

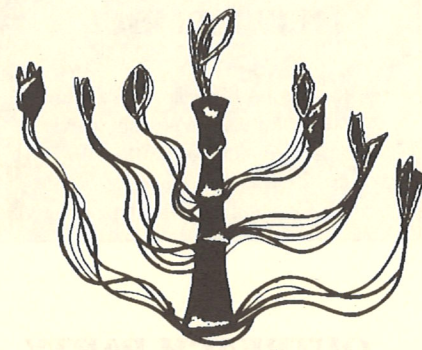
TEMPLE ISRAEL CALENDAR

....	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		JUNE	2	3	4	5	6
		1			Sisterhood Adult Education 9:30-11:30 a.m. Torah Tots Class 9:30-11:30 a.m. Parent/Toddler Class 10-11:15 a.m. Kol Rina Choir 7-9 p.m. Beyond Midrash 7:30-8:30 p.m.	Torah Tots Class 9:30-11:30 a.m. Tot Shabbat 7 p.m. Shabbat Service 8 p.m. High School Graduation	Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m. Bat Mitzvah of Rachel Langnas
7		8	9	10	11	12	13
Congregational Annual Meeting 7:30 p.m.			AA, Alanon & Gamblers 12-Step 7:30 p.m.		Sisterhood Adult Education 9:30-11:30 a.m. Torah Tots Class 9:30-11:30 a.m. Parent/Toddler Class 10-11:15 a.m. Kol Rina Choir 7-9 p.m. Beyond Midrash 7:30-8:30 p.m.	Torah Tots Class 9:30-11:30 a.m. Shabbat Comes to You @ Remington 3:45 p.m. Shabbat Service 8 p.m.	Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m. Bat Mitzvah of Lauren Freeman
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
		Food for Thought 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. AA, Alanon & Gamblers 12-Step 7:30 p.m.		Sisterhood Adult Education 9:30-11:30 a.m. Torah Tots Class 9:30-11:30 a.m. Parent/Toddler Class 10-11:15 a.m. Gr. 3-6 Hebrew Fun Days 1-3:00 pm Kol Rina Choir 7-9 p.m. Beyond Midrash 7:30-8:30 p.m.	Shabbat Family Service 7:30 p.m. Storyteller Pininnah Schram	Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m. Bar Mitzvah of Benjamin Delman	
Cantorial Concert 7 p.m.				25	26	27	
21	22	23	24	Torah Tots Class 9:30-11:30 a.m. Parent/Toddler Class 10-11:15 a.m. Gr. 3-6 Hebrew Fun Days 1-3:00 pm Kol Rina Choir 7-9 p.m. Beyond Midrash 7:30-8:30 p.m.		Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m. Bat Mitzvah of Allison Willensky	
		AA, Alanon & Gamblers 12-Step 7:30 p.m.		2	3	4	
28	29	30	JULY	Torah Tots Class 9:30-11:30 a.m. Parent/Toddler Class 10-11:15 a.m. Gr. 3-6 Hebrew Fun Days 1-3:00 pm Beyond Midrash 7:30-8:30 p.m.	Torah Tots Class 9:30-11:30 a.m. Shabbat Service 7:30 p.m.	Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m.	
		AA, Alanon & Gamblers 12-Step 7:30 p.m.	1				



Published by Temple Israel
7023 Cass
Omaha, NE 68132
(402) 556-6536 FAX (402) 556-6189
Member of Union of American Hebrew Congregations

NON-PROFIT ORG.
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Temple Israel TIDINGS

Founded 1871

Sivan 11, 5758 Omaha, NE June 5, 1998 Vol. LXXXVII No. 10

WORSHIP SERVICES

Friday, June 5
7 p.m.

Tot Shabbat
(See page 5)

8 p.m.

**High School Graduation
Members of the Grade 12
Class will conduct the service**

Oneg Shabbat sponsored by parents
of the graduates

Saturday, June 6
10:30 a.m.

Bat Mitzvah of
Rachel Tamar Langnas
daughter of Shari and Alan Langnas

Simcha B'Shabbat
(Text Study and Service in the Chapel)

Torah Portion: Naso
Numbers 4:21-7:89

Friday, June 12
8 p.m.

Sermon
Rabbi Azriel

Oneg Shabbat sponsored by Robyn and
Bob Freeman in honor of the Bat Mitzvah
of their daughter

Saturday, June 13

Bat Mitzvah of
Lauren Calli Freeman
daughter of Robyn and Bob Freeman

Simcha B'Shabbat
(Text Study and Service in the Chapel)

Torah Portion: Beha'alotecha
Numbers 8:1-12:16

Continued on Page 2

WELCOME, CANTOR JENNIFER BLUM

Jennifer Gail
Blum grew up in
Hopkins, MN, a
member of Temple
Israel congregation
in Minneapolis.

She returns to
the Midwest and to
another Temple
Israel—as our can-
tor.

“I feel privi-
leged to be here, “
Cantor Blum said
recently. “I am
blessed to work
with such a won-
derful clergy and
staff. On my two
visits here, I felt a
wonderful familiari-
ty, as in Minneapo-
lis. People are warm, friendly, and gener-
ous,” she continued.

Cantor Blum wants to build on the
strong foundation in place at Temple Israel
and to expand the role and repertoires of
the Kol Rina and Temple Tones choirs.

Cantor Blum is a graduate of North-
western University in Evanston, IL where
she received a Bachelor of Music with a
specialization in music education. While at
Northwestern, she was actively involved
with the university Hillel House, University
Chorus, Singers, and Madrigal Ensemble.

She served as student cantor at Tem-
ple Beth-El in South Bend, IN, 1995-
1997 and at Temple Shearith of Ridge-



field, CT, 1997-
1998.

After four
years of study in
Jerusalem and New
York City at the
Hebrew Union Col-
lege-Jewish Instit-
tute of Religion-
School of Sacred
Music, Cantor
Blum received a
Masters of Sacred
Music and was
invested as Cantor,
May 17, 1998.

She has had
extensive experi-
ence teaching
adults and children,
co-officiating at life-
cycle events, and

leading worship services.

Special interests range from attending
and participating in musical theater and
other concerts to sports, running and exer-
cise.

In her bio, Cantor Blum writes,
“**Both from the pulpit and the
classroom, I wish to bring people
closer to Judaism and to God...A
cantor is more than a singer of Jew-
ish music and liturgy. It is my hope
that I will also be a spiritual leader, a
teacher, a counselor, and an integral
part of the life of my community.**”

Welcome to Temple Israel and
Omaha!

Worship Continued

Friday, June 19
7:30 p.m.

Family Service
Guest Storyteller
Paninnah Schram

Oneg Shabbat sponsored by Temple Israel
in honor of
Hazzan Erik and Rachel Contzius

Saturday, June 20
10:30 a.m.

Bar Mitzvah of
Benjamin Louis Delman
son of Mitzi and Marc Delman

Simcha B'Shabbat
(Text Study and Service in the Chapel)

Torah Portion: Shelach-Lecha
Numbers 13:1-15:41

Friday, June 26
8 p.m.

Sermon
Rabbi Stiel

Oneg Shabbat sponsored by
Andi and David Willensky in honor of the
Bat Mitzvah of their daughter

Saturday, June 27
10:30 a.m.

Bat Mitzvah of
Allison Rose Willensky
daughter of Andi and David Willensky

Simcha B'Shabbat
(Text Study and Service in the Chapel)

Torah Portion: Korach
Numbers 16:1-18:32

Aryeh Azriel.....Rabbi
Debbie S. Stiel.....Rabbi
Sidney H. Brooks.....Rabbi Emeritus
Erik L.F. Contzius.....Hazzan
Ann Kibel Schwartz...Dir. of Education
Dorothy Spizman Executive Director
Elyce Azriel.....High School Director
Max Sparber Youth Advisor
Dr. Larry Roffman President
Dr. Michael Walts.....Vice President
Paul Epstein.....Vice President
Dennis DePorte.....Vice President
Sally Kaplan Secretary
Spencer Brookstein Treasurer
Jane Rips Past President
Diane Graul Sisterhood President
James Clark.....Men's Club President
Amy Willensky.....OTYG President

We'll see you
June 7 7:30 p.m.

127th Annual Congregational
Meeting and Election

Featuring a special program
honoring Rabbi Azriel's
10 years at Temple Israel

There will be a few surprises,
too! A gala dessert
reception will conclude
the evening.

NOMINEES PRESENTED FOR BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Nominating Committee is
pleased to present the following slate for
approval at the Annual Congregational
meeting to be held Sunday, June 7, 1998.

Officers to serve one-year terms: Pres-
ident: Dr. Larry Roffman; Vice-Presidents:
Dr. Michael Walts, Dennis DePorte, Paul
Epstein; Secretary: Sally Kaplan; Treasur-
er: Spencer Brookstein.

Trustees to serve a three-year term:
Tom Baker, Dr. Jeffrey Passer, Barbara
Rips and Rosalie Saltzman.

Trustee to serve a one-year term:
Margo Rosen.

The Nominating Committee was com-
posed of Dennis DePorte, Phyllis Glazer,
Sally Kaplan, Beth Walts and Jane Rips,
Past President and Chairman.

ANNUAL REPORTS

Committee, Auxiliary and budget
reports will be distributed at the June 7
Annual Congregational meeting.

If you are unable to attend this special
evening, they will be available in the
Temple office.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Patricia and Stephen Goldstein
Rhonda and Ross Hayward
Myllee Katelman
Ellie and Paul Miltzer
Sandy and Fred Ostrow

OUTREACH PARTY June 13

If you are in an interfaith relationship,
are in the process of converting to
Judaism, or have converted, then Out-
reach is for you. We hope new and veter-
an Outreach members will join us for our
last event of the year, an informal party
and havdalah at the home of our Outreach
co-chairmen Allyson and Chris Wilczewski
(16024 Lafayette Ave.) on June 13 at
7:30 p.m. RSVP to Bonnie Sullivan (she
can give directions, too) at Temple (556-
6536). We hope you can join us for this
fun-filled evening.

SUMMER SCHEDULE

From July 3 through August 28,
Shabbat Evening Services will be held at
7:30 p.m. Shabbat Morning Services will
begin at the usual hour of **10:30 a.m.**

The TEMPLE TIDINGS will not be
published during the summer months.
The Temple office will be open 8 a.m. to
5 p.m. Monday through Friday, as usual.

CARING COMMITTEE

Marilyn Mellen, Chairman

We have had a very productive year,
thanks to wonderful volunteers who com-
mitted to doing all sorts of mitzvahs.

After being chairman for three years, I
now want to turn over the chairmanship to
Shelly Fox. I'm sure Shelly will do a fan-
tastic job and she will have the coopera-
tion of all the volunteers who have helped
in the past and new ones who will want to
enjoy the feeling of doing good deeds.

Being chairman has been a most
rewarding experience, and I reaped more
benefit than I gave.

I also want to thank the office staff
and the custodial staff for all their help!

Beginning a year of study...

JEWISH IDENTITY IS THEME FOR SUMMER WORSHIP

This summer, in our Friday evening
Shabbat services, we will begin our study
of Jewish identity with a look at some of
the important views and findings on this
topic.

- We (the Jews) are a race by reli-
gion, not a race by blood. – H. Bloch
- The common fate of all Jews makes
them a group in reality. – JF Lewin
- Anyone who repudiates idolatry is a
Jew. – Johanan B. Nappaha (in the
Talmud)
- How does one define Jewish identi-
ty? Do we have an authoritative definition
in our movement?

To answer these and related ques-
tions, we have chosen "Jewish Identity" as
a central topic for study and discussion at
Temple Israel this coming year. We will
look at such complex and important issues
as – what is Jewish identity, who has the
right to define it, and how can we deepen
it in our children and ourselves. Many of
our scholars-in-residence will address these
questions, as will some of our adult educa-
tion and religious school conversations.

Please join us for our refreshing,
abbreviated, and stimulating summer
Friday night services at 7:30 p.m. in the
Livingston Chapel starting July 3.

OUTDOOR SUMMER SERVICES

July 24 and August 14
JCC Pavilion

Each service begins with a bring-your-
own picnic supper starting at 6 p.m., fol-
lowed by a worship service.

Bring any sporting equipment you
might like to use and meet at the Pavilion
in back of the JCC.

An alternative indoor service will be
held at Temple Israel at 7:30 p.m.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Tuesday, June 16

11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Temple Israel

We will provide the drinks - bring a
Brown Bag Lunch.

Rabbi Azriel will lead a discussion of
current issues and events.

HAZZAN NOTES

Erik L.F. Contzius

As this is my final Tidings article, I
would like to say good-bye to the Temple
family properly. My wife Rachel and I
have truly enjoyed our past three years
here in Omaha. Although we are looking
forward to our new future in Elkins Park,
Pennsylvania (I have been appointed Can-
tor of Reform Congregation Keneseth
Israel, right outside of Philadelphia), we
know that we will always have a home in
Omaha, and we will miss it truly.

In leaving, I would like to thank the
congregation in general for being so sup-
portive over the years. I would be remiss
if I did not thank our organist, Julie
Sandene, for her hard work and dedication
to the music at Temple. I want to also
thank our volunteer choir, Kol Rinah, for
their great effort and song. They have
really made a place for themselves in wor-
ship here.

The music committee chairmen I have
had the pleasure to work with – Judy Mar-
burg, Nancy Wolf, and Harry Alloy – have
made working with a committee very easy
and productive. Thanks to you all.

The whole Temple support staff, Bon-
nie Sullivan, Gloria Ketter, Linda Blair,
Lori Bennett, Vicki Ducharme, Lonnie
Williams III and Lou Williams have been
just that – supportive. Your patience and
productivity have helped me so much.
Thanks again.

I especially want to thank Dorothy
Spizman, Ann Kibel Schwartz, Rabbi Deb-
bie Stiel and Rabbi Aryeh Azriel for being
such wonderful partners in realizing a
vibrant, active, and Reform Jewish vision
here.

For all your kind wishes, Rachel and I
thank you. And should you be in Philadel-
phia, please give us a call. You always
have a place for Shabbat dinner.

EMERGENCY BLOOD DRIVE

Wednesday, July 8
1 to 7 p.m.

**The American Red Cross has noti-
fied us of an extreme crisis situation
for "O" blood (positive or negative).**

Temple Israel will hold a special blood
drive to help supplement this shortage. If
you have "O" type blood please call **Matt
Ferer, 571-4304**, to make an appoint-
ment for July 8.

THE THREE CANTORS

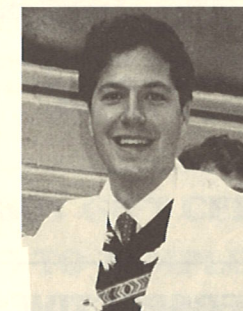
Starring Cantors
Berkovits, Contzius, &
Fettman

June 14
7:30 p.m.
Temple Israel

Reception to follow

For information and
tickets, please call
Nancy Wolf...330-6736
Harry Alloy...697-8709
Temple Israel...556-6536

Presented by Temple Israel
Music Committee.



Josh Zweiback



Dan Wigodsky

TEMPLE ISRAEL WISHES GREAT SUCCESS TO TWO OF OUR OWN...

Rabbi Josh Zweiback received his
ordination May 17 at the New York cam-
pus of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Insti-
tute of Religion. Rabbi Zweiback and his
wife, Jacqueline Hantgen, will live in Palo
Alto, CA where he will be the country's
first full-time Director of Adult Education at
Beth Am synagogue.

Dan Wigodsky will begin his rabbinic
studies at HUC-JIR. He will spend the
first year at the Jerusalem campus.

Our congregation is, once again,
proud to have been "home" to aspiring
rabbis. Mazel Tov to Josh, Dan, and their
families.

SPECIAL FAMILY SERVICE JUNE 19...7:30 P.M.

STORY TELLER
PENNINAH SCHRAM
TO SPEAK



A renowned author, recording artist, story-teller and teacher, Peninnah Schram travels across the U.S. and other countries, presenting storytelling and performing stories from the oral tradition of Judaism.

She first heard stories from her parents. Her father, a cantor, told her Biblical and Midrashic tales; her mother shared the proverbs and folk tales of the Jewish people. The stories Peninnah tells are legends, parables, and folk tales from Biblical, Talmudic, Midrashic, Hasidic, Yiddish, Sephardic and Israeli sources.

Peninnah Schram is a published author whose stories have been recorded on audio cassette anthologies.

She is the founding director of the Jewish Storytelling Center at the 92 Street YMHA in New York City and is the recipient of the 1995 Covenant Award for Outstanding Jewish Educators.

Bring your family for a wonderful Erev Shabbat experience.

ONEG TO HONOR
ERIK AND RACHEL
CONTZIUS

Friday, June 19
Worship Service 7:30 p.m.

Hazzan Contzius began his career three years ago in our congregation and has been a wonderful cantor, teacher and friend during this time.

Join our congregation as we wish Erik and Rachel great joy and success in their move to Pennsylvania.

BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS

Children who celebrate their birthdays during the months of June, July and August will be invited to the Bima for a special blessing at the Shabbat Evening Service. The Temple Tones and M'shor'im choirs will sing at this family service.

EDUCATIONAL PERSPECTIVES

Director of Education Ann Kibel Schwartz

Earlier this year, I wrote an article about surviving the October storm. More of you commented on this article than on any I had previously written. Of the many trees surrounding our home, not a single one came through the storm untouched. In the aftermath, many branches had to be trimmed and removed. We were advised to cut down completely the most severely-damaged tree, an elderly apple. The gnarled roots clung to the ground and the branches seemed to grasp the sky like arthritic fingers. The thick trunk, the result of several medium-sized limbs enfolded and grown together, formed a strong base. Of these core limbs, all were broken by the storm-except one. Although its partners lay cracked and fallen to the ground, it continued to reach upward in a singular, hopeful gesture. Its message was clear: Choose Life!

I intervened. There it stood all winter,

with all that remained of its partners, a truncated, flat-topped stump. but even that had an inviting quality, like a chair waiting for a thinker, a dreamer, to come and sit a while. Against chilly winter dawns, there stood the lone survivor, reaching up like a kaddish prayer.

All this reminded me of a phrase in the Book of Isaiah (37:31):

"The remnant that is escaped of the house of Judah shall again take root downwards and bear fruits upwards."

This winter I saw this promise almost every day: Once, written in Hebrew words on the Holy Ark in the Livingston Chapel; and once, written in nature in my own back yard. And so it came to pass when the spring came, the promise was fulfilled. The remnant of our old apple tree is full of new growth. Some day we will again eat of its fruit.

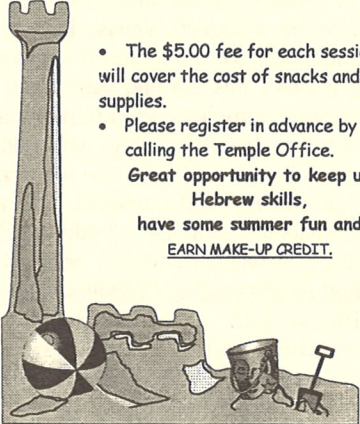
WAYS TO KEEP HEBREW SKILLS STRONG:



1. Attend services over the summer
2. Look over your Hebrew books at home
3. HEBREW FUN DAYS BEGIN JUNE 18

Summer is a great time for students to keep up with their Jewish identity and their Religious School friends.

- Every Thursday, from June 18 - August 6, 1-3 p.m., Ann Kibel Schwartz and Joan Cooper will conduct summer activities.
- For students in grades 3-6.
- Activities will focus on arts and crafts, movement and music to strengthen Hebrew skills.



- The \$5.00 fee for each session will cover the cost of snacks and supplies.
- Please register in advance by calling the Temple Office.

Great opportunity to keep up Hebrew skills, have some summer fun and EARN MAKE-UP CREDIT.

COME TO A VERY SPECIAL TOT SHABBAT

FRIDAY, JUNE 5
7 p.m.
Livingston Chapel

Come to our regular short service of song and prayer for toddlers through children in the primary grades.

Following the service, an Oneg will be held on the playground which now has wonderful new equipment given to our congregation's children by a generous donor.



Temple tots test the new playground slide. Back row, left to right: Leah Brookstein and Noah Grossman; front row, left to right: Lila Ferber and Mallory Rogers

TEMPLE ISRAEL HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

June 5 8 p.m.

All graduates will participate in this Erev Shabbat service. Their teacher, Hollis Glaser, will address the congregation about their shared experiences at Temple.

Each student will receive a gift from the High School and a certificate marking graduation.

Please join us to honor our students on this special Shabbat.

REMEMBER TO BUY GIFT CERTIFICATES OVER THE SUMMER
PREOCEEDS GO TO TEMPLE'S CAMP SCHOLARSHIP FUND
CALL THE TEMPLE OFFICE, 556-6536,
TO SET UP A STANDING ORDER

CERTIFICATE MAIL ORDER FORM

Please send me the following certificates:

Store	# Certificates	Total Cost	# Certificates	Total Cost	Charge
Bag 'n Save	x \$10	\$	x \$10	\$	Weekly
Barnes & Noble	x \$10	\$	x \$10	\$	Monthly
Bakers	x \$25	\$	x \$25	\$	Quarterly
The Gap	x \$20	\$	x \$20	\$	
Cub Foods	x \$25	\$	x \$25	\$	
Hy-Vee	x \$25	\$	x \$25	\$	
Spirit World	x \$25	\$	x \$25	\$	
Younkers	x \$25	\$	x \$25	\$	
Younkers	x \$100	\$	x \$100	\$	
Plus postage (choose one)			Postage		
Regular \$.50		\$	Regular		\$
Certified \$1.50		\$	Certified		\$
Total		\$	Total		\$

NAME _____ PHONE _____
ADDRESS _____ ZIP _____

☐ Enclosed is my check, payable to Temple Israel.
☐ Please charge my VISA or Mastercard (circle one.)

Account # _____ Expiration Date _____
Signature _____

Mail to Temple Israel, 7023 Cass Street, Omaha, NE 68132
Not a tax-deductible contribution

SISTERHOOD ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAM ABOUND!

Your dues

- help purchase and maintain kitchen support and equipment
- help defray Religious School expenses
- buy snacks for students' holiday observances

These are only three of the many ways Sisterhood supports our congregation.

Of course, you know that Sisterhood sponsors Onegs and runs a fabulous Gift Shop.

But we do much more. For more than a century, we have raised monies and worked for our synagogue's Religious School and kitchen services, among other high priority activities.

A large portion of our dues is passed on to district and national divisions of Women of Reform Judaism. These dues will be raised by 44% next year.

So, for the first time in more than ten years, Temple Sisterhood dues will increase. By raising our dues to \$36 per year, we will be able to sustain our own congregation's needs as well as the important national goals and efforts. **Diane Gaul**

Watch for your new Temple Israel Directory, a joint project of Men's Club and Sisterhood.

Sisterhood Meeting Tuesday, June 23 7 p.m.

Come and talk to other Sisterhood members, meet the new board members and help make plans for next year. Sisterhood needs your help in order to have an active year and to continue as a vital organization. If you are willing to help, please call Diane Gaul at 391-5631.

Will you help by making four to five calls per month?

JEWISH GIFT REGISTRY

What could be more meaningful and special to commemorate Life Cycle events than Jewish ceremonial gifts?

Brides, Confirands, B'Nai Mitzvah — See our selection and register your choices.

Selections include seder plates, kiddish cups, mezuzot, menorahs, candlesticks and cookbooks.

Sisterhood Gift Shop

BOARD CAMEOS

A monthly glimpse at Temple Israel's Trustees



John Lehr and his wife Sandy have two children, Avery and Jacob. He is a native Omahan whose family history at Temple spans more than 97 years and includes three past presidents. John's interests are golf, swimming and spectator sports.

Amy Willensky is president of OTYG, is a member of her high school debate team, and enjoys volunteering. She and her family moved from Los Angeles to Omaha 3 1/2 years ago.

Mary-Beth Muskin has lived in Omaha "my whole life" and her family's Temple connection goes back many decades. She and her husband Bruce are parents of Anne, Emily, and Zack. Mary-Beth's hobbies are music and reading.



Max Sparbor, Third from Left, OTYG advisor, Directed Jewish Teens in a special presentation at the Community-wide Yom Ha Shoah observance.



TREE OF LIFE

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

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

**In honor of 75th birthday
Ed Malashock**

With love, from friends and family

**A vibrant life filled with
compassion and love
Helen Jacobson Speier**

With love, from Phil Sokolof

Happy birthday David Meyers
With love, from us who love you

80th birthday Elliot Shane
with love, Harlan and Jane Rips,
Alan and Linda Sandman

In honor of Jeffrey Hermann
With love, Harriet Singer, Mark Singer,
Sandy, Stuart, Alison and Traci Kutler

YOGA WORKSHOP

Would you like to learn how to shed tension and stress by relaxing your muscles and calming your mind? If so, yoga is for you. We are planning a workshop to introduce Temple members to yoga. Novices and those with prior yoga exposure are welcome. If you are interested or have questions, please call Sandee Friedman at 397-5523 or Suzy Rubin at 334-8938. We look forward to relaxing with you!

**Ann and Don Schwartz invite
the congregation to a
reception in honor of
the engagement of
their son
Mordy Schwartz
to
Esther Reed**

**Sunday, June 28
11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Temple Israel**

Please join the Schwartzes, Mordy and Esther, and their families at this engagement celebration.

Following a September 1998 wedding, Mordy and Esther will spend a year of study in Jerusalem. They are both rabbinical students at the Jewish Theological Seminary.

BEYOND MIDRASH

Continues and Begins Again

**Instructor/Facilitator,
Donald Schwartz**

The weekly Torah study continues again this year, and there is a new Beginner's, entry-level weekly Torah study.

If you have wondered, been confused about, or considered in the past the study of Torah and Bible, come to the Beginner's class and your questions will lead to questions we can all share. A few answers will be provided as well. This will be very basic study, and we will attempt to address all your concerns.

October 15 is the starting date. Classes are held Thursday nights. The Torah is read year-round, a portion a week, from one Simchat Torah to the next Simchat Torah, and our protocol is to continue in this fashion. Simchat Torah celebration this year is October 11-12, and we will renew our studies with Genesis on Thursday, October 15.

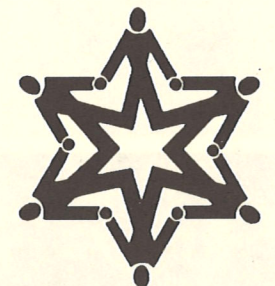
October 15 schedule only:

6:45 – 8:10 Beginning Level class
8:15 – 9:10 "Beyond Midrash,"
advance level class, for
previous chavurah

October 22, and each succeeding week:

6:50 – 7:40 Beginning Level
7:50 – 8:45 "Beyond Midrash"

Please contact the office for fees and details. A reminder will be published in the September issues of the Tidings.



SOCIAL JUSTICE

Gary Kaplan

Rabbi Aryeh Azriel, Dr. John Makiel, superintendent of the Omaha Public Schools, and members of Omaha Together One Community held a May press conference to announce the beginning of a community strategy of support for our schools and young people.

Recognizing that 40% of students beginning high school do not continue and graduate within 4 to 5 years and that the problem begins long before high school, OTOC proposed working with the Omaha Public Schools to adopt a four-prong strategy that will deal with parental involvement, addressing truancy issues, discussing needs of latch key children in north and south Omaha, and focusing on boosting achievement of African-American students.

Temple members interested in helping with this agenda should call me at 558-2448.

If you are interested in mentoring an individual student, call Margo Rosen, 397-5050.

SCHOOL YEAR'S END BROUGHT SPECIAL PROGRAMS



Our students joined the community-wide celebration of Israel's 50th year. The Jewish Cultural Arts Council, of which Temple is a member, sponsored the weekend of activities. Elyce Azriel and Margo Riekes wrote an educational piece for the students.



More than 30 Temple Israel high school seniors and parents attended "College: The Next Step—The Jewish Place," presented by Temple and the Jewish Family Service, left to right: Todd Ephriam, Executive Director Jewish Family Service, Sid Dunn, Executive Director Alpha Epsilon Pi Fraternity, Bob Wolfson, Executive Director, ADL and Rabbi Gary Zola, National Dean of Admissions, Student Affairs, and Alumni Relations for HUC-JIR.

TEMPLE YOUTH GROUPS...

1998-99 OTYG BOARD

President Jen Gates
Religious and
Cultural Vice-President Cole Schneider
Programming
Vice-President Tamara Meyers
Co-Treasurers Nikki Flatowicz
and Tara Renstrom
Secretary.....Ali Freeman
Social Action
Vice-President.....Amy Willensky
JYG Liaisons.....Steve Sternberg
and Rachel Flatowicz

Many thanks to this year's board members for working so well together and putting together so many outstanding programs!

OTYG WINS 12 AWARDS AT SPRING CONCLAVE

Jen Gates

At the April NFTY Missouri Valley Region conclave in Kansas City, Morgan Denny brought home four Social Action Awards, along with becoming Regional Social Action Vice-President. Amy Willensky was appointed Membership Chairman.

Nikki Flatowicz received four awards, including Best Overall Fundraiser and Best Camp Rainbow Fundraiser Awards.

Other OTYG awards include Most Successful Program, Best Scrapbook, and Best Religious and Cultural Program.

Other OTYGers who attended Spring Conclave are Rachel Flatowicz, Jen Gates, Marc Gelbman, Nicole and Shane Kotas, Tara Renstrom, Adam Schwartz and Whitney Taxman.

ST. VINCENT HOUSE LIBRARY

Saturday, May 16, was the culmination of months of efforts by Morgan Denny who organized a book drive to create a children's library for the St. Vincent House Shelter.

Many boxes and bags of books were delivered by youth groupers who helped several young guests at the house read. Thanks to all who contributed books and time to this successful project.

BETWEEN US

Rabbi Debbie Stiel

Studies done in the last few years of Jewish continuity have all pointed to several things in a young person's upbringing which seem to have a lasting, positive influence on one's Jewish identity. One of these is Jewish youth group. The benefits of these groups are myriad. They help teens feel proud of their Jewish identity; they connect our kids with Jews from all over; they provide wonderful leadership opportunities in a Jewish setting; and they offer meaningful, constructive, and fun Jewish programming. In fact, adults at Temple frequently tell me of their great youth group memories and of life-long friends they made in youth group. All the Omaha area Jewish youth groups are wonderful organizations, but I would put in a special plug for OTYG (our Temple youth group) because it provides a Reform religious perspective.

Please encourage your kids to get involved in Jewish youth groups.

Omaha Temple Youth Group (OTYG) has an incredible teen board which, with the help of many other teens, plans all the youth group's activities and sees them through to fruition. We are fortunate to have such dedicated teens, and I want to thank this year's board for all their hard work. Still, the youth group requires some very dedicated and caring adults to help our teens out. These are our youth advisors. This year our main youth advisor was Max Sparber. Thank you, Max, for all your time, guidance and energy. Max has a wonderful camaraderie with teens, so we are very fortunate that he has agreed to help us out as a chaperone for programs next year. Stephanie and Barry Grossman stepped in this year to help Max out, and they will be our advisors for next year. Stephanie and Barry are very devoted to our kids and doing all they can to help ensure that the youth group runs smoothly. I think we are ready for another great year of youth group. Please encourage your kids in grades five through twelve to participate.



Whitney Taxman and Adam Schwartz catch up on lost sleep on the bus ride home from Spring Conclave.

...STRONG INFLUENCES ON OUR TEENS

INTRODUCING NEW JYG AND OTYG ADVISORS

Barry and Stephanie Grossman have been working with Max Sparber, current Youth Advisor, helping with Junior Youth Group and other programs. With his guidance and advice, they will become the new youth Advisors this fall.

Stephanie has taught a wide variety of grades and subjects for 16 years with Omaha Public Schools. She has a BS in Elementary Education and Master's Degree in Teaching Emotionally Disturbed. While working with the Youth Group, she will be able to utilize her strengths as a teacher and develop meaningful relationships with Temple teenagers.

Barry is an attorney and has been Legal Studies Department Head at Nebraska College of Business for 12 years. He sees the importance of Jewish youth groups because of his own experience in BBYO, a major influence in forming his Jewish identity.

Stephanie and Barry have two children, Hannah Bea, almost 6 and Noah, 3.

The Grossmans hope to create an atmosphere that encourages fun activities while enhancing the Jewish identities of all involved. They will focus not just on friendship, which has already become a bonus—nor on being parental—but on guiding and advising this group of enthusiastic and involved youth to keep celebrating and growing Jewishly together.



Ryan Olesh, left and Marc Gelbman took part in OTYG's May 9 scavenger hunt

OTYG SUMMER EVENTS

Mark your calendars!

More information will be mailed home as we get closer to each event.

Sunday, June 7 **Worlds of Fun**
8 a.m. to 11 p.m. Call Amy Willensky, 493-7511, for more information.

Sunday, July 12 **Picnic in the Park**

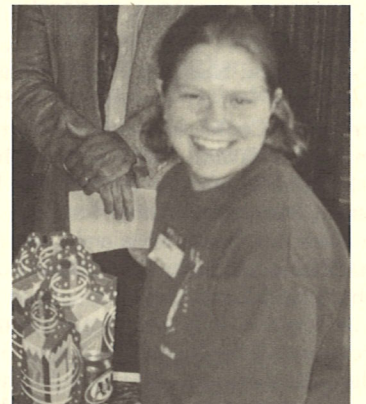
Sat., Aug. 8 **Hawaiian Pool Party**

Aug. 11-16 **NFTY Summer Institute**
at Goldman Union Camp Institute, Zionsville, IN. Call Stephanie Grossman, 556-4596, for application or information.



Jenny Friedman and Ali Freeman greet guests at the Everything You Want to Know About Judaism program.

OTYG recently welcomed students from Sacred Heart Church to their Judaism Program. A thank-you note to Rabbi Stiel and Jen Gates, said in part, "Thank you for your wonderful program...for our young people learning more about Judaism is so important, especially when from other young people. You both should be very proud of your youth group...."



Nikki Flatowicz was one of ten youth groupers who, along with Rabbi Stiel, presented Everything You Want to Know About Judaism recently to 66 visitors, representing nine churches from Omaha and surrounding communities



Junior Youth Groupers went to the circus

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR CONGREGATION THROUGH DONATIONS THAT REMEMBER AND HONOR FAMILY AND FRIENDS

IN MEMORY: **Jeanette Ban:** Tham and Willard Friedman; **Zerline Baron:** Rosagene Baron; **Harry Barton:** Kathy and Steve Simon; **Edward Belgrade:** Audrey and Morrie Shapiro, Joie Simon, Dodi and Steve Redler, Harriet and Norman Fishel, Litzie and Yale Trustin, Fran and Jerry Milder, Pam and Dennis DePorte, Phyllis and Harvey Aronson, Irene and Leo Kamisar, **Jerome Cohn:** Robert Weinstein, Gigi and Sid Osten, Jerry Slusky, Lisa and Denny Lewis, Doris and Rich Rosinsky, Stacey and Jonathan Rockman, Anita Scott, Miriam and Joe Soshnik, Mr. and Mrs. Mike Platt, Silvia and Larry Roffman, Phyllis and Dick Glazer, Selma and Is Tretiak, Sally and Jack Levin, Terri and Dick Zacharia, Joyce and Shelly Cohen, Litzie and Yale Trustin, **Father of Mrs. Sheldon Harris:** Shirley, Herman and Robert Weinstein; **Jeffrey Hermann:** Cookie and Jerry Hoberman, Selma and Is Tretiak, Mike Erman, Shirley and Herman Weinstein, Molline and Fritz Cassman, Margie and Marlon Somberg, Barbara Black and family, Silvia and Larry Roffman, Soralee and Jerry Cohn, Rose Rosen, Barbara and Gary Goldstein, Roie and Bernie Meyers, Judy and Shelly Brodsky, Marcia and Jack Cohen, Dodi and Steve Redler, Barbara and Marshall Kushner, Renee and Moe Handleman, **Robert Hilton, Sr.:** Joan and Milton Marcus, Silvia and Larry Roffman, Norma and Marshall Fried and family; **Mina Hirsch:** Marla and Robert Cohen; **Mother of Denise Hoich:** Jerry Slusky; **Robert Javitch:** Shirley and Herman Weinstein, Betty Fisher, Sylvia and Maynard Katzman, Kimberly and Andrew Robinson, Sandy and John Lehr, Judi and David Goldstein, Sue and Lewis Rudy, Nancy and Stefan Richter, Roz Friedman, Susie and Marvin Cohn; **Bernice Kaiman:** Sylvia and Jerry Kaiman; **Beth Kaplan:** Etta and Harold Epstein; **Samuel Kaplan:** Esther and Bob Katleman and family; **Maurice Katelman:** Shirley and Herman Weinstein; **Jerome Katz:** Beatrice Katz; **Lena Kohen:** Jeanette Krizelman; **Mickey Krupinsky:** Tham and Willard Friedman; **Eddie Kuklin:** Lisa and Gary Epstein and boys, Florence and George Eisenberg, Etta and Harold Epstein, Irene and Leo Kamisar, Sandy and Paul Epstein, Shirley and Herman Weinstein, Roz Friedman, June Goodbinder, Rosagene Baron; **Joe Levey:** David Krantz, Janey and Jerry Dann, Ruth and Phil Zell, Joanne and Bernard Weiner, Frances and Ralph Katz; **Louis Lipp:** Tham and Willard Friedman; **Bess Lipsey:** Shirley, Herman and Robert Weinstein, **Doris Madden:** Kathy, Allen and Rachel Beth Horwitz, Harriett and Sherm Sperling; **Ephraim Marks:** Isobel and Raynor Moscheth, Betty and John Kaplan, Aileen and Leo Eisenstatt, Carol and Ajon Farber, Tham and Willard Friedman,

Roz Friedman, Litzie and Yale Trustin, Joyce and Shelly Cohen, **Julius Novak:** Carol and Ajon Farber; Shirley and Herman Weinstein, Tham and Willard Friedman; **Joseph Rosen:** Marcia and Jack Cohen; **Milton "Soogy" Rosenblum:** Harriett and Sherm Sperling; **Rita Rosenblum:** Tham and Willard Friedman; **Norman Shulewitz:** Virginia Pinken, Phyllis and Normand Roffman, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Marks, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Kaipust, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Raabe, Mr. and Mrs. Kurt Christiansen, Michael Smith, Wendy Andrews; **Rosaline Somberg:** Shirley and Herman Weinstein, Tham and Willard Friedman; **Anne Ferer Sostrin:** Tham and Willard Friedman; **Helen Jacobson Speier:** Judy Kraft, Bruce Montgomery, Nathan Kraft, Sophie Goodman, Doris and Rich Rosinsky, Lisa and Gary Epstein and boys, Sandy and Paul Epstein, Leona Kasin, Patti and Tom Peterson, Indian Hills Villa Association, Selma and Is Tretiak, Tham and Willard Friedman, Joe Warin, Bettie Fisk, Pearl and Jerry Gross, Charney and Jerry Rosinsky, Penny and Randy Endelman, Shirley and Herman Weinstein, Roz Friedman, Judy and Dick Weill, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Warin, Bonness family, Dora Ravitz, June Goodbinder, Kevin and Linda Saltzman, Phyllis and Harvey Aronson, Marla and Robert Cohen; **Henry Sterling:** Miriam and Joe Soshnik; **Helene Weinstein:** Babe and Leo Nogg; **Janis Yale:** Eileen Seefus; **Warren Zweiback:** Judy Zweiback

IN HONOR OF RECOVERY OF: **Elyce Azriel:** Harriett and Sherm Sperling; **Dave Dvorkin:** Joe Frank; **Frances Ferer:** Rosagene and Susan Baron; **Madeleine Firestone:** Suzy Rubin; **Ruth Goldstein:** Selma and Is Tretiak; **Sara Harding:** Judi and David Goldstein; **Sarah Lohrman:** Judy and Shelly Brodsky, Selma and Is Tretiak; **Eddie Rosen:** Selma and Is Tretiak; **Morris Shapiro:** Sally and Maynard Telpner; **Nate Shukert:** Audrey and Morrie Shapiro; **Mrs. Earl Wigodsky:** Marge and Norm Lincoln

IN HONOR OF BIRTHDAY OF: **Larry Albert:** Terri and Dick Zacharia; **Joel Finkel:** Terri and Dick Zacharia; **Barbara Frankel:** Carol and Ajon Farber; **Dick Glazer:** Carol and Ajon Farber; **Sue Greenberg:** Terri and Dick Zacharia; **Bea Schimmel:** Fran and Jerry Milder; **Steve Simon:** Mike Erman; **Speedy Zweiback:** Carol and Ajon Farber

IN HONOR OF ANNIVERSARY OF: **Mr. and Mrs. Irvin Blumkin:** Eileen Seefus; **Mr. and Mrs. Norman Lincoln:** Fran and Jerry Milder, Aileen and Leo Eisenstatt; **Mr. and Mrs. Mike Milder:** Carol

and Ajon Farber; **Mr. and Mrs. Pete Milder:** Fran and Jerry Milder; **Mr. and Mrs. Ben Rifkin:** Harriett and Soni Marko

IN HONOR OF BIRTH OF: **Jonathan Daniel Cohen:** Jerry Slusky

IN HONOR OF B'NAI MITZVAH OF: **Doris Alloy:** Sylvia and Jerry Kaiman, Toby Fellman, Maxine and Jack Noodell, Ellen and Steve Siref; **Debbie Brookstein:** Toby Fellman; **John Dacey:** Sylvia and Jerry Kaiman; **Daniel Dresner:** Silvia and Larry Roffman; **Robin Dwinell:** Toby Fellman, Gayle, Jim, Sarah and Zach Spooner; **Stephanie Grossman:** Gayle, Jim, Sarah and Zach Spooner; **Angela Krieger:** Gayle, Jim, Sarah and Zach Spooner; **Joan Marcus:** Toby Fellman, Maxine and Jack Noodell, Florence and George Eisenberg; **Lee Needelman:** Gayle, Jim, Sarah and Zach Spooner; **Sandy Passer:** Gayle, Jim, Sarah and Zach Spooner, Toby Fellman; **Mimi Rogers:** Gayle, Jim, Sarah and Zach Spooner; **Jane Rips:** Gayle, Jim, Sarah and Zach Spooner, Toby Fellman, Barbara and Marvin Taxman; **Sara Schweid:** Denise, Jon and Shaina Meyers; **Beth Walts:** Toby Fellman; **Nancy Wolf:** Gayle, Jim, Sarah and Zach Spooner, Marilyn and Bill Wasserkrug, Toby Fellman

IN HONOR OF NCCJ HUMANITARIAN AWARD: **Stanlely Slosburg:** Eileen and Leonard Jacobson

IN HONOR OF GOLDEN SPIKE AWARD: **Jerry Hoberman:** Judy and Shelly Brodsky

IN HONOR OF NEW HOME OF: **Mr. and Mrs. Harry Alloy:** Shirley and Herman Weinstein

IN HONOR OF RETIREMENT OF: **Dr. Bill Waack:** Gail Kenkel

IN HONOR OF: **Rabbi and Elyce Azriel:** Carol and Mike Katzman; **Jane and Harlan Rips:** Silvia and Larry Roffman; **Judy Zweiback:** Silvia and Larry Roffman

IN HONOR OF OUR TEACHERS: **Rami Arav, Rabbi Aryeh Azriel, Rabbi Sidney H. Brooks, Joan Cooper, Susan Drazen, Gilda Pieck, Ann and David Schwartz, Rabbi Debbie Stiel and Maya Werthheimer:** Harry Alloy family, Bob Bleicher family, Richard Fox family, Barry Grossman family, Colleen Kennealy, Howard Needelman family, Michael Marcovitz family

Bleicher family, Richard Fox family, Barry Grossman family, Colleen Kennealy, Howard Needelman family, Michael Marcovitz family and David Tully family

APPRECIATION OF SERVICES OF: **Rabbi Aryeh Azriel, Rabbi Sidney H. Brooks, Rabbi Debbie Stiel, Hazzan Erik L.F. Contzius, Ann Kibel Schwartz, Dorothy Spizman**

GIFTS OF PRAYER BOOKS

IN MEMORY OF: **Jeanette Ban:** Shirley, Herman and Robert Weinstein; **Edward Belgrade:** Judi and David Goldstein, Connie and Bob Kully; **Jerome Cohn:** Maxine Sturm, Charney and Jerry Rosinsky, Connie and Bob Kully, Karen, Gary, Jenny, Mark and Rachel Javitch, Shirley and Millard Rosenberg, Shirley and Herman Weinstein; **Jeffrey Hermann:** Phyllis and Harvey Aronson, Nancy and Don Greenberg, Karen, Gary, Jenny, Mark and Rachel Javitch, Joie and Robert Greenberg, Phil Sokolof, Doris and Rich Rosinsky; **Eddie Kuklin:** Harriet Singer, Sylvia Cohn; **Joe Levey:** Ellen and Steve Siref; **Ephraim Marks:** Barbara Rips; **Benjamin Gimp Raffkind:** Hermene and Speedy Zweiback; **Helen Jacobson Speier:** Pauline and Milt Abrahams, Soralee and Jerry Cohn, Karen, Gary, Penny, Mark and Rachel Javitch, Marilyn Kovak Derrick; **Harold Stern:** Lillian and Lou Hurwitz; **Warren Zweiback:** Hermene and Speedy Zweiback

IN HONOR OF RECOVERY OF: **Sarah Lohrman:** Harriet Singer; **Mrs. Mickey Shafer:** Suzy Rubin

IN HONOR OF BIRTHDAY OF: **Dr. Edward Malashock:** Pearl and Jerry Gross, Jan and Stan Perlmeier

IN HONOR OF BAT MITZVAH OF: **Rosana Aronson:** Cynthia and Charles Schneider

SISTERHOOD TRIBUTE FUND

IN MEMORY OF: **Edward Belgrade:** Lois and Mel Epstein; **Sam Kaplan:** Jeanne and Dave Dvorkin; **Norman Shulewitz:** Lois and Mel Epstein

IN HONOR OF RECOVERY OF: **Reva Oruch:** Jeanne and Dave Dvorkin

IN HONOR OF BIRTH OF: **Jonathan Daniel Cohen, Lily Elizabeth Fowler:** Lois and Mel Epstein

CEMETERY LOTS

Due to increased costs of maintenance, the price of cemetery plots and perpetual care is increasing by \$400 effective October 1, 1998.

Anyone wishing to purchase plots at the existing price should contact the Temple office.

CONGRATULATIONS

On the Birth of:

Michael Joseph Militzer, son of Ellie A. and Paul H. Militzer. Grandparents are Sandy and Fred Ostrow and Josephine and Paul Militzer. Great-grandmother is Minnie Green.

Chaim Raphael Hayward, son of Rhonda and Ross Hayward. Grandparents are Charlotte and Ron Lustig, Tucson, AZ and Vivian and Russell Hayward, Bellevue, NE. Great-grandparents are Sherry and Daniel Mildens, Bellevue, NE and Crickett Shaw, Bellevue, NE.

On the Marriage of:

Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Saltzman. Mrs. Saltzman is the former Linda Lachin. Parents are Mr. and Mrs. Robert Lachin, Takoma Park, MD and Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Saltzman.

HEALING

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

If you know another person who needs the same, please ask the individual in need before calling the office.

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

OUR SYMPATHY

The congregation records with sorrow the deaths of:

Jeffrey Hermann, son of Charney and Jerry Rosinsky, brother of Ronna Silver and Bruce Hermann, and nephew of Harriet Singer;

Joe Levey, grandfather of Suzanne Newberg, and Shari Jankowsky;

Robert S. Javitch, husband of Ann Goldberg Javitch, father of Ruth Krisman, Gary, David and Joel Javitch, Judi Goldberg Oplinsky and Allen Goldberg, brother of Frances Smith;

Esther Colnic, mother of Shirley Bugenstein and Jerry Colnic and aunt of Doris Parker;

Edward L. Belgrade, husband of Sandra Belgrade, father of Robert, Bruce and James Belgrade, brother of Shirley Solotorovsky and brother-in-law of Marcia Cohen and Linda Mann;

Connie L. Adler, sister of Betty Weissman, sister-in-law of Jake and Morrie Adler;

Samuel Kaplan, husband of Charlotte Kaplan, father of Marilyn Treller, Andrea Dull and Marshall Kaplan;

Benjamin Raffkind, nephew of Judy Zweiback

Gene T. Placzek, husband of Claire Placzek, Grand Island, NE, father of Dan, Dick, Roger and Matthew Placzek, brother of Zig, Mike, Mary, Janet and Berna.

and extends sympathy to their bereaved families.

BEQUEST

The Board of Trustees was notified that the late Louis E. Lipp directed a bequest to our congregation.

We are very grateful for his including Temple Israel in his estate planning.

If you wish information about Temple's endowment program, please call Dorothy Spizman, Executive Director, 556-6536.

PLEASE NOTE FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE:

Temple East entrance has 3 handicapped parking spots - and, no steps into Temple.