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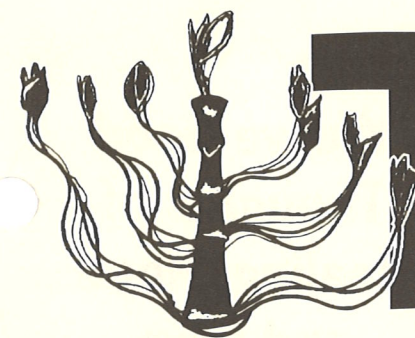
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Scholar-in-Residence

Rabbi Aaron Panken

**“Where the Rubber Meets the Road:
What Judaism Has to Say to the
World Around Us”**

Friday, March 20 - Sunday, March 22

Rabbi Aaron Panken is a man of wide ranging interests. The native New Yorker graduated from the Johns Hopkins University electrical engineering program and then attended Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion (HUC-JIR) where he earned his master's degree and was ordained in 1991. A Wexner Graduate Fellowship alumnus, he earned his doctorate in Hebrew and Judaic Studies at New York University where his research focused on legal change in Talmudic and Midrashic Literature.

Currently, Rabbi Panken is vice president for Strategic Initiatives at HUC-JIR where he has served as dean since 1998 and has taught Second Temple and Rabbinic Literature since 1995. He speaks widely throughout North America and is involved in a number of leadership roles within the Reform Movement and the greater Jewish world including the Rabbinical

Placement Commission, the advisory board of Reform Judaism magazine, the Education Committee for Birthright Israel, the International Council of the New Israel Fund, and the Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR) Ethics Committee.

In addition, Rabbi Panken is an instrument rated pilot and a sailor.

On Friday, March 20 at 7:30 p.m., Rabbi Panken will give the d'var Torah at the Shabbat worship service on “Science and Religion: Two Uneasy Partners.” As he considers how a modern Jew can create a valid position that incorporates the wonders of science and religion together, Rabbi Panken will provide a thoughtful explanation in an ever-changing world.

On Saturday, March 21 at 9 a.m., Rabbi Panken will discuss “The Stranger in Jewish Law and Lore” at Sparks Beneath the Surface. This topic will be an exploration of how Jewish



tradition provided guidance on welcoming strangers, embracing them as part of our community, and the various means and strategies that have shaped this priority throughout the ages and still speak to us today. Shabbat worship services follow at 10:30 a.m.

When he concludes his residency **on Sunday, March 22 at 10 a.m.,** Rabbi Panken will talk about “True Lies, Truth, Gossip, and the Jewish-American Way” as he explores the definitions of gossip and other harmful modes of speech defined in Jewish law and reflects on the way the spoken word, even when speaking the truth, can be used for good or evil.

Sponsored by the Hermene Zweiback Center for Lifelong Jewish Learning, Rabbi Panken's scholar-in-residency is open to the entire community.



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**KNOW THYSELF;
KNOW THY NEIGHBOR**

AS I SEE IT...

The question arises constantly. Typically, it follows a discussion about any given period of Jewish history – from the days of the Patriarch to the present – when Jews are still so preposterously outnumbered in the world. “Why does Judaism persist?”

There is, of course, no absolute truth which provides an answer to this question. And yet, if one were to analyze the various responses to this inquiry, one particular thread seems to link them all. Namely, that whatever form or shape it takes, whenever, wherever, or under whatever circumstances it has endured, Judaism sanctifies life and cherishes the succession of generation after generation.

Take Tu B'Shevat, for example, Judaism's annual celebration of trees which takes place the 15th day of the Hebrew month, Shevat. Right in the heart of winter, Jews rejoice in the planting and nurturing of saplings and the fruit they would later produce. On the New Year for trees, Judaism emphasizes the tree's future, its potential for regeneration, and for providing sustenance to people and animals. Trees, like life itself, are to be venerated and extolled.

We learn the same lesson from the words and practice of reciting the Kaddish. These ancient, hallowed verses give comfort to the living, reminding them that life and solace are both gifts to be treasured.

And more than food or the life it sustains, Judaism glorifies the eternity of ideas. The Torah's life-guiding truths are served by people; we are not supposed to employ God's teachings with the intention of meriting personal gain. When we study from the Torah, we bless God for planting within us eternal life. Through the timelessness of the Torah, through the timelessness of the Torah's sacred wisdom, we are imbued with the strength to meet the challenges of every generation...to fight back against each foe we encounter, to join with God as partners in creating – even amidst the destruction wrought by evil doers.

There is nothing more evident of

this inclination in us to believe in the future and in history's positive potential, than our response to the Holocaust. Certainly, the horror of genocide cannot be forgotten. But our memory is not just for morbid recollection. We want tomorrow to be different because of yesterday. Memory prods us to embrace a new vision of the future.

Judaism has survived because it teaches us to move forward to a new day. The Jewish people have survived because we have taken responsibility for shaping a new day. Only those who dream of ennobling purposes find in themselves the reservoir of courage and insight to make tomorrow possible.

Continue to endow us, O God, with the foresight to be planters, with the joyfulness to toast “L'chaim,” and the strength of purpose to follow the light which emanates from the Tree of Life.

Aryeh Azriel

Weave Good Thoughts of Healing, Hope and Love

**Tuesday, March 17
7 p.m.**

Join the effort, get inspired, share with friends and get instructions on crafting a healing shawl. The purpose of knitting a healing shawl is to weave good thoughts, healing, hope and love into the piece so it will comfort and warm the recipient. All ages and skill levels are welcome. Please contact Don'L Dacey, 292-0757, with questions or just show up!

Come Have a Bite! It's Deli Night!

**Sunday, March 29
5-7 p.m.**

Excite your appetite! If you're longing for matzo balls, kreplach soup, or chopped liver, the wait is nearly over. Temple Israel's annual Deli Night is a culinary treat for every Jewish palate. Entrees are named after Temple personalities such as the Aryeh Azriel classic deli sandwich, the jazzy Eric Linder corned beef sandwich (it'll make your heart burn for a New York City deli!), or the Wendy Shermet quasi-vegetarian delight. And what could be more perfect for dessert than New York style cheesecake? Cherry topping upon request!

With help from Temple Men's Club and Women of Reform Judaism, Temple Executive Director Dennis DePorte will orchestrate the maneuvering in the kitchen to ensure everyone's order is flawlessly filled. Please tip the wait staff generously, because all their gratuities, along with proceeds, go directly to Temple projects.

If you're unable to join us for the schmoozing, carryout service will be available. Please contact the Temple office, 556-6536 or mkube@templeisraelomaha.com.



69th Annual Sidney H. and Jane Brooks Institute on Judaism for Clergy Friday, March 20

Rabbi Aaron D. Panken, Ph.D. will be the guest lecturer at this year's annual Sidney H. and Jane Brooks Institute on Judaism for Clergy. He teaches Rabbinic and Second Temple Literature at Hebrew Union College Jewish Institute of Religion in New York and is Vice President for Strategic Initiatives and has served as Dean since 1998.

“Messianism and Its Discontents: A Walk Through Jewish Messianism Over the Ages”

Invocation, 10 a.m.

Morning Lecture, 10:15 a.m.

“The Beginnings of Messianism: Exploring Biblical, Second Temple and Rabbinic Approaches to Ultimate Redemption

Luncheon, 11:45 a.m.

Afternoon Lecture, 1 p.m. Text Study

“Messianism Meets the Middle Ages and Modernity: New Ideas that Redefine the Old”

Benediction, 2:30 p.m.

The Rabbi Sidney H. Brooks Lecture Tuesday, March 24, 7 p.m.

**William H. Thompson Alumni Center,
Bootstrapper Hall**

University of Nebraska at Omaha

Ran Kuttner, Ph.D., assistant professor of Werner Institute for Negotiation and Dispute Resolution at Creighton University, will present “Entering a Dialogue: Dynamics of Conflict Management in the Israeli Society.” The public is welcome to attend the lecture sponsored by the UNO Religious Studies Program, the College of Arts and Sciences, and Temple Israel.

Free Ten Day Trip to Israel

Jewish adults ages 18 - 26

Organized by Stand With Us through a generous gift by Taglit-Birthright Israel. Register at www.birtherightisrael.com and remember to choose Stand With Us as your organizer.

The Faith Club



Authors Suzanne Oliver (left to right), Ranya Idliby, and Priscilla Warner signed copies of their book, *The Faith Club*, after they spoke about their experiences to an interfaith crowd at Temple Israel on February 19. Of three different faiths, the women's journey took time and patience to reach mutual respect and friendship.

Please Join Us For DINNER IN ABRAHAM'S TENT: Conversations on Peace

Friday, March 27, 2009

Featuring Three National Faith Leaders:

Katharine Jefferts Schori,
Presiding Bishop and Primate of the Episcopal Church

Rabbi Peter S. Knobel,
President of the Central Conference of American Rabbis

Dr. Ingrid Mattson,
President of the Islamic Society of North America

Qwest Center Omaha

5:30 p.m. – Joint Prayer Service (optional)
7 p.m. – Dinner 8 p.m. – Program

Adult Ticket - \$50 • Patron Ticket - \$100

Table Sponsorship (includes 10 tickets) - \$1,000

A limited number of tickets for high school and college students are available for \$35.

Reservations are required. Please visit www.trifaith.org for more information or to purchase tickets. Questions? Call (402) 934-2955 or (888) 934-2955

Presented by



Adult Education

Theology Cafe - BIG IDEAS in Jewish Thought

**Thursdays, March 19, 26, and April 2
7 p.m. at Barnes & Noble
3333 Oakview Drive**

"So many years after his death, I still find Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel one of the most relevant theologians for our times," said Rabbi Aryeh Azriel. Rabbi Heschel, 1907-1972, hoped his work would be a source of inspiration to illuminate the richness and depth of Jewish theology. With Rabbi Azriel as the guide, Theology Cafe participants will probe the American Jewish philosopher's understanding of Jewish thought and his contribution to modern Jewish living.

To register for Theology Cafe, one of the Hermene Zweiback Center for Lifelong Jewish Learning classes, contact Program Director Wendy Goldberg, wgoldberg@templeisraelomaha.com or 556-6536.

Tough Jews: The Good, the Bad, and the Kosher Wednesdays, March 25, April 1 and 29, 6:30 p.m.

Tough isn't just for bullies and Cossacks.

Jeremy Wright, a child and family therapist who practices in Omaha and Fremont, will shed light on what it means to be both tough and Jewish. For example, "... which biblical hero fought four kings to save his nephew?" asks Jeremy. "Or which two took on a whole town to avenge their sister?" Moving on to more modern times, "Were the Jewish mobsters merely thugs or is the story more complicated than that?" How are Jews portrayed in the media? "Not so long ago," Jeremy points out, "a Jewish character on TV was probably a nebbish or a schlemiel. But seemingly overnight, we have started to see unapologetic, 'tough' Jewish characters, musicians, and athletes."

To register, contact Program Director Wendy Goldberg, wgoldberg@templeisraelomaha.com or 556-6536. This class, offered by the Hermene Zweiback Center for Lifelong Jewish Learning, is supported by the Howard and Judy Vann Temple Israel Family School Educational Grant.

Adult Study with the Clergy Thursdays, 10 - 11:30 a.m.

On April 2, Rabbi Eric Linder introduces a new topic, "Memory, Truth, Faith, and Meaning - An Interwoven Tale." There is no command repeated more often in the Torah than "remember." Participants will analyze the Jewish conceptions of memory while navigating between the personal and the communal. Texts, both ancient and modern, as well as movie clips from the modern era will be discussed. Newcomers are always welcome!

Torah on Wheels Thursday, April 2, Noon

This session will be hosted by Charlie Sullivan at Sullivan Homes (15757 Spencer Street) and facilitated by Cantor Wendy Shermet. Join her for an hour debating Jewish law and teachings. You'll learn something new about the meaning of the week's Torah portion and gain new insight into the meaning of your own life.

Lunch is provided for \$6. Please make a reservation by contacting the Temple office, 556-6536 or mkube@templeisraelomaha.com.

Women of Reform Judaism-Omaha

Pancake Man is Coming! Sunday, March 22, Noon

Stay after school for pancakes and have lunch with temple friends and family. Don't go out and fight those lunch lines, stay and have pancakes! Cost is \$5 per person, no charge for children three and younger.



WRJ Book Sorting Day Sunday, March 29, 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.

Volunteers Needed for Minister's Institute

WRJ is looking for volunteers to check in guests, set tables and serve the meal. If you are interested, please contact Stacie Brodkey, 397-3684 or sbrodkey@cox.net.

SAVE THE DATES!

**WRJ Brunch
and Installations
Sunday, May 17**

**WRJ Annual Book Sale
Sunday, August 9
through
Tuesday, August 11**

God's To-Do List

The Stephen Center Sunday, March 29, 7:30 a.m. at 2723 Q Street

Volunteer to cook and serve breakfast to families and individuals in our community dealing with homelessness, addiction and poverty. Please contact Don'L Dacey, 292-0757, if you will be there.

Nothing But Nets 3-on-3 Basketball Challenge Sunday, April 19 Jewish Community Center Adult Competition: 9 a.m. Youth Competition: 12:30 p.m.

Each year, malaria causes more than one million deaths and infects 500 million people. Yet the spread of malaria is preventable and the solution is simple and cost-effective. Studies show that insecticide-treated bed nets can reduce transmission of the disease as much as 90 percent. A \$10 donation to the Union for Reform Judaism's Nothing But Nets Campaign goes directly towards the purchase, distribution and education on the proper use of a family bed net. Contributions will assist refugees who have left Sudan.

Teams of five members each can register to play for \$150 (before April 1) or \$175 (after April 1). All proceeds from the 3-on-3 tournament will be evenly split between Nothing But Nets and JCC youth athletics. To register, contact Cindy Reed at the JCC, 334-6419 or creed@jccomaha.org. You can also sign up at the Member Services Desk at the Sokolof Health & Fitness Center.

URJ and Temple Israel Respond to Worsening Financial Crisis

Our tradition emphasizes that all Jews are responsible for one another. "This year, more than ever, we hope our members will find the support they need in their synagogue community," declared Rabbi Eric Yoffie, president of the Union for Reform Judaism and URJ Chair Peter Weidhorn.

Taking the next step, Temple Israel's Board of Trustees adopted a course of action to keep informed, prepared and pro-active by forming an Economic Crisis Strategic Response Team (SRT). The team includes congregants, clergy and Temple staff members who have knowledge and connections at multiple levels in the community, bring diverse perspectives, are grounded in Jewish life, and can see and help Temple seize unique opportunities that come in times of crisis. SRT will report to the Board of Trustees.

SRT's first task was to assess the current and anticipated impact of the economic crisis on our congregants and our synagogue. Four main areas of concern have been identified. They are addressing unemployment, meeting basic needs, and caring for seniors, and youth.

To address these areas of concern, SRT is working to identify the most effective ways to respond immediately including job networking, assistance with resume writing, and job mentoring for those experiencing work insecurity. The group is investigating additional ideas that could include micro-lending, environmental greening strategies to save costs, cooperative gardening, and other approaches adapted from URJ and other resources. "We need

to build on the assets in the community and align our efforts to have the greatest impact," said Magda Peck, SRT chair. "We are looking to build in ways for people, who are not now in need, to help - to foster a circle of giving and receiving."

Our goal is to collaborate with other organizations to help our congregants gain access to available resources in the community.

SRT members have identified some key challenges in doing this work including providing pastoral and spiritual support to reach out to people in need perhaps including those who have never known economic hardship. The group is especially in touch with the need to consider fair and compassionate ways to accommodate congregants unable to meet their financial obligations to Temple.

In addition to Peck, other SRT members are Rabbi Aryeh Azriel, Stacie Brodkey, Spencer Brookstein, Henry Davis, Dennis DePorte, Shelly Fox, Wendy Goldberg, Andie Gordman, Danielle Gordman, Jon Meyers, Sandy Nogg, and Mike Silverman.

Congregants are urged to contact a member of our clergy or Executive Director Dennis DePorte, all of whom will help deal with specific concerns and needs in absolute privacy.

Congregants who may be wondering how to be of assistance to others who are directly experiencing the impact of the economic downturn can call our clergy or Dennis to offer help and can watch for suggestions and requests in the *Temple Tidings* and on the Temple website, www.templeisrael-ne.org.

Celebrating A Joyous Passover



Anatomy Of A Seder Plate

The word *Seder* means “order,” and the foods on the *Seder* plate symbolize the pain and bitterness of slavery. We eat these special foods to internalize the experience of slavery so that we may love freedom all the more.

ROASTED EGG: The *betzah*, boiled first, then roasted in the oven, is a reminder of the special sacrifices brought to the Temple on Passover and other festivals. In addition to the roasted egg on the Seder plate, there is a custom of serving hardboiled eggs in salt water as the first course of the meal. The egg is a symbol of redemption and rebirth.

BITTER HERB: The *maror* of the horseradish root’s taste is a reminder of the bitter lash of slavery.

SHANK BONE: The *zeroa*, roasted by some for authenticity, boiled by others to make clear that it’s only symbol, represents the paschal lamb sacrifice eaten by our ancestors as they prepared to leave Egypt. The rabbis point out that the paschal sacrifice was an act of courage and independence; in Egypt, the lamb was an object of worship. You can use either a lamb shank or chicken bone on your Seder plate.

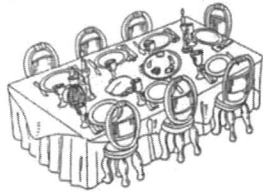
MORTAR MIXTURE: The *charoset* symbolizes the mortar that the Jewish slaves used in Pharaoh’s projects. *Charoset* is made of nuts, apples, raisins, cinnamon and wine.

VEGETABLE OF THE GARDEN: *Karpas*, usually a green vegetable like parsley, but sometimes a boiled potato, is dipped into salt water that is symbolic of the tears shed by our ancestors.

Do You Want To Share the Seder?

The first Seder will be celebrated on Wednesday, April 8.

If you are new to the community or do not have extended family in the Omaha area with whom to share this joyous holiday, please contact Caring Committee Chairman Bonnie Pfrenger, 933-8658, and we will find a host family for you.



Yizkor

If you would like to have names of your loved ones read at the Morning Yizkor Service, **Wednesday, April 15**, please call the Temple office, 556-6536, with the names. Please contact us by **Monday, April 13**.

Black/Jewish Seder Tuesday, April 14, 6 p.m.

For many years, Temple Israel has hosted a Black/Jewish Seder linking the holiday of Pesach with the history and culture of the African-American community. The Seder has always been a joyous celebration about the journey to freedom. We will read from a Black/Jewish Haggadah prepared by the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism. Join us for this opportunity to bring two groups together at this unique time in American history.

Please contact **Maureen Kube**, mkube@templeisraelomaha.com or 556-6536, to make your reservation by **Friday, April 3**. Space may be limited.

Please call Gary Kaplan, 558-2448 or garyk@cox.net, if you would like to suggest or bring guests to the Seder who are not members of Temple Israel.

An Orange on the Seder Plate: A Modern-Day Custom in Support of Including Marginalized Jews in Mainstream Jewish Life

Reprinted with permission from www.ritualwell.org

One of the newer symbols to appear on many seder plates is the orange. This custom has been around since the 1980s. In the 1990s a story circulated that the orange on the seder plate was a symbol supporting woman rabbis. Though many traditionalist Jews would shy away from adding something to the seder plate, others feel that such new customs reinforce the underlying themes of Passover--freedom and liberation--and bring a contemporary focus to the seder.

In the early 1980s, while speaking at Oberlin College Hillel [the campus Jewish organization], Susannah Heschel, a well-known Jewish feminist scholar, was introduced to an early feminist Haggadah that suggested adding a crust of bread on the seder plate, as a sign of solidarity with Jewish lesbians (which was intended to convey the idea that there’s as much room for a lesbian in Judaism as there is for a crust of bread on the seder plate). Heschel felt that to put bread on the seder plate would be to accept that Jewish lesbians and gay men violate Judaism like hametz [leavened food] violates Passover. So at her next seder, she chose an orange as a symbol of inclusion of gays and lesbians and others who are marginalized within the Jewish community. She offered the orange as a symbol of the fruitfulness for all Jews when lesbians and gay men are contributing and active members of Jewish life.

March/April • Adar/Nisan 5769

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					6	7
					Prophecy, Prophets & Politics After the Exile Noon WRJ Shabbat Service 7:30 p.m.	Sparks Beneath the Surface 9:15-10:15 a.m. Grade 5 Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m.
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Teacher Meeting 9:30 a.m. Religious School Grades K-6 10 a.m.-Noon Four B's 10 a.m. Prayer Assembly 11:15 a.m. Purim Carnival Noon OTYG Meeting 2 p.m.	Erev Purim Purim Service 6 p.m. No Host Dinner 7:30 p.m.	Purim AA, Alanon & Gamblers' 12-step 7:30 p.m.	NO MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL Religious School Grades 3-6 4-6 p.m. Family School 6-8 p.m. Family School Dinner 6 p.m. Religious Worldviews 6:30 p.m.	Adult Study with the Clergy 10 a.m.	Prophecy, Prophets & Politics After the Exile Noon Shabbat Service 7:30 p.m.	Sparks Beneath the Surface 9:15-10:15 a.m. Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m.
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Teacher Meeting 9:30 a.m. Religious School Grades K-6 10 a.m.-Noon Caring Community Card Making 10 a.m. Children's Choir Rehearsal Noon		Executive Meeting 6 p.m. Board of Trustees 7 p.m. Crafting a Healing Shawl 7 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. All School Dinner 6 p.m. Religious Worldviews 6:30 p.m.	Adult Study with the Clergy 10 a.m. Theology Cafe @ Barnes & Noble 7 p.m.	Shabbat Comes to You at Remington Heights 4 p.m. Tot Shabbat 6 p.m. Dinner immediately following Shabbat Service Scholar in Residence Rabbi Aaron Panken 7:30 p.m.	Sparks Beneath the Surface Scholar in Residence Rabbi Aaron Panken 9-10:15 a.m. Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m.
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Teacher Meeting 9:30 a.m. Social Justice Book Club 10 a.m. Religious School Grades PreK-6 10 a.m.-Noon Scholar in Residence Rabbi Aaron Panken 10 a.m. Religious School Steering Committee Meeting 10:30 a.m. Pancake Man, Noon		Rabbi Sidney H. Brooks Lecture at UNO 7 p.m. AA, Alanon & Gamblers' 12-step 7:30 p.m.	Religious School Grades 3-6 4-6 p.m. Club 56 Hebrew Olympics 5 p.m. Family School 6-8 p.m. Grades 7-12 6-8 p.m. All School Dinner 6 p.m. Tough Jews 6:30 p.m.	Adult Study with the Clergy 10 a.m. Theology Cafe @ Barnes & Noble 7 p.m.	Prophecy, Prophets & Politics After the Exile Noon Dinner in Abraham's Tent: Conversations on Peace @ Qwest Center 5:30 p.m. Shabbat Service 6 p.m.	Sparks Beneath the Surface 9:15-10:15 a.m. Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m.
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
Teacher Meeting 9:30 a.m. WRJ Book Sorting Day 10 a.m. Religious School Grades K-6 10 a.m.-Noon Grade 2 VIP Model Seder 10:45 a.m. Children's Choir Rehearsal Noon Deli Night 5 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. All School Dinner 6 p.m. Tough Jews 6:30 p.m. APRIL	Adult Study with the Clergy 10 a.m. Torah on Wheels @ Sullivan Homes Noon Theology Cafe @ Barnes & Noble 7 p.m.	Prophecy, Prophets & Politics After the Exile Noon Grade 3 & Family Shabbat Service 6 p.m.	Sparks Beneath the Surface 9:15-10:15 a.m. Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m.
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL		AA, Alanon & Gamblers' 12-step 7:30 p.m.	Erev Pesach NO FAMILY SCHOOL, RELIGIOUS SCHOOL, MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL	Pesach Office Closed Passover Service 10:30 a.m. Congregational Seder 6 p.m.	Shabbat Service 7:30 p.m.	Sparks Beneath the Surface 9:15-10:15 a.m. Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m.

Worship and Holiday Services

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'tzaveh
Exodus 27:20-30:10
Haftarah: Esther 7:1; 8:15-17

Friday~March 13
7:30 p.m.
Shabbat Service

Saturday~March 14
9:15-10:15 a.m.
Sparks Beneath the Surface
10:30 a.m.
Shabbat Service
Torah Portion: Ki Tisa
Exodus 30:11-34:35
Haftarah: Ezekiel 36:22-36

Friday~March 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
Scholar-in-Residence
Rabbi Aaron Panken

Saturday~March 21
9 - 10:30 a.m.
Sparks Beneath the Surface
Scholar-in-Residence
Rabbi Aaron Panken
10:30 a.m.
Shabbat Service
Torah Portion: Vayak'heil-P'kudei
Exodus 35:1-40:38
Haftarah: Ezekiel 45:16-25

Friday~March 27
6 p.m.
Shabbat Service

Saturday~March 28
9:15-10:15 a.m.
Sparks Beneath the Surface
10:30 a.m.
Shabbat Service
Torah Portion: Vayikra
Leviticus 1:1-5:26
Haftarah: Isaiah 43:21-44:23

Friday~April 3
6 p.m.
Grade 3 & Family Shabbat Service

Saturday~April 4
9:15-10:15 a.m.
Sparks Beneath the Surface
10:30 a.m.
Shabbat Service
Torah Portion: Tzav
Leviticus 6:1-8:36
Haftarah: Malachi 3:4-24

Thursday~April 9
Pesach
10:30 a.m.
Passover Service

Friday~April 10
7:30 p.m.
Shabbat Service

Saturday~April 11
9:15-10:15 a.m.
Sparks Beneath the Surface
10:30 a.m.
Shabbat Service
Torah Portion
Exodus 33:12-34:26
Haftarah: Ezek 37:1-14

Wednesday~April 15
Conclusion of Pesach
10:30 a.m.
Service and Yizkor

Caring Community Card Making

Sunday, March 15, 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. All supplies are provided. Donations of double stick tape are greatly appreciated. Please bring your own scissors. Coffee and sweets, of course.

Birthday Blessings

Friday, March 20
7:30 p.m.

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

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.

Miriam's Cup: A Modern Feminist Symbol

Reprinted with permission from www.ritualwell.org

A Miriam's Cup is a new ritual object that is placed on the seder table beside the Cup of Elijah. Miriam's Cup is filled with water. It serves as a symbol of Miriam's Well, which was the source of water for the Israelites in the desert. Putting a Miriam's Cup on your table is a way of making your seder more inclusive. It is also a way of drawing attention to the importance of Miriam and the other women of the Exodus story, women who have sometimes been overlooked but about whom our tradition says, "If it wasn't for the righteousness of women of that generation we would not have been redeemed from Egypt" (Babylonian Talmud, Sotah 9b). There are many legends about Miriam's Well. It is said to have been a magical source of water that followed the Israelites for 40 years because of the merit of Miriam. The waters of this well were said to be healing and sustaining. Thus Miriam's Cup is a symbol of all that sustains us through our own journeys, while Elijah's Cup is a symbol of a future Messianic time.



Visit the WRJ-O Gift Shop for Seder Plates, Matzah Trays and Beautiful covers, Elijah and Miriam Cups, Children's books, puzzles and more!
Weekdays, 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Sundays during Religious School

Temple Israel Congregational Second Seder

Thursday, April 9, 6 p.m.

"It was a very nice evening and the food was good," said Leonard Jacobson who attended last year's Congregational Seder at Temple Israel with his wife Eileen.

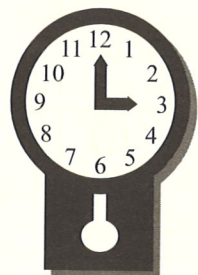
Janey and Jerry Dann couldn't agree more. "I think their Seder's great," Janey remarked. "It serves a wonderful purpose for long-time Temple members who celebrate the first night with family and look forward to a congregational celebration the second night." Having attended the congregational Seder many times, Janey noted, "Many of us who don't have children in town look forward to a wonderful Seder at the place we feel most at home. Sometimes we bring extended family with us."

A traditional seder meal, including brisket and all the accompaniments, as well as a vegetarian option will be served.

Adults, \$21; children in sixth grade and younger, \$10; children two-years-old and younger, no charge.

Your check payable to Temple Israel is your reservation and is due in the Temple office by Friday, April 3. The cost for reservations made after April 3 is \$25 for adults and \$13 for children in sixth grade and younger.

Congregational Second Seder		
Name		
Phone	Amount Enclosed	
	Chicken	Vegetarian
Adult @ \$21 each		
Children Grade 6 and younger @ \$10 each		
Children 2 years and younger @ No Charge		
We would like to sit with		
Send your check and reservation form to: Temple Israel, 7023 Cass Street, Omaha (68132)		



Spring Ahead on Sunday, March 7!

Daylight Savings Time starts Sunday, March 7 at 2 a.m. Don't forget to set your clocks **AHEAD** one hour!

Youth & Education

What's Happening in Religious School?

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. Beth Katz, director of Project Interfaith, will examine the "Passover-Easter Dilemma: Surveying Some of the Current Joys and Challenges in Jewish-Christian Relations."

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.

Family School Adult Education Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m.
UNO professor Maryann Krezmien will continue the discussion of *Religious Worldviews: Primal Religions, Christianity & Islam* on March 11 and 18. Beginning March 25, Temple member and child/family therapist Jeremy Wright will take a look at what it means to be both tough and Jewish (see page 4 for details).

Children's Choir Rehearsal Sundays, March 15 & 29
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.

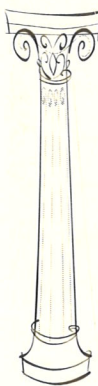
Pancake Man Visit Sunday, March 22
Yum, yum! Join us for a pancake lunch at Noon. Third graders are encouraged to wear their pajamas and slippers to class this day! See page 4 for details.

Religious School Steering Committee..... Sunday, March 22
Join us at 10:30 a.m. in the library in our continuing effort to strengthen our school, and the partnership between school and home. Please contact RSSC chair Wendy Vann (wmvann@cox.net) to let her know if you are planning to attend this meeting.

Grade 2 to Host a Very Important Persons Seder Sunday, March 29
The VIP Seder is an opportunity for our second graders and important people in their lives to enjoy a Passover Seder. During the Seder, the adults in attendance will practice the mitzvah of *v'hi'gad'ta l'vin'kha* – you shall tell your children of the Passover story.

Grade 3 Family Shabbat Service and Dinner Friday, April 3
The third graders will lead the service which begins promptly at 6 p.m. The family dinner follows immediately after the service.

No Religious School..... Sunday, April 5 - Wednesday, April 15
Due to public school breaks and the observance of Passover, there will be no classes. School resumes after Passover on Sunday, April 19.



CLUB 56 HEBREW OLYMPICS

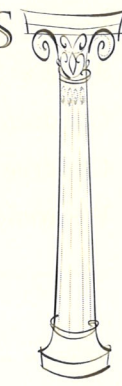
Games • Food • Israeli Costumes • Prizes • FUN

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25 AT 5 P.M.

Learn new Hebrew words while hula-hooping!
Read-a-prayer relay races!
Have fun with your friends and teachers!

Advisor Leora Azriel and J.C.C. Shlichah Tamar Halevy have lots of interesting Hebrew games planned!

(Please dress casually – if the weather is nice, we'll be outside.)



Tot Shabbat Temple Israel is Making Judaism Fun! Friday, March 20 at 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.

Prayer Assemblies: Special Family Time

"I enjoy my time participating in the monthly Prayer Assembly on Sunday mornings because I feel I have a more spiritual experience than at a regular weekly Shabbat service." –An avid Prayer Assembly Parent

For some parents it is an introduction into the prayer encounter in terms of knowledge and comfort level. For others, it is a time for the family to be together for a brief amount of time in prayer, enjoying the spirituality of the service.

Come and experience what we have to offer! Our next Prayer Assemblies will be held on:

March 8 at 11:15 a.m.

April 26 at 10 a.m.

May 17 at 10 a.m.

GOD'S TO DO LIST

A thank you for our tzedakah efforts in November and December:

On behalf of Jewish Family Service, our sincere thanks for the Religious School's gifts of books and gift cards for Project Dreidel. Your thoughtfulness helped to brighten Chanukah for our Project Dreidel families, and every child received at least one book.

Again, our thanks,
Sandy Nogg
Assistance Coordinator

So what's the project for March, April and May? It's time to help get Girls Inc. ready for summertime fun!

Girls Inc. is dedicated to the gender specific programming to overcome the social, legal and economic barriers that keep girls from achieving their full potential. On an average school day, Girls Inc. serves 180 to 200 girls in their two centers. In the summer months, that number increases to nearly 300 daily!

We can help make the summer fun (and easier) by providing swimsuits (all sizes, new or gently-used), pool toys and sunblock. Drop off your contributions in the basket in the hallway or in the Religious School office.

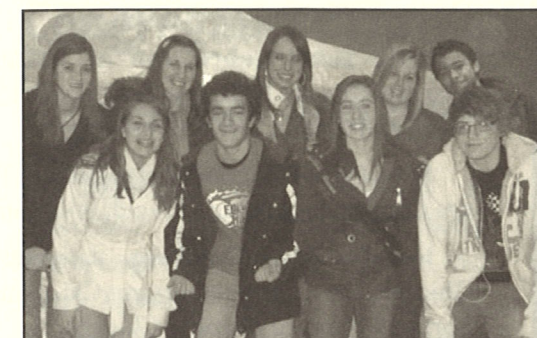
WRJ and Temple Youth Support Our Military Overseas



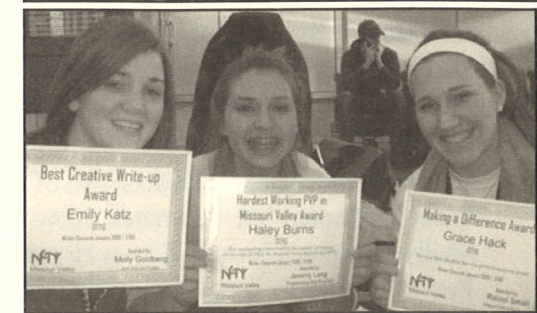
WRJ President-elect Susie Norton, Molly Goldberg, Aaron Norton and Rachel Scheet packed boxes full of snacks and necessities for about 50 Jewish armed forces members overseas. Third graders made cards of thanks to be added in each box. Molly, who facilitates the Middle/High School course "War: What is it Good For?", saw this as a great learning opportunity for her class.

OTYG – Movin' and Groovin' and Doin' What Matters

Winter Chavurah

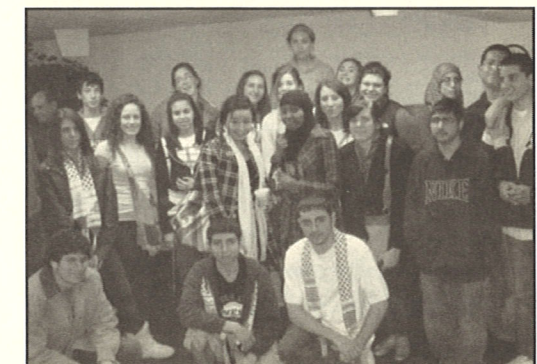


(Top left) Haley Burns, Sam Burrell, Alexis Slutzky, Jordan Kohll, Emily Katz, Susan Freeman, Julie Sadofsky, Sophia Miller and Yaniv Azriel spent January 12-16 in Denver, CO. During the weekend the group participated in the Martin Luther King Dare to Dream March (top right), and came back with some top programming honors (lower left).



Annual Furniture Painting

Molly Goldberg, Hannah Radler, Susan Freeman and Noah Grossman worked to create an eye-catching piece of furniture art to auction off at the Spaghetti Dinner. It has become a tradition for the junior and senior youth groups to offer these "originals" for sale at the live auction part of the fundraiser.



Tri-Faith Youth Connection

On February 1, teens from the Omaha Muslim youth group, All Saints Episcopal youth group and Temple's senior youth group met at The Bookworm for an informative and emotional discussion about the recent bombings in Gaza. The youth groups have joined together several times this year for various events.

NFTY National Convention

Haley Burns, Emily Katz, Susan Freeman, Danny Pachman and Molly Goldberg hung out at Eppley Airfield while waiting to join other National Federation of Youth Group youth groups in Washington, D.C., February 13-17.



Open Mic Night



Ariel Kohll and Sophie Goldberg (above) were among the children and adults who took the stage on Open Mic Night, an entertaining and heartwarming congregational event that followed a memorable Shabbat Shira. Elijah Marburg (below) was among the crowd pleasers, too. Kol Rina and the St. Paul United Methodist Church choirs blended voices during the moving worship service which was complemented by the tones of a bell choir.



Congratulations

On the Birth of:

David Jacob Cohen, son of Katherine and Michael Cohen, Chicago, IL. Grandparents are Sally and Gary Kaplan, Vicki and Alan Kohana, Aventura, FL, and Laurie and Brian Cohen, Lombard, IL.

Sima Dora Denenberg, daughter of Tippi and Steve Denenberg. Grandparents are Carolyn and Bernie Magid, and Eunice and Norman Denenberg.

Jennifer Blair Goldberg, daughter of Suzanne and Matthew Goldberg, Chicago, IL. Grandparents are Carol and Manny Goldberg, Boca Raton, FL, and Lori and Howard Shapiro, Chicago, IL.

Samuel Brody Rosen, son of Rebecca and Brian Rosen, Denver, CO. Grandparents are Jan and Howard Goldstein, Kathy and Steve Rosen, Cindy Sundeen, and the late Sheldon Perelman. Great-grandparents are Jack Brody, and Florence Brody.

Samuel Harrison Thomas, son of Amy and Brian Thomas. Grandparents are Vicki Perlmeter, Jeff Perlmeter, Scottsdale, AZ, Diane Thomas, Chicago, IL, and Shelly Thomas, Chicago, IL. Great-grandparents are Roie and Bernie Meyers, Stan Perlmeter, Key Biscayne, FL, and the late Jan Perlmeter.

On the Engagement of:

Elizabeth Anderson and Alex Katz. Parents are Molly and Mitch Anderson and Amy and Richard Katz.

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.

Our Sympathy

The Congregation records with sorrow the deaths of...

Louis Azriel, brother of Elyce Azriel;

Bella Eisenberg, mother of Robert Eisenberg;

Delores Fox, mother of Rick Fox;

Arthur Maischoss, uncle of Amy Katz;

Kenneth Mommaerts, father of Ford Mommaerts-Browne;

Miriam Shrier, mother of Jane Sawyer;

Esther Tibe Stoler, mother of Alan Stoler;

Sara Wisnia, mother of Abram Wisnia;

...and extends sympathy to their bereaved families.

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: **William Z. Cherniss:** LetaRae Cherniss; **Bella Eisenberg:** Sandy and John Lehr; **Mark Epstein:** Lois and Mel Epstein, **Leonard Finkel,** Anne and Alan Cohen, Lisa and Denny Lewis; **Irv Forbes,** **Roz Friedman, Willard Friedman, Dorothy Zevitz:** Lisa and Denny Lewis; **Frances Fox:** Molline and Fritz Cassman, Babe Cohn, Ann Kaiman, Linda Patton; **Bob Fromkin:** Helen Muskin, Charney and Jerry Rosinsky, Joie Simon; **Elaine Ginsburg:** Anne and Alan Cohen, Lois and Mel Epstein, Nancy Hornstein, Eileen and Leonard Jacobson, Judy and Keith Josephson, Barbara and Marshall Kushner, Sandy and John Lehr, Denise and Jon Meyers, Babe Nogg, Sally and Maynard Telpner; **Paul Grossman:** Lisa and Denny Lewis, Helene and Fred Mittlemen, Mrs. A.G. Schatz; **Shelly Harris:** Mickey Stern; **Kenneth Mommaerts:** Sandy and Alan Nogg, Jeff Schweid; **Anna Monasebian:** Bonnie London; **Sol Parsow:** Molline and Fritz Cassman, Babe Cohn, Soralee and Jerry Cohn, Eileen and Leonard Jacobson, Ann Kaiman, Linda Patton, Margo Rosen, Marilyn and Marty Warren; **Mitch Rieger:** Molline and Fritz Cassman; **Jack Schrager:** Anne and Alan Cohen, Babe Cohn, Ruth and Joe Erman, Phyllis and Bob Newman, Heidi and Scott Schneiderman; **Miriam Shrier:** Lois and Mel Epstein, Linda Siref-Simons; **Marilyn Teller:** Esther and Bob Katleman; **Berta Weintrob:** Nancy and David Jacobson; **Steve Wigodsky:** Lisa and Denny Lewis, Margo Rosen; **Sol Yaffe:** Anne and Alan Cohen; **Lucille Zelinsky:** Ellen and Bob Gordman

IN HONOR OF THE RECOVERY OF: **Jerry Cohn:** Molline and Fritz Cassman;

Gloria Friedman: Doris Parker; **Mary Kaiman:** Suzy Rubin; **Margie Weiss:** Vicki and Jerry Chesen

IN HONOR OF THE BIRTHDAY OF: **Sheldon Cohen:** George Eisenberg; **Edith Epstein:** Ann Kaiman; **Paul Epstein, Les Schneiderman:** Anne and Alan Cohen; **Frances Fried:** Nancy and Don Greenberg; **Dr. Howard Garfinkel:** Anna and Ed Cohn; **Dora Goldstrom:** Vicki and Jerry Chesen; **Margo Rosen:** Ann Kaiman, Rita Rosen; **Ernest Saltzman:** Sandy and Alan Nogg; **Esther Siref:** Lisa, Denny and Travis Lewis

IN HONOR OF THE BIRTH OF: **David Jacob Cohen:** Jeff Schweid

IN HONOR OF THE ADOPTION OF: **Vanessa Cooper:** Lisa and Denny Lewis

IN HONOR OF THE ANNIVERSARY OF: **Mr. and Mrs. Sunny Marko:** Ronnie and Art Jacobson; **Terri and Phil Schrager:** Heidi and Scott Schneiderman; **Marilyn and Marty Warren:** Lois and Mel Epstein

IN HONOR OF THE BAT MITZVAH OF: **Alyssa Kirshenbaum:** Ann Kaiman

IN HONOR OF RECEIVING THE KIPNIS-WILSON/FRIEDLAND AWARD: **Anne Shackman:** Linda Patton

IN APPRECIATION OF: **Toby Fellman:** Suzy Rubin; **Joyce Glenn, David Levy, Sue Vavak:** Lourdes Secola; **Kathy Simon:** Helen Muski

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

PLEASE NOTE FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE:

Temple's East entrance has three handicap parking spots – and, no steps into Temple.

Temple's South Entrance has three Senior Congregant parking spots.