

Temple Israel Staff and Officers

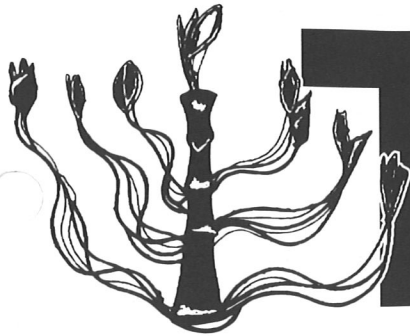
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Eric Linder.....Rabbi
Wendy Shermet.....Cantor
Dennis DePorte.....Executive Director
Elyce Azriel.....Director of Religious Education
Wendy Goldberg Program Director
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Reach Out...and Email Us!

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Temple Israel Tidings

Omaha, NE Founded 1871 Vol. XCVII No. 5 Shevat 5, 5769 January 30, 2009

Shabbat Shira: A Musical Journey Friday, February 6, 6 p.m.

Rabbi Aryeh Azriel observes that "Shabbat Shira emphasizes the importance of music. Although we are the people of the book, those books are not enough. We need the music to soar insight our souls with the words toward heaven."

Executive Director Dennis DePorte says, "Dinner will consist of grilled Mediterranean chicken breast, couscous, grilled vegetables, humus, and dessert. You'll think you're in an Israeli eatery!"

Kol Rina, Temple's adult choir, will sing songs of joy in several languages according to Cantor Wendy Shermet. The chorus will be joined by the choir from St. Paul United Methodist Church and both groups will be directed by the church's music minister, Jerry Brabec. Dr. Keith Johnson, senior pastor of St. Paul United Methodist Church, has been invited to speak during the service. Rabbi Aryeh Azriel always enjoys the joint efforts of the Kol Rina and St. Paul choirs. "Anytime interfaith groups come together and share our common narrative with each other, we are in a way strengthening our own identity and understanding of our own religion."

A Mediterranean-style dinner will be served after worship services. Following dinner, get ready for some fun as congregants take the opportunity to showcase their vocal, instrumental and dramatic talents at *Temple's Open Mic Night*. Given the theme of community and joy, Shabbat Shira is a time to have fun together as a congregation! Please contact Rabbi Eric Linder, 556-6536 or elinder@templeisraelomaha.com, if you'd like to take the microphone solo or as a group. Whether you heckle, applaud or laugh at the "talent," join us for a Sabbath of Song!

Cost for the dinner is \$15 per person. Please contact the Temple office, 556-6536 or mkube@templeisraelomaha.com, to make a reservation. **Reservations for the dinner are due by Monday, February 2.**

Rabbi Eric Linder indicates that "Our weekend celebration of Shabbat Shira promises to be one filled with celebration and fun. Following services, our "open mic" event will continue the themes of togetherness, community and joy!"

Cantor Wendy Shermet explains, "This year's music on Shabbat Shira focuses on texts of joy, plus familiar congregational melodies that have been newly-set for choir."

On Sunday, February 8 at 11 a.m., Temple Israel members are invited to St. Paul United Methodist Church (5410 Corby Street) for the service. Kol Rina will join the church choir, and Rabbi Eric Linder will speak to the congregation.

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Member of Union for Reform Judaism

KNOW THYSELF;
KNOW THY NEIGHBOR

Family Shabbat to Honor Scouts and Military Troops Friday, February 13, 6 p.m.

Come with the entire family to unwind and relax after a busy week. Sing, thank God for your blessings and be part of the Temple family.

Our Family Shabbat worship service will feature a Boy Scout ceremony, Temple's Children Choir and some deployment stories by Air Force Captain Jonathan Beha, who returned from his most recent of five Middle East assignments in October. Capt. Beha and his wife Lynn are members of Temple Israel. Military members of our community will also be honored.

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

After services, WRJ invites everyone to help pack boxes with everything from beef jerky to speedstick deodorant. The boxes will be mailed to about 50 Jewish members of the armed forces who are serving overseas.

If you are interested in sponsoring a filled box, the cost is \$36 per box and WRJ will do the shopping for you! Or you can bring any or all of the following donations to be included in the boxes: athletic socks, small light-weight blankets, towels, dried fruit, hand sanitizer, travel size toothpaste and small containers of Pert shampoo which can be dropped off before February 13 at the Temple office, or brought to Shabbat services that night. Participants of all ages will be asked to write notes, make cards, or draw pictures to be included in the boxes.

God's To-Do List

Temple Families Host Tri-Faith Dinners

Temple families have volunteered to host friends from the Tri-Faith Partnership at a dinner in their homes on Saturday, January 31.

"I love sharing my home with others, and the Tri-Faith dinners will have the added bonus of sharing my love for Judaism. It's exciting to be with people who are interested in my faith, and I look forward to learning about theirs," explained Debbie Finnicum who, along with her husband Doug, will host dinner.

Other host families are Wendy and David Goldberg, Natasha Kraft, Jennifer and Paul Miller, Jane and Harlan Rips, Susan Rothholtz, Jan and Les Schneiderman, and Suzanne Singer.

Keep Teens Healthier

Education Research Group on Sexually Transmitted Diseases in Teens Wednesday, February 18, 7 p.m.

Members of Temple Israel are coordinating a group of lay and professional people to learn about what our local school systems teach in health classes and what are the best practices around the country. If change is indicated, our group could then work to encourage local school districts to consider change and be advocates if there is political opposition to change. We hope to involve non-school groups that work with teens and pre-teens. If you would like more information or are interested in participating, please contact Gary Kaplan, 558-2448 or garyk@cox.net.

Eddie Belgrade 3 on 3

Temple Israel's Nothing "To Do" But Nets Campaign Sunday, April 19 at the Jewish Community Center

Temple Israel is co-hosting a 3-on-3 basketball event with the JCC. Temple Israel's Nothing "To Do" But Nets Campaign proceeds will go directly to the *Nothing but Nets* Campaign, a grassroots movement involved in malaria prevention through advocacy, procurement and distribution of free nets. We anticipate approximately 200 players and team ages will range from third graders to adults. This will be a fun day for kids of all ages to participate and assist.

We are recruiting volunteer support for the event. Are you interested in helping with event promotion, volunteers, logistics, fundraising, education? Contact Event Chair Mimi Silverman, 740-2201 or mimitaffet@cox.net, for more information.

Men's Club

Texas Hold 'Em Poker Tournament

Thursday, February 26

Registration at 6 p.m. First Hand at 7:15 p.m.

"Temple's Poker Night is a great way to have fun playing poker and raise money for a good cause at the same time," said Harry Gates.

This event will feature No Limit Hold'em until the winner prevails. All players will be welcome, including players who are not Temple Israel members. Food and drinks will be available during the event. First prize winner will receive a \$1,000 gift card. The top winners will win prizes. Tickets can be purchased for \$50 in advance by contacting Adam Kirshenbaum, 651-9756 or Adam.Kirshenbaum@huschblackwell.com. Proceeds to support Temple Israel.

Dinner in Abraham's Tent: Conversations

on Peace

Friday, March 27, 5:30 p.m.
at Qwest Center

The Tri-Faith Initiative, a partnership of Temple Israel, the Episcopal Diocese of Nebraska and the American Institute for Islamic Studies and Culture, will bring three national faith leaders to Omaha for "Dinner in Abraham's Tent: Conversations on Peace."

The evening will start with a joint worship service which will include a traditional Shabbat prayer service led by Rabbi Azriel, Rabbi Linder and Cantor Shermet, followed by an Episcopal evening prayer service, followed by a Muslim prayer service.

Dinner will be held in the main ballroom with a conversation on the theme of "Shalom, Salaam, Peace" with national faith leaders Rabbi Peter Knobel, president of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori of the Episcopal Church, and Dr. Ingrid Mattson, president of the Islamic Society of North America.

"People are asking us, how can you proceed with the Tri-Faith Initiative in light of what is happening in the Middle East?" said Tri-Faith Board chair Bob Freeman. "Our best answer is – how can we not?"

Cost of the event is \$50 for Adults, \$100 for Patron, \$1,000 for Patron table of ten, and \$35 for high school or college student.

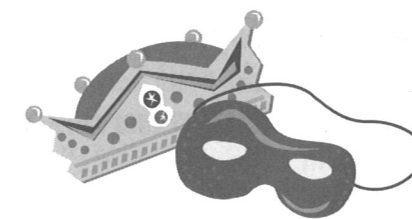
Members of Temple Israel will receive formal invitations in the mail, but you can also register on-line at www.trifaith.org, click on **Dinner in Abraham's Tent** and follow the link to the secure order page to place your order or by contacting the Tri-Faith office, 934-2955.

Purim At Temple



Purim Spiel at Prayer Assembly Sunday, March 8, 11:15 a.m.

The Purim Spiel, featuring the characters, King Ahasuerus, Mordecai, Esther, and the wicked Haman, is a custom providing an opportunity for us to cheer the heroes (Mordecai and Esther) and boo the villain (Haman). Come dressed in costume. It's traditional to masquerade as characters from the story of Esther. There is no "right" or "wrong" costume for Purim.



Purim Carnival Sunday, March 8, Noon

Purim is the most festive of Jewish holidays. A time for prizes, noisemakers, costumes and treats. Purim is an opportunity for young and old to celebrate together. Come try your luck at the carnival with games, prizes and food.

Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten children with their parents are invited to a sneak preview at 11:30 a.m.
Queen Esther welcomes everyone else from Noon to 2 p.m.

Needed for Purim Carnival Sunday, March 8

- Volunteers to help set up, work booths and help take down

Please contact Program Director Wendy Goldberg, 556-6536 or wgoldberg@templeisraelomaha.com.

- 2 liter bottles of soda for Ring Toss

Please bring them to the Religious School office anytime before the start of the carnival.



Erev Purim The Whole Megillah Monday, March 9, 6 p.m.

The Festival of Purim commemorates a major victory over oppression and is recounted in the Megillah, the scroll of the story of Esther. Our worship service will be followed by a no-host dinner at Pasta Amore (11027 Prairie Brook Road). So get into the festive mood and put on your costume! We are planning a whole lot of merry making and feasting. Everyone is invited!

Please contact the Temple office, mkube@templeisraelomaha.com or 556-6536, to make a reservation for dinner. Reservations are due by Thursday, March 5.

Adult Education

Adult Study Sessions with Cantor Wendy Shermet Thursdays through March 26, 10 a.m.

Cantor Wendy Shermet is now leading discussions at this popular Thursday morning class. Her topic is *KABBALAH: A Love Story* by Rabbi Lawrence Kushner.

Learn about our Tapestry Project Wednesday, February 18, 6:30 p.m.

Come hear from the experts how to create a square that tells the story of your Jewish family through color, symbols, texture and collage. We will create multiple tapestries that tell the story of our congregation and will be displayed on a rotating basis. Come to see examples of completed blocks in order to get a jump start on ideas!

For information, please contact Program Director Wendy Goldberg, wgoldberg@templeisraelomaha.com or 556-6536, or Marge Bresel, 553-2667 or breselms@cox.net. A suggested minimum donation of \$18 is appreciated to defray some of the costs of this project.

Torah on Wheels

Thursday, February 26, Noon

Hosted by Dan Marburg at Grace-Mayer Insurance (10050 Regency Circle) and facilitated by Rabbi Eric Linder, Torah on Wheels is an hour-long discussion of this week's Torah portion. Lunch is provided for \$6. Please make a reservation by calling the Temple office, mkube@templeisraelomaha.com or 556-6536.

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

Passover-Easter Dilemma: Surveying Some of the Current Joys and Challenges in Jewish-Christian Relations Sunday, March 8, 10 a.m.

Do you ever wonder why some Christians hold seders? Is it true that the Last Supper was a Passover seder? Why is Easter so important to Christians?

Join Beth Katz, director of Project Interfaith, to examine the evolution of Jewish-Christian relations since the Second Vatican Council and explore how the Passover-Easter season epitomizes the joys and challenges of Jewish-Christian relations today. Everyone is welcome to join us for the discussion and a bagel brunch.

Prophets, Prophecy and Politics

Fridays, March 6, 13, 27 and April 3
Noon - 1 p.m.

Prophecy, Prophets, and Politics after the Exile: Jeremiah, Ezekiel and Haggai is the second part of a two-part course that charts the political and social upheaval that occurred in Judah just before the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem. Instructor, Dr. Guy Matalon, executive director of the Center for Jewish Education, follows the journey of the Jewish prophets as they offer hope and redemption to the exiled community. He will also focus on some of the returnees from Babylon to Jerusalem and ascertain the political situation during the beginning of the Second Temple period.

You can take this class without having taken the first part. Contact Program Director Wendy Goldberg, 556-6536 or wgoldberg@templeisraelomaha.com.

The Faith Club

A Shared Journey to Understanding

Thursday, February 19, 10 a.m.

The Faith Club is the story of how three mothers - a Muslim, a Christian and a Jew - came together to write a picture book for their children that would highlight the connections between the three faiths. Those three mothers, Ranya Idliby, Suzanne Oliver and Priscilla Warner, are coming to Omaha to speak at Temple Israel.

They made a commitment to meet regularly and as they talked, no question was deemed inappropriate no matter how rude or politically incorrect. As they talked about their religious beliefs and how to explain them to the children, they realized that before they could talk about what united them, they had to confront what divided them in matters of faith, God and religion.

Ranya Idliby was raised in Dubai and in McLean, VA. She graduated from Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service and earned her M.A. in international relations from the London School of Economics. She lives in New York City with her husband and two children.

Raised in Kansas City, MO, Suzanne Oliver has worked as a writer and editor at *Forbes* and *Financial World* magazines. A Texas Christian University graduate, she lives in New York City and in New Hampshire with her husband and three children.

Priscilla Warner also lives with her family in a suburb of New York City. She grew up in Providence, RI, and attended a Hebrew day school and then a Quaker high school. A graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, she worked as an art director at various advertising agencies in Boston and New York.

This event is made possible in part through the generosity of Betti and Richard Robinson. The event is open to the public and free of charge. Please contact the Temple office, mkube@templeisraelomaha.com or 556-6536, to make a reservation. Space is limited.

Women of Reform Judaism-Omaha

Caring Community Card Making

Sunday, February 8, 10 a.m.

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

WRJ Book Sorting Day

Sunday, February 22, 10 a.m.

All are welcome and you get to select five free books just for helping. Please contact Danielle Gordman, 343-1435 or dsgordman@cox.net, or Program Director Wendy Goldberg, 556-6536 or wgoldberg@templeisraelomaha.com, if you have any questions.

Attention Bakers!

Sunday, March 1, 10 a.m.

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

Contact Mimi Silverman, 932-6626 or mimiffet@cox.net, to RSVP.

WRJ Getting Set for Book Sale



Gordman, 343-1435 or dsgordman@cox.net, to have your books picked up. Remember that encyclopedias, text books or magazines cannot be accepted.

WRJ Presents

Women In Need

Tuesday, February 24, Noon

Guest speakers at the luncheon are Sandy Nogg, assistance coordinator for Jewish Family Service and Laura Bergevin, education coordinator for the YWCA. In these difficult economic times, many women in Omaha are struggling more than ever. Hear their stories, discover what these vital social service agencies are doing to support folks in crisis and find out what you can do to help.

Please consider donating career-appropriate shoes, new or gently-used, to donate to the Career Closet at the YWCA, or laundry detergent for the JFS pantry. Cost for the lunch is \$10 per person. Please contact the Temple office, mkube@templeisraelomaha.com or 556-6536, to make a reservation by Wednesday, February 17.

Passover Gift Baskets

WRJ is preparing Passover baskets to send to college students. If you would like your child to receive a package, please send his/her name and address to Jennifer Miller (miller2486@cox.net) by Friday, February 20.

WRJ Shabbat Service

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

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

Schedule a Visit With Our Congregants at the Rose Blumkin Home

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

We are exploring a new method of scheduling these efforts. Would you like more information about how to sign up using the Temple Israel Volunteer Coordination *A Lotsa Helping Hands* website? Contact Program Director Wendy Goldberg, 556-6536 or wgoldberg@templeisraelomaha.com, for more information. You are in for a satisfying and rewarding experience! Your effort to make this program a continued success is appreciated.

Israel...Been There, Done That...or NOT

To over-simplify it, there are Jews who have been to Israel...and Jews who MUST go to Israel. I can now place myself in the former group. I hope whichever group you fall into, you will continue reading. You can get a sense of our AMAZING experience by checking out the Temple blog on the website. Many of us would be thrilled to share our experiences with you. Rather than writing a travelogue of our trip, what I hope to convey here is more of the spiritual connection that traveling to and experiencing in Israel can create between one and their Judaism.

While some synagogues plan congregational Israel trips, the majority of Jews make a pilgrimage to Israel via their Jewish Federation, or as youth on Birthright or Artza trips. Please do not misunderstand my thinking here; ANY trip to Israel can be life-altering. However, a synagogue trip, especially with Rabbi Azriel, adds a unique perspective on much of what you see and experience. You continually have the religious aspect to add to the already spiritual encounter. I believe as Reform Jews, this is even more heightened. You get the opportunity to learn about what it means to be a Jew and how religion is important to us, though it may differ from others.

Of course, we did all of the "normal" things in Israel. We toured the country from east to west and north to

south. We visited Tel Aviv, Jerusalem and many other cities including our Federation Partnership in Acco. We saw the Mediterranean, Galilee, and Dead Seas. We spent two days on a kibbutz. We visited ruins, Masada, archeological digs, places of Biblical history and met with citizens and tourists, observed worship services and experienced the politics, food, traffic, and hospitality wherever we were. But as a Reform Jew, I was acutely aware that in Israel, you are either an observant Jew or a secular Jew. The trip to Israel has increased my awareness and devotion to REFORM JUDAISM. I am more sure now than ever, that all we stand for is not only right, but necessary. Our ideals to go out and repair the world, our work with *tzedakah* projects, accepting women as equals in prayer and as clergy, tolerance for sexual orientation, autonomy for following custom and ritual, and so much more that makes us - Reform Jews - help to create a better world...a better Israel.

This trip was especially inspirational and special. The 23 adults and 20 kids, (ages 8 to 18) were amazing travel companions. By now I am sure you have heard of the difficulties and challenges faced by most along the journey. However, the attitudes, camaraderie, and determination by everyone to enjoy, learn, share and experience together made this trip even more special. To see Noah Grossman become Bar Mitzvah in a 1,600 year old synagogue on the top of a mountain in the Golan Heights was as meaningful a bar mitzvah ceremony as I've witnessed. With all of the distractions and obstacles to get to that moment, he did remarkably well.



Pictured from left to right: David and Ann Noodell, and Jon and Denise Meyers ride a camel on the way to Masada.

I mentioned Rabbi Azriel earlier. To you, Aryeh, I say thank you.

You taught us so much. You were our rabbi for prayer services, you were there for young and old, you read us the headlines daily, and you were ALWAYS there to keep us upbeat. It is the shared experience and the bond with fellow congregants that will make this journey a memorable one.

I must admit that until now, when people spoke of Israel, it remained superficial to me. It never really sank in. Intellectually, I understood that this was the Jewish State, that this is the Holy Land which virtually every Abrahamic religion lays claim to and traces their roots to the area. But I never felt it in my heart. I *get it* now. I'll continue to *get it* more in the future. I hope to return. Let's do the math. I am 50 years old...half a century. Some of the structures, remains, ruins and artifacts I witnessed on our trip to Israel are as much as 5,000 years old...50 centuries. That's 100 lifetimes! Don't let an entire lifetime go by without at least once making the pilgrimage to the Holy Land. It WILL change your life.

Shalom,

Jon Meyers

Travel Journal

"My husband Pierre and I had our trip of a lifetime visiting our families in Israel as well as learning about and living the Jewish life we have been committed to all our lives. We encourage anyone thinking about visiting Israel to do so."

Claire Flatowicz

"It was an experience of a lifetime!"

Isaac Rogers, 12

January/February/March • Shevat/Adar 5769

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					30	31
					Tot Shabbat 6 p.m. Dinner immediately following Shabbat Service 6 p.m.	Sparks Beneath the Surface 9:15-10:15 a.m. Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m. OTYG Night at the Movies 6:30 p.m.
1 Teacher Meeting 9:30 a.m. Religious School Grades PreK-6 10 a.m.-Noon WRJ Board Meeting 10 a.m. Children's Choir Rehearsal Noon	2	3	4 Religious School Grades 3-6 4-6 p.m. Family School 6-8 p.m. Grades 7-12 6-8 p.m. All School Dinner 6 p.m. Aleph Bet and Beyond 6:30 p.m.	5 Adult Study with the Clergy 10 a.m.	6 Shabbat Shira Service 6 p.m. Shabbat Dinner & Open Mic Night 7 p.m.	7 Sparks Beneath the Surface 9:15-10:15 a.m. Grade 6 Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m.
FEBRUARY						
8 Teacher Meeting 9:30 a.m. Caring Community Card Making 10 a.m. Parent/Teacher Conferences 10 a.m. Kol Rina at United Methodist Church 11 a.m. Teacher Appreciation Lunch Noon	9	10	11 Religious School Grades 3-6 4-6 p.m. Family School 6-8 p.m. Grades 7-12 6-8 p.m. All School Dinner 6 p.m. Aleph Bet and Beyond 6:30 p.m.	12 Adult Study with the Clergy 10 a.m.	13 Family and Scout Shabbat Service 6 p.m.	14 Sparks Beneath the Surface 9:15-10:15 a.m. Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m.
15 NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL	16	17 Executive Meeting 6 p.m. Board of Trustees 7 p.m. AA, Alanon & Gamblers' 12-step 7:30 p.m.	18 Religious School Grades 3-6 4-6 p.m. Family School 6-8 p.m. Grades 7-12 6-8 p.m. All School Dinner 6 p.m. Religious Worldviews 6:30 p.m. Tapestry Project 6:30 p.m.	19 Adult Study with the Clergy 10 a.m. Faith Book Club 10 a.m.	20 Shabbat Comes to You at Remington Heights 4 p.m. Tot Shabbat 6 p.m. Dinner immediately following Shabbat Service 7:30 p.m.	21 Sparks Beneath the Surface 9:15-10:15 a.m. Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m. Bat Mitzvah of Leah Brookstein
22 Teacher Meeting 9:30 a.m. WRJ Book Sorting Day 10 a.m. Religious School Grades PreK-6 10 a.m.-Noon Social Justice Book Club 10 a.m. Grade 6 Parent Meeting 10:15 a.m. Children's Choir Rehearsal Noon	23	24 WRJ Luncheon: Omaha Women in Need Noon AA, Alanon & Gamblers' 12-step 7:30 p.m.	25 Religious School Grades 3-6 4-6 p.m. Family School 6-8 p.m. Grades 7-12 6-8 p.m. All School Dinner 6 p.m. Religious Worldviews 6:30 p.m.	26 Adult Study with the Clergy 10 a.m. Torah on Wheels @ Grace Mayer Noon Men's Club Poker Night 6:30 p.m.	27 Shabbat Service 7:30 p.m.	28 Sparks Beneath the Surface 9:15-10:15 a.m. Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m.
1 Teacher Meeting 9 a.m. Religious School Grades PreK-6 10 a.m.-Noon Hamentaschen Baking 10 a.m. JYG/OTYG Annual Spaghetti Dinner 5 p.m.	2	3	4 Religious School Grades 3-6 4-6 p.m. Family School 6-8 p.m. Grades 7-12 6-8 p.m. All School Dinner 6 p.m. Religious Worldviews 6:30 p.m.	5 Adult Study with the Clergy 10 a.m.	6 Prophecy, Prophets & Politics After the Exile Noon WRJ Shabbat Service 7:30 p.m.	7 Sparks Beneath the Surface 9:15-10:15 a.m. Grade 5 Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m.
MARCH						

Worship Services

Friday~January 30

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

Saturday~January 31

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

Friday~February 6

6 p.m.
Shabbat Shira Service
 Dinner and Open Mic Havdalah
 immediately following

Saturday~February 7

9:15-10:15 a.m.
Sparks Beneath the Surface
 10:30 a.m.
Grade 6 Shabbat Service
 Torah Portion: B'shalach
 Exodus 13:17-17:16
 Haftarah: Judges 4:4-5:31

Friday~February 13

6 p.m.
Family Shabbat Service
 Honoring Boy Scouts
 and Military Troops

Saturday~February 14

9:15-10:15 a.m.
Sparks Beneath the Surface
 10:30 a.m.
Shabbat Service
 Torah Portion: Yitro
 Exodus 18:1-20:23
 Haftarah: Isaiah 6:1-7:6; 9:5-6

Friday~February 20

4 p.m.
Shabbat Comes to You
 at Remington Heights
 6 p.m.
Tot Shabbat

Dinner immediately following
 7:30 p.m.
Shabbat Service

Saturday~February 21

9:15-10:15 a.m.
Sparks Beneath the Surface
 10:30 a.m.
Shabbat Service
 Bat Mitzvah of Leah Brookstein
 Daughter of Debbie and
 Spencer Brookstein
 Torah Portion: Mishpatim
 Exodus 21:1-24:18
 Haftarah: II Kings 12:5-12:16

Friday~February 27

7:30 p.m.
Shabbat Service

Saturday~February 28

9:15-10:15 a.m.
Sparks Beneath the Surface
 10:30 a.m.
Shabbat Service
 Torah Portion: T'rumah
 Exodus 25:1-27:19
 Haftarah: I Kings 5:26-6:13

Friday~March 6

7:30 p.m.
WRJ Shabbat Service

Saturday~March 7

9:15-10:15 a.m.
Sparks Beneath the Surface
 10:30 a.m.
Grade 5 Shabbat Service
 Torah Portion: T'zaveh
 Exodus 27:20-30:10
 Haftarah: Esther 7:1; 8:15-17

Birthday Blessings

Friday, February 20
 7:30 p.m.

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

Please ---
 Remember to turn off
 your pagers and cellular



phones
 before
 entering the
 sanctuary
 or chapel.

Sitter Service

is available...

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

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



"Despite the lost luggage (in Rome where 30 of the trip participants were stranded for two days due to an airline strike) and the unintended time in Rome, this was a wonderful trip. Seeing Israel through the eyes of our children, Max, 12, and Nate, ten, and having Rabbi Azriel as our guide both spiritually and physically was a very meaningful experience. One of the highlights for us was Tami singing at Noah Grossman's Bar Mitzvah in a synagogue built in 500 AD. Another highlight was Yad Vashem with a guide who was part of Schindler's survivors. How a man who had been through so much yet who remained so kind and gentle and so hopeful was extraordinary to us."

Larry Gendler

"This was the first time that my children, Cleo and Isaac Rogers, and my husband, Scott Farkas, have traveled to Israel. It was my second time. I went first in 1999-2000 with the Federation's Millennium trip. My view was very different this time. I saw the passion of the people of Israel. I loved the Elzraki Children's Home, Noah Grossman's Bar Mitzvah in a 1600-year-old synagogue, and the Western Wall tunnels. I was disappointed with Tzfat and the extreme separation between the different types of Jews. It was great to see my son, Max Rogers (age 21) who goes to Mir Yeshiva!"

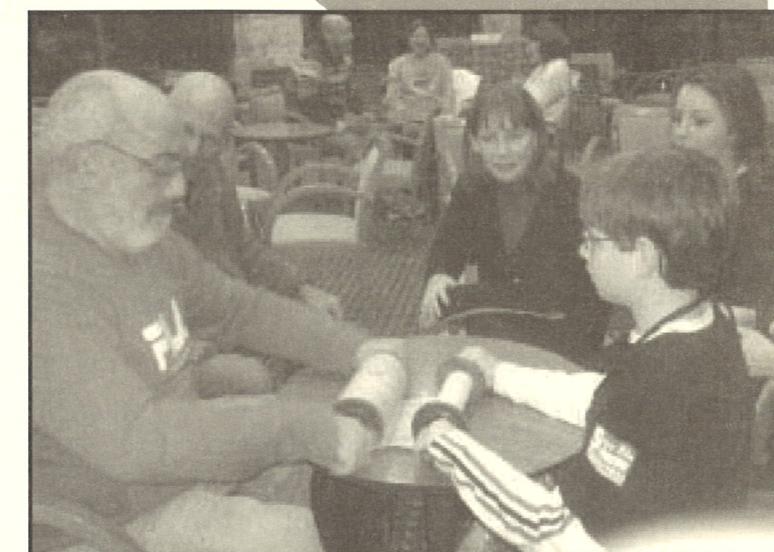
Mimi Rogers-Farkas

"This was an amazing trip. For me, it has created many more questions than answers. Very interesting that a country that is so religious in stature is not in reality."

Scott Farkas

"My trip to Israel was amazing. I loved getting to see all the beautiful places. I also got to use some of my Hebrew skills. I loved it!"

Cleo Rogers, 14



Pictured left to right: Rabbi Aryeh Azriel, Alex Fleisher, Stephanie, Hannah and Noah Grossman are looking at the 180 year-old Torah scroll for the first time.



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

Youth & Education

What's Happening in Religious School?

Children's Choir Rehearsal Sundays, February 1 & 22
Immediately following Religious School, choir participants will eat a pizza lunch before rehearsing with choir director Emily Meyer. Younger siblings are invited to stay for lunch and a craft project or story. Pick-up is at 1 p.m.

Family School Adult Education Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m.
Aleph Bet and Beyond will continue on February 4 & 11. Creighton professor Maryann Krezmien will teach *Religious Worldviews: Primal Religions, Christianity & Islam* on February 18, 25 and March 4, 11, 18.

Parent/Teacher Conferences for Grades K-6 Sunday, February 5
Kindergarten through Grade 6 parents and teachers will meet to discuss student progress this Sunday morning! Families with last names beginning M-Z will meet from 10-11 a.m. Families with last names beginning with A-L will meet from 11 a.m.-Noon. Parents should go directly to their child's classrooms to meet with the teachers.

Grade 6 Shabbat Service and Luncheon Saturday, February 7
The sixth graders will lead the morning service which begins promptly at 10:30 a.m. The family luncheon follows immediately after the service.

Grade 6 Parent Learning Coffee Sunday, February 22
Join Rabbi Azriel at 10:15 a.m. in the Milder Center for a pre-B'nai Mitzvah year discussion of "Putting God on the Guest List." We promise coffee, bagels and informative dialogue!

Family Prayer Assembly and 4Bs Sunday, March 8
Join your child(ren) at 11:15 a.m. for an enjoyable worship service including the Megillah and a march of the costumes. Parents are encouraged to dress in costumes, too. The 4Bs will begin at 10 a.m. See page 4 for complete details of this interesting discussion led by Beth Katz, director of Project Interfaith.

Purim Carnival Sunday, March 8
Hooray! Kindergarten students are invited for a sneak preview of the carnival at 11:40 a.m. when accompanied by a parent. The carnival is open to the community from Noon-2 p.m.

No Religious School Sunday, February 15
No classes as we observe President's Day weekend. Classes resume Wednesday, February 18.

Girls' Nite...In!

All seventh and eighth grade girls
are invited to the
1st annual JYG Girls' Nite In!

Wear your pajamas and come over to
Leora Azriel's house (1202 North 110th Plaza, #2208)

on Saturday, February 28!

The fun begins at 6:30 p.m.

Pick-up is at 10:30 p.m.

Questions? Reach Leora at 960-5796

or leoraann@aol.com.

☺ Games ☺ Movies ☺ Make-up ☺ Munchies ☺ S'mores



Tot Shabbat

Temple Israel is Making Judaism Fun!

Fridays, January 30 and February 20
6 p.m.

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

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

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



GOD'S TO DO List

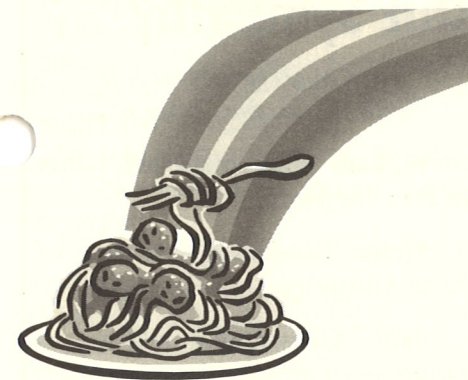
Don't forget your donations

for the Religious School February
Tzedakah Project!

We are continuing our collection of food for the Jewish Family Service Food Pantry. Donations can be dropped off in the Religious School office or in the basket in the main hallway.

Laundry detergent, soups (dry mix or condensed), canned tuna and salmon, toilet paper, hand soap, pasta, rice, juices (apple, grape, tomato) and condiments are some of the items needed. A complete list of pantry items can be found on the Temple Israel website: www.templeisrael-ne.org.

Somewhere Over the Rainbow...



Is a BIG plate of spaghetti
with your name on it!

Follow the yellow brick road
to Temple Israel on

Sunday, March 1

(please note new date)

5 p.m.

for the

Annual Youth Group
Spaghetti Dinner
and Auction!

Proceeds benefit
Camp Rainbow
Camp CoHoLo

and Temple's Youth Groups!

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

Contact Youth Group Advisor
Amy Katz, 556-6536 or
akatz@templeisraelomaha.com
to donate.



Not even the
Wicked Witch
of the West or
her flying
monkeys should
keep you from joining in the fun!

Cost is

\$10 for Adults

\$4 for Kids 3-12 years old

No charge for Kids 2 and under

Save the date for a wonderful
day of learning together at
beautiful Fontenelle Forest!

Family Retreat

Saturday, April 25

10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Highlighting learning
sessions with Ron Wolfson,
Rabbi Azriel, Rabbi Linder
and a cast of many more.

Temple Israel's Family Retreat
will be a wonderful way for family
members to re-connect with each
other, and bond with other fami-
lies. What an amazing way to leave
behind your daily life and be able
to participate fully in Jewish learn-
ing and community.

Multi-generational involve-
ment is encouraged! There will
be sessions for adults and children
to study together and separately.
Babysitting during "formal" study
sessions is provided for children
too young to take part in the spe-
cial children's sessions.

Watch for more information
about this special family day!

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

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

United Hebrew Congregation.

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

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

T.A.G. You're It! at Temple Israel's Middle/High School

Grades 7-12 students will be emailed
the registration link for spring mini-
mester classes via their parents' email
addresses the middle of February. Please
make your class selection by Friday,
February 20. If you have questions
about class topics, please contact Lori
at lbennett@templeisraelomaha.com or
556-6536.

A Community Opportunity for Temple Teens

Tuesday, February 10 in the JCC Auditorium

Neil Lazarus is an internationally acclaimed expert in the field
of Middle East issues and Israel advocacy.

For more information about the event, contact Tamar Halevy,
JCC Community Shlichah at 334-6403 or thalevy@jccomaha.org.

**TEEN
EVENT!**

**TUESDAY
NIGHTLIVE**
with Neil Lazarus

5:00 pm:
Free Pizza Dinner

5:30-7:00 pm:
Neil Lazarus will entertain
you with a mix of theater,
humor and relevant Israeli
information. You don't want
to miss this unique event!

JCC Auditorium
All teens welcome!

**JCC
omaha**

RSVPs are not required. Both events are free of charge and sponsored by the following:
AJJ/USA, The Jewish Community Center of Omaha, Temple Israel Synagogue, Shad 17th Community Center, Shalom and Learning
Children's Supporting Foundation and The Special Needs Admitted Fund of the Jewish Federation of Omaha Foundation.

Israel...
Behind the
Headlines

NEIL LAZARUS

Awesome
Seminars

Report from Finance Council

Jeff Schweid, Treasurer

In these trying times, please be aware that Temple Israel's Operating and Endowment Funds are in very capable hands. Due to an interpretation of tax laws, the Temple Israel Finance Council determined a need to move our congregation's assets in the first quarter of 2008 from the Omaha Jewish Federation Foundation to Prodigy Asset Management, LLC. Prodigy currently manages assets exceeding \$1.8 billion, including a sizable portfolio of Boystown's assets. Under the direction of Philip Ruden, CFA, and Michael Eglseider, CFA, the firm focuses on a strategy of multi-asset portfolio management, employing conservative diversification as a standard in its risk management philosophy in providing institutional quality investment advice and services to high net worth families and charitable institutions.

In December Ruden and Eglseider reported to the Temple Israel Board of Trustees. Since January 2008, despite overall market losses exceeding 40%, Temple Israel's investments have declined less than 30% from their peak. While still painful, these numbers reflect returns far greater than the broader market indices.

With a keen understanding of the investment market, our congregation should take some comfort in Prodigy's expertise in investment management. Like so many others, our portfolio is down. We remain hopeful the New Year will bring a recovery and improved returns on Temple's investments.

Temple Israel Discretionary Fund

In any economy, there are always people who need some extra financial help. They might have encountered emergencies, unexpected medical or living expenses. In today's troubled economy, according to many experts, the worst in decades, Temple has a fund to help.

"It's there for people who have lost jobs, and have utility, medical, food and rent expenses that are hard to pay," said Dennis DePorte, Temple's executive director. "Temple Israel works in conjunction with Jewish Family Services for families in need. The fund is always being used, and it can always use donations," he added. Some other uses of the fund have been to purchase winter clothes and winter coats, or to assist parents in the celebration of their child's Bar or Bat Mitzvah.

Healing

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

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



Cemetery Chapel Update

The construction work on the new Temple Israel cemetery chapel is progressing and is on track for a spring dedication.

Our Sympathy

The Congregation records with sorrow the deaths of...

William "Bill" Fitzgerald, father of Dan Fitzgerald;

Elaine Ginsburg, mother of Larry Ginsburg;

Paul Grossman, father of Frances Coren;

Arlene Moskovitz, wife of Milton Moskovitz;

Larry Rosenthal, husband of Diane Rosenthal;

Jack Schrager, husband of Lillian Schrager, father of Harley Schrager and Phil Schrager, and grandfather of Jeff Schrager and Rick Schrager;

Marilyn Jean Treller;

Steven J. Wigodsky, father of Andrew Wigodsky and brother of Cathy Christensen;

...and extends sympathy to their bereaved families.



Tree of Life

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

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

**In Appreciation of
7 Years of Devoted Service
Rosie Zweiback, Program Director
Temple Israel
Board of Trustees
November 2008**

Temple Funds

Your contributions to the following funds ensure the continuation and support of many vital activities of the Temple. Your thoughtfulness is appreciated.

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

Tree of Life leaves are \$300. Tree of Life Boulders are \$3,000. If you would like information on these donations, please call Dennis DePorte, Executive Director, 556-6536.

\$6.00 fund contributions:

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

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

IN MEMORY OF: Leonard Finkel: Monica Sacks, Linda Siref-Simons; **Frances Fox:** Judy and Keith Josephson, **Paul Grossman:** Lois and Mel Epstein, Harriet and Ron Epstein, Barbara and Gary Goldstein, Sandy and John Lehr, Sharon and Howard Kooper, Chris Krasne, Babe Nogg, Melvin Tukman; **Eva Meyerson Handleman:** Brian Anderson and the Manhattan Institute and City Journal; **Shelly Harris:** Barbara and Gary Goldstein, Janet and Jerry Slusky; **Arthur Henry:** Rosie Zweiback and Mace Hack; **Michael Hoberman:** Lois and Joel Finkel; **Louie H. Katelman:** Sissy and Howard Silber; **Cesar Moran:** Lourdes Secola; **Arlene Moskovitz:** David Dvorkin, Lois and Mel Epstein, Dodi and Steve Redler, Marilyn and Marty Warren; **Sol Parsow:** Phyllis and Harvey Aronson, Nancy and Don Greenberg, Judy and Keith Josephson; **Harry Paskowitz:** Ducky and Mike Milder, Lourdes Secola; **Paul Randazzo:** George Eisenberg; **Jack Schrager:** Jodi Brodsky, Toby Fellman, Phyllis and Dick Glazer, Barbara and Gary Goldstein, Nancy and Don Greenberg, Joy and Robert Greenberg, Nancy Hornstein, Lynne and Patrick Jensen and family, Ann Kaiman, Sandy and John Lehr, Ruth Luttbeg, Ducky and Mike Milder, Dodi and Steve Redler, Suzy Rubin, Rosie Zweiback and Mace Hack and Grace, Joe and Abby; **Audrey Shapiro:** Gail and Tom Kenkel, Susie and Paul Landow, Thelma and Steve Lustgarten, David Telpner, Sally and Maynard Telpner, Terri and Dick Zacharia; **Frances Singer:** Doris Parker; **Esther Tibi Stoler:** Sheila and Ray Tomps; **Marilyn Treller:** Carol, Ron and Michael Urbach; **Steve Wigodsky:** Miriam Brooks and Philip Wright, Phyllis and Dick Glazer, Nicholas Kentopp, Ducky and Mike Milder

IN HONOR OF RECOVERY OF: Nelson Gordman: Barbara and Marshall Kushner, Janet and Jerry Slusky; **Bruce Gilinsky:** Rose Pitlor; **Lola Reinglass:** Sylvia Davis

IN HONOR OF THE BIRTHDAY OF: Edith Epstein, Sandy Passer, Sheila Tomps: Toby Fellman; **Mel Epstein:** Marilyn and Marty Warren; **Toby Fellman:** Sandy, Jeff, Joel and Aaron Passer; **Mike Goldstein:** Denise and Jon Meyers; **Debbi Josephson:** Lois and Mel Epstein; **Milton Marcus:** Doris Parker

IN HONOR OF THE ANNIVERSARY OF: Mr. and Mrs. Elliott Banner: Doris Parker; **Shirley and Al Brody:** Suzy Rubin; **Barbara and Gary Goldstein:** Janey and Jerry Dann

IN HONOR OF THE ENGAGEMENT OF: Madaline Fennel: Lourdes Secola

IN HONOR OF THE RETIREMENT OF: Gene Kaplan: Vicki and Jerry Chesen

IN HONOR OF BEING ELECTED ONTO THE COUNTY BOARD: Marc Kraft: Toby Fellman

IN APPRECIATION OF: Toby Fellman, Ed Thompson: Jay Spiegelman; **Tami Field:** Stacey, Jonathan, Oliver and Caroline Rockman; **David Swensen:** Lourdes Secola, Jay Spiegelman

CHANUKAH WISHES: Jane Brooks: Lourdes Secola

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