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CANTOR Wendy Shermet
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Dennis DePorte
RELIGIOUS SCHOOL PRINCIPAL Ariella Lowensohn
PROGRAM DIRECTOR Wendy Goldberg
STAFF WRITER David Golbitz
OTYG ADVISOR Amy Katz



Fun Times with Temple Israel Members!

LEFT: The Eisenberg family enjoys a sweet new year at Arbor Day Farm.
BOTTOM LEFT: Isaiah Mainus snacks on a freshly picked apple at Arbor Day Farm.
BOTTOM MIDDLE: Andee Scioli and her son Jack having a great time at Temple Israel's first First Friday. BOTTOM RIGHT: OTYG President Hannah Perry and Naomi Zipursky bonding at the OJC S'lichot concert.



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UNION FOR
REFORM JUDAISM
תאחדות רפורמית
SERVING REFORM CONGREGATIONS IN NORTH AMERICA



The Modern Middle East
Wednesdays, October 3, 10, 17
6:30 p.m.

**October First Friday,
Tot Shabbat & Dinner**
Friday, October 5, Candle Lighting in
the Lobby, 5:30 p.m., Services, 6 p.m.,
followed by dinner at 7 p.m.

Simchat Torah & Consecration
Sunday, October 7, 5 p.m.

**Simchat Torah
Morning Service & Yizkor**
Monday, October 8, 10:30 a.m.

**The History of Judaism in Greece
with Cantor Shermet**
Thursdays, October 11 - December 20
10 - 11:30 a.m.

**Experience Shabbat
for Grades 3-6**
Saturday, October 13, 9:30 a.m.

Movie: For My Father
Wednesday, October 24, 6:30 p.m.

November First Friday
Friday, November 2, Candle Lighting
in the Lobby 5:30 p.m., Services 6 p.m.
No Host Dinner 7:30 p.m. @ Greek
Islands, 3821 Center Street

Religion & Film
Wednesday, November 7, 6:30 p.m.

Tot Shabbat
Friday, November 16, 6 p.m.

Building a New Congregation

For the past six months, the Long Range Planning committee, led by Mike Halsted, has been hard at work developing goals and priorities for our congregation that are vital to our future growth and central to our congregational life. The work of the committee has resulted in three strategic initiatives that will serve as the platforms for our future growth:

- Temple Israel will engage our youth and young adults, 14-26 years old, in congregational life.
- Temple Israel will enhance the Shabbat experience to increase participation.
- Temple Israel will foster community through the development and strengthening of relationships among its members.

Now we invite you, our members, to add your voices to the conversation. Keep your eyes open for a survey we will soon be distributing. On behalf of the Temple Israel Long Range Planning Committee, clergy, and the Board of Trustees, we ask you to share with us your thoughts, feelings, hopes and visions for the future of our congregation. The survey will be available both online and by mail. Feel free to fill out whichever one you like.

Ultimately, we want to give each member of the congregation an opportunity to have your voice heard. Our future is not simply about a new building. Our future is about what we do in that building. We plan to have more frequent opportunities for you to share your insight. A strategic plan will be written based on your responses and these initiatives will be carried out by staff and clergy.

We also hope you will join us for a Congregational Conversation this winter, the objective of which is to discuss these initiatives and expand on them. We will also host a quarterly Coffee with the President on Sunday mornings. We must answer the essential question: What will the future Congregation of Temple Israel feel like? Now is an exciting and crucial time in our congregation's history. Our Congregational Conversation will help us to guide our future, as we prepare to move into our new home.

There will also be a Long Range Planning Committee and Board of Trustee retreat on October 28, in which the Board will develop a new mission, vision, and values statement under the leadership of Jeff Gorman.

As we embark on a New Year and look forward to our new home, your input is more crucial than ever in helping us honor our past and creating our future. All of us worked hard to design the new Temple Israel building. Now we must work even harder to design the new Temple Israel congregation.

In Memoriam: Bonia Shur

Some of you may have read or heard that Bonia Shur died on August 30. He was Director of Liturgical Arts for the rabbinic students at Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati beginning in 1974. Bonia (as everyone called him) was a Jewish music composer, professor and scholar of deep significance and dedication.

He was born in Latvia and served in the Russian Army after fleeing the Nazis. After World War II, he lived on a kibbutz in Israel, moving to the United States in 1960. His life experiences and knowledge of various cultures add breadth to his compositions.

We sing a variety of Shur songs at Temple Israel. These include the lively Sim Shalom we sing most Shabbat mornings, his dramatic Mi Chamocha, and his lyrical Yihyu. In addition, cantors here have sung his Mah Tov, The Rain is Over and V'erastich Li at weddings. My personal favorite is Bonia's setting of Psalm 23, which I sing during Yizkor on Yom Kippur. He wrote complete services for Shabbat, songs for children and secular music as well.

I first met Bonia in 1998 during my cantorial school year in Israel. He and Eli Schleifer, the leader of our Israel program

and a brilliant composer and scholar himself, were close friends. They shared a common mission to preserve the modal underpinnings of our music while incorporating those traditions into modern settings. Bonia sat in our classroom, glowering at us under beefy, forward-jutting eyebrows, daring us to contradict a word he said. He wrote his musical prayer settings the way he intended, and that meant we had better not change a note. Looking back 14 years, most of our cantorial class would likely say that he had the right to demand that we honor the composer rather than our personal whims.

Bonia will be missed, not only because of his creative output, but also because he is almost the last of a generation that had experienced traditional Jewish music at its source – Eastern Europe. His gift was to make Jewish music accessible, fun to sing and just plain pretty.



Cantor Shermet

Doris Parker Retires after 27 Years of Teaching Religious School at Temple Israel

"When you look at reasons for the upgrading of the Hebrew language at Temple Israel and in our Religious School, you will find Doris Parker's name at the top of that list," said Rabbi Aryeh Azriel. "She put in over 27 years of dedication and commitment to the Ivrit (Hebrew) education of hundreds of youth and adults in our community. When you look around town, you will be able to identify scores of Jews, young and old, who learned their first Alef-Bet from Doris. Her tenacity in making sure that her students acquired a Hebrew foundation that will last is admirable."

Doris will be honored on Friday, October 5 during the First Friday service.



Calendar of Events

Pray תפילות

Simchat Torah & Consecration

Sunday, October 7, 5 p.m.

Simchat Torah is a joyous festival, in which we affirm our view of the Torah as a tree of life and demonstrate a living example of never-ending, lifelong study. After that final portion is read and special prayers recited, congregants, sacred scrolls in their arms, will parade around the sanctuary in circles called hakafot. Children and adults will join in the lively celebration waving small flags and munching on apples. As the scrolls are returned to the bimah, they will be rolled back to the beginning symbolizing that there is no end to the Torah.

In the tradition of Reform congregations, Simchat Torah also celebrates the beginning of formal Jewish education for young children. Consecration is part of Simchat Torah at Temple Israel. This year's class includes kindergartners **Lorenzo Batt**, son of Valerie Batt and Aaron Batt, **Jackson Bender**, son of Jennifer Diaz and David Bender, **Paul Cooper**, son of Julie and Jeff Cooper, **Job Feierstein**, son of Seth Feierstein, **Ryan and Evan Kugler**, sons of Traci and Lance Kugler, **Aiden Meyerson**, daughter of Jamie and Troy Meyerson, **Cody Meyerson**, son of Jennifer and Scott Meyerson, **Joel Sasson**, son of Lise and Aaron Sasson, **Joseph Scioli**, son of Andee and Anthony Scioli, and **Sophia Stern**, daughter of Kim and David Stern; second grader **Abigail Sasson**, daughter of Lise and Aaron Sasson; and fourth graders **Eliana Sasson**, daughter of Lise and Aaron Sasson, and **Abigail Schreiber**, daughter of Cindy Schreiber. Please bring non-perishable food to donate to the Jewish Family Service pantry. An Oneg, enlivened by the music of Tuffy Epstein, will follow the worship service.

Simchat Torah Morning Service & Yizkor

Monday, October 8, 10:30 a.m.

Shabbat: Sermon in Song

Friday, October 26, 6 p.m.

In place of a traditional sermon, Cantor Shermet will give a "sermon in song," during which she will share her knowledge of some of her favorite Jewish music.

Tot Shabbat

Friday, November 16, 6 p.m.

Families with children ages five and under are invited to celebrate Shabbat in a child-friendly service filled with singing, dancing, blessings and a short story told by one of the clergy.

1st Fridays

Sponsored in honor of Brandon Thomas by Bob and Elly Gordman, Andie Gordman, Dan Fitzgerald and Lindsey Thomas.

October First Friday, Tot Shabbat & Dinner

Friday, October 5

Candle Lighting in the Lobby, 5:30 p.m.

Services, 6 p.m., followed by dinner at 7 p.m.

Join us for another First Friday! Be sure to come early for candle lighting and snacks in the lobby before the service. Everyone is welcome.

Grades 5-6 will participate in the main service and lead blessings at the Shabbat meal. This is a wonderful opportunity to build a sense of community among families. There will be a separate Tot service led by Carrie Fingold and Rabbi Brown.

Because of Brandon's connection to the Institute of Culinary Arts, this First Friday meal will be prepared by students from Metro Community College's Institute of Culinary Arts. The meal will be served family style instead of a buffet, and members are invited to bring with them a bottle of wine to share with friends. To RSVP for the October 5 First Friday dinner, email RSVP@templeisraelomaha.com or call Temple Israel at 402-556-6536.

November First Friday

Friday, November 2

Candle Lighting in the Lobby 5:30 p.m., Services 6 p.m.

No Host Dinner, 7:30 p.m. @ Greek Islands, 3821 Center St. OTYG will lead the family friendly, musical service.

Come early for candle lighting and snacks in the lobby. There will not be a separate Tot Shabbat this evening.

Due to Fall Chavurah taking over the building, there will not be a dinner served at Temple Israel. Instead, you are invited to join us for a no host dinner at Greek Islands. Please RSVP by emailing RSVP@templeisraelomaha.com or contacting Program Director Wendy Goldberg.

Calendar of Events

Learn למודים

Religious School

Contact Religious School Principal Ariella Lowensohn for more information.

Grades PreK - Grade 6, Sundays, 10 a.m. to Noon
Grades 3 - 6, Wednesdays, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.
Grades 7, 8, Wednesdays, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
No Family School on October 31

Field Trips

October 7, Food Bank for the Heartland

Grade 5 will have a field trip to the Food Bank for the Heartland, where the students will have an opportunity to see where our donations go and how they get into the hands of those who need them.

October 21, Synagogue Mystery Tour, Meet at JCC

First and second graders will visit the three Omaha synagogues, where they will be given tours by the rabbis and learn about the different branches of Judaism.

October 28, Grade 5 Family Day

A field trip for parents! Parents of Grade 5 students are invited to come to Religious School with their children, where they will learn about Shabbat in a hands-on class led by Stacie Brodkey and Danielle Gordman.

November 4, Nebraska Humane Society

Grade 2 will visit the Nebraska Humane Society, where they will be given a tour of the facilities by longtime volunteer Ron Brodkey and see firsthand all the work that goes into protecting Omaha's animals.

Temple Teen Night

Contact Rabbi Brown for more information.

Teen Nights on October 10 & 24

No Teen Night on October 17, 31 or November 7

Grade 9 trip to NYC on October 25 - 28



Omaha Jewish Connections

Are You REALLY What You Eat?

Sunday, October 7, 1 - 3:30 p.m., JCC

A hands-on program on the environment, sustainability, and the ethics of genetically modified organisms. Learn about permaculture (sustainable, organic agricultural systems) with the Truck Farm. Help in the fall clean-up of the Community Garden. Engage in the GMO debate. Bring garden gloves and dress for the weather.

Teen Dilemmas/Jewish Answers

Wednesday, November 7, 6:30 p.m.

JCC Auditorium and Social Hall

This program is being conducted in cooperation with JFS.

Adult Education

Sponsored by the Hermene Zweiback Center for Lifelong Jewish Learning. Contact Program Director Wendy Goldberg with questions.

Torah Study

Saturdays, 9:15 - 10:15 a.m.

Adult Study with Clergy: The History of Judaism in Greece

Thursdays, October 11 - December 20, 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Cantor Shermet leads a discussion about the history of Judaism in the area now known as Greece. There was a large, thriving Jewish presence for more than 2,000 years in the region, up until World War I. In fact, the city of Thessaloniki (Salonica) was once known as "the Mother of Israel" for its vibrancy of learning and culture.

Wednesday Nights @ Temple

The Modern Middle East

Wednesday, October 3, 10, 17, 6:30 - 8 p.m.

Moshe Gershovich will lead a discussion of the social, religious and historical dimensions of contemporary issues and events which make this cultural and geographic region a crucible of global tensions.

Movie: For My Father

Wednesday, October 24, 6:30 - 8 p.m.

Join us for a screening of the Israeli film about a young Palestinian would-be suicide bomber, an old, embittered Jewish man and a young Jewish teenager who was raised in an ultra-Orthodox household, whose paths cross in Tel Aviv over one weekend.

Religion & Film

Wednesday, November 7, 6:30 - 8 p.m.

William Blizek will look at the historical relationship between religion and film by examining various movies that are related to particular religious traditions and themes.

Calendar of Events

Engage פעילות

Caring

Contact Program Director Wendy Goldberg to help.

Blumkin Home Visits

Fridays, 1:30 p.m.

Volunteers are always needed to visit members of our congregation in the Blumkin Home.

Caring Community Sign up

For our moments of joy and sorrow, loss, illness and loneliness, our temple must be a place that offers a framework for celebration, comfort and healing. As a congregation, a community, we can do so much to offer hope, strength and comfort. Are you willing to provide a meal for holiday or shiva? Provide transportation to a synagogue event or services? Provide transportation or assistance for an errand or appointment? Run an errand or make a delivery? Make a home or hospital visit to someone who is ill, elderly or housebound? Make a hospital visit to sit with a family during a surgery or long procedure?

Contact Program Director Wendy Goldberg to help.

WRJ

Contact WRJ President Mimi Silverman for more information.

WRJ Board Meeting

Sunday, October 21, 10 - 11 a.m.

Paint and Pour

Thursday, November 1, 7 p.m., 10818 Elm Street

Join us to explore your inner artist. Grab your friends, family, coworkers or date and make it an evening of art. We provide all the materials and refreshments! Cost \$15 per person. Please RSVP to RSVP@templeisraelomaha.com.

WRJ Membership Drive

WRJ is part of the national organization of Women of Reform Judaism with lobbying power that works to protect the rights of women and Jews, and lends support of Israel. Your dues of \$40 per year, provides financial support to all of WRJ projects. We also have donor levels of membership: Member - \$40; Leah - \$50; Rachel - \$75; Rebecca - \$100; Sarah - \$100+ Contact WRJ President Mimi Silverman to join today.

OTYG

Contact Youth Advisor Amy Katz for more information.

Haunted Havdallah

Saturday, October 13, Home of Cantor Shermet
20015 State Street, Bennington, NE 68007

OTYG is invited to Cantor Shermet's farm for an evening of fun and fright. There will be a movie, a bonfire and activities.

Save the date! Western Fall Chavurah

Friday, November 2 - Sunday, November 4

OTYG welcomes their NFTY peers from around the region for a weekend of political discussion and social action. You can sign up NOW by going to www.nfty.org/mv. Username: NFTYMV; Password: victor

If you register by October 16, the cost is \$140; by October 23, it's \$160. Beber Scholarships are available no later than two weeks prior to an event, by contacting Center for Jewish Education Director, Mary Sue Grossman, 402-334-6445 or www.jewishomaha.org. Contact Youth Group Advisor Amy Katz for confidential assistance or with questions.

Host families are needed for Youth Chavurah

If you'd like to house some of our visiting youth, please contact Program Director Wendy Goldberg.

JYG

Contact Youth Advisor Sarah Sadofsky for more information.

JYG Get Together

Sunday, October 28, West Lanes Bowling, 151 N. 72nd St. After Religious School on October 28, new Youth Advisor Sarah Sadofsky invites 7th and 8th graders to a fun, low-key afternoon of bowling, hanging out, and getting to know one another better just down the street from Temple Israel at West Lanes Bowling.

Club 56

Contact Youth Advisor Sarah Sadofsky for more information.

Club 56 Get Together

Sunday, October 14, Temple Israel
5th and 6th graders will join Youth Advisor Sarah Sadofsky for a fun, educational scavenger hunt at Temple Israel. Students will work together to search for clues throughout the building, getting to know one another, and Sarah, better.

Calendar/Congregation

Community קהילה

Israel as an Immigrant Society

Fridays, October 5, 12, 19, 11 a.m., Kripke Library at the JCC
Israel has opened a gate for Jews all around the world, enabling them to find a home in the Holy Land. Omaha's Community Shlichah Gili Gutwirth will explore how this impossible mixture of people from west and east, rich and poor, refugees, idealists, secular and religious shape Israel. How did it change and design Israel politics? What was the effect on the arts, life and cuisine? Come get to know this interesting and hidden side of Israel from a unique perspective.

92nd Street Y

Tuesday, October 16, 7-8 p.m., JCC
Thane Rosenbaum interviews one of the most passionate and articulate defenders of the State of Israel, Michael Oren. Michael is an American-born historian, an award-winning, best-selling author, a veteran of Israel's Defense Forces, and Israel's current Ambassador to the United States.

Amy-Jill Levine

Tuesday, November 13, 7-9 p.m.
Countryside Community Church
The Provocation of Jesus' Parables: Lessons for Jews, Christians, and Everyone Else. Levine is a Jewish scholar who explores the parables of Jesus in the context of the Jewish community for whom they were originally told. This program is presented by the Center for Faith Studies. The Tri-Faith Initiative of Omaha is a co-sponsor.

Midtown Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

Sunday, November 18, 5 p.m.
First United Methodist Church, 7020 Cass St.
Rabbi Azriel will give the sermon about a Spiritual Drought. Temple Israel will join the American Institute of Islamic Studies and Culture, First United Methodist Church, First Christian Church, Hanscom Park United Methodist Church, St. Margaret Mary's Church, and Underwood Hills Presbyterian Church as our congregations come together once a year to celebrate and give thanks. Kol Rina will sing as part of the combined choir. We invite you to attend the service in support of our singers and be a part of this wonderful gathering of the Omaha interfaith community. Monetary contributions and non-perishable food will be collected for Together.

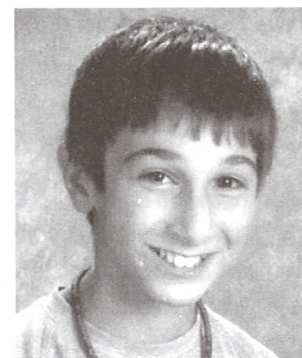
B'nai Mitzvah בני מצוה



Samantha Sullivan, daughter of Louri and Charlie Sullivan, will become a Bat Mitzvah on October 20. For her mitzvah project, Samantha, an eighth grader at Westside Middle School, volunteered at the Open Door Mission's Lydia House. Samantha has been serving meals, sorting clothes and working with children.



Seth Norton, son of Susie and Mike Norton, will celebrate his Bar Mitzvah on October 27. An eighth grader at Westside Middle School, Seth volunteered over the summer with the Westside Community School District's EATS! program. Seth helped prepare, deliver and serve breakfast, lunch and snacks to children whose families can afford to feed them throughout the summer.



Joshua Wax, son of Melissa Wax and Bill Wax, will become a Bar Mitzvah on November 3. He is in the eighth grade at Elkhorn Ridge Middle School. Joshua has been volunteering his time at the Food Bank for the Heartland. Joshua chose to volunteer at the Food Bank because food requests in the greater Omaha area have risen 100 percent over the past two years.



Olivia Nogg, daughter of Patty and Tony Nogg, will become a Bat Mitzvah on November 10. Olivia, an eighth grader at Kiewit Middle School, has volunteered over the past year with Project Harmony, a child-advocacy organization that provides support to victims of abuse and neglect. Olivia organized donor mailings and fundraisers, and helped to clean and disinfect toys and keep the children's area tidy.

Lifecycle

Births לידה

Asher Sokol, son of Levi and Qian Sokol, New York City, NY, and grandson of Meiying Zhang, Xuzhou, Jiangsu Province, China, Futian Wang, Xuzhou, Jiangsu Province, China, and Scott Burger and the late Mae Sokol Burger.

Ryleigh Elizabeth Friedman, daughter of Becky Fuehrer and Jeff Friedman and granddaughter of Lisa Fuehrer, Kurt Fuehrer, and Mike and Joan Friedman.

Marriage נישואין

Mr. and Mrs. Brian Fahey. Mrs. Brian Fahey is the former Sara Cowan. Parents are Allison Freifeld and Ken Cowan, Mary Gryva, and John and Trish Fahey.

Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Friedman. Mrs. Jeffrey Friedman is the former Rebecca Fuehrer. Parents are Lisa Fuehrer, Denver, CO, Kurt Fuehrer, Imperial, NE, and Joan and Michael Friedman, Plattsmouth, NE.

Mr. and Mrs. Bart Haney. Mrs. Bart Haney is the former Sara Jacobson. Parents are Nancy and David Jacobson, and Bea and Roger Haney.

Mrs. Sandy Palmer and Mrs. Julie Rochman. Parents are Earl Palmer and the late Anita Palmer, Nemo, SD, Marcia and Jack Cohen, and Stuart Rochman.

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Parks. Mrs. Michael Parks is the former Erica Rubin. Parents are Sandra and Harvey Newman, Boynton Beach, FL, Mark Rothstein, Ellicott City, MD, and Diane and Jim Parks.

Keep Us Informed

Please do not hesitate to let us know when there has been a loss in your family or someone is ill. If you are hospitalized, you may wish to tell the admissions office to notify our clergy. It's only through this knowledge that we, in turn, can perform the services that our membership should be accorded.

In Sympathy נחמה

The Congregation records with sorrow the deaths of our members' relatives...

Marilyn Bush, survived by nephew Michael Halsted;

Edith Epstein, survived by daughter and son-in-law Judi and Dr. Larry Yampolsky, son and daughter-in-law Buddy and Jill Epstein, daughter-in-law Pam Epstein, and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren;

Petr Ginzburg, survived by sons and daughter-in-laws Ark and Larisa Ginzburg, and Mike Ginsburg and Elvira Stepanova, grandchildren Greg, Igor, Lev, Henry and Miriam;

Richard "Dick" Jensen, survived by wife Maria Jensen; sons and daughter-in-laws Patrick and Lynne Jensen, and Mick and Betty Jensen, daughters and son-in-laws Kim and Dave Moroc, and Patty and Phil Ching; many grandchildren and great-grandchildren;

Shirley Malkin, survived by son Jay Malkin;

Earl Alton O'Connor, survived by granddaughter Dominique O'Connor;

Aaron Rabinovitz, survived by son and daughter-in-law Paul and Amy Rabinovitz, grandchildren Katelyn Rabinovitz, Amanda Rabinovitz, and Adam Cooper-Kahn;

Howard Silber, survived by wife Sissy Silber, daughters and son-in-laws Irene Silber and Steve Ruce, and Lorraine and Jim May, grandchildren Andrew May and Matthew May;

Donald Stern, survived by son and daughter-in-law Adam L. and Polly Stern, daughter Susan Stern, and grandchildren Abby L. Kohll, Zach Stern, and Samantha Stern;

Flora Telpner, survived by children Joel Telpner, Deborah Telpner, David Telpner, Michael Telpner, brother Seymour Schrier, and niece Lisa Lewis;

Michael Jay Yudelson, survived by son David Yudelson;

...and extends sympathy to their bereaved families.

Give to our Endowed Funds

Your contributions to our endowed funds, as well as donations for various projects, are absolutely vital to the financial health of the congregation. In order to provide the high level of services, to maintain the quality education, and to keep the building open, we rely on your generosity. We greatly appreciate your tax-deductible contribution.