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Reach Out...and Email Us!

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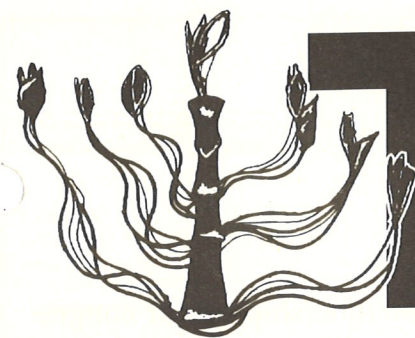
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Temple Israel Tidings

Omaha, NE Founded 1871 Vol. XCIV No. 7 Adar 10, 5766 March 10, 2006

Scholar-in-Residence

Dr. Mark Washofsky “The Talmud, the Halakhah and Reform Judaism: Old Sources and New Problems”

Friday, March 31 – Sunday, April 2

Judaism is not just a set of beliefs about God, man and the universe, but a comprehensive way of life, filled with rules and practices that affect every aspect of life.

Dr. Mark Washofsky, Professor of Rabbinics at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion (HUC-JIR) in Cincinnati, specializes in the literature of Jewish law (*halakhah*) and the application of legal theory to the understanding of the Jewish legal process. As a Temple Israel scholar-in-residence, he will guide us on a Reform roadmap to living a meaningful Jewish life in the modern secular world. Dr. Washofsky's residency is sponsored by Temple's Hermene Zweiback Center for Lifelong Jewish Learning, John A. Gentleman Mortuaries and Tom Belford.

“Legal theory explores what law is, how it is made, and, especially interesting to me, how judges go about making their decisions,” said Dr. Washofsky. “Much of what legal theory has to say about these things can teach us a great deal about how rabbis make their *halakhic* rulings. Traditionally, Judaism speaks to all questions, or ‘problems,’ of action by means of the *halakhah*.

That is, ‘what am I, as a faithful Jew, supposed to do in response to God's demand upon me’ is always found in the *halakhic* literature.

“Reform Jews are paying more attention to traditional texts and sources in making their religious decisions,” he continued. “This is not uniform among all Reform Jews and congregations, but the trend is certainly there.”

Originally from New Orleans and Lafayette, LA, Dr. Washofsky attended the University of Alabama, graduating with a degree in broadcasting and film in 1974. His ordination in 1980 was followed by a doctoral degree in 1987. From 1981 to 1985, he was a congregational rabbi in Hamilton, OH.

An instructor in Talmud and *halakhic* literature, Dr. Washofsky has been at HUC-JIR in Cincinnati since 1985. In addition, he serves as chair of the Responsa Committee of the Central Conference of American Rabbis that issues advisory opinions on questions of Jewish practice.

Dr. Washofsky's publications deal with subjects such as the history of *halakhah*, the nature of rabbinical decision-making, and issues of medical ethics in

Jewish law. He is the author of *Jewish Living: A Guide to Contemporary Reform Practice* and co-authored, with W. Gunther Plaut, *Teshuvot for the Nineties*, the latest printed collection of Reform responsa.

Friday, March 31
Shabbat Worship Service
7:30 p.m.

**“Commandments and Choices:
Do We Ever Have Free Will?”**

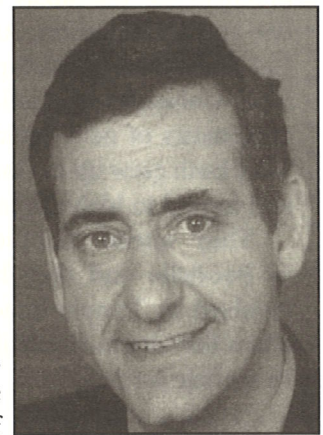
Oneg Shabbat sponsored by the Women of Reform Judaism-Omaha

Saturday, April 1
Sparks Beneath the Surface
9-10:15 a.m.

**“Jewish Law and the Terry Schiavo Case:
A Liberal Perspective”**

Sunday, April 2
Bagel Brunch
10 a.m.

**“Reform Responsa:
How Jewish Tradition Responds
to Today's Problems”**



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Reform Judaism in Transition

Welcome New Members!

Naomi Leiserowitz
Amanda Fisher

Naomi and her partner, Amanda, live in Pocatello, ID. Naomi is sitting for the Idaho bar in February in hopes of working as an attorney for Kumm Law Offices, where she practices in the areas of general law and immigration. Amanda is a PhD candidate in biology at Idaho State University, specializing in the systematics of new world bamboos. They both grew up in Council Bluffs and moved to Idaho in fall 2005.

They attend Temple Emanuel in Pocatello and they hope to be involved in Temple Israel activities when they are in Council Bluffs visiting their parents.

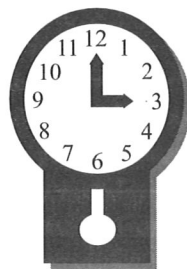
Birthday Blessings Friday, March 10 Grade 4 Family Service 6 p.m.

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

April 2 is the Time to Spring Ahead!

Don't miss out on good bagels, delicious coffee and a great dialogue with Temple Israel's Scholar-in-Residence, Dr. Mark Washofsky!

Daylight Savings Time starts Sunday, April 2 at 2 a.m. Set your clocks AHEAD one hour!



Temple Israel

7023 Cass Street Omaha, Nebraska 68132 Phone (402) 556-6536 Fax (402) 556-6189 E-mail tisrael@templeisraelomaha.com

Dear Congregation of Temple Israel,

In an ongoing effort to engage the membership of our congregation in dialogue, I would like to rely on your recommendations to identify, recruit and educate a group of engaged and motivated leaders who display exceptional capabilities and drive.

We are currently seeking nominations for future leadership, including candidates for leadership training, committee chairs/members, and Board members and officers. If you are interested in nominating someone, or yourself, please submit the information to tisrael@templeisraelomaha.com or send the completed form below to:

Gary Kaplan
Chairman, Nominating Committee
Temple Israel
7023 Cass Street
Omaha, NE 68132

All nominations must be received by **April 1, 2006**. Letters need not state a specific position of interest.

If you have any questions, please contact Gary Kaplan (558-2448 or garyk@cox.net), or me (393-6391 or wgoldberg@cox.net).

Thank you,

Wendy Goldberg

Leadership Nomination Form

Nominee's Name _____

For what position are you nominating him/her? _____

What are this person's greatest strengths? _____

Thank you.

Shalom and Farewell

Almost four years ago, I brought my family to Omaha, energized to serve the Temple Israel family. I arrived ready to grow as a rabbi and mature as a man. I came here to evolve as a preacher, a pastor and a teacher, but also as a community-builder and leader. In addition, I came here to shape and refine certain intangibles, like leadership and compassion, hoping some day to receive the call to shepherd my own congregation.

Well, as some of you may already know, I am elated to tell you that special call has come. A lovely congregation in Glastonbury, CT, named Kol Haverim (Voice of Friendship), has elected me to be their rabbi. I am blessed to have this opportunity, and I want to take this occasion to tell you a little more about the Kol Haverim family.

Only 22 years old, Kol Haverim is poised both to begin its next generation and strengthen its founding legacy. They are a warm community, comprised of 260 families. The religious school is comparatively large, educating over 200 children. In my limited exposure, I have found the prayer experience to be inspirational. There are a number of musicians and composers in the congregation who support the cantorial soloist, helping to infuse the *tefillah* with great warmth, beauty and creativity. Kol Haverim enjoys an evolving commitment to lifelong learning and celebrates a vibrant youth culture. Like ours, the youth groups are active, and the congregation possesses a strong commitment to Jewish summer camping. When it comes to social action, they are leaders in the greater Hartford area. Their website (www.kolhaverim.org), offers a number of handy links which inform the congregation about excellent opportunities to pursue justice. Last but not least, there is a small number of dedicated professionals with whom I am eager to partner. I am really excited about all this and more.

Nonetheless, there is much work to be done here before the end of May. Until then, I remain dedicated to our current efforts, and ensuring a smooth transition. I also want each of you to know that you share the successes I have enjoyed as your associate rabbi. Thanks to your love, kindness and openness, I have been able to step into your lives during happiness and sadness, during health and illness, through ups and downs. We have laughed and cried together. We have celebrated and mourned together. We've prayed together, and we've explored the vast riches of our faith together. And, I am most thankful for those moments when you picked me up when I stumbled in my youth, standing patiently while I learned and grew from my mistakes. Most simply put, you have inspired me.

I am especially grateful to those of you I have had the privilege to work with daily over the years: our gifted senior staff, our excellent support staff (the finest I have met!), our wonderful custodians and our incredible clergy, Wendy Shermet and my dear senior colleague and mentor, Aryeh Azriel. I am also appreciative of the partnership I have enjoyed with our leadership. Thanks to Mike Walts, Gary Kaplan, Wendy Goldberg and all the Trustees for your guidance and support during my tenure. Finally, I am thankful to Katherine Finnegan, Chairman of the Religious School Steering Committee, our faculty, our parents and our students for their confidence in my leadership of the Elementary School this school year.

This time with the Temple Israel family has helped me plumb the spiritual, intellectual and emotional depths required of a rabbi hoping to become an authentic and viable leader of his own congregation. I am so happy I came, and yet, this next step in our journey does not come without some sadness. My family and I will miss seeing you each day. We love you and appreciate your friendship and affection. Omaha is amazing, and you are a dear community. Please know you will always fill our hearts, even from afar. On behalf of Betsy, Cara and Jared, I wholeheartedly thank you for these many gifts you have given us. We wish you all of God's blessings in return.

Kol Tuv,

Craig

Rabbi Craig Marantz

Help us wish Rabbi Craig, Betsy, Cara and Jared a sweet goodbye at the Oneg Shabbat on Friday, May 19.

Prayer Book Fund to Purchase New Siddurim for Temple

Among Temple's 30 custodial funds is the Prayer Book Fund. The minimum donation to the Prayer Book Fund is \$30, and proceeds will be used to purchase 600 copies of *Mishkan T'filah*, the new prayer book published by the Central Conference of American Rabbis.

Mishkan T'filah is the first new *siddur* for the North American Reform Movement in more than 30 years. Reflecting the full diversity of the Reform Movement, the prayer book features a broad selection of readings, translations, gender-inclusive English, more than 100 contemporary song texts, and an innovative design.

Your contribution to the prayer book fund will be acknowledged on a bookplate inside one of the new *siddurim*.

Temple Israel's Shul Shuttle Rides Again!

Catch a ride on the Shul Shuttle and join us at Temple on **Friday, March 31**. Temple Israel Scholar-in-Residence, Dr. Mark Washofsky, will give the D'var Torah at the **7:30 p.m. service**.

Call the Temple office, 556-6536, and let us know if you'd like to ride along!



Women of Reform Judaism-Omaha

Purim Carnival

Sunday, March 12, Noon to 2 p.m.

Volunteers still needed! Contact Marta Fox at martafox@cox.net or 556-6227 to help with running a Sisterhood booth. **PLEASE NOTE:** Donations of 2-liter bottles of soda and cakes or cupcakes (they can be homemade or store-bought) are needed, so please, **bring them to Temple the morning of the carnival.**

Women Who Inspire Us

WRJ-O's annual Donor event will be held on **Thursday, March 23 at 7 p.m.** in the Milder Center. Chaired this year by Patty Gilinsky, this event is WRJ-O's major annual fundraiser. It will be an enlightening evening of inspiration moderated by Susan Norton, with panel guests Jan Goldstein, Susan Lehr, Shayna Ray, Cantor Wendy Shermet and Amee Zetzman, who will share their unique stories of balancing commitment to their family, career and community.

Join us for refreshments and dessert. Invitations have been mailed, so please RSVP to this event soon!

Passover Gifts for College Students

WRJ-O will once again be sending gifts to college students that live away from home. If your college student has had any changes to their address since the fall High Holy Days season, **please contact Marta Fox at martafox@cox.net or 556-6227 by March 14.**

Ministers Institute Friday, April 7

Volunteers are needed to help set tables and serve lunch to our guests from around the midwest. **Please contact Susan Rothholz at 391-3043 if you are interested in volunteering for this meaningful event.**

The women of WRJ-O were more than happy to lend a hand to raise money for camp scholarships at the first WRJ-O Girls' Poker night! Seated at the 'learners' table, clockwise from left, are Renee Kazor, Linda Saltzman, Patty Gilinsky and Cindy Goldberg.

Your WRJ-O Dollars at Work

"Please thank your board and the Sisterhood membership for the great support you have provided for Temple Israel kids. This will help some families and their children to fulfill their dreams for a good, healthy and Jewish summer experience. Thanks again, Rabbi Aryeh Azriel"

This message was received by WRJ-O President Cindy Goldberg in response to WRJ-O's announcement that \$3,000 was donated to Temple Israel's David and Rachel Bleicher Camp Scholarship Fund.

Girls' Poker Night Raises \$500 for Campers!

WRJ-O Poker Night last month was, "The best!" "A blast!" "Great fun!" "A welcoming, lively group of women," according to many of the 25 or so attendees. Fun, poker-themed prizes were awarded throughout the night to both high and low chip holders, and Jordanna Glazer won the raffle prize of a family fun-filled tower of games!

Our sincerest thanks goes to Harry Gates who taught us the basics of Texas Hold'em, Susan Lehr, our marvelous hostess, Danielle Gordman, Bonnie Pfrenger and Rosie Zweiback (Vice-Presidents of Programming) for planning the wonderful evening, the many women who brought eats and sweets galore, and everyone who attended and/or purchased raffle tickets.

You won't want to miss it when we deal the next hand!



Haman is Hanging Out at Temple!

Haman is putting in an appearance during Puri—but don't start booing yet!

This six-foot sinister-looking villain was built out of plywood by Temple Israel's own Len Burrell. Costume wizards Ducky Milder and Judy Zweiback created Haman's unique look.

To emphasize the gift-giving tradition of Purim, Haman is hanging out in the Temple lobby, and his pockets are overflowing with ideas to help others. During this holiday of revelry, it is traditional for Jews to think of those less fortunate than themselves. Even the poorest among us are expected to share with others.

In that spirit, children and adults are welcome to pick his pockets to do *tzedakah* to celebrate Purim. It might be a zoo pass for a child or a family from Castelar School; school supplies for the Gordon School in Akko, Israel; food for Jewish Family Service's pantry; portable CD players for Hebrew classes to create a language lab; or books for Temple's library and school. There is even an opportunity to make get well cards for congregants who are coming home from the hospital.

So come have fun and pick a *mitzvah* for someone else at the same time. All donations can be returned to the collection box by Haman's feet or delivered to the Temple office.

Save the Date!

Pancake Man—New Date! Come and eat flapjacks on **Sunday, April 30, 9-10 a.m.**, in the Friedman Social Hall. \$4 per person; children 3 years and younger are free.

Cradle Roll—Sunday, April 30, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Parents (and grandparents, too!), along with their infants and children of pre-kindergarten age, play and learn together with other families who have young children.



Adult Education

Jewish Journey Group

End of the Line: Medical, Legal and Jewish Perspectives on Life and Death

**Thursdays, April 20 and 27
7 to 8:30 p.m.**

What kind of message do you want to leave for your family and your community after you die? Having a will is "just one piece," said Dr. Speedy Zweiback, a retired vascular surgeon.

Speedy will join Rabbi Aryeh Azriel and Bob Freeman, an attorney with Fraser Stryker, for this Jewish Journey Group which will illuminate the variety of issues people *should* consider long before they actually *have* to do so. Sharing stories from their professional and personal lives, and searching the rabbinic responsa, the three facilitators will engage in a discussion about end-of-life issues and dilemmas.

In spite of its inevitability, many people do not appreciate the degree to which death is a part of life. "It's extremely rare," Speedy admitted, that the necessary documents are in place when someone goes to the hospital for life-threatening treatment. "Lots of people think they have the documents, but they don't really know. Hospitals don't want to get sued" so they continue treatment to patients in vegetative states.

"A person should be working with their own attorney, discussing and having personal estate planning documents prepared," added Bob. "This list of documents includes a will, a living will, a power of attorney and health care power of attorney."

Avoiding these issues and decisions, leaves "others to either guess what you would have wanted, or worse, to seek personal gain from your own indecision."

The Holocaust in Films

Sundays, March 12, 19, April 9 and 30

Iran's president and other anti-Semites over the years have made a cottage industry out of denying the Holocaust. They ignore the historical evidence, eye-witness testimony and the Nazis own meticulous records documenting the Final Solution.

Meanwhile, the rest of the world continues to struggle with the enormity of the horrors of the Holocaust.

Filmmakers have wrestled with the meaning of Jewish genocide by exposing the atrocities in the ghettos and death camps, retelling the stories of survivors and contemplating the German mindset.

Temple Israel, through the generosity of the Hermene Zweiback Center for Lifelong Jewish Learning, will present "Memory, Image and Meanings: The Holocaust in Films," facilitated by Dr. Moshe Gershovich, Professor of Modern Middle Eastern and European History at UNO.

The four-session film class begins on Sunday, March 12, 3 to 4:30 p.m., when Dr. Gershovich will discuss Claude Lantzmann's 1985 documentary, "Shoah." Dr. Gershovich will show clips from the nine-hour film that intersperse images from the sites of ghettos and concentration camps as

they looked in the 1970s with interviews of survivors, former camp guards, Polish bystanders and historians.

The classes on Sundays, March 19 and April 2 will begin with a screening of the films from 1 to 3 p.m., followed by discussion from 3 to 4 p.m. On April 30, the screening will begin at 12:15 p.m. Attendance at the screenings is optional, but a recent viewing of the films will ensure a fresh perspective for the discussion.

On March 19, the 2001 film, "Conspiracy," an HBO docudrama, depicts the Wannasee Conference that took place in January 1942, in which a select group of Nazi officials formulated the "Final Solution of the Jewish Question." "Europa Europa" (1990) and "The Pianist" (2002) will be the final two films. Dr. Gershovich is a graduate of Tel Aviv University and Harvard and was a senior Fulbright scholar. He has been at UNO since 2001. "This class," he said, "provides me with a way to thank Rabbi Aryeh Azriel and Program Director Rosie Zweiback and to repay the Temple congregation that provided me with a new sense of belonging."

Cost to register for *The Holocaust in Films* is \$20 for Temple members and \$25 for non-members.

Let's Talk About It

**Continues on Sunday, March 26, 2-3:30 p.m.
Council Bluffs Public Library**

Anne Roiphe grew up in Manhattan's most exclusive neighborhood, cared for by governesses. Desperate for her opinionated father's approval, her memoir, despite a life of privilege, is anything but a fairy tale.

1185 Park Avenue: A Memoir is the third selection in a Jewish literature book discussion get-together, sponsored by Temple Israel's Hermene Zweiback Center for Lifelong Jewish Learning and the Council Bluffs Public Library. Professor Joan Latchaw from UNO leads the book discussions. This month, the group will meet at the Council Bluffs Library, 400 Willow Avenue.

To register for "Let's Talk About It," contact the Council Bluffs Library at lfriesner@cbpl.lib.ia.us or 712-323-7553, extension 132. There is no fee for this adult education opportunity that is open to the community. Extra copies of the books discussed by the group have been stocked at the Council Bluffs Library.

Register with Program Rosie Zweiback for these offerings from the Hermene Zweiback Center for Lifelong Jewish Learning (rzweiback@templeisraelomaha.com or 556-6536.

Temple Israel Blood Drive

Thursday, May 4, 3-7 p.m.

Many generous Americans nationwide have been donating blood since the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, to ensure a sustained and secure blood supply for all Americans, according to the American Red Cross. Together with the Red Cross, these blood heroes are ensuring that the safest possible blood is readily available whenever and wherever needed.

We all expect blood to be there for us when we need it, but barely a fraction of those who can give, actually do.

At a time of year when spring heralds forth new life in our community, give someone the gift of many new seasons of life.

Klezmer-Bluegrass Virtuoso to Visit Temple March 29-30

- If you like bluegrass, you'll like Margot Leverett.
- If you like Klezmer, you'll like Margot Leverett, too.

On Wednesday night, March 29, Ms. Leverett will present her "young people's klezmer workshop." In one session, interested musicians will be transformed into wild and soulful klezmerim! In the second hour, she will share her experiences and lead a discussion on careers in the arts.

During the Adult Study with the Clergy class on Thursday, March 30 (10 to 11:30 a.m.), Ms. Leverett will present "Klezmer Bluegrass: A Lecture and Demonstration on Klezmer and American Music." In this unusual presentation, participants will experience the story of the klezmer revival, and discover surprising parallels and similarities with early mountain fiddle music and bluegrass.

Ms. Leverett is considered one of the foremost klezmer clarinetists today. Classically trained at Indiana University School of Music, Ms. Leverett was involved in avant-garde music when she first heard klezmer, the dynamic East European music traditionally played at Jewish weddings. She was a founding member of the Klezmatics in 1985 before establishing a solo career. Her first CD was "The Art of Klezmer Clarinet," a tribute to classic klezmer of the 20s and 30s.

Her current project, "Margot Leverett and the Klezmer Mountain Boys," is an all-star band combining the best of bluegrass and klezmer. Released in 2002, the CD has been selected by the Paul Taylor Dance Company for a new work entitled, "Klezmerbluegrass."

A staff instructor at KlezKamp for more than ten years, Ms. Leverett has also taught at KlezKanada, Klezkamp West, Klezmerquerque, and at colleges, music festivals, and Jewish organizations across the country. She leads a monthly community klezmer jam session at her synagogue in Astoria, Queens.

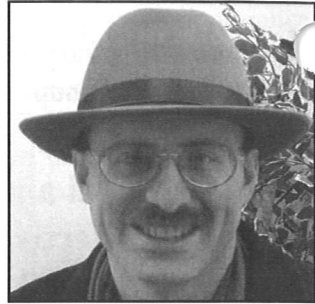
Environmental Shabbaton Sneak Preview

Saturday, April 29, 9:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Guess who's coming to the Shabbaton? Rabbi Dan Fink, of Congregation Ahavath Beth Israel in Boise, ID, will be here for an encore Shabbat! Part of our clergy team from 1992-1994, Rabbi Fink's passion for the mountains took him West, but a part of his heart is still in Omaha.

Co-author of *Let the Earth Teach You Torah* and *Judaism and Ecology*, Rabbi Fink will inspire a new way to see the natural world through Jewish lenses. This hands-on day will include hiking, bird watching, paper recycling, navigating in the woods, team building and more.

Strap on your hiking boots for a walk on the wild side! It's Jewish!



Sunday, May 21

Part of Temple Israel's mission statement asserts that our congregation is committed to improving our communities through *tikkun olam* (repairing the world). That's what Mitzvah Day is all about!

Save the day for your choice of *mitzvot*! You can work with residents at the Rose Blumkin Jewish Home, clean the grounds at Temple, assist people who have disabilities with household chores, play with children at Micah House, work at Project Harmony, be a Youth Emergency Services volunteer, prepare gifts for teachers at Castelar and Lothrop Schools, or tidy the grounds and plant flowers at the Temple Israel Cemetery.

In addition, food will be collected for Together, Inc.

Members of the Social Justice Committee are working on more options. So please mark this special day in your calendar.

Long Range Planning and Steering Committee Chairs

Committed to the Process

In June 2005 Orly Gilat and Amee Zetzman were appointed by Temple Israel President Wendy Goldberg as co-chairmen of the Long Range Planning Committee.

Their responsibility as co-chairs, the two women explained, is to lead the committee in ensuring that any decision that extends past one year is evaluated. "We are the 'big picture thinking' committee that responds to items identified by the Board of Trustees. We also ensure that the two-year presidential planning cycle is maintained," said Amee.

"We try to be tuned to the congregation and the impact of processes within our community and the Union for Reform Judaism, while considering proposed long-range changes in Temple's plans and actions," added Orly. "Congregational awareness of our activities and involvement in the decision-making process are most important to us. We want to make sure that congregants' voices are heard. We cannot do a good job without constant input from the congregation." Orly and Amee bring a combined experience in business operation, strategic planning and community building to the committee.

"It has been a good experience to work with a team of people who are very dedicated to Temple and its mission," Amee acknowledged. "We don't always agree on everything, but it's very interesting to hear everyone's opinion."

Representatives of the Building Committee, four Steering Committee Chairs, serve on the LRP Committee. Steering Committee Chairs are Jon Meyers, Rick Fox, Stacey Rockman and John Waldbaum. "Our job is to oversee the Programming Committee and make sure that the work is on track and being done," explained Rick "We are each liaisons for different committees."

Last summer when the Steering Committee started its work, "I wanted to help and stay involved with Temple after serving on the Executive Board," Rick said. He works with four or five groups that will change and evolve as the building process proceeds.

"It's been a great learning experience and an incredible opportunity to give back to the synagogue, stay involved, and meet so many dedicated congregants," Rick emphasized. "Everyone has been happy to help."

Jon Meyers, President-Elect of the Board of Trustees, describes his role on the Steering Committee as a liaison to the Finance Council, Long Range Planning, Budget and Executive Committees. "This started for me four years ago. I was personally interested as Building and Grounds Chair. I wanted to see that the process was handled in a proper and respectful manner, and was concerned that we could end up with a new building without consensus. I didn't want to see something this important driven by dollars alone."

There are more than 20 groups working on the building process, involving more than 100 people who are already participating or committed to do so.

"It has been exciting, grueling, exhausting, inspiring and disheartening" at times, Jon admitted. "There is no one way to adequately describe the experience. But the most important thing throughout this process, no matter the outcome, is that the congregation becomes stronger for it. We are committed to the process and culture of inclusion," he pledged. "We want everyone to get involved. We want to be certain that our congregation learns from this journey – about ourselves as individuals, about who we are and what we stand for as an institution, and, mostly, about one another."

Voices from the Pews

Liz Adkisson has been a member of Temple for six years, "but attended services off and on for a few years" prior to joining. "I've seen an increased emphasis on Hebrew during services," she has noticed, "which is a positive thing."

Being a member of Temple is most meaningful to Liz because of "the connection between my Jewish childhood in California, and my life and responsibilities as a Jewish adult in the 21st century. The ongoing mission of *tikkun olam* is a biggie as well," she added.

Among Liz's favorite memories are Mitzvah Day projects, including recording kids' books on cassette for students at Castelar School, assisting the *sofer* who came and repaired the Torah a couple of years ago, and attending Family School classes.

"My family has belonged to Temple for many years," said Fran Coren. "My father has been a member for over 60 years, and my husband and I have been members since our marriage 35 years ago."

Fran has seen different rabbis come and go, and an increased use of Hebrew at services. "I think I learned more of the prayers in depth as my children went through Hebrew School than I ever knew as a child. I enjoy the services much more now that I can participate in the singing and chanting of the prayers. Much more was expected of my daughters than was expected of me for my *Bat Mitzvah*. This is a very positive change that has taken place over the years."

Temple has not only been the site of her own family's events, but the place where the Corens have celebrated and mourned with friends and extended family. Fran recalled "celebrating with people we knew from grade level dinners and Shabbat services to *Bar* and *Bat Mitzvahs*, holidays and weddings. It's a place where a person always feels welcome." She imagines it will be difficult to feel the same fondness for a new building that she has for the current building.

Passover ~ A Celebration of Enduring Freedom

Beyond Matzah: A Mini-University About Passover Sunday, March 26, 10 a.m.

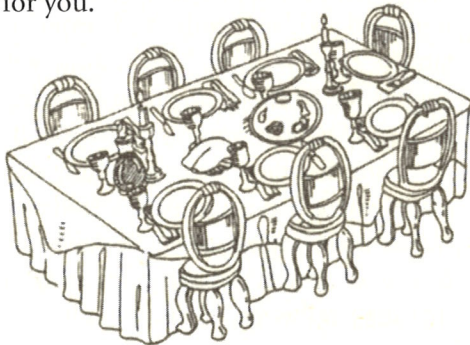
Preparing for Passover and telling our people's story of delivery from slavery to freedom requires more preparation and choreography than any other Jewish holiday. But if you're new at hosting a Seder, or just looking for some new ideas, Rabbi Craig Marantz and Stephanie Grossman have a class for you!

"My part will be a text study in which we focus on our new haggadah, *The Open Door: A Passover Haggadah*," explained Rabbi Marantz. Stephanie will focus more on the practicalities of the Seder table and the spirituality of preparing the Pesach meal.

"As we learn and teach more about Passover traditions," Rabbi Marantz explained, "we are preparing not only our homes but our hearts as well. Pesach is so central to Jewish life. It brings family and friends together to tell the most important story in our history, the story of our exodus from slavery. There are new insights we can learn from year to year. Each layer of meaning we add brings a greater richness to our celebration."

Do You Want to Share the Seder?

The first Seder will be celebrated Wednesday, April 12. 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 Lisa Epstein, 496-9159, and we will find a host family for you.



New Haggadah Debuts at Congregational Second Seder

The Temple Israel clergy and the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees are delighted to announce the purchase of a new haggadah: *The Open Door: A Passover Haggadah* (edited by Rabbi Sue Elwell with art by Ruth Weisberg). This beautiful text will contribute great meaning to Temple Israel's second night community seder and shape a generation of congregants, seeking to better understand the Passover festival and its place at the heart of our Jewish identity.

There are a number of reasons *The Open Door* was chosen as Temple Israel's in-house haggadah.

From its very title, *The Open Door* invites you to step into the Seder with open hearts and minds. Its sacred texts also offer the opportunity to embrace a rich and varied Passover experience. Last but not least, its beautifully illustrated pages provide inspiration.

Like its predecessor, the Baskin-Bronstein Haggadah (the one Temple has used for quite awhile), the *Open Door* offers a classic Passover text, a mostly straight-forward approach to the Seder and its liturgy. But there is much more creativity to behold.

Throughout the pages, there are wonderful readings and teachings, providing texture and color to the Seder experience. These lessons reflect the

great diversity of Jewish flavors Pesach evokes. Some are of Ashkenazic variety. Others are Sephardic. There are passages from the Tanakh and others from the Talmud. There are memories of Seders in faraway places like Chile, India and Tunisia. Inspiration flows from modern Jewish thinkers—both men and women. The meaning of Pesach shines through the eyes of Israelis, like Yehuda Amichai and Ahad Ha'Am. Words from Martin Luther King, Jr. and Julius Lester ring with passion for civil rights. A meaningful effort is also made to consider the redemption of Passover against the darkly complex backdrop of the Shoah. What a rich tapestry of learning!

The *Open Door* is infused with old rituals. And, new ones as well, like Miriam's Cup—a parallel to Elijah's Cup, using water instead of wine. The God-language throughout the *Open Door* is gender-neutral, and the art is simply amazing. You will find Weisberg's contributions to be very contemporary. In fact, the entire Haggadah exudes this wonderful relevance, authenticated by its sage connection to our past.

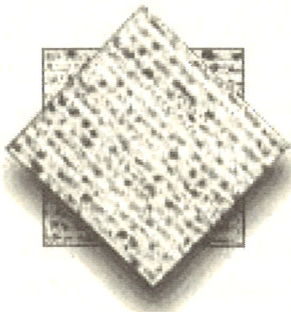
The *Open Door* is here. Come inside and let its sacred pages lift you. Copies may be purchased in the Temple office, and will be explored at the Mini-University on Passover.

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Yizkor

If you would like to have names of your loved ones read at the Morning Yizkor Service, Wednesday, April 19 (10:30 a.m.), call the Temple office, 556-6536, with the names. Please phone by Monday, April 17.



March/April • Adar/Nisan 5766

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			8	9	10	11
					Shabbat Comes to You at Remington Heights 4 p.m. Grade 4 Family Shabbat Service 6 p.m.	Sparks Beneath the Surface 9:15-10:15 a.m. Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m. Bar Mitzvah of Sam Monsky
			March			
12 Teacher Meeting 9:30 a.m. Religious School Grades K-6 10 a.m.-Noon Purim Carnival Noon-2 p.m. The Holocaust in Films 3 p.m. Erev Purim	13 Club 56 Costume Booth 5:30 p.m. Megillah Reading Dinner following 6 p.m. Purim	14 No Family School	15 No Religious School	16 Adult Study With the Clergy 10-11:30 a.m.	17 Shabbat Service 7:30 p.m.	18 Sparks Beneath the Surface 9:15-10:15 a.m. Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m.
19 No Religious School The Holocaust in Films 1 p.m.	20	21 Family School & Dinner 5:30-8 p.m. Keep Up 6:15-8 p.m. AA, Alanon & Gamblers' 12-step 7:30 p.m. Board of Trustees 7:30 p.m.	22 Religious School Grades 3-6 4-6 p.m. Informal Dinner 6 p.m. Middle/High School Teacher Meeting 6 p.m. Grades 7-9, 11 6:30-8:30 p.m.	23 Adult Study With the Clergy 10-11:30 a.m. WRJ-O Donor Tea 7 p.m.	24 Shabbat Service 7:30 p.m.	25 Sparks Beneath the Surface 9:15-10:15 a.m. Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m.
26 Teacher Meeting 9:30 a.m. Religious School Grades K-6 10 a.m.-Noon Pesach Mini-University 10 a.m. Grade 2 VIP Seder 10:30 a.m. The Holocaust in Films 1 p.m. Jewish Book Talk @ Council Bluffs Public Library 2 p.m.	27	28 Family School & Dinner 5:30-8 p.m. AA, Alanon & Gamblers' 12-step 7:30 p.m.	29 Religious School Grades 3-6 4-6 p.m. Scrapbook Club 5:30 p.m. Informal Dinner 6 p.m. Grades 7-12 6:30-8:30 p.m. Klezmer Jam Grades 6-12 6:30-7:30 p.m.	30 Adult Study With the Clergy with Margot Leverett 10-11:30 a.m.	31 Shabbat Service Scholar-in-Residence Dr. Mark Washofsky 7:30 p.m.	1 Sparks Beneath the Surface with Scholar-in-Residence 9-10:15 a.m. Grade 5 Family Shabbat Service Parents Meeting following 10:30 a.m. April
2 No Religious School Scholar-in-Residence 10 a.m.	3	4 No Family School AA, Alanon & Gamblers' 12-step 7:30 p.m.	5 No Religious School	6 Adult Study With the Clergy 10-11:30 a.m. Brooks Institute Lecture @ UNO 6 p.m.	7 Ministers' Institute 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Tot Shabbat Dinner Following 6 p.m. Shabbat Service 6 p.m.	8 Sparks Beneath the Surface 9:15-10:15 a.m. Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m. Bat Mitzvah of Haley Halsted
9 No Religious School The Holocaust in Films 1 p.m.	10	11 No Family School AA, Alanon & Gamblers' 12-step 7:30 p.m.	12 No Religious School 1st Seder Erev Pesach	13 Office Closed Passover Service 10:30 a.m. Congregational Seder 6 p.m. 2nd Seder Pesach	14 Shabbat Service 6 p.m.	15 Sparks Beneath the Surface 9:15-10:15 a.m. Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m. JYG Chocolate Seder 7 p.m.

Worship and Holiday Services

Friday~March 10
4 p.m.
Shabbat Comes to You
at Remington Heights
6 p.m.
Grade 4 Family Shabbat Service
Master Storyteller
Rita Paskowitz

Saturday~March 11
9:15-10:15 a.m.
Sparks Beneath the Surface
10:30 a.m.
Shabbat Service
Bar Mitzvah of Samuel Monsky
Son of Pam and Henry Monsky
Torah Portion: Tetzaveh
Exodus 27:20-30:10
Haftarah: Esther 7:1-10; 8:15-17

Monday,~March 13
Erev Purim
6 p.m.
Reading of the Megillah
Purim Spiel
Dinner immediately following
(Reservations required)

Friday~March 17
7:30 p.m.
Shabbat Service
Rabbi Aryeh Azriel
Oneg Shabbat sponsored by the
Women of Reform Judaism-Omaha

Saturday~March 18
9:15-10:15 a.m.
Sparks Beneath the Surface
10:30 a.m.
Shabbat Service
Torah Portion: Ki Tissa
Exodus 30:11-34:35
Haftarah: Ezekiel 36:22-36

Friday~March 24
7:30 p.m.
Shabbat Service
Rabbi Craig Marantz
Oneg Shabbat sponsored by the
Women of Reform Judaism-Omaha

Saturday~March 25
9:15-10:15 a.m.
Sparks Beneath the Surface
10:30 a.m.
Shabbat Service
Torah Portion: Vayakhel/Pekude
Exodus 35:1-40:38
Haftarah: Ezekiel 45:16-25

Friday~March 31
7:30 p.m.
Shabbat Service
Scholar-in-Residence
Dr. Mark Washofsky
Commandments and Choices:
Do We Ever Have Free Will?
Oneg Shabbat sponsored by the
Women of Reform Judaism-Omaha

Saturday~April 1
9-10:15 a.m.
Sparks Beneath the Surface
Dr. Mark Washofsky
Jewish Law and the Terry Schiavo Case:
A Liberal Perspective
10:30 a.m.
Grade 5 Family Shabbat Service
Torah Portion: Vayikra
Leviticus 1:1-5:26
Haftarah: Isaiah 43:21-44:23

Friday~April 7
6 p.m.
Tot Shabbat
Dinner immediately following
6 p.m.
Shabbat Service
Rabbi Aryeh Azriel

Saturday~April 8
9:15-10:15 a.m.
Sparks Beneath the Surface
10:30 a.m.
Shabbat Service
Bat Mitzvah of Haley Halsted
Daughter of Mendy and Michael Halsted
Torah Portion: Tzav
Leviticus 6:1-8:36
Haftarah: Malachi 3:4-24

Thursday~April 13
Pesach
10:30 a.m.
Passover Service
6 p.m.
Congregational Second Seder

Friday~April 14
6 p.m.
Shabbat Service
Rabbi Aryeh Azriel

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



Celebrate Purim!

"Is your costume ready dear?
because Purim's almost here!"

Purim Carnival
Sunday, March 12

Pre-kindergarten children--and their
parents--get a sneak preview
at 11:30 a.m.



Open to the
community
from Noon
to 2 p.m.

Have lunch, pop-
corn, cotton candy
Win prizes

Enter the Cake Walk
and more!



Erev Purim
Monday, March 13
6 p.m.



Purim Spiel
and Costume parade
followed by a delicious
Popeye's Chicken
(and vegetarian, too!)
dinner and

scrumptious hamantaschen dessert
sponsored by the
Women of Reform Judaism, Omaha

Reservations required for dinner.
Call the Temple office, 556-6536.



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

Temple Israel
Congregational Second Seder
Thursday, April 13
6 p.m.

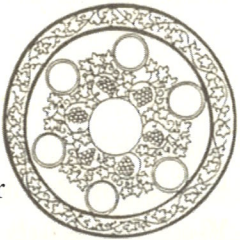
Share the journey from slavery to freedom with your
congregational family.
A traditional Seder meal and a vegetarian option will be served.
Adults, \$19; children in sixth grade and younger, \$8; children two-years-
old and younger, no charge.

Your check payable to Temple Israel is your reservation and must be
received in the Temple office by Friday, April 7. Reservations open for non-
members Friday, April 7 through Tuesday, April 11.

Congregational Second Seder

Name _____		
Phone _____	Amount Enclosed _____	
	Chicken	Vegetarian
Adults @ \$19 each	_____	_____
Children Grade 6 & under @ \$8 each	_____	_____
Children 2 years & younger @ No Charge	_____	_____
We would like to sit with _____		

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



Passover Recipes
Passover Peanut Butter Cookies

1 1/2 Cups Peanut Butter
2 Egg Whites, unbeaten
1 Cup Sugar

Combine ingredients and mix thor-
oughly. 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.

Charoset

1/2 Cup Ground Nuts
1/2 tsp. Cinnamon
1 Apple, peeled and chopped
2 Tbl. Sweet Red Wine
Mix all until smooth.

Did You Know?

The classical approach of Reform
Judaism was based on the views of
Rabbi Samuel Holdheim (1806-1860),
leader of Reform Judaism in Germany.
He believed that Reform Judaism
should be based solely upon monothe-
ism. Almost everything connected with
Jewish ritual, law and custom was of the
ancient past, and thus no longer appro-
priate for Jews to follow in the modern
era, according to Rabbi Holdheim.

This approach was the dominant
form of Reform Judaism from its
creation until the 1940s. Since then,
the American Reform Movement has
slowly begun distancing itself from its
previous stances. Many Reform Jews
now go to temple on Saturday, have
more Hebrew in their religious services,
and are incorporating more aspects of
laws and customs, in a selective fashion,
into their lives. This is a transformation
of the original Reform position in favor
of more traditional Judaism.

Currently, some Reform rabbis
promote following elements of hal-
akhah and belief in many parts of
classical Jewish theology, while others
actively discourage adopting Orthodox
practices or beliefs, because they feel
that this is not in the tradition of the
Reform Movement.

Tot Shabbat
Friday, April 7, 6 p.m.
Livingston Chapel

Especially for families with young
children, Tot Shabbat worship services
are an opportunity for youngsters to be-
gin praying together with their parents
and the congregational community at
Temple Israel.



Join Rabbi Craig
Marantz for songs and a
story and stay for a fam-
ily-friendly meal! Adults,
\$5--children, no charge.
Please make your reser-
vation in the Temple office, 556-6536 or
mkube@templeisraelomaha.com.

Youth & Education

Rabbi Craig Marantz
Elementary School Director
Elyce Azriel
Middle/High School Director
Lynne Jensen
Director of Youth & Informal Education

Candy Fundraiser Hugs Success!

Thank you to all the Kindergarten through sixth grade students listed below for selling over \$4,000 of Barton's Kosher for Passover Candy! All the proceeds from the sale went to Temple Israel's David and Rachel Bleicher Camp Scholarship Fund. Thanks, too, to all the families and friends, and the Women of Reform Judaism-Omaha, who helped by buying boxes of candy — and a big thank you to Karli Newman for organizing the forms and candy orders!

2006 Candy Sellers: Yaniv Azriel, Courtney Bierman, Madison Bierman, Ali Brehmer, Adam Cooper-Kahn, Michelle Davidson, Anna Eirinberg, John Eirinberg, Madison Eisenberg, Max Gendler, Nathan Gendler, Abbey Giller, Danny Glazer, David Glazer, Jane Glazer, Max Goldberg, Abby Hack, Ryan Hollst, Shaylie Hollst, Brandon Idelman, Jordan Jensen, Maddie Jensen, Emily Kazor, Katie Kirshenbaum, Mikayla Langdon, Jessica Levinger, Solomon Marburg, Jacob Levinger, Solomon Marburg, Jacob Levinger, Michael Militzer, Bailey Newman, Ben Noodell, Justin Norton, Seth Norton, Jessica Pfrenger, Sarah Prescott, Abigail Reiss, Eliana Reiss, Ava Robinson, Mallory Rogers, Asher Rosenquist, Abby Schondelmeyer, Lauren Sklarsky, Lydia Sklarsky, Alexis Sutzky, Josh Sullivan, Rachel Sullivan and Samantha Sullivan.

What's Happening in Religious School

Grade 4 Service and Dinner Friday, March 10
 The fourth graders will lead the evening service which begins promptly at 6 p.m. The dinner follows immediately after the service.

Grade 6 Project Presentations Sundays, March 12 and 13
 Sixth graders will continue making presentations of their individual research projects. Each student's presentation includes a speech and a visual or audio display about some Jewish ritual significant to them and Reform Jewry. Everyone is invited to attend on Sunday mornings from 11:30 a.m.-Noon in the Livingston Chapel.

Purim Carnival Sunday, March 12
 The Purim Carnival begins at 11:30 a.m. for children five-years and younger and their parents, including our Kindergarten class. The carnival is open to the community from Noon-2 p.m.

Erev Purim Monday, March 13
 Students and their parents are invited to join us for Temple Israel's Purim Spiel and service, beginning at 6 p.m. Come in costume or stop at the Club 56 Costume Booth right outside the Sanctuary doors!

No Religious School or KeepUp March 14-19 and April 2-19
 Due to public school breaks and the observance of *Pesach*, there will be no classes. School resumes after Passover on **Sunday, April 23**.

Grade 2 to Host a Very Important Persons Seder Sunday, March 26
 The Very Important Persons Seder is an opportunity for our second graders and important people in their lives to enjoy a Passover *Seder*. During the *Seder*, the adults in attendance practice the *mitzvah* of *v'hig'gad'ta l'vin'kha*: You shall tell your children of the Passover story.

Forgot Your Purim Mask? Visit the Club 56 Costume Booth!

This year Club 56 will be trying a completely new idea — a costume booth right outside the Sanctuary doors. Starting at 5:30 p.m. on Erev Purim (Monday, March 13), Club 56ers will stop anyone not wearing a costume before entering the Sanctuary to watch the 6 p.m. Purim Spiel.

Let Lynne Jensen know if you want to help (ljensen@templeisraelomaha.com or 556-6536)!

If you happen to have adult-sized costumes that you can donate to Club 56, please bring them to the Temple office marked "Club 56 Purim Spiel." Thank you!



Camp = Friends and Fun

Ben Noodell and Alex Fox will be spending part of their summer at Olin-Sang-Ruby Union (OSRUI), the Reform Movement's overnight camp in Wisconsin.

Ben, 11, is in the sixth grade and attended OSRUI two years ago. One of his favorite activities was rock climbing. "I'm going again, because four or five of my friends are going," he mentioned. He believes OSRUI is a good summer camp for young Jews, "because you go to services and Jewish classes and learn a lot about being a Jew. But it's different than school, because you do a lot of fun activities."

Alex, 12, also a sixth grader, will be going to OSRUI for the first time, "because all my friends are going," he explained. He looks forward to four weeks of rock climbing and sailing. Alex also knows that he'll receive a lot of instruction at camp in studying for his April 2007 *Bar Mitzvah*.



Packing for College: Where Does Judaism Fit?

One of the most exciting and anxiety-ridden times in a family's lifecycle is when a teen prepares to transition from life as a high school student to life on a college campus. Sharing with them our own experiences—from taking the ACT/SAT to which college to attend—we strengthen their decisions with Jewish wisdom before leaving the nest.

The 2003 Union for Reform Judaism college-prep initiative, *Packing for College: Where Does Judaism Fit?*, covers the basics of preparing our teens for college life. Offered as part of our eleventh grade curriculum, teacher Rosie Zweiback and several guest speakers presented life-experience information.

Three sessions, including one with parents, guided all on the following topic: "How do students identify and prioritize the important factors to be considered as they think about colleges?"

"Getting the Real Scoop" was presented by a panel of current Jewish college students. Leora Azriel, Jeff Gates, Becky Smedlund, Becky Sternberg and Emily Sternberg gave the class information about what college life is REALLY like.

In "Choosing Your College," Rosalie Saltzman from the UNO Honors Program and Rosie Zweiback spoke about how to rate colleges and narrow the choices to find the best match.

Bob Wolfson, ADL Regional Director, covered "Campus Life: A Jewish Perspective." He dialogued with students on what they need to know about navigating the political climate on college campuses.

Pictured right, 1 to r) Happy chefs stirred the pot! Teacher Lisa Epstein cooked soup with Grace Hack and Ashley Bernstein in *Food for Thought: Preparing Food for Temple Israel's Caring Community*.

Spring Chavurah Needs YOU!

After a two-year break, Omaha will once again host the NFTY-MO Valley Spring Chavurah, April 20-23. Over 250 Jewish teens will descend upon Omaha for a great weekend.

We need help from the entire community with transportation to and from the airport; baking sweets for the Oneg Shabbat on April 21; donation items for the goodie bags; and housing participants on April 21.

If you can help in any way, please contact Lynne Jensen at 556-6536, or Hamutal Ginsburg at 330-9667.



JYG Has the Coolest T-shirts!

At January's JYG Painted Furniture program, everyone had an opportunity to create and vote on a t-shirt design. The results were spectacular!

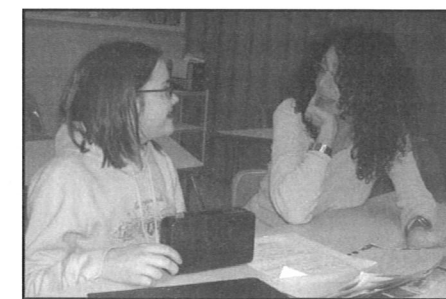
Every JYGer who worked at the *Live, Laugh & Linguini Dinner and Auction* last month received one, as well as all seventh and eighth graders who went to the JYG Chavurah March 3-5 in St. Louis.

So how do you get yours? Come to a JYG program! The next fun event is the *Chocolate Seder* on Saturday, March 15 at 7 p.m. Checkout the Temple Israel website (www.templeisrael-ne.org), weekly eTidings and the JYG bulletin board for more information about the *Seder* and other upcoming happenings. As always, if you have any questions, call Lynne!

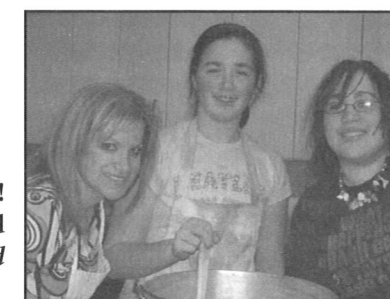
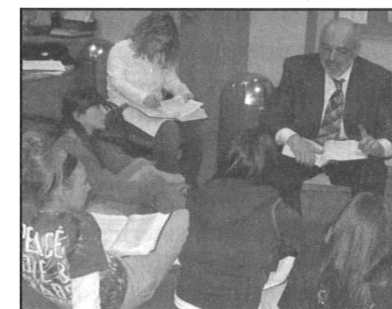
OTYG member LaShanna Bernstein admires the new JYG t-shirt modeled by seventh graders Sam Burrell (left) and Alex Wolpa.



February Middle/High School Intermodules are a Creative Learning Break



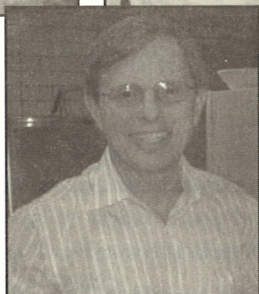
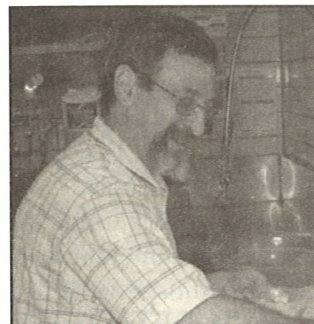
(Pictured left, 1 to r) Rachel Scheet reviewed storytelling techniques with *Jewish Storytelling* teacher, Rita Paskowitz, before recording the book she chose for Gordon Elementary students in Akko, Israel. (Pictured right) Rabbi Aryeh Azriel helped with the Spring Chavurah Planning in *What's So Great About Youth Group?* intermodule.



Other intermodules offered were: *Do a Mitzvah a Week*, *Jewish Art*, *Creating Jewish Greeting Cards*, *Raising Money for KAVOD*, and *Reading the News Through Jewish Eyes—Especially News About Israel!*

Temple Israel Members Are Always on the Go!

OTYG-Hosted Annual Spaghetti Dinner & Auction



Youth Group dads ruled the kitchen. (Pictured clockwise) Stuart Bernstein, Harlan Rips, Len Burrell, Patrick Jensen and John Terry kept the delectable dinner rolling out the kitchen doors.

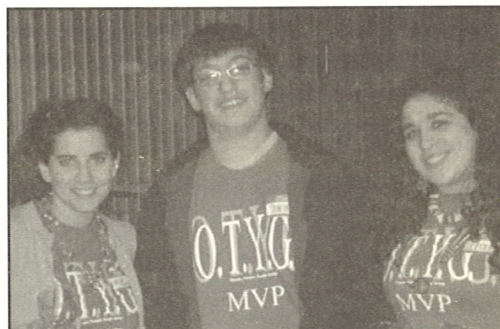


JYG members did coat check and sitter service duty as part of their commitment to the success of the dinner. (Pictured left, 1 to r) Sam Burrell, Alex Wolpa, Rachel Scheet, Haley Halsted, Molly Goldberg and Emily Katz.



(Pictured right, 1 to r) Sophie Goldberg, and Caroline, Jonathan and Oliver Rockman couldn't wait to taste the mouthwatering meal!

OTYG members were busy doing EVERYTHING! (Pictured below, 1 to r) Max Halsted, Sarah Bleicher and Jackie Neesman.



(Pictured above, 1 to r) Chelsea Taxman, Aaron Bleicher and LaShanna Bernstein.

If you weren't in attendance at *Live, Laugh & Linguini*, you missed one of the best spaghetti dinners that OTYG has ever hosted. Chairperson Ashley Bernstein did a great job of running the show! What a huge success the dinner was. OTYG raised approximately \$20,000. This money is used as the sole support of Temple's youth groups (OTYG, JYG, and Club 56), with a portion going to Camp CoHoLo and Camp Rainbow, both wonderful camps for children with serious illnesses.

On Wednesday, February 22, the OTYG Board showed its appreciation to all the youth groupers who helped out by hosting a thank you dinner before Religious School. We served yummy food, and were finally able to relax after several extremely stressful weeks. Everyone enjoyed it!

Big thanks must go out to everyone involved: parents, teens, congregants, Temple staff...everyone! We especially want to give a big hug to the following people: Elyce Azriel, Lori Benne, Len Burrell, Rose and Stuart Bernstein, Patrick Jensen, Josh Katelman, Jane and Harlan Rips, and Michele and John Terry.

Sean Bernstein
OTYG Secretary

Sitter Service

is available...

- each Friday evening for the 7:30 p.m. service;
- 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. Sorry, there are no facilities for infants.

Community Decathlon Competitions



(Pictured left, 1 to r) Team Temple were drawn to success as Nikki Kirshenbaum illustrated clues for Mimi Silverman, Patrick Jensen and John Glazer during the Pictionary competition.



(Above) Bill, Dick and Matt Kirshenbaum and Len Burrell bowled near-perfect games at West Lanes during the February Community Decathlon Games.

(Left) Mah Jong tables filled the room, and the competition between the synagogues was fierce!

WRJ-O Hamantaschen Baking



Roll, cut, fill, pinch – and REPEAT! (Left) Jill Idelman and Mona Jones got into the hamantaschen-making groove on Sunday, February 26. WRJ-O members made 600 hamantaschen to be enjoyed at the Purim Carnival and Purim Congregational Dinner.

(Right, front 1 to r) Deb Marburg, Jill Idelman, Hannah Grossman, Linda Saltzman, (back 1 to r) Stephanie Grossman, Cheri Insburg, Marta Fox and Allison Latenser display show the fruit-filled efforts of their labors.



Women of Spirit XXI: Stories Between the Spaces of Our lives, Our Cultures, Our Spiritual Paths

Lee Needelman

Sunday, January 29 was a wonderful day of celebration of togetherness within diversity. Women from Buddhist, Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Baha'i, and other traditions gathered together to celebrate spirituality, to open up dialogue, and to learn about each other's stories and faith traditions.

As participants entered the ballroom at Creighton University's Student Center, each chose a flower to add to the vase in the centerpiece at each table. Together we created a beautiful arrangement—the idea of the day!

Cantor Wendy Shermet joined Christian, Muslim and Baha'i singers in beautiful spiritual song. Storytellers Rita Paskowitz, Lucy Duncan and Novera King followed with stories from the Jewish, Quaker and Muslim traditions. There was time to snack, visit with others, and visit artist booths and book offerings from Soul Desire bookstore, before continuing with two sets of workshops in the afternoon.

"It was a remarkably enjoyable and informational afternoon. The event was filled with warmth, humor and spirituality. I met lovely, interesting women," said Dorothy Spizman. Sandy Nogg added, "I think we were surrounded and supported or buoyed up by women of different backgrounds and faiths, seeking understanding and insight into the spirituality of themselves and others. I thought it was a terrific day. I thoroughly enjoyed it."



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

Our Sympathy

The Congregation records with sorrow the deaths of...

Rose Lee Cohen, mother of Helen Burns, Marilyn Ivers and Carl Cohen, and sister-in-law of Bernice and Don Cohen;

Spencer B. Gilbert, husband of Donna Kaiman Gilbert, father of Julie Ohayon and Sam, Jerry Todd, David and Daniel Gilbert, and brother-in-law of Howard Kaiman;

Leonard Gelbman, father of Andy Gelbman;

Rose Lee Ginsburg, aunt of Larry Ginsburg and sister-in-law of Elaine Ginsburg;

Louis H. Kohll, husband of Ivy Lynn Kohll, father of Jordan, Ariel and Sophia Kohll, son of Sandra and Marvin Kohll, brother of Sarah Ita and Justin and David Kohll, and nephew of Gail and Jerry Kohll;

Sara Levenson, grandmother of Bruce Baron;

Michael Rosinsky, son of Jerry Rosinsky, step-son of Charney Rosinsky, nephew of Phyllis and Harvey Aronson, Harriet Singer and Doris and Richard Rosinsky, and cousin of Karen Javitch

...and extends sympathy to their bereaved families.

Contribution Form

All donations received will be placed in the Endowment Fund unless specifically directed otherwise.

In Memory of _____

In Honor of ☐ Recovery ☐ Birthday ☐ Anniversary ☐ Other _____

of (name) _____

☐ Fund _____ ☐ Amount _____

Receipient Name _____

Address _____

Donor Name _____

Address _____

Congratulations

On the Birth of:

Charles Benjamin Seeger, son of Cantor Jennifer Blum Seeger and Kevin Seeger.

On the Engagement of:

Erin Dacey and James Bagwell. Parents are Don'L and John Dacey.

Shelli Silver and Cory Ginsburg. Parents are Barb and Bill Ritzen, Fred Silver, Terry and Jack Appleman, and Cheri and Larry Ginsburg.

On the Marriage of:

Mr. and Mrs. Eric Mackem. Mrs. Mackem is the former Lisa Fried. Parents are Myra Mackem, Frederick, MD, Walter Mackem, Arlington, VA, and Norma and Marshall Fried.

Healing

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

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

Temple Funds

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

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

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

\$6.00 fund contributions:

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

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

IN MEMORY OF: Frances Batt, Lois Bernstein, Pauline Hoberman, Ruth Sutin: Harriett and Sherm Sperling; William Cherniss: LetaRae Cherniss; Spencer Gilbert: Toby Fellman and Joe Hurley, Mary Kaiman, Renee and Louie Kazar, Joan and Milton Marcus, Suzy Rubin; Maurie Katzman: Phyllis and Harvey Aronson, Joan and Milton Marcus, Doris Parker, Audrey and Morrie Shapiro; Louis Kohll: Amerisource Bergen Drug Company, Marge and Jim Bresel, Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Incontro, Manny Kreitstein, Connie and Bob Kully, Sandy and John Lehr, Susie and Mike Norton, Mimi Rogers and Scott Farkas and Cleo and Isaac, Margo and Bill Rosen, Suzy Rubin, Rosalie and Ernie Saltzman, Susie and Jim Silverman, Anne and Alan Simon and family, Kathy and Larry Siref, Debi and Jeff Smedlund, Susan L. ern and Abby Kohll; Lillian Lipsey: Fran and Louie Blumkin, Virginia Farber, Dee Fox, Phyllis and Dick Glazer, Silvia and Larry Roffman, Joie Simon; Harlan Noddle: Anne and Alan Cohen, Soralee and Jerry Cohn, Debra and Steven Dresner, Betsy, Richard, Matthew and Chloe Heyman, Phyllis and Bob Newman, Harriett and Sherm Sperling, Mickey Stern; Norman Rips: Aileen Eisenstatt; Corrine Rockman: Carole and Richard Briscoe, Cindy and Bruce Goldberg, Lois and Steve Kaufman, Sharee and Murray Newman; Michael Rosinsky: Manny Kreitstein, Connie and Bob Kully, Roie and Bernie Meyers, Dodi and Steve Redler, Susie and Mike Norton, Kathy and Larry Siref, Debi and Jeff Smedlund, Shirley Weinstein; Harold Rothstein: Jennifer and John Glazer; Steve Simon: Phyllis and Harvey Aronson, Anne and Alan ohen, Joyce and Shelly Cohen, Aileen Eisenstatt, Carol Farber, Toby Fellman, Frances and Sam Fried, Chickie Gilinsky, Phyllis and Dick Glazer,

Connie and Bob Kully, Sandy and John Lehr, Joanie and Marty Lehr, Barb and Cliff Levitan, Sherri and Gary Lubin, Joan and Milton Marcus, Babe Nogg and Bob Nogg, Susie and Mike Norton and family, Freddie and Art Novak, Margo, Aaron and Charles Parsow, Patrick A. Patman, Inc., Dodi and Steve Redler, Suzy Rubin, Monica Sacks, Rosalie and Ernie Saltzman, Linda and Kevin Saltzman, Bea Schimmel, Gene Spence, Mickey Stern, Amee and Ted Zetzman, Debby and Speedy Zweiback; Bill Siref: Jon Bauman, Judy and Sam Cooper, Ellen and Richard Slosburg, Harriett and Sherm Sperling; Millard Speier: Soralee and Jerry Cohn, Audrey Sophir; Zeph Telpner: Rosalie and Maurie Meiches, Iris and Marty Ricks, Harriett and Sherm Sperling; Bertha Weintrob: Nancy and David Jacobson and family; Lucille Zelinsky: Elly and Bob Gordman

IN HONOR OF RECOVERY OF: Lois Epstein: Monica Sacks, Rosalie and Ernie Saltzman, Terri and Dick Zacharia; Richard Epstein: Anne and Alan Cohen; Dick Glazer: Judy and Jack Baker, Fran and Louie Blumkin, Margie and Marlon Somberg; Julie Martin: Toby Fellman; Fred Simon: Joanie and Marty Lehr, Monica Sacks; Harriet Singer: Shirley Weinstein

IN HONOR OF ANNIVERSARY OF: Marilyn and Marty Warren: Lois and Mel Epstein

IN HONOR OF BIRTHDAY OF: Lloyd Friedman: Norma and Marshall Fried, Hilde Gottlieb, Stanley Passer: Toby Fellman; Marty Lehr: Gail and Gene Smoler; Ducky Milder: Mary and Tom Bernstein, Toby Fellman, Joan and Milton Marcus, Rosalie and Maurie Meiches, Barbara Rips, Suzy Rubin

IN HONOR OF BIRTH OF: Charles Mogens Yale: Roz Friedman

IN HONOR OF CHOOSING JUDAISM: Laura Schrager: Jennifer and John Glazer; Wendy Vann: Audrey Epstein, Susie and Mike Norton, Amee and Ted Zetzman

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

Women of Reform Judaism Tribute Fund

IN MEMORY OF: Louis Kohll, Steve Simon: Lois and Mel Epstein, Marilyn and Marty Warren; Mike Rosinsky: Lois and Mel Epstein

Do You Ever Wonder...

- Who fills out those beautiful donation cards for a loved one?
- Who carefully prepares your dues statement?
- Who mails your yartzheit reminder?
- Who designs those splashy Religious School Newsletters?
- Who sends out the e-Tidings to keep you in the loop?

Our wonderful office team keeps this place running in top form. PLEASE take a moment to let Lori Bennett, Vicki Ducharme, Maureen Kube, Bonnie Sullivan and the newest addition, Misty Heller, know that you appreciate the great job they do supporting the Temple community. Their dedication and professionalism sustain us all in countless ways.

P.S. If ever you have feedback or constructive criticism to share with a staff member, please keep in mind that there is a time and a place when it is most welcome. Any time during Shabbat or when staff members are putting on a big congregational event is NOT the time.