

Temple Israel Staff and Officers

Aryeh Azriel..... Rabbi
 Craig H. Marantz..... Rabbi
 Wendy Shermet..... Cantor
 Dennis DePorte..... Executive Director
 Joan Cooper..... Elementary School Coordinator
 Elyce Azriel..... Middle/High School Director
 Lynne Jensen..... Director of
 Youth and Informal Education
 Rosie Zweiback..... Program Director
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 John Lehr..... Assistant Treasurer
 Michael Walts..... Past President
 Nancy Nogg..... WRJ-O President
 Jacob Bleicher..... OTYG President

Reach Out...and Email Us!

Rabbi Aryeh Azriel
 aazriel@templeisraelomaha.com

Rabbi Craig Marantz
 cmarantz@templeisraelomaha.com

Cantor Wendy Shermet
 wshermet@templeisraelomaha.com

Dennis DePorte
 Executive Director
 ddeporte@templeisraelomaha.com

Elyce Azriel
 Middle/High School Director
 eazriel@templeisraelomaha.com

Lori Bennett
 Administrative Assistant
 lbennett@templeisraelomaha.com

Joan Cooper
 Elementary School Coordinator
 jcooper@templeisraelomaha.com

Vicki Ducharme
 Bookkeeper
 vducharme@templeisraelomaha.com

Brigitte Gaspard
 Religious School Secretary
 bgaspard@templeisraelomaha.com

Lynne Jensen
 Youth and Informal Education Director
 ljensen@templeisraelomaha.com

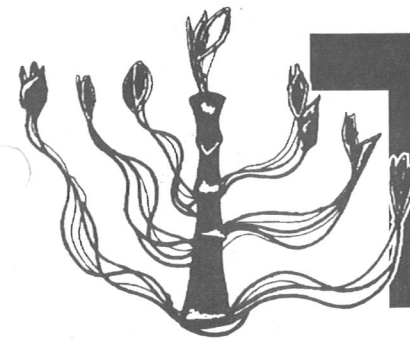
Maureen Kube
 Receptionist/Donations
 mkube@templeisraelomaha.com

Claudia Sherman
 Communications Coordinator
 csherman@templeisraelomaha.com

Bonnie Sullivan
 Clergy Secretary
 bsullivan@templeisraelomaha.com

Rosie Zweiback
 Program Director
 rzweiback@templeisraelomaha.com

General Inquiries
 tisrael@templeisraelomaha.com



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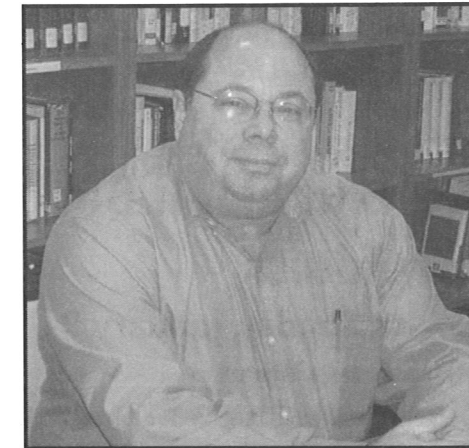
Temple Welcomes an Old Friend to a New Job

Dennis DePorte, a longtime volunteer and lay leader at Temple Israel, has been named the new Executive Director. He assumed the position on Monday, November 29.

A member of Temple since 1976, Dennis believes the depth of his knowledge of the history and inner workings of Temple, as well as his passion for the congregation, will serve him well in his new position. As Director of Marketing and Sales at Ak-Sar-Ben Beef Company since 1984, Dennis feels, that in a business sense, he is qualified to manage and run the physical property of the synagogue.

Mike Walts, Chairman of the Executive Director Search Committee, said, "We are very excited and feel very fortunate to have Dennis. He's a great choice. His intricate knowledge of how Temple works, being on the board, and having been treasurer make him well qualified for the job. His love of the congregation and his passion and compassion will serve him and the congregation very well."

In 1988, Dennis began a three-year stint as President of Temple's Men's Club. During that period, he reactivated the group. Following that, he was elected to the Board of Trustees. At the same time, he served on the Dues Equalization Committee which he chaired for three years. Later he became a member of the Executive Committee and was elected Treasurer



and then Vice-President. Last year, he served on the Executive Committee as a presidential appointment.

Dennis was also a member of several search committees including the ones that hired Cantor Wendy Shermet and previous to her, Cantor Jennifer Blum. In addition to co-chairing Temple's Annual Golf Outing, Dennis spearheaded the congregation's popular Deli Night. He gave his assurance that Temple would continue to host a Deli Night despite his change in occupation.

However, he was slated to be the next President of the Board of Trustees and now, as Executive Director, will relinquish the board position.

As Treasurer and Dues Equalization Committee Chairman, Dennis worked directly with former Executive Director Dorothy Spizman who served in the position for 20 years. "I was part of the Finance Council and the Long Range Financial Planning Committee, both

of which worked closely with Dorothy," Dennis said.

As for switching from board member to staff member, Dennis acknowledged that "the board will now be my boss, my overseer. But having been in that capacity, I know what the board expects, and that should come as a benefit in my new position."

"I hope to continue the great traditions of Temple Israel and help it flourish whether at our present location or in a new facility, and to share my passion with the staff and the membership," he said. He expressed his intention "to be greatly involved" in working with the planning committee as it progresses in its quest for a new building. He pointed out that he would want to "keep everything running smoothly as the plans move forward, because the internal mechanisms still have to run."

Dennis' wife, Pam, an Omaha Public Schools supervisor in early childhood education, their daughter Stephanie who is the principal of Temple Judea in Tarzana, CA, and their son Alan, a sales executive for Worldwide Express associated with DHL in Chicago, are all "very excited" about Dennis' new opportunity.

"Sometimes, you see an opportunity and watch it go by," Dennis explained. "But the more I thought about it, along with my involvement at Temple, this was an opportunity I didn't want to let pass by."



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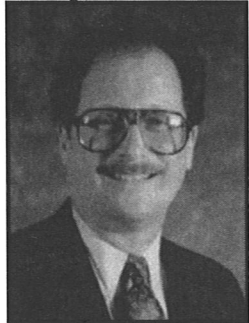
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Celebrating 350 Years of Jews in America

URJ Regional Director To Speak at Temple

Rabbi Lane Steinger, Regional Director of the Midwest Council of the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ) since 1996, will speak at Shabbat worship services at **7:30 p.m. on Friday, January 7**. He will explore the impact of the Reform movement on American Jewish life in his topic, "350 Years of American Jewry



and 180 Years of American Reform Judaism: Glories of the Past and Prospects for the Future."

"The Reform movement has been very influential in various ways on American Jews as a synagogue model and at an ideological level," Rabbi Steinger said. "I will talk about the interplay between American Judaism and Reform Judaism and vice versa."

A native of St. Louis, MO, Rabbi Steinger was ordained from Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati, OH, in 1973.

Active in matters of Jewish and general concern on the local, state and national levels, Rabbi Steinger served for six years on the Commission on Social Action of Reform Judaism, was involved with the Christian, Muslim, Jewish Leadership Forum (in Detroit) from its inception in 1985, and was a faculty member of Olin-Sang-Ruby Union Institute in Wisconsin for ten years.

An author, Rabbi Steinger has written several articles and essays including one about his memories of his great-grandmother, Anna Rodenberg, and another entitled, "Honor Humanity and Honor the Holy One" for URJ's *Torat Chayim - Living Torah* series.

Rabbi Steinger's visit to Temple Israel is sponsored by the Hermene Zweiback Center for Lifelong Jewish Learning.

A Special Thank You

Temple Israel's congregation, Board of Trustees and staff are grateful to the support and custodial staffs for managing the office and the extra hours and work during the months without an executive director. Thank you all! We couldn't have done it without you!

Beyond Aleph Bet for Adults

Begins Sunday, January 9 10:15 a.m.-Noon

Temple's well-received Hebrew for Beginners class ends soon, but due to the popularity of the course, instructor Colleen Kennealy will teach Beyond the Aleph Bet for those who wish to continue and for others who would like to expand their knowledge of Hebrew.

Class begins on Sunday, January 9, and concludes on February 13. Colleen is a trained foreign language teacher. The class will focus on reading prayers and blessings from the *Siddur*. She plans to make it a "multi-media" experience by encouraging class participants to practice during the week by visiting the Cantor's Classroom on Temple's website: www.templeisrael-ne.org.

After only one session, Laura Schrager, who is taking the beginners' class, said, "It's moving fast. There's lots of energy in the room. Everyone seems eager to learn. Colleen is great. She's patient and thorough."

Class fee is \$18 for members and \$25 for non-members. Register with Program Director Rosie Zweiback at rzweiback@templeisraelomaha.com or 556-6536.

Take a Bite Out of the Big Apple!

March 10-13

Join Rabbi Aryeh and Elyce Azriel for a unique tour of Jewish New York City. Space is still available for this once-in-a-lifetime experience.

Imagine your first night in the Big Apple as you dine at Becco's Italian Restaurant, one of the city's hot spots, in the company of Al Vorspan, this year's highly acclaimed scholar-in-residence. First-class accommodations at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Times Square, special tours of Ellis Island, the Battery Park Museum of Jewish Heritage, and the Lower East Side, plus Shabbat dinner and services at Congregation B'nai Jeshurun are among the other highlights of this four-day tour.

Contact Rosie Zweiback, 556-6536 or rzweiback@templeisraelomaha.com for more details. \$200 holds your seat. Final deadline to enroll is January 4. Our website (www.templeisrael-ne.org) has complete tour information.

Welcome New Members

Angela and Adam Ailloni

Mae and Scott Berger

Jamie and Troy Meyerson

Roseann and John Rosen

Birthday Blessings Chanukah Family Service December 10, 6 p.m.

Children and adults who celebrate their birthdays during the month of December will be invited to the *bimah* for a special blessing at the Chanukah Family Service.

Women of Spirit Group Supports Interfaith Education

Lee Needelman

Several Temple women participated in the Women of Spirit event last year that integrated Christian, Jewish and Muslim women. Originally Christian in origin, this group of women decided to include different faiths following 9/11, in a desire to open minds and help build bridges of understanding.

Last year the Women of Spirit had programming that included group meetings about how women live within the faiths of Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

I attended this gathering then for the first time, both as a presenter and a participant. The day was a totally awesome experience! A day of song, dance and speakers, in a moving setting; a rich environment including fountains, candles, drapery, photos, and statuary. And shopping: an art show and book sale!

The whole day left me transformed, feeling close to women of different backgrounds, more informed of their faith traditions, and feeling hopeful that women can be the start of the healing of the world!

Please join us for the Women of Spirit 20th year program, "Weaving Women's Wisdom, a Multi-faith Gathering of Women of Spirit." **Save the date—Saturday, January 29—and come to the UNO Student Center, 60th and Dodge, from 1-8 p.m.** for an incredible interfaith, intergenerational day celebrating women's wisdom. See the enclosed flyer for more information!

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 Rabbi

We welcome **David M. Rice** who has recently chosen Judaism: May he go from strength to strength!

Save the Date Dru Greenwood to Speak at Temple Israel Friday, January 28

Join Dru Greenwood, Director of Synagogue Community and Outreach for the Union for Reform Judaism, for a community conversation following the 7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service.

Ms. Greenwood is a national leader in helping congregations build strong, inclusive communities.

You won't want to miss this opportunity to speak with her in the relaxed warmth of an Oneg Shabbat!

Who Do You Call?

While Rabbi Azriel is on sabbatical from December 19 through March 19, Rabbi Marantz and Cantor Shermet will be available as always if you need them. Please let them know if someone in the Temple Israel family is ill or in the hospital, or to share a happy event. Call the office at 556-6536.

Men's Club to the Rescue!

Temple has long been in need of a portable sound system to use in the Milder Center for guest speakers and large adult education classes. We are very fortunate that Men's Club saw this need and met it. We now have a state of the art system that can even be used at the cemetery. Big thanks to Men's Club and all its loyal members!

Important Tax Information

In order to be included on the 2004 tax information letter you receive from Temple, your payment must be received in the Temple office by Wednesday, January 5, 2005.

Keep in mind that appreciated assets can make great gifts to Temple. Take stock, for example. If you have owned the stock for at least a year and one day, you can receive full value for the gift, including all the appreciation. What's more, neither you nor Temple will have to pay capital gains tax on the gift. The more the stock has appreciated, the greater the benefit. Your tax advisor can spell out the specifics for you. For information on transferring stock to Temple, please call Dennis DePorte, Executive Director, 556-6536.

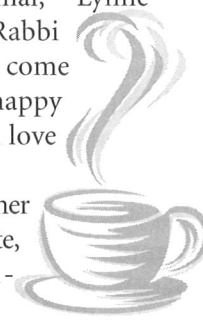
College Coffee at Espresso Mary's Saturday, December 18 3:30-5:30 p.m.

All of Temple's college students and college-age members are invited to stop by Espresso Mary's at 5111 Leavenworth Street to chat with Rabbi Aryeh Azriel; Rabbi Craig Marantz; Elyce Azriel, Director of Temple's Middle/High School; and Lynne Jensen, Director of Youth and Informal Education.

If you're home for winter break or if you live in Omaha, "please drop by and say hello," said Lynne. If possible, call the Temple office at 556-6536 and let us know you'll be there. If you aren't able to RSVP, "please don't let that stop you," she added. "Please come anyway!"

"It's very informal," Lynne said. "It's also Rabbi Azriel's birthday so come by and make it a happy one for him. We'd all love to see you!"

Check out the Keshet link on Temple's website, www.templeisrael-ne.org.



Women of Reform Judaism-Omaha



December Dates:

12/10: Chanukah Family Service, 6 p.m. Congregational dinner following (make your reservation by Friday, December 3!).

12/12: Cradle Roll, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

January Dates:

1/16: Cooking Class, 10 a.m.

Reminder:

Tot Shabbat will not be held on December 3. Please come to the Chanukah Family Service and Dinner on December 10 instead! Reservations due by Friday, December 3.

Bake Me a Cake as Fast as You Can!

We need to stock our freezer with baked goods for Onegs. Will you help us? Please bring labeled and dated baked goods to the kitchen and place them in WRJ's freezer. We appreciate you helping us out!

Did You Know...

- WRJ-O contributed \$1,000 to the Jewish Federation of Omaha to help fund free genetic testing that took place over the summer. The testing was available to the Jewish communities of Omaha, Lincoln and Des Moines. Doctors from the Boys Town National Research Hospital screened participants for 10 diseases that affect those of Jewish heritage.
- We had several valuable books to sell that were donated for our annual Book Sale. E-Street Auctions waived their usual commission fee and sold the books for us. We received over \$200 for these books. Thank you E-Street Auctions!

Celebrate Chanukah at Cradle Roll

Sunday, December 12, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Cradle Roll Chairman Ann Osborne promises a finger-licking good time at December's event! Children and their families who attend will have fun making edible menorahs and singing songs.

Cradle Roll is a special time for infants and children of pre-kindergarten age to come to Temple with their parents and grand-

parents to participate in age-appropriate activities. Adults can share in the fun and get a chance to chat with other parents and Temple's clergy.

There is no charge for this hour-long event sponsored by the Women

of Reform Judaism-Omaha. RSVPs are appreciated but not mandatory. Drop-in if you have the morning free. Please call Ann Osborne at 933-4954.



NOW is the Time to Shop at WRJ's Fabulous Gift Shop

If you take a peek at the calendar, Chanukah is right around the corner! If you still need a menorah or candles, dreidels, decorations, a gift or wrapping paper, the gift shop at Temple will be open for your shopping needs!



Hours are:

-Mondays-Thursdays: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

-Fridays: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

-Sundays: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.



Sandy Nogg, Temple's dedicated gift shop manager, said she has menorahs, 12 different kinds of candles, paper plates, cups, napkins, gift wrap and dreidels "by the bucket." There are collectors' dreidels, laser dreidels, musical dreidels and soft baby dreidels to name a few assorted varieties. She also has Chanukah gelt in milk chocolate and bittersweet flavors as well as cookies for those who are not "into baking."

There are small toys and stickers for sale and gifts for adults. Gift certificates are also available.

Whatever your needs, Sandy and her volunteers at the gift shop will be glad to help you make it a Happy Chanukah at your house.

A Lesson in Time

350 Years of Jews in America 1873 - 1889

In 1873, the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (UAHC) was established in Cincinnati with the goals of creating a rabbinical seminary, strengthening Jewish education, and preserving Jewish identity. Its founders had hoped to embrace all American synagogues, but instead the Union came to represent Reform Jewish congregations. Two years later, Hebrew Union College was founded under the presidency of Isaac Mayer Wise.

Predecessor of today's Jewish Community Center, the Young Men's Hebrew Association was founded in 1874 and grew to more than 120 branches throughout the country by 1890.

New Hampshire became the last state to offer Jews political equality in 1877. However, social anti-Semitism was growing in America as illustrated by the Grand Union Hotel of Saratoga Springs refusing admission to Joseph Seligman, a prominent banker, allegedly because he was a Jew.

In an effort to perpetuate and elevate the spirit of Judaism, the *American Hebrew*, a highbrow Jewish newspaper, was established in 1879 in New York.

By 1881, following the assassination of Alexander II, thousands of Jews left Russia in the wake of pogroms and anti-Jewish legislation marking the onset of massive immigration. The Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society was founded to assist the immigrants.

In 1883, Emma Lazarus penned her sonnet, *The New Colossus*. Twenty years later the sonnet was inscribed on the base of the Statue of Liberty, greeting immigrants with the timeless words, "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddle masses, yearning to breathe free..."

That year, UAHC celebrated its tenth anniversary and the first ordination from HUC with a non-kosher banquet leading to calls for a more traditional seminary in America. An eight-point "Pittsburgh Platform" in 1885 sought to demonstrate "what Reform Judaism means and aims at."

Orthodox lay leaders established Etz Chaim Yeshiva in 1886 in New York. Teaching Talmud was at the core of the curriculum followed by secular studies after 4 p.m. In 1887, the Jewish Theological Seminary opened in New York to serve "Jews of America faithful to Mosaic law and ancestral tradition." Eventually, it became the seminary for Conservative rabbis.

The Hebrew Actors Union, the nation's first actors' union, was created in 1887.

Arriving in New York from Vilna in 1888, Jacob Joseph served as the city's first (and last) chief rabbi but found himself able to accomplish little.

Under the presidency of Isaac Mayer Wise, the Central Conference of American Rabbis was founded in 1889. It soon became the rabbinical arm of the Reform Movement.

Reaching Out to Interfaith Families

Temple Israel will offer a class beginning Tuesday, January 11, for interfaith families of the congregation to explore Jewish choices. The seven-week course will be facilitated by John Dacey who has led numerous Jewish Journey Groups at Temple. Last summer, John participated in Outreach Fellows Interfaith Family Training at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati, OH. He was one of 36 participants from across the country.

After returning from Cincinnati, John was asked by Rabbi Aryeh Azriel how to reach out to interfaith families at Temple. "We have some good programs going at Temple," John said, "but we need more" in the area of serving the needs of interfaith families. Thus the idea to hold a class for these Temple families was born.

Over seven weeks, the class content will address the meaning of religious tradition, considering religious differences, relating to family and friends, choosing a faith for a family, transmitting a religious faith, and exploring what it means to be part of the Jewish community.

Register with Rosie Zweiback, 556-6536 or rzweiback@templeisraelomaha.com. **There is an \$18 fee, per couple, to take the class which is held Tuesdays, January 11 through February 22, 6:30-8 p.m.**



Save the Date!

Spaghetti Dinner & Auction

Sunday, February 13

5 p.m. at Temple Israel

Please call Lynne Jensen at Temple (556-6536) if you can donate a theme-filled basket.

Garden tools, sports equipment, Husker collectibles...just use your imagination!

HAPPY CHANUKAH!

How Do We Light the Chanukah Candles?

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



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

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

On the first night, one light is lit, beginning on the far right of the menorah. On each succeeding night a light

is added to the left of those on the preceding night, and the kindling proceeds from left to right.

These two blessings are recited each night:

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

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

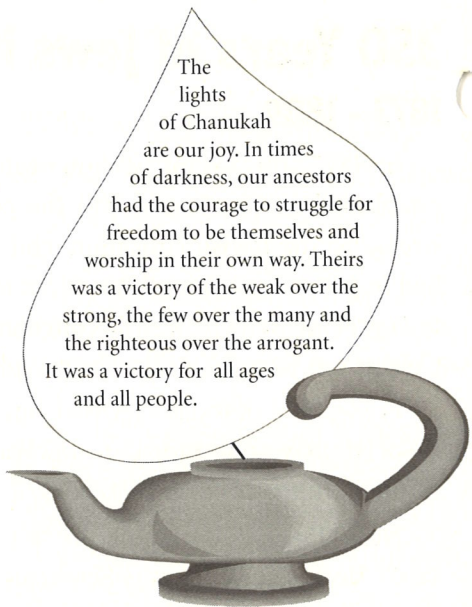
Ba-ruch-a-tah A-doh-nai Eh-lo-hay-nu me-lech hah-oh-lahm she-ah-sah ni-seem lah-ah-vo-tay-nu bah-yah-meem ha-haym baz-man hah-zeh.

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

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

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

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



Celebrate the Feast of Lights as a Community! Join us for Temple's Chanukah Family Service Friday, December 10 at 6 p.m.

Mi Yemaleil

Mi ye-ma-leil ge-vu-rot Yis-ra-eil, o-tan me yim-neh? Hein be-chol dor -ya-kum ha-gi-bor, go-eil ha-am. She-me! Ba-ya-mim ha-heim ba-ze-man ha-zeh, Ma-ka-bi mo-shi-a-u-to-deh. U-ve-ya-mei-nu kol am Yis-ra-eil yit-a-cheid, ya-kum le-hi-g-eil! Who can retell the things that befell us, Who can count them? In every age a hero or sage Came to our aid. Hark! In days of yore, in Israel's ancient land, Brave Maccabees led this faithful band. And now all Israel must as one arise, Redeem itself through deed and sacrifice!

December 2004 • Kislev/Tevet 5765

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 JYG Program 5-6 p.m. Hebrew Club 5-6 p.m. Bible Quiz Study 5:30-6:30 p.m. Youth Group Dinner 6-6:30 p.m. Religious School Grades 7-12 6:30-8:30 p.m.	2 Adult Study with the Clergy 10-11:30 a.m. Religious School Grades 3-6 4-6 p.m. Kol Rina 6:30-8 p.m.	3 Torah Tots 10-11:30 a.m. Teacher Appreciation Dinner 6 p.m. Shabbat Service Educator-in-Residence Rabbi Sam Joseph 7:30 p.m.	4 Bagels & Sacred Books with Rabbi Joseph 9-10:15 a.m. Bat Mitzvah of Zoë Vann Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m.
5 Teacher Meeting 9 a.m. Religious School Grades K-6 10 a.m.-Noon Prayer Assembly 10 a.m. Beginning Hebrew 10:15 a.m.-Noon 4B's with Rabbi Joseph 10:30 a.m. Club 56 Noon-4 p.m.	6	7 Basic Judaism 6:15-8 p.m. Family School & Keep Up 6:15-8 p.m. AA, Alanon & Gambler's 12-step 7:30 p.m.	8 Religious School and Dinner Grades 7-12 @ J.C.C. 6-8:30 p.m. Bible Quiz	9 Adult Study with the Clergy 10-11:30 a.m. Religious School Grades 3-6 4-6 p.m. Kol Rina 6:30-8 p.m.	10 Torah Tots 10-11:30 a.m. Shabbat Comes to You at Remington 4 p.m. Chanukah Family Service 6 p.m. Chanukah Dinner 6:45 p.m.	11 Bagels & Sacred Books 9:30-10:15 a.m. Bar Mitzvah of Alexander Finkle Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m.
12 Religious School Steering Committee 8:45 a.m. Teacher Meeting 9:30 a.m. Religious School Grades K-6 10 a.m.-Noon Beginning Hebrew 10:15 a.m.-Noon Cradle Roll 10:30-11:30 a.m.	13	14 Basic Judaism 6:15-8 p.m. Family School & Keep Up 6:15-8 p.m. Board of Trustees 7:30 p.m. AA, Alanon & Gambler's 12-step 7:30 p.m.	15 Conversation with Rabbi Marantz Noon-1 p.m. No Religious School	16 Men's Spirituality Group @ Market Basket 7:30-8:30 a.m. Adult Study with the Clergy 10-11:30 a.m. Religious School Grades 3-6 4-6 p.m. Grade 6 Parents Meeting 6 p.m.	17 Union Prayerbook Service 6 p.m. Family Service 6 p.m.	18 Bagels & Sacred Books 9:30-10:15 a.m. Bar Mitzvah of Justin Idelman Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m. College Coffee Klatch Espresso Mary's 3:30 p.m.
19 Teacher Meeting 9:30 a.m. Religious School Grades K-6 10 a.m.-Noon Beginning Hebrew 10:15 a.m.-Noon	20	21 No Religious School AA, Alanon & Gambler's 12-step 7:30 p.m.	22 No Religious School	23 No Religious School	24 Shabbat Service 6 p.m.	25 No Bagels & Sacred Books Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m.
26 No Religious School	27	28 No Religious School	29 No Religious School	30 No Religious School	31 Shabbat Service 6 p.m.	I No Bagels & Sacred Books Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m.

Worship Services

Friday~December 3

7:30 p.m.

Shabbat Service

Educator-in-Residence

Rabbi Sam Joseph

"You Better be Good
for Goodness Sake"

Oneg Shabbat sponsored by
Leslie Vann and Tom Vann in honor
of the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter
and by the Women of Reform Judaism

Saturday~December 4

9-10:15 a.m.

Bagels and Sacred Books

with Rabbi Joseph

10:30 a.m.

Shabbat Service

Bat Mitzvah of Zoë Nicole Vann

Daughter of Leslie Vann and Tom Vann

Torah Portion: Vayeshev

Genesis 37:1-40:23

Haftarah: Amos 2:6-3:8

Friday~December 10

4 p.m.

Shabbat Comes to You

at Remington Heights

6 p.m.

Chanukah Family Service

Chanukah Dinner following

Saturday~December 11

9:30-10:15 a.m.

Bagels and Sacred Books

10:30 a.m.

Shabbat Service

Bar Mitzvah of Alexander C. Finkle

Son of Sue and Terry Finkle

Torah Portion: Miketz

Genesis 41:1-44:17

Haftarah: Zechariah 4:1-7

Friday~December 17

6 p.m.

Early Worship Service

Union Prayerbook Service

6 p.m.

Family Service

Saturday~December 18

9:30-10:15 a.m.

Bagels and Sacred Books

10:30 a.m.

Shabbat Service

Bar Mitzvah of

Justin Reed Idelman

Son of Jill and George Idelman

Torah Portion: Vayigash

Genesis 44:18-47:27

Haftarah: Ezekiel 37:15-28

Friday~December 24

6 p.m.

Shabbat Service

D'var Torah

Cantor Wendy Shermet

Saturday~December 25

No Bagels & Sacred Books

10:30 a.m.

Shabbat Service

Torah Portion: Vayechi

Genesis 47:28-50:26

Haftarah: I Kings 2:1-12

Friday~December 31

6 p.m.

Shabbat Service

D'var Torah

Rabbi Craig Marantz

Saturday~January 1

No Bagels & Sacred Books

10:30 a.m.

Shabbat Service

Torah Portion: Shemot

Exodus 1:1-6:1

Haftarah: Isaiah 27:6-28:13;

29:22-23

Remember Our 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 Lori Bennett, Interim Executive Director, at 556-6536.

\$6.00 fund contributions:

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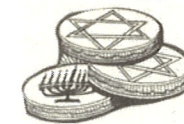
Executive Director's Discretionary

In Search of Oil ~ A Tale from the Talmud

Adapted by Claudia Sherman

The town of Ladakiya had run out of oil. The townspeople were frantic! How would they light their menorahs on Chanukah?

Everyone gathered in the town square to discuss the crisis. They decided to appoint Isaac to go search for some more oil. They gave him some money to pay for the oil.



Isaac waved good by and promised he would travel near and far to find oil for Ladakiya. His fellow townspeople wished him well on his journey.

Isaac first went to beautiful Jerusalem, city of gold. With its large population and impressive, gleaming structures, he was confident that he would find someone to sell him the oil he needed. He wandered through neighborhoods and street markets asking nearly everyone, "Where can I buy some oil for the people of my little town?"

Repeatedly, Isaac was told, "I'm sorry, but we have no oil to spare. It's all needed for the people of Jerusalem." Finally, someone suggested to Isaac that he go to Tyre and ask if someone there could sell oil to the townsfolk of Ladakiya.

But in Tyre, a busy seaport, Isaac heard the same story. "Oh my, we have barely enough oil for the people of Tyre!" said a merchant who was hauling goods to trade aboard a sea vessel. Finally, someone suggested to Isaac that he travel to Gush Halav. "Someone there may have some extra oil for you," a sailor mentioned.

Shortly after arriving in Gush Halav, a well dressed official directed Isaac to a field on the outskirts of town. "Only one man can sell you the oil you need. You'll find him working in the fields."

Isaac reached the field where the worker was digging around the olive trees. "How can this poor worker who is covered with sweat and dirt from laboring out in the fields all day help me find oil?" Isaac thought to himself. "Surely this is not the right person to see," he surmised.

Having traveled so far, though, Isaac decided to ask the field worker if he knew of someone who could sell enough oil for an entire village. Cautiously, Isaac asked, "I have been sent by my village to buy oil for my fellow townspeople. Do you possibly know where I might buy some?"

"Please let me finish my work," said the laborer in the field. "Then we'll talk about it." Isaac sat down and watched the other man who worked diligently as the sun slowly slipped below the horizon. At last, the worker gathered his tools and nodded to Isaac.

"Come with me," he said. "We'll go to my house and discuss what I can do to help you."

Isaac, thinking that he was wasting his time, nevertheless followed the man who cleared a path for them to walk.

As they neared the house, a servant rushed out with a bowl of hot water. He stood attentively by as the worker washed his hands and feet. Then the servant handed the worker a towel. Another servant came out of the house with a golden bowl of oil. With clean, dry hands, the man who had been working in the fields dipped his hands and feet in the oil to soothe and smooth them. Isaac, amazed and trying to understand, stood and watched as the field worker emerged into a gracious host. He invited Isaac to supper.

It was a sumptuous, delicious meal served on heavy plates and accompanied by a goblet of sweet red wine. Isaac hardly knew what to make of it!

After completing dinner, Isaac's host asked how much oil was needed. Describing the needs of Ladakiya, Isaac asked to buy a modest amount of oil. He didn't want to be greedy.

"Your request doesn't seem adequate for an entire town," Isaac's host speculated.

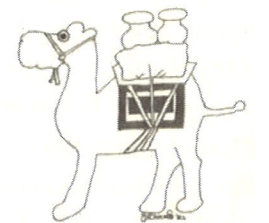
"Well, actually, we could use more," Isaac answered hesitatingly, "but I can't pay for anymore."

"Don't worry, insisted the other

man. "We will take as much as you need back to Ladakiya. I'll help you. The townfolk can pay for the balance when they can afford it."

So the two men left Gush Halav with a drove of horses, mules, camels, and donkeys to transport the generous cargo of oil to Ladakiya. When they arrived in the town, the grateful townspeople swarmed to greet Isaac and the stranger. The people thanked and praised their modest hero for the oil which would not only light their menorahs but also provide fuel for cooking and heat.

When the stranger left Ladakiya the next day, the people of the town realized that those who appear to be wealthy may have nothing, and those who appear to be poor may have great wealth.



How to Play Dreidel

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

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



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

What's Happening In Religious School

Joan Cooper, Elementary Religious School Coordinator

Family Prayer Assembly and 4B's Sunday, December 5
Please join us for the last Prayer Assembly of 2004! Directly following the assembly, parents are encouraged to attend the 4B's "Answering My Child's Hard Questions: A Jewish Response to God, Sex and Death."

Religious School Steering Committee Meeting Sunday, December 12
Join us at 8:45 a.m. as we recognize the strengths of our school and strive to look for ways of enhancing the education of our children. PLEASE contact Maria Neesman or Katherine Finnegan to let them know if you are planning to attend this meeting.

Chanukah Parties Sunday, December 12
Students, parents and teachers have a wonderful time celebrating the holiday. Parents are asked to put on their "thinking caps" and call their teacher with ideas to make the day extra special. Thanks for your support and suggestions.

Grade 6 Parent Meeting Thursday, December 16
We have a very important evening coming up! Students will join their parents after Religious School for a pizza dinner and our special pre-B'nai Mitzvah meeting. This special evening is designed to prepare families for the coming year when your child will become a Bar/Bat Mitzvah.

No Religious School December 21-January 5
Classes resume Thursday, January 6 and Sunday, January 9 for grades K-6. Family School and Keep-up will resume on January 11.

Torah Tots on Break
Torah Tot sessions will go on winter break for the next eight weeks. A flyer will be mailed for the late winter session which begins on February 11.

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

Sunday, December 5
10:30 a.m., Milder Center

This month Educator-in-Residence Rabbi Sam Joseph joins us for an open dialogue about "Answering My Child's Hard Questions: A Jewish Response to God, Sex and Death."

Come for the 10 a.m. Family Prayer Assembly, stay for a cup of coffee and a bagel—and get some directions to navigating your child's search for answers to some of life's big questions.

OTYG, JYG, Club 56 Events Fill the Calendar

Coming up, Club 56ers are going to Skateland (84th and F Streets) after they have lunch together following Religious School at Temple on Sunday, December 5. The fifth and sixth graders are requested to bring a gift card to donate to Jewish Family Service's Project Dreidel or \$5 to cover program costs.

RSVP to Lynne Jensen, Temple's Director of Youth and Informal Education, ljensen@templeisraelomaha.com or to Natasha Kraft, Club 56 advisor, natasha_kraft@ralstonschools.org.

Also, Club 56ers—mark your calendar for pizza and bowling (at West Lanes Bowl, 151 North 72nd Street) coming up on Sunday, February 27 (cost: \$5).

OTYG will join Uri Levin and high

Temple Teens to Compete in Annual Bible Quiz

Six teens from Temple will participate in the 19th Annual Edward Zorinsky B'nai B'rith Bible Quiz at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, December 8, at the Jewish Community Center. They've been studying certain chapters from the Books of Leviticus and Numbers, and the entire Book of Esther to compete for four cash prizes ranging from \$125 to \$600. The winners can use the money towards college tuition, an approved trip to Israel or camp, or an educational program sponsored by a Jewish organization.

Temple teens have won approximately 23 times since the first Bible Quiz in 1986. The quiz is sponsored by Henry Monsky Lodge B'nai B'rith.

Those participating from Temple this year are: Sam Anderson, Samantha Long, Sarah Long, Jackie Neesman, Aaron Passer and Joel Passer.

school students from throughout the Jewish community at the citywide Israeli Night Disco on Saturday, December 4, at the Jewish Community Center. Don't miss it! It'll be a blast!

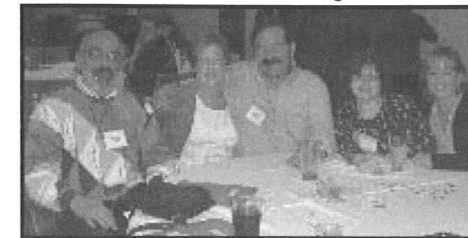
On Sunday, December 12, OTYG will again join high school students in Omaha's Jewish community to host a Chanukah party for *Yachad*, a social group for adults of all ages who have developmental disabilities. Ask OTYGers Jake Bleicher or Aaron Parsow for more information.

Josh Katelman will accompany OTYG members as they travel to Denver, Colorado, for Winter *Chavurah* December 23-28. Remember to dress warmly!

Participants Found Their "Peace" of the Puzzle at the Annual Adult Retreat

Rabbi Josh Zweiback came back home to Omaha November 5-7 to lead nearly 40 Temple Israel congregants at Arbor Day Farm-Lied Conference Center for the annual Adult Spirituality Retreat. Rabbi Zweiback grew up at Temple Israel and is now the senior educator at Congregation Beth Am in Los Altos Hills, CA.

This year's retreat theme was "Be a Part of the Puzzle. Find Your Peace." Ducky Milder, Dorothy Spizman and Dan Marburg chaired the event.



After sharing Shabbat dinner on Friday night, the retreat participants attended worship services led by Rabbi Zweiback who made ample use of his guitar. After services, the group headed outdoors for a bonfire, songfest and s'mores.

On Saturday morning after a breakfast buffet, Rabbi Zweiback met with retreat participants for a study session followed by the morning Shabbat worship service. In the afternoon, some congregants studied with the clergy while others took a walk on a day unusually nice for November. After another study session, the afternoon ended with *havdalah*.

"I thought it was the best of the last three retreats I've been to," said Steve Danon. "I thought Rabbi Josh Zweiback was extremely insightful and the experience was refreshing and renewing. It gave me a better understanding of how Jewish rituals are critical to the on-going survival and growth of Reform Judaism."

(Pictured upper right) Rabbi Josh Zweiback and Program Director Rosie Zweiback participate in one of the weekend sessions. Rabbi Aryeh Azriel, Susie Silverman, Steve Danon, Sarah Schondelmeyer and Ellen Long and (lower left) John and Don'l Dacey, Debbi and Speedy Zweiback, and Becki and Doc Brenner enjoyed the weekend.



Klezmer Concert Captures Clamorous Kudos

A crowd overflowed the sanctuary to see the Maxwell Street Klezmer Band on November 20 at Temple. Sponsored by the Music Fund and a donation from Eve and Fred Simon, the band posed with Cantor Wendy Shermet prior to the concert (right).



"I'm so pleased that the turnout was community-wide and that we were able to bring such a talented and fun group to Omaha," said Cantor Shermet after the concert which was followed by a dessert reception prepared by Elyce Azriel and Sandy Nogg with help from other bakers (left).



Jonathan Sarna to Speak on American Judaism December 9, 7:30 p.m. J.C.C. Theater

Jonathan D. Sarna, a foremost historian of the Jewish American experience, will be in Omaha in conjunction with Jewish Book Month and as the community observes the 350th year of Jews in America. Dr. Sarna's topic will be "The 350 Year History of an Old Faith in the New World." This event is sponsored by Jewish Educational and Library Services (JELS) and the Kripke Jewish Federation Library.

Dr. Sarna is the Joseph H. and Belle R. Braun Professor of American Jewish History at Brandeis University. Author, editor, or co-editor of 20 books, Dr. Sarna most recently wrote *American Judaism: A History*, which has been described as "the definitive book on American Judaism."

The Kripke Library will be open prior to the lecture and will feature a selection of Dr. Sarna's books for purchase. After his lecture, he will sign books at a dessert reception.

There is no charge to attend the event. For more information, contact the JELS office at 334-6445.

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 for permission to read his/her name before calling the office.

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

IN MEMORY OF: **Martha C. Cherniss:** LetaRae Cherniss; **Sylvia Coren:** Colleen and Paul Bendon, Marcia Hoffman and Bruce Brodkey; Pam and Dennis DePorte, Ronnie and Art Jacobson, Howard Kaiman, Joanie and Marty Lehr, Lisa and Denny Lewis; **Leona Eveloff:** Sally and Maynard Telpner; **Elizabeth Femmer:** Terri and Dick Zacharia; **Dean Frankel:** Marge and Jim Bresel, Connie and Bob Kully, Linda and Kevin Saltzman, Susie and Jim Silverman; **Rose Levine:** Renee and Mo Handleman; **Golda Liberman:** Doris Parker; **Morrie Lipp:** Joyce and Shelly Cohen, Sherri and Gary Green, Mallory and Jim Mezvinsky, Don Yale; **Nate Mandell:** Doris and Harry Alloy, Rosalie and Morrie Meiches, Doris Parker, Sally and Maynard Telpner; **Mother of David Matas:** Audrey and Morrie Shapiro; **Henry Riekes:** Phyllis and Harvey Aronson, Bettie Fisk, Nancy and David Jacobson, Peggy and Chris Krasne, Debbie and Jim Krasne, Kini and Don Polsky, Suzy Rubin, Harriett and Sherm Sperling, Terri and Dick Zacharia; **Barry Schaggar:** Renee and Mo Handleman; **Robert F. Wolf:** Hanne Wolf; **Janis Yale:** Roz Friedman

IN HONOR OF RECOVERY OF: **Vicki Chesen:** Barb and Stan Widman; **Marlene Dandy:** Soralee and Jerry Cohn; **Harold Epstein, Joan Lehr, Roie Meyers, Nancy Noddle, Craig Saylan, Harley Schrager, Steve Simon, Shirlee Smelein:** Gary Gerelick; **Darlyn Fellman:** Suzy Rubin; **Barbara Frankel:** Roie and Bernie Meyers; **Richard Glazer:** Joy and Robert Greenberg; **Elaine Jabenis:** Suzy Rubin; **Judy Josephson:** Gwen and Ray Pred; **Rosalie Meiches:** Gerri and Jim Phillips; **Marvin Parilman:** Barb and Stan Widman; **Norman Roffman, Doris Rosinsky:** Judy and Buddy Roffman

IN HONOR OF BIRTHDAY OF: **Doris Abramson:** Harriett and Sherm Sperling; **Barbara Goldstein:** Dodi and Steve Redler; **Amy Ardell Herzog:** Pearl Herzog; **Leo Kamisar:** George

Eisenberg; **Joan Marcus, Shiela Tomps:** Toby Fellman, Rosalie and Morrie Meiches; **Vivi Rosen:** Sheila and Ray Tomps; **Eve Simon:** Barbara and Marshall Kushner

IN HONOR OF ANNIVERSARY OF: **Silvia and Larry Roffman:** Toby Fellman
IN HONOR OF ENGAGEMENT OF: **Teddy Fellman:** Susie and Jim Silverman; **Adam Frank:** Anne and Bruce Shackman

IN HONOR OF BIRTH OF: **Shira Rivka Gonsher:** Ellen and Jeff Platt; **Abbey Michael Milder:** Susie and Jim Silverman; **Tali Mor, Isaac Joseph Persky, Madison Aryn Vereb:** Anne and Bruce Shackman; **Maxwell Phillip Spizman:** Susie and Jim Silverman

IN HONOR OF B'NAI MITZVAH OF: **Diane Malashock:** Harriett and Sherm Sperling; **Jack Schrager:** Barbara and Gary Goldstein, Doris Parker, Kini and Don Polsky; **Joe Slosburg:** Barbara and Marshall Kushner; **Alex Terry:** Andi, David, Amy and Allie Willensky

IN HONOR OF CONVERSION OF: **Charlie Sullivan:** Carol and Steven Bloch, Sonia Farber, Jordana and Jim Glazer, Sharon and Jeff Kirshenbaum, Susie and Marvin Levine, Ellen and Jeff Platt, Judy and Buddy Roffman

IN HONOR OF LOIS JEANNE SCHRAGER MEMORIAL YOUNG LEADERSHIP AWARD RECIPIENT: **Katherine Finnegan:** Joanie and Marty Lehr

IN HONOR OF THE HEARTLAND FAMILY AWARD RECIPIENTS: **Connie and Robert Kully:** Stacey and Jonathan Rockman

IN HONOR OF NEW HOME: **Doris and Alvin Abramson:** Harriett and Sherm Sperling

IN APPRECIATION OF: **Rabbi Aryeh Azriel, Rabbi Craig Marantz, Cantor Wendy Shermet, Elyce Azriel, Lori Bennett, Willie Clark, Joan Cooper, Vicki Ducharme, Edith Gamble, Brigitte Gaspard, Lynne Jensen,**

Maureen Kube, Claudia Sherman, Bonnie Sullivan, Lonnie William Rosie Zweiback

Women of Reform Judaism Tribute Fund

IN MEMORY OF: **Joel Brezack:** Lois and Mel Epstein, Marilyn and Marty Warren; **Sylvia Coren:** Lois and Mel Epstein, Marilyn and Marty Warren

IN HONOR OF RECOVERY OF: **Vicki Chesen:** Lois and Mel Epstein

Our Sympathy

The Congregation records with sorrow the deaths of...

Sarah Becker, mother of Carol Goldberg, and grandmother of Beth Bennett, Marla Cohen, and Bruce, David and Matthew Goldberg;

Sylvia Coren, mother of Meyer Coren and Helene Mittleman, and sister of Robert Gerelick;

Richard "Skip" Feintech, brother of Jane Batt, and uncle of Aaron and Jonah Batt;

Dean Ellis Frankel, husband of Barbara Frankel, father of Amy Kleeberg and Harris Frankel, son of Rose Frankel, and brother-in-law of Alan Nogg;

Mark F. Salomon, husband of Debbie Katelman Salomon, father of Lisa Michelle and Jillian Nicole Salomon, son of Hans Salomon, brother of Garry Salomon, and brother-in-law of Gary Katelman and Gretchen Powers;

Doris Wintroub, aunt of Mark Martin

...and extends sympathy to their bereaved families.

Congratulations

On the Birth of:

Tali Epstein Mor, daughter of Rikki and Alon Mor. Grandparents are Lois and Mel Epstein, and Devor and Menachem Mor, Haifa, Israel. Great-grandparents are Jeanne and Dave Dvorkin and Hinda Holspigher, Haifa, Israel.

Mendel Solomon Wright, son of Annette and Jeremy Wright. Grandparents are Petra and Aalt van de Kamp, the Netherlands, and Patty and Vincent Wright, Kearney, NE. Great-grandmothers are Johanna Polderwaart-Wapengar, the Netherlands, and Verna Burks, Kearney, NE.

Abbey Michael Milder, daughter of Emily Milder. Grandparents are Lois (Ducky) and Myron (Mike) Milder.

Madison Aryn Vereb, daughter of Stacie and Michael Vereb. Grandparents are Randi and Joe Nanfity, Lorrie and Gary Katelman, Martha Kenderman, Pinella Park, FL, and Michael S. Vereb, Talahassee, FL. Great-grandparents are Helen Kulakofsky and Stanley Katelman, Deerfield Beach, FL.

Maxwell Phillip Spizman, son of Beth Spizman. Grandparents are Dorothy Spizman and the late Phillip Spizman.

On the Engagement of:

Jennie Gates and David Beckman. Parents are Linda and Harry Gates and Linda and Dennis Beckman.

Estee Fleming and Teddy Fellman. Parents are Milee and Mark Maryne, Denver, CO, Paul Fleming, Denver, CO, and Darlynn and Tom Fellman.

Kara Russo and Alan DePorte. Parents are Lindsey Russo, Shaker Heights, OH, Alex Russo, Shaker Heights, OH, and Pam and Dennis DePorte.

On the Marriage of:

Mr. and Mrs. John Rabroker. Mrs. Rabroker is the former Cari Perlmeter. Parents are Vicki Perlmeter, Jeff Perlmeter, Scottsdale, AZ, Janae Hawkins, Dallas, TX, and Steve Rabroker, Carrollton, TX.

Mr. and Mrs. James Benish. Mrs. Benish is the former Cathy Kully. Parents are Leslie Kully and the late Bill Kully, and James Benish.

It All Begins in Genesis: A Jewish Journey Group Tuesdays, beginning January 11, Noon to 1 p.m.

This new Jewish Journey Group will focus on Genesis to convey a general understanding of the stories in the first book of the Bible. Katherine Finnegan, a member of Temple Israel, who has taught Hebrew in Temple's Religious School for nearly four years, will lead the group.

"I am so excited about facilitating this Journey Group," Katherine said. "This text is as alive today as it was 3,000 years ago. It is my goal to focus our discussion toward the relevance of Genesis in our lives today, and how we can apply the lessons of the text toward the challenges of our time."

"I am relatively new to the study of Torah but am passionate about it. I believe there is a lot to be said for a group of people reading Torah together and sharing their thoughts and feelings about the most widely read book of all time and, ultimately, learning more about their relationship with God."

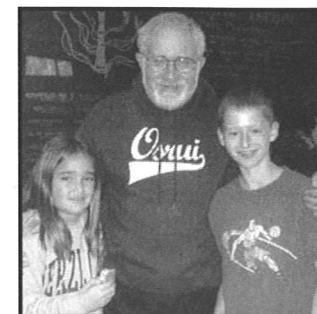
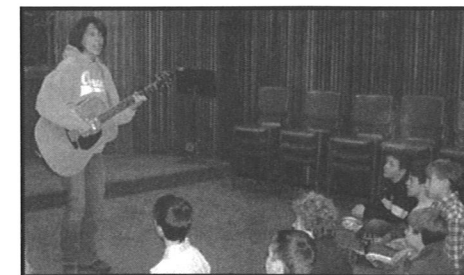
"While I was preparing for this group," Katherine recalled, "I heard a rabbi say, 'When we read together as a community and debate and hear what others have to say, what we are hearing is the word of God.' This statement sums up what I hope we can achieve in our Journey Group."

The group will get together four times to engage in dialogue and learn from one another. Temple's Jewish Journey Groups share a common structure and seek to foster deep connections, openness to growth, and an awareness of the Divine Presence.

Please register with Temple's Program Director Rosie Zweiback at 556-6536 or rzweiback@templeisraelomaha.com. The class is sponsored by the Hermene Zweiback Center for Lifelong Jewish Learning.

Summer Camp...in November?

November 21 was "summer in winter" day for third through sixth graders. "Campers" dressed for summer and got to do camp-related activities during. (Right) Third grader Justin Norton and friends made s'mores over a "campfire." (Below) Olin-Sang-Ruby Union Institute (OSRUI) Assistant Director Susan Alexander taught camp songs.



(Above, left to right) Emily Katz, Haley Gordman, Rachel Scheet, Haley Burns and Allie Slosburg make camp scrapbooks. (Left) Hannah Miller, a third grader, and Alex Wolpa, a sixth grader, met OSRUI Director Jerry Kaye who came to Omaha for the event.