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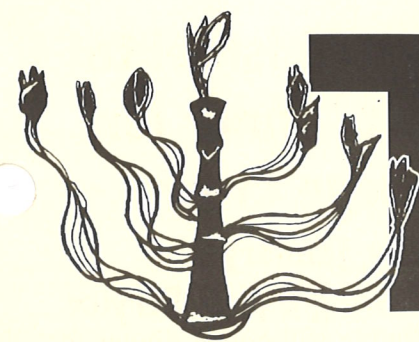
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Temple Israel Tidings

Omaha, NE Founded 1871 Vol. XCV No. 4 Kislev 24, 5767 December 15, 2006

AS I SEE IT...

The Baal Shem Tov celebrated creation. He believed creation was the core of the Divine. I paraphrase his teaching from the 18th Century, because as we kindle the lights of Chanukah, his words about creation add meaning to the luminous flames gracing our *chanukiyot*. The literal meaning of the word Chanukah is "to rededicate." Remember, by the time the rabbis established Chanukah as a Jewish holiday, they no longer countenanced celebrating a military triumph. On Chanukah, therefore, we recall the cruse of oil and the flame that lasted not one but eight days.

The candles' light is witness to the Creator in our universe. To wake up each morning to see the world anew is to be enthralled to the Creator. This is our great faithfulness. By kindling Chanukah's candles, we transform the night into morning. We become co-creators with God. Exuberantly we capture a new tomorrow, and the Almighty, as it were, smiles at us.

Despite the fact that Chanukah is a relatively minor holiday on the Jewish calendar and not linked with the giving of gifts or the exchange of greeting cards, it's proximity to Christmas and the prevailing cultural norms in this country mean that there will always be a December dilemma. There will always be the comparisons between Chanukah and Christmas. There will always be the

concerns over what to say to the children or how to approach the season at the office, even for families in which there are no Christian relatives. Although no one solution will completely remedy the dilemma, I would like to offer a few to think about:

- Make the most of your own Chanukah celebration in an authentic manner. This year make a big deal about designing a family menorah or planning a Chanukah party with latkes. Read up on the story of Chanukah and do a family Maccabee pageant. Invite non-Jewish friends to experience your holiday celebration. Down-play the exchange of gifts and emphasize freedom of religion, the warmth and light of the season, the playing of dreidel, the giving of gelt.

- To explain Christmas celebrations to Jewish children, use the birthday analogy: "When your friend has a birthday we go to his party and help him celebrate. But we know that it is his birthday and not ours. It's okay to help others celebrate their holidays as long as we are clear that it is not ours."

- Choose only one holiday to celebrate in your home and be clear about the messages you send. A Chanukah bush is a travesty to both Jews and Christians alike. It discounts the religious significance of each holiday. For Christians, it has nothing at all to do with Chanukah and its observance. It

is not an accident that winter holidays make use of lights and warmth in a time of darkness. But be enlightened about the holiday you celebrate in your home. Chanukah is not a Jewish Christmas.

On the eight nights of Chanukah we symbolize our faithfulness by kindling lights. The flame is a prayer to express our conviction. The morning's new light again will shine. Creation will be new all over again, for the dawn overtakes the night.

Happy Chanukah!

Aryeh Azriel



Published by Temple Israel
7023 Cass Street
Omaha, NE 68132
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Website www.templeisrael-ne.org

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Inside

SHEMA TEMPLE ISRAEL
MANY STORIES...ONE CONGREGATION

Architects Begin to Learn About Temple's History, Current Needs and Future Vision

For two days in November, Moe Finegold, president, and Tony Hsiao, principal-director of design, with Finegold Alexander + Associates Inc., listened and took notes, engaged in conversation and asked questions of dozens of Temple Israel building programming committee members, clergy and staff. The Boston firm of Finegold Alexander + Associates was selected last spring as the architect to build the new Temple Israel.

Finegold said, "We've been to meetings with a wide cross-section of congregants who have diverse interests and skills. We're learning a great deal about the special qualities of Temple Israel

and determining what's important from the past, what the needs are now and what the vision of the future might be."

He pointed out that everything so far has been

discussed "in general terms. People are excited thinking about the proposed move as they imagine their synagogue for the next 50 years."

Beginning at 11:30 a.m. on November 8, the architects met with Temple staff and some of the chairs of new building programming committees charged with planning for the needs of the Religious School, office area, sacred space, social function and meeting areas, landscape and parking, décor and artwork, Judaica and memorable objects, accessibility for the elderly and disabled, ethics and social justice, the kitchen and the gift shop among others. This, however, was just the beginning of the programming phase which will determine how much space, how to use the space, and how the spaces will interrelate.

Finegold said there were "interest-

ing discussions on access to the outside, the quality of light and how it relates to the interior. People talked a lot about Omaha and how they feel about their sense of place here. It was inspirational. They also spoke about the day-to-day practicalities of the entry sequence to the building, about being connected with the history of Temple's past, and a sense of continuity."

Finegold and Hsiao admitted that "it's really exciting to draw out the uniqueness of the building."

"We are focusing on the Temple Israel program," Finegold stressed, "not the three-faith campus." A six-month timeline involving the

programming phase of the design process is intact and isn't expected to slow down due to the tri-faith campus discussions.

Over the coming months, as additional conversations evolve into "a design stage" of defined spaces which will help determine the proposed size and then the placement of the multiple parts, Finegold expects to return in approximately three-week intervals to work with the committees and the entire congregation. Congregants not involved on the programming committees will have a voice in the process, assured Jon Meyers, one of four building steering committee chairs. Members of Temple can contact chairs of the building programming committees who are listed on the Temple website. (www.templeisrael-ne.org)

As Finegold proceeded to the next meeting on a full day of discussions on his second day here, he said, "I'm having a good time. I love the people. Everyone is very committed."



Left to right: Stacy Rockman, John Waldbaum, Moe Finegold, Rick Fox and Jon Meyers.

Temple Israel to Host Dinner for College Crowd

**Friday, January 5
Following 6 p.m. Service**

Temple will host a dinner for all college students those who live in the area and those who are home for break. Jeff Gates will give the *D'var Torah* that night. Your friends at Temple and your old classmates would love to see and hear from you! The dinner is free of charge, but please call Temple at 556-6536 to make a reservation.

Note The Date!

Shabbat Shira Interfaith Musical Service

**Friday, February 2, 7:30 p.m.
St. Paul United Methodist Church,
5410 Corby Street**

Temple's *Kol Rina* Choir and the St. Paul United Methodist Church Choir, conducted by Music Minister Jerry Brabec, will present a *Kabbalat* service on *Shabbat Shira*, the Sabbath of Song. The choirs will perform "Miriam's Song of Triumph" and "*Tov l'hodot*," both by Franz Schubert.

On **Sunday, February 4**, the inter-faith musical service will be repeated the church.

Especially for Our Senior Congregants

You asked for it! There are now three new senior congregant parking spaces directly across from the south entrance of Temple Israel. Look for the signs next to the far curb by the grass. These spaces are specifically reserved for senior members of Temple to facilitate their safety and ease when attending worship services, meetings, classes and other activities at Temple.

Welcome New Members!

Andrew Boehm

Andrew grew up at Temple Israel and recently joined as an adult. He moved to California for seven years to attend Humboldt State University and started his own record store called the "Hip Stop." He hopes to continue the business in Omaha. He is a D.J. and is available for B'nai Mitzvah parties. This Renaissance man can also tile floors.

Mark Javitch

Mark, another illustrious Temple Israel graduate, left Omaha to attend the University of Pennsylvania and then moved to New York City to work as a consultant for Huron Consulting Group. He returned to Omaha to start a business selling printer cartridges to businesses and individuals. Mark is volunteering as a BBYO advisor, and enjoys playing the saxophone in his free time.

Carin and Andrew Parcel

Carin Riekes grew up in Omaha before heading to Chicago for college, law school and then work. She and Andrew, from Denver, met at Northwestern. They recently relocated to Omaha, hopefully for the long term. Andrew is in sales for a Chicago-based company and Carin is house hunting and job hunting. They enjoy Miles, their three year-old Westie. Their hobbies include golf and tennis.

Welcome

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

Meir Alter, the Gerer Rebbe

We welcome **Kathryn Phillips** who has recently chosen Judaism:
May she go from strength to strength!

Tri-Faith Campus Feasibility Discussions Begin

In November the Temple Board of Trustees approved a Memorandum of Mutual Understanding between

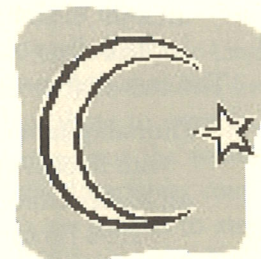


Temple Israel, the Episcopal Diocese of Nebraska and the American Institute of Islamic Studies and Culture (AIIISC). Discussions

regarding the feasibility of co-locating buildings on adjoining property and creating an interfaith campus have begun.

Jan Schneiderman, a vice president of the Board of Trustees, has been appointed chair of the Temple Israel Tri-Faith Steering Committee. Other members of the committee are Rabbi Aryeh Azriel, Bob Freeman, Robyn Freeman, Joe Goldberg, Wendy Goldberg, Vic Gutman, John Lehr and Gary Marshall.

Jan explained that the committee will engage the congregation in conversations in the form of parlor meetings, congregational meetings, family meetings other small and large group discussions. "We want to answer congregants' questions and provide opportunities for congregants to participate in discussions. We welcome and encourage questions and input."



The next congregational meeting will be at **7 p.m. on Monday, December 18**, at the home of Andi Willensky. (16299 California Street) Please call the Temple office, 556-6536, if you plan to attend. Watch for details about the January, February and March meetings.

Members of the Tri-Faith Steering Committee are working with the Building Steering Committee which consists of John Waldbaum, Jon Meyers, Rick Fox and Stacey Rockman, as well as the Capital Campaign Committee chaired by Jane Rips.

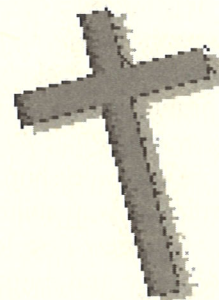
Wendy Goldberg, president of the Board of Trustees, added, "We continue to explore the site at 168th and Western."

She also indicated that while each of the three faiths' individual governing structures remain separate, the Tri-Faith Initiative established a governing board involving an equal number of representatives of

Temple Israel, the Episcopal Diocese and AIIISC. This board met for the first time in late November to begin to evaluate the feasibility of an interfaith campus.

The Tri-Faith Initiative Board discussed creating a committee structure, timeline and work plan. The work plan will include evaluating programming, architectural and fundraising needs. The feasibility study will include exploring opportunities for shared facilities while creating a master plan which involves creating a vision for the design of the entire proposed interfaith campus.

The Tri-Faith Initiative will explore the viability of fundraising to pay for shared facilities and/or land by reaching out to local and national grants and foundations that support innovative models for interfaith dialogue. Wendy emphasized that each faith group would raise money to build its own worship center.



Adult Education

Share the Moment

Tuesday, December 19, Noon

Lee Needelman will get the monthly magazine discussion group turning pages. Is there a magazine article you haven't read yet?



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

**Stay One Step Ahead of Your Kids:
Jewish Music Boot Camp With
Cantor Wendy Shermet!
Sunday, January 7, 10:30 a.m.**

If your kids can do it, so can you. Learn the basics of Torah chanting and discover why melody and modality are so important in Jewish prayer. Cantor Shermet will "put you through your paces" in this workshop for everyone – regardless of your ability to read Hebrew.

Meet new people, grab a bagel on the house and enjoy a relaxed morning of Jewish learning with the cantor! The Four B's meets right after the Prayer Assembly.

From the Center for Jewish Education

The Kripke Jewish Federation Library book discussion group will meet at 1 p.m. on **Thursday, December 21**, in the library to re-view *The Inn at Lake Devine* by Laura Lipman. The discussion group will meet again (same time, same place) on **Thursday, January 18**, to view the film, "In Her Shoes."

Eye on Israel, with Dr. Guy Matalon, executive director of the Center for Jewish Education, will meet every Tuesday in January from noon to 1 p.m. in the Federation Library.

These groups are open to the community at no charge.

Tapestry Project Gets Underway...One Block At A Time

About 20 enthusiastic people chatted about Temple's new tapestry project at a workshop on November 12. They discussed needlepoint, cross-stitch, machine and hand embroidery, photo transfer, painting and piecing as ways to portray their individual stories on an eight-by-eight inch square. Eventually, each square will be stitched to 17 others to create a tapestry for display in the new Temple building. As many 18-piece tapestries will be created as needed to accommodate everyone and every family who wants to participate in the project.

Other forms of tapestry art could include beads, monogram, appliqué, quilting, buttons, ribbons, fiber, tassels, crochet, crewel and permanent marker. This ongoing labor of love will be limited only by your imagination. (P.S. You don't have to be an artist to participate!)

Marge Bresel, chair of the tapestry committee anticipates more workshops to assist those interested in this endeavor and for those who weren't able to attend in November. Blocks are available at Temple by stopping at Rosie Zweiback's office. An \$18 donation is requested to help defray the costs of the project.



Pictured above (left to right) Ricki Skog, Sandy Passer and Jennine Goldberg. Pictured left Marlen Frost and Lois Epstein. All attended the Tapestry Workshop in November.

"Theology Cafe" at Barnes and Noble Coffee and Conversation with Rabbi Azriel Thursday, January 18, 7 p.m.

What do you think of when you hear the three-letter word, G-O-D? Do you think of an omniscient, omnipotent being? Or do you think that these adjectives are just "stereotypes" that we use?

Meet Rabbi Aryeh Azriel at the "Theology Café" at the Barnes & Noble Booksellers (across from Oak View Mall at 144th and West Center Road) in an intimate, warm environment for coffee and conversation about the God that you believe in as well as the God that you don't believe in! Perhaps together you'll come closer to understanding this three-letter word.



Congregant Stories to Resume at January Shabbat Services

If you heard any of the Temple congregants who told their stories at last summer's Shabbat evening services in connection with this year's adult education theme, "Shema Temple Israel, Many Stories, One Congregation," you know how fascinating their personal and inspirational accounts were. Another series of speakers from within our own Temple family will be introduced in January.

- **January 5** - Jeff Gates
"Raised in the 'Bayit' (house) of Temple Israel"

- **January 12** - Sandy Nogg
"Gift Shop Lady Tells All"

After services on January 12, a no-host group dinner is planned at Pasta Amore at 11027 Prairie Brook Road in Rockbrook Village. Please contact Program Director Rosie Zweiback, 556-6536 or rzweiback@templeisraelomaha.com to make a reservation.

- **January 19** - Bob Cohen
"A Personal Journey into Jewish History - With No Ending in Sight"

- **January 26** - Mary Beth Muskin
"On Being Jewish"

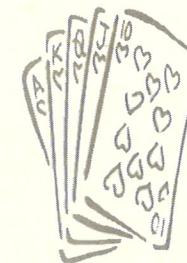
All Friday night Shabbat services begin at 6 p.m. in January.

**Please -
Remember
to turn off
your pagers
and cellular
phones
before
entering the
sanctuary or chapel.**



Men's Club

**HOLD ON TO THE DATE!
Thursday, February 8
No-Limit Texas Hold 'Em
Poker Night**



**If you missed it last year,
don't be a loser this year!**

Outreach & Synagogue Community

**Join the Rabbis for
"December Red,
Green and Blues"
Sunday, December 17, 10 a.m.**

Rabbis Aryeh Azriel and Eric Linder will meet with interfaith families for a conversation about how to experience the winter season -- not the weather, but the holidays. Interfaith couples and their parents are invited to attend a discussion on holiday interfaith challenges. There are many families, some who have suggestions and others who have questions, in our congregation living with two faiths in one family. Let's make sure this will be a season of happy memories for the entire family from grandparents to grandchildren and everyone in between.

Women of Reform Judaism-Omaha

**Tot Shabbat
Friday, January 5
6 p.m.**

Bring your young ones up to five years old or let grandma and grandpa bring them for some special time with those tots. There will be a dinner to follow. Please RSVP to Temple, 556-6536 or mkube@templeisraelomaha.com to make a reservation for dinner. The cost is \$5 for adults and children eat for free.



**WRJ-O Cooking Program
Sunday, January 28, 10 a.m.**

Co-chairs Patty Gilinsky, Stacie Brodkey and Danielle Gordman will be cooking up "Family Favorites." We will have special guests to help us, our moms! Deanna Gilinsky (Patty's mother-in-law), Vicki Chesen (Stacie's mom) and Linda Stark (Danielle's mom) will be there to lend a helping hand. The cost is \$7 to attend. Raffle tickets will be sold at the door with lots of fun cookbooks and cooking stuff you could win.



**Getting Ready For The
Annual Book Sale
Sunday, February 11
10:00 a.m.- Noon**

WRJ-O is starting to prepare for our annual book sale. We would like to start our organizing by having a work day to sort books at Temple. Come one, come all and bring a friend. We could use all the help we can get.

Youth & Education

What's Happening In Religious School

Elyce Azriel, Director of Religious Education

Chanukah Parties Sunday, December 17
Students, parents and teachers have a wonderful time celebrating this holiday. All grades will have class the first hour and parties the second hour.

No Religious School.....December 20 thru January 6
Classes resume on **Sunday, January 7** for grades Kindergarten - Six. Family School resumes on **Wednesday, January 10**.

Family Prayer Assembly and 4 B's Sunday, January 7
Following our 10 a.m. Prayer Assembly, parents are invited to attend the Four B's at 10:30 a.m. (see page 4)

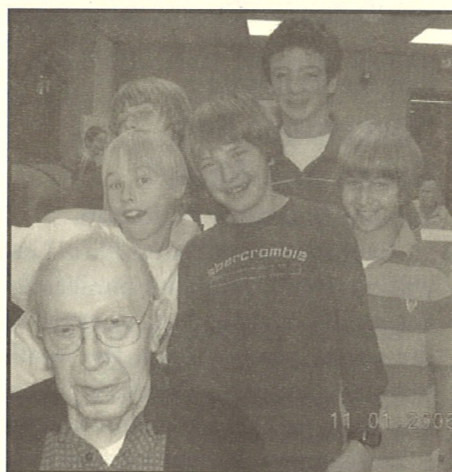
Elinor Whitman Book Reports Due Sunday, January 7
All grades are encouraged to enter the Jewish Federation Library Elinor Whitman Book Contest. Please hand them in to the classroom teacher.

Grade 1 Parent Workshop Sunday, January 21, 10:30 a.m.
"Setting Priorities for Our Children: What's Jewish About It?" Rabbi Eric Linder will lead a workshop on how to set priorities and involve parents in the Jewish education of their children.

Religious School Steering Committee Meeting Wednesday, January 24
Join us at Noon in the library in our continuing effort to strengthen our school and the partnership between school and home. Please contact Katherine Finnegan, kfinnegan@cox.net, to let her know if you are planning to attend this meeting.



Dancing, Fun and Delicious Snacks Were Tikkun Olam Day Highlights



Eleventh grader Ashley Bernstein and Avi Wolfson spent time building towers (and knocking them down!) in the JCC youth canteen. Temple Israel high schoolers played pool, ping pong and put puzzles together while hanging out with the Yachad group.

It's As Easy As Pie!

Interested in raising funds for the Religious School and at the same time enjoying a good pie for Chanukah or at any time? For the month of December representatives from the Religious School will be selling Village Inn Pie certificates to sponsor special projects in the school. Look for our representatives in the lobby of Temple.



The certificates can be redeemed for a whole pie at any participating Village Inn Restaurant. Choose from the following delicious varieties: Cherry, Coconut Cream, Country Apple, French Silk, Lemon Meringue, Lemon Supreme, Pecan (seasonal), Pumpkin (seasonal), Strawberry Rhubarb. Also available are Brownie and Triple Berry pies.

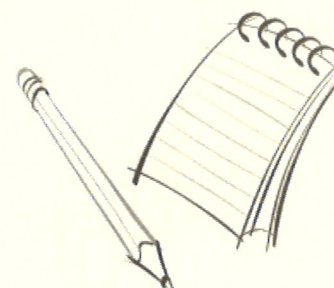
Grade 1 Parents'

Workshop

Sunday, January 21, 10:30 a.m.

One of the things we are certain about in Jewish education is that we must not leave the responsibility of raising our children Jewish solely to the family. Somehow we must work together and share the responsibility for Jewish education and for shaping children's Jewish identity. The home is still a vital factor and that is where attitudes and values are shaped.

Parents are partners with us in the process of Jewish education. Join us as Rabbi Eric Linder will lead an inviting conversation on "Setting Priorities for Our Children: What's Jewish About It?"



Getting Groovy with Temple's Youth Groups

Leora Azriel, JYG and Club 56 Advisor, Jackie Neesman, OTYG President

All fifth and sixth graders – get ready for an exciting program on **Sunday, December 17!** A *Chanukah Scavenger Hunt Surprise* will be an awesome way to celebrate the holiday.



We'll start with pizza and lemonade in the Social Hall right after Religious School. After lunch we'll see what team can follow the clues all around the building and claim the surprise!

The cost is \$5. Please let us know you will be one of our super Maccabee sleuths – RSVPs to 960-5796 (Leora) or 556-6536 (Religious School office).

Danny Siegel Brings his Mitzvah Message to Temple

Wednesday, February 14

Known as the Pied Piper of *tzedakah*, Danny Siegel, free-lance author, poet and lecturer from Rockville, MD, returns to Temple Israel to talk to middle and high school students. Known as the original *mitzvah* hero, Danny discusses Jewish values and the "how to" of personalized *tzedakah*. His visit to Temple is sponsored by the Lazier L. Singer Memorial Fund for Youth.



A Big Thanks Goes To the Middle/High Schoolers!

"Thank you so much for including Yachad in your outreach last night. These are great opportunities for the members to form relationships with the larger Jewish community. I think and hope it is a mutually beneficial experience and the blessings flow both ways. A "gadol" thank you to you and all those who participated. Appreciated the movie, puzzle and the snacks."

With gratitude!
Duane Pieper and
the Yachad Members

Temple Israel Middle School students had fun with Blumkin Home residents at the Senior Homecoming Dance on Wednesday, November 1. Pictured with Blumkin Home resident are (front left to right) Vince Long, Cameron Davis, Jacob Lehr, (back left to right) Jordan Kohll and Steven Vinci.



Middle/High School Klezmer Band a Hit!

Fourteen students (and two parents!) signed up for Temple Israel's first-ever Klezmer music class that was offered through the new middle/high school curriculum. After six weeks of study, the band performed three songs at a wonderful Kabblat Shabbat on Friday, November 17.

Todah Rabah to Linda Marcoe, an orchestra/band teacher with Ralston Public Schools, for joining us on Wednesday nights and conducting at the service.

A new Klezmer class is scheduled for the spring mini-mester. The band will participate in the Friday, May 11 Shabbat Service.

(Pictured left to right)

Front row: Linda Marcoe, Julianna Scheet, Jessica Levinger, Chloé Ginsburg, Hannah Grossman, Grace Hack, Josh Moran. Middle row: Don Moran, Danny Packman, Cameron Davis, David Glazer, Aaron Bleicher. Back row: Yaniv Azriel, Miriam Moran, Lindsey Thomas, Ashley Bernstein, Amy Levinger.



College Night Out!

Sunday, December 24
at the JCC

6:00 p.m. Private Reception for College Students

- Appetizers served

7:00 p.m. David Broza concert via satellite at JCC Auditorium

- Dancing
- Singing
- Hanging out with friends

Reception and concert *FREE* for the first 50 college students who RSVP to Lesley Gendelman, JCC Community Services Director at 334-6418 or lgendelman@jccomaha.org.

HAPPY CHANUKAH!

How Do We Light the Chanukah Candles?

In a celebrated talmudic dispute, two great Jewish teachers, Hillel and Shammai, argued whether we should begin by lighting eight candles and gradually decrease to one (Shammai), or begin with one candle and add an additional one each night, thus continuously increasing the light and joy of the holiday (Hillel). The majority ruled with Hillel. Thus, on the first night of Chanukah, we recite or chant the blessings and light one candle with the *shamash*, two on the second night and so on. Customarily, the candles are placed in the menorah from right to left but lit from left to right.

Any member or members of the family may chant or recite the blessings. One person lights and holds the *shamash*, the *berachot* are pronounced and the candles are then lit. On Shabbat, the Chanukah candles are lit before the Shabbat candles.

During the eight days, the candles are kindled every night, anytime after sunset, when family members and guests are assembled.

On the first night, one light is lit, beginning on the far right of the menorah. On each succeeding night a light is added to the left of those on the pre-

ceding night, and the kindling proceeds from left to right.

These two blessings are recited each night:

Ba-ruch-a-tah A-doh-nai Eh-lo-hay-nu me-lech hah-oh-lahm ah-sheh kid shah-nu b'mitz-voh-tav v-tsee-vah-nu l-had 'leek nayr shel-Chan-nu-kah.

Blessed is the lord our God, Ruler of the universe, Who hallows us with His Mitzvot, and commands us to kindle the Chanukah lights.

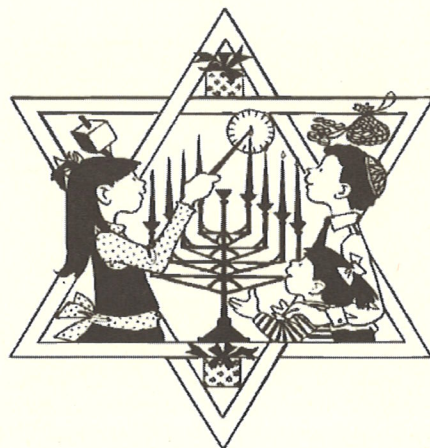
Ba-ruch-a-tah A-doh-nai Eh-lo-hay-nu me-lech hah-oh-lahm she-ah-sah ni-seem lah-ah-vo-tay-nu bah-yah-meem ha-haym baz-man hah-zeh.

Blessed is the lord our God, Ruler of the universe, Who performed wondrous deeds for our ancestors in days of old, at this season.

The following blessing is added on the first night of Chanukah only:

Ba-ruch a-tah A-doh-nai Eh-lo-hay-nu me-lech hah-oh-lahm she-heh-che-yahnu v'kee-y'mah-nu v'hi-gee-yah-nu lah-z'mahn hah-zeh.

Blessed is the Lord our God, Ruler of the universe, for giving us life, for sustaining us, and for enabling us to reach this season.



(1) Happy Chanukah! (2) We light eight candles in the menorah (3) Matathias was the high priest (4) The Maccabees led the Jewish revolt (5) On Chanukah, we purified the temple

Herbed Latkas

3 cups grated potatoes (4 large), not drained
2 eggs
1/3 cup grated onion
3 T. flour
1 t. salt
1/2 t. parsley flakes
1/4 t. sage
1/4 t. pepper
Flour
Baking powder
Salt and pepper

Beat eggs till light. Stir in onions, flour, salt, herbs and pepper. Peel potatoes and grate to make 3 cups; mix everything together. Fry till browned on both sides.



Moroccan Latkas

4 large potatoes, boiled and mashed
2-3 eggs
1/4 lb. grated parmesan or cheddar cheese
1-2 T. flour
2 T. chopped parsley
Salt and pepper to taste
(breadcrumbs or flour for frying)

Put all ingredients in large mixing bowl; knead slightly until mixture is pasty.

Take one tablespoon of mixture a time and pat into round flat shapes. Dip in breadcrumbs or flour and fry until golden.

Make a New Tradition With Chanukah Gelt

The simple tradition of giving gelt (money) at *Chanukah* can become a wonderful learning opportunity. Teaching our youth about the value of money, what to do with it, how to use it and how to change the world with it can become an intricate part of your celebration.

Here is a new way to give gelt to a child:

-Give one coin or bill *to enjoy*.

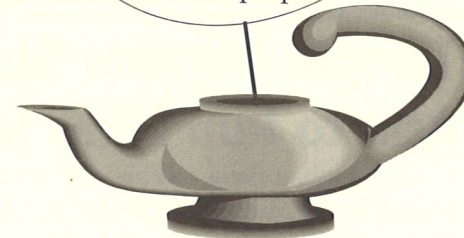
-Give one coin or bill *to give away*.

-Give one coin or bill *to invest in the future*.



Bring Your Menorah to Light And Your Holiday Appetite on the First Night of Chanukah! Shabbat Worship Service at Temple Israel Friday, December 15 at 6 p.m. Followed by a "Feast-ive" Chanukah Dinner

The lights of Chanukah are our joy. In times of darkness, our ancestors had the courage to struggle for freedom to be themselves and worship in their own way. Theirs was a victory of the weak over the strong, the few over the many and the righteous over the arrogant. It was a victory for all ages and all people.



Maoz Tzur – Rock of Ages

Ma oz Tsur Y'shu-a-ti
L'cha na-eh l'shabey-ah
Tikon bet t'filati
V'sham toda n'zabey-ah
L'et tachin mat bey-ah
Mitzar ha m'na bey-ah
Az egmor b'shir mizmor
Hanukat ha mizbey-ah (twice)

Rock of Ages, let our song praise Thy saving power
Thou amidst the raging foes
wast our shelt'ring tower
Furious they assailed us
But Thine arm availed us
And Thy word broke their sword
when our own strength failed us (twice)

Spelling Game

How many different ways can you spell the name of this holiday?

8 different ways! The different spellings are: Hannukah, Hanuka, Hannuka, Hanukkah, and Chanukah.



NOW is the time to shop at WRJ-O's FABULOUS Gift Shop!



How to Play Dreidel

Everyone in the game starts with 10 or 15 pennies (nuts, raisins, etc.). Each player puts one of these objects in the middle (called the pot). The dreidel is spun by one player at a time. Whether the player wins or loses depends on which face of the dreidel is up when it falls.

- **Nun** (נ) means nisht or "nothing." The player does nothing.
- **Gimmel** (ג) means gantz or "all." The player takes everything in the pot.
- **Hay** (ה) means kalb or "half." The player takes half of what is in the pot.
- **Shin** (ש) means shtetl or "put in." The player adds two objects to the pot.
- When only one object (or none) is left in the pot, every player adds one.
- When an odd number of objects are in the pot, the player rolling Hay takes half of the pot plus one.
- When one person has won everything, the game is over.

Children's Hanukkah Concert Attracts Hundreds

After weeks and weeks of rehearsing for the Great Plains Hanukkah Concert, approximately 250 children from preschool age through sixth grade, delighted more than 850 people crowded into Beth El Synagogue on November 19.

Sponsored by the entire Omaha Jewish community, children participating in the concert represented all the Omaha synagogues, the Pennie Z. Davis Child Development Center, Friedel Jewish Academy as well as the two synagogues in Lincoln, Temple B'nai Jeshurun in Des Moines and Congregation Beth Shalom in Sioux City, Iowa.

Cantor Wendy Shermet of Temple Israel and Cantor Gastón Bogomolni of Beth El Synagogue spent a year planning the area's first-ever children's Hanukkah concert which raised funds for the Child Saving Institute in Omaha and Wings - Preparation for Life in Israel.



Pictured above: Cantor Wendy Shermet and Cantor Gastón Bogomolni sang at the Hanukkah Concert. Pictured left and below: Children from different synagogues came together and sang songs.



Annual Deli Night Delight Coming February 11



A tradition as cherished as lox and cream cheese on a bagel, gefilte fish and horseradish and -- possibly the greatest cure-all of all time -- your bubbe's chicken soup... Temple Israel's Deli Night has become an institution that hundreds anticipate each year. Mark your calendar to save the night for this annual culinary delight.

Temple Member Stationed in Southwest Asia to Run Miles for Machzors

Lt. Jonathan Beha and his wife are members of Temple Israel. Lt. Beha has been serving in the Middle East for the past three months. For security reasons, he cannot disclose the exact location of the base.

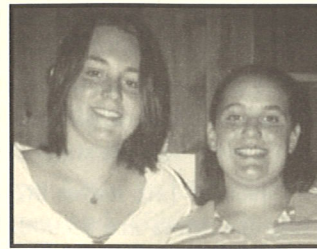
"Having other Jews around, not to mention a rabbi, made it a lot easier to be Jewish and deployed in a middle eastern country," Lt. Beha explained. Attending services together in the base chapel "was kind of like having a Jewish family away from home since none of us could be with our real Jewish families for the holidays," he said.

During his free time while deployed, Lt. Beha did a lot of running. "I found out there would be a marathon when I got back," he pointed out. He decided to make use of the opportunity to raise funds for High Holy Day prayer books. There just aren't enough to go around. He thought getting sponsors to support the run "would be a more fun way to raise some money for prayer books than just asking around for donations."

To help Lt. Beha achieve his goal of raising funds to buy some High Holiday prayer books, Temple Israel will donate the contents of its tzedakah box, located near the entrance to the main sanctuary, in November and December. You can help Lt. Beha acquire some new machzors by dropping whatever you can afford into the tzedakah box when you're at Temple for services, a meeting, a class or any other activity. Lt. Beha will run the Miles for Machzors. Let's make it worth his effort.

Memories of Summer Camp 2006 Making Jewish Connections

It was the second summer at Olin-Sang-Ruby Union Institute for Lindsey Thomas, a seventh



Megan Katelman and Lindsey Thomas at OSRUI camp.

grader. Lindsey said her favorite food at OSRUI was "chicken on Shabbat." The 12-year-old's favorite activity was horseback riding. And yes, she plans to go back next summer!

David Siref, also a seventh grader, attended OSRUI for the first time last summer. Not a gourmet eater, David's favorite dish (or bowl) at camp was cereal. He also picked horseback riding as his favorite activity. Although the 13-year-old hasn't decided yet, he said "he might want to go back to OSRUI next summer."



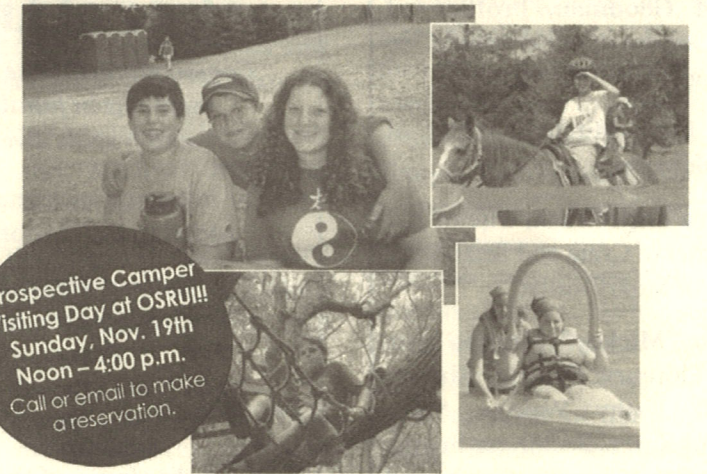
Camp Fund Spins Off Scholarships for Temple Youth

David and Rachel Bleicher moved to Omaha from Cleveland, Ohio, just before the outbreak of World War II in 1939. David was actually returning to Omaha, his hometown. The couple joined Temple Israel shortly after arriving from Cleveland and remained members for the rest of their lives. David died in 1985 and Rachel died earlier this year.

According to their son, Michael, both were active members of the congregation. Rachel, especially, was busy in numerous Jewish organizations. They were also generous, added Michael. Strong believers in Jewish education, the Bleichers established a fund for camp scholarships. **If your child intends to go to a Jewish summer camp, please call Executive Director Dennis DePorte or Rabbi Aryeh Azriel at Temple (556-6536) to apply for a Bleicher camp scholarship.** Jewish summer camp is an informal education that will last a lifetime.

Hurry - Camp Sessions Fill Up Quickly!!

A Summer of Fun... And So Much More!



Prospective Camper
Visiting Day at OSRUI!!
Sunday, Nov. 19th
Noon - 4:00 p.m.
Call or email to make
a reservation.

Olin-Sang-Ruby Union Institute, the URJ camp in Wisconsin, is located on the shores of beautiful Lac LaBelle. OSRUI offers a uniquely Jewish environment for campers in grades 3-12. We combine creative and innovative Jewish experiences with all the fun of summer camp - swimming, sports, drama, dance, archery, visual arts, horseback riding, photography, campfires, the Alpine Tower, boating, biking, adventure camping, and, most importantly, lifelong friendships.

For information on Summer 2007, contact us:
osrui@urj.org 847-509-0990
www.osrui.org

Shwayder Camp Presentation at Temple Israel

Sunday, January 7, Noon
in the Milder Center

Parents and students are invited to join Zim S. A. Zimmerman, Director of Shwayder Camp, to learn of the many benefits Shwayder Camp can offer your child. The camp's primary goal is to give campers an opportunity to discover what Judaism means to them on a personal level, to incorporate our Jewish traditions and values into every aspect of the camp experience. The website for this camp is www.shwayder.com

Our Sympathy

*The Congregation records
with sorrow the deaths of...*

Robert Gary Aronson, son of
Harvey Aronson;

Harold Goodman, brother of
Danny Goodman and uncle of
Ricki Skog;

Lloyd Keith Mitchell, father of
Natha Waldbaum;

Barbara Kutler Peck, wife of Bill
Peck, mother of Craig and Brian Peck
and sister of Stuart Kutler;

Milton "Mickey" Simon, hus-
band of Florence "Tootie" Simon,
father of Kathy Weiner, Steve
Simon and Karen Beckman, broth-
er of Charles "Chuck" Simon and
brother-in-law of Ruth Oruch;

Bronya Usherenko, mother of
Boris Usherenko;

*...and extends sympathy to
their bereaved families.*



Tree of Life

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

The following leaves have been
added to the Tree of Life:

Colleen Kennealy
Teacher, Mentor, Friend
From
Your B'nai Mitzvah Class
May 2007

In Honor of the
80th Birthday of
Millard Seldin

From
Sarah and Ted Seldin
and Family

Temple Funds

Your contributions to the following
funds ensure the continuation and sup-
port 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, at 556-6536.

\$6.00 fund contributions:

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
Education
Endowment
Samuel and Ida Kaiman Endowment
Sol and Jeanette Krizelman
Social Justice
Landscape
Library
Music
Outreach
Ruth and Bernard Raskin
Youth Activities
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
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: **Menasse and
Shawn Bohbot**: Leslie Kully; **Martha
Cohen Cherniss**: LetaRae Cherniss;
Charles Fisher: Betty Fisher; **Harold
Goodman**: Joan and Milton Marcus;
**Honey Kulakofsky and Margy
Schneider**: Carol Farber; **Lorraine
Lyles**: Lourdes Secola; **Miriam
Malacoff**: Debbie and Doug Finnicum
and family; **Alice Mashbein**: Lois and
Joel Finkel, Kathy and Larry Siref;
Sandy and Fred Ostrow: Mary and
Robert Meehan; **Shelly Perelman**: Lois
and Joel Finkel; **Bea Schimmel**: Carol
Farber, Darlynn and Tom Fellman,
Sharon and Howard Kooper, Leslie
Kully, Marjorie and Marlon Somberg,
Terri and Dick Zacharia; **Milton
Simon**: Joan and Milton Marcus,
Doris Parker; **Harry Siref**: Linda
Siref-Simons; **Audrey Sophir**: Leslie
Douglass, Lowell Harms, Kathleen
and Bryan Ruoff and CSI Kansas City,
Martin Sophir, Claudia, Richard and
Ava Sophir, Alice and Fritz Stanek;
Ben Sukiennik: Debbie and Doug
Finnicum and family, Terri and Dick
Zacharia and family; **Hazel Turchen**:
Karen, Gary, Jenny, Mark and Rachel
Javitch; **Milton Waldbaum**: Natha
and John Waldbaum; **Robert F. Wolf**:
Hanne Wolf

IN HONOR OF RECOVERY OF:
Marty Lehr: Stacey and Jonathan
Rockman and family; **Jon Meyers**:
Debbi and Larry Josephson; **Sally
Sirotkin**: Shirley Weinstein

IN HONOR OF : **Selma Krietman**:
Roie and Bernie Meyers

IN HONOR OF BIRTHDAY OF:
Barbara Ault: Toby Fellman; **Tom
Bernstein**: Leslie Kully; **Sandra
Bromley**: Joan and Milton Marcus;
Madaline Katzman: Doris Parker;
Arah Schondelmeyer: Sylvia and
Jerry Kaiman, Joan and Milton
Marcus, Sharon Sobel, Jeff Schweid
and Margot Roseberg

IN HONOR OF ANNIVERSARY OF:
Rosalie and Maury Meiches: Toby
Fellman, Sylvia and Jerry Kaiman,
Joan and Milton Marcus; **Phyllis and
Normand Roffman**: Toby Fellman

IN HONOR OF MARRIAGE OF: **Beth
Hornstein and Michael Karotkin**:
Renee and Mo Handleman

IN HONOR OF COMMITMENT
TO EACH OTHER: **Danny Cohen
and Andrew Miller**: Debbi and
Larry Josephson

IN HONOR OF BAR MITZVAH
OF: **Sam Burrell**: Frances and Sam
Fried, Sharon Sobel and Jeff Schweid,
Sheila and Ray Tomps; **David Glazer**:
Lourdes Secola

INHONOROFISRAELSSOLIDARITY
MISSION: **Lisa Lieb**: Lourdes Secola

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

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, Fridays, so the congregation
may offer its prayers for you.

If you know another person who
needs the same, please ask the indi-
vidual for permission to read his/her
name before calling the office.

Voices from the Pews: Imagining a Synagogue for the 21st Century

Conferring with his wife **Lorrie**,
Gary Katelman said, "The synagogue of
the twenty-first century should feel like
a welcome place to come. And it should
provide more socialization within the
Temple membership." Gary has been
a member of Temple "my whole life"
and celebrated his Consecration, Bar
Mitzvah and Confirmation here. So
did his children. He has served on the
Dues Equalization Committee and is a
member of Men's Club.

A member of Temple since 1989,
Kathy Beauchaine has been on the
Outreach Committee and served as
chair and a member for many years
of the Religious School Committee.
A Jew-by-choice, Kathy imagines the
synagogue of the twenty-first century
"to be a place that addresses the spiri-
tual and social needs of the commu-
nity, that grows and changes with the
needs of the synagogue and the larger
local and world community."

"I've been a member of Temple
for about 18 to 19 years," said **Martin
Leiserowitz**. He belongs to Men's
Club, has participated in social justice
projects over the years and enjoys at-
tending worship services. "I was more
active when (his daughter) Naomi was
younger." He's excited about the pos-
sibility of sharing an interfaith campus
with two other groups. "It's a wonder-
ful idea!" and he described the concept
as "forward thinking. I like the social
justice part," he added. As the congre-
gation contemplates moving to 168th
and Western, "We need to think of the
elderly who aren't out west. A lot of
people still live around Temple."

Martin's wife, Bonnie, said, "We're
kind of headed in the right direction
and should continue social justice," an
area where "interfaith couples can find
common ground," as well as Habitat for
Humanity and supporting immigrant
populations like Darfur.

Congratulations

On the Birth of:

Talia Saltzman Bahar, daughter of Keri and Phillip Bahar, Minnetonka, MN.
Grandparents are Sandy and Alan Nogg, Rosalie and Ernest Saltzman, and Laurel
and Hadi Bahar, Potomac, MD.

Gabriel Tzei Herzog, son of Deborah and Alexander Herzog, Passaic, NJ.
Grandparents are Ian I. (Buddy) Herzog and Amy Ardell Herzog, Los Angeles, CA,
Carol Greene Herzog, Los Angeles, CA, Susan and Donald Levy, Randolph, MA.
Great-grandparents are Pearl Herzog, Rebecca Levy and the late Irving Herzog,
Sylvia and Milton Greene, Esther and William Cowen, and Herbert Levy.

Daniel Richard Munro, son of Lyndi and Eric Munro, Overland Park, KS.
Grandparents are Claire and Pierre Flatowicz, Sandy and Jeff Passer, and Ileta and
Ronald Munro, Overland Park, KS.

On the Engagement of:

Karen Loggia and David Spizman. Parents are Elizabeth and Tom Loggia,
Damestown, MD, Dorothy Spizman and the late Phillip Spizman.

December/January • Kislev / Tevet 5767

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					15	16
					Chanukah Family Service 6 p.m. Congregational Chanukah Dinner Following <i>Light 1st Candle</i>	Sparks Beneath the Surface 9:15-10:15 a.m. Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m. <i>Chanukah Light 2nd Candle</i>
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Teacher Learning Coffee 9:30 a.m. Grades K - 6 10 a.m. - Noon "December Red, Green and Blues" 10 a.m. Club 56 Scavenger Hunt Noon <i>Light 3rd Candle</i>	Congregational Conversation at the home of Andi Willensky 7 p.m. <i>Light 4th Candle</i>	Share the Moment Noon Adult B'nai Mitzvah 6:30 p.m. Board of Trustees 7:30 p.m. AA, Alanon & Gamblers' 12-step 7:30 p.m. <i>Light 5th Candle</i>	NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL, FAMILY SCHOOL, MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL <i>Light 6th Candle</i>	<i>Light 7th Candle</i>	Shabbat Service 6 p.m. <i>Light 8th Candle</i>	Sparks Beneath the Surface 9:15-10:15 a.m. Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m.
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL	OFFICE CLOSED	AA, Alanon & Gamblers' 12-step 7:30 p.m.	NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL, FAMILY SCHOOL, MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL		Shabbat Service 6 p.m.	Sparks Beneath the Surface 9:15-10:15 a.m. Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m.
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL	New Year's Day OFFICE CLOSED January	AA, Alanon & Gamblers' 12-step 7:30 p.m.	NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL, FAMILY SCHOOL, MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL	Adult Study with the Clergy 10 - 11:30 a.m.	Tot Shabbat Dinner Following 6 p.m. Shabbat Service 6 p.m. College Dinner 6:45 p.m.	Sparks Beneath the Surface 9:15-10:15 a.m. Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m. Bar Mitzvah of David Siref
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Teacher Learning Coffee 9 a.m. Grades K - 6 10 a.m. - Noon Prayer Assembly 10 a.m. 4 B's 10:30 a.m.		Adult B'nai Mitzvah 6:30 p.m. AA, Alanon & Gamblers' 12-step 7:30 p.m.	Religious School Grades 3-6 4-6 p.m. Family School 6-8 p.m. Grades 7-12 6-8 p.m.	Adult Study with the Clergy 10-11:30 a.m. Torah on Wheels at All Makes Office Equipment Noon	Shabbat Comes to You @ Remington Heights 4 p.m. Shabbat Service 6 p.m.	Sparks Beneath the Surface 9:15-10:15 a.m. Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m. Bar Mitzvah of Jonathan Baker
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL		Adult B'nai Mitzvah 6:30 p.m. Board of Trustees 7:30 p.m. AA, Alanon & Gamblers' 12-step 7:30 p.m.	Religious School Grades 3-6 4-6 p.m. Family School 6-8 p.m. Grades 7-12 6-8 p.m.	Adult Study with the Clergy 10-11:30 a.m.	Shabbat Service 6 p.m.	Sparks Beneath the Surface 9:15-10:15 a.m. Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m. Bar Mitzvah of Vincent Long

Worship Services

Friday~December 15
6 p.m.
Chanukah Family Service
Dinner immediately following

Saturday~December 16
9:15-10:15 a.m.
Sparks Beneath the Surface
10:30 a.m.
Shabbat Service
Torah Portion: Vayeshev
Genesis 37:1-40:23
Haftarah: Zachariah 4:1-4:7

Friday~December 22
6 p.m.
Shabbat Service

Saturday~December 23
9:15-10:15 a.m.
Sparks Beneath the Surface
10:30 a.m.
Shabbat Service
Torah Portion: Miketz
Genesis 41:1 -44:17
Haftarah: I Kings 7:40-50

Friday~December 29
6 p.m.
Shabbat Service

Saturday~December 30
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 5
6 p.m.
Shabbat Service
6 p.m.
Tot Shabbat
Dinner immediately following

Saturday~January 6
9:15 - 10:15 a.m.
Sparks Beneath the Surface
10:30 a.m.
Shabbat Service
Bar Mitzvah of David Siref
Son of Kathy and Larry Siref
Torah Portion: Vayechi
Genesis 47:28 - 50:26
Haftarah: I Kings 2:1-12

Friday~January 12
4 p.m.
Shabbat Comes to You
at Remington Heights
6 p.m.
Shabbat Service

Saturday~January 13
9:15-10:15 a.m.
Sparks Beneath the Surface
10:30 a.m.
Shabbat Service
Bar Mitzvah of Jonathan Baker
Son of Amber and Thomas Baker
Torah Portion: Shemot
Exodus 1:1 - 6:1
Haftarah:
Isaiah 27:6-28:13; 29:22-23

Friday~January 19
6 p.m.
Shabbat Service

Saturday~January 20
9:15-10:15 a.m.
Sparks Beneath the Surface
10:30 a.m.
Shabbat Service
Bar Mitzvah of Vincent Long
Son of Ellen Long
Torah Portion: Va'era
Exodus 6:2 - 9:35
Haftarah: Isaiah 66:1-13, 23

Did You Know?

- One hundred twenty two families have been members of Temple Israel for at least 36 (double chai) years! There are also 297 families who have been members for 18 (chai) years.
- Temple's staff sets up and takes down about 130 tables a week and about 650 chairs to accommodate those attending meetings and events.
- Situated on 8.24 acres of land, Temple Israel comprises 40,000 square feet.

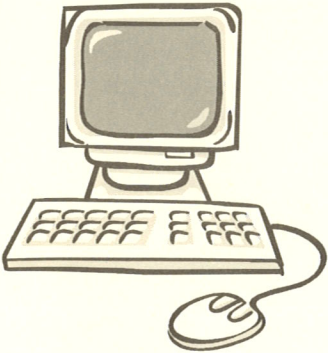
Birthday Blessings
Family Service
Friday, January 5
6 p.m.

Children and adults who celebrate their birthdays during the month of January will be called to the bimah and receive a special blessing from the rabbi.

Sitter Service

- is available...
- each Friday evening for the 7:30 p.m. service;
 - 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 at mkube@templeisraelomaha.com for reservations. Sorry, there are no facilities for infants.



Visit Temple's website
www.templeisrael-ne.org