki and Jerry Chesen; **Wally Elkon:** Eileen and Leonard Jacobson, Penny and Randy Endelman; **Penny Endelman:** Harriet and Norman Fishel; **Ruth Gilbert:** Renee Handleman; **Steve Simon:** Marcia and Jack Cohen, Nancy Rips, Mary and Tom Bernstein, Syd and Gigi Osten; **Annette Schloff:** Sylvia and Maynard Katzman

IN HONOR OF ANNIVERSARY OF: **Lyra Ann and Chuck Monasee:**

Barbara Frohman, Margo, Jay, Aaron and Charles Parsow; **Betsy and Art Davidson:** Barbara Frohman, Margo, Jay, Aaron and Charles Parsow, Lyra Ann and Chuck Monasee; **Sally and Ed Malashock:** Harriett and Sherm Sperling; **Roie and Bernie Meyers:** Suzy Rubin; **Sandy and Stuart Kutler:** Ruth and Joe Erman

IN HONOR OF BIRTH OF: **Isa Davida Zweiback:** Sue Greenberg, Barbara and Dean Frankel, Ann Kaiman; **Jane Elizabeth Glazer:** Kim and Matt Placzek

IN HONOR OF ENGAGEMENT OF: **Edye Roffman and Joseph Vitek:** Noni and Hal Selner

IN HONOR OF NEW HOME OF: **Kathy and Stanley Hirshman:** Dorothy Kaplan; **David Rice:** Sylvia Cohn

IN HONOR OF ELECTION TO UAHC EXECUTIVE BOARD: **Jane Rips:** Fran and Jerry Milder, Stacey and Jonathan Rockman

IN APPRECIATION OF: **Helen Brodkey, Steve and Kathy Simon:** Barbara and Dean Frankel

IN APPRECIATION OF SERVICES OF: **Rabbi Aryeh Azriel; Rabbi Debbie Stiel; Cantor Jennifer Blum; Dorothy Spizman; Iris Ricks; Joan Cooper, Elyce Azriel**

SISTERHOOD TRIBUTE FUND

IN MEMORY OF: **Ajon Farber:** Marty and Marilyn Warren, Mel and Lois Epstein; **Rose Nadler:** Mel and Lois Epstein

IN HONOR OF RECOVERY OF: **Beth Spizman, Ann Gerber:** Mel and Lois Epstein; **Annette Schloff:** Dave and Jeanne Dvorkin, Marty and Marilyn Warren, Mel and Lois Epstein

IN HONOR OF BIRTH OF: **Jonathan Jacob and Harley Nelson Gordman:** Marty and Marilyn Warren

IN HONOR OF APPOINTMENT AS SARPY COUNTY ATTORNEY: **Leon Polikov:** Dave and Jeanne Dvorkin, Marty and Marilyn Warren, Mel and Lois Epstein