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Eric Linder.....Rabbi
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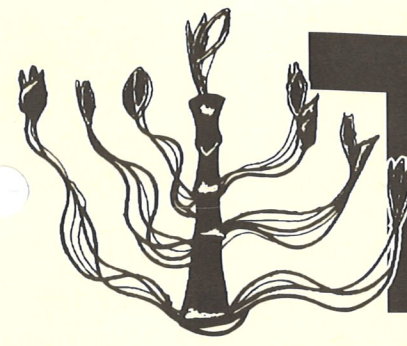
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As I See It...

The Torah teaches an interesting verse: "See, I set before you this day a blessing and a curse..." And then we are instructed to choose the blessing. But I wonder whether we were really offered an alternative, because the two – the blessing and the curse – are really offered TOGETHER.

The Torah does not speak of a "blessing" OR a "curse." What we have are these two presented together – "blessing AND curse." We are not offered one OR the other, we are presented with BOTH – the blessing and the curse – one at the same time. Because nothing in life is black or white, pure or good or unredeemed bad.

Life and people consist of shades of gray. It is the task of people to select that which is blessing and to separate it from that which can also be a curse. We are to make into a blessing, even from that which might have seemed like a curse or misfortune. It is our duty to look at life and people as a whole, and to realize that it is a mixture of both – blessing and curse. That it is our obligation to try to sift one from the other.

It is not an easy road. God sets BOTH before us and leaves it to us to separate one from the other. This task is not to be performed just once, twice or three times – BUT DAILY – every

day of our lives. "Behold, see, I set before you THIS DAY a blessing and a curse." The task must be fulfilled continuously. And the challenge must be met every day of our lives.

But how can we do this? How do we distinguish? The same Torah verse gives us some wise advice. It opens with the word "REEH," see, look. REEH is not just a poetic expression. It is a deliberate word.

How do we look at the world around us? How do we view other people? How do we view ourselves? Some will look with critical eyes, seeing only faults. Others may see the same thing or the same person, but with different eyes and interpret something completely differently.

There is a story of a Hasidic rabbi who was traveling with one of his students. There near the side of the road was a man who was changing the wheel on his wagon. He was reciting aloud the *Shema Yisrael*. The student was scandalized. He said, "Look at that scoundrel. While he is reciting the *Shema*, he is repairing his wagon." The Hasidic rabbi answered, "Oh, while he is repairing his wagon, he is reciting the *Shema*." The difference was the way people see – how they interpret.

It is like looking at a half filled glass of water. Some would complain that

it was half empty. Others would be delighted that it was half-full. Some may complain, "Look what I cannot do." Others would rejoice, "Look what I have been able to accomplish – how far I have already come."

This is what the Torah verse meant. The power of sight – this priceless gift – is really what we make of it. This is the eternal daily challenge facing each of us. God gives us the raw material – the world and life itself – to transform into a blessing or a curse. Man's intelligence and ability to smash atoms – is it a blessing or a curse? It will be what people make of it. Great granaries overflow with surplus food. Will they be an answer to the starvation of millions and shortages at home, or a plague to the farmer and government?

Again, the answer is ours. A simple and universal gift like sight. We will make of it what we will. The decision is ours and the ability is ours as well. Let us hope we will choose the blessing. Let us pray that we, like the Hasidic rabbi, will see the world with loving eyes.

Aryeh Azriel

KNOW THYSELF; KNOW THY NEIGHBOR

Adult Education

Torah Study 101

Sunday, April 6, 10 a.m.

"Why should I care about what some French guy (i.e. Rashi) says about the Torah?" asked Rabbi Eric Linder.

"If you've never studied Torah before or feel like it's not meaningful, come to Temple for an off-the-wall journey," Rabbi Linder recommended. Basically, it'll be a fun, creative way to get into Torah study if you're new at it or feel intimidated. He said that he would even make references to pop culture to help you think about how to figure out whether or not something is meaningful.

Rabbi added, "This introductory study of Torah is guaranteed to make you learn...and laugh!"

To register, contact Program Director Rosie Zweiback, 556-6536 or rzweiback@templeisraelomaha.com.

Know Thyself, Know Thy Christian Neighbors

Wednesdays, May 7 and 21, Noon

At Temple Israel

Wednesday, May 14, 7:30 a.m.

At Village Inn, 7837 Dodge Street

"It's important for us to know about other religions recognizing that there are misconceptions we all have of each other," said Rabbi Eric Linder who will teach a three-session class on Christianity. Continuing this year's adult education theme, Know Thyself, Know Thy Neighbor, Rabbi Linder will invite guest speakers to help distinguish between Christianity's various denominations. There will be a slight focus on Episcopalianism, as they are part of our tri-faith initiative.

Lunch at the two sessions at Temple can be purchased for \$6 per person. At Village Inn, it is a no-host breakfast. Advance registration is requested. Please contact Program Director Rosie Zweiback, 556-6536 or rzweiback@templeisraelomaha.com.

And The Temple Tapestry Continues To Grow...

This block was made by Ricki Skog. "I selected the image of Moses because that's the beginning of the Ten Commandments. This image expresses the fact that I am Jewish most directly. Around the edges, I embroidered the Hebrew names of my family."



From Generation to Generation:

A Guide to Jewish Genealogy

Tuesdays, April 29, May 6, 13, 27, June 3 and 10, 7 - 8:15 p.m.

How far back can you trace your family roots? Ford Mommaerts-Browne can track his ancestry to about the seventh century BCE and to the House of David. A genealogist, originally from Green Bay, WI, he will teach you how to discover who your grandparents' 16 grandparents.

A former secondary social sciences teacher who has published several articles on genealogy, Ford's passion for the subject and for history led him to develop an expertise in searching through electronic and printed archives to discover lost generations. A resident of Omaha since 1992, Ford said, "I've always had an interest in genealogy for as long as I can remember, and in all kinds of genealogy. My email address is eclectic.genealogist."

Although he remembers his grandfather had started to compile a record of his ancestry, Ford said that primarily, he educated himself about genealogy by reading books and following up with scholars he found interesting. "It's not just tracing lines of descent but the inter-relatedness of all people," he explained. "There are Jews out there with Gentile blood, and Gentiles with Jewish blood that goes way back." He also likes to share "the joy and sense of fulfillment and accomplishment that I have in genealogy."

Adding that he will be teaching "technique more than material," Ford said he will explain the unique factors of Jewish genealogy, the basic precepts of good and credible genealogical practices and research, the basic terminology of kinship, where to find records as well as which ones to search and how to use them, and how to extract information. Upon completion, his students will be able to organize their findings into a publishable format to share with others.

Fee for this class is \$18 for Temple Israel members and \$25 for others. To register, contact Program Director Rosie Zweiback, 556-6536 or rzweiback@templeisraelomaha.com.

Classes are sponsored by the Hermene Zweiback Center for Lifelong Jewish Learning.

March/April/May • Adar II/Nisan 5768

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					28 Understanding Jewish Mysticism Noon Shabbat Comes to You @ Blumkin Home 2:30 p.m. Educator's Shabbat Service 6 p.m. Educator's Dinner 7 p.m.	29 Sparks Beneath the Surface 9:15-10:15 a.m. Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m. Bar Mitzvah of Zane Fletcher
30 Teacher Meeting 9:30 a.m. Religious School Grades K-6 10 a.m. - Noon Grade 2 Model Seder 10:45 a.m. Osrui Meeting Noon	31	1 Hebrew Lunch 'n Learn 12:15 p.m. AA, Alanon & Gamblers' 12-step 7:30 p.m.	2 Religious School Grades 3-6 4-6 p.m. All School Dinner 6 p.m. Family School 6-8 p.m. Grades 7-12 6-8 p.m.	3 Adult Study with the Clergy 10 a.m.	4 Grade 4 Family Shabbat Service 6 p.m.	5 Sparks Beneath the Surface 9:15-10:15 a.m. Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m. Bat Mitzvah of Morissa Miller
6 Teacher Meeting 9:30 a.m. Religious School Grades K-6 10 a.m. - Noon Torah Study 101 10 a.m. Cradle Roll 10:30 a.m. JYG Color War Noon	7	8 Hebrew Lunch 'n Learn 12:15 p.m. AA, Alanon & Gamblers' 12-step 7:30 p.m.	9 NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL, FAMILY SCHOOL, MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL	10 Adult Study with the Clergy 10 a.m.	11 Understanding Jewish Mysticism Noon Shabbat Comes to You @ Remington Heights 4 p.m. Tot Shabbat Dinner following 6 p.m. Shabbat Service 7:30 p.m.	12 Sparks Beneath the Surface 9:15-10:15 a.m. Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m.
13 NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL Deli Night 5 p.m.	14 Omaha Women's Seder at the JCC 7 p.m.	15 Hebrew Lunch 'n Learn 12:15 p.m. Executive Board 6 p.m. Board of Trustees 7 p.m. AA, Alanon & Gamblers' 12-step 7:30 p.m.	16 NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL, FAMILY SCHOOL, MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL	17 Adult Study with the Clergy 10 a.m. Interfaith Couples at Hiro Sushi 6:30 p.m.	18 Shabbat Service 7:30 p.m.	19 Sparks Beneath the Surface 9:15-10:15 a.m. Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m. Erev Pesach
20 NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL Passover Service 10:30 a.m. Congregational Seder 6 p.m. Pesach	21	22 Hebrew Lunch 'n Learn 12:15 p.m. AA, Alanon & Gamblers' 12-step 7:30 p.m.	23 NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL, FAMILY SCHOOL, MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL	24 Religious School Steering Committee Meeting Noon	25 Celebrate Freedom Shabbat Service with Kol Rina 7:30 p.m.	26 Service and Yizkor 10:30 a.m. Conclusion of Passover
27 Teacher Meeting 9:30 a.m. Religious School Grades K-6 10 a.m. - Noon Family Day at Blumkin 2 p.m.	28	29 Hebrew Lunch 'n Learn 12:15 p.m. From Generation to Generation 7 p.m. AA, Alanon & Gamblers' 12-step 7:30 p.m.	30 NO FAMILY SCHOOL Religious School Grades 3-6 4-6 p.m. Grades 7-12 @ Beth Israel Community Youth Dinner 6 p.m. Yom HaShoah 7 p.m.	1 Adult Study with the Clergy 10 a.m.	2 Tot Shabbat Dinner following 6 p.m. Shabbat Service 7:30 p.m.	3 Sparks Beneath the Surface 9:15-10:15 a.m. Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m. Bat Mitzvah of Sophia Goldberg
				May		

Worship Services

Friday~March 28

2:30 p.m.

Shabbat Comes to You
at Blumkin Home

7 p.m.

Educator's Shabbat Service

Saturday~March 29

9:15-10:15 a.m.

Sparks Beneath the Surface

10:30 a.m.

Shabbat Service

Bat Mitzvah of Zane Fletcher
Son of Hillary and John Fletcher

Torah Portion: Shmini

Leviticus 9:1-11:47

Haftarah: Ezekiel 36:22-36

Friday~April 4

6 p.m.

Family Shabbat Service
led by Grade 4

Saturday~April 5

9:15-10:15 a.m.

Sparks Beneath the Surface

10:30 a.m.

Shabbat Service

Bat Mitzvah of Morissa Miller
Daughter of Jennifer and Paul Miller

Torah Portion: Tazria

Leviticus 12:1-13:59

Haftarah: Ezekiel 45:16-25

Friday~April 11

4 p.m.

Shabbat Comes to You
at Remington Heights

6 p.m.

Tot Shabbat

Dinner immediately following

7:30 p.m.

Shabbat Service

Saturday~April 12

9:15-10:15 a.m.

Sparks Beneath the Surface

10:30 a.m.

Shabbat Service

Torah Portion: Metzora

Leviticus 14:1-15:33

Haftarah: II Kings 7:3-7:20

Friday~April 18

7:30 p.m.

Shabbat Service

Saturday~April 19

Erev Pesach

9:15-10:15 a.m.

Sparks Beneath the Surface

10:30 a.m.

Shabbat Service

Torah Portion: Acharei Mot

Leviticus 16:1-18:30

Haftarah: Malachi 3:4-24

Friday~April 25

7:30 p.m.

Celebrate Freedom

Shabbat Service with Kol Rina

Saturday~April 26

Conclusion of Passover

10:30 a.m.

Shabbat Service & Yizkor

Torah Portion

Exodus 14:30-15:21

Haftarah: II Samuel 22:1-51

Friday~May 2

6 p.m.

Tot Shabbat

Dinner immediately following

7:30 p.m.

Shabbat Service

Saturday~May 3

9:15-10:15 a.m.

Sparks Beneath the Surface

10:30 a.m.

Shabbat Service

Bat Mitzvah of Sophia Goldberg

Daughter of Wendy and

David Goldberg

Torah Portion: Kedoshim

Leviticus 19:1-20:27

Haftarah: Amos 9:7-15

Did You Know?

• There are 36 (double chai) tribute funds which support everything at Temple Israel from educating young children to improving the Temple Israel cemetery.

• Individual donations to these funds range from \$6 (the minimum donation) to \$10,000.

• All donations - whether they are for Religious School, adult education, landscaping, youth groups, camp, prayerbooks (a new fund) or anything else that supports Temple's vital activities - are 100 percent tax deductible.

Birthday Blessings

Friday, April 11, 7:30 p.m.

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

Sitter Service

is available...

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

Advance reservations and a \$5 donation are appreciated. Please email Maureen at mkube@templeisraelomaha.com for reservations. Young children, including infants, are welcome.

Temple Israel Family Mission to Israel Chanukah 2008

December 21-December 31

Cost: Adult \$3,792 - Child \$3,292**

A trip to Israel has the power to change Jewish lives. Now is the time to make Jewish memories that will last a life time. With Rabbi Aryeh and Elyce Azriel and Rosie Zweiback as your guides, you will experience Israel and get to know its people. This family-friendly trip is ideal for those ages 8 and up.

Trip Highlights:

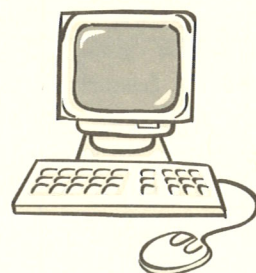
- Touring the ancient city of Acco
- Climbing Masada
- Exploring the chalk grottos of Rosh Hanikra
- Learning the ancient traditions of pressing olive oil
- Floating in the Dead Sea
- Praying at the Western Wall
- Wandering the Old City of Jerusalem



Please see the Temple website for the complete itinerary.

Space is limited. Please contact Program Director Rosie Zweiback at 556-6536 or rzweiback@templeisraelomaha.com for trip enrollment, information and trip terms. All Temple youth will receive a \$500 subsidy for the trip. Additional need-based financial aid is available upon request.

**Price subject to increase due to airline fuel surcharges and decrease depending on number of travelers.



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

Women of Reform Judaism-Omaha



Cradle Roll

Sunday, April 6, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Your toddler will explore his or her Jewish identity! Come for a craft, snack and story time!

Cradle Roll is for the very young and the young at heart, so grab your parents, grandparents or special friends and come rock at cradle roll!

Please RSVP to Temple, 556-6536 or mkube@templeisraelomaha.com, and let us know you're coming.

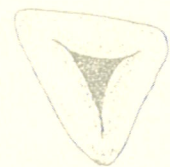
Mark Your Calendars!

WRJ's Annual Donor Tea Wednesday, May 7

We are doing something new and exciting this year. We will gather at Film Streams, 1340 Webster Street, for tours, a light lunch and a fabulous presentation by Rachel Jacobson, founder of Film Streams. Watch for invitations that will be mailed in April and join us for a truly entertaining event.

A Big Thanks!

A huge thank you to our intrepid team of Hamentaschen bakers! They made over 600 pieces to sweeten our Purim celebrations. · Gretchen Radler donated the filling and Toby Fellman and Allison Latenser prepared the dough. The volunteer bakers were Hillary Fletcher, Danielle Gordman, Susan Lehr, Deb Marburg, Kim Noddle, Ann Osborne, Sandy Passer, Roseann Rosen and Sherrie Saag.



Little People, Big Shabbat Fridays, April 11 and May 2, 6 p.m.

Tot Shabbat is not just for tots anymore. Children up to second grade will enjoy the evening, and we welcome all family members to join in the fun and stay for a nice home-cooked Shabbat meal afterwards. Every month Elyce Azriel offers a fun and easy craft for the little ones. Grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins are welcome - the more the merrier!

We want to hear from anyone who might be interested in hosting a Tot Shabbat starting in the fall, please contact Annette van de Kamp, avandekamp@tconl.com.

Cost for the dinner is \$5 for adults, no charge for children. Please RSVP to the Temple office, 556-6536 or mkube@templeisraelomaha.com.

Omaha Women's Seder at the JCC Monday, April 14, 7 p.m.

Omaha's first Community Women's Seder in 2004 is still warmly remembered by the women who attended. For all of them and for all who missed it the first time, a second Women's Seder led by Nancy Rips and featuring music by Yachad: The Traveling Tefillah Band, from Kansas City, KS, will bring the women of our community together for another joyful evening. Like Miriam and the women dancing with their timbrels after leaving Egypt, you'll be dancing in the aisles and rejoicing with the other women celebrating this seminal moment in Jewish life.

Through Friday, March 28, the dessert seder is \$14 per person. After that, the cost to attend is \$18 per person. For young women, ten through college age, the charge is \$10. Reservations can be made by sending your check to Vicki Perlmetter at 1108 North 92nd Plaza, #214, Omaha, NE 68114.

Co-sponsors of the Seder are Women of Reform Judaism, Beth El Sisterhood, Beth Israel Sisterhood, Women of Beyt Shalom, Chabad Women of Worth, Hadassah and the National Council of Jewish Women.

Know Thy Neighbor Know Thyself Sunday, April 6, 2 p.m.

**At Service Center of Compassion,
7400 Military Avenue**

In keeping with Temple's theme of "Know thy Neighbor Know Thyself," Women of Spirit offers a chance to dialogue with other women of varying faiths, our neighbors in Omaha. This event gives an opportunity to experience a taste of interfaith dialogue, in company with Temple's interest in developing a Tri-Faith community.

Three women of different faith perspectives will share how each connects to Mother Earth and how that impacts their spiritual lives. Participants will then shift their focus to the small groups at their own tables to discuss the topic together in light of their individual experiences.

The cost of the three-hour event is \$20. Paid advance registration is required, as seating is limited. Women intentionally walking spiritual paths are encouraged to attend. A registration form can be printed from the group's website at <http://groups.creighton.edu/womenofspirit>. For additional information, contact Nancy Phillips, 280-2934.



Chicken Soup/Challah Competition Cooks Up Best in Chow

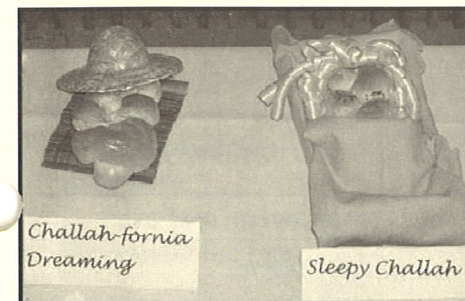
Approximately 120 people meandered from table to table sipping nearly 20 varieties of chicken soup and sampling an array of challah at Temple Israel's first Challah and Chicken Soup Cookoff earlier this month. Adults and children were slurping and munching to their hearts' content. Judges, Judy a la carte (Gilliard), cookbook author and food talk show host at KFAB radio; Jim Trebbien, executive director of the Institute for the Culinary Arts at Metropolitan Community College; Dave Wingert, a host on KGOR; and Phyllis Glazer, Danielle Gordman, Adam Kirshenbaum, and Jon Meyers from Temple, strolled with judging sheets in hand recording their impressions of the entries. From the looks on their faces, they took their responsibilities extremely seriously.

And the winners were: Bob Freshman of Fresh Catering & More (professional chefs category) and Ameer Zetzman (non-professional) for Best in Chow; Jeff Schweid, Most Creative Soup; Corey Clinebell from Ironwood Country Club for the Most Beautiful Challah; **Louri Sullivan (pictured right)** for the Best Tasting Challah, People's Choice Challah Award and Kid's Choice Challah Award; Gretchen Radler for the People's Choice Soup Award; Allison Latenser for the Kids' Choice Soup Award; and Ironwood Country Club for Best Decorated Booth. All winners took home rubber chickens!

Caterers John Hattam and Erwin Siegler also participated in the professional chefs category. The other non-professional soup chefs were Steve Danon, Penny Endelman, Lisa Epstein, Gail Kohll, Ellen Long, Joan Marcus, Maxine Noodell, Linda Saltzman, Sarah Schondelmeyer, Mimi Silverman and Jeff Slutzky. Additional challah bakers were Katherine Finnegan, Jennifer Glazer, John Hattam, Judy Marburg, Silvia Roffman, Andrea Siegel and Rosie Zweiback.

Temple wishes to thank the raffle donors: Courtyard by Marriott, Bella Vita Restaurant, and the Village Grinder.

Cookoff committee members were Rick Fox, Patrick Jensen, Len Burrell, Dennis DePorte and Rosie Zweiback.



Pictured above left: Gail Kohll and Lois Friedman celebrate a great event. Pictured above: Sandy Nogg shares soup secrets with Linda Saltzman. Pictured left: Silvia Roffman's amazing display of her challah.

Looking Back Fifty Years and Moving Forward

Bud Greenspan met Rosalie Garrop when she was a student at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, and he was a traveling salesman. Bud's parents, Abraham and Malvina Greenspan, longtime members of Temple Israel, were married there in 1919. After their own wedding at the Fontenelle Hotel in 1950, Bud and Rosalie followed suit and became members of Temple in 1954.

"It was very Reform then," commented Rosalie who grew up in an Orthodox congregation. When the Greenspans first joined Temple, "They didn't do Bar Mitzvahs or have aliyahs; they did do Confirmation. There's been quite a change since those days and we like it!" she emphasized. "Worship services are more traditional now. We really enjoy going to Friday night services. We like the later service. It's just more on our schedule." She also has noticed that "they involve parents a lot more now. I think that's great." She likes the English service, and the shorter service. "And I love the summer services when congregants tell their stories," she added.

Bud and Rosalie have two sons, Bennett and Jim, who grew up at Temple attending Hebrew School and studying for Bar Mitzvah. Bennett and his wife Robin live in Houston, TX, while Jim and his wife Wendy live in Granada Hills, CA. The Greenspans have four grandchildren.

Over the years, Rosalie has served at the Ministers Institute, helped make matzah balls for the congregational seder and set tables for various events.

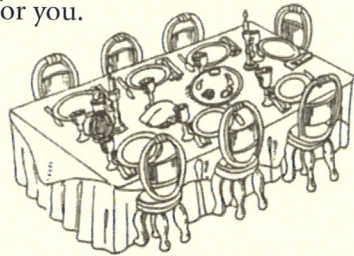
Among the Greenspans' favorite memories are their sons' Bar Mitzvahs. Rosalie will always remember, too, when Rabbi Aryeh Azriel, who hadn't been in Omaha very long, "came and sat with me when Bud had bypass surgery. Rabbi came again right after Saturday services when he was leaving for Israel the next day. He's good about calling on people's special birthdays, too!" she said.

Celebrating A Joyous Passover

Do You Want To Share the Seder?

The first Seder will be celebrated Saturday, April 19.

If you are new to the community or do not have extended family in the Omaha area with whom to share this joyous holiday, please call Caring Committee Chairman Lisa Epstein, 496-9159, and we will find a host family for you.



Yizkor

If you would like to have names of your loved ones read at the Morning Yizkor Service, **Sunday, April 20**, call the Temple office, 556-6536, with the names. Please phone by **Wednesday, April 16**.

Temple Israel Congregational Second Seder Sunday, April 20, 6 p.m.

"We've been going to the Seder at Temple for eight to ten years now," said Jackie Christensen. "It's great! We bring Christian friends with us," which is a tradition with Jackie and her husband Gary. "We never request who we want to sit with so we can meet new people and bond with them even if it's just for one night. We talk and share and learn from each other. We've met some young people from the military service and had a chance to chit chat with others whose faces we know but who we hadn't talked to." She described the experience as "a feeling of belongingness."

Kate Kaminsky, her husband, Joe Murphy, and their children Simon, eight, and Clara, four, also regularly attend Temple's congregational seder. "We really enjoy it. It's very kid-friendly and casual," said Kate. "The kids can find the afikomen which gives them a chance to move around. We've made it through the whole meal," she declared. "Our goal now is to make it to the end!"

A traditional seder meal and a vegetarian option will be served.

Adults, \$19; children in sixth grade and younger, \$8; children two-years-old and younger, no charge.

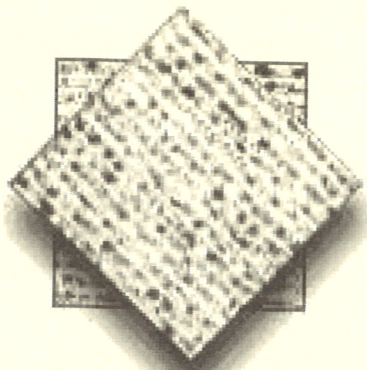
Your check payable to Temple Israel is your reservation and must be received in the Temple office by Friday, April 11. The cost for reservations made after April 11 is \$22 for adults and \$11 for children in sixth grade and younger.

Congregational Second Seder

Name _____	Amount Enclosed _____								
Phone _____	<table><tr><th>Chicken</th><th>Vegetarian</th></tr><tr><td>_____</td><td>_____</td></tr><tr><td>_____</td><td>_____</td></tr><tr><td>_____</td><td>_____</td></tr></table>	Chicken	Vegetarian	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Chicken	Vegetarian								
_____	_____								
_____	_____								
_____	_____								
Adult @ \$19 each									
Children Grade 6 and under @ \$8 each									
Children 2 years and younger @ No Charge									
We would like to sit with _____									

Send your check and reservation form to:
Temple Israel, 7023 Cass Street, Omaha (68132)

Visit the WRJ-O
Gift Shop for
Seder Plates,
Matzah Trays and
Beautiful Covers,
Elijah and Miriam Cups,
Children's books,
puzzles and more!
Weekdays,
8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Sundays during
Religious School



Make Your Own Matzah Cover

This easy craft gives kids something on the Seder table that is uniquely theirs.

Materials:

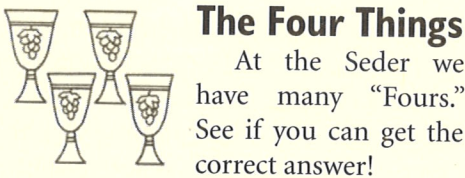
- Four square pieces of solid color felt (9 inches x 9 inches)
- Squeeze tubes of fabric paints, permanent markers, sequins, buttons, ribbon, yarn
- White craft glue
- Needle and thread for sewing

Instructions:

- Decorate one square of fabric and let dry overnight.
- Layer the four squares on top of each other, ending with the decorated one on top.
- Stitch around three sides of the square.

How many words can be spelled from the word "AFIKOMON?"

Answer: 16 words (man, on, if, fan, foam, kin, of, no, moan, in, fm, am, moon, nook, aim, main)



The Four Things

At the Seder we have many "Fours." See if you can get the correct answer!

1. Besides the four cups of wine, there's a fifth one we don't drink. It's called...
A. Cup of Soup
B. Couple of Minutes
C. Cup of Elijahhu
2. Another four at the seder is...
A. Four Score
B. Four Questions
C. Forefathers
3. When we drink the four cups we must...
A. Lean to our left
B. Lean to
C. Put a Lien on our house
D. Lean on the right

Answer: 1. C 2. B 3. A

Passover Recipes

Passover Apple Kugel

- 6 matzos
- 4 apples, peeled and cut into eighths
- 1 ½ cup raisins
- ½ tsp. cinnamon
- Rind of ½ lemon, grated
- 4-6 tbsp. orange juice
- 1 cup sugar
- ¼ cup butter, melted
- 6 eggs, well beaten

Soak matzos in cold water until soft. Drain off water in colander. Combine matzos, apples, raisins, cinnamon, lemon rind, orange juice, sugar and butter. Add eggs and blend well. Pour into greased 9x13 inch pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 30-40 minutes. 16 servings

Omi's Passover Matzoh Balls

(not for soup, just to be eaten by itself or with gravy)

- 1 ½ large onions, diced fine
- ¼ lb + margarine
- 1 lb. box matzoh boards
- 8-9 eggs

Seasoned salt, pepper & ginger to taste
Matzoh meal

Saute onion in margarine. Soak matzoh in warm water until soft. Press out water; add to sautéed onions. Add eggs, seasonings. Add matzoh meal until proper consistency is achieved. Form into balls. Boil in salt water until done, about 30-45 minutes.

Passover Peanut Butter Cookies

- 1 ½ cups peanut butter
- 2 egg whites, unbeaten
- 1 cup sugar

Combine ingredients and mix thoroughly. Roll into walnut sized balls and place on ungreased cookie sheet. Flatten with fork. Bake at 350 degrees for 10-12 minutes. Cool slightly before removing from pan. Makes 3 dozen.

Do You Need Passover Haggadot?

The Temple office has several Haggadot available.

The Central Conference of American Rabbis has published a beautiful new haggadah with traditional and innovative blessings which sells for \$19.95.

This Haggadah will be an exquisite addition to your Seder. It is a work of art you will be proud to own.

The complete directions for the Seder and optional choices of readings will make your Seder memorable.

Also available is the "Family Haggadah: A Seder for All Generations." This Haggadah contains readable text with prompts for stimulating discussion and traditional order with abridged text, short enough to maintain interest. Price: \$7 each.



Youth & Education

What's Happening in Religious School

Elyce Azriel, Director of Religious Education

Grade 4 Shabbat Service and Dinner Friday, April 4
The fourth graders will lead the service which begins promptly at 6 p.m. The grade-level dinner immediately follows the service.

Tot Shabbat Fridays, April 11 and May 2
This service is designed for children up to Grade 2 and is a fun, multi-sensory exploration of Shabbat. A family dinner follows. Details can be found on page 6.

No Religious School..... April 13, 16, 20 and 23
Due to public school breaks and the observance of Passover, there will be no classes. School resumes after Passover on Sunday, April 27.

Religious School Steering Committee..... Thursday, April 24
Join us at Noon in the library in our continuing effort to strengthen our school and the partnership between school and home. Please contact Katherine Finnegan, kfinnegan@cox.net, to let her know if you are planning to attend this meeting.

Family Day at the Blumkin Home Sunday, April 27
Watch for more information about this fun day of activities with the residents! (2-4 p.m.)

No Family School..... Wednesday, April 30
In observance of the Yom HaShoah Community Commemoration Service (see page 3), evening classes will not be held at Temple Israel.

Sunday School at the J.C.C. Sunday, May 4
Come for Religious School outdoors in the pavilion and stay for all the fun Yom Ha'Atzmaut activities (page 12). A bagel, schmeer and juice available starting at 9:30 a.m. Celebrate Israel's 60th Birthday as a community!

Save The Date!
Temple Israel High School Graduation
Friday, May 9
Dinner, 6 p.m.
Shabbat Worship Service, 7:30 p.m.
Celebrate the accomplishments of our high school seniors and Israel at 60!

JYG Color War
Sunday, April 6
Noon - 1:30 p.m.
Join your 7th and 8th grade friends for an afternoon of fun, sun (hopefully!), and competition. There will be a variety of fun games, races and surprises!
Please bring \$5 with you that day; lunch will be provided.

4th Annual Teen Mitzvah Day Sunday, April 6, 12:30 p.m. at J.C.C.

In the fall of 2004, the Jewish Community Center of Omaha began a program called the Shiputznick Teen Volunteer Program. Shiputznick in Hebrew means, "Repairman," and the program is designed to get our Jewish teens involved in community service projects.

This year, in conjunction with J-Serve, a national day of service for Jewish teens, and Youth Service America's Global Youth Service Day, Shuputznick teens can volunteer for projects at Uta Halee Girls Village, YES House (Youth Emergency Services), Temple Israel Cemetery, Eastern Nebraska Office on Aging and Jewish Family Service.

The day will conclude with a group discussion and a free BBQ dinner for all participants at the JCC Pavilion from 5-6:30 p.m. Kosher hot dogs will be served.

Over the next few weeks, sign up sheets will be passed around the Jewish youth groups. Please signup and experience how your efforts can truly make a difference and help to repair the world...one job at a time.

"Let's Talk Frankly" Class Receives an A+

From Middle School Girls

The new focus of domestic violence education in the Jewish world is prevention. The Hadassah Foundation along with Jewish Women International has written programs to educate adolescent girls on making healthy relationship choices.

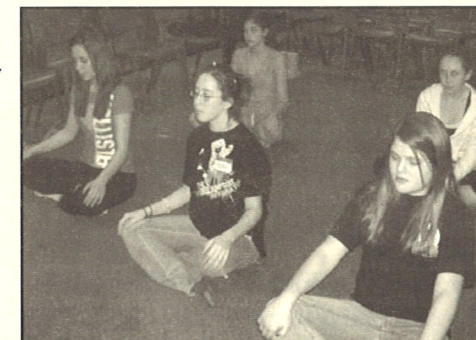
We have adapted one of these programs, "Strong Girls, Healthy Relationships: A Conversation on Dating, Friendship and Self-Esteem," for use in our middle school.

Sally Kaplan, L.C.S.W., facilitated the six-week class that helped middle school girls explore their values and life goals based on the premise that self-esteem comes from self-knowledge.

In addition to the frank discussion topics covered in the curriculum, the students worked on destressing techniques and proper posture with yoga instructor Marta Fox, and the importance

of good skin care during adolescence with Pam Merrill from Anything Goes For Hair.

"It was a joy to spend time with this group of bright, talented and insightful girls, and I hope they enjoyed our time together, too," said Sally.



Lauren Cooper, Alexis Slutzy, Amanda Bucher, Jordan Jensen and Rachel Sullivan learn the benefits of yoga. The class enjoyed the session so much, instructor Marta Fox returned for an encore the next week!

Welcome To Our New Staff Member!

We have fantastic news! Amy Katz has joined our staff as the advisor for our senior Youth Group, OTYG. Amy hit the ground running with a bowling event with our youth group along with our Episcopalian and Muslim faith partners. In a few weeks she is accompanying seven of our youth to Denver, CO, for our region's Spring Chavurah. Amy's warmth, sense of humor and organizational skills have already shown themselves, and we are extremely excited to have her as part of our staff!

Amy, a nurse, is the coordinator of hematology/oncology research at Children's Hospital. Amy and her husband, Dick, and their three wonderful children have been active members of Temple Israel for 14 years. Amy's dry, quick wit and bright smile are a welcome addition to our group. Please stop by her office and say hello!

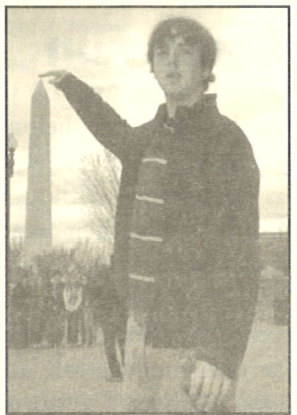


Temple Teens Took Washington, D.C. By Storm

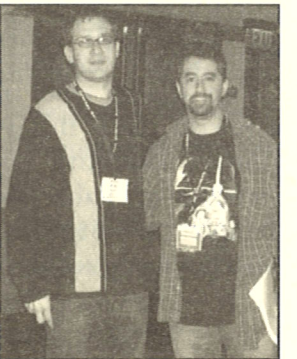
Fifteen students, grades 10 through 12, visited the Union for Reform Judaism's Religious Action Center this month to participate in the L'Taken program. L'Taken teaches participants to apply Jewish values to political issues such as women's issues, AIDS and environmental justice, and then lobby for these issues during a visit to Capital Hill.



(Above) During a break from the seminar, Temple's group found time for sightseeing. Front row: LaShanna Bernstein, Molly Goldberg, Sarah Bleicher. Middle row: Justin Idelman, Brittany Baines, Hannah Grossman. Back row: Robert Friedman, Justin Slutzky, Amanda Bucher, Ashley Bernstein, Sarah Sadofsky, Rabbi Eric Linder, Julie Sadofsky, Chloe Ginsburg, Zak Helm, Barry Grossman and Elyce Azriel.

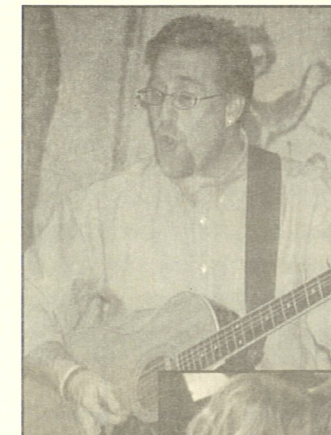


(Above) Zach Spooner shows the power of an optical illusion in this picture taken by Amanda Bucher.

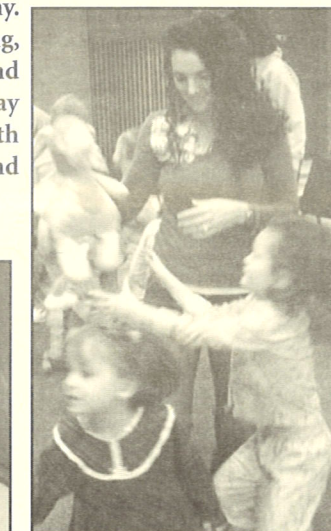


(Right) Temple's two Erics: Rabbi Eric Linder and Hazzan Erik Contzius, cantor from 1995 to 1998, meet for the first time at the L'Taken seminar.

Kids and Adults Had Fun at Havdalah in Pajamas



(Pictured left, clockwise) Steve Brodsky led the group in exuberant songs and dance moves, which Danielle Gordman and daughter Harper enjoyed along with Clara Murphy. After singing and dancing, everyone gathered around the Havdalah candle to say goodbye to the Sabbath Queen and welcome a brand new week.



OTYG – Rock the Vote!

We are excited to announce the process of OTYG Board selection!

Both parents and students (in current grades 8-11) will receive the information through email. There is an application that is available either online, or as a hard copy.

There are a few students whose email addresses we do not have. If you haven't received anything, please email Amy Katz, our OTYG advisor, at akatz@templeisraelomaha.com.

We are excited to begin this process, and look forward to reading all of your applications

Bleicher Fund Means Jewish Camp Fun

For more than 60 years, David and Rachel Bleicher belonged to Temple Israel and were active members of the congregation. Although they are no longer living, their legacy lives on making it possible for dozens of Temple kids to attend Jewish summer camps every year. The Bleichers were strong believers in Jewish education, according to their son, Michael. The camp fund generates scholarships that provide opportunities for Jewish youth to experience informal Jewish education that will influence them into adulthood.

Scholarships can be used to attend camps like B'nai B'rith Beber Camp, Camp Sabra, Herzl Camp, Olin-Sang-Ruby Union Institute and Shwayder Camp. If your child intends to go to a Jewish camp this summer, please contact Executive Director Dennis DePorte or Rabbi Aryeh Azriel at Temple (556-6536) to apply for a Bleicher camp scholarship.

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



Gift certificates in denominations of \$10 to \$25 for Whole Foods, Baker's, Kwik Shop, Bag 'N Save and The Bookworm are available in the Temple office. Buy them and keep them handy for shopping at these stores which are gracious enough to return a percentage to Temple. The reimbursements are used for camp scholarships. If you have children attending Religious School classes on Wednesday afternoons or Sunday mornings, stop in the Religious School office to purchase!

Israel@60

2008 Yom Ha'Atzmaut Celebration

Sunday, May 4th

Jewish Community Center

11:00 am - 5:00 pm

...with a Special Israel Vendor Fair!



Event Schedule

10 a.m.

Temple Israel Religious School at the JCC pavilion - for the entire family! Come at 9:30 a.m. for a bagel breakfast.

11 a.m.

"Walk the Land" - Community Walk for Israel

11 a.m. - Activities Begin

Israel Vendors

Children's Carnival and Prizes

Food and Live Entertainment

Noon - 2 p.m.

Israeli Short Films

1 p.m.

B'nai B'rith Israel Trivia Quiz

1 - 3 p.m.

Reflections on Israel and the Next 60 Years

15 Minute round-robin sessions with our Omaha Rabbis

2:30 p.m.

Elinor A. Whitman Book Contest Award

3:30 p.m. - Main Stage Attraction

Teen Leadership Award

Song Performance of "Tell Our Children Now"

Live Theater performance of Israeli Band - Kolot Ort

Matan Chaim: The Gift of Life

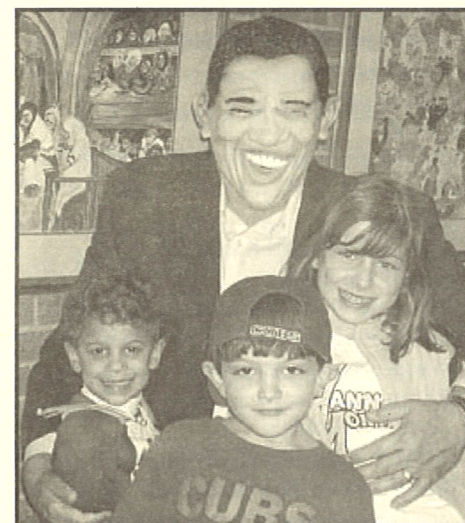
Jewish tradition teaches that we are partners with God in continuing and sustaining the daily miracles of creation. Organ and tissue donation are an extension of this partnership. Through donation you have the unique and holy opportunity to give the gift of life and wellness from one of God's creations-you-to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

What does Reform Judaism say about organ and tissue donation?

Reform Judaism has long been an advocate of Organ Donation. A 1968 Reform Responsum commented that the use of such body parts in order to heal or save a life is in keeping with the mood of Jewish tradition and a positive act of holiness.

From the URJ Department of Jewish Family Concerns

Purim Carnival - Fun for All!



Pictured above: Alex Kraft, Tommy Sullivan and Samantha Sullivan pose with Barack Obama (Rabbi Azriel) during the Purim carnival. Pictured above right: Lorenzo Batt takes a chance at spinning the wheel. Pictured right: Nina Pfrenger and Charlie Cohen show off their costumes at the Purim Prayer Assembly.

The Intellectual Assault Against the Jews and the Jewish State

Sunday, April 13, 7 p.m.
At Great Plains Art Gallery
1155 Q Street, Lincoln, NE

Alvin H. Rosenfeld, director of Institute of Jewish Culture and the Arts and Professor of Jewish Studies and English will present the lecture sponsored by the Norman and Bernice Harris Center for Judaic Studies.

Free and open to the public.

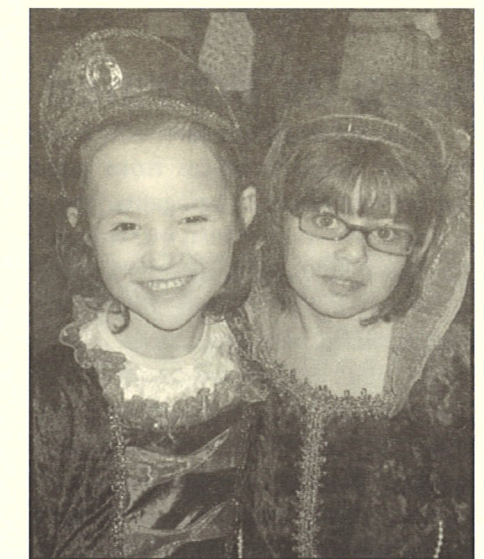
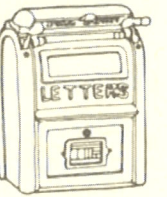
In The Mail

In February, students enrolled in World Religious Class at Bellevue West High School visited Temple Israel and were given a tour by Rabbi Aryeh Azriel. The students wrote the following comments in their thank you notes:

"I loved how you were so honest about everything. I think Temple Israel is a beautiful place."

"Thank you Rabbi Azriel for talking to our class. It helped answer some questions about God and the Bible. I would like to come on a visit again to the synagogue and stay for a service."

"Thank you for giving us the opportunity to visit the synagogue. You've definitely enlightened me about the Jewish faith. I'm also glad to know there are people like you in our society and community who care for others."



Pictured above: Harper Gordman and Destiny Wiseman take time away from playing games to show off their costumes during the Purim carnival.

Congratulations

On the Adoption of:

Marissa Cooper, daughter of Joan and Justin Cooper.

On the Birth of:

Ayden Michael Hollst, son of Kerry and Michael Hollst. Grandparents are Joan and Kevee C. Kirshenbaum, and Rose and Harvey Kennec, Yutan, NE.

Lila Jill Platt, daughter of Katy and Joe Platt, Mission Hills, KS. Grandparents are Jill and Tom Turner, Mission Hills, KS, Barb and Mike Platt.

On the Engagement of:

Elizabeth Roach and James Meyers. Parents are Donna Roach, Michael Roach, Roberta Ackerson, and Jon Meyers.

Sandra Lipsman and Stuart Sweetow. Parents are Marcia and Harvey Lipsman.

Julie Anne Egermayer and Ari Rabin-Havt. Parents are Jan and Robert Egermayer, and Anita Rabin-Havt and David Havt, Port Washington, NY.

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 by:

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

Our Sympathy

The Congregation records with sorrow the deaths of...

Aron Blyakher, father of Galina Kogan and grandfather of Lina Kogan;

Norman Gendler, father of Arlene Endebrock and Shari Brady, brother of Hymie Gendler, Sam Gendler, and Sally Wintroub, and uncle of Larry Gendler;

Susan "Susie" Kaplan, mother of Nancy Marshall and Gary Kaplan, sister of Mary Lou Rottman, and sister-in-law of Bernice Kaplan;

Janice Marie Pollack, wife of Lawrence Pollack, and mother of Kristal Baker and Bryan Grimsley.

Mollye Rimerman, mother of Merilee Rimerman and Ronald Rimerman, sister-in-law of David Dvorkin, aunt of Lois Epstein and Marilyn Warren;

Benjamin Saag, brother of David Saag;

Yankel Sirota, father of Lara Usherenko;

Marvin Stein, cousin of Aileen Eisenstatt;

Dr. Sam Weinstein, husband of Helen Weinstein, father of Laurie Weinstein and David Weinstein, and brother of Alex Weinstein;

Betty Rae Weiser, sister and sister-in-law of Harriett and Sherm Sperling;

Harl Weiss, uncle of Cathy Christensen and Steve Wigodsky;

...and extends sympathy to their bereaved families.

Our most sacred prayers are recited when the congregation is standing. Therefore, we ask that you not enter or leave the sanctuary or chapel until worshippers are seated.

Temple Funds

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

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

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

\$6.00 fund contributions:

Rabbi Azriel's Fund for Jewish Professionals
David E. Beber Fund
David and Rachel Bleicher Camp Scholarship
Mel and Genevieve Bornstein Social Justice
Rabbi Sidney H. and Jane Brooks Institute on Judaism for Clergy Caring
Cemetery Improvement
Lorene R. Cohn Trust
Loyal B. Cohn Trust for the Advancement of Jewish Studies Education
Erwin Eisenberg Campership Fund Endowment
Harvey D. Ferer Scholarship Fund
Israel Travel Fund
Samuel and Ida Kaiman Endowment
Sol and Jeanette Krizelman Social Justice
Landscape Library
Jon Meyers Leadership Development Music Outreach
Ruth and Bernard Raskin Youth Activities
Lewis and Flora Rubin Memorial Fund
Margaret and Arnold Robinson Family Jewish Education
Milton and Rosalie Saylan Jewish Education
Jennifer Soshnik Scholarship
Brad Sperling Memorial Fund for Education of Young Children
Temple Youth Group
Elinor Whitman Religious Education
Norman Whitman Fund for Jewish Learning
Janis L. Yale Enrichment
Hermene Zweiback Fund for Lifelong Jewish Learning
Rabbi Azriel's Discretionary
Rabbi Linder's Discretionary
Cantor Shermet's Discretionary
Executive Director's Discretionary
Prayer Book (\$30 donation)

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

IN MEMORY OF: **Norman Anon**, **Fran Milder**: Karen and Gary Javitch; **Louis Baum**, **Larry Rosenberg**: Sylvia Davis; **Sandy Brophy**: Charney and Jerry Rosinsky; **Jeanne Dvorkin**: Lois and Mel Epstein and family, Marilyn and Marty Warren and family; **Alan Fleishman**: Mrs. Alan Fleishman; **Steve Hoberman**: Margo, David, Daniel and Kate Rosen; **Edythe Kavich**: Jodi Brodsky; **Susie Kaplan**: Aaron Ferer & Sons Company, Sare and Maurice Aresty, Renee Bittner, Nate Brock, Teresa Drelicharz, Karen Gustafson, Duane Pieper, Lois and Mel Epstein, Debbie and Scott Friedman, Phyllis and Dick Glazer, Cindy and Bruce Goldberg, Nancy and Don Greenberg, Pearl and Jerry Gross, Judy and Keith Josephson, Ann Kaiman, Leslie Kully, Sandy and John Lehr, Janie and Marty Lehr, Sally and Ed Malashock, Roie and Bernie Meyers, Sue and David Meyers, Denise and Jon Meyers, Ducky and Mike Milder, Harriet and Gordon Nathanson, Lee and Howard Needelman, Vicki Perlmeter, Silvia and Larry Roffman, Phyllis and Norm Roffman, Paul Roffman, Margo Rosen, Jan and Les Schneiderman, Mike Silverman, Suzanne Singer, Martha and David Slosburg and family, Ellen and Richard Slosburg and family, Stanley Slosburg, Gayle and Jim Spooner, Debbie and Steve Stiel, Paul Strawhecker, Sheila and Ray Tomps, Judy and Stewart Tully, Julie and Mark Wilson, Miriam Brooks and Philip Wright, Terri and Dick Zacharia; **Peggy Krasne**: Karen and Gary Javitch, Janet and Jerry Slusky; **Betty Lerner**: Marilyn and Justin Manvitz; **Jan Pollack**: Babe Jogg; **Bebe Rips**: Doris Parker and family; **Jake Ruback**: Barbara and Alan Levin; **Benjamin Saag**: Marlen Frost; **Jean Priesman Selo**: Leslie

Kully, Sharon and George Quittner; **Betty Rae Weiser**: Doris and Al Abramson, Eileen Crabbe, Betsy and Art Davidson, Lois and Mel Epstein, Barbara Frohman, Edythe and Lloyd Krasne, Helen and Larry Liebman, Edward Sperling

IN HONOR OF THE RECOVERY OF: **Soralee and Gerald Cohn**: Charney and Jerry Rosinsky, Doris and Richard Rosinsky; **Larry Roffman**: Toby Fellman; **Norman Wine**: Dora Goldstrom and George Walker, Norman Plotkin

IN HONOR OF THE BIRTHDAY OF: **Rose M. Davis**: George Eisenberg; **Deborah Greene**: Toby Fellman; **George Eisenberg**: Joyce and Shelly Cohen; **Dick Glazer**: Ruth and Joe Erman; **Larry Kipperman**: Your Shabbat Family; **Maurie Meiches**: Doris Parker and family; **Jon Meyers**: Sandy Belgrade, Toby Fellman, Fefe Passer, Silvia and Larry Roffman, Jan and Les Schneiderman, Sharon Sobel and Jeff Schweid; **Norman Roffman**: Lois and Mel Epstein, Judy and Buddy Roffman and family; **Beatrice Sommer**: Toby Fellman, Tevee and Bernie Turkel

IN HONOR OF THE BIRTH OF: **Granddaughter of Donna Gilbert**: Ann Kaiman; **Dar Shalev Hertel**: Toby Fellman; **Samuel Mark Hertzfield**, **Paulina Madeline Lewis**: Susie and Jim Silverman; **Jonas David Pfrenger**: Bonnie and Jochen Pfrenger, Jessica Pfrenger, Nina Pfrenger, Sarah Pfrenger; **Henry Jacob Yale**: Lisa and Gary Epstein

IN HONOR OF THE ANNIVERSARY OF: **Ducky and Mike Milder**: Barbara Rips; **Marilyn and Marty Warren**: Lois and Mel Epstein

IN HONOR OF THE ENGAGEMENT OF: **Julie Egermayer and Ari Rabin-Havt**: Janey and Jerry Dann

IN HONOR OF THE B'NAIMITZVAH OF: **Grant Glazer**: Rabbi Debbie and Steve Stiel; **Granddaughter of Rosalie and Bud Greenspan**: Ann Kaiman, Sally and Sheldon Masnek

IN APPRECIATION OF: **Rabbi Aryeh Azriel**, **Rabbi Eric Linder**, **Cantor Wendy Shermet**, **Dennis DePorte**, **Elyce Azriel**, **Lori Bennett**, **Willie Clark**, **Vicki Ducharme**, **Edith Gamble**, **Amy Katz**, **Maureen Kube**, **Claudia Sherman**, **Bonnie Sullivan**, **Misty Weidner**, **Lonnie Williams**, **Rosie Zweiback**



Healing

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

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