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Eric Linder..... Rabbi
Wendy Shermet..... Cantor
Dennis DePorte..... Executive Director
Elyce Azriel..... Director of Religious Education
Wendy Goldberg..... Program Director
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Danielle Gordman..... WRJ-O President
Adam Kirshenbaum..... Men's Club President
Susan Freeman..... OTYG President

Reach Out...and Email Us!

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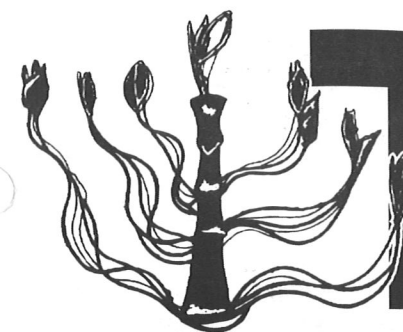
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Published by Temple Israel
7023 Cass Street
Omaha, NE 68132
Phone 402/556-6536
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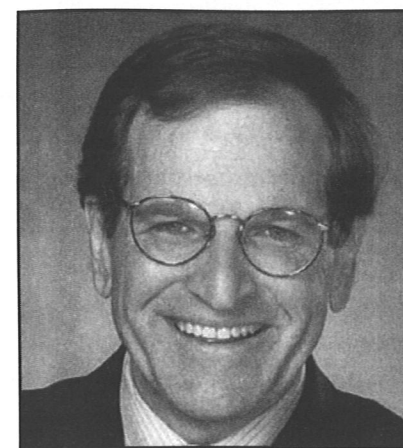
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Omaha, NE Founded 1871 Vol. XCVII No. 7 Nisan 16, 5769 April 10, 2009

Temple Israel Tidings



Scholar-in-Residence

Dr. Ron Wolfson

Know Thyself: Know the Angel Within

Friday, April 24 – Sunday, April 26

Shabbat worship services at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, April 24, Dr. Wolfson hopes some congregants will share their social justice stories and what it's meant to them to participate. "We'll revisit the concept of the book (*God's To-Do List*) and the project."

On Saturday, April 25, from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Dr. Wolfson will participate in a family Shabbaton at Fontenelle Forest Nature Center in Bellevue. It'll be a day of nature, study, and reflection "together," he emphasized. After a bagel breakfast and Shabbat worship services, activities, crafts, nature hikes, storytelling, and a potluck lunch will follow. The entire Temple Israel family is invited to the Shabbaton. (The cost is \$12 for adults, no charge for anyone 18 and under. Reservations required to 556-6536 or lbennett@templeisraelomaha.com.)

On Sunday, April 26, the theme, said Dr. Wolfson, will be "the power of families to be in places of Jewish learning and experiences," at a 10:30 a.m. discussion on "Blessings and Kisses: The Power of Family." He wants to "re-emphasize that parents can be empowered to create Jewish experiences by reading Jewish stories, sharing a great Passover seder, holiday celebrations, Friday night rituals....there are all kinds of ways. It's not scary or in-

timidating. It's meant to be fun."

After earning a Ph.D. in education from Washington University in St. Louis in 1974, Dr. Wolfson decided to pursue education as a career, although originally, he intended to be a rabbi. He was awarded a fellowship to study at the University of Judaism in Los Angeles, "and they hired me as a professor. Much to my surprise, I've been there ever since."

As the director of the Education Department at the University of Judaism in the late 1970s and early 1980s, he pioneered programs in Jewish education, creating the Educational Resource Center. Dr. Wolfson and Dr. Robert Wexler, president of American Jewish University, founded the first Summer Institute for Jewish Educators. Then, in 1989, Dr. Wolfson helped create the Whizin Center for the Jewish Future, a think tank dedicated to envisioning the future of Jewish life. The first institute of the Whizin Center focused on Jewish family life. The second institute evolved into Synagogue 2000 (now 3000) to advance the synagogue in 21st-century America.

Ron Wolfson's visit is sponsored by the Hermene Zweiback Center for Lifelong Jewish Learning. Everyone is welcome to attend throughout the weekend.

"I think that what Temple has done is a model for the rest of the country and the world," stated Dr. Ron Wolfson, who will return to Temple Israel to check up on what he started in September when he introduced the congregation to "God's To-Do List," an innovative approach to social justice.

Come celebrate and support our social justice initiative at the "Gift of Time" dinner on Friday, April 24, at 6 p.m. Please RSVP to the Temple office at mkube@templeisraelomaha.com or 556-6536. (Adults, \$12; Kids ages 6-12, \$8) Let's take an evening to salute our accomplishments.

Borrowing the name of Dr. Wolfson's book, *God's To-Do List: 103 Ways to Be an Angel and Do God's Work on Earth*, published by Jewish Lights in 2007, Temple's Social Justice chairs, Gary Kaplan, Mimi Silverman, Shari Hess, and Patrick Jensen, implemented a "shopping" list of things to do, to attend, and to donate.

"Calling All Temple Israel Angels" to

KNOW THYSELF; KNOW THY NEIGHBOR

Temple Israel's Social Justice Committee Continues Work on "God's To-Do List"

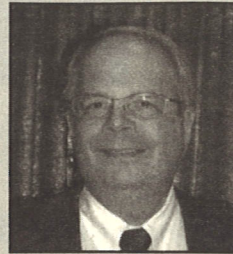
Keeping Teens Healthier

Education Research Group on Sexually Transmitted Diseases in Teens

In a report by the Douglas County Health Department in September 2008, more than 2,700 people between the ages of 15 and 24 were treated for STDs last year. That's 62 percent above the national average. Overall, Omaha has one of the highest rates of sexually transmitted diseases among teens in the U.S.

As part of "God's To-Do List," members of Temple Israel have assembled a group of lay and professional people to learn about what local schools, clinics, youth programs, and the health department are teaching and doing. The group hopes to compare this work to what is more successful in other communities. If adjustments are indicated, the Temple group could then work to encourage local groups to consider change and be advocates if there is political opposition to change.

If you would like more information or are interested in participating, please contact Gary Kaplan, 558-2448.



"It's wonderful to see the enthusiasm of so many people getting involved through 'God's To-Do List.'"
Gary Kaplan



Sunday, April 19, at the JCC
Adult Competition, 9 a.m.
Youth Competition, 12:30 p.m.

Team spaces are filling up for the Eddie Belgrade Memoria Basketball Challenge. Proceeds from Nothing But Nets, which provides treated bed nets to stop the spread of malaria, will be donated to help refugees who have left Sudan. Malaria causes more than one million deaths each year. JCC youth athletics will also benefit from the competition.

Register as soon as possible by contacting Cindy Reed at the JCC at 334-6419 or at creed@jccomaha.org, or sign up at the Member Services Desk at the Sokolof Health & Fitness Center.

"The book club has been really wonderful. Dr. Tracy Leavelle has led us into an educated discussion about God's To-Do List as well as The End of Poverty. We will begin to read White Like Me with discussion to follow after Passover and the Black/Jewish Seder on April 14."

Mimi Silverman

"I have witnessed our Temple congregants bring education, food and advice to those in need. From that, every person has grown. Social Justice needs to be experienced by every human being."

Shari Hess

Social Justice Fund Helps Fulfill Temple's Mission

Social Justice is an essential element of Temple Israel's mission. Our congregation strives to fulfill the obligation to repair the world (*tikkun olam*) through education, *mitzvot*, and advocacy. There are opportunities to attend educational forums; perform *mitzvot* by partnering with elementary schools, aiding the homeless, donating food and time; and taking a stand on issues such as human rights and teen health.

To supplement the cost of social justice endeavors, anyone can make a donation to Temple Israel's Social Justice Fund. Please call Executive Director Dennis DePorte at 556-6536. He said the fund gets "frequent use."

"Having everything in one spot right at the beginning of this Social Justice agenda makes it more cohesive, more of a holistic approach which has been good for us. It makes it easier to understand and be involved in the projects."

Patrick Jensen

Turning the Torah...

There is not one definition of what religion "does." It is different things to different people, and often in the same faith. Of course, this doesn't stop some from trying; the theologian Paul Tillich defines religion as one's 'ultimate concern.' I like that.

But looking at it closer, it seems vague ... ultimate concern? What is that?!

I think about my religious upbringing – going to Hebrew School as a young child, being bribed by my parents to attend a youth group conclave, taking college courses in Jewish mysticism, working at a Jewish Summer Camp ... I think about all of these, and there's one thing they have in common. They've helped me get from who I was to who I am.

My purpose of religion, then? Religion helps move us from the world that is to the world that can be.

Normally there is a gap. In most areas of life, I can look to what I want something to be, rather than what it actually is, and there is a difference. And like everyone else, I have to make do, hoping for the best.

Last night, though, there was no gap. No separation. The world that is was the world that should be.

Three years ago I was interviewed for this job, as the Assistant Rabbi of Temple Israel, in Omaha, Nebraska. I was off-handedly told of a project called the Trifaiith Initiative. Three years later, the dream of a visionary few has become the reality for a hopeful many. Like most meaningful things, change has been slow, as there have been challenges and obstacles. But not to our spirit; not to our hope, and not to the core belief in our souls – that we are stronger because of our diversity, and not in spite of it.

Success will undoubtedly be measured in numbers: 1000 people came to our event last night. Those people witnessed 3 different prayer services. 4 nationally renowned religious figures shared their thoughts on peace.

But, the true success lies between the numbers.

Like other moments that happen, you 'had to be there' to experience the sense of hope and strength that we felt last night. The real success of our project, though, is that you can be there. You can be open to hearing the ideas of others, even if you vehemently disagree.

You can speak truth to power, while also doubting your own certainty of truth. And you can dream along with us.

The night ended with a version of what Jews call the Priestly Benediction. These words are a special blessing and said during various life cycle moments. They were chanted last night in three languages – Hebrew, English and Arabic. They were chanted by three different faiths, spanning time, geography, and theology. And we realized last night that by blessing each other, we in fact bless ourselves.

May God bless you and keep you.

May God cause a divine light to shine upon you and be gracious to you.

May God always turn his presence upon you, and grant you peace.

The world that can be, indeed.

Eric Hindel

L'dor v'dor OTYG Shabbat to Honor Temple's Senior Adults

Friday, May 8, 6 p.m.

Temple youth group members will invite senior members of Temple Israel to join the younger members in a worship service of prayer and song. Together they'll engage in rituals such as lighting Shabbat candles. In the *sid-dur* that Omaha Temple Youth Group is assembling for this special Shabbat service, the teens plan to compile some favorite Jewish memories from senior members of the congregation as well as anecdotes of how the older generation has shaped the teens' Judaism.

An Oneg, sponsored by Temple's Caring Committee, featuring hors d'oeuvres, a carving station serving turkey breast, a cheese display, rolls, and sweets will be served after the worship service. Valet parking will be available.

Please join OTYG as it honors our senior adult members.

Shop...Eat...Help Temple Israel, Too!



Gift certificates in denominations of \$10 to \$25 for Whole Foods, Baker's, Bag 'N Save and The Bookworm are available in the Temple office. Buy them and keep them handy for shopping at these stores which are gracious enough to return a percentage to Temple. The reimbursements are used for camp scholarships.

If you have children attending Religious School classes on Wednesday afternoons or Sunday mornings, volunteer Amy Rabinovitz will have the gift certificates for sale in the main Temple hallway.

Tri-Faith Crowd Enjoys Services, Dinner and Conversation in "Abraham's Tent"

Nearly 1,100 people -- Jews, Episcopalians, and Muslims -- attended a remarkable event, sponsored by the Omaha Tri-Faith Initiative, on March 27, at the Qwest Center. Representing Temple Israel, the Episcopal Diocese of Nebraska, and the American Institute of Islamic Studies and Culture, the large crowd began with a Shabbat worship service led by Rabbi Aryeh Azriel, Rabbi Eric Linder, and Cantor Wendy Shermet followed by an Episcopal evening ser-



the prayers, "Dinner in Abraham's Tent," as the event was entitled, was served.



vice, and Muslim prayers.

About 140 high school and college students (including OTYG members Susan Freeman, Haley Burns, Grace Hack, Molly Goldberg and Emily Katz) from the three faith groups ushered adults to the prayer service, checked them in, handed out the prayer booklets, and chatted good-naturedly. After

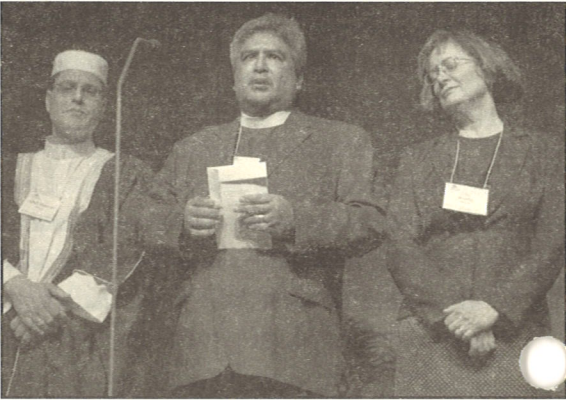


After dinner, Mark Pelavin, associate director of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, posed questions to three leaders, representing each of the religious groups, in a "Conversation on Peace." Rabbi Peter Knobel, president of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, represented the Jewish faith. He was joined by the Most Reverend Katharine Jefferts Schori, presiding bishop and primate of the Episcopal Church, and Dr. Ingrid Mattson, president of the Islamic Society of North America.

Jon Meyers, Azhar Kalim

and John Waldbaum found time for some conversation of their own before the three religious leaders spoke. The benediction was given by Abdelnasser Abdelaal, the Very Reverend Ernesto Medina, and Cantor Wendy Shermet. Bruce Goldberg, Manny Goldberg, Gail and Jerry Kohll were among the many Temple Israel congregants who attended the evening's events.

Temple congregant Angie Krieger said, "The event was impressive and



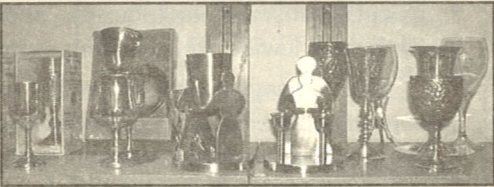
deserved more media coverage than it received. The involvement of the youth volunteers moved me to believe that the Tri-Faith Initiative will likely succeed. I am not as confident that the physical campus will be determinative of the success. The hard work to date has been at the person to person, community organizational level.

Photos courtesy of Gary Javitch and Justin Limoges.

Women of Reform Judaism-Omaha

Temple Gift Shop Sale!

Sundays,
April 26 & May 10



Holiday merchandise and lifecycle gifts
will be discounted.
Stop in, shop around and stock up!



Caring Community

SAVE THE DATES!

**WRJ Brunch
and Installations**
Sunday, May 17

WRJ Annual Book Sale
Sunday, August 9
through
Tuesday, August 11

Right: Debbie Josephson, Wendy Furst and Sherrie Saag spent a morning making greeting cards for Temple members.



Left: Don'L Dacey enjoys knitting shawls for Temple members in need of a little extra tender loving care. Both projects are Temple Caring Committee activities.

Welcome New Members!

Ryan Blumkin has had a lifelong connection with Temple Israel. He recently joined to become more involved and help support the Jewish community. Professionally Ryan is in commercial real estate, helping buyers, tenants and landlords with their property.

Joi and Colin Brown were extremely involved in a small but active temple in Wisconsin for over ten years. Joi is Vice President of Programming and Education for Omaha Performing Arts. Colin is a trained operatic tenor, and teaches vocal music at Omaha Central High School, in addition to working freelance with Opera Omaha and the Omaha Symphonic Chorus. During their time in Omaha, Temple Israel made a strong impression on them and they missed having a spiritual anchor in their lives. The congregation's involvement in the Tri-faith initiative was a major component of their decision.

Nora Sarvetnick and Howard Fox moved to Omaha from California to join the research staff at UNMC. Nora will lead transplant immunology at UNMC, while Howard is the newest member of pharmacology and experimental neuroscience department. Their have three children Gabe (Grade 11), Julian (Grade 8), Estella (Grade 6) who attend Westside schools.

Lina Kogan was first a member of Temple Israel with her family when she became a Bat Mitzvah. She recently joined to participate in the Thursday morning study group, make new friends and connect with our clergy and God.

Dominique O'Connor, a student in political science at Creighton University, recently converted to Judaism. She is interested in art and is involved in the Creighton Jewish Students Organization.

John Young moved to Omaha from St. Charles, MO, two years ago to become the Director of Emergency Services for the American Red Cross. John lives in Dundee with his golden retriever. He has two adult children, a daughter who is an elementary teacher in Kansas City and a son who is sells mathematics products to schools. John is a member of the Saturday Torah study group and says his soul is at home in Reform Judaism.

Yom HaShoah Commemoration Features Jewish History Museum Speaker

Wednesday, April 22, 7 p.m. at Beth El Synagogue

Bonnie Gurewitsch, archivist and curator at New York's Museum of Jewish History - A Living Memorial to the Holocaust, will be the featured speaker at the Omaha community Yom HaShoah Commemoration Service.

Presented by the Center for Jewish Education and the Institute for Holocaust Education (IHE), the annual Yom HaShoah program is funded by the Jewish Federation of Omaha, Beth El Synagogue, Beth Israel Synagogue, and Temple Israel.

Reservations for baby-sitting are needed by Wednesday, April 15. Call 334-6463. For program information, please call 334-6445.

A teen Yom HaShoah program, Café Dilemma, giving teens an opportunity to confront real questions with community survivors, begins with dinner at 5:30 p.m. The program is from 6 to 6:45 p.m. For more information, contact Jewish Community Center Shlichah Tamar Halevy, 334-6403, or IHE Director Beth Dotan, 334-6575.

Adult Education

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

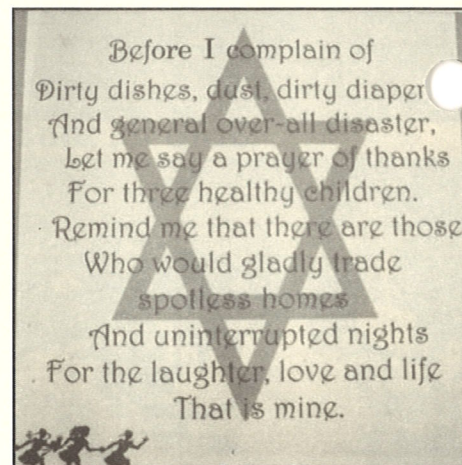
Blessings and Kisses: The Power of Family

Sunday, April 26, 10 a.m.

Sharing stories and strategies, Scholar-in-Residence Dr. Ron Wolfson will explain how families can use Jewish holidays and rituals to create warm memories, share Jewish values, and strengthen bonds among generations.

Everyone is welcome to join us for the discussion and a bagel brunch.

And The Temple Tapestry Continues To Grow...



In the 70's, Randy Jarosz, a local poet, had a poetry column in the Omaha World Herald's "Magazine of the Midlands." One Sunday, I saw this poem in his column. It certainly hit home!!! I gave it to Mel to read and he felt the same as I. I found a calligrapher (Temple member Judy Feldman) who "calligraphied" it for us. We had it framed, and it has hung on our family room wall ever since! This poem is meaningful to Mel, to our daughters and to me - it is what life is all about! As our daughters have grown, married and their own children, we have given the girls a framed copy for their own homes.

Mel and Lois Esptein

April/May • Nisan/Iyar 5769

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					10 Shabbat Service 7:30 p.m.	11 Sparks Beneath the Surface 9:15-10:15 a.m. Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m.
					APRIL	
12 NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL Teen Mitzvah Day @ JCC 12:30 p.m. Stephens Center Dinner 5 p.m.	13	14 Black/Jewish Seder 6 p.m. AA, Alanon & Gamblers' 12-step 7:30 p.m.	15 NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL, FAMILY SCHOOL, MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL Service and Yizkor 10:30 a.m. Conclusion of Passover	16 Adult Study with the Clergy 10 a.m.	17 Shabbat Comes to You at Remington Heights 4 p.m. Tot Shabbat 6 p.m. Dinner immediately following Shabbat Service 7:30 p.m.	18 Sparks Beneath the Surface 9:15-10:15 a.m. Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m. B'nai Mitzvah of Rachel Sullivan and Josh Sullivan
19 3 on 3 Basketball Competition @ JCC 9 a.m. Teacher Meeting 9:30 a.m. Religious School Grades K-6 10 a.m. Grade 2 Parents Meeting 10:15 a.m. Children's Choir Rehearsal Noon	20	21 Executive Meeting 6 p.m. Board of Trustees 7 p.m. AA, Alanon & Gamblers' 12-step 7:30 p.m.	22 NO FAMILY SCHOOL Religious School Grades 3-6 4-6 p.m. Grades 7-12 @Beth El Community Youth Dinner 6 p.m. Community Yom HaShoah Commemoration @ Beth El 7 p.m.	23 Adult Study with the Clergy 10 a.m. RSSC Meeting Noon	24 Shabbat Comes to You at Blumkin Home 2:30 p.m. Gift of Time Dinner 6 p.m. Shabbat Service Honoring Temple Volunteers Scholar-in-Residence Dr. Ron Wolfson 7:30 p.m.	25 Sparks Beneath the Surface 9:15-10:15 a.m. Family Shabbaton @ Fontenelle Forest 9:30 a.m. Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m. Bar Mitzvah of Jonah Weinstine
26 Teacher Meeting 9 a.m. Religious School Grades PreK-6 10 a.m.-Noon Kindergarten Roundup 10 a.m. Prayer Assembly 10 a.m. 4Bs with Scholar-in-Residence Dr. Ron Wolfson 10:30 a.m.	27	28 AA, Alanon & Gamblers' 12-step 7:30 p.m.	29 Religious School Grades 3-6 4-6 p.m. All School Dinner 6 p.m. Family School 6-8 p.m. Grades 7-12 6-8 p.m. Tough Jews 6:30 p.m.	30 Adult Study with the Clergy 10 a.m.	1 Grade 4 Family Shabbat Service 6 p.m.	2 Sparks Beneath the Surface 9:15-10:15 a.m. Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m.
3 Religious School Grades K-6 @ JCC 10 a.m. Yom Ha'Atzmaut Celebration @ JCC 12:30 p.m.	4	5 AA, Alanon & Gamblers' 12-step 7:30 p.m.	6 Religious School Grades 3-6 4-6 p.m. All School Dinner 6 p.m. Family School 6-8 p.m. Last Day for Grades 7-12 6-8 p.m.	7 Adult Study with the Clergy 10 a.m.	8 OTYG Shabbat Service with Children's Choir & Klezmer Band Honoring Senior Congregants 6 p.m.	9 Sparks Beneath the Surface 9:15-10:15 a.m. Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m. Bat Mitzvah of Rachel Saag
10 Teacher Meeting 9:30 a.m. Religious School Grades K-6 10 a.m. Mother's Day	11	12 AA, Alanon & Gamblers' 12-step 7:30 p.m.	13 Religious School Grades 3-6 4-6 p.m. Family School Barbecue @ Azriel Home 6:30 p.m.	14 Adult Study with the Clergy 10 a.m.	15 Shabbat Comes to You @ Remington Heights 4 p.m. Tot Shabbat 6 p.m. Dinner immediately following Shabbat Service 7:30 p.m.	16 Sparks Beneath the Surface 9:15-10:15 a.m. Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m. Bat Mitzvah of Mackenzy Gordman

Worship Services

Friday~April 10

7:30 p.m.
Shabbat Service

Saturday~April 11

9:15-10:15 a.m.
Sparks Beneath the Surface
10:30 a.m.
Shabbat Service
Torah Portion:
Exodus 33:12-34:26
Haftarah: Ezekiel 37:1-14

Friday~April 17

4 p.m.
Shabbat Comes to You
at Remington Heights
6 p.m.
Tot Shabbat
Dinner immediately following
7:30 p.m.
Shabbat Service

Saturday~April 18

9:15-10:15 a.m.
Sparks Beneath the Surface
10:30 a.m.
Shabbat Service
B'nai Mitzvah of Rachel Sullivan
and Josh Sullivan,
daughter and son of Louri and
Charles Sullivan
Torah Portion: Sh'mini
Leviticus 9:1-11:47
Haftarah: II Samuel 6:1-7:17

Friday~April 24

7:30 p.m.
Shabbat Service
Scholar-in-Residence
Dr. Ron Wolfson
"Calling All Temple Israel Angels"

Saturday~April 25

9:15-10:30 a.m.
Sparks Beneath the Surface
10:30 a.m.
Shabbat Service
Bar Mitzvah of Jonah Weinstine,
son of Melany Fullenkamp and
Marc Weinstein
Torah Portion: Tazria-M'tzora
Leviticus: 12:1-15:33
Haftarah: Isaiah 66:1-13, 23

Friday~May 1

6 p.m.
Grade 4 Family Shabbat Service

Saturday~May 2

9:15-10:15 a.m.
Sparks Beneath the Surface
10:30 a.m.
Shabbat Service
Torah Portion: Acharei Mot-K'doshim
Leviticus 16:1-20:27
Haftarah: Amos 9:7-15

Friday~May 8

6 p.m.
OTYG Shabbat Service
Children's Choir & Klezmer Band
Honoring Senior Congregants

Saturday~May 9

9:15-10:15 a.m.
Sparks Beneath the Surface
10:30 a.m.
Shabbat Service
Bat Mitzvah of Rachel Saag,
daughter of Sherrie and David Saag
Torah Portion: Emor
Leviticus 21:1-24:23
Haftarah: Ezekiel 44:15-31

Friday~May 15

4 p.m.
Shabbat Comes to You
at Remington Heights
6 p.m.
Tot Shabbat
Dinner immediately following
6 p.m.
Shabbat Service

Saturday~May 16

9:15-10:15 a.m.
Sparks Beneath the Surface
10:30 a.m.
Shabbat Service
Bat Mitzvah of Mackenzy Gordman,
daughter of Bridget and Kip Gordman
Torah Portion: B'har-B'chukotai
Leviticus 25:1-27:34
Haftarah: Jeremiah 16:19-17:14

Birthday Blessings

Friday, April 17

7:30 p.m.

Children and adults who celebrate their birthdays during the month of March will be called to the bimah and receive a special blessing from the rabbi.



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

Sitter Service

is available...

- Wednesday evenings during Religious School hours so that parents can take advantage of adult education opportunities;
- each Friday evening except when there is a Tot Shabbat;
- Saturday mornings when there is a bar or bat mitzvah;
- Sunday mornings when there is Religious School.

Advance reservations and a \$5 donation are appreciated. Please email Maureen, mkube@templeisraelomaha.com for reservations. Young children, including infants, are welcome. Please sign in and sign out your child's name.



See **YOU** at the **JCC!**
Sunday, May 3rd

Yom Ha'Atzmaut 09
ISRAEL INDEPENDENCE DAY

12:30-3:30 pm Family Activities

- Carnival Games
- Israeli Art
- Put a wish in the Western Wall
- Live Israeli Drumming Circle
- IDF Soldier Gift Drive

1:00 pm: B'nai B'rith Trivia Quiz

2:30 pm: Whitman Awards Ceremony

3:30-4:30 pm: Theater

- Elly & Bob Gordman Teen Leadership Awards
- Phil & Ruth Sokolof Honor Roll Merit Awards
 - College Merit Scholarships
 - Healthcare Merit Scholarships
 - Outstanding Teacher Award
 - Sokolof Javitch Music Merit Scholarship
- Israeli Fashion Show
- Live Drummer Performance

FUNDED IN PART BY THE PHIL AND RUTH SOKOLOF MERIT SCHOLARSHIP FUND, THE SOKOLOF JAVITCH MUSIC FUND OF THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF OMAHA FOUNDATION, THE CARL FROMH MEMORIAL FOUNDATION, AND THE JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER OF OMAHA.



Healing

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

Matan Chaim: The Gift of Life

Jewish tradition teaches that we are partners with God in continuing and sustaining the daily miracles of creation. Organ and tissue donation are an extension of this partnership. Through donation you have the unique and holy opportunity to give the gift of life and wellness from one of God's creations-*you*-to another. With your gift, you respond *hineini* to God. For information, please contact Ron Brodkey, 334-1700.

From the Desk of the Executive Director...

Please do not leave any unsecured valuables in your vehicles. Temple Israel cannot be responsible for any loss.

Thank you.

Keep Us Informed

Changes in privacy laws restrict hospital chaplain offices from notifying Temple about congregants who are patients. We want to visit our members. You can help us keep in contact by:

1. Calling Temple prior to a scheduled hospital stay.
 2. During admissions, inform the hospital staff of your Temple affiliation and give permission for your name to be released to the Temple office.
 3. If you are unexpectedly admitted to the hospital, ask a family member or friend to call Temple.
 4. Call and tell us if someone you know is ill or in the hospital and might be helped by a visit or telephone call.
- Help us keep in contact with our Temple family!

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



Youth & Education

What's Happening in Religious School?

No Religious School..... Sunday, April 12 - Wednesday, April 15
Due to public school breaks and the observance of Passover, there will be no classes. School resumes after Passover on Sunday, April 19.

Grade 2 Parents Learning Coffee..... Sunday, April 19
This is one of the most important dates for Grade 2 parents. Join Rabbi Azriel and school director Elyce Azriel in the Milder Center for a bagel, cup of coffee and a review of the Grade 3 curriculum. Third grade is a key year for our kids – it marks the first time these students will attend Religious School twice a week.

Children's Choir Rehearsal..... Sundays, April 19 & 26
Immediately following Religious School, choir participants will eat a pizza lunch before rehearsing with choir director Emily Meyer. Younger siblings are invited to stay for lunch and a craft project or story. Pick-up is at 1 p.m.

No Family School..... Wednesday, April 22
Family School classes will not be held at Temple Israel so that families can attend the 7 p.m. Yom HaShoah Community Commemoration and Service at Beth El Synagogue (see page 6).

Family Prayer Assembly and 4Bs..... Sunday, April 26
Join your child(ren) at 10 a.m. for an enjoyable worship service and stay for the informative 4Bs session at 10:30 a.m. Scholar-in-Residence Dr. Ron Wolfson will share stories and strategies to energize the power of our Jewish families (see page 6 for details).

Kindergarten Roundup..... Sunday, April 26
Invitations have been mailed. If you have a child who will attend public school Kindergarten in the fall, and have not received an announcement, please let us know.

Family School Adult Education..... Wednesday, April 29
Join Temple member and family and child therapist Jeremy Wright at 6:30 p.m. for the concluding session of Tough Jews: The Good, the Bad and the Kosher.

Grade 4 Family Shabbat Service and Dinner..... Friday, May 1
The fourth graders will lead the service which begins promptly at 6 p.m. The family dinner follows immediately after the service.

Grades K-6 Classes at JCC..... Sunday, May 3
Come for Religious School and stay for all the fun Yom Ha'Atzmaut activities (see page 7). Third grade will share an activity with the Blumkin Home residents.

Last Night of Family School..... Wednesday, May 13
Let's celebrate the last night of Family School for the school year with a 6 p.m. potluck barbeque at the home of Elyce and Rabbi Azriel! Please let Lori in the Religious School know what dish you will bring (lbennett@templeisraelomaha.com or 556-6536).

End of the Year Prayer Assembly..... Sunday, May 17
Family and friends are invited to close the school year on a fun note at the last Prayer Assembly! Students will have class at 10 a.m. and then everyone will meet in the sanctuary at 11:30 a.m. for one more songfest.



Tot Shabbat Temple Israel is Making Judaism Fun! Friday, April 17 and May 15 6 p.m. in the Livingston Chapel

The Tot Shabbat service is geared towards small children with short songs, prayers, stories and activities – but the fun appeals to parents and older siblings, too!

This once-a-month service designed for babies through second graders is held in the Livingston Chapel and includes the Bar'chu and Shema, a Torah hakafah and a parents' blessing over their children. Before leaving the chapel for dinner, the Kiddush and HaMotzi are recited. A fun art project follows dinner.

Dinner is \$5 per adult. Children eat for free. Please make a reservation by contacting Maureen Kube, 556-6536 or mkube@templeisraelomaha.com.



GOD'S TO DO LIST Local Kids in Need

As part of our Religious School "God's To-Do List," we are having a "summer fun drive" to collect items needed for Girls Inc. participants, ages 8-16. You can help by providing girls' swimsuits, sunblock, pool toys and beach towels. Girls Inc. provides summer activities to approximately 300 Omaha-area girls.

Drop off your donations in the bin in the main Temple hallway or bring them to the Religious School office. Every little bit of help and every little item donated will be much appreciated.



In the Mail...

Dear Sixth Graders:

One act of kindness can change a life forever.

Your donation of hand-made fleece tie blankets will touch more lives than you can imagine. Every day, miracles are happening at Children's Hospital and Medical Center and your kindness and support helps those miracles along.

Thank you for caring about our young patients and for making a difference in their lives.

Sincerely,
Denise D. Bohlsen
Director of Administrative Services

Dear Religious School All,

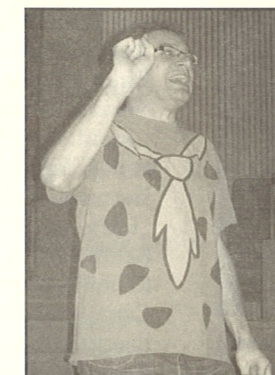
Our sincere thanks to all of you for the generosity you showed in collecting tzedakah and passing it on to us to use for food in our new freezer. The people who depend on Jewish Family Service for food will thank you, too.

This is one of the kindest acts of tzedakah you could possibly do, and we thank you again. Yea, Temple kids!!

Sincerely,
Sandy Nogg
Assistance Coordinator
(a.k.a. the Temple candy lady)



There was even a bullfrog in the crowd...and his name really is Jeremiah (Alexander)!



Did Rabbi Linder really say "Yabba Dabba Doooo!" at the Family Prayer Assembly?

• programs for adults • programs for kids • prayer • singing • fun for parents and kids together • grandparents • hikes • sports • scavenger hunt • ruck • laughter • crafts • FUN

**Come to Play,
Learn and Celebrate
Shabbat with us at the**

Temple Israel Family Shabbaton
at Fontenelle Forest
Saturday, April 25
9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

- with Scholar-in-Residence Ron Wolfson, Temple Israel's rabbis and some of our Religious School teachers and madrachim
- worship services outdoors
- potluck lunch
- arts and crafts for all ages
- Seudah Shlisheet and Havdalah

\$12 per adult ~ no charge for anyone 18 and under
Sign-up at lbennett@templeisraelomaha.com or 556-6536.

• celebration • stories • friends • Shabbat • study • good food



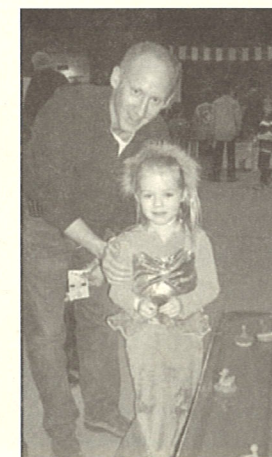
Fred Flintstone Leading the Prayer Assembly? Batman at the Carnival? It Must be Purim at Temple!

Thank you to all the parents, JYGers and OTYGers that helped make this year's Purim Carnival fun! It is always great to see everyone in their costumes having a good time. Many thanks, too, to Bob Egermayer and Fun Services for supplying us with the games and cotton candy machine.

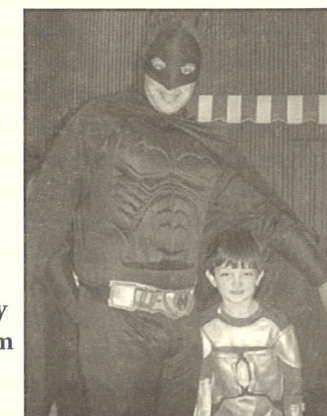
Amy Katz, OTYG Advisor



You can never have too many Dorothys! Toby Fellman, Maddee Rauhauser and Natasha Kraft are over the rainbow with munchkin Alex Kraft.



Left: Mark Kazor and daughter Elizabeth (disguised as a mermaid!) try their luck at the duck pond.



Right: Batman and son (a.k.a. Charlie and Tommy Sullivan) take a break from fighting evil and playing carnival games.

The Youth Group Annual Spaghetti Dinner a Success...Thanks to YOU!

The members of JYG and OTYG would like to thank the following people for helping make their dreams come true: Elyce and Aryeh Azriel, Leora Azriel, Yaniv Azriel, Betsy Baker, Janice and Bob Batt, Lori Bennett, Sandy and Joel Bleicher, Helen and John Burns, Steve Danon, Pam and Dennis DePorte, Mimi Rogers-Farkas and Scott Farkas, Toby Fellman, Debbie and Doug Finnicum, Hillary and John Fletcher, Shelly and Rick Fox, Robyn and Bob Freeman, Ted Friedland, Jordana and Jim Glazer, Carol and Manny Goldberg, Cindy and Bruce Goldberg, Wendy and David Goldberg, Andie Gordman, Danielle and Jeff Gordman, Nancy and Don Greenberg, Stephanie and Barry Grossman, Abby Hack, Mendy and Mike Halsted, Jill and George Idelman, Judy and Keith Josephson, Sally and Gary Kaplan, Amy Filler-Katz and Dick Katz, Allison Latenser and Lou Pachman, Joanie and Marty Lehr, Eric Linder, Denise and Jon Meyers, Ducky and Mike Milder, Jennifer and Paul Miller, Sandy Nogg and the Temple Israel Gift Shop, Susie and Mike Norton, Sandy and Jeff Passer, Gretchen and David Radler, Silvia and Larry Roffman, Stacey and Jonathan Rockman, Sherrie and David Saag, Linda and Rod Sadofsky, Sarah Schondelmeyer, Usha and Dan Sherman, Claudia and Marc Sherman, Wendy Shermet and Len Burrell, Susie and Jim Silverman, Stacy and Bruce Simon, Lesley and Jeff Slutzky, Dorothy Spizman, Louri Sullivan, Alex Terry, Michele and John Terry, Natha and John Waldbaum, Andi Willensky, Judy Zweiback, Rosie Zweiback and Mace Hack, Mediterranean Bistro, Zio's Pizza, Bag 'N Save, Sons of Italy and Farmhouse Cafe.



Youth Group advisors Leora Azriel and Amy Katz thank the following teens for their hard work before, during and after the dinner: Yaniv Azriel, Haley Burns, Sam Burrell, Zane Fletcher, Susan Freeman, Molly Goldberg, Sophie Goldberg, David Glazer, Lindsey Gordman, Hannah Grossman, Noah Grossman,

Grace Hack, Joe Hack, Haley Halsted, Jordan Jensen, Maddie Jensen, Emily Katz, Jacob Lehr, Morissa Miller, Sophia Miller, Ben Noodell, Hannah Perry, Danny Pachman, Hannah Radler, Oliver Rockman, Cleo Rogers, Julie Sadofsky, Rachel Saferstein, Alexis Slutzky, Zach Spooner and Alex Terry.

Temple JYGers Have Fun, Do Good in St. Louis

Twelve seventh and eight graders, three high school chaperones and one advisor traveled to St. Louis the weekend of March 20-22 for the NFTY regional junior youth group conclave. The highlight of the event was visiting the Build-a-Bear Workshop to make stuffed animals for children with serious illnesses. Pictured right: Jacob Arnold, Ariel Kohll, Rachel Saag, Hannah Budwig, Leora Azriel, Sophie Budwig, Hanna Perry, Dru Beach, Noah Grossman, Dustin Ginsburg, Grace Hack, Zane Fletcher, Hannah Radler, Jordan Jensen and Emily Katz.



Temple Funds

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

If you wish to contribute to any of these funds at a different level, please advise the Temple staff.

Tree of Life leaves are \$300. Tree of Life Boulders are \$3,000. If you would like information on these donations, please call Dennis DePorte, Executive Director, 556-6536.

\$6.00 fund contributions:

Rabbi Azriel's Fund for Jewish Professionals
Robert and Janice Batt Fund
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
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Samuel and Ida Kaiman Endowment
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Jon Meyers Leadership Development
Music
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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 Youth Group
Elinor Whitman Religious Education
Norman Whitman Fund for
Jewish Learning
Janis L. Yale Enrichment
Hermene Zweiback Fund for
Lifelong Jewish Learning
Rabbi Azriel's Discretionary
Rabbi Linder's Discretionary
Cantor Shermet's Discretionary
Executive Director's Discretionary
Prayer Book (\$30 donation)

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

IN MEMORY OF: Kenneth Browne: Silvia and Larry Roffman; **Jeanne Dvorkin:** David Dvorkin, Lois and Mel Epstein and Family and Marilyn and Marty Warren and Family; **Delores "Dee" Fox:** Doris and Harry Alloy, Robyn and Jim Belgrade, Marge and Jim Bresel; Stacie and Marc Brodkey, Joan Brodsky and Jerry Clibanoff, Terri and Alan Cohen, Marilyn and Gary Colick, Sharon and Howard Epstein, Lois and Joel Finkel, Joanne and Jerry Freeman, Cindy and Morris Friedman, Barbara Frohman, Cathie and John Fullencamp, Bev Gendler, Gabrielle and Hank Gerson, June Goodbinder, Karen Gustafson, Esin and Tuna Guvenel, Nancy Hornstein, Judy and Keith Josephson, Debbi and Larry Josephson, Ann Kaiman, Frannie and Dick Kessler, Beverlee Krasne, Shirley Kulakofsky, Sandy and John Lehr, Leona and Irwin Levin, Ruth Luttbeg, Lynn and Allen Mandel, Rose Pitlor, Sharon and George Quittner, Kimberly and Andrew Robinson, Paula, Mark, Ava, Nina and Ella Robinson, Stacey and Jonathan Rockman and Family, Suzy Rubin, Jan and Les Schneiderman,

Bud, Richard and David Slosburg and Families, Debi and Jeff Smedlund, Beverly and Steve Swartz, Jeff Schweid, Susie and Jim Silverman, Joie Simon, Janet and Jerry Slusky, Harriett and Sherm Sperling, Terri and Dick Zacharia; **Edith Friedman:** Vicki and Jerry Chesen; **Anne Rose Gerber:** Joann and Mike Blatt, Vicki and Jerry Chesen, Lois and Mel Epstein, Claire and Pierre Flatowicz, Donna Givner, Rosalie and Bud Greenspan, Lisa and Denny Lewis, Fritzi Luefschuetz, Denise and Jon Meyers, Ducky and Mike Milder, Patty and Moe Morgan, Dodi and Steve Redler, Stacey and Jonathan Rockman, Rosalie and Ernie Slatzman, Susie and Jim Silverman, Helene Silverstein, Suzanne Singer, Debi and Jeff Smedlund, Marilyn and Steven Tipp, Sheila and Ray Tomps, Marilyn and Marty Warren; **Elaine Ginsburg:** Debbi and Larry Josephson; **Ione Kubby:** Harriett and Sherm Sperling; **Betty Lerner:** Marilyn and Justin Manvitz; **Sallye Levin:** Lisa and Denny Lewis, **Anna Monasebian:** June Goodbinder; **Courtney Nogg:** Patti and Tom Peterson; **Julie Polsky:** Molline and Fritz Cassman; **Sol Parsow:** Robyn

and Jim Belgrade; **Jake Ruback:** Barbara and Alan Levin; **Miriam Shrier:** Terri and Dick Zacharia; **Harriet Starr:** Sonja Rothkop Hyams and family; **Helen Robinson Stern:** Lesley and I.I. Ozar; **Esther Stoler:** Denise and Jon Meyers; **Sara Wisnia:** Sheila and Ray Tomps

IN HONOR OF RECOVERY OF: Maurice "Bud" Greenspan: Esther and Bob Katleman, Sally and Sheldon Masnek, Rosalie and Maurie Meiches, Rose Pitlor; **Burt Hirsch:** Harriett and Sherm Sperling; **Steven Tipp:** Dora Goldstrom and George Walker

IN HONOR OF BIRTHDAY OF: George Eisenberg: Joyce and Shelly Cohen; **Lois Epstein:** Marilyn and Marty Warren; **Arnold Joffe:** Barbara Rips; **Leo Meyerson:** Joanie and Marty Lehr; **Barbara Rips:** Ruth Luttbeg; **Sherman Sperling:** Margo, Aaron and Charles Parsow; **Tim Zweiback:** Ann Kaiman

IN HONOR OF ANNIVERSARY OF: Renee and Sandy Kasner: Babe Cohn

IN HONOR OF ENGAGEMENT OF: Judy Zweiback: Ann Kaiman

IN APPRECIATION OF: Toby Fellman: Suzy Rubin; **The Faith Club Book Authors:** Lourdes Secola



Our Sympathy

The Congregation records with sorrow the deaths of...

Cheryl Elbersen;

Anne Rose Gerber, mother of Dora Goldstrom;

Sallye A. Levin, wife of Jack Levin and mother of David Levin

...and extends sympathy to their bereaved families.

Congratulations

On the Birth of:

Murray Spencer Passer, son of Cori and Sam Passer, Overland Park, KS. Grandparents are Cissy and Errol Copilevitz, Kansas City, MO, Claire and Pierre Flatowicz, and Sandy and Jeff Passer.

Shaefer Loggia Spizman, son of Karen Loggia and David Spizman, Leawood, KS. Grandparents are Betty and Tom Loggia, Darnestown, MD, and Dorothy Spizman and the late Phill Spizman.

Dahlia Rain Zacharia, daughter of Alyssa and Brent Zacharia, Albany, CA. Grandparents are Joan Elliott and the late Rod Elliott, and Terri and Dick Zacaharia.

On the Engagement of:

Tziporah Blalock and Max Rogers-Marcovitz. Parents are Serel Kreiger and Zion Blalok, Illit, Israel, Mimi Rogers-Farkas and Scott Farkas, and Michael Marcovitz, Tzfat, Israel.

Marci Brookstein and Derek Mainus. Parents are the late Lori Sweet, Debbie and Spencer Brookstein, and Silvia and Dan Mainus, Colby, KS.