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RABBI Eric Linder
CANTOR Wendy Shermet
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Dennis DePorte
RELIGIOUS SCHOOL COORDINATOR Lori Bennett
PROGRAM DIRECTOR Wendy Goldberg
COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR Claudia Sherman
OTYG ADVISOR Amy Katz

Spotlight

YOUR FAVORITE PHOTOS



Second graders visited the Humane Society in October. Their curriculum focuses on tza'ar ba-alayyim (being kind to animals). That includes learning about tzedakah and guarding the planet, too. Elizabeth Kazor (left) and Laura Kirshenbaum found out how much fun it is to befriend a cat.



Phil Bierman and Mary Wampler, Dan Gilbert, Gil and Rachel Dysico, David Goldbr, Scott and Jennifer Goodman, Sally and Gary Kaplan, Lester Katz, Rabbi Linder, Jon Meyers, Ellen Platt, Paul Rabinowitz, Jeff Schweid and Mimi Silverman painted the interior of house for Habitat for Humanity in November.

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Calendar

Tot Shabbat and Dinner
Friday, December 17, 6 p.m.

**College Students Dinner
with Temple Israel Clergy**
Tuesday, January 4, 7 p.m., Brazenhead

**Revitalizing the Festivals:
Shabbat with Cantor Shermet**
Sunday, January 9, 10:30 a.m.

Temple Mitzvah Corps.
Wednesday, January 12, 6:30 p.m.

**Rebecca Goldstein Book Club
with Rabbi Linder**
Wednesday, January 26, 6:30 p.m.

Breakfast at Stephen Center
Sunday, January 23, 7:30 a.m.



**Spaghetti
Dinner**

Dinner and Live & Silent Auction

Sunday, February 13, 5 - 8 p.m.

Donate an Item to the Live & Silent Auction

Theme-filled baskets and cash donations are needed to make this popular event a continuing success. Please contact Amy Katz, amykatz9120@hotmail.com or 321-0515, to donate an item for the auction.

The annual spaghetti dinner is a fundraiser for Camp Rainbow and Camp CoHoLo, camps for children, seriously ill with cancer and blood disorders, to grow and thrive. A portion of the proceeds will provide Omaha Temple Youth Group (OTYG), Junior Youth Group (JYG) and Club 56 with funds for programs and to provide scholarships for youth group conventions.

Save the date! Make your reservation today.

Adults \$10; Kids \$4; Table Sponsor \$80
Contact Temple Israel, 556-6535 or mkube@templeisraelomaha.com, to RSVP.

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Take Note

We have finished Thanksgiving and are on to celebrating a (what seems like) very early Chanukah. Weren't the High Holidays just yesterday? They were, in fact, over two months ago, and even this short amount of time can yield some perspective.

Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur have a musical theme, similar to other genres of music, from opera to country. This theme runs throughout the ten days. Additionally, there are poetic text insertions special and particular to these holidays, which separate them from the rest of the year and remind us why the Days of Awe are just that - awesome. If you have wondered why the holiday services seem to stretch out "longer" than others, this is the reason. Some other synagogues use the holidays for Israel fund drives; I was at one in California that lasted for forty-five minutes in addition to the service!

The synagogue choir has a very special role during these holidays, and has to work hard to learn music and have a give and take with the cantor. The most important choral role may be to facilitate congregational singing. At Temple Israel, there are many familiar melodies congregants are encouraged to sing, despite the fact that the choir is facing you and that may seem a little daunting. But consider our sanctuary space - there is nowhere else to fit the choir. We are proud that Kol Rina has grown over the years and spans the age range from teenagers to retirees.

Also consider that we find our Judaism in disparate ways. Some discover their ability to pray by singing in the choir while others prefer to sit in the pew and let it all wash over them. Still, others want to sing "comfort songs" with which they grew up. It is neither right nor wrong, rather a reflection of whom we are as individuals.

One of the themes of Yom Kippur asks, "Where did we come from and where do we go from here?" One answer is that we are Reform Jews, not "reformed" - i.e., the journey will never end. Tradition, memory, shared experiences - these bind us together and cause us to pray together, in fact, there are prayers such as *Barchu* that we aren't "supposed" to say without a minyan. We are a group faith, which is both our strength and challenge when it comes to worship. At Temple Israel, I hope that we want to worship together, not splinter into special interest groups. Let's leave that to the politicians.

Moving forward has always been a part of Reform Judaism, but so has living our traditions and not relegating them to the museum. While one or another of you may find spoken responsive English to be tedious, others find it to be the most meaningful part of the service. While some may be lost in the Hebrew, others find beauty there. While some long for guitar, others find their Judaism by singing in or listening to the choir. Our challenge is to **be** Temple Israel - all together.

Rabbi Azriel to Visit Arizona Snowbirds

Sunday, January 23, 10:30 a.m. at Goldman's Deli (6929 N Hayden Road)

Do you live in the Phoenix/Scottsdale area? Join Rabbi Azriel at Goldman's Deli for a lively conversation and brunch.



Cantor Shermet

Ask the Clergy

Q: How is my role in the new building important if I am not a major financial donor?

Rabbi Linder

A: In Exodus, when Moses is spearheading a capital campaign to build the tabernacle, each Israelite brought *trumah*, gifts. Some brought money. Others used their talents and gifts. But all brought. And each Israelite brought what their heart moved him/her to do. As members of Temple Israel, we all have gifts to give. Think about what a *trumah* from YOUR heart would look like. Our congregation IS our congregants - no more and no less. So, your role is as important as you are - **very**.

Q: Would you like to be a Torah reader?

Cantor Shermet

A: We encourage members of our congregation to read or chant from the Torah as part of our Shabbat Morning Service. This is a wonderful mitzvah for teenagers and adults who know how to read Hebrew to participate as leaders in our congregation (you do not need prior Torah reading experience). If you would like to participate, please contact Cantor Shermet, 556-6536 or wshermet@templeisraelomaha.com. She will help you schedule a date, choose a portion and prepare.

Do you have a question for the clergy? Send it to templeisrael@templeisraelomaha.com.

Temple Israel Staff

Contact information is available on our website templeisrael-ne.org/aboutus/.

Note From the President-Elect

Sally Kaplan

Temple Israel has many active committees with great leadership. We encourage everyone to get involved with a committee and make a real difference in the life of your congregation. Some of the highlights of our current committee activities are:

- A task force led by **Wendy Vann** has been re-envisioning our Caring Congregation activities. The goal is to become a "caring congregation" by reaching out to all of our members.
- Our Membership Committee needs you! Call **Hillary Fletcher** to become involved in reaching out and welcoming our new members.
- Our Synagogue and Outreach Council is working to coordinate and meet the needs of our diverse membership.
- Our Social Justice Committee, under the leadership of **Mimi Silverman**, is adding an advocacy component with the goal of informing and engaging our members on issues of local concern.
- A representative group of congregants is reviewing our High Holiday services and planning for High Holidays 5772.
- The Religious School Steering Committee, under **Sharon Comisar-Langdon's** leadership, is creating subcommittees and partnering with our clergy and Religious School Coordinator to create ever more creative ways to engage and educate our students.
- Women of Reform Judaism, Men of Reform Judaism and Our Temple Youth Groups support our Temple Israel's mission and are a great way to make new connections and have fun - all of them welcome your participation!
- Our Adult Education Committee is planning to start a re-vision of the adult education offerings for the 2011-12 year - your input is always valued by chair **Paul Rabinovitz** and his committee.
- Our library and archives need attention! Anyone interested in providing that attention can contact Program Director Wendy Goldberg to get started.
- The Finance Council, led by Treasurer **Katherine Finnegan**, has completed Temple Israel's annual audit and will soon be starting the budgeting process.

There are so many ways to get involved in a committee - a complete list of committees and their chairs are on our website. To get involved, please contact any chairperson, Program Director Wendy Goldberg, 556-6536 or wgoldberg@templeisraelomaha.com, or myself, 558-2448.

We would all love to have your participation and involvement in the life of Temple Israel!

templeisrael@templeisraelomaha.com

In the News

Richman Gordman's Zooland is now part of the Big Backyard at the Omaha Children's Museum. The restored fiberglass animals were once a play area for children at the former Richman Gordman stores. **Jeff Gordman** is CEO of Gordmans, Inc.

Betiana and Todd Simon were among the honorees at a November 17 Philanthropy Day sponsored by the Nebraska Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals. The Simons were recognized as outstanding volunteer fundraisers.

University of Nebraska Medical Center has named **Dr. Nora Sarvetnick**, a professor in UNMC's surgery department, to head a new program called the Nebraska Regenerative Medicine Project. The research project will involve embryonic stem cells, adult stem cells, and other forms of regenerative medicine.

Nancy Jacobson won the election with 55 percent of the vote on November 2 to serve on the Learning Community Council from District 1.

A Humana Starlight Award was presented to **Janey Dann** on October 28 for her volunteer contributions by Humana, a Fortune 100 company that markets and administers health insurance.

Danielle Gordman and **Patrick Jensen** were named this year's Lois Jeanne Schragger Memorial and Bruce Fellman Memorial Young Leadership Award winners, respectively, by the Jewish Federation of Omaha. The awards are given annually to honor a young man and woman (under age 45) who have demonstrated "personal commitment, dedicated involvement, and exemplary leadership qualities in service to the Jewish and general communities."

Help us expand this section about our congregants. Let us know when you are in the news.

Worship AND HOLIDAYS



Shabbat Evening

Friday, December 10
Shabbat Comes to You at
Remington Heights, 4 p.m.
Service, 6 p.m.

Shabbat Morning

Saturday, December 11
Sparks Beneath the Surface,
9:15 a.m.
Service led by Grade 5,
10:30 a.m.
Family luncheon and
meeting to follow

Shabbat Evening

Friday, December 17
Service, 6 p.m.
December Birthday Blessings
Tot Shabbat, 6 p.m.
Dinner following

Shabbat Morning

Saturday, December 18
Sparks Beneath the Surface,
9:15 a.m.
Service, 10:30 a.m.

Shabbat Evening

Friday, December 24
Service, 6 p.m.

Shabbat Morning

Saturday, December 25
Sparks Beneath the Surface,
9 a.m.
Service, 10:30 a.m.
Torah Reader: Miles Remer

Shabbat Evening

Friday, December 31
Service, 6 p.m.
Soloist Sarah Schondelmeyer

Shabbat Morning

Saturday, January 1
Sparks Beneath the Surface,
9:15 a.m.
Service, 10:30 a.m.

Shabbat Evening

Friday, January 7
Service, 6 p.m.
Midrash Keit: Master
Storyteller Rita Paskowitz

Shabbat Morning

Saturday, January 8
Sparks Beneath the Surface,
9:15 a.m.
Service, 10:30 a.m.
Torah Reader: Miles Remer

Shabbat Evening

Friday, January 14
Shabbat Shira Service, 6 p.m.
January Birthday Blessings
Congregational dinner and
Clery Unplugged following

Shabbat Morning

Saturday, January 15
Sparks Beneath the Surface,
9:15 a.m.
Service, 10:30 a.m.

Shabbat Evening

Friday, January 21
Shabbat Comes to You at
Remington Heights, 4 p.m.
Service, 6 p.m.

Shabbat Morning

Saturday, January 22
Sparks Beneath the Surface,
9:15 a.m.
Service, 10:30 a.m.

Shabbat Evening

Friday, January 28
Service, 6 p.m.

Shabbat Morning

Saturday, January 29
Sparks Beneath the Surface,
9:15 a.m.
Service, 10:30 a.m.

Tot Shabbat

Friday, December 17, 6 p.m.

A lively, short service created for young children - for parents, grandparents and children through second grade. Rabbi Azriel and Patty Nogg will lead services filled with songs and stories followed by a "breakfast for dinner." Kelly and Jeff Nogg will host the dinner. Tot Shabbat is co-sponsored by Women of Reform Judaism. The cost for the dinner is \$5 for adults and no charge for children. Please contact the Temple Israel office, mkube@templeisraelomaha.com or 556-6536, to make a dinner reservation.

Shabbat Shira Service and Dinner

followed by Just Ask the Clergy: Rabbi Azriel, Rabbi Linder and Cantor Shermet Unplugged

Friday, January 14, 6 p.m.

Shabbat Shira, the Sabbath of Song, commemorates the miraculous deliverance from the Egyptians at the Red Sea. Upon crossing it, the Children of Israel simultaneously burst forth into a song of praise to God. Cantor Shermet said Kol Rina, Temple Israel's choir, will be featured at the worship service. Martin Luther King, Jr. march to freedom will also be celebrated. An official American holiday, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, is observed annually in January in the United States.

Join us after the service to enjoy a Shabbat dinner, wonderful company and thought-provoking discussion. Rabbi Azriel, Rabbi Linder and Cantor Shermet will answer questions from the crowd after dinner. The questions can range from practical (how do you celebrate a holiday?), to personal (why did you become a rabbi?), to philosophical (why does God allow suffering?). Here is your opportunity to ask our clergy what they are thinking on any topic.

MENU

Chicken Soup Bar

You select the ingredients:

broth, chicken, noodles, matza balls, kreplach, vegetables and more....

Vegetable Soup available

Romaine with craisins, red and green peppers, green onions, pecans

Homemade balsamic vinaigrette dressing

Fruit salad

Challah rolls

Cost of the dinner is \$8 for Adults, \$5 for children and no charge for children five and younger. Please contact the Temple Israel office, 556-6536 or mkube@templeisraelomaha.com, to make a reservation.

New Building



Building Coordinating Committee

John Waldbaum, chair, is a vice president on the Executive Committee of the Temple Israel Board of Trustees. He has belonged to Temple Israel his whole life and is now playing an instrumental role in building a new home for the congregation, which "has provided me and my family years of community, educational and spiritual support."

A businessman in commercial real estate and property management for 25 years, John is overseeing the coordination of the new building process including all aspects of planning, designing, budgeting and contracting.

Believing in the importance of "giving something back," John recognizes that "someone who I will never know" built the present building, "now I get the chance to help create the new home for Reform Judaism in Omaha."

A member of Temple Israel for 52 years, **Jon Meyers** has been on the Temple Israel Board for 14 years and is a past president. Professionally, he has been involved with real estate development and facility construction for 30 years. Being a member of the Building Coordinating Committee is an extension of the work Jon's been doing for the past eight years in Temple Israel's quest for a new home.

Mike Silverman, executive director of Jewish Senior Services, recently oversaw the construction at the Rose Blumkin Jewish Home. He has been a member of Temple Israel for eight years and has a young family "who are going to grow up there. I'm planning on being an active Temple Israel member for a very long time. I also think it sets a good example for my children to see that you need to be involved with your community."

It is "a once in a lifetime opportunity to contribute to something so important to the congregation," according to **Ted Zetzman** who has belonged to Temple Israel for 15 years. With 17 years of experience in the design, development and construction of large commercial projects, Ted is participating in delivering "a high quality project that satisfies the requirements and desires of the congregation and will fulfill the congregation's needs for the next 50 years."

Capital and Endowment Campaign Committee

Harley Schrager, co-chair, has been honored not only for his leadership in the building industry as an owner of Pacesetter Corporation with his brother, the late Phillip Schrager, but for never losing sight of the needs of Omaha's residents, especially young people.

Harley has also served as a member of the Jewish Federation of Omaha Foundation. The Schrager family is honoring the memory of Phil Schrager, who was instrumental in helping achieve momentum toward our goal of constructing our modern congregational home. The Schrager family's challenge is to raise at least \$15,000,000 for the construction and endowment of the new synagogue to which they will generously add their own \$5,000,000 gift.

Stacey Rockman, co-chair, grew up at Temple Israel in a family that has belonged for 70 years. Stacey is leading the charge to secure a home for future generations of Omaha's Reform Jews by assisting in fundraising efforts. Stacey's previous fundraising experience includes the Emergency Relief Fund for Israel in 2006, as well as years of experience on the Jewish Federation annual campaign. She was also instrumental in securing funding for the 2010 Maccabi Games played in Omaha.

"I love Temple Israel and want to do everything I can to ensure that the next generation of Reform Jews in Omaha enjoys the benefits of a strong community."

A member of both the Building Coordinating and the Capital and Endowment Campaign Committees, **Katherine Finnegan**, a member of Temple Israel since the early 1990's, has served on committees and as secretary and treasurer of the Board. "I have a good working knowledge of how we arrived at this point which brings an informed perspective to the group. I am committed to seeing Temple Israel relocate to a facility that will ensure a strong Jewish community in Omaha and a strong Reform congregation."

December

טבת / כסלו



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Light 1st Candle Grades 3-6, 4-6 p.m. Family School, 6-8 p.m. Grades 7-8, 6-8 p.m. School Dinner, 6 p.m. 613 Mitzvot, 6:30 p.m.	2 Light 2nd Candle Chanukah Adult Study with the Clergy 10-11:30 a.m.	3 Light 3rd Candle Shabbat Service led by JYG/OTYG 6 p.m. Chanukah Dinner 7 p.m.	4 Light 4th Candle Sparks Beneath the Surface 9:15-10:15 a.m. Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m. Bar Mitzvah of Jack Goldstein
5 Light 5th Candle Grades PreK-6 10 a.m.-Noon Club 56 Chanukah Party Noon Religious School Steering Committee Meeting, Noon JYG/OTYG Chanukah and Skating Party, 5 p.m.	6 Light 6th Candle	7 Light 7th Candle Adult B'nai Mitzvah 6:30 - 8 p.m. AA, Alanon & Gambler's 12-step 7:30 p.m.	8 Light 8th Candle Grades 3-6, 4-6 p.m. Family School, 6-8 p.m. Grades 7-8, 6-8 p.m. School Dinner, 6 p.m. 613 Mitzvot, 6:30 p.m.	9 Adult Study with the Clergy 10-11:30 a.m. Leadership Development 7 p.m.	10 Shabbat Comes to You @ Remington Heights 4 p.m. Shabbat Service Midrash Keit: Master Storyteller Rita Paskowitz 6 p.m.	11 Sparks Beneath the Surface 9:15-10:15 a.m. Grade 5 Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m. Grade 5 Lunch and Meeting Noon
12 Teacher Meeting 9 a.m. Grades K-6, 10 a.m.-Noon WRJ Meeting 10 a.m. OTYG Board Meeting Noon	13	14 Adult B'nai Mitzvah 6:30 - 8 p.m. AA, Alanon & Gambler's 12-step 7:30 p.m.	15 Grades 3-6 4-6 p.m. Family School 6-8 p.m. Grades 7-8 6-8 p.m. School Dinner, 6 p.m. 613 Mitzvot 6:30 p.m.	16 Adult Study with the Clergy 10-11:30 a.m. Social Justice Meeting Noon	17 Shabbat Service 6 p.m. Tot Shabbat 6 p.m. Dinner following	18 Sparks Beneath the Surface 9:15-10:15 a.m. Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m. Bar Mitzvah of Elias Ginsberg
19 No Religious School	20	21 Executive Meeting 6 p.m. Adult B'nai Mitzvah 6:30 - 8 p.m. Board of Trustees 7 p.m. AA, Alanon & Gambler's 12-step 7:30 p.m.	22 No Religious School No Family School No Middle School	23	24 Office Closed Shabbat Service 6 p.m.	25 Sparks Beneath the Surface 9:15-10:15 a.m. Shabbat Service Torah Reader: Miles Remer 10:30 a.m.
26 No Religious School	27	28 Adult B'nai Mitzvah 6:30 - 8 p.m. AA, Alanon & Gambler's 12-step 7:30 p.m.	29 No Religious School No Family School No Middle School	30	31 Office Closed Shabbat Service Soloist Sarah Schondelmeyer 6 p.m.	

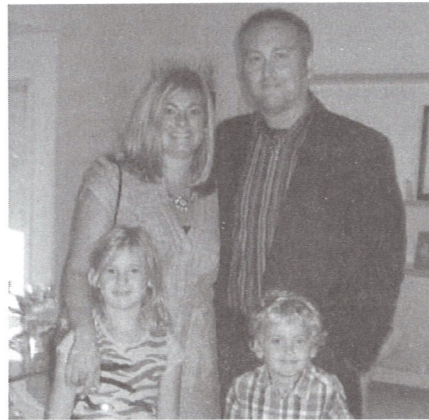
January

שבט / טבת



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 Sparks Beneath the Surface 9:15-10:15 a.m. Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m.
2 No Religious School	3	4 Adult B'nai Mitzvah 6:30 - 8 p.m. College Students' Dinner with the Clergy @ Brazenhead 7 p.m. AA, Alanon & Gambler's 12-step 7:30 p.m.	5 No Religious School No Family School No Middle School	6 Adult Study with the Clergy 10-11:30 a.m. Leadership Development 7 p.m.	7 Shabbat Service Midrash Keit: Master Storyteller Rita Paskowitz 6 p.m.	8 Sparks Beneath the Surface 9:15-10:15 a.m. Shabbat Service Torah Reader: Miles Remer 10:30 a.m.
9 Teacher Development 8:45 a.m. Grades PreK-6 10 a.m.-Noon Prayer Assembly, 10 a.m. Revitalizing the Festivals 10:30 a.m. Religious School Steering Committee Meeting, Noon OTYG Board Meeting, Noon	10	11 Adult B'nai Mitzvah 6:30 - 8 p.m. AA, Alanon & Gambler's 12-step 7:30 p.m.	12 Grades 3-6 4-6 p.m. Family School 6-8 p.m. Grades 7-8 6-8 p.m. School Dinner 6 p.m. Mitzvah Corps. 6:30 p.m.	13 Adult Study with the Clergy 10-11:30 a.m.	14 OTYG Winter Conclave in Denver Shabbat Shira Service 6 p.m. Congregational Dinner and Clergy Unplugged 7 p.m.	15 OTYG Winter Conclave in Denver Sparks Beneath the Surface 9:15-10:15 a.m. Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m.
16 OTYG Winter Conclave in Denver No Religious School	17	18 Executive Meeting 6 p.m. Adult B'nai Mitzvah 6:30 - 8 p.m. Board of Trustees 7 p.m. AA, Alanon & Gambler's 12-step 7:30 p.m.	19 Grades 3-6 4-6 p.m. Family School 6-8 p.m. Grades 7-8 6-8 p.m. School Dinner, 6 p.m. Family School Seder 6:30 p.m.	20 Adult Study with the Clergy 10-11:30 a.m.	21 Shabbat Comes to You @ Remington Heights 4 p.m. Shabbat Service 6 p.m.	22 Sparks Beneath the Surface 9:15-10:15 a.m. Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m. Leadership Development Noon
23 Teacher Meeting, 9 a.m. Grades PreK-6, 10 a.m. - Noon WRJ Booking Sorting Day, 10 a.m. Grade 4 @ Blumkin Home, 10:15 a.m. Shwayder Camp Visit, 11:40 a.m. Club 56 Family Fun Center, Noon OTYG Spaghetti Dinner Meeting, Noon	24	25 Adult B'nai Mitzvah 6:30 - 8 p.m. AA, Alanon & Gambler's 12-step 7:30 p.m.	26 Grades 3-6 4-6 p.m. Family School 6-8 p.m. Grades 7-8 6-8 p.m. School Dinner, 6 p.m. Rebecca Goldstein Bookclub 6:30 p.m.	27 Adult Study with the Clergy 10-11:30 a.m.	28 Shabbat Service 6 p.m.	29 Sparks Beneath the Surface 9:15-10:15 a.m. Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m.
30 No Religious School Stephen Center, 7:30 a.m. Teacher Meeting, 9 a.m. Parent Teacher/Conferences, 10 a.m. Teacher Appreciation Lunch, Noon	31					

New Members



Both from Winnipeg, Canada, **Carrie and Steven Fingold** moved to Omaha eight years ago when Steven became vice president of sales at American Games in Council Bluffs. Carrie is the music coordinator at Omaha's Pennie Z. Davis Child Development Center. "Omaha has become our home," mentioned Carrie, "and

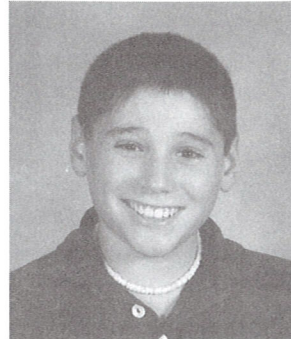
we think it is a wonderful community to live in and bring up our children!" The Fingolds have a seven-year-old daughter, Emma, and a son Michael who is four. "We love to travel and spend our summers at the lake in Canada with family," Carrie said. Their family in Canada "enjoys coming to Omaha and has been embraced by this community!"



Stacey and Brett Atlas met in Chicago when she was a senior at Northwestern University, and he was in his first year of law school. Stacey, who is from Omaha, and Brett, from Chicago, liked living there. But when Brett was offered a job opportunity in Omaha, they decided to move here because "we liked the idea of raising a family in Omaha," Stacey

explained. Stacey stays home with Zach, six, and Noah, four, and is expecting a daughter in January. Brett, who is in real estate, and Stacey love to travel. They like to go to some of the out-of-town Husker games, southern California, Vail, Las Vegas and Scottsdale. Both are also involved in the Jewish community. Brett serves on the Jewish Federation Board, and Stacey has been active in both the Jewish Federation and at the Child Development Center.

B'nai Mitzvah בני מצוה



our community.

A seventh grader at Westside Middle School, **Elias Ginsberg** will celebrate becoming a Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, December 18. The son of Julie and Bennett Ginsberg, Elias has a sister, Eden, who is 14. Elias collected just over 200 pounds of food for the Omaha Food Bank for his mitzvah project. He went from door to door in his neighborhood filling a red wagon with food to help feed the hungry in

Births לידה

Walden Wilhelm Beha, son of Lynn and Jonathan Beha. Grandparents are Judy Beha, Hilton Head, SC, Eileen and Ralph Beha, Minneapolis, MN, Lori and Ron Bramer, West Lafayette, IN, and Loretta and Bob Smith, West Lafayette, IN. Great-grandparents are Sandy and Jim Bramer, West Lafayette, IN, and Ruth Foust, West Lafayette, IN.

Bennett Daniel Hornstein, son of Erin and Joseph Hornstein, Denver, CO. Grandparents are Nancy Hornstein and the late Bennett Hornstein, and Barbara and Daniel Wochos, Scottsdale, AZ.

In Sympathy נחמה

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

Jack Brody, father of Jan Goldstein;

Renee Engel, mother of Rand Engel and Richard Engel;
Beverly Gilinsky;

Norman Karl Plotkin, brother of Renee Handleman and uncle of Bennett Ginsberg;

Esther Siref, mother of Larry Siref;

Anne Weiner, mother of Sandy Bromley and grandmother of Joan Phillips

...and extends sympathy to their bereaved families.

Celebrating Cass Street Memories with Jane Brooks

1. When did you and Rabbi Brooks first become members of Temple Israel?

When Sidney was elected rabbi of Temple Israel in 1951.

2. When did you leave Omaha to move to Massachusetts?

I left Omaha in 2005. My daughter Miriam lives quite close to me.

3. What is your favorite memory of Temple Israel?

When I began to think about my 50+ years in Omaha, remembering one wonderful experience after another, I realized that the best parts of Omaha and Temple Israel are the people.

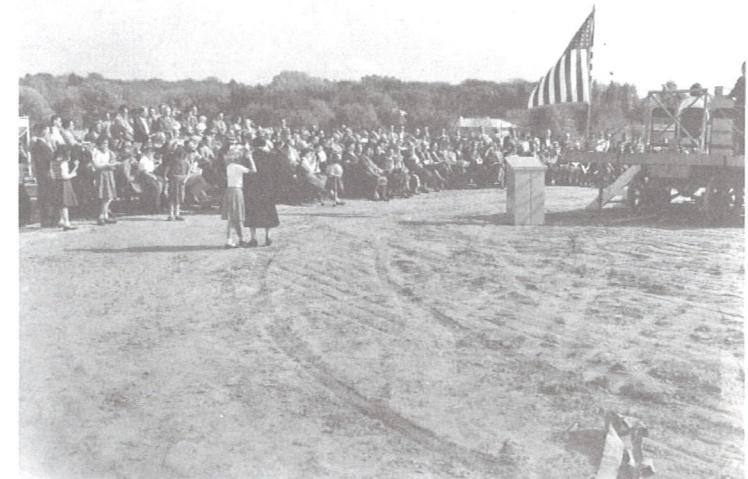
I remember the stimulating, exciting teens in the youth group when I served as advisor. And I remember the "ladies of the kitchen" who lovingly prepared meals for holidays, meetings, the clergy institute, and numerous other events while endlessly trying new recipes, discussing our lives, our children, and the wonderful young women who were following us.

Life as a rabbi's wife can be as wonderful, stimulating, rich and as full as she lives it. To resent the call upon the rabbi by congregants who need him can only bring unhappiness; whereas, recognition of his abilities to console and comfort, to teach and guide added depth and meaning to our lives.

My Temple Israel friends shared my joys. My sorrows, too, were eased by their love and caring. The members of Temple Israel have enriched my life. Temple Israel will always be my lifetime of joy.

Preserving Temple Israel's Story

Are you a history buff? Perhaps you like to look at old pictures or like to organize things. Temple Israel could use your assistance in preserving our congregation's 139-year-old story by sorting through the archives stored at Temple Israel. If you are interested in volunteering with this project, please contact Program Director Wendy Goldberg, wgoldberg@templeisraelomaha.com or 556-6536.



In 1951, the congregation purchased the land between 69th and 72nd on Cass Street where the current Temple Israel is today.



Pictured (l-r) Rabbi Brooks and Milton Livingston applied mortar to the cornerstone at the new 70th and Cass Street location in October 1953. The congregation moved into the new synagogue in May 1954.



A Night at the Student Bistro at Institute for the Culinary Arts at Metro Community College was a tribute to Brandon Thomas. Pictured (l-r): Rabbi Azriel, Suzanne Singer, Barbara and Marshall Kushner.

From the WRJ President

Susie Norton

Sometimes, things just turn out right. Whether by design or providence, or both, occasionally an event goes even better than planned. This is what happened on Thursday, November 11, when WRJ hosted "A Tribute to Brandon Thomas" at the Metro Community College's Institute for Culinary Arts.

WRJ wanted to honor Brandon, a young member of the Gordman family and of our Temple Israel family, who was killed tragically this past summer. Brandon was a student at MCC's Institute for Culinary Arts when he died. As my friend and fellow WRJ board member Rosie Zweiback said, "We just don't lose many children in our community," and many felt the need to connect with Brandon's family, to show our support for them and our fond memories of Brandon in some way.

WRJ wanted the right venue to kick off our latest cookbook project, "Recipes in Remembrance." The brainchild of Temple Israel member Kathy Simon, this cookbook will represent a tribute to our friends and loved ones who have become, in Kathy's words, "the missing ingredient" in our lives and in our meals.

WRJ wanted to educate ourselves and others about the importance of organ donation. Brandon was an organ donor, who, even through his tragedy became a lifesaver for five individuals who received his organs. The mitzvah of organ donation needed to be shared.

And finally, WRJ wanted to have fun! Many had heard or read about this brand-new, state-of-the-art Culinary Arts facility, and wanted to see it (and taste it) for ourselves. What better way than to plan a program there?!

We had many goals, and through the effort and generosity of wonderful WRJ volunteers, Temple Israel professionals and members of our Temple Israel family, (I boast) we met them all. I encourage everyone to visit the Sage Bistro at MCC Institute for Culinary Arts, and all women of Temple Israel to join WRJ at our next outstanding event, our women's retreat, "Feed Your Soul" in February!

Women of Reform Judaism

WRJ Board Meeting

Sunday, December 12, 10 a.m.

Book Sorting Day

Sunday, January 23, 10 a.m.

Save the Date

WRJ Retreat: Feed Your Soul

Saturday, February 12 and Sunday, February 13
Get away, recharge, renew old friendships, and meet new people. For more information, please contact WRJ President Susie Norton, 391-7333 or susie.norton@cox.net.

Donations for Used Book Sale

Please drop off any gently used books, CD/DVD, music, VHS tapes and books on tape in the Temple Israel office. Contact WRJ President Susie Norton, 391-7333, to schedule a book pick-up once your books are packed in grocery size bags or small boxes (if needed).



Temple Israel Going Green - Look for these recycling bins when you throw away paper and plastics at Temple Israel. The large bins accept magazines, newspapers, catalogues, greeting cards, school paper, and junk mail. Please do not throw soiled paper such as pizza boxes, milk cartons, styrofoam, juice boxes, tissue paper, or plastic bags in the bins. Recycle aluminum and tin cans in the appropriate bins including empty aerosol cans, pop cans, plastic bottles and cups.

Social Justice

Social Justice Meeting

Thursday, December 16, Noon, Temple Israel

Caring Congregation

Caring Congregation Revitalizes Itself

Under the dedicated leadership of the past Caring Committee chairs, Temple Israel volunteers have prepared and delivered meals to congregants recently home from the hospital, sent get well cards, visited our members who reside at the Blumkin Home, supported those who have suffered the death of a loved one, and knitted shawls for others with serious illnesses.

Wendy Vann, an RN, is the current chair of the Caring Congregation which is being re-energized to meet the needs of the increasing number of older congregants. The reorganization will help volunteers by making it easier and more convenient to serve congregants' needs. Wendy and the other committee members are working to make the process "a beautifully crafted, yet efficient care delivery machine. I believe that if we can consistently do meaningful things to help each other, we are being that 'ripple in the pond,' while doing the mitzvot that we are commanded to do (which is) an important way to be Jewish."

If you are interested in getting involved, please contact or Wendy Vann, wmvann@cox.net or 391-5595 or Wendy Goldberg, 556-6536 or wgoldberg@templeisraelomaha.com.

Ongoing

Revitalizing the Festivals: Shabbat with Cantor Shermet

Sunday, January 9, 10:30 a.m.

If you would like to begin observing Shabbat or if you want to enrich and enliven your celebration of the weekly holiday, join Cantor Shermet to find out about activities to engage the children as well as the entire family, songs to sing, and music to play. If you are looking for adult learning resources or guidance for your interfaith family, Cantor Shermet will help you and your family make Shabbat a meaningful and rich tradition.

Rebecca Goldstein Book Club with Rabbi Linder

Wednesdays, January 26 - February 9, 6:30 p.m.

Rebecca Goldstein's award-winning books include the novels, *The Mind-Body Problem*, *Properties of Light*, and *Mazel*, as well as non-fiction studies of Kurt Godel, an Austrian logician and mathematical philosopher who emigrated to the United States to escape World War II, and Baruch Spinoza, a Jewish philosopher of Dutch ancestry considered one of the great rationalists of the 17th century. Recipient of a MacArthur Foundation Fellowship and Guggenheim and Radcliffe fellowships, Goldstein, a Princeton University Ph.D., was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2005.

Prior to Goldstein's visit on Wednesday, February 16 at 6:30 p.m., Rabbi Linder will facilitate a book club. By examining Goldstein's books which are rich with philosophical issues and storytelling, participants will explore the connections between modern life, religiosity, introspection, desire, and a quest for meaning.

"When I was in college," Rabbi Linder recalled, "a friend recommended the book, *The Mind-Body Problem*. With that, I discovered Rebecca Goldstein. The book is an intellectual journey of the protagonist, a college student who is trying to balance her philosophical ruminations with her passion for earthly delights. I underlined many passages as the book underscores some central themes of modern religious living. The character in the book, like many of us, struggles with religion versus secular life, philosophy versus theology, morality versus God, and others."

Join Rabbi Linder "as we engage each other in conversation over some of Rebecca's books," which tell a compelling story as they describe with wit, compassion and originality the interaction of mind and heart.

Please register for the Book Club by contacting Program Director Wendy Goldberg, 556-6536 or wgoldberg@templeisraelomaha.com.

Adult Study with the Clergy

Thursdays, January 20 - March 24, 10 to 11:30 a.m., Milder Center

Rabbi Linder begins his topic, "Pop Theology," on Thursday, January 20. Fundamental concepts in Jewish thought will be screened as participants discuss Jewish themes and concepts that are presented in well known movies and television programs. A ticket to fun and education, this session of Adult Study with the Clergy will show that there is more to Hollywood than you might realize. Bring popcorn!

Fee is \$45 for members and \$55 for non-members. Please contact Program Director Wendy Goldberg, wgoldberg@templeisraelomaha.com or 556-6536, to register.

Discover Shwayder Camp's Summer Programs

Sunday, January 23, 11:45 a.m. Family Assembly

Assistant Camp Director Jodie Abrams will be at Temple Israel's Religious School to share with students and parents what Shwayder Camp has to offer. After the assembly, everyone interested in continuing the conversation with Jodie is invited to stay for a pizza lunch in the Milder Center. (Note: Grade 4 students will be visiting the Blumkin Home on this date.)

Visit Shwayder's website, www.shwayder.com.

Camp Scholarships Available

Olin-Sang-Ruby Union Institute

Call OSRUI directly at 1-800-650-8242 to get an application and to discuss the process. Forms must be received no later than February 1.

Bleicher Camp Fund

David and Rachel Bleicher were strong believers in Jewish education which led them to establish a fund at Temple Israel for camp scholarships. Parents interested in sending their children to Jewish summer camps can call Executive Director Dennis DePorte or Rabbi Azriel, 556-6536, to apply for a scholarship.

Eisenberg Campership Fund

All Temple Israel youth are eligible for a \$1,000 Eisenberg Campership for their first residential Jewish camp experience (which can begin the summer after second grade). To use this campership, contact Executive Director Dennis DePorte, ddeporte@templeisraelomaha.com or 556-6536.

The Center for Jewish Education

A \$1,000 Jewish Experience Grant is available to second through eleventh graders to attend a summer residential Jewish camp for at least two weeks. The grant can be used in two \$500 payments over two summers or used in a single payment. The deadline for applications is February 1.

Other scholarships, based on financial need, are available through the Financial Aid Committee of the Jewish Federation of Omaha. The deadline for those applications is March 14.

For more information, contact Mary Sue Grossman at the Center for Jewish Education at 334-6445 or mgrossman@jewishomaha.org.

One Happy Camper Grants

If your child has never been to Jewish overnight summer camp, you may be eligible for a scholarship from One Happy Camper. The Foundation for Jewish Camp in partnership with organizations across North America awards grants from \$700 to \$1500 to attend your choice of more than 150 camps from traditional to specialty summer experiences. Camp session must be three weeks or longer. For more information, visit onehappycamper.org.

Calendar

Grade 5 Family Shabbat Service

Saturday, December 11, 10:30 a.m.
Family luncheon and meeting immediately following

Winter Break – No Religious School

Sunday December 19 through January 5

Classes for Grades PreK – 6 Resume

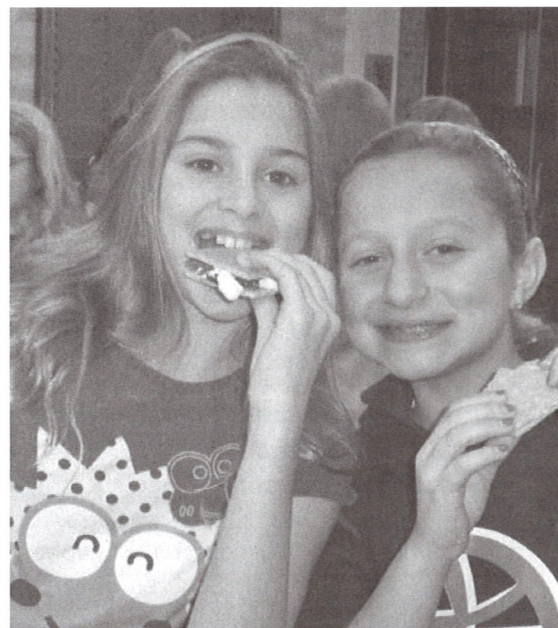
Sunday, January 9

Classes for Grades 4 – 6, Family School, Middle School Resume

Wednesday, January 12

No Religious School

Sunday, January 16



Ellie Simon (left) and Hannah Bargas got a taste of summer camp along with the rest of the Religious School students on Camp Day at Temple Israel. Jerry Kaye, director of Olin-Sang-Ruby Union Institute, a camp affiliated with the Union for Reform Judaism, visited Temple Israel that day to meet with students and parents.

Celebrating Trees in the Middle of Winter?

Tu B'Shevat, traditionally known as the birthday of the trees, is a time to think about relating to the natural world. This holiday can be celebrated by planting trees, eating fruits, and having a Tu B'Shevat Seder, a ritual that began with the kabalistic masters of the 15th century.

In Temple Israel's Religious School, we will be celebrating Tu B'Shevat in our own ways. On Sunday, January 9, members of the Omaha Temple Youth Group will be visiting each grade, teaching the mitzvah of caring for the environment.

Family School students and parents will share a Tu B'Shevat Seder and activity on Wednesday, January 19.

College Students' Dinner with Temple Israel's Clergy

Tuesday, January 4, 7-9 p.m.,

Brazenhead, 319 North 78 Street

Undergraduate and graduate students are invited to join Rabbi Azriel, Rabbi Linder, Cantor Shermet and a group of their peers for a lively evening of food, conversation and catching up with old and new friends. Please RSVP to the Temple Israel office, 556-6536 or mkube@templeisraelomaha.com, to attend.

Omaha Jewish Chai School at the JCC

Wednesdays, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Questions? Contact Omaha Jewish Chai School Director Miriam Gross, 334-6445 or mgross@jewishomaha.org. Scholarships are available.

Dates: January 5, 12, 19, 26



OTYG members at Fall Chavurah in Kansas City. (front l-r): Jordan Jensen, Grace Hack, Emily Katz, Haley Burns, Sophia Miller, Rachel Saag (back l-r): Jacob Arnold, Justin Norton, Joe Hack, Morissa Miller, Zane Fletcher, Sophie Goldberg, Dru Beach, Hannah Radler

Update From the OTYG Advisor

Amy Filler-Katz

Every year at this time I marvel at the progress the youth group has made. This year is no exception. Much like a new job, the teens have to figure out each year where they fit in, what the goals for the organization will be and how they will accomplish them. The youth leadership board started in June with a board retreat and began the process of forming a team, creating goals and acting on them. Now almost six months later they can see the progress they have made. The board and the membership of OTYG are solid.

Here are some of the things that have happened: 31 members have joined OTYG; two worship services and a Havdalah service have been youth driven; freshman have been "RUSHED"; trees planted; clothes donated; cans collected; fundraising efforts have raised awareness for Nothing but Nets, an organization that is hoping to stop the spread of malaria; nature hikes, thrifting and scavenger hunts have been enjoyed; 15 kids celebrated at fall Chavurah in Kansas City with 123 other youths from our region; our Spaghetti dinner Fundraiser has a theme and a date- February 13, "OTYGlee. JYG has been introduced to this project by tie-dyeing pillow cases for Camp Rainbow.

There is so much more to come: Winter Chavurah in Denver; National Convention in Dallas; Spaghetti dinner and more! Please contact Amy Katz, amykatz9120@hotmail.com, or Jordan Jensen, jordie1915@gmail.com, to learn more about OTYG. Watch for fliers announcing upcoming events!

OTYG is selling sweatpants (pictured right) for \$20 a pair to raise money to fund youth group programs.

My apology for omitting Cleo Rogers in the thank you for participating in the Yom Kippur services in the last Tidings.



Donations

IN MEMORY OF:

Charles Carlson: Terri and Dick Zacharia

Martha Cohen Cherniss: LetaRae Cherniss

Renee Engel: Miriam Brooks, Chickie Gilinsky, Cyndi Hadsell, Lisa Lewis, Babe Nogg, Jim Wigton, Terri and Dick Zacharia

Beverly Gilinsky: Helen and Harold Abrahamson, Miriam Brooks, Chickie Gilinsky, Penny and Duane Hovendick, Kim and Rob Johansen, Lori Jones, Judy and Keith Josephson, Marcy, Corey, Ryan and Kylie Kirshenbaum, Dorothy Kotok, Barbara and Barry Kricsfeld, Norma and Richard Larsen, Rosalie and Maurie Meiches, Doris Parker, Andrew Robinson, Rosalie and Milton Saylan, Susie and Jim Silverman, Sheila and Ray Tomps

Beverly Israel: Vicki and Jerry Chesen, Fritz Luefschuetz, Rosalie and Ernie Saltzman

Richard Ivers: Lisa and Denny Lewis

Alan Kulakofsky: Lisa and Denny Lewis

David Meyers: Lisa and Denny Lewis

Norman Plotkin: Rosalie and Maurie Meiches

Phil Schrager: Kim and Jay Noddle and Family

Audrey Shapiro: Sally and Maynard Telpner

Aaron Singer: Doris Parker

Esther Elaine Siref: Joan and Justin Cooper, Sally and Ed Malashock, Ducky and Mike Milder, Linda Siref-Simons

Harry Siref: Linda Siref-Simons

Sylvia Summer: Lisa and Denny Lewis

Sidney Weissman: Judy and Keith Josephson

Robert F. Wolf: Hannie Wolf, Karen and Bill Wolf

IN HONOR OF THE RECOVERY OF:

Matthew Ferer: Phyllis Aronson

Dr. David Kricsfeld: Vicki and Jerry Chesen

Jonathan Rockman: Phyllis Aronson, Fefe Passer and Al Bloch, Stacy and Jerry Siegler, Elizabeth and Mitch Siegler

IN HONOR OF THE BIRTHDAY OF:

Ann Kaiman: Amy and Tim Zweiback and Family

Howard Kaiman: Toby Fellman

IN HONOR OF THE ANNIVERSARY OF:

Joanne and Jerry Freeman: Joie Simon

IN HONOR OF THE MARRIAGE OF:

Jodi and Mike Levine: Phyllis Aronson

IN HONOR OF THE B'NAI MITZVAH OF:

Ali Brehmer: The Marburg Family, The Saag Family

Sophie Budwig: The Marburg Family, The Saag Family

Elias Ginsberg: The Marburg Family, The Saag Family

Jack Goldstein: Janey and Jerry Dann, The Marburg Family, The Saag Family

Abby Hack: The Marburg Family

Cole Horner: The Marburg Family, The Saag Family

Brandon Idelman: The Marburg Family, The Saag Family

Sarah Krasno: The Marburg Family, The Saag Family

Michael Militzer: The Marburg Family, The Saag Family

Madelin Miller: The Marburg Family, The Saag Family

Benjamin Oyler: The Marburg Family, The Saag Family

Jessica Pfrenger: The Marburg Family

Sarah Pfrenger: The Marburg Family

Phoebe Placzek: The Marburg Family, The Saag Family

Abby Reiss: The Marburg Family, The Saag Family

Brett Robinson: The Marburg Family, The Saag Family

Gavin Rogers: The Marburg Family, The Saag Family

Jordan Saag: The Marburg Family

Isaiah Schrier: The Marburg Family

Monica Siegel: The Marburg Family, The Saag Family

Naomi Teetzel: The Marburg Family

Rachel Zetzman: The Marburg Family

IN HONOR OF RECEIVING THE VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR AWARD:

Doris and Harry Alloy: Maxine and Jack Noodell

IN HONOR OF RECEIVING THE WOMAN OF VALOR AWARD:

Debbi Josephson: Suzanne Singer

IN HONOR OF RECEIVING THE FEDERATION SPIRIT AWARD:

Judy Josephson: Jill and Mark Belmont, Margo, Aaron and Charles Parsow

IN HONOR OF RECEIVING THE HUMANITARIAN OF THE YEAR AWARD:

Sharee and Murray Newman: Joanie and Marty Lehr

THINKING OF YOU:

Cookie and Jerry Hoberman: Janey and Jerry Dann

IN APPRECIATION OF:

Abby Hack: Wendy Burkhardt

Debbi Josephson: Toby Fellman

Jonathan Rockman: Phyllis Aronson, Elizabeth and Mitch Siegler

Rosie Zweiback: The Placzek Family

Debbi and Speedy Zweiback: Wendy Burkhardt

Volunteer Appreciation!

Bart Arnold, Jeff Slutzky, and Toby Fellman spend Wednesday nights at Temple Israel preparing salads and desserts, warming up the main course for dinner, and serving it to Family School participants and seventh and eighth graders who eat prior to Religious School.

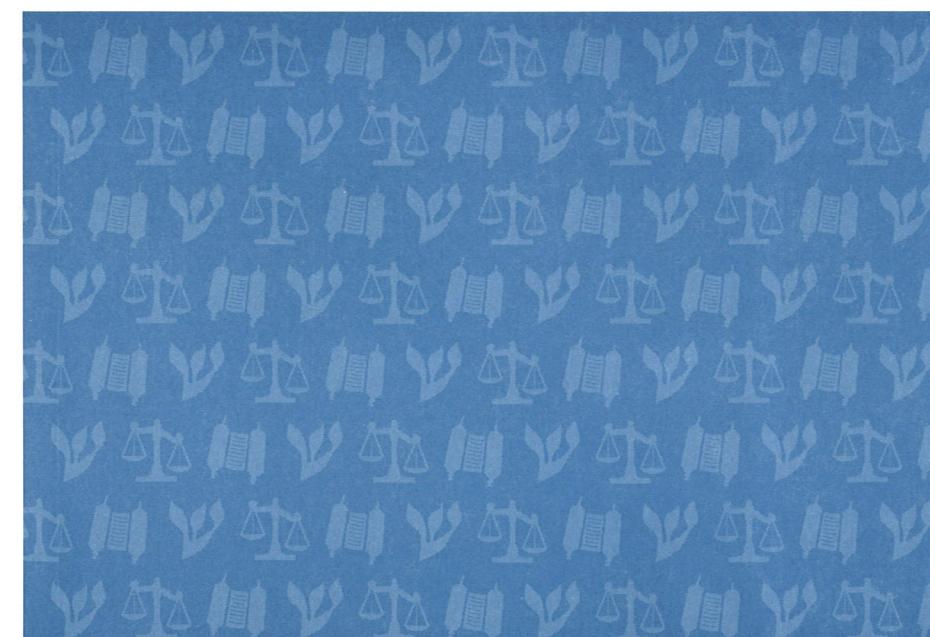
Bart said, "I usually get there about 5 p.m., and "it's usually down to the wire" to be ready at 6 p.m. to have everything on the buffet table to serve. Bart, who has been volunteering on Wednesday nights at Temple Israel for the past three years, said he's there "cause I enjoy helping out wherever I can at Temple or other places."

Bart and his wife Brenda have three sons, Jacob, Spencer, and Zach, involved in Temple Israel Religious School. The boys are dismissed at 6 p.m. but Bart stays to help clean up the kitchen and dining room.

Jeff Slutzky's kids used to attend Religious School, but they've aged out of the school. Jeff has stayed to serve dinner. "I can't remember how long I've been helping on Wednesday nights," he admitted, "but it's probably been four or five years. I like volunteering. It's my way of giving back. And I like the kitchen, and I like to cook."

All-around Temple Israel volunteer Toby Fellman also helps serve dinner to Family School participants. "When I first started, I just did it for Family School. We had two places going (for dinner) at the same time then. I started filling in. Now, the junior high kids and Family School eat together."

New Donor Cards



By a vote of the Temple Israel Board of Trustees, the minimum donation for contribution cards will now be \$10. These cards are all personalized and can be designated to benefit any of Temple Israel's funds. Many regants use the donor cards to recognize various lifecycle events or to honor the memory of a loved one or a friend. The names of those who purchase donor cards will be printed in the Tidings. Contact the Temple Israel office, mkube@templeisraelomaha.com or 556-6536, to make a donation.

Temple Israel Funds

Your contributions to the following funds ensure the continuation and support of many vital activities of Temple Israel. Your thoughtfulness is appreciated.

Rabbi Azriel's Fund for Jewish Professionals
David E. Beber Fund
David and Rachel Bleicher Camp Scholarship
Mel and Genevieve Bornstein Social Justice
Rabbi Sidney H. and Jane Brooks
Institute on Judaism for Clergy
Caring
Cemetery Improvement
Lorene R. Cohn Trust
Loyal B. Cohn Trust for the
Advancement of Jewish Studies
Education
Erwin Eisenberg Campership Fund
Endowment
Harvey D. Ferer Scholarship Fund
Dee Fox Memorial Fund
Samuel and Ida Kaiman Endowment
Sol and Jeanette Krizelman Social Justice
Landscape
Joanie and Marty Lehr Presidential Discretionary
Library
Jon Meyers Leadership Development
Music
New Building Fund
Outreach
Ruth and Bernard Raskin Youth Activities
Lewis and Flora Rubin Memorial Fund
Margaret and Arnold Robinson
Family Jewish Education
Milton and Rosalie Saylan Jewish Education
Jennifer Soshnik Scholarship
Brad Sperling Memorial Fund
for Education of Young Children
Temple Israel Youth Group
Elinor Whitman Religious Education
Norman Whitman Fund for Jewish Learning
Women of Reform Judaism Fund
Janis L. Yale Enrichment
Hermene Zweiback Center for
Lifelong Jewish Learning
Rabbi Azriel's Discretionary
Rabbi Linder's Discretionary
Cantor Shermet's Discretionary
Executive Director Dennis DePorte's Discretionary