

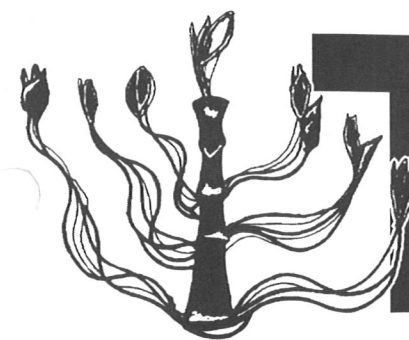
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Reach Out...and Email Us!

Rabbi Aryeh Azriel
 aazriel@templeisraelomaha.com
Rabbi Craig Marantz
 cmarantz@templeisraelomaha.com
Cantor Wendy Shermet
 wshermet@templeisraelomaha.com
Dennis DePorte
 Executive Director
 ddeporte@templeisraelomaha.com
Elyce Azriel
 Middle/High School Director
 eazriel@templeisraelomaha.com
Lori Bennett
 Administrative Assistant
 lbennett@templeisraelomaha.com
Joan Cooper
 Elementary School Coordinator
 jcooper@templeisraelomaha.com
Vicki Ducharme
 Bookkeeper
 vducharme@templeisraelomaha.com

Brigitte Gaspard
 Religious School Secretary
 bgaspard@templeisraelomaha.com
Lynne Jensen
 Youth and Informal Education Director
 ljensen@templeisraelomaha.com
Maureen Kube
 Receptionist/Donations
 mkube@templeisraelomaha.com
Claudia Sherman
 Communications Coordinator
 csherman@templeisraelomaha.com
Bonnie Sullivan
 Clergy Secretary
 bsullivan@templeisraelomaha.com
Rosie Zweiback
 Program Director
 rzweiback@templeisraelomaha.com
General Inquiries
 tisrael@templeisraelomaha.com



Omaha, NE Founded 1871 Vol. XCIII No. 5 Tevet 19, 5765 December 31, 2004

Reflections on the Jewish Community... Where We are Today and Where We're Heading Tomorrow



Dru Greenwood Returns to Omaha for a Community Conversation Friday, January 28, 7:30 p.m.

One of the Reform Movement's leading lights in the area of outreach and synagogue community, Dru Greenwood, will be in Omaha the last weekend of January. For over 20 years, Dru has been the driving force in developing outreach efforts in response to interfaith couples, Jews-by choice and others (Jewish or non-Jewish) who are seeking a way into Jewish life.

Author of *Defining the Role of the Non-Jew in the Synagogue: A Resource for Congregations*, Dru is an

adjunct faculty member at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in New York City. Her D'var Torah on Friday evening will address what the Jewish community looks like today at 350 years of age and where it will be 50 years from now. After the service, all are invited to participate in a community conversation with Dru about building a better Temple community.

"We want to talk to Dru about generating conversation on what the Jewish community in America will look like in 50 years and our role in shaping that future here in Omaha," said Rosie Zweiback, Temple's Program Director.

Temple has invited Dru, the former director of the William and Lottie Daniel Department of Outreach and Synagogue Community at the Union for Reform Judaism, to meet with members of the congregation who are involved in building a vision of an even stronger congregation. Her visit is sponsored by the Hermene Zweiback Center for Lifelong Jewish Learning.

Dru has a special connection to Temple Israel through her development and leadership of the Outreach Fellows program that has trained more than 150 lay leaders to support people in the process of conversion and for those working with interfaith couples and families. Our own lay leaders, John Dacey, Stephanie Grossman, Lee Needelman and Mimi Rogers Farkas became Outreach Fellows and have taken what they learned to help make Temple a more inclusive community.

A frequent speaker and workshop leader, Dru, who holds a master's degree in social work, has written and edited numerous articles and resource guides. At HUC-JIR, she teaches courses on Jewish identity, outreach to interfaith families, conversion and synagogue change.

On Saturday afternoon, January 29, Dru will participate in Women of Spirit XX, an interfaith, intergenerational day of celebrating the wisdom of women. The multi-faith gathering will learn and converse about aspects of Islam, Judaism and Christianity. Dru will share Jewish reflections at the gathering. Fidelma O'Leary will discuss Muslim perspectives, and Maryanne Stevens, RSM, will convey Christian outlooks.

Women of Spirit is open to all women of the community. Registration forms and more information can be accessed by calling the Knowles Mercy Spirituality Center at 359-4288 or visiting the website at <http://marian.creighton.edu/~wos/>.

Start 2005 with a fascinating leader in the Reform Movement:

*How has the Reform Movement
Impacted American Jewish Life?*

Rabbi Lane Steinger
Friday, January 7
7:30 p.m.

Shabbat Worship Services
**"350 Years of American Jewry
& 180 Years of American
Reform Judaism:
Glories of the Past &
Prospects for the Future"**

Sponsored by the
 Hermene Zweiback Center
 for Lifelong Jewish Learning



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Celebrating 350 Years of Jews in America

Temple "Making a Difference" for Reform Jewish Life in Israel

In February 2004, Temple Israel's Board of Trustees voted unanimously to join other Reform congregations throughout North America in the *Hineini* Project. Proposed by Rabbi Eric Yoffie, President of the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ) at the Biennial in November 2003, *Hineini*: Embracing Our People, Building Our Future is helping to strengthen connections to Reform Judaism throughout the world.

Andi Willensky, who is spearheading *Hineini* at Temple Israel, said that the congregation has now raised more than \$6,000 since the project began in the spring. Each household was asked to contribute \$18 in 2004 and in 2005 to sponsor Reform rabbis and build Progressive synagogues in Israel, and to bolster Progressive Jewish leadership in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

Temple Israel, one of approximately 100 URJ congregations committed to *Hineini*, is helping to construct synagogue buildings for two Israeli Reform congregations, Kehilat Yozma in Modi'in and Kehilat Mevasseret Zion located just

outside Jerusalem in the Judean Hills. Both are led by young, energetic female rabbis and have shown dramatic growth since they were established.

These efforts have been recognized by URJ on its website: www.urj.org/hineini/updates/ (click on *Strengthening the Connection* in the column on the left, and then click on *Your Ideas*). Accompanied by the posters created by Lee Needelman with assistance from Ducky Milder, the website tribute praised the congregation for "putting together a *Hineini* appeal display in their lobby with art, pledge cards and information... Temple Israel is enjoying wonderful success with their project."

Andi explained that the second phase of *Hineini* will kick off in the spring with a photographic exhibit that highlights Jewish Reform life in Israel. You can also view pictures of the recipients of the *Hineini* Project's fundraising efforts on the same website (look under *Stories and Photos from Congregations in Israel* for a broader perspective of the scope of the *Hineini* Project).

Choirs Make Beautiful Music Together

Temple Israel's Kol Rina Choir and the St. Paul United Methodist Church Choir, conducted by Music Minister Jerry Brabec, will present a Kabbalat Shabbat service featuring American Jewish music at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, February 4. On Sunday, February 6 at 11 a.m., the choirs will sing at the church, located at 5410 Corby Street.



Healing

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

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

Shabbat Shira and Grade Three Family Service

Friday, January 21, 6 p.m.

Shabbat Shira honors the song sung by Moses and the People of Israel after they crossed the Red Sea upon their exodus from Egypt. Miriam sang and led the women in dance with timbrels (hand drums) to celebrate God's triumph over Pharaoh's army and the Israelites' successful escape. On Shabbat Shira, we recognize the many miracles that the Israelites experienced on their journey to the Promised Land.

Third graders from Temple's Religious School will have the honor of participating during worship services on Shabbat Shira when the Torah portion, *Beshalach*, is read. Master storyteller Rita Paskowitz will be the guest speaker. As always the entire congregation is welcome to attend services. There will be a Shabbat dinner for the third graders and their families following the service.



The Most Incredible Summer of Your Life!

Log on to www.nfty.org/Israel for more information or to register online!

FOR TEENS!

- 5 Incredible Weeks
- Beautiful Prague and "Exodus" Voyage to Israel by Cruise Ship (1st week)
- Magnificent Sights of Ancient and Modern Israel
- Superior Programs Designed for Reform Jewish Youth



The Contemporary Meaning of Shoah

Sunday, January 30, 10 a.m.

From Elie Wiesel throwing out the first pitch at a Mets season opener in 1988 and the idealization of Anne Frank to a cookbook of recipes from survivors of the Terezin concentration camp, the Holocaust is part of the American cultural consciousness.

Alan Steinweis teaches the history of the Holocaust and modern Jewish history at UNL. From 1995 to 1998, he served as Director of the Harris Center for Judaic Studies at UNL. He will present the topic *The Holocaust: Its Contemporary Meaning for Jews and Americans*.

As he explores how American Jews reacted to the Holocaust during and just after World II, Professor Steinweis will discuss how we continue to understand, incorporate and respond to the Shoah.

A Senior Fulbright Fellow at the University of Heidelberg in Germany in 2003, Professor Steinweis taught a seminar on the memory of the Holocaust in comparative international perspective. Steinweis has authored books and articles on such subjects as art, ideology and economics in Nazi Germany, anti-Semitic social science and Nazi policy. He is also the series editor of the *Comprehensive History of the Holocaust*, published by the University of Nebraska Press and Yad Vashem with financial support from the Ike and Roz Friedman Family Foundation.

When Professor Steinweis speaks at Temple, he plans to deal with "the anti-Holocaust backlash among some left-wing American intellectuals who think the Holocaust has been abused by American Jews to support Israeli expansionism, and more generally, to suppress discussion of American persecution of Blacks, Indians, and so forth," among other issues, he noted.

Professor Steinweis' lecture at Temple is sponsored by the Hermene Zweiback Center for Lifelong Jewish Learning.

Our Sympathy

The Congregation records with sorrow the deaths of...

Barbara Frankel, mother of Amy Kleeberg and Harris Frankel, daughter of Ruth Nogg, and sister of Alan Nogg;

Joy Grossman, wife of Paul Grossman, mother of Fran Coren, and Brud and Dan Grossman, sister of Barbara Turner, and sister-in-law of Ramie Monsky;

Willard "Bill" Worthington Halsted, husband of Joan Halsted, and father of Frances, David and Michael Halsted;

Monet Ziegman Wintroub, mother of Barbara Wintroub, sister-in-law of Rose Ziegman, aunt of Sonia Baker, Sheila Rosen, Paula Ziegman and Bea Premack, and great-aunt of Judy Josephson

...and extends sympathy to their bereaved families.

Beth Israel to Present Musical Weekend

Beth Israel Synagogue invites the community to Shabbat worship services at 5:30 p.m. on Friday, January 28, and at 9 a.m. on Saturday, January 29. Rabbi Ari Dembitzer, who has served as Beth Israel's High Holy Day *chazzan* for the past four years, will return for this musical Shabbat, classes on Shabbat music, Shabbat dinner, a festive Shabbat morning service, and a birthday Kiddush for Rabbi Jonathan Gross on Saturday.

"Rabbi Dembitzer is our much loved high holiday *chazzan*," said Beth Cohen, Executive Director at Beth Israel. The rabbi will present the music of Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach who was famous for inspiring Jews of all backgrounds by creating a synagogue where everyone could sing, dance, pray, and learn. Musical programs, that became known as "Carlebach *Shabbos*," are now celebrated in synagogues around the world.

The Conversation Continues!

In an on-going effort to support single-parent families, we invite moms and dads to join us at Temple Israel for coffee and a nosh on Sunday, January 9 at 10 a.m..

This informal gathering is an opportunity to shmooze with other parents who are facing the challenges and rewards of leading their families on their own. Rabbi Craig Marantz will be there to greet you. Hope you can make it!

Prayer Book Fund Reopened

Temple Israel's Prayer Book Fund is being rejuvenated. The minimum donation to this fund is \$30 which will buy one new *siddur*. Approximately 500 of the new prayer books, *Mishkan T'filah*, will be purchased next spring from the Union of Reform Judaism.

To make a contribution to the Prayer Book Fund for a happy event or to honor the memory of a loved one, call the Temple office at 556-6536. Bookplates denoting your thoughtfulness will be placed in the new *siddurim* when they arrive.

Important Tax Information

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

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

Women of Reform Judaism-Omaha



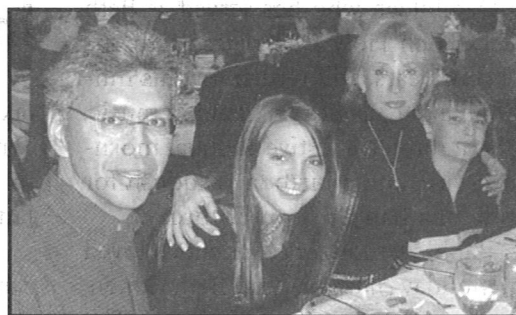
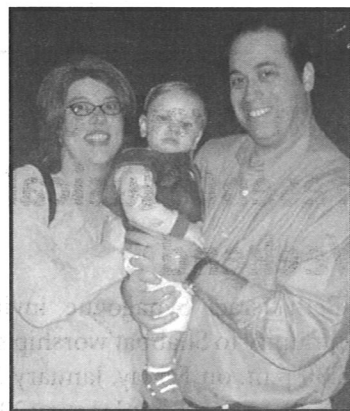
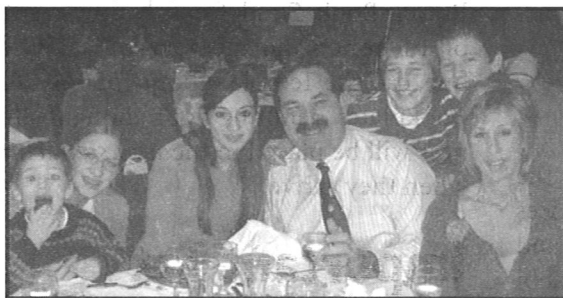
Does trying to get a Shabbat dinner on the table stress you out? Do you think about inviting friends for a Shabbat meal, but don't get any farther? Do you want to simplify the process of creating a Shabbat brunch? If so, our cooking program is for you!!

Four Shabbat Dinners and a Brunch January 16, 10 a.m. to Noon

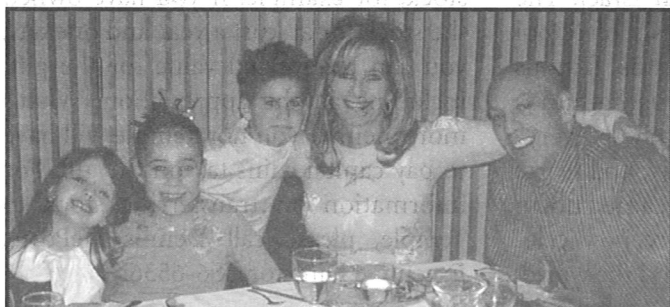
Join us in the Milder Center to learn new ways to make preparation of Shabbat meals stress free because you can make it all ahead of time! We will share recipes and tips for four Shabbat dinners and one Shabbat brunch. \$6 includes a delicious brunch and a recipe book. Please RSVP by sending your check to the Temple office. Make the morning a *mitzvah* by bringing a canned food item for donation to the Omaha Area Food Bank! Questions? Contact Amee Zetzman, 397-1948, or Lori Miller, 926-4400.

Lots of Latkes, Bountiful Brisket, Countless Chanukiot

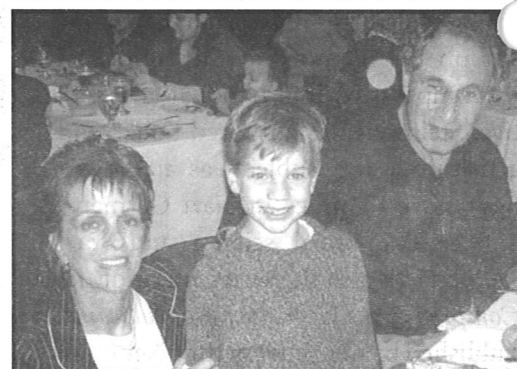
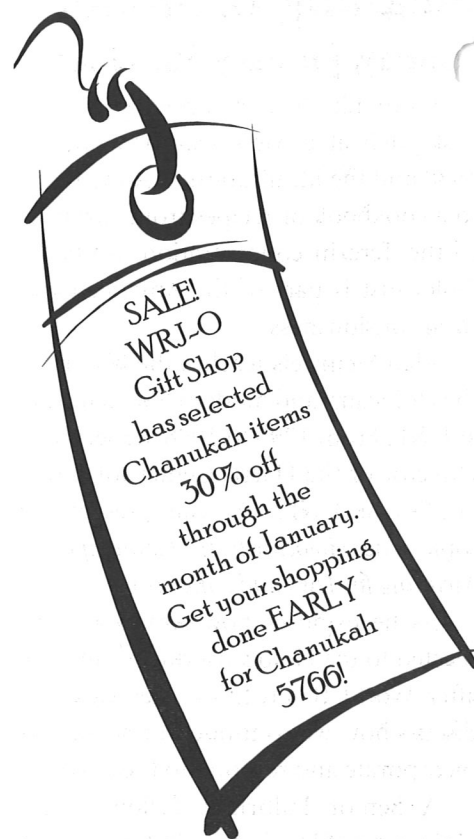
(Below) Ethan Blair, Andrea Holmberg, Jessica Danon, Steve Danon, Josh Danon, Ben Holmberg and Helene Cohn relax after the festive Shabbat worship service and Chanukah dinner on December 10. (Right) Monica, Joseph and Gary Katz had fun lighting their Chanukiah.



Lauren and Cameron Davis joined parents Henry and Mary Kay for the annual congregational Chanukah dinner (right). Our thanks to Henry for donating the delicious brisket!



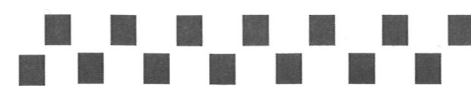
It was a family affair for Ava, Sydney, Brett, Kimberly and Andrew Robinson (right).



(Above) Sandy Martin and Howard Martin enjoyed the dinner with their grandson Cole Horner.

Special thanks to everyone who helped with our wonderful Chanukah dinner this year: Michelle Bucher, Jennifer and Travis Cohn, Henry Davis, Betsy Marantz, Deb Marburg, Shayna Ray, Linda Saltzman, and Annette and Jeremy Wright.

Kudos and thank yous to everyone who contributed to our annual Chanukah *tzedakah* project for Camp Fire USA. A trunkful of gifts and \$231 in monetary donations will benefit Camp Fire's after school and weekend meal programs.



Pasta, Present and Future Honoring Past OTYG Board Members

Spaghetti Dinner & Auction

Sunday, February 13
5 p.m.

Omaha Temple Youth Group's annual feast of pasta perfection!



Proceeds benefit
Camp CoHoLo
Camp Rainbow
and Temple's Youth Groups!

Theme-filled basket and cash donations are needed to make this popular event a continuing success! Contact Lynne Jensen at Temple (ljensen@templeisraelomaha.com or 556-6536).



Were You an OTYG or NFTY Board Member?

OTYG needs your help. We are collecting the names and board positions held for THE PAST 40 YEARS!

If you—or someone you know—was board member (starting at the beginning of OTYG through 2000), please let us know! Contact Lynne Jensen, 556-6536 or ljensen@templeisraelomaha.com

Temple Honors a Woman of Valor

To say farewell to Jane Brooks, a beloved leader of our congregation, Temple hosted a special Oneg Shabbat for over 300 people on December 17. We will miss this pillar of the community who is moving to Boston to be near her daughter Miriam and her husband Philip Wright.

Thanks to the talents of Howard Marcus, the event was captured in dozens of photographs. Please go to www.marcusofomaha.com to view the candid photos. Special thanks to Howard for creating a permanent record of the evening and a beautiful keepsake photo album for Jane!



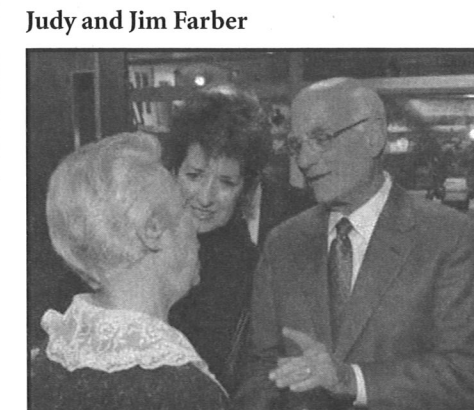
The Pachman Family—Alex, Allison, Danny and Lou



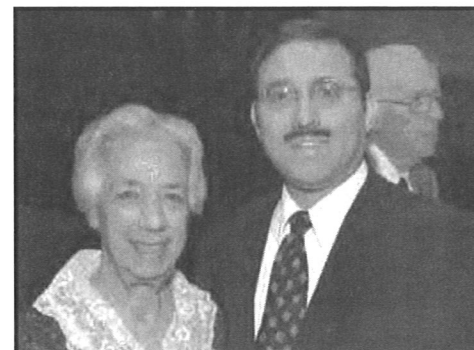
Lonnie Williams



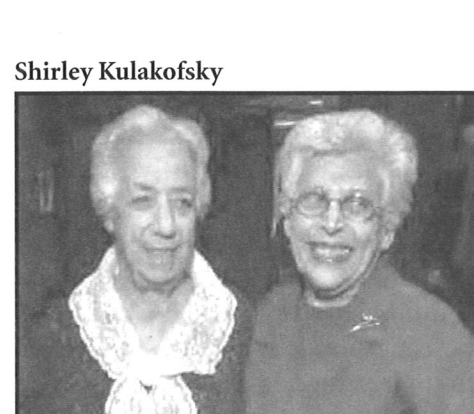
Rabbi Aryeh Azriel



Judy and Jim Farber



Howard Marcus



Shirley Kulakofsky

In the Service of Our Community and Our Country

Following is an excerpt from remarks made at the Fall OTOC Assembly. Congregant Allison Latenser presented the Mid-City Cluster's concerns with public education financing. Temple Israel is an active participant in OTOC.

My name is Allison Latenser and I am representing the Mid-City Cluster through my congregation, Temple Israel. I am also the mother of two children who both attend school in the Omaha Public School District.

My husband and I have kept our children in Omaha Public Schools because we believe they will get a better education in a school district that is racially, ethnically, religiously and socio-economically diverse. I want them to learn what I learned at Central High School back in the early 70's: that the world has been made a better place not by a select few, but by the contributions of men **and** women of different faiths, races and cultures; able-bodied and disabled, young and old.

Today the Omaha Public Schools face serious challenges. For a variety of reasons, OPS finds itself with the largest population of children at risk for educational failure of any of the state's school districts. At the same time, it has fewer resources than several districts with which to address these challenges. Consider this: of all the OPS students who start in ninth grade, 68% will make it to graduation. 94% will graduate in Millard, and 95% in Westside. OPS educates almost 2/3 of Omaha's Public School students. What do these statistics spell for the future of Omaha and the state of Nebraska? What it spells for the present is that affluent and middle class families in OPS are migrating to schools with greater resources and higher levels of performance. Within minutes drive of my home in central Omaha, two school districts co-exist. One district has \$1,000 more to spend per student than the other. I'm talking about Westside and OPS. Westside Community Schools is very proud of the education it is able to provide for its students and it deserves to be. The question we pose is, *what will it take to*

make an education like that available to every child?

The commitment to giving everyone a chance at a good education is the cornerstone of a democratic society. We cannot allow our public schools to fail; they are the lifeblood of Nebraska. With that thought in mind, OTOC would like to propose that the following questions be considered in the next legislative session:

- 1) What is the basic education that every child in Nebraska should have?
- 2) What will it cost?
- 3) How will we pay for it?

OTOC is willing to help find the answers to these questions. We also want to work with our members of the Unicameral on this issue. Senators, as a first step, we invite you to participate with us in a three-hour session on the Nebraska school funding formula to be held in Lincoln at the capitol in the first weeks of session.

Did you know Temple Israel is in the nation's service through our congregant Dr. Gordon Moshman who, is serving in the Army Reserves in Afghanistan? Below are some of his emails home.

Rabbi (Azriel),

...I have looked into the belly of the beast and come away with few alternatives than to confront it where it is...I spoke last night to a German physician, in regard to a four-year-old Afghani child found by a French patrol who was burned over 40% of her body, who was hospitalized at the Spanish hospital in Kabul. There are many of us out there, all with good intentions, doing our best under somewhat not ideal conditions, trying to do the right thing. What makes this possible is that we are all armed to the teeth and carry collectively a big stick so the bad guys are not able to hurt people and when, suppressed enough, cannot manipulate the media to their ends. It is sometimes encouraging to look at the big picture. A few years ago this little girl would not even have merited the effort to save her life much less have the resources available to do it.

All the best, Gordon



Dear Anny,

Karzai was inaugurated today. V.P. Cheney came to the base. I did not see him, but there was extra security present. Fortunately nothing happened. The perimeter guards found five rockets set to go off by remote control last p.m. so there is still that element to deal with. As far as my trip, I should be ok; the cold weather and snow has had its effect on terrorist activity.

We had our Chanukah party tonight. Presents from JCC organizations had been sent. I took some boxes of cappuccino mix. It was a pleasant diversion-we had latkes...and matzo ball soup. Today's sunset was so beautiful.

Dear Anny,

I am in a military fort built as a Provincial recovery team headquarters in Gardez, Afghanistan in Paktia Province. It is quite cold here and very high-close to 8,000 feet. There are very few trees here with snow-capped mountains and wind swept plains. The fort looks like something out of the French Foreign Legion, made of mud and dirt.

We went out this a.m. on our mission. Left at 0330, very cold but so many shooting stars. Arrived after a seriously uncomfortable ride wearing body armor and helmet. We set up and were seeing patients for about five hours. I saw 66 patients myself. I could only spend a few minutes with each patient. The poverty was unbelievable. Dirt ground into the body, filthy clothes, no shoes of any substance, etc. This may be the first time they had spent five minutes with a physician. The people were mostly grateful but the impact on their general well being, so marginal. This country is so poor and there is just no infrastructure. So little could do so much.

Worship Services

Friday~December 31

6 p.m.
Shabbat Service
D'var Torah
Cantor Wendy Shermet

Saturday~January 1

NO BAGELS AND SACRED BOOKS
10:30 a.m.
Shabbat Service
Torah Portion: Shemot
Exodus 1:1-6:1
Haftarah: Isaiah 27:6-28:13;
29:22-23

Friday~January 7

6 p.m.
Tot Shabbat
Dinner immediately following

7:30 p.m.
Shabbat Service
"350 Years of American Jewry
and 180 Years of American
Reform Judaism: Glories of the Past,
Prospects of the Future"

Rabbi Lane Steinger
Oneg Shabbat sponsored by the
Women of Reform Judaism-Omaha

Saturday~January 8

9:30-10:15 a.m.
Bagels and Sacred Books
10:30 a.m.
Shabbat Service
Torah Portion: Va'era
Exodus 6:2-9:35
Haftarah: Ezekiel 28:25-29:21

Friday~January 14

7:30 p.m.
Shabbat Service
Sermon
Rabbi Craig Marantz
Oneg Shabbat sponsored by the
Women of Reform Judaism-Omaha

Saturday~January 15

9:30-10:15 a.m.
Bagels and Sacred Books
10:30 a.m.
Shabbat Service
Torah Portion: Bo
Exodus 10:1-13:16
Haftarah: Jeremiah 46:13-28

Friday~January 21

6:00 p.m.
Shabbat Shira
Grade 3 Family Service

Saturday~January 22

9:30-10:15 a.m.
Bagels and Sacred Books
10:30 a.m.
Shabbat Service
Torah Portion: Beshalach
Exodus 13:17-17:16
Haftarah: Judges 4:4-5:31

Friday~January 28

7:30 p.m.
Shabbat Service
D'var Torah
Dru Greenwood
Oneg Shabbat sponsored by the
Women of Reform Judaism-Omaha

Saturday~January 29

9:30-10:15 a.m.
Bagels and Sacred Books
10:30 a.m.
Shabbat Service
Torah Portion: Yitro
Exodus 18:1-20:23
Haftarah: Isaiah 6:1-7; 9:5-6

Remember Our Funds

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

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

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

\$6.00 fund contributions:

David Bleicher Camp Scholarship
Mel and Genevieve Bornstein
Social Justice
Rabbi Sidney H. Brooks
Institute on Judaism for Clergy
Caring
Cemetery Improvement
Education
Endowment
Samuel and Ida Kaiman Endowment
Sol and Jeanette Krizelman
Social Justice
Landscape
Library
Music
Outreach
Ruth and Bernard Raskin
Youth Activities
Margaret and Arnold Robinson
Family Jewish Education
Milton and Rosalie Saylan
Jewish Education
Jennifer Soshnik Scholarship
Brad Sperling Memorial Fund
for Education of Young Children
Temple Youth Group
Elinor Whitman Religious Education
Janis L. Yale Enrichment
Hermene Zweiback Fund for
Lifelong Jewish Learning
Rabbi Azriel's Discretionary
Rabbi Marantz's Discretionary
Cantor Shermet's Discretionary
Executive Director's Discretionary
Prayer Book (\$30 donation)



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

January 2005 • Tevet/Shevat 5765

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					31	1 No Bagels & Sacred Books Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m.
2 No Religious School	3	4 No Religious School AA, Alanon & Gambler's 12-step 7:30 p.m.	5 No Religious School	6 Adult Study with the Clergy 10-11:30 a.m. Religious School Grades 3-6 4-6 p.m. Kol Rina 6:30-8 p.m.	7 Tot Shabbat Dinner Following 6 p.m. Shabbat Service 7:30 p.m. Rabbi Lane Steinger	8 Bagels & Sacred Books 9:30-10:15 a.m. Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m.
9 Teacher Meeting 9:30 a.m. Religious School Grades K-6 10 a.m.-Noon Single Parent Conversation 10 a.m. Beyond Aleph Bet 10:15 a.m.-Noon	10	11 Genesis Journey Group Noon-1 p.m. Family School & Keep Up 6:15-8 p.m. Interfaith Couples Class 6:30-8 p.m. AA, Alanon & Gambler's 12-step 7:30 p.m.	12 OTYG Board Meeting & Dinner 4:30 p.m. Religious School Grades 7-12 (out of building) 6:30-8:30 p.m.	13 Adult Study with the Clergy 10-11:30 a.m. Religious School Grades 3-6 4-6 p.m. Kol Rina 6:30-8 p.m.	14 Shabbat Service 7:30 p.m.	15 Bagels & Sacred Books 9:30-10:15 a.m. Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m.
16 Religious School Steering Committee 8:45 a.m. Teacher Meeting 9:30 a.m. Religious School Grades K-6 10 a.m.-Noon WRJ-O Cooking Class 10 a.m. Beyond Aleph Bet 10:15 a.m.-Noon	17	18 Genesis Journey Group Noon-1 p.m. Family School & Keep Up 6:15-8 p.m. Interfaith Couples Class 6:30-8 p.m. Board of Trustees 7:30 p.m. AA, Alanon & Gambler's 12-step 7:30 p.m.	19 Conversation with Shaliach Uri Levin Noon-1 p.m. Religious School Grades 7-11 6:30-8:30 p.m.	20 Men's Spirituality Group @ Market Basket 7:30-8:30 a.m. Adult Study with the Clergy 10-11:30 a.m. Religious School Grades 3-6 4-6 p.m. Kol Rina 6:30-8 p.m.	21 Grade 3 Family Service 6 p.m. Shabbat Shira	22 Bagels & Sacred Books 9:30-10:15 a.m. Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m. Grade 2 Tu B'shevat Seder @ Fonetenelle Forest 2:30 p.m.
23 Teacher Meeting 9 a.m. Family Prayer Assembly 10 a.m. Religious School Grades K-6 10 a.m.-Noon Beyond Aleph Bet 10:15 a.m.-Noon 4B's 10:30 a.m.	24	25 Genesis Journey Group Noon-1 p.m. Family School & Keep Up 6:15-8 p.m. Interfaith Couples Class 6:30-8 p.m. AA, Alanon & Gambler's 12-step 7:30 p.m.	26 JYG Event 5 p.m. Religious School & Dinner Grades 7-12 6-8:30 p.m.	27 Adult Study with the Clergy 10-11:30 a.m. Religious School Grades 3-6 4-6 p.m. Kol Rina 6:30-8 p.m.	28 Shabbat Service 7:30 p.m. Dru Greenwood	29 Bagels & Sacred Books 9:30-10:15 a.m. Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m. Women of Spirit XX @ UNO 1-8 p.m.
30 Teacher Meeting 9:30 a.m. Religious School Grades K-3, 5, 6 10 a.m.-Noon Grade 4 @ Federation Library 10:15-11:45 a.m. Contemporary Meaning of the Shoah 10 a.m. Beyond Aleph Bet 10:15 a.m.-Noon	31	1 Genesis Journey Group Noon-1 p.m. Family School & Keep Up 6:15-8 p.m. Interfaith Couples Class 6:30-8 p.m. AA, Alanon & Gambler's 12-step 7:30 p.m.	2 No Religious School	3 Adult Study with the Clergy 10-11:30 a.m. Social Justice Roundtable Noon-1:30 p.m. Religious School Grades 3-6 4-6 p.m. Kol Rina 6:30-8 p.m.	4 Shabbat Comes To You @ Remington Heights 4 p.m. Tot Shabbat Dinner Following 6 p.m. Shabbat Service 7:30 p.m. Kol Rina and St. Paul UMC Choirs	5 Bagels & Sacred Books 9:30-10:15 a.m. Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m.

Community, continued...

It seems this is such a better place because of all the magnificent mountains around.

Dear Anny,

Came back to Bagram last night. They cancelled our mission prematurely-issues of security. The ride back was uneventful. When you are in traffic in Kabul, one feels vulnerable--anyone can throw anything they want at you or worse. It is an Afghan custom to walk with one hand behind the back. This is a problem as you just can't assume that this is entirely innocent.

Worked in sick call today and did an appendectomy on an American soldier at noon. While I was gone, someone just outside our gate was going to the bathroom and stepped on a landmine suffering a fatal injury. It is not too safe in some areas.

We have what is identified as the "Giant Voice System"--always going off and announcing a controlled fire exercise here or explosion over there. Reminds me of MASH with the loudspeaker.

One of the guys was sent a number of books from an unknown college student in St. Louis. That was so very nice of her. It is gratifying to know people do appreciate some of this.

Dear Anny,

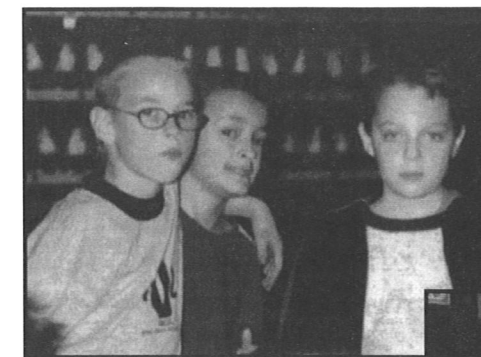
Some of the docs here are rotating out; it reminds me that my day is coming but not before early February.

Yesterday I took care of an 11 year-old shot in the back of the head by an AK-47 round. He was moving all extremities, breathing room air, and talking. His cousin had apparently been cleaning his weapon and it was loaded and discharged. The boy was taken to surgery but bled out on the table. I had to tell his older brother who was pretty stoic about it. Later on I received two patients blown up by an IED. Both are in bad shape. The blast component of the injury not to mention the projectiles are so traumatic. I did a tracheostomy and placed a G-tube on my patient on the ventilator this a.m. I have never done those procedures. Everything went well. I hope to call you shortly.

Give my love to all. Gordy

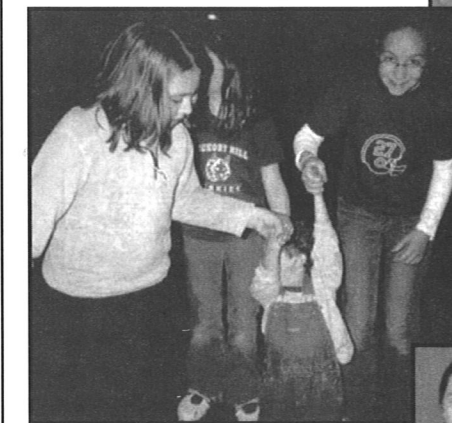
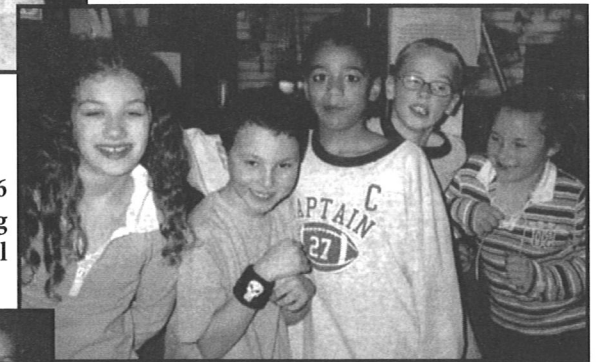
Temple Youth Groups...Join in the Fun!

Club 56 Chanuskate Party



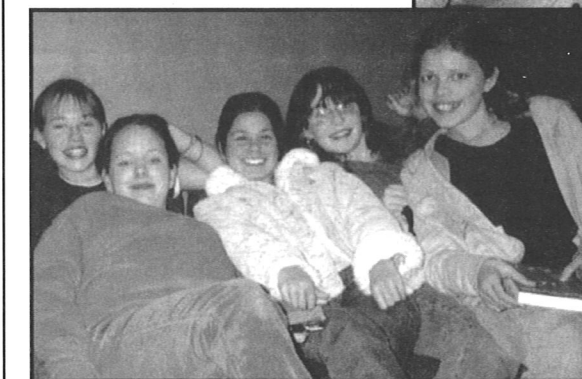
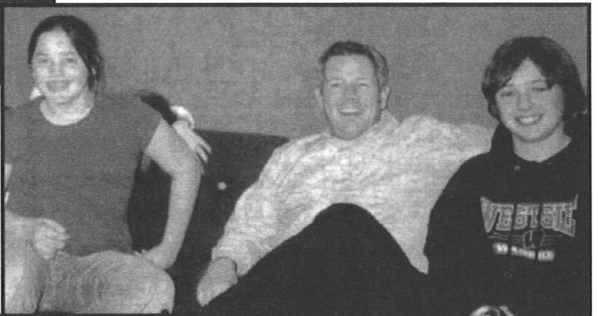
Vince Long, Sam Burrell and Alex Fox enjoyed hanging out at Skateland (right). Jordan Jensen, Ben Noodell, Yaniv Azriel, Vince Long and Madison Jensen enjoyed the skating games(below).

Alexander Kraft, son of Club 56 advisor Natasha Kraft, got a skating lesson from Haley Burns, Rachel Scheet and Lauren Cooper.



JYG Chanukah Battle of the Sexes

(Right) Julianna Scheet, Rabbi Craig Marantz and Ben Prescott enjoyed watching the battle between n'arot and n'areem.



Brittney Baines posted a world record time in the Chanukah Blowout event (below).



(Above) Melanie Long, Julie Sadofsky, Brittney Baines, Hannah Grossman and Chloé Ginsburg were members of the winning team--the girls!

What's Happening in Religious School

Joan Cooper, Elementary School Coordinator

Classes Resume **Thursday, January 6**
Religious School resumes Thursday, January 6 for grades 3 through 6. The first Sunday of the new year will be January 9, and Family School resumes Tuesday, January 11.

RSSC Meeting **Sunday, January 16**
Do you want to hear about the exciting things happening in Religious School? Please join us at 8:45 a.m. RSVP to Maria Neesman or Katherine Finnegan.

Grade 3 Shabbat Shira Service and Dinner **Friday, January 21**
The congregation is invited to participate in the 6:00 p.m. service that will be conducted by the 3rd grade students. Sitter service is available during the worship services by advance reservation. Please call 556-6536.

Grade 2 Tu B'Shevat Seder at Fontenelle Forest **Saturday, January 22**
The congregation is invited to participate in the 2:30 p.m. *seder* that will be conducted by the 2nd grade students. Come enjoy the sights and sounds of this beautiful setting as we celebrate the springtime and the planting of trees in Israel. Reservation must be given to the Religious School office.

Family Prayer Assembly and 4B's **Sunday, January 23**
Following our 10 a.m. Prayer Assembly, parents are invited to attend the 4B's from 10:30 a.m. to Noon (see below). Parents not attending the learning session or the Prayer Assembly are asked to pick up their child(ren) at Noon.

Grade 6 Project Presentations Begin **Sunday, January 30**
Students have teamed up to research people who played an important role in the 350 years of Jews in America. Presentations will begin at 11:40 a.m. each Sunday morning unless otherwise noted. We encourage parents to attend their child's presentation.

Grade 4 Visit to the Federation Library **Sunday, January 30**
Rita Paskowitz, master storyteller, will lead us on a book treasure hunt, 10:15-11:45 a.m. Blumkin Home residents will be invited to join us to share stories and friendship. Parents are also welcome to stay and browse the shelves.

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

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

Sunday, January 23
10:30 a.m., Milder Center

This month we focus on the first "B"—**Behaving: How Your Behavior Can Raise Respectful and Responsible Kids.** Jewish Family Service therapist Karen Gustafson shares her wisdom and experience to help parents help their children be great human beings. A well-regarded teacher of "Love and Logic" parent education classes, Karen's energy and humor will make this session relevant for every parent.

Come for Prayer Assembly, stay for the workshop and enjoy a bagel on the house!

Tot Shabbat is "Pure Joy" for Kids

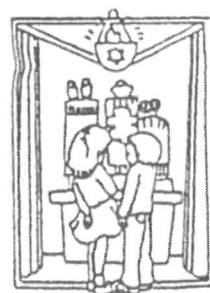
Friday, January 7, 6 p.m.

Tot Shabbat worship services at Temple Israel are followed by dinner catered by Valentino's for the families who attend.

Adam and Nikki Kirshenbaum bring their children, Joe, three, and Jordan, one, to Tot Shabbat. "They love the pasta!" Nikki said. Joe also loves the challah and storytime. "Everything is age-appropriate for the little kids," Nikki added. "They enjoy going and so do we. It's something we can do with the whole family. It's fun!"

Joe and Jordan also like to go, because they see their cousins, Katy, four, and Laura, two, daughters of Matt, Adam's brother, and Jenn Kirshenbaum. Katy and Laura "always look forward to going," said Matt. "Katy likes to see her friends, and she is learning about Shabbat and the routine of getting dressed up and bringing *tzedakah*. She looks for Tot Shabbat on the calendar and reminds us to go, and she makes sure her cousins are going too."

"Services are important," said Rabbi Craig Marantz. But he knows that the kid-friendly meal is also key to "community building. Relationships can begin after the 30-minute service and grow for both the kids and the parents. It's frenetic and fun. We want the kids to feel good about being together at Temple and celebrating Shabbat together."



He added that "dinner is a chance to enjoy each other and get to know one another. I don't know how relaxing it is for the parents, but the kids love it! It's pure joy for them!"

To reserve your spot at the dinner table, contact Maureen in the Temple office, mkube@templeisraelomaha.com or 556-6536. Children eat free; adults are \$5 each.

Chase the Winter Blues Away With a Hot Cup of Coffee in a Cozy Adult Education Class at Temple

Contact Program Director Rosie Zweiback @ rzweiback@templeisraelomaha.com or 556-6536 to register for these classes sponsored by the Hermene Zweiback Center for Lifelong Jewish Learning.

How does an interfaith family relate to relatives and friends?
How does an interfaith couple choose a faith for the family?
How does the couple convey a religious faith to the children?
These and other concerns will be addressed at a new Temple Israel class reaching out to interfaith families of the congregation. **The seven-week course is facilitated by John Dacey, Tuesdays, 6:30-8 p.m., beginning January 11.** Fee per couple: \$18 for class and \$18 for the book.

Conversation with Uri

Wednesday, January 19
Noon-1 p.m.

Uri Levin, the Jewish Community Center Shaliach, will be the guest speaker at the monthly *Conversations with the Rabbis* at Temple Israel.

Uri is from a small settlement called Zurit in the Israeli Galilee. He served in the Israeli Navy on a missile boat after he graduated from high school in 1999 and then became an IDF officer. He loves to travel (and has taken hundreds of pictures of Israel and numerous other countries), enjoys acting, singing and playing the guitar.

Uri will talk about current events in Israel. Remember to bring your own lunch and be ready to offer your own ideas, insights and comments. There is no charge to attend *Conversations* which is open to all adults.

Do you read the comic strips on Sundays?
You may look at them in a new way after you attend **Not Always a Laughing Matter: American Jews and Judaism in the Comic Strips**
Join Creighton University Professor Leonard J. Greenspoon
10 a.m., Sunday, February 13 @ Temple
for a discussion of how the comics reflect the status of Jews in America

Tuesdays with Katherine. . .
Join the Conversation
It All Begins in Genesis: A Jewish Journey Group
Tuesdays, January 11-February 1
Noon to 1 p.m.

Temple congregant Katherine Finnegan will facilitate the exploration of the stories in Genesis and how this sacred text has relevance in our lives today.

Adult Study with the Clergy Continues in 2005

Thursdays, 10-11:30 a.m.

Adult Study with the Clergy will continue while Rabbi Aryeh Azriel is on sabbatical. Beginning in January, the study sessions will be led by Rabbi Craig Marantz and Cantor Wendy, Shermet who will alternate weeks.

Rabbi Marantz plans to explore the topic of modern Jewish thought focusing on contemporary Jewish American thinkers, such as Rabbi Eugene Borowitz, a past Temple Israel scholar-in-residence.

Cantor Shermet will talk about the contributions Jewish composers, movie makers, actors and writers have made to American culture.

New participants are welcome. Fee is \$20 for members/\$25 for non-members.

Aleph, Bet, Gimmel, Dalet, Hay!
Beyond the Aleph Bet
Sundays, January 9-February 13
10:15 a.m.-Noon

Focusing on prayers and blessings from the *siddur*, instructor Colleen Kennealy will teach you to read *Ivrit!*
Class fee is \$18 for members/\$25 for non-members.

A Lesson in Time

350 Years of Jews in America 1890 - 1913

Just before the turn of the 20th century, the Workmen's Circle was founded to promote Yiddish culture and Socialist ideals among Jewish workers. The year was 1892 - the same year the American Jewish Historical Society was established. The following year, the National Council of Jewish Women was founded in Chicago to start schools, develop health care programs and form adult study groups. Also that year, the Jewish Chautauqua Society was organized.

Jewish veterans of the Civil War, stung by the slander that Jews had avoided military service, formed the Hebrew Union Veterans in 1896. The group later became the Jewish War Veterans.

In 1897, *The Jewish Daily Forward*, a Yiddish newspaper, began publication in New York. The paper focused largely on social justice, labor issues and democratic socialism.

The Orthodox Jewish Congregational Union of America was founded in 1898. The forerunner of the Orthodox Union, its platform sought to stand in opposition to the Reform Movement's Union of American Hebrew Congregations.

In 1901, the Rabbinical Assembly was set up to represent Conservative rabbis. The great English-speaking Jewish scholar, Solomon Schechter, arrived in New York in 1902 to lead the reorganized Jewish Theological Seminary (JTS) of

America. Also that year, the Union of Orthodox Rabbis of the United States and Canada was formed.

In 1903, Emma Lazarus' poem, *The New Colossus* (1883), was added to the pedestal of the Statue of Liberty welcoming all immigrants including the great wave that would bring more than two million Jews to America. A fund set up by Baron Maurice de Hirsch in 1891 helped ease the way for these new Americans.

Temple Beth El in Detroit replaced assigned seats with a system of free seating in 1904, allowing all to sit where they chose. "In God's house," the Temple's rabbi declared, "all must be equal. There must be no aristocracy and no snobocracy."

On the 250th anniversary of the Jewish community in the United States, President Theodore Roosevelt praised American Jews for their contributions to the nation. He wrote, "while the Jews of the United States, who now number more than a million, have remained loyal to their faith and race traditions, they have become indissolubly incorporated into the great army of American citizenship."

In 1906, President Roosevelt named Oscar Straus to be Secretary of Commerce. He was the first Jew named to a cabinet position.

Sholem Aleichem arrived in New York from Russia in 1906 to write for the American Yiddish theater. *Fiddler*

on the Roof is based on his story, *Tevye's Daughters*.

"To prevent infringement of the civil and religious rights of Jews and to alleviate the consequences of persecution," the American Jewish Committee (AJC) was established in 1906. In 1912, Louis Marshall, one of America's most distinguished Jewish laymen, became president of the AJC.

In 1909, Julius Rosenwald converted Sears, Roebuck and Company into the largest mail-order house in the world.

Dropsie College for Hebrew and Cognate Learning was chartered in 1907 in Philadelphia as a graduate school awarding a Ph.D. degree. Gifts from Jacob Schiff in 1909 led to Jewish teachers training programs at the JTS Seminary and at Hebrew Union College. Also in 1909, the Hebrew Sheltering and Immigrant Aid Society was formed.

Henrietta Szold founded Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, in 1912.

In 1913, B'nai B'rith created the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) to combat anti-Jewish agitation in the United States and to fight racism and discrimination as exhibited in the Leo Frank case in Atlanta. Frank was falsely accused of murdering a 13-year-old girl, and although his death sentence was commuted, he was lynched by an angry mob.

Birthday Blessings Shabbat Shira January 21, 6 p.m.

Children and adults who celebrate their birthdays during the month of January will be invited to the *bimah* for a special blessing at this Grade 3 Family Service.

Welcome New Members

Renee and Robert Engel
Barbara and Stuart Giller
David Rice
James Sitrick

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

IN MEMORY OF: Sarah Becker: Nancy and Don Greenberg, Connie and Bob Kully; Lilly Boin: Joe Boin; Brother of Jan Braden, LeRoy Canfield, Faye Gendler: Judy and Keith Josephson; Sylvia Coren: Harriet and Ron Epstein, Ann and Don Goldstein, Leslie Kully; Stanley Diamond: Mickey Kaplan, Barbara and Allen Levin, Harriett and Sherm Sperling; Richard "Skip" Feintech: Frances Batt and family, Lisa and Denny Lewis, Margo and Bill Rosen, Terri and Dick Zacharia; Charles Fisher: Betty Fisher; Barbara Frankel: Betty Fisk, Joanne and Jerry Freeman, Eileen and Leonard Jacobson, Judy and Keith Josephson, Jan and Stan Perlmeter, Rosalie and Ernie Saltzman, Joie Simon, Harriett and Sherm Sperling, Debbi and Speedy Zweiback; Dean Frankel: Phyllis and Harvey Aronson, Molline and Fritz Cassman, Ann and Alan Cohen, Abe Cohn, Betty Fisk, Renee and Moe Handleman, Eileen and Leonard Jacobson, Judy and Keith Josephson, Barbara and Marshall Kushner, Lisa and Denny Lewis, Fritz Luefschuetz, Judy and Jerry Marburg, Ducky and Mike Milder, Jan and Stan Perlmeter, Rosalie and Ernie Saltzman, Joie Simon, Janet and Jerry Slusky, Harriett and Sherm Sperling, Donald Yale, Debbi and Speedy Zweiback; Sadie Gitlin: Ann Cohen; Joy Grossman: Colleen and Paul Bendon, Harriet and Ron Epstein, Ann and Don Goldstein, Barbara and Gary Goldstein, Ethel Grossman, Linda and Larry Grossman, Marji and Mike Jones, Debbie and Jim Krasne, Peggy and Chris Krasne, Leslie Kully, Joanie and Marty Lehr, Lisa and Denny Lewis, Margo and Bill Rosen, Millard Speier, Terri and Dick Zacharia; Willard "Bill" Worthington Halsted: Harriett and Sherm Sperling; Morris Lipp: Shirley Weinstein; Dr. Daniel M. Miller: Dr. Alexander Miller, Craig Miller, Mrs.

Daniel Miller, Neil Miller; Sherman Neff: Stacey and Jonathan Rockman; Henry Riekes: Janet and Jerry Slusky, Debbi and Speedy Zweiback; Mark Salomon: Eileen and Leonard Jacobson, Judy and Keith Josephson, Fran and Stanley Katelman, Joan and Milton Marcus, Harriett and Sherm Sperling, Terri and Dick Zacharia; Martin Sugarman: Audrey Sophir; Monet Wintroub: Terri and Dick Zacharia

IN HONOR OF RECOVERY OF: Marlene Dandy: Renee and Moe Handleman; Harold Epstein: Audrey and Morrie Shapiro, Shirley Weinstein; Richard Glazer: Connie and Bob Kully, Joie Simon, Debbi and Speedy Zweiback; Nelson Gordman: Gary Gerelick; Dorothy Kotok: Maxine and Milton Simons; Harley Schrager: Debbi and Speedy Zweiback; Nick Spellman: Judy and Keith Josephson

IN HONOR OF BIRTHDAY OF: Alan Cohen: Janet and Jerry Slusky; Don Cohen: Frances and Ralph Katz; Betty Fisher: Rita Rosen; Barbara Goldstein: Janey and Jerry Dann

IN HONOR OF ENGAGEMENT OF: Estee Fleming and Ted Fellman: Janet and Jerry Slusky

IN HONOR OF BIRTH OF: Abbey Michael Milder: Stacey and Jonathan Rockman; Granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Mike Katzman: Joan and Milton Marcus; Maxwell Phillip Spizman: Lisa and Denny Lewis, The Pachman Family, Stacey and Jonathan Rockman, Sheila and Ray Tomps

IN HONOR OF B'NOT MITZVAH: Samantha, Sarah and Melanie Long: Sheila and Ray Tomps

IN HONOR OF CHOOSING JUDAISM: David Rice: Marian Abramson, Babe Cohn, Eunice and Norm Denenberg, Rose Gross, Linda and Larry Grossman, Renee and

Moe Handleman, Joan and Arnold Kriegler, Barbara and Marshall Kushner, Stephen Lindenmuth, Phyllis and Bob Newman, Sharee and Murray Newman, Nancy and Harlan Noddle, Helga and Phil Patterson, Kop Ramsey, Eve and Fred Simon, Lore Degenstein, Philip Wilson; Charles Sullivan: Danielle and Jeff Gordman, Terri and Phil Schrager, Janet and Jerry Slusky

CHANUKAH WISHES: Deb Finnicum, Dora Goldstrom, Doris Parker, Sarah Schondelmeyer: The Michael Siegel Family, The Ted Zetzman Family

EXECUTIVE OFFICE FOR UNITED STATES ATTORNEYS 2004 DIRECTOR'S AWARD RECIPIENT: Susan Lehr: Stacey, Jonathan, Caroline and Oliver Rockman

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

Women of Reform Judaism Tribute Fund

IN MEMORY OF: Sarah Becker: Marilyn and Marty Warren; Barbara Frankel: Lois and Mel Epstein; Ray Friedman: Jeanne and Dave Dvorkin; Joy Grossman: Lois and Mel Epstein, Marilyn and Marty Warren

IN HONOR OF BIRTH OF: Maxwell Phillip Spizman: Marilyn and Marty Warren

IN HONOR OF KIPNIS-WILSON/FRIEDLAND AWARD RECIPIENT: Maxine Kirshenbaum: Marilyn and Marty Warren

Welcome

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

Meir Alter, the Gerer Rabbi

We welcome Eleanor Krasne who has recently chosen Judaism: May she go from strength to strength!