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 Craig H. Marantz..... Rabbi
 Wendy Shermet..... Cantor
 Dennis DePorte..... Executive Director
 Elyce Azriel..... Middle/High School Director
 Lynne Jensen..... Director of
 Youth and Informal Education
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 Gary Kaplan..... Past President
 Cindy Goldberg..... WRJ-O President
 Mike Silverman..... Men's Club President
 Caroline Terry..... OTYG President

Please —
Remember to turn off your
paggers and
cellular
phones
before
entering the
sanctuary or
chapel.



Reach Out...and Email Us!

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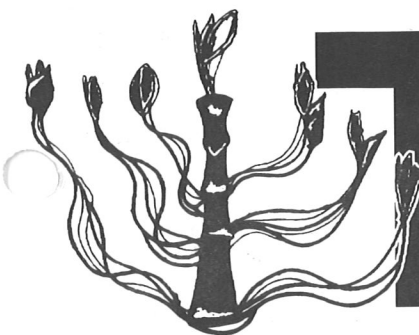
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Omaha, NE Founded 1871 Vol. XCIV No. 5 Kislev 29, 5766 December 30, 2005

Shabbaton for Justice: Focus on Poverty

Can a congregation make a difference?

Saturday, January 28, (Note new date) 9:15 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Location — somewhere terrific to be announced soon!

Join us in renewed discovery of the sparks that fuel our call for justice. Following a special morning service, we will study texts and resolutions related to one of the most challenging and compelling social issues facing our community and our nation: **poverty**. We will also explore avenues for action and advocacy that can maximize our effectiveness as individuals and as a congregation.

Our guest teacher, Jane Wishner, is a women's rights lawyer and advocate in Albuquerque, NM, who serves as Chairperson of the Union for Reform Judaism's Commission on Social Action (CSA). An OSRUI alum (she was a counselor when Rabbi Azriel was on staff), Ms. Wishner is the founder and president of the Southwest Women's Law Center. She has a B.A. from Harvard University and a law degree from Boalt Hall School of Law at the University of California at Berkeley. While an undergraduate, she became one of the first Legislative Assistants at the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism. In addition to her national leadership of the CSA, she serves on the boards of her synagogue, Congregation Albert, the Jewish Federation of Albuquerque, and the national Board of Governors of the American Jewish



Committee.

At the November 2005 Biennial Convention of the Union of Reform Judaism, Reform congregations took a common stand on a range of pressing concerns, including judicial nominations, torture, poverty, and war. The resolutions were shaped by the CSA under Jane Wishner's gifted leadership. Each is deeply rooted in our Jewish texts and values; each calls for specific, reasoned actions to be taken both at the national level and in places closer to home. Together let's explore how we can put them into action in our

congregation.

Ms. Wishner will be joined by Rabbi Aryeh Azriel and Dr. Magda Peck who serves on the CSA, in discussions about how our congregation can better work together and in partnership with others address the issues of poverty.

HOW TO REGISTER: Contact Program Director Rosie Zweiback at 556-6536 or rzweiback@templeisraelomaha.com by January 23.

This Shabbaton is generously supported by the Special Donor-Advised Fund of the Jewish Federation of Omaha Foundation.

Shabbaton continues
Sunday, January 29.
See article, page 2.

Let Your Voice be Heard!

Your vote in the upcoming elections to the World Zionist Organization **WILL** influence international Jewish policy. See page 9 to find out how easy it is to take action.



Published by Temple Israel
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 Website www.templeisrael-ne.org

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Reform Judaism in Transition

Top Ten List Questions People Ask the Temple President...

10. Will my cell phone go on "roam" out there?

Oh, come on...when the construction on Dodge is complete it will be a manageable drive. While we're on the subject, please remember to turn off your cell phone before services.

9. At that last community conversation what did people say?

On September 15, small groups discussed creating a common vision for a new building. Collectively, we want space that is welcoming, inviting and warm with functional places to gather, study and pray. Every small group listed innovative educational settings, community areas and kitchen facilities suitable for life cycle functions. Technology, accessibility, light, and sound are top priorities. There is general consensus that our new sacred space include a lower bima, an ark on the east wall and flexible seating. There were other common themes of multi-use/efficient design of space, using our current stained glass windows and the suggestion to consider maintenance when selecting materials.

8. Does Omaha's Jewish population merit a new temple?

Omaha is a vibrant community with economic development, innovative medical facilities, an expanding cultural presence and quality public education. I believe this is a critical opportunity to both attract and sustain a Jewish presence in Omaha.

7. What's the timeline from here?

Hard work. Hire an architect. Determine our needs for a new space. To me, the most important next step is to clarify our objectives by asking the following questions of our members:

- What will we be when we get there?
- What do we want Temple Israel to be?
- What will it take to sustain progressive Judaism in Omaha?
- How can our building help us

accomplish this?

6. Can we retain the natural waterfall feature in the smaller chapel?

Interesting idea? (Did you know the roof leaks into the Chapel when it rains or snow melts?)

5. Are we abandoning central Omaha?

Regardless of the location of our building, we will continue to foster the valuable relationships that inspire social action.

4. Why is 168th a good location?

This location is not a done deal, however, it has many positive features. It is a large piece of land with a beautiful view, there will not be commercial development next door, a city park sits across the street, it is financially responsible for us to use it...just to name a few.

3. What is the total budget for the project?

After the first phase of architectural drawings, perhaps by spring or early summer, we will have a much better idea. We anticipate the expense will fall between \$12-15 million. This number takes into account the value of the land at 168th and Dodge, the sale of the current facility, and an endowment.

2. Where are we going to get the money?

I recently attended a conference on sacred space where it was reported that in projects like ours, 80-90% of the money comes from 10-20% of the donors. For our project to become a reality, this will need to be the case. The board does not intend to burden our members with an unreasonable building fund.

1. How about a cup of coffee?

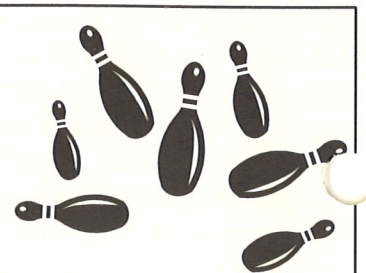
Lucky me, this is a wonderful opportunity. What will the coffee be like in the new building?

Coming to you in February.....

Purim? Ash Wednesday?

Let's Just Go Bowling!

Interfaith couples will go "mano-a-mano" for a wild night at the "lanes" Thursday, February 16. Look for details in the next *Tidings*. Contact Nikki and Adam Kirshenbaum at nkirshe@cox.net or 965-8935 to get involved!



Shabbaton For Justice Sunday, January 30th Milder Center 10 a.m.

Examining the "Wall" Between Church and State Sunday, January 29, 10 a.m.

Our conversation with Jane Wishner, Chairperson of the Union for Reform Judaism Commission on Social Action, continues with a focus on **Government and Religion: The Changing Law and Politics of Church-State Separation**.

At the Sunday morning seminar, Ms. Wishner will provide an overview of the religion clauses of the First Amendment, explore the distinctions and tensions between the free exercise clause and the establishment clause, and examine how the Supreme Court's interpretation of both clauses has changed in recent years. She will also address President Bush's faith-based initiatives and the implications of widespread government funding of pervasively sectarian organizations whose core missions include worship, religious education and proselytizing.

At no time in our recent history has the "wall" between church and state been more under siege. As Americans, and as Jews, gaining insight on this national debate is a priority if we are to protect our liberties as a religious minority in this country.

This session is co-sponsored by the ADL.

Welcome New Members!

Helene Silverstein

Helene was born and raised in Omaha and later moved to Webster City, IA, to raise her family. She has two grown children and has worked at the Webster City Medical Clinic for more than 20 years. She enjoys books, movies and small town living.

Lisa Coakley

Alexander, Grade 6

Cari, Grade 4

This is a homecoming for Lisa, who was raised at Temple Israel. She works the emergency desk for Travel and Transport Corporation. Alexander and Cari attend Picotte Elementary School. Both love music—Alex plays trumpet and Cari plays guitar. They have one spoiled cat called Sweetie.

Kim and David Stern

Samantha, 5 months

Kim and David both grew up in Omaha. David is doing an anesthesiology residency at UNMC, after completing an internal medicine residency at Creighton. Kim is in pharmaceutical sales. Samantha, a big smiler, likes to play and eat and doesn't care what time of the day or night it is.

Welcome

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

Meir Alter, the Gerer Rebbe

We welcome **Laura Schrager** who has recently chosen Judaism: May she go from strength to strength.

Shabbat Shira to Feature Commissioned Piece

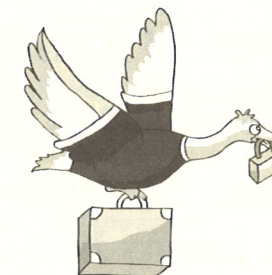
Shabbat Worship Service, Friday, February 10 7:30 p.m.

Shabbat Shira will showcase a choral piece commissioned especially for the Sabbath of Song. Based on Psalm 147, the piece by Valerie Shields will be presented for the first time by Cantor Wendy Shermet and the combined choirs of Temple Israel's Kol Rina and St. Paul United Methodist Church under the direction of Jerry Brabec.

Ms. Shields, musical accompanist and Director of the adult choir at Temple De Hirsch Sinai in Seattle, WA, wrote the piece for oboe, harp and organ. Cantor Shermet and Kol Rina will also be included in the presentation during the worship service on Sunday, February 12, at the Church, 5410 Corby Street.

"We are exceedingly fortunate to have Ms. Shields compose something especially for Shabbat Shira and the interfaith service at St. Paul on February 12," said Cantor Shermet. "This is a memorable occasion in the life of our congregation. We are also arranging to have her come to this premiere." Cantor added, "Jerry and I have copies of the Psalm now; we have played through it, and it's absolutely beautiful."

Rabbi Aryeh Azriel agreed. "As we invite the congregation of St. Paul United Methodist Church to be part of our worship and our experience, we also should be part of their experience. Go to the church and be part of the reciprocal relationship we're forging with them. It's important because we live in Omaha, and we constantly talk about relationship—about opening doors," he said. "They come to our house. It will be wonderful to visit them in their home."



Rabbi Azriel to Visit Arizona Snowbirds Sunday, January 22, 10:30 a.m.

Do you live in the Phoenix/Scottsdale, AZ, area? Rabbi Aryeh Azriel will be there for the Midwest Association of Reform Rabbis (MWARR) Conference in January. He'd like to have brunch with all the Jews from Omaha who have "transplanted" to the area. (Location to be announced.)

"Just come for coffee and a bagel," he requested. "It'll be another 'Rabbi Azriel Unplugged' but with better weather."

Cantor Shermet Cuts a CD

Cantor Wendy Shermet sings five selections on a new CD published by Transcontinental Music, the world's leading publisher of Jewish music. The CD is the third volume of "Shabbat Anthology."

All the music was recorded in New York City by cantors who are members of the American Conference of Cantors. Temple's former hazzan, Erik Contzius, can also be heard on the CD singing his own rendition of "Shalom Rav."

Some of the familiar music on the CD includes "L'Cha Dodi," "Shalom Aleichem," "Yism'chu," "V'sham'ru," "MiChamocha," "Ein Keloheinu," and "Sim Shalom." Some are new compositions and others are traditional with new arrangements.

To purchase the CD go to www.TranscontinentalMusic.com.

Women of Spirit XXI Welcomes All Women of Faith Sunday, January 29 1-6 p.m.

In an era of dangerous division among the world's religious traditions, *Women of Spirit* promotes understanding and peace among peoples of faith. *Women of Spirit* invites all women of faith to participate in a one-day gathering at the Creighton University Skutt Student Center, 24th and California Streets.

This year's theme, "Stories Between the Spaces of Our Lives, Our Cultures, Our Spiritual Paths," features professional storytellers from the Jewish, Muslim and Christian traditions represented respectively by Temple's own Rita Paskowitz, Novera King and Lucy Duncan.

Following the formal presentations, women can explore and enhance their own spiritual journeys by selecting from ten breakout sessions featuring educational opportunities about a variety of formal faith traditions and interactive sessions to explore their own stories.

Since 9/11 in 2001, Women of Spirit has been expanding and evolving in ever-widening circles to embrace all women of faith. The goal is to promote understanding among spiritual peoples.

In addition to the breakout sessions, refreshments will be available and an art show and sale, as well as a book sale, will add to the day's conversation, education and inspiration.

Advance registration of \$35 is required by Tuesday, January 10. After that date, the registration is \$45. For more information, log on to <http://marian.creighton.edu/~wos> or call the Knowles Mercy Spirituality Center at 359-4288.

Jewish College Students Union to Attend Shabbat at Temple

Friday, January 6, 6 p.m.

There's a new group in town. It's called the Omaha Jewish College Students Union (OJCSU). Spearheaded by Robert Mosenkis, a sophomore at UNO, OJCSU held its first event on December 2 at Beth El Synagogue. Temple member Jeff Gates said, "It went great!" About 30 college students from the UNL, Creighton University, UNO, Metropolitan Community College, and the College of St. Mary attended.

Lynne Jensen, Temple's Director of Youth and Informal Education, was elated that "the college crowd is getting together at various synagogues. I think it's fantastic! And I hope it's a big success!" she said.

Jeff looks forward to students from Bellevue University and Iowa Western Community College attending also. He mentioned that other social and educational events are in the planning stages, too.

There is no charge for college students to attend the Shabbat dinner following the worship service. To make a reservation or for more information, please contact Jeff at 680-7326 or jg15G@yahoo.com, Robert at 968-7013 or rmosenkis@hotmail.com, or Trevor Gerson at 301-5312 or eliezer1510@yahoo.com.

Our most sacred prayers are recited when the congregation is standing. Therefore, we ask that you not enter or leave the sanctuary or chapel until worshipers are seated.

Jewish Omaha's Service to the U.S. Armed Forces A Gallery Exhibition On Display January 4- January 31 Temple Israel

This spectacular exhibit honors 31 local Jewish heroes. Come see the faces and read the stories of veterans and active duty personnel who have served our country from WWII to the current war in Iraq.

The exhibit, a joint project of the Nebraska Jewish Historical Society, the Anti-Defamation League and area synagogues, was funded by the Special Donor-Advised Fund of the Jewish Federation of Omaha Foundation.

After you view the exhibit, see the bronze plaque opposite the Gift Shop. It honors the 57 Temple Israel members who served our country during World War I.

Hang Out and Catch Up

With Rabbi Azriel and
Friends from High School at
Temple Israel's College
Connection
Wednesday, January 4,
7 p.m.

at

Crane Coffee
(7772 Cass Street)

RSVPs are not
required—

but having fun is!



Voices from the Pews

Since he and his wife Ida joined Temple Israel, Sam Fedman has seen the congregation grow. Ida has since passed away, but the couple joined Temple, because "we liked being able to sit together as a family," Sam explained. "And we loved to go to Rosh Hashanah services together."

In the 40 years since Marshall and Norma Fried have belonged to Temple Israel, she has noticed that worship services have "become more traditional and Temple is a lot more welcoming to new people." She also is glad to see that "the kids (including teens) are more visible across the spectrum of activities than they used to be."

Norma said being a Reform Jew and a member of Temple Israel is meaningful to her, because "We're not totally focused on ourselves. I like being part of a congregation that involves itself in community outreach." One of her favorite moments is singing "America the Beautiful" at the end of High Holy Day services.

Marta Fox and her husband Ira have been members of Temple for about three years. "Everyone is very caring," she said, "including the staff, the clergy, congregants and the Women of Reform Judaism. It's a nice community." The mother of young children, Marta said her family enjoys the Pancake Man's visits to Temple. "It's a fun memory, especially with the kids."

Worship Services

Friday~December 30

6 p.m.

Shabbat Service

Rabbi Craig Marantz

Saturday~December 31

9:15-10:15 a.m.

Sparks Beneath the Surface

10:30 a.m.

Shabbat Service

Torah Portion: Miketz

Genesis 41:1-44:17

Haftarah: Zechariah 4:1-7

Friday~January 6

6 p.m.

Tot Shabbat

Rabbi Craig Marantz

Dinner immediately following

6 p.m.

Shabbat Service

Rabbi Aryeh Azriel

OJCSU dinner immediately following

Saturday~January 7

9:15-10:15 a.m.

Sparks Beneath the Surface

10:30 a.m.

Shabbat Service

Torah Portion: Vayigash

Genesis 44:18-47:27

Haftarah: Ezekiel 37:15-28

Friday~January 13

4 p.m.

Shabbat Comes to You

at Remington Heights

6 p.m.

Shabbat Service

Rabbi Aryeh Azriel

Saturday~January 14

9:15-10:15 a.m.

Sparks Beneath the Surface

10:30 a.m.

Shabbat Service

Torah Portion: Vayechi

Genesis 47:28-50:26

Haftarah: I Kings 2:1-12

Friday~January 20

6 p.m.

Shabbat Service

Rabbi Craig Marantz

Saturday~January 21

9:15-10:15 a.m.

Sparks Beneath the Surface

10:30 a.m.

Shabbat Service

Torah Portion: Shemot

Exodus 1:1-6:1

Haftarah: Isaiah 27:6-28:13; 29:22-23

Friday~January 27

6 p.m.

Grade 3 Family Shabbat Service

Rabbi Craig Marantz

Master Storyteller Rita Paskowitz

Saturday~January 28

9:15-10:15 a.m.

Sparks Beneath the Surface

10:30 a.m.

Shabbat Service

Bar Mitzvah of Joshua Moran

Son of Miriam and Don Moran

Torah Portion: Va'era

Exodus 6:2-9:35

Haftarah: Ezekiel 28:25-29:21

Friday~February 3

6 p.m.

Tot Shabbat

Rabbi Craig Marantz

Dinner immediately following

6 p.m.

Shabbat Service

Rabbi Aryeh Azriel

Saturday~February 4

9:15-10:15 a.m.

Sparks Beneath the Surface

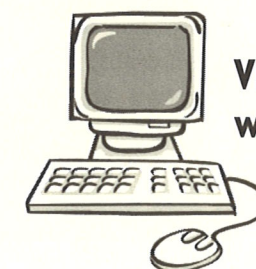
10:30 a.m.

Shabbat Service

Torah Portion: Bo

Exodus 10:1-13:16

Haftarah: Jeremiah 46:13-28



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

Women of Reform Judaism - Omaha

It's Time to Donate Those Books!

WRJ-O's Bi-annual Book Sale is coming this summer. So, check your shelves, attic, basement, kitchen, office, den, closets, or wherever your used hard and paper-backed books may be hiding!

DO: Start dropping off books for the sale at Temple Israel. Please pack the books in small boxes (not over 20#) or brown paper grocery bags.

DON'T: Bring magazines, textbooks, Readers Digests, encyclopedias or outdated travel books.



WRJ-O Welcomes New Members

Andrea Rochman-Narigon and Dana Kaufman!

SAVE THESE DATES!

Sunday, February 26: **Cradle Roll** - for preschoolers and their families
Sunday, March 5: **Pancake Man** - come catch a cake!

Sunday, March 5: **Friendship Tea** - a chance for the community to learn about Reform Judaism

Women of Reform Judaism raised more than \$600 for their projects at their December 6 "Crockpot Comfort Cooking." The Milder Center was filled with women lunching on crockpot recipes. Congratulations to Kathy McGauvran who had the lucky raffle ticket and won "the crockpot of your dreams."



Stacie Brodkey (L) and Stacie Spies-Matz with the "Crock Pot of Your Dreams."

Pancake Man a Flying Success!

Pancakes were airborne on Sunday, November 13 as the Pancake Man (Pancake Woman in this case) served up the delicious flapjacks. Over 170 people enjoyed the food and fun-- the most we've had in several years! Thank you to all of the volunteers that made this event a success.

Men's Club



Temple Israel Men's Club President Mike Silverman (right) presented highroller Harry Gates with the winning \$600 Visa gift card. The Men's Club-sponsored Texas Hold 'Em Poker tournament on Saturday, December 10, raised over \$2,800 for Temple's Music Fund.

Did You Know?

Reform Judaism is now the largest Jewish movement in North America with more than 900 congregations and 1.5 million people.

The word "Reform" in the name of our movement is a recognition that reform is part of our way of life as it has been for Jews throughout the centuries.

On three occasions during the last century and a half, the Reform rabbinate has adopted comprehensive statements to help guide the thought and practice of Reform Judaism. In 1885, 15 rabbis issued the Pittsburgh Platform, a set of guidelines that defined Reform Judaism for the next 50 years. A revised statement of principles, the Columbus Platform, was adopted by the Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR) in 1937. A third set of rabbinic guidelines, the Centenary Perspective, appeared in 1976 on the occasion of the centenary of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (UAHC which is now the Union for Reform Judaism, URJ) and the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion (HUC-JIR).

Adult Education

Aleph, bet, gimel, dalet, HEY!

Sign up for

Beyond the Aleph-Bet with Colleen Kennealy Beginning Sunday, January 8 10:15 a.m.-Noon

This is a perfect opportunity for parents,
whose children are attending Religious School,
to refresh their Hebrew reading skills
so they can assist children as they learn the aleph-bet,
and get more enjoyment from Temple's Shabbat worship services
Sign up with Rosie Zweiback at
556-6536
or at rzweiback@templeisraelomaha.com

Bad Girls of the Bible (rated PG-13)

With Guy Matalon,
Executive Director of the Center for Jewish Education
7 to 8 p.m.
Wednesdays, February 1 through 22
at Temple Israel

In the Community...

Cantor Wendy Shermet sang Chanukah songs for the enjoyment of members of the Rotary Club at their December 7 meeting. Sam Fried spoke to the gathering about his childhood during World War II, the Holocaust and what it means to be an American.

Welcome to Love and Logic Sundays, January 22 and 29 10-11:30 a.m.

"Wise parents know that kids will use guilt only if it works on their parents. And, wise parents never allow guilt to guide their parenting."

Karen Gustafson, a licensed therapist and parent instructor at Jewish Family Service, offered that advice from the book, *Love and Logicisms*. Karen has much more to share with parents when she teaches *Parenting Five through 12-Year-Olds with Love and Logic* at Temple Israel.

Last year, Karen facilitated a workshop at Temple's 4B's for parents which was so successful that they requested she return for more, according to Rosie Zweiback, Temple Israel Program Director.

Love and Logic puts teachers and parents in control and teaches children to be responsible while preparing them for the real world. *Love and Logic* is easy to learn, changes lives, and raises responsible kids who are fun to be around. The first rule in *Love and Logic* is for adults to take care of themselves by providing limits in a loving way. The number two rule is that childhood misbehavior should be treated as an opportunity for gaining wisdom.

The book's effective, positive strategies raise cooperative and responsible kids. With the right approach and appropriate consequences, *Love and Logic* gives parents the strategies to manage challenging behaviors without breaking a sweat.

Karen has worked with children and families for more than 20 years. She has taught several different parenting programs and became "sold" on the practicality of *Love and Logic*.

To register for *Love and Logic*, contact Rosie Zweiback at Temple at 556-6536 or rzweiback@templeisraelomaha.com.

Torah Corps Growing

Cantor Wendy Shermet reports a good response to her Torah Corps request. "Out of 19 Shabbatot available between December 24 and June 24, we've filled up eight worship services with lay members chanting or reading Torah and Haftarah."

"I'm not surprised by the volunteerism, nevertheless the response is gratifying." She added, "If you remember your portion from your Bar or Bat Mitzvah, and it's still available, you can read or chant that one." Torah Corps members read or chant three to six Torah verses and/or three to five Haftarah verses on Shabbat.

Cantor is still happy to welcome additional lay members in the Torah Corps. Contact her at wshermet@templeisraelomaha.com if you're interested.

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

Is She Here? Looking for God in the 21st Century Sunday, January 8, 10:30 a.m.

Join Rabbi Aryeh Azriel for a conversation about God: seeking her, finding her, trusting her. How do we understand God in light of the world around us? What is different about what we seek from God as compared to what generations of Jews before us believed about her? Why does the use of the feminine pronoun for God startle us? Appropriately, this workshop follows Prayer Assembly with the Religious School students. As always, bagels are on the house!

January/February 2006 • Tevet/Shevat 5766

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					30	31 Sparks Beneath the Surface 9:15-10:15 a.m. Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m.
					ShabbatService 6 p.m. Light 6th Candle December	Light 7th Candle
1 No Religious School New Year's Day Light 8th Candle January	2 Office Closed Last Day of Chanukah	3 No Family School AA, Alanon & Gamblers' 12-step 7:30 p.m.	4 No Religious School or Middle/High School College Connection at Crane Coffee (7772 Cass Street) 7 p.m.	5 Adult Study With the Clergy 10-11:30 a.m. Kol Rina 6:30-8 p.m.	6 Tot Shabbat Dinner Following 6 p.m. Shabbat Service OCJSU Dinner Following 6 p.m.	7 Sparks Beneath the Surface 9:15-10:15 a.m. Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m.
8 Teacher Meeting 9 a.m. Religious School Grades K-6 10 a.m.-Noon Prayer Assembly 10 a.m. Beyond the Aleph-Bet 10:15 a.m. 4Bs 10:30 a.m. OTYG Sledding @ TI Noon	9	10 Family School, Dinner & Keep Up 5:30-8 p.m. AA, Alanon & Gamblers' 12-step 7:30 p.m.	11 Religious School Grades 3-6 4-6 p.m. Scrapbook Club 5 p.m. Informal Dinner 6 p.m. Grades 7-11 6:30-8:30 p.m.	12 Adult Study With the Clergy 10-11:30 a.m. Kol Rina 6:30-8 p.m.	13 Shabbat comes To You @ Remington Heights 4 p.m. Shabbat Service 6 p.m.	14 Sparks Beneath the Surface 9:15-10:15 a.m. Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m.
15 Teacher Meeting 9:30 a.m. Religious School Grades K-6 10 a.m.-Noon WRJ-O Board Meeting 10 a.m. Beyond the Aleph-Bet 10:15 a.m.	16 Martin Luther King Day	17 Family School, Dinner & Keep Up 5:30-8 p.m. Board of Trustees 7 p.m. AA, Alanon & Gamblers' 12-step 7:30 p.m.	18 Religious School Grades 3-6 4-6 p.m. JYG Painted Furniture 5 p.m. Grades 3-12 Dinner 6 p.m. Grades 7-12 6:30-8:30 p.m.	19 Adult Study With the Clergy 10-11:30 a.m. Kol Rina 6:30-8 p.m.	20 Shabbat Service 6 p.m.	21 Sparks Beneath the Surface 9:15-10:15 a.m. Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m.
22 Teacher Meeting 9:30 a.m. Religious School Grades K-6 10 a.m.-Noon Love & Logic 10 a.m. Beyond the Aleph-Bet 10:15 a.m. Club 56 Meshugana Bowling Noon-2 p.m.	23	24 Family School, Dinner & Keep Up 5:30-8 p.m. AA, Alanon & Gamblers' 12-step 7:30 p.m.	25 Religious School Grades 3-6 4-6 p.m. No Middle/High School Classes	26 Adult Study With the Clergy 10-11:30 a.m. Kol Rina 6:30-8 p.m.	27 Grade 3 Family Shabbat Service 6 p.m.	28 Sparks Beneath the Surface 9:15-10:15 a.m. Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m. Bar Mitzvah of Joshua Moran
29 Teacher Meeting 9:30 a.m. Religious School Grades K-6 10 a.m.-Noon Love & Logic 10 a.m. Beyond the Aleph-Bet 10:15 a.m. Women of Spirit @ Creighton University 1 p.m. Jewish Book Talk @ Council Bluffs Public Library 2 p.m.	30	31 Family School, Dinner & Keep Up 5:30-8 p.m. AA, Alanon & Gamblers' 12-step 7:30 p.m.	1 Religious School Grades 3-6 4-6 p.m. Grades 7-12 6:30-8:30 p.m. Bad Girls of the Bible 7 p.m. February	2 Adult Study With the Clergy 10-11:30 a.m.	3 Tot Shabbat Dinner Following 6 p.m. Shabbat Service 6 p.m.	4 Sparks Beneath the Surface 9:30-10:15 a.m. Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m.

OTOC Update

Allison Latenser

Omaha Together One community held its 10th Anniversary Convocation on Sunday, November 13. Approximately 1,000 people from 35 member institutions, including a 15 member delegation from Temple Israel, gathered at the Holiday Inn Convention Center to address the *Challenge for 2006: Shaping a Community That Works For All*.

The city-wide house meeting campaign that was kicked off at Temple Israel on September 11, produced a lot of discussion and a proposed plan of action on four issues:

- State Subsidies for Quality Jobs
- Health Care
- Nebraska Driver's Certificate
- Public Education

Wendy Goldberg shared the podium with Maddie Fennel during the Education Committee's presentation. Together, the women explained that OTOC does not endorse "One City, One School District." Rather, OTOC wants to promote reasonable discussion on the question of how Omaha's citizens can design the best education for all our children for decades to come. OTOC has developed a set of criteria upon which to assess all educational equity plans proposed by school districts, legislators and/or civic leaders. For a copy of these criteria, please contact me at alatenser@yahoo.com or 553-8853.

Rabbi Azriel offered the closing prayer and challenge: *Nebraska, Let There Be No Strangers Here*.

Since the convocation, several Temple congregants have been working hard on OTOC's Education and Health Care Committees. The Education Committee is working to create a cadre of informed citizens who can discuss the opportunities and challenges of area schools from first-hand experience. Using a standardized questionnaire, teams of parents representing several districts are being organized to visit schools throughout Omaha in order to determine the state of resources at each school. The goals of this effort are to:

- determine the facts of the situation;
- discover information that will help the legislature determine the best way to organize schools in eastern Nebraska;
- to develop relationships with educators in other districts;
- to develop relationships among Omaha area districts.

If you would like to serve on a visitation team or have questions about this effort, please call Ellen Platt at 397-0551.

On November 29, Dr. Larry Roffman, a member of OTOC's Health Care Committee, led a training session for representatives from OTOC congregations on how to manage Part D of Medicare's Rx Drug Benefit Plan. Joan Marcus joined fellow members of the Committee in a conversation with Senators Jim Jensen and Nancy Thompson to talk about support for LB 712 that will help Nebraskans with prescription drug costs. Senator Thompson is considering making this her priority bill. A meeting was also arranged with Senator Dennis Byars to talk about health care.

OTOC is planning a Legislative Day in Lincoln on Wednesday, January 25. All four committees will meet with legislators to present their research and to ask for the legislature's support on OTOC issues. All interested members are invited to attend! If you'd like to ride down with the delegation from Temple, please call Joan Marcus at 333-5995.

Your ARZA Vote Is Needed!

Every four years, the Jewish world conducts elections to the World Zionist Organization (WZO). The WZO is the parliament of the Jewish people.

Registration forms are available in the Temple office, or register online at www.VoteReformJudaism.com. Registration continues until February 15, 2006. All adult members (who are 18 by June 2006) are eligible to vote.

A Mind of Her Own: Fathers and Daughters in a Changing World

Let's Talk About It

A Jewish Literature Book Discussion Group in Partnership with the Council Bluffs Public Library

Professor Joan Latchaw, from the University of Nebraska at Omaha, and Gary Katz, of the Kripke Jewish Federation Library, will lead five book discussion groups beginning on the last Sunday in January at the Council Bluffs Public Library (400 Willow Avenue). The once-a-month discussion will alternate between the Council Bluffs Public Library and Temple Israel.

Each book chosen depicts the journey of Jewish daughters struggling to reconcile a sense of family loyalty and obligation with a desire for independence and self-identity set against a background of Jewish life from tsarist Russia to postwar America.

There is no fee for this adult education opportunity presented by the Hermene Zweiback Center for Lifelong Jewish Learning.

To register for "Let's Talk About It," contact Rosie Zweiback at 556-6536 or at rzweiback@templeisraelomaha.com.

Let's Talk About It Schedule

Sundays, 2-3:30 p.m.
January 26, Council Bluffs Public Library
Tevye the Dairyman by Sholem Aleichem
February 26, Temple Israel
Bread Givers by Anzia Yezierska
March 26, Council Bluffs Public Library
1185 Park Avenue by Anne Roiphe
April 23, Temple Israel
American Pastoral by Philip Roth
May 28, Council Bluffs Public Library
Bee Season by Myla Goldberg

What's Happening in Religious School

Rabbi Craig Marantz, Elementary School Director

Classes Resume Sunday, January 8
Religious School resumes Sunday, January 8 for grades K-6. Family School resumes January 10. Midweek classes for grades 3-6 resume January 11.

Family Prayer Assembly and 4Bs Sunday, January 8
Following our 10 a.m. Prayer Assembly, parents are invited to attend the 4Bs at 10:30 a.m. (see pg 7). Parents not attending the learning session or the Prayer Assembly are asked to pick up their child(ren) at Noon.

Grade 3 Shabbat Service and Dinner Friday, January 27
The congregation is invited to participate in this special Family Service at 6 p.m. which will be conducted by the third grade students.

Grade 6 Projects Due Sunday, January 29
Sixth graders, please turn in your Jewish rituals research projects to Morah Maya. Presentations will begin February 12. Families and friends are invited to join the class at 11:30 a.m. on the day of your child's presentation, but are welcome to come to all.

Parent/Teacher Conferences Sunday, February 6
Kindergarten through Grade 6 parents and teachers will meet to discuss student progress on Sunday morning in the classrooms. Families with last names beginning with A-L come from 10-11 a.m. Families with last names beginning with M-Z come from 11a.m.-Noon. This is a free make-up day for students IF a parent attends the brief conference.

Campers Crazy About Their Jewish Camps

Olin-Sang-Ruby Union Institute (OSRUI) "was a lot of fun, and I made a lot of friends," claimed Alexis Slutzky, 11, who was a second-timer at OSRUI in Wisconsin last summer. The sixth grader especially enjoyed the Shabbat walk when all the girls in her cabin would go to the boys' cabin (or vice versa) and walk to the cafeteria together singing all the while. When they arrived at the cafeteria, they stood by their chairs, sang some more, and recited the blessings. There was more singing as Shabbat ended in the early evening with *havdalah*.

Leah Miller, eight, was a first-timer at Herzl Camp. "I really liked it," she said. During her week at Herzl, located in Wisconsin, Leah enjoyed learning how to do archery. "I also

liked to write letters to my family," admitted the third grader who likes to make new friends. "I made friends with everybody in my cabin," she said, adding that "Shabbat was really fun."

Now is the time to register for camp. Sessions fill up quickly. Confidential scholarships are available through the Center for Jewish Education (formerly Jewish Educational and Library Services). The Jewish Federation offers \$500 to youngsters who attend Jewish camps the summer before or the summer after their B'nai Mitzvah. Some camps themselves offer financial assistance. In addition, all Temple Israel youth are eligible for a \$1,000 Eisenberg campership for their first Jewish camp experience.

Youth &

Tot Shabbat 2006 January 6 and February 3 6 p.m.

Tot Shabbat is a once-a-month "fun, joyful Shabbat" prayer service for families with children up to five-years-old, explained Rabbi Marantz. Older siblings and grandparents are welcome! "Kids really love it," added the rabbi, and so will you if you enjoy "excitement and unbridled joy!"

Alexander Kraft, three and a half, "absolutely loves Tot Shabbat!" emphasized his mother Natasha. "Bim Bam is his favorite song," added Natasha who described Tot Shabbat as "kid crazy and totally geared for children which is perfect. Alexander wants to go pray. He can understand this service. He can participate." She explained that she marks Tot Shabbat on her calendar with candles so Alexander will know when he can go to Temple to pray.

"I know we're accomplishing our goal at Tot Shabbat," said Rabbi Marantz, "because the chapel is consistently filled with enthusiasm and happiness, because the children show real commitment to *tzedakah* when they come to the service, because the older ones can answer questions that show they're learning. The kids become more comfortable saying the prayers -- some in Hebrew. We have a lot of people who come consistently -- 25 to 50 each month. And I know there are families getting together on their own who connected at Tot Shabbat."

The short service is followed by a family-friendly dinner of pasta, cheese sticks, chicken fingers and salads. Cost is \$5 per adult; children eat for free. Make your reservations with the Temple office at 556-6536 or mkube@templeisraelomaha.com.

Education

We're Going Sledding!

All high schoolers are invited to come to the OTYG January program! We're going sledding in Memorial Park on **Sunday, January 8**, after Religious School!

We'll meet at Temple, do a little lunch, then carpool to the park together. Bring all of your sleds, coats, hats, whatever you want to keep you warm! We'll be having some fun contests, so be ready! Afterwards we'll warm up with hot chocolate and hand out prizes.

If there's no snow, don't worry, we're still getting together. This is free for all OTYG members and \$5 for non-OTYG members. RSVP to Sarah Bleicher (990-3996) or to Lynne Jensen (556-6536).

The Chavurah is Coming! The Chavurah is Coming!

Omaha Temple Youth Group and Temple Israel are hosting the **Missouri Valley Spring Chavurah**, on the weekend of **April 20-24, 2006**. We are looking forward to this phenomenal weekend. Three hundred terrific NYFTites from five midwestern states are expected to come and spend the weekend with us! We are counting on the help and support of the entire congregation. Volunteers are needed to help provide transportation to and from the airport, serve food, and house participants. Please mark your calendars! We will be sending out a letter in January asking for your help in these areas.

Please contact Hamutal Ginsburg at nikebabe2k@hotmail.com or Josh Bleicher at jobleich@brownell.edu for more information.

Club 56 is the Place to Be!

Temple's 5th and 6th graders had a wonderfully relaxing afternoon on December 11. They enjoyed a pizza lunch and root beer floats while watching a movie in the OTYG youth lounge. You can see pictures of this event on Temple's website: www.templeisrael-ne.org.

Meshugana Bowling, the next Club 56 program, will be **Sunday, January 22, Noon-2:00 p.m.** We will eat lunch at Temple, then walk over to West Lanes for a little bowling with a crazy twist. The cost is \$5 per person, and all 5th and 6th graders are welcome to join us. Contact Lynne Jensen to RSVP (556-6536).

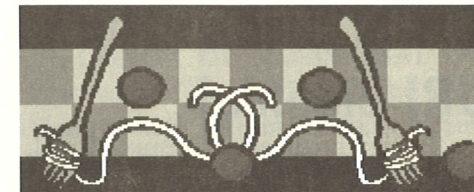
JYG Boys are Victorious

Temple's Junior Youth Group recently enjoyed a rousing Second Annual Battle Between the Sexes. Seventh and eighth graders competed in a variety of games to determine which group was the best at the bizarre range of events. Last year, the girls battled to victory in a contest of Chanukah-related challenges. This year, after a grueling competition of Gaga, Flippy Cup and Judaic collage-making, the boys were triumphant.

The next JYG program is Wednesday, January 11, 5 p.m. when the Painted Furniture Contest returns. OTYG and JYG each paint a piece of furniture for auction at the Spaghetti Dinner. The group that sells their piece for the highest amount during the live auction wins! Last year's competition ended in a tie. Who will win this year?

Please come and help JYG paint a spectacular *objet d'art*. Contact Leora Azriel 960-5796 or Lynne Jensen (556-6536) to RSVP.

Don't forget to bring *schmatas* (rags) so you don't ruin your school clothes!



Live, Laugh and Linguini Annual Spaghetti Dinner Sunday, February 12 5 p.m.

Ashley Bernstein, Special Projects Vice President

OTYG is hard at work on this year's Annual Spaghetti Dinner! This year we've created two new things to make the dinner even better.

The first thing we added was a Spaghetti Dinner Board to keep everyone informed of opportunities to support the event. Idea tags are on display that can be adopted and created into baskets for the auction. Please visit the Spaghetti Dinner Board in the main hallway and see if there's an idea you'd love to adopt!

The second thing we've added is reserved seating for the dinner. An entire table can be reserved so that your friends and family can sit together. (See the enclosed flyer for more information.)

Thank you very much – I hope everyone is excited and ready for a great time at Live, Laugh and Linguini!

Birthday Blessings Grade 3 Family Service Friday, January 27, 6 p.m.

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

Incredible Music, Great Friends, Social Justice Mark URJ Biennial

Twenty members of Temple Israel, including lay leaders, clergy, and staff, attended the Union for Reform Judaism 68th Biennial in November in Houston, Texas. Temple's delegation was the largest from the Midwest.

Surrounded by more than 4,000 Reform Jews, Sally Kaplan "was reminded again of how proud I am to be part of a movement that cares and responds to the needs of the individual congregant, the congregation as a whole, to the Jewish community, and to the world in which we live." As a Temple Israel Vice President, she said "The Biennial gave me the opportunity to concentrate on ways to make each congregant feel welcomed and embraced at Temple as well as re-igniting my passion for healing the world."

Gary Kaplan, a past president of the Temple Board, pointed out that "The Biennial was well balanced with personal fulfillment in worship and song, synagogue management advice, and exploring our obligations in the world as Reform Jews." He especially enjoyed hearing Rabbi Eugene Borowitz, a teacher at HUC, who "gave a brilliant lecture on the reasons behind all of the changes in our movement over the last 100 years. He cautioned us to always keep both the spiritual journey and our obligations to repair the world central to our movement even as the balance between the two shift."

"For me, this Biennial was like a Jewish battery charger," said Deb Marburg, a first timer. "It re-energized my spirit and reinforced my affection for Temple Israel and our entire Jewish community of Omaha. Some of the sessions I attended focused on young children and their families, teaching

them Torah stories, and learning elements of an effective, positive Shabbat experience for them. I hope to be able to utilize this information and share it with the 'tots' in our community."

Jeff Schweid, who sang in the Biennial choir (alongside fellow Kol Rina member Jon Meyers), was attending his second Biennial. "I attended workshops that dealt with adult education and how some programs are run at other temples plus a workshop on how to connect Israel in education programs. Participating in the choir allowed me to meet other Jewish synagogue singers, meet composers who wrote some of the songs we sang, learn from another conductor and improve my singing."

Some will remember the Biennial for "the walking, the incredible music, and the great friends!" said Cindy Goldberg, President of WRJ-O. "It was also very educational and social justice packed," she added. Hurricane relief, the religious right, the war in Iraq, and Supreme Court nominee Judge Samuel Alito were among the issues raised at the Biennial.

Although it was not planned to be a "social justice Biennial," explained Jane Rips, who as chair of the Biennial Program Committee was responsible for the amazing success of the Biennial, "it quickly became apparent that that was an emerging theme. It seems that the delegates and the speakers alike were inspired by the theme of *To Do What's Just and Right: God's Challenge to Reform Jews*."

Others in the Temple Israel delegation included Rabbi Aryeh and Elyce Azriel, Dennis DePorte, Wendy Goldberg, Lynne Jensen, Ducky Milder, Anne Rips, Larry and Silvia Roffman, Claudia Sherman, Cantor Wendy Shermet, Chelsea Taxman, Mike Walts, Andi Willensky and Rosie Zweiback.

Cantor Wendy Shermet was one of four presenters at a session entitled "Who Moved My Melody - Integrating New Repertoire into Shabbat Worship."

Yellow Ribbon Speakers Captivate Parents and Teens with Personal Stories

About 125 parents and teens listened so quietly "you could have heard a pin drop," according to Lisa Epstein, who was in the crowd on November 30 at Temple Israel. Dave Carlson, Director of Yellow Ribbon, Ben Sief, from the Centering Corporation, and Rita Paskowitz, a Temple congregant and teacher, spoke about teen suicide and depression.

"It was outstanding and thought provoking," Lisa continued. She grasped the message that "if you suspect or know of anyone (contemplating suicide), don't keep it to yourself. She noticed how the kids "really tuned in. The speakers really reached the kids."

Caroline Terry, 17, was one of the teens in the audience. "It was really moving," she said. "Everyone was crying. I think everyone was made more aware of suicide, and we learned about the warning signs."

"Teenage suicide is more prevalent perhaps than is generally believed," added Allison Latenser. People who commit suicide don't do it to die, they do it to end the pain. We need to let kids know there are other ways to deal with the pain. They don't need to choose death."

"I've felt for a long time that I have a responsibility to talk about depression," explained Rita Paskowitz, one of the speakers. "If someone had talked to me like that when I was a kid, maybe I wouldn't have felt so alone," she said. "Maybe I would have realized that if someone else can talk about it, maybe I can too. Part of my job is to say: 'We were there too.' And to the parents... depression is not something you choose."

"The three speakers were so unselfish and brave," Jodi Brodsky noted, "to talk about their darkest moments. I don't think any parent -- no matter how healthy their kids seem to be -- should miss this."

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

IN MEMORY OF: Art Adler: Janet and Jerry Slusky, Debbi and Speedy Zweiback; **Frances Batt:** Anne and Alan Cohen, George Eisenberg, Lisa and Gary Epstein, Nancy and Don Greenberg, Nancy and David Jacobson, Judy and Keith Josephson, Dodi and Steve Redler, Jane and Harlan Rips, Margo and Bill Rosen, Suzy Rubin, Joie Simon, Monica Sacks, Janet and Jerry Slusky, Helen Soiref, Debbi and Speedy Zweiback; **Martha Cohen Cherniss:** Leta Rae Cherniss; **Cecelia Eirinberg:** Jill and Bruce Baron and family, Becki Brenner, Nancy and David Jacobson; **Bernard Fischer:** Sharon Sobel and Jeff Schweid; **Ida Gassner:** Roie and Bernie Meyers; **Sadie Gitlin:** Ann R. Cohen; **Henry Greenberg:** Rosalie and Milton Saylon; **Pauline Hoberman:** Anne and Alan Cohen, Babe Cohn, Nancy and David Jacobson, Dodi and Steve Redler, Jane and Harlan Rips, Joie Simon, Janet and Jerry Slusky, Judy Vann, Debbi and Speedy Zweiback; **Adele Hornstein:** Debbi and Speedy Zweiback and Lauren and Leigh-Anne Brown; **Joseph Needelman:** Sandy and Paul Epstein, Toby Fellman, Jill, George, Justin and Brandon Idelman, Sylvia and Jerry Kaiman, Amy and Richard Katz, Joan and Milton Marcus, Ducky and Mike Milder, Sandy and Jeff Passer, Jane and Harlan Rips, Sharon Sobel and Jeff Schweid, Debi and Jeff Smedlund, Allyson and Chris Wilczewski, Judy Zweiback; **Sandy Ostrow:** Fran and Louie Blumkin, Cindy Bogdanoff, Babe Cohn, Toby Fellman, Judy and Keith Josephson, Sylvia and Jerry Kaiman, Esther and Bob Katleman, Phyllis Schwartz, Debi and Jeff Smedlund; **Sylvia Parilman:** Janice and Shelly Harris, Sheila and Ray Tomps; **Corinne Rockman:** Jill and Bruce Baron and family, Beth and Ron Brodkey, Sandy and Paul Epstein, Courtney and Matt Ferer, Jordana and Jim Glazer, Lois and Steve Kaufman, Phyllis and Bob Newman, Margo, Aaron and Charles Parsow, Jane and Harlan Rips, Sarah

and Adam Yale, Terri and Dick Zacharia, Amee and Ted Zetzman, Debbi and Speedy Zweiback; **Linda Scanlon:** Norman Whitman; **Helen Sherrill:** Debbi and Speedy Zweiback; **Ruth Sternhill:** Lee and Howard Needelman, Rosalie and Milton Saylan; **Ruth Sutin:** Connie and Bob Kully and family, Joie Simon; **Maurice Udes:** Builders Supply Company, Byron Reed Company, Babe Cohn, Gary Emenitove, Darlynn and Tom Fellman, Dodi and Steve Redler, Suzy Rubin, Monica Sacks, Jennie St. Lucas, Helen Soiref; **Seymour Zoob:** Anne and Alan Cohen

IN HONOR OF RECOVERY OF: **Bernice Cohen:** Frances and Ralph Katz; **Bobbie Epstein:** Molline and Fritz Cassman; **Lois Epstein:** Jeanne and David Dvorkin, Toby Fellman, Debbi and Larry Josephson, Joan and Milton Marcus, Harriet and Sonny Marko, Bernice Kaplan, Bob Kaplan and Toni Rosen, Lorrie and Maury Poscover, Jeanne Shechet, Shirley Weinstein, Susan and Jerry Wolper; **Mrs. Yale Gotsdiner:** Eileen and Leonard Jacobson; **Myllee Katelman, Sheldon Turkel:** Shirley Weinstein; **Larry Kavich:** Bob Weinstein, Shirley Weinstein; **Peggy Krasne:** Lois and Bob Endelman, Shirley Weinstein; **Mark Meiches:** Sylvia and Jerry Kaiman, Rosalie and Maurie Meiches, Sheila and Ray Tomps; **Roie Meyers:** Molline and Fritz Cassman; **Ducky Milder:** Joan and Milton Marcus; **Fred Simon:** Barbara and Marshall Kushner, Joan and Milton Marcus; **Donald Vann:** Soralee and Jerry Cohn; **Richard Zacharia:** Janet and Jerry Slusky, Bob Weinstein, Shirley Weinstein

IN HONOR OF BIRTHDAY OF: **Toby Fellman, Howard Marcus:** Joan and Milton Marcus; **Betty Fisher:** Rita Rosen; **Jack Noodell:** Sandy and Fred Bromley, Joan and Milton Marcus, Roie and Bernie Meyers; **Howard Silber:** Sandy and Fred Bromley, Rose Pitlor; **Marvin Taxman:** Joie Simon and Mort

Zuber; **Evie Zysman:** Sandy Nogg

IN HONOR OF ANNIVERSARY OF: **Frances and Sam Fried:** Jeanie Neff; **Maxine and Milton Simons:** Elaine Tepperman

IN HONOR OF BAR MITZVAH OF: **Joshua Danon:** Sharon Sobel and Jeff Schweid

IN HONOR OF CHOOSING JUDAISM: **Don'L Dacey:** Sharon Sobel and Jeff Schweid, **Patrick Jensen:** Wendy and David Goldberg

IN HONOR OF RECEIVING THE FEDERATION YOUNG LEADERSHIP AWARD: **Michael Miller:** Wendy and David Goldberg, Amee and Ted Zetzman

IN APPRECIATION OF INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING COORDINATION: **Sandy Passer:** Andi and David Willensky

IN APPRECIATION OF: Rabbi Aryeh Azriel, Rabbi Craig Marantz, Cantor Wendy Shermet, Dennis DePorte, Elyce Azriel, Lori Bennett, Willie Clark, Vicki Ducharme, Edith Gamble, Brigitte Gaspard, Lynne Jensen, Maureen Kube, Claudia Sherman, Bonnie Sullivan, Lonnie Williams, Rosie Zweiback

Healing

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

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

Biennial Attendees



Sally and Gary Kaplan



Jeff Schweid, Rabbi Ilan Emanuel of Lincoln's South Street Temple, Dennis DePorte, Sally Kaplan



Wendy Goldberg (L) and Cindy Goldberg

B'nai Mitzvah Class Paints Mezuzot for Blumkin Home Resident Rooms

Members of Temple's Adult B'nai Mitzvah class of 2004 painted *mezuzot* for every resident's room at the Rose Blumkin Jewish Home. "It was Merilee Rimerman's idea that became our *mitzvah* project," said Ellen Long, a member of the B'nai Mitzvah.

Old *mezuzot* were falling off the doors and some didn't have scrolls inside. The ceramics class at the Blumkin Home started the painting project. When Sarah Schondelmeyer noticed the class needed help with the detail work, she offered her services.

"We met at my house and worked on the *mezuzot* for a whole year," Sarah said. Others who worked on the project were Jennifer Glazer, Jill Idelman, Allison Latenser, Lacie Morgan and Ellen Platt.

Sitter Service

is available...

- each Friday evening for the 7:30 p.m. service;
- Saturday mornings when there is a bar or bat mitzvah;
- Sunday mornings when there is Religious School.
- Advance reservations and a \$5 donation are appreciated. Sorry, there are no facilities for infants.

Our Sympathy

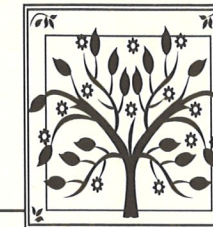
The Congregation records with sorrow the deaths of...

Harlan Noddle, husband of Nancy Noddle, father of Susan Noddle and Jay Noddle, brother of Allan Noddle and Jeff Noddle, and brother-in-law of Jim Farber;

Sandy Ostrow, wife of Fred Ostrow, and mother of Ellie Militzer, Nadine Ostrow and Gary Ostrow;

Ruth Sutin, mother of Suzanne Marcus and John Sutin, and sister of Blanche Moss

...and extends sympathy to their bereaved families.



Tree of Life

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

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

To Honor
Michael Miller
Receiving The
Bruce Fellman
Young Leadership Award
With Love,
Jill & Mike

Is Your Family Celebrating a Simcha?

Share your celebration with the congregation. You can sponsor an Oneg Shabbat for a baby naming, an anniversary, a birthday, or any special occasion in your family's life. The Oneg can be as simple as cookies and coffee or cakes and root beer floats.

Contact Executive Director Dennis DePorte at 556-6536 or ddeporte@templeisraelomaha.com for more information.

Environmental Shabbaton

Winter is not FOREVER! Come Spring, you will be itching to get outside to enjoy a world ready to bloom. Plan to join us for a Shabbat like NO OTHER!

On **Saturday, April 29** we are planning an Environmental Shabbaton for families. We'll meet for a day in nature at a beautiful camp along the Platte River. Outdoor services, hiking, planting, bird watching, recycling and more!

Save the date NOW!

Contribution Form

All donations received will be placed in the Endowment Fund unless specifically directed otherwise.

In Memory of _____

In Honor of ☐ Recovery ☐ Birthday ☐ Anniversary ☐ Other _____

of (name) _____

☐ Fund _____ ☐ Amount _____

Recipient Name _____

Address _____

Donor Name _____

Address _____

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, at 556-6536.

\$6.00 fund contributions:

David Bleicher Camp Scholarship
Mel and Genevieve Bornstein
Social Justice

Rabbi Sidney H. and Jane Brooks
Institute on Judaism for Clergy
Caring

Cemetery Improvement

Education

Endowment

Samuel and Ida Kaiman Endowment

Sol and Jeanette Krizelman

Social Justice

Landscape

Library

Music

Outreach

Ruth and Bernard Raskin

Youth Activities

Margaret and Arnold Robinson

Family Jewish Education

Milton and Rosalie Saylan

Jewish Education

Jennifer Soshnik Scholarship

Brad Sperling Memorial Fund

for Education of Young Children

Temple Youth Group

Elinor Whitman Religious Education

Janis L. Yale Enrichment

Hermene Zweiback Fund for

Lifelong Jewish Learning

Rabbi Azriel's Discretionary

Rabbi Marantz's Discretionary

Cantor Shermet's Discretionary

Executive Director's Discretionary

Prayer Book (\$30 donation)