

Spotlight

YOUR FAVORITE PHOTOS



Rob Reiss, Tami Field, Matt Ray and Shayna Ray made fleece tie blankets for the Stephen Center during Family School.



Peyton and McKenna Blake dropped off their Jewish Family Services / Temple Israel Religious School Partnership donations.

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Calendar

Hamentaschen Baking
Sunday, February 27, 10 a.m.

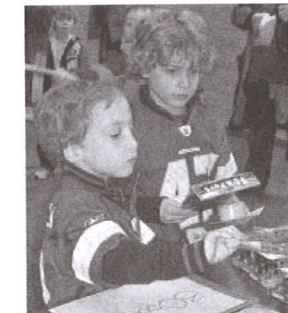
Rituals and Belief: Death & Mourning
Wednesdays, March 2 and 9, 6:30 p.m.

Annual Rabbi Sidney H. and Jane Brooks Institute on Judaism for Clergy and Educators
Friday, March 4, 10 a.m.

Kol Rina and St. Paul Choir Exchange
Friday, March 4, 6 p.m. at Temple Israel
Followed by a Congregational Dinner
Sunday, March 6, 10:30 a.m.
at St. Paul United Methodist Church

Temple Israel Red Cross Blood Drive
Sunday, March 13, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Revitalizing the Festivals: Passover
Sunday, March 13, 10 a.m.



Purim Sing-Along, Carnival and Dinner

Saturday, March 19, 5 - 8 p.m.

Purim is another word for fun, and this year promises to be just that! If you think it would be fun to sing the story of Purim, come rock out at Temple Israel for one of the merriest holidays of the year.

A committee of singers, musicians and composers will rewrite the lyrics of popular 60's, 70's and 80's music, which will be performed sing-along style so the congregation can join in. Be sure to come in your favorite Purim costume.

A family-friendly service and *Megillah* reading will be part of the sing-along. After rocking in the sanctuary, take your children or grandchildren to the Friedman Social Hall to play the games which will be staffed by Omaha Temple Youth Group: play Plinko, Par One Golf, Chicken in a Pot, Roller Bowler, Bring Home the Bacon, Soc-It-To Me, Rebound, Bean Bag, Ball Bounce, Tip It, Crossbow Darts, Shoot the Chute, Ring Toss and slide down Gorilligan's Island.

By the way, Mordechai and Esther have declared that this Purim Celebration counts as school attendance - there will be no Religious School classes the following day, Sunday, March 20.

If you get hungry, pizza, hot dogs, pasta and hamentaschen will be served buffet style. To enjoy both the dinner and the carnival, the cost is only \$10 per family. (Additional charge for seconds.)

Rabbi Azriel will facilitate an adult text study in the library at 6:45 p.m. on "Haman and the Jewish Xenophobia."

In addition to reading the *Megillah* on Purim, one of the special mitzvot of the day is Matanot L'Evyonim - gifts to the poor. It is an obligation to set aside money on the day of Purim specifically for the purpose of feeding the hungry. Please take time to make a donation to Orotchesed, a voluntary organization focused on eradicating hunger in Acco, Israel. Temple Israel, the other Omaha synagogues and the Partnership with Israel Consortium, will be raising money for this worthy cause.

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Turning the Torah...

Giving Thanks, Gaining Holy Perspective

The Hebrew word for Egypt, *Mitzrayim*, is a combination of three Hebrew words, the translation of which are "from the narrow places." Our slavery is not relegated solely to the geographic landmass in the Middle East; it is a spiritual confinement, sometimes of our own doing.

Psychology teaches us that we see what we expect to see. This is called perceptual blindness. Moses saw a burning bush that was not consumed. I wonder what I would have noticed. Would I have seen God's Presence in this miraculous vision, or would I have simply seen a plant on fire? If you don't expect miracles, you don't see miracles.

We've been exploring this in my Thursday morning class, Pop Theology. Last week, we watched *The Sixth Sense*. In the movie, the main character has the curse/gift of being able to speak to ghosts. About them, he says: "They see what they want to see. They don't know that they're dead." Is it possible that sometimes we don't know what it means to be spiritually alive?

Perceptual blindness is the term for this kind of myopic vision. When our view is narrowly fixed, we don't have the language to express anything that might be beyond those "narrow places."

Judaism fights against perceptual blindness, urging us to look beyond our expectations, so that we might lift up our eyes and see. Our Torah constantly challenges us to move into a greater version of ourselves. Starting with the call of *Lech L'chato Avram*, continuing with the wrestling of Jacob, and culminating with God's revelation at Mount Sinai, we are constantly growing (reforming?) our identity and ourselves. Judaism both widens and focuses our perspective.

Our sages teach us to recite one hundred blessings a day. A major part of our liturgy is centered around prayers of praise and thanksgiving. The thanksgiving offering is a ritual that jolts us out of our *mitzrayim* of perceptual blindness, so that we see the burning bushes of our daily lives, and recognize them for what they are. After all, a miracle is not a miracle, unless it is recognized as a miracle.



Rabbi Linder

Temple Israel Staff

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

Ask the Clergy

Q: Will Temple Israel clergy officiate at an interfaith wedding?

Rabbi Azriel

A: The Temple Israel Board of Trustees has granted pulpit discretion to our clergy in the matter of officiating at interfaith marriages at Temple Israel. According to the Reform Movement, reaching out to interfaith couples enhances our commitment to Jewish continuity.

Personally, I will perform interfaith marriages at Temple Israel with certain parameters:

1. The couple has agreed in harmony and respect to maintain a Jewish home, raise their children within the Jewish faith and the Jewish faith alone.
2. The couple agrees to identify and support Temple Israel if they reside in Omaha or another Reform congregation if they reside in another city.
3. The couple or their Jewish parents must have been and continue to be members of Temple Israel in accordance with its policies.
4. The couples will meet with me for pre-marital discussion and instruction on creating a Jewish home and basic Judaism.
5. Only Temple clergy will officiate at the ceremony, and will assume the responsibility of creating a religious ceremony that is an appropriate expression of our Jewish tradition.

We are encouraged by the dedication and commitment of so many non-Jewish parents, spouses and partners to creating Jewish homes and supporting Jewish education for their children.

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

Treasurer's Report



Katherine Finnegan

Temple Israel's Finance Council has been busy this year as we embark on an exciting time in our congregation. Judy Josephson has been actively pursuing grant and alternative fund sources for our building project, in addition to thinking about our long term goals for financial security through planned giving, and the patron and sponsor programs. Dues Equalization Chair Rick Fox has been busy making sure our congregant lists are accurate via a thorough examination of accounts in arrears over three years. Temple Israel's Board of Trustees is committed to ensuring that financial hardship is not a barrier to membership.

Our Budget Committee has been reviewing our current year's performance as well as policies governing our write-offs, as they pertain to reporting Dues in future budgets. Our 2011-2012 Budget Committee is chaired by Jordana Glazer, ninth year serving on the committee. Temple Israel is fortunate to have her at the helm of this critical process. Alan Fredricks, Ted Friedland, Keith Josephson, Rob Reiss, Mike Siegel, Mike Silverman, and I also serve on this committee. Our Investment Committee chaired by Bob Kully, is diligent in its monthly review of Prodigy Asset Management's performance with our Endowment Fund. Prodigy has graciously agreed to manage the new building pledges and cash management at no charge. Phil Rudin, our contact at Prodigy, has been a valuable partner in difficult economic times. Temple Israel's Endowment performance continues to climb as the climate improves. Amee Zetzman, Audit Chair, met with accountants Frankel Zacharia in November. Her committee included Jordana Glazer, Keith Josephson, Gary Kaplan, Mike Norton, Mike Siegel and me.

Lastly, Alan Fredricks and I have been working with Executive Director Dennis Deporte and Bookkeeper Vicki Ducharme to create a system which will track and bill our building pledges, as well as record our construction expenses. These measures will be complete as we near our General Building Campaign Kick-Off. Please contact Katherine Finnegan, kfinnegan@cox.net or Dennis Deporte, 556-6536, if you have any questions or you would be interested in lending your financial skills to one of our Finance Council Committees.

In the News

Zach Spooner, a sophomore at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, is currently an intern in the Washington, D.C. office of Senator Ben Nelson. From January to May, Zach is participating in a Semester in Washington at George Washington University. The pre-law, history major with a political science minor also worked for Senator Nelson last fall as an intern while attending UNL. Zach will return to Lincoln in the fall.

Andi Willensky is chairperson of JFstival! It will mark the 100th anniversary of Jewish Family Service on June 6. Honorary chairs are **Carol and Steve Bloch** and **Betiana and Todd Simon**. Other Temple Israel volunteers involved in the celebration are **Justin Cooper, Danielle Gordman, Sally Kaplan, Jenny Meyerson, Ducky Milder, Nancy Noddle, Kelly and Jeff Nogg, Iris Ricks, Silvia Roffman, Harriet Singer, Suzanne Singer, Dorothy Spizman, and Debbi Zweiback**.

In November, **Hillary Fletcher** was hired as the marketing assistant at the Institute for Holocaust Education. She manages marketing material, press releases, articles, newsletters, updates and the website publicizing programs such as educator workshops, lectures and exhibits.

All Makes Office Equipment, a four-generation, family-owned Omaha-based business, was selected as the 2010-2011 Industry Partner of the Year by the International Interior Design Association. "We are honored to have been designated..." **Jeff Kavich**, president/CEO of All Makes, told the Omaha World-Herald. The award recognizes and demonstrates appreciation for outstanding vendors who have significantly impacted the Great Plains Chapter.

Jessie Feinstein and **Jamie Weinstein** are membership co-chairs of the Boys and Girls Club of the Midlands Family Guild Board which recently announced new officers and board members. The Family Guild, governed by the Guild Board, fundraises, organizes activities for children, and provides volunteers for the Boys and Girls Clubs. Jessie has been on the Guild Board since 2007, and Jamie since 2009.

UNO Professor in the Department of Theatre **Sharon Sobel** was recently awarded a Kennedy Center Gold Medallion by Region 5 of the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival. She has served Region 5 for six years as vice chair for design and technology and as chair. She gives workshops at her region festival every year and at other region festivals on costume and makeup design.

Starring in the cast of the JCC Musical Theater Community Acting Group's production of "Willy Wonka" are **Benjamin Brodkey, Julia Brodkey, Aleia Budwig, Hannah Budwig, Elizabeth Kazor, Emily Kazor, Laura Kirshenbaum, Leon Martin, Jordan Raffel, Julia Raffel** and **Jeremy Wright**. Show date is Thursday, April 14. Tickets are \$5 each and go on sale Monday, March 28.

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

Worship AND HOLIDAYS

Shabbat Evening

Friday, February 18
Service, 6 p.m.
Midrash Keit: Master
Storyteller Rita Paskowitz
Tot Shabbat, 6 p.m.
Dinner following

Shabbat Morning

Saturday, February 19
Sparks Beneath the Surface,
9:15 a.m.
Service, 10:30 a.m.

Shabbat Evening

Friday, February 25
Service, 6 p.m.

Shabbat Morning

Saturday, February 26
Sparks Beneath the Surface,
9:15 a.m.
Service, 10:30 a.m.

Shabbat Evening

Friday, March 4
Service, 6 p.m.
Kol Rina and St. Paul United
Methodist Choir Exchange
March Birthday Blessings

Shabbat Morning

Saturday, March 5
Sparks Beneath the Surface,
9:15 a.m.
Service, 10:30 a.m.

Shabbat Evening

Friday, March 11
Shabbat Comes to You at
Remington Heights, 4 p.m.
Service, 6 p.m.

Shabbat Morning

Saturday, March 12
Sparks Beneath the Surface,
9:15 a.m.
Service, 10:30 a.m.

Shabbat Evening

Friday, March 18
Service, 6 p.m.

Shabbat Morning

Saturday, March 19
Sparks Beneath the Surface,
9:15 a.m.
Service, 10:30 a.m.
Purim Sing-Along,
Carnival and Dinner, 5 p.m.

Shabbat Evening

Friday, March 25
Service, 6 p.m.
Service, 7:30 p.m.
Bishop John Shelby Spong:
Horizons of Faith

Shabbat Morning

Saturday, March 26
Sparks Beneath the Surface,
9:15 a.m.
Service, 10:30 a.m.

Kol Rina and St. Paul Choir to Sing "Something for Everyone"

Friday, March 4, 6 p.m., Temple Israel followed by a Congregational Dinner
Sunday, March 6, 11 a.m., St. Paul United Methodist Church (5410 Corby St)
Continuing a tradition that is approximately eight years old, Temple Israel's
Kol Rina and the St. Paul United Methodist Church choir will blend their
voices once again during Friday Shabbat worship service at Temple Israel.
They will add an encore at St. Paul United Methodist Church on Sunday.

Cantor Shermet and St. Paul's Minister of Music Rev. Jerry Brabec, who
conducts the combined 35-voice choir, promises the music will have
"something for everyone" whether it is spiritual, contemporary, or classic.

"We do it for fellowship, to sing new music and for fun," mentioned
Cantor. The service will include brass players, the River City Ringers (on
bells), organ and piano accompaniment, and a new piece based on Psalm
99 by local composer Michael McCabe.

Silvia Roffman has enjoyed going to St. Paul to hear the choirs together.
"Jerry Brabec works well with the choirs and the cantor, and the people at
the church are so warm and welcoming. They really enjoy having us come."

Stay after services to enjoy a Shabbat dinner and wonderful company.
The menu will be chicken marbella, couscous, a green vegetable, cha
and salad bar. Please make a reservation by contacting the Temple Israel
office, 556-6536 or mkube@templeisraelomaha.com, by February 28. Cost
of the dinner is \$10 for adults, \$8 for children and no charge for children
five and younger.

Retired Episcopal Bishop to Speak at Alternate Shabbat Worship Service

Friday, March 25, 7:30 p.m.

**Temple Israel will also hold its regularly
scheduled Shabbat worship service at 6 p.m.**

John Shelby Spong is the retired American Bishop of the Episcopal
Church Diocese of Newark, NJ. A liberal Christian theologian, religious
commentator and author, Bishop Spong calls for a fundamental
rethinking of Christian belief away from theism and traditional doctrines.

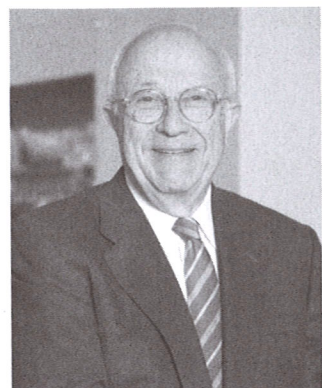
Sponsored by Temple Israel's neighbor, First United Methodist Church,
Bishop Spong will be in Omaha as part of the Church's "Horizons of Faith"
yearly lecture series. He was the series' first lecturer ten years ago and
spoke at Temple Israel when he was last in Omaha. Members of First
United Methodist are invited to Temple Israel for services.

Having studied at major centers of Christian scholarship on two
continents, the Bishop delivers more than 175 public addresses per
year across the English-speaking world. He has served as rector at four
churches in North Carolina and Virginia and has held visiting position
and given lectures at major American theological institutions. Retired
since 2000, he has authored 22 books and has been a weekly columnist
on the internet.

templeisrael-ne.org

New Building

Architects Honored to be Back on the Job for Temple Israel



When **Maurice (Moe) Finegold** was
growing up in Providence, RI, he
was allowed to listen as his parents
discussed with an architect the
design of their new house. "Kind of
seen but not heard," he recalled. "The
architect was over the top excited and
passionate." That energy created some
of the inspiration for Moe's choice of a
profession.

Moe earned a master's degree in
architecture from Harvard Graduate
School of Design. His career began when he worked for small firms
in Rhode Island and then in Brookline, MA. He started independent
practice in 1964. After several partnerships, Moe and Jim
Alexander started their own firm, Finegold Alexander + Associates
Inc., in 1992. The firm was selected in 2006 by Temple Israel to
design a new synagogue.

In addition to working on the Ellis Island restoration project,
Finegold Alexander (in association with Pei Copp Freed) executed
the design of the U. S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington,
D.C. Moe described it as "a profound experience."

Designing new synagogues became a focus of Finegold Alexander.
"At one time in high school, I was interested in studying for the
rabbinate," Moe revealed. "I have done a lot of research on the
origin of the synagogue to understand more fundamentally
how synagogue spaces serve the needs and purposes of
congregations."

Among synagogues Finegold Alexander has designed are Beth
El Synagogue in Omaha, as well as others in Minneapolis, San
Antonio, Chicago, Memphis, Dallas, Boston, Washington, D.C. and
Munich, Germany. In addition, the firm has designed educational
institutions, libraries, museums, theaters, cultural institutions,
recreational facilities and courthouses.

"I became an architect because I thought I could make the world
a more beautiful place. That drives me to this day," confided Moe.
He is "honored and delighted and looking forward" to being back
in Omaha.



Tony Hsiao, director of design with
Finegold Alexander, graduated
from the University of Michigan
in 1980 and received his master
of architecture from the Harvard
Graduate School of Design in 1984.
Since joining Finegold Alexander in
1984, he has become a principal and
director of design.

A member of the American Institute
of Architects, the National Trust for
Historic Preservation, and the Art

Deco Society of America, Tony has been involved in designing
Union Station in Worcester, MA; Jewish Community Centers in San
Antonio, TX, and in Munich, Germany; the U.S. Holocaust Memorial
Museum; the Holocaust Memorial in Frankfurt, Germany; the
Snug Harbor Theatre in Staten Island, NY; and the IMAX Theater in
Chattanooga, TN. He has also designed public school buildings,
libraries, multi-unit residential facilities, and more than a dozen
synagogues.

"I feel like I have come home again by returning to Omaha where it
all began for me personally," Tony said. "It is an honor to be part of
the story for Temple Israel to achieve its vision and aspirations for
the future."



Tony Hsiao and Moe Finegold with Finegold Alexander + Associates, Inc. of Boston,
were back in Omaha in late January to see the proposed site for the new Sterling Ridge
development (formerly Ironwood Golf Course) where the congregation is planning
to build a new Temple Israel. Tony and Moe met with potential sub-contractors and
discussed architectural plans with Building Coordinating Committee members:
(clockwise from the left): Tony Hsiao, Rabbi Azriel, Ted Zetzman, John Waldbaum,
Katherine Finnegan, Moe Finegold and Jon Meyers. Michael Silverman and Wendy
Goldberg are also on the committee.

templeisrael@templeisraelomaha.com

February

אדר / שבט



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
				Adult Study with the Clergy 10-11:30 a.m. Kol Rina Rehearsal @ St. Paul United Methodist 7:15 p.m.	Everyday Holiness at JCC Noon Shabbat Service 6 p.m.	Sparks Beneath the Surface 9:15-10:15 a.m. Shabbat Service led by Grade 6 10:30 a.m. Family luncheon to follow
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Teacher Meeting 9 a.m. Grades PreK-6 10 a.m. - Noon OTYG Spaghetti Dinner Work Session Noon	Derek Torah Judaism 101 @ JCC 7:30 p.m.	Adult B'nai Mitzvah 6:30 - 8 p.m. AA, Alanon & Gambler's 12-step 7:30 p.m.	Grades 3-6 4-6 p.m. Family School 6-8 p.m. Grades 7-8 6-8 p.m. School Dinner 6 p.m. Rebecca Goldstein Book Club 6:30 p.m.	Adult Study with the Clergy 10-11:30 a.m. Kol Rina Rehearsal @ St. Paul United Methodist 7:15 p.m.	Everyday Holiness at JCC Noon Shabbat Comes to You @ Remington Heights 4 p.m. Shabbat Service 6 p.m.	Sparks Beneath the Surface 9:15-10:15 a.m. Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m. OTYG/JYG Spaghetti Dinner Setup 1 p.m. OTYG Pump It Up Celebration 6 p.m.
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Grades K-6 10 a.m.-Noon WRJ Board Meeting 10 a.m. OTYG Board Meeting Noon Spaghetti Dinner and Live & Silent Auction 5-8 p.m.	Derek Torah Judaism 101 @ JCC 7:30 p.m.	Adult B'nai Mitzvah 6:30 - 8 p.m. AA, Alanon & Gambler's 12-step 7:30 p.m.	Grades 3-6 4-6 p.m. Family School 6-8 p.m. Grades 7-8 6-8 p.m. School Dinner 6 p.m. Rebecca Goldstein 36 Arguments For the Existence of God: A Work of Fiction, 6:30 p.m.	Adult Study with the Clergy 10-11:30 a.m. Kol Rina Rehearsal @ St. Paul United Methodist 7:15 p.m.	Everyday Holiness at JCC Noon Shabbat Service 6 p.m. Tot Shabbat 6 p.m. Dinner following	Sparks Beneath the Surface 9:15-10:15 a.m. Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m. Bat Mitzvah of Abby Reiss
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
No Religious School	Derek Torah Judaism 101 @ JCC 7:30 p.m.	Executive Meeting 6 p.m. Adult B'nai Mitzvah 6:30 - 8 p.m. Board of Trustees 7 p.m. AA, Alanon & Gambler's 12-step 7:30 p.m.	Grades 3-6 4-6 p.m. Family School 6-8 p.m. Grades 7-8 6-8 p.m. School Dinner, 6 p.m.	Adult Study with the Clergy 10-11:30 a.m. Kol Rina Rehearsal @ St. Paul United Methodist 7:15 p.m.	Everyday Holiness at JCC Noon Shabbat Service 6 p.m.	Sparks Beneath the Surface 9:15-10:15 a.m. Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m. B'not Mitzvah of Jessica and Sarah Pfrenger
27	28					
Grades PreK-6 10 a.m. - Noon Hamentaschen Baking 10 a.m.	Derek Torah Judaism 101 @ JCC 7:30 p.m.					

March

אדר



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
			Grades 3-6 4-6 p.m. Family School 6-8 p.m. Grades 7-8 6-8 p.m. School Dinner, 6 p.m. Rituals and Belief: Death and Mourning 6:30 p.m.	Adult Study with the Clergy 10-11:30 a.m. WRJ Nominating Meeting Noon Kol Rina Rehearsal 6 p.m. Rabbi Brooks Lecture @ UNO, 7 p.m.	Rabbi Sidney H. and Jane Brooks Institute on Judaism for Clergy and Educators 10 a.m. Shabbat Service Kol Rina and St. Paul United Methodist Choir 6 p.m. Congregational Dinner 7 p.m.	Sparks Beneath the Surface 9:15-10:15 a.m. Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m.
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Teacher Meeting, 9 a.m. Grades K-6 10 a.m. - Noon Prayer Assembly, 10 a.m. Grade 2 Parents Learning Coffee 10:30 a.m. Kol Rina and St. Paul United Methodist Choir @ St. Paul 11 a.m.	Derek Torah Judaism 101 @ JCC 7:30 p.m.	Adult B'nai Mitzvah 6:30 - 8 p.m. AA, Alanon & Gambler's 12-step 7:30 p.m.	Grades 3-6 4-6 p.m. Family School 6-8 p.m. Grades 7-8 6-8 p.m. School Dinner 6 p.m. Rituals and Belief: Death and Mourning 6:30 p.m.	Adult Study with the Clergy 10-11:30 a.m.	Shabbat Comes to You @ Remington Heights 4 p.m. Shabbat Service 6 p.m.	Sparks Beneath the Surface 9:15-10:15 a.m. Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m.
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Blood Drive, 9 a.m. Jewish Teacher Meeting, 9 a.m. Grades PreK-6, 10 a.m.-Noon Revitalizing the Festivals, 10 a.m. Grade 3 @ Blumkin Home 10:15 a.m. OTYG Board Meeting, Noon OTYG Lunch & Program, Noon Club 56 Israeli Cooking, Noon	Derek Torah Judaism 101 @ JCC 7:30 p.m.	Executive Meeting 6 p.m. Adult B'nai Mitzvah 6:30 - 8 p.m. Board of Trustees 7 p.m. AA, Alanon & Gambler's 12-step 7:30 p.m.	No Religious School No Family School No Middle School	Adult Study with the Clergy 10-11:30 a.m.	Shabbat Service 6 p.m.	Sparks Beneath the Surface 9:15-10:15 a.m. Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m. Bar Mitzvah of Brandon Idelman Grades K-6, 5 p.m. Purim Service, Sing-Along, and Carnival 5-8 p.m.
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Purim No Religious School	Derek Torah Judaism 101 @ JCC 7:30 p.m.	Adult B'nai Mitzvah 6:30 - 8 p.m. AA, Alanon & Gambler's 12-step 7:30 p.m.	No Religious School No Family School No Middle School	Adult Study with the Clergy 10-11:30 a.m.	Shabbat Comes to You @ Blumkin Home 2:30 p.m. Shabbat Service 6 p.m. Alternate Shabbat Service Bishop John Shelby Spong 7:30 p.m.	Sparks Beneath the Surface 9:15-10:15 a.m. Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m. Bar Mitzvah of Ben Oyler
27	28	29	30	31		
Grades PreK-6 10 a.m. - Noon Book Sorting Day 10 a.m. PreK & Kindergarten Seder 11 a.m. 's Pizza School Fundraiser, Noon Religious School Steering Committee Meeting, Noon	Derek Torah Judaism 101 @ JCC 7:30 p.m.	Adult B'nai Mitzvah 6:30 - 8 p.m. AA, Alanon & Gambler's 12-step 7:30 p.m.	Grades 3-6 4-6 p.m. Family School 6-8 p.m. Grades 7-8 B'nai Tzedek Dinner and Field Trip 6 p.m. @ JCC School Dinner, 6 p.m. So the Torah is a Parenting Guide? 6:30 p.m.	Adult Study with the Clergy 10-11:30 a.m.		

Congregation

B'nai Mitzvah בני מצוה

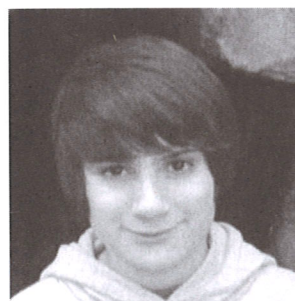


Jessica and Sarah Pfrenger will celebrate their B'not Mitzvah on February 26. Both daughters of Bonnie and Jochen Pfrenger attend Elkhorn Ridge Middle School. The girls have a younger sister, Nina, ten, and

a three-year-old brother, Jonas. Jessica and Sarah realized that bullying is a reality for several of their fellow students. The girls decided to introduce the Anti-Defamation's "No Place for Hate" campaign for their mitzvah project at school after talking to their school counselor and vice principal. Along with the principal, vice principal, teachers and counselor, Jessica and Sarah have outlined and will engage the school in projects that demonstrate the diversity of the school's population. The girls will also be working toward meeting the criteria to qualify their school for a "No Place for Hate" banner.



On March 5, **Gavin Rogers**, who attends Beveridge Middle School, will become a Bar Mitzvah. Gavin's parents are Marcee and Chuck Rogers. The family also includes Mallory, 15, and Renatta, two. To fulfill his mitzvah project, Gavin has been volunteering at SarahCare of Omaha, an adult day care center for older adults. The young musician played his saxophone, the piano and assisted with recreation and therapy activities.

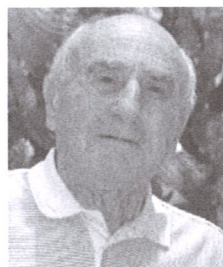


A student at Beveridge Magnet School of Global Studies and the Arts, **Brandon Idelman** will become a Bar Mitzvah on March 19. He is the son of Jill and George Idelman and the brother of Justin, 19. Brandon has been volunteering at Quality Living, Inc. which provides post-acute rehabilitation for young adults with brain or spinal cord injuries.



Also a Beveridge Magnet School student, **Ben Oyler** will become a Bar Mitzvah on March 26. He is the son of Karen Oyler. Ben enjoys dance classes at the Jewish Community Center, is interested in computers and science fiction, and takes great pleasure in learning Hebrew.

Celebrating Cass Street Memories with Irv Yaffe



1. How long have you belonged to Temple Israel?

Oh golly! A very long time. Originally, my parents belonged to Beth Israel when it was down on 18th and Chicago. Annette and I joined Temple Israel when our daughters were starting Religious School. They are in their late 50s now.

2. Where did you grow up and raise your family?

I grew up in Omaha and graduated from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 1940. Annette grew up in Los Angeles. We met on a blind date on December 4, 1949, in California and came back here shortly after we got married. I served in World War II from 1942 to 1946. I was in the printing business, started by my father in 1906, from 1940 until the mid to late 1980s.

3. What is your favorite memory of Temple Israel?

I was always impressed with Rabbi Brooks, and we got to be very good friends with (Rabbi) Sidney and Jane (Brooks). I enjoyed Sidney's sermons. They were always timely, and I thought important at the time. I didn't attend services every Shabbos, but I never missed any of the holidays. I have been doing that ever since I was a Bar Mitzvah. I thought of it as a duty. I have seen a lot of changes. I didn't always agree, but have been a loyal member.

If you have a favorite Cass Street memory to share in the Tidings please contact Communications Coordinator Claudia Sherman at 496-3523 or cshepherd@templeisraelomaha.com.

Send a WRJ Tribute Card

The Women of Reform Judaism (WRJ) Fund promotes fellowship among women and supports Temple Israel's activities that enrich our connections to each other, to the broader community and to Judaism. A portion of the proceeds is devoted to the national WRJ Youth, Education and Special Service (YES) Fund that aids eligible students enrolled at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, development of the WRJ programs, and youth activities of the Union of Reform Judaism.

Below is a list of holiday greetings and lifecycle events in our congregation. Check the names of the congregants who you wish to remember by adding your name to their WRJ Tribute card. Each person listed below will receive a WRJ Tribute card listing the friends, relatives, and acquaintances who are thinking of them.

BIRTHS לידה

- ☐ Arrow Drake and Hazel Clover Hoffman 9-23-10
son and daughter of Mary Drake and Mark Hoffman
- ☐ Walden Wilhelm Beha 11-20-10
son of Lynn and Jonathan Beha
- ☐ Zachary Arthur Sherman 12-6-10
son of Shannon and Mitch Sherman
- ☐ Lily Rei Kenkel 12-21-10
daughter of Anna and Matthew Kenkel

B'NAI MITZVAH בני מצוה

- ☐ Abby Reiss 2-19-11
daughter of Wendy and Rob Reiss
- ☐ Jessica and Sarah Pfrenger 2-26-11
daughters of Bonnie and Jochen Pfrenger
- ☐ Gavin Rogers 3-5-11
son of Marcee and Charles Rogers
- ☐ Brandon Idelman 3-19-11
son of Jill and George Idelman
- ☐ Benjamin Oyler 3-26-11
son of Karen Oyler
- ☐ Cole Horner 4-2-11
son of Angela and Paul Horner
- ☐ Monica Siegel 4-9-11
daughter of Andrea and Michael Siegel
- ☐ Michael Militzer 4-16-11
son of Ellie and Paul Militzer
- ☐ Sophie Budwig 5-7-11
daughter of Larry Budwig and the late Kirsten Budwig
- ☐ Sarah Krasno 5-21-11
daughter of Roxanne and Todd Krasno
- ☐ Brett Robinson 6-4-11
son of Kimberly and Andrew Robinson
- ☐ Madelin Miller 6-11-11
daughter of Jennifer and Paul Miller

Please return this form with your check payable to Women of Reform Judaism by Monday, March 21, to Temple Israel, 7023 Cass Street, Omaha, NE 68132.

Preferred Signature _____

ENGAGEMENTS איחוסין

- ☐ Michelle Taylon and Bryan Lowery 1-4-11
Parent are Dr. Charles and Mary Ann Taylon, Sue and Karl Lowery
- ☐ Megan Adams and Jeffrey Bennett 1-13-11
Parents are Bettie and John Adams, Sheree and Fredric Bennett
- ☐ Lauren Brown and Kelson Jorgensen 1-20-11
Parents are Jonathan Brown, Debby and Speedy Zweiback, Kelly and Lori Jorgensen

MARRIAGE נישואין

- ☐ Deb Politi and Eddie Kenkel 12-11-10
Parents are Alberta and Nick Politi, Gail and Tom Kenkel
- ☐ Bracha Bennett and Gideon Garland 1-9-11
Parents are Carol and Manny Goldberg, Gail and Marshall Garland

NEED TO SEND A THANK YOU, GET WELL OR JUST THINKING ABOUT YOU CARD?

Send a WRJ Fund donation card for birthdays, condolences, welcoming new members or wishing a speedy recovery. We will send a personalized donor card for any occasion for a minimum donation of \$10 per card. Contact the Temple Israel office, 556-6536, or complete the online form on the Temple Israel website, www.templeisrael-ne.org, to order a personalized donation card.

☐ I would like to acknowledge all of the events listed above for \$25

_____ (qty) @ \$3 each for WRJ Tribute Cards



New Members



Leslie and Brian Eades are both native Omahans. Brian is a commercial real estate attorney and partner with Kutak Rock, and Leslie is busy with Carter, nine, and Emma, seven. Leslie also does a lot of volunteering at her children's school. Both kids are students at Aldrich Elementary School. Typically, the Eades family can be found

hanging out at the kids' baseball or basketball games. Carter loves baseball, and Emma is into dance. The family also includes Zoe, a Teacup Yorkie; a hamster named Hammy; and two birds, Charlie Brown and Luke Skywalker.

Birth לידה

Lily Rei Kenkel, daughter of Anna and Matthew Kenkel, Misawa, Japan. Grandparents are Gail and Tom Kenkel, Council Bluffs, IA, and Gloria and Kent Gibson, Atlanta, GA. Great-grandparents are Edythe and Lloyd Krasne, Council Bluffs, IA.

Engagement אירוסין

Megan Adams and Jeffrey Bennett. Parents are Bettie and John Adams, and Sheree and Fredric Bennett, NJ.

Lauren Elizabeth Brown and Kelson Jorgensen. Parents are Debby and Speedy Zweiback, Jonathan Brown, Boulder, CO, and Kelly and Lori Jorgensen.

Michelle Taylon and Bryan Lowery. Parents are Mary Ann and Charles Taylon, Bellevue, NE, and Sue and Karl Lowery, Canada.

Volunteer Opportunities

Purim Carnival

Saturday, March 19

Mordecai and Esther need some assistance! If you can help set up and take down games such as Plinko, Par One Golf, Roller Bowler, Crossbow Darts, and Shoot the Chute, please contact the Temple Israel office, 556-5636. Volunteers to serve food are also needed in the magical city of Shushan which will be located temporarily in the Friedman Social Hall.

Marriage נישואין

Mr. and Mrs. Gideon Garland. Mrs. Gideon Garland is the former Bracha Bennett. Parents are Carol and Manny Goldberg, and Gail and Marshall Garland, Winnipeg, Canada.

Mr. and Mrs. Eddie Kenkel. Mrs. Eddie Kenkel is the former Deb Politi. Parents are Alberta and Nick Politi, Bethlehem, PA, and Gail and Tom Kenkel, Council Bluffs, IA.

Temple Israel's Wish List

- Shabbat Oneg Sponsor (\$100 per oneg)
- Purim Carnival Sponsor (\$1,000)
- Laptop and wireless printer for Youth Group (\$1,500)

In Sympathy נחמה

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

Eugene F. Eisenberg, father of Donna Givner;

Ruth Feist, aunt of Claire Flatowicz;

Pearl Osoff Gross, wife of Gerald Gross, sister-in-law of Sally and Ed Malashock and Jerry Milder;

Edward Newman, father of Melany Fullenkamp;

Mitchell Perlmeter, grandson of Stanley Perlmeter

...and extends sympathy to their bereaved families.



Temple Israel clergy had a great time fielding questions during the congregational dinner after a beautifully spiritual Shabbat Shira Service. Come to the next Congregational Dinner on March 4 following the Kol Rina and St. Paul United Methodist Choir Exchange.

Temple Israel's Red Cross Blood Drive

Sunday, March 13, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

You don't need a *special* reason to give blood. Just know that the need is constant, and your contribution is important for a healthy, reliable blood supply. You will feel good knowing you have helped change a life. If you are healthy, at least 17 years old, and weigh at least 110 pounds, you can donate the gift of life - one pint of your blood. Ron Budwig will again chair Temple Israel's blood drive.

To sign up, please log on to www.redcrossblood.org. Then click on Make a Blood Donation Appointment (in the blue box on the right side of the screen). Under find a donation opportunity near you, enter the sponsor code 113.

Caring Congregation

Creating Connections within Temple Israel Community

In times of need and in celebration, in sickness and in health, when we are sad and when we are joyful, from birth to death, Temple Israel members reach out to one another. Caring Congregation volunteers bring our community closer together and bring Temple Israel and Judaism closer to those who are unable to come to us.

Would you like to befriend members who are homebound or living in assisted/independent living facilities, deliver meals to members, provide support in neighborhoods where congregants live, or make calls to invite members to services? Please contact Program Director Wendy Goldberg, 556-6536 or wgoldberg@templeisraelomaha.com, to participate in this holy endeavor.

Women of Reform Judaism

Hamentaschen Baking

Sunday, February 27, 10 a.m. - Noon

Join us for a morning of baking in our Temple Israel kitchen. Bakers, non-bakers, it doesn't matter. If you have a rolling pin at home, please bring one.

Book Sorting Day

Sunday, March 27, 10 a.m.

"Recipes in Remembrance"

Whipping Up Your Favorite Dishes

Please submit your recipes for "Recipes in Remembrance," sponsored by the family of Stephen Simon. The cookbook will be dedicated to the memory of loved ones who are "the missing ingredients" in our lives. Honor a family member or friend by sharing a recipe and a story to keep his or her memory alive. Recipe submission forms are available on our website, www.templeisrael-ne.org. Please click on Congregation and then on WRJ Sisterhood.

WRJ Gift Shop is Now Online

Temple Israel's Gift Shop, operated by Women of Reform Judaism, is now online on our website, www.templeisrael-ne.org, to make your shopping experience more convenient. In addition, the online Judaica store, open 24/7, carries thousands of the finest Judaica available from the best artists in the United States, Israel, and the rest of the world, according to Judaica Beautiful, an online fundraising webstore with which Temple Israel is planning to affiliate.

WRJ Gift Shop Manager Sandy Nogg said, "The online Gift Shop will enhance the shopping experience of our customers, give them more to choose from, and perhaps, give them additional ideas. We will still have the physical Gift Shop, and shoppers can always ask us questions about what they see online. We see this as an additional service to our customers."

The Rabbi Sidney H. Brooks Lecture

Thursday, March 3, 7:30 p.m.

Thompson Alumni Center at UNO, 6705 Dodge St.

Rabbi Norman M. Cohen will be the speaker at the annual Brooks Lecture at UNO which is open to the public free of charge. He will speak on the topic: "Judaism and Christianity: Two Different Paths to the Same God."

"I will address some of the issues we have in common and the important differences that make us distinct," said Rabbi Cohen. "I will spend time discussing the stereotypes and misconceptions we have of each other and how they lead to xenophobia that makes growth and mutual respect extremely difficult."

Ongoing

Rituals and Belief: Death and Mourning with Rabbi Linder and Cantor Shermet

Wednesdays, March 2 and 9, 6:30 - 8 p.m.

When is a person considered no longer alive? What happens to us after we die? What are Jewish traditions and rituals in preparing a body for burial? What are the stages of Jewish mourning? What kinds of Jewish decisions might I face when a loved one dies?

These questions as well as contemporary issues such as cremation, organ donation, assisted suicide, and the ecology of burial will be discussed in this end-of-lifecycle course.

71st Annual Rabbi Sidney H. and Jane Brooks Institute on Judaism for Clergy and Educators

Friday, March 4, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Rabbi Norman M. Cohen will open the Brooks Institute with "What are Nice Jewish Boys Like Moses and Abraham Doing in a Book like the New Testament?" He will address the role of midrash in a Jewish understanding of scripture and how the New Testament employs similar methodology in achieving its ideological goals. After the 11:45 a.m. luncheon hosted and served by members of Women of Reform Judaism, he'll lead text study, along with Temple's clergy, at 1 p.m. comparing the Jewish Bible and the New Testament.

Founding rabbi and spiritual leader of Bet Shalom Congregation in Minnetonka, MN, Rabbi Cohen started with 30 families in 1981 and now serves 850 families. In addition to his congregational duties, Rabbi Cohen is the chaplain for the Minnetonka Police Department. A student of Jewish-Christian relations, he has written numerous magazine and newspaper articles as well as the book, *Jewish Bible Personages in the New Testament*.

NOTE: Date Change Revitalizing the Festivals: Passover

Sunday, March 13, 10 a.m. - noon

In the third of a three-part series of workshops on Sunday mornings, join Rabbi Linder on an exploration of Passover as a unique holiday that connects Jewish memory and personal experience. As participants reflect on freedom as a historical memory and also as a phenomenon of our personal lives, they will consider questions such as how Egypt manifests itself in our lives today. Who was Pharaoh? Did God really choose Moses and why?

Adult Study with the Clergy

Thursdays starting March 31, 10 - 11:30 a.m., Milder Center

Rabbi Azriel will take participants on a journey through the Book of Psalms into the soul of ancient Israel. Psalms portrays the inner spiritual struggles of ordinary people confronted with adversity, anxiety, doubt and injustice, as well as joy and thankfulness. This session runs from March 31 to June 2. Register with Wendy Goldberg, 556-6536 or wgoldberg@templeisraelomaha.com.

Grade 3 to Visit the Blumkin Home

Sunday, March 6, 10:15-11:45 a.m.

Drop-off & pick-up at the Rose Blumkin Home

Part of the third grade curriculum is learning to give honor and respect to the aged (*kibbud zekaynim*). Visits to the Rose Blumkin Home in third and again in fourth grade give our students the opportunity to become a part of the wonderful care the Rose Blumkin Home offers its residents.

We will bring a bit of Purim to our March visit. Master storyteller and Midrash Keit Rita Paskowitz will share a story and the students and residents will create Purim decorations for the rooms and attendant stations.

Grade 2 Parents Learning Coffee

Sunday, March 6, 10:30 a.m.

Immediately following the Family Prayer Assembly

Come join Rabbi Azriel for an information-filled talk about graduating from second to third grade. As always, bagels and coffee will be available.

Third grade is considered the threshold for our students as they take another step towards the B'nai Mitzvah year. They begin to attend Religious School twice a week, the Hebrew curriculum progresses from learning the letters and vowels separately to forming words, and learning the meaning of, and making a connection to our prayers.

The morning's discussion is also a great way to learn about our Family School option for learning, and strengthening the important connection with other third grade parents. After all, they are the ones who will be standing with you celebrating your child's Bar or Bat Mitzvah in 2015!

Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten Classes to Co-host Family Seder

Sunday, March 27, 11 a.m.

Parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles are invited to join us for some fun songs, a Passover craft and a delightful child-friendly haggadah as we prepare for Pesach.

Eat at Zio's Sunday, March 27! Raise Money for Religious School!

Zio's restaurants will donate 20 percent of proceeds to Temple Israel's Religious School. So go enjoy some delicious, hand-tossed New York style pizza between Noon and 9 p.m. and imagine what a mitzvah you're performing! Zio's is located at 7834 Dodge Street and 12997 West Center.

Diners must bring the fundraiser "coupon" for presentation at the time of ordering. Look for those in your email boxes closer to the date!

Thank you Zio's owners Usha and Dan Sherman!

Parent/Teacher Conferences – A Great Way to Spend a Morning

It was a great pleasure for our staff to share Sunday morning, January 30, with parents (and a few students) talking about accomplishments and expectations in the classrooms. Approximately 60% of our Religious School families participated in conferences this year, a wonderfully increasing trend over the last few years.

This year we made a few adjustments to the conference setup to expedite wait time and preview class textbooks and learning tools, and were pleased with the results and the comments many of you shared with us.

We would like to thank the following volunteers for coordinating and hosting the Teacher Appreciation Lunch immediately following conferences: Stacie Brodkey, Rachel Dysico, Dana Gonzales, Jennifer Miller and Susie Norton. From the planning of the menu with Chef Hattam, to the hand-crafted candies and tissue paper flowers, everything was truly special.

Todah rabah!

Partnership with Israel Celebrates Bar Mitzvah Year with Gifts for 6th Graders

Temple Israel Religious School sixth graders will be given backpacks in honor of the Partnership with Israel's 13th year. The Partnership between the Western Galilee of Israel and the Omaha Jewish community, plus 14 other American communities creates connections through projects in education, the arts, medicine, regional planning, etc.

Partnership with Israel is one of the Jewish Federation of Omaha's premier programs, and Omaha has participated in it since it began 13 years ago.

Along with the backpacks, sixth graders will receive information on connecting to the Partnership through Israeli tzedakah projects giving students ideas for mitzvah projects for their upcoming B'nai Mitzvah.

Calendar

No Religious School

Sunday, February 20

Family Prayer Assembly

Sunday, March 6, 10 a.m.

No Religious School, Family School or Middle School

Wednesdays, March 16 and 23

Purim Service, Sing-Along and Carnival

Saturday, March 19, 5 p.m.

Attending the Purim activities will count as attendance for Religious School. No classes held Sunday, March 20.

Religious School Steering Committee Meeting

Sunday, March 27, Noon

Contact chairman Sharon Comisar-Langdon, 496-7202 or scomisar@mpsomaha.org, to volunteer on this important committee.

Omaha Jewish Chai School at the JCC

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

Questions? Please contact Omaha Chai School Director Miriam Gross, 334-6445 or mgross@jewishomaha.org.

Dates: February 23

March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30



Omaha Temple Youth Group

OTYG Winter Conclave Awards

OTYG brought home the following awards: Hannah Budwig won an award for her work as JYG liaison bridging the gap between middle and high schoolers; Jordan Jensen won an award as Youth Group President for her work creating a programming bank; Sam Burrell won an award as Social Action Vice President for his Thrifting and Tree Planting programs; Morissa Miller and Rachel Scheet won an award as Co-Vice Presidents of Membership for their RUSH program; and Sophia Miller won an award as Special Project Coordinator for her work promoting Camp Rainbow.

Club 56 - Cooking Israeli Style

Sunday, March 13, Noon - 2 p.m.

All fifth and sixth graders are invited to stay at Temple Israel immediately following Religious School to learn the tricks for making falafel, hummus and Israeli salad. Israeli *sabra* (native) and grade 6 Hebrew teacher Na'ama Artzi will help us make our lunch of Israeli treats and teach us some conversational Hebrew while we are working in the kitchen.

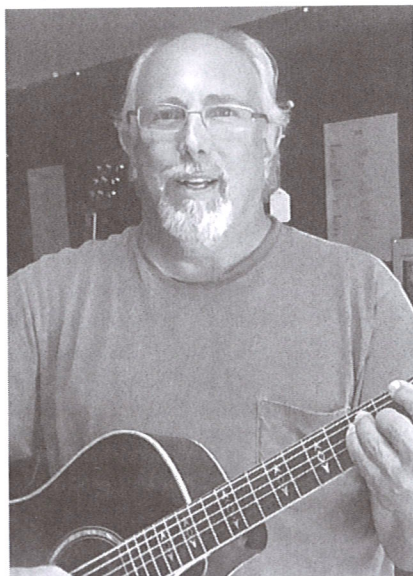
There is no cost for the lunch, but you do need to let us know if you will be one of the chefs! Email, call or text Lori Bennett, lbennett@templeisraelomaha.com or 402-305-4934. Don't miss out on the fun or food!

OTYG Program and Dinner

Sunday, March 13, Noon - 3 p.m., Stephens Center

OTYG will have a short educational program/mixer, eat lunch and prepare sack lunches to be donated to the Stephens Center. While at the center we will clean their pantry and restock the shelves. The OTYG board voted to support this organization this year and thus far have done a successful clothing drive. In the spring we will return for a third program. Sam Burrell, OTYG's Social Action Vice President, is organizing this event. Cost of the event is a donation of nonperishable foods.

Volunteer Appreciation!



Tom Friedman has belonged to Temple Israel his entire life. He and his wife Sue were married here 31 years ago. They have two kids: J.J., 25, who is a ski instructor at Winter Park, CO, and Alyson, 22, who just graduated from the University of Denver last year and is a jewelry artist and painter taking after Tom, who is a glass artist and has his work for sale at Joslyn Art Museum and Lauritzen Gardens. Both J.J. and Alyson attended Religious School at Temple Israel through high school graduation.

Tom, a businessman, joined the choir at Temple Israel when Erik Contzius was the cantor. "I joined the choir because my wife said to," he admitted. "She knows I like to sing." The only person Tom knew associated with the choir, at first, was accompanist Julie Sandene. "We have known each other since we were in college at UNL. She played at our wedding before she was hired at Temple Israel." Tom has been accompanying Kol Rina since Cantor Shermet has been here. "I have been playing the guitar since I was 14," he said.

For about the past five years, Tom estimates, he has been chair of Temple Israel's Cemetery Committee. "I help out occasionally if someone's looking for a plot and is going out there to the cemetery, if there is a sudden death, or they are planning ahead. I have duplicate records of all the plot owners and where everyone is buried. I have helped people locate relatives." In addition, Tom has helped on the Buildings and Grounds Committee, and he and Sue both helped with landscaping around Temple Israel.

A Letter From Afghanistan

Dear Rabbi Azriel, I am writing from Kandahar, Afghanistan, the southern most part of Afghanistan, mostly rocky desert, sand and mountains. This is Pashto country and historically the heart of the insurgency. It is very dangerous here and in that light, I really am not hanging out so to speak with the locals and getting a sense of whether there is any remnant of Judaism here. I do know the ancient trade routes came thru up north and six years ago, I was here, a little more out and moving around, and came upon a Ten Commandments in a bazaar. I remember it having two bears, one each at the top of the tablets. Unfortunately, I did not have any money and could not purchase them. In broken Dari, I asked the vendor about them and his reply was "Jehudi from Herat". The latter refers to a city in the east, close to the Iranian border. I also understood there was a synagogue in Kabul and was pretty much destroyed by the Taliban as was everything else here. I had heard there were two brothers who slept there, but that was six years ago and they may have passed by now.

I had spoken not too long ago to Rabbi Freund and he had asked me to be on the lookout for remnants of Jewish culture in the Pashto tribe, as it is rumored they are one of the Ten Lost Tribes. Of course, anything is possible, but that will have to wait for another time. I do go outside the wire and visit a local hospital and consult on sick and wounded Afghan National Army Soldiers and Police. Everything is under seige here, with IED's moved up to a whole new level since I was here last and even in Iraq just a few years ago. These are pressure plate and command detonated and cost the coalition forces dearly during convoy operations and dismounted patrols, particularly here and in nearby Helmand province. Our unit lost two men this weekend on convoy. Areas up north and to the west are really relatively quiet.

The base here is a NATO base, overcrowded, with poor sewage disposal, a form of fine moon dust which settles in and over everything and can obscure the mountains, and perpetual noise. There is no end to tactical vehicle traffic, generators going, aircraft spinning up all hours and the thump of artillery at night. I am a COL and am sharing a room with three others, some have six to a room. The NATO people, as I understand things, have a little more room and better living conditions. We have been rocketed pretty regularly and some are deadly, some are not, and from my position, the only thing to do is get down and seek cover. On the positive side of things, I am with the Mississippi National Guard, a good bunch of men and women. Believe it or not, this is the model for integration that the U.S. should strive for. Our weather is not cold and not hot yet, and I should be out of here in four to six weeks. All the best.



Gordon S. Moshman

Donations

IN MEMORY OF:

Abe Baker: Debbie and James Krasne

Jeanette Ban: Shelly and Arnie Ban

Jack Boggust: Nancy Hornstein

Jack Brody: Nancy Hornstein

William Z. Cherniss: LetaRae Cherniss

Helen Christensen: Betty Fisher

Eugene Eisenberg: Cheryl and Ross Gorman, Employees of Ameritrade Compliance Department, Susie and Jim Silverman

Pearl Gross: Judy and Keith Josephson, Harriett and Sherm Sperling

Isse Levin: Corinne and Hugh Levin

Mike Milder II: Ducky and Mike Milder

Ben Rosen: Joanie Rosen

Linda Tilley: Vicki and Jerry Chesen

Bert Weintrob: Nancy and David Jacobson

Lucille Zelinsky: Elly and Bob Gordman

IN HONOR OF THE RECOVERY OF:

Deana Liddy: Barbara and Marshall Kushner

Barbara Frohman: Toby Fellman, Betty Sanford, Harriett and Sherm Sperling

Gilda Pieck: Toby Fellman

IN HONOR OF THE BIRTHDAY OF:

Mel Epstein: Marilyn and Marty Warren

Joe Erman: Phyllis and Dick Glazer

Marcia Gallner: Beverlee Krasne

Marty Lehr: Beth and Ron Brodkey, Sheryn and Arnold Joffe, Darlynn and Tom Fellman, The Jonathan Rockman Family, Silvia and Larry Roffman, Gail and Gene Smoler

Ducky Milder: Beth and Ron Brodkey, Babe Cohn, Jeanie Neff, Nancy and Mike Lazer, Silvia and Larry Roffman

Mike Platt: Joanne and Jerry Freeman

HEALTHY AND HAPPY NEW YEAR:

Ann Kaiman: Betty Fisher

Temple Israel Funds

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

Rabbi Azriel's Fund for Jewish Professionals
David E. Beber Fund
David and Rachel Bleicher Camp Scholarship
Mel and Genevieve Bornstein Social Justice
Rabbi Sidney H. and Jane Brooks Institute on Judaism for Clergy
Caring
Cemetery Improvement
Lorene R. Cohn Trust
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Hermene Zweiback Center for Lifelong Jewish Learning
Rabbi Azriel's Discretionary
Rabbi Linder's Discretionary
Cantor Shermet's Discretionary
Executive Director Dennis DePorte's Discretionary

Keep Us Informed

Changes in privacy laws now 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 with our Temple Israel family 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.