

Temple Israel Staff and Officers

Aryeh Azriel..... Rabbi
 Craig H. Marantz..... Rabbi
 Wendy Shermet..... Cantor
 Dennis DePorte..... Executive Director
 Joan Cooper..... Elementary School Coordinator
 Elyce Azriel..... Middle/High School Director
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 Jacob Bleicher..... OTYG President

Reach Out...and Email Us!

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

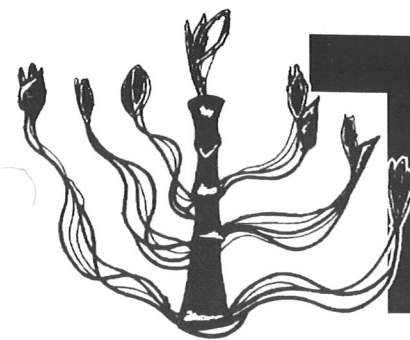
Brigitte Gaspard
 Religious School Secretary
 bgaspard@templeisraelomaha.com
Lynne Jensen
 Youth and Informal Education Director
 ljensen@templeisraelomaha.com
Maureen Kube
 Receptionist/Donations
 mkube@templeisraelomaha.com
Claudia Sherman
 Communications Coordinator
 csherman@templeisraelomaha.com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



Published by Temple Israel
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 Fax 402/556-6189
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From the Rabbi's Study

Rabbi Craig Marantz

Let's learn about an important Jewish value: *derek erez*. The most simple meaning of *derek erez*, translated as the "way of the land," is having manners. R. Ovadiah of Bertinoro explains that *derek erez* refers to the way in which one infuses courtesy, honesty and morality into his business dealings (*masa umatan*).

But *derek erez* can be even more basic than that. *Derek erez* is about doing nice things to those you know and those you don't know. It means doing nice things for those who have done a lot for you or nothing for you. *Derek erez* means doing whatever it takes to help others feel respected. (See Torah Aura's wonderful teaching tool for children, *Jewish Values from Alef to Tav*).

There are a number of basic ways we can practice *derek erez* at Temple:

- by turning off our cell phones before we come into the sanctuary for prayer;
- by taking up our concerns with one another in private, not in the hallway or foyer so everyone else can hear;
- by driving with caution in our parking lots, knowing that there are unsuspecting children moving about;
- by impressing upon our children the importance of being polite to one another and their teachers, and listening carefully when learning the lessons of Torah.

And the list, of course, goes on and can be applied well beyond the walls of

our sacred space and pertains to all of us, congregant and staff person alike. Moreover, *derek erez* can also lead to the practice of other significant Jewish values like *kavod*, our sensitivity and respect for each other's dignity.

We learn in *Pirkei Avot* (3, 17): "Without Torah, there can be no *derek erez*. Without *derek erez*, there can be no Torah." In other words, we turn to Torah for insight into the values that compose *derek erez*, values like courtesy, honesty and morality.

But it is our practice of *derek erez*, in turn, that allows us to live a life of Torah with integrity. By living with *derek erez*, we nurture a very basic, native sense that doing the right thing is what makes us distinctly human. Living with *derek erez* reminds us each step of the way that we are each created in God's image, each of us capable of doing our part to infuse our world with kindness, decency and wholeness. May our commitment to basic *derek erez* bring us all to great blessings.

Welcome Home Dr. Moshman!

Temple congregant Gordon Moshman shared his experience in Afghanistan through his emails home to his family (see Temple's website, www.templeisrael-ne.org). We are happy to have him home safely (see below).

"Thank you everyone for being a 'click' away to share the news from Gordy's deployment in Afghanistan. He returned to Omaha on February 4 and is back at work. Thank you for your concern and emails. Watch for a press release about a campaign collecting shoes to send to Afghanistan for the children. Alegent Health is coordinating this effort."

Ann Moshman

**"From Haven to Home:
 Celebrating 350 Years
 of Jewish Life
 in America"**

Scholar-in-Residence
 Pamela S. Nadell,
 Professor of History and Director
 of the Jewish Studies Program
 at American University

**Friday, March 4,
 Shabbat Worship Service
 7:30 p.m.**

"Remembering the
 Celebrations of the Past"

**Saturday, March 5,
 Bagels and Sacred Books
 9-10:15 a.m.**

"Seeking Haven and Making Lives"

**Sunday, March 6,
 Bagel Brunch
 10 a.m.**

"America's Jewish Women"

Open to the community~
 all events are at Temple

Sponsored by the Hermene Zweiback
 Center for Lifelong Jewish Learning

Celebrating 350 Years of Jews in America

President's Tidings

Gary Kaplan

We are a singing congregation, but many of us have found it hard to keep up with our b'nai mitzvah students on Saturday mornings. They are learning more and more Hebrew songs Religious Schooland prayers at summer camp.

To help us keep up, Cantor Shermet has assembled a new prayer book for Shabbat morning. On every page we find the English transliterations so everyone can join in the Hebrew songs and prayers. In addition, those of us who prefer to read the Hebrew letters are finding the enlarged Hebrew text much easier to read than before.

As members of Temple, you are always invited to the Saturday morning Shabbat services and the bar/bat mitzvah receptions. So, come three times this spring and try out our new prayer book. The first time you will find it interesting. The second time you will start recognizing the morning tunes. The third time you will find yourself really taking part again.

Thank you to Cantor, her helpers and an anonymous donor for this new book.

Keep Us Informed

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

- Calling Temple prior to a scheduled hospital stay.
- During admissions, inform the hospital staff of your Temple affiliation and give permission for your name to be released to the Temple office.
- If you are unexpectedly admitted to the hospital, ask a family member or friend to call Temple.
- 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!

Passover is coming soon and the Temple office has several excellent *haggadot* for sale that retell the story in different ways. Some of the best are targeted for families with younger children. Others provide interesting options to let you vary the experience each year.

My favorite is a new offering from our own Central Conference of Reform Rabbis, *The Open Door Haggadah*. It tells the basic story in a clear, straightforward way. Scattered throughout are beautiful, optional paragraphs drawn from Passover memories and traditions across the world.

What I love best is the way it looks both forward and backward. *Dayeinu* doesn't end with thanking God for "prophets of truth." It goes on to give thanks for both the State of Israel and for "our vibrant diaspora." The song concludes looking forward to the time, "when, with all God's people, we build a world of justice and peace. Then truly it will be *Dayeinu*, enough."

Tot Shabbat Fridays, 6 p.m.

**March 4 and April 1
Dinner Following**

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

Services are in the Livingston Chapel followed by a Shabbat dinner catered by Valentino's. Cost for this child-friendly dinner is \$5 per adult, no charge for children.

Please call the Temple office, 556-6536, to make a reservation for the dinner.



Uncle Sam Wants You...AGAIN!

The saga of 350 years of American Jewry would not be complete without the story of the Jewish men and women who have served our country in the U.S. Armed Forces. As part of this year of reflection and celebration, the Omaha Jewish community will honor Jewish veterans and active duty personnel at a reception and exhibit in September.

The Nebraska Jewish Historical Society (NJHS), with the support of the local congregations and the Anti-defamation League, invites all Jewish veterans and active duty service men and women to be interviewed about their military experiences so that the community can add their stories to the historical record and preserve them in the archives.

Each veteran who participates will be featured on a panel of a traveling exhibit, to be displayed at the J.C.C., Beth El, Beth Israel and Temple Israel. Whether you served overseas, during wartime or on American soil, we want to hear your story.

Please contact Renee Corcoran, NJHS Executive Director, at 334-6442 or rcorcoran@jewishomaha.org to participate in this special project. The deadline to signup is April 1.

If you would like to help in planning the celebration or if you have questions, please contact event co-chairs Kevve Kirshenbaum, 393-6146, or Howard Silber, 292-8062.

Shabbat Unplugged!!

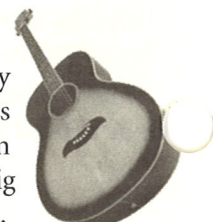
It's acoustic!

It's fresh!

It's a Guitar Shabbat!

**Friday, March 11
7:30 p.m.**

Sing, pray and sway to beautiful Jewish tunes strummed by Tom Friedman, Rabbi Craig Marantz and Mike Walts.



Welcome New Members!

Beth Katz

Returning to Omaha after pursuing graduate degrees in social work and public policy at the University of Michigan, Beth is committed to promoting interfaith dialogue and participating in Temple's social justice work. She serves on a working group for Amnesty International U.S.A. and is pursuing a career in community organization and human rights issues.

Carol Lloyd

Carol, a professor of education at UNO, has lived in Omaha for 15 years. Her son Tim is an aerospace engineer in Seattle, WA and her daughter Meagan is a sophomore majoring in photography at Columbia College in Chicago. Meagan recently received her Hebrew name at Shabbat services at Temple. Carol has been part of our social justice roundtable for several years and is delighted to join the congregation.

Patty and Kevin Gilinsky

Lilly, Gabriel and Simon, nearly age 4

Raised in Omaha, Kevin and Patty have triplets, which is all that needs to be said about their life! Patty works at home with the kids. Kevin works with his brother David at Bergman Incentives. The children are excited to join grandparents, a great-grandmother, cousins, aunts and uncles at Temple Israel.

Lisa and Gary Epstein

Robbie, age 21, Ben, age 18, Alex, age 16

Gary is in the wholesale wine and liquor business. Lisa is a former teacher and likes to paint, draw, cook, bake and garden. Robbie and Ben attend the University of Wisconsin. Alex is a sophomore at Burke; basketball is his life! Temple's creative programs attracted the Epsteins to our congregation. The family dog Brutus, a German shorthair, turns 13 next year.

Young Adult Interfaith Bookclub

This book club (for ages 21-35), facilitated by Temple Israel member Beth Katz, brings young adults from a variety of religious traditions together once a month to reflect, share and explore faith in the context of the book we are reading. Members of all faith traditions are welcome.

Join us for our first meeting on Thursday, March 24, at 6:30 p.m. at the Bookworm Bookstore in Countryside Village at 87th and Pacific.

To register or for more information, contact Beth Katz at katzba2004@yahoo.com.

SAVE THE DATE!

A Conversation with City Council Candidates

Sunday, March 13, 10 a.m.

We have invited the District 1 (Temple's district) incumbent Mark Kraft and his challengers Jim Suttle and Rick Bettger to have coffee and conversation with congregants about local issues that matter, including where they stand on annexation, funding for libraries, and the proposed smoking ban.

Cantor Shermet to Sing with Beth El Cantors

**Monday, April 4
7 p.m. at Beth El**

In a concert celebrating the 75th anniversary of Beth El Synagogue, Cantor Wendy Shermet will join Beth El's Cantor Gaston Bogomolni, former Beth El Cantor Emil Berkovits, and Cantor Ray Edgar, son of the late Cantor Aaron I. Edgar who served the Beth El congregation from 1936 to 1972. The concert will feature Jewish, Spanish, Ladino, Yiddish and Broadway music as well as opera and art songs.

An accomplished quartet of musicians including Tuffy Epstein on flute and clarinet, pianist Yulia Kalashnikova, violinist Sachiko Watanabe, and cellist Patty Ritchie will accompany the cantors. The Nebraska Choral Arts Society Masterworks Choir conducted by D. Anthony Trecek-King will perform three selections, in addition to one rendition with each cantor.

"I'm delighted to have the opportunity to sing with Emil again and with Gaston for the first time," said Cantor Shermet. "Musical sharing and collegial friendship are very important in all cantorial communities, and we are no exception. And it's great for the community as a whole to be sharing Beth El's 75th anniversary. It'll be a lot of fun!"

Proceeds from the concert will be used for scholarships to assist youngsters who wish to attend youth group conventions, Jewish summer camps and trips to Israel.

A dessert reception will follow the performance.

For ticket information, call Beth El Synagogue at 492-8550 or watch the *Jewish Press* for more information.



A Jewish Journey Group
My House Shall Be a House
of Prayer for All Peoples:

Responding to the Challenges of Outreach

Tuesdays, March 22-April 19
7 to 8:30 p.m.

John Dacey, who has facilitated numerous Jewish Journey Groups at Temple Israel, will start a new Jewish Journey Group along with Todd Hutton, past chair of Temple's Outreach Committee.

"We view this group as a community dialogue to explore the impact of perceived barriers Jews-by-choice and interfaith couples encounter in entering the Jewish community," explained John. "Temple Israel as a spiritual house is valued, diversity is present, embracing, accommodating, permitting exploration of the spiritual longings of those who step forth to embrace Judaism, adding to, not diminishing the vibrancy of Judaism," he said.

Both John and Todd are members of Temple. John is working on his master's degree in Jewish studies at Spertus College in Chicago. In addition to being affiliated with Temple's Outreach group since 1999, Todd is a graduate of the Jewish Federation's JOLT (Jewish Omaha Leadership Training) program.

Register for this Jewish Journey Group, with Program Director Rosie Zweiback at rzweiback@templeisraelomaha.com or 556-6536. There is no charge to participate in this Jewish Journey Group which is offered by the Hermene Zweiback Center for Lifelong Jewish Learning.

URJ President Thanks Andi Willensky for Temple Israel's Hineini Support

Since February 2004, Temple Israel has joined forces with other Reform congregations throughout North America in the *Hineini* Project. Proposed by Rabbi Eric Yoffie, president of the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ), "*Hineini*: Embracing Our People, Building Our Future" is helping to strengthen connections to Reform Judaism throughout the world.

Andi Willensky, who is leading the effort at Temple, said that the congregation has raised more than \$6000 since the fundraising project began last spring. Each household was asked to contribute \$18 in 2004 and in 2005 to sponsor Reform rabbis in Israel, to build progressive synagogues in Israel, and to bolster progressive Jewish leadership in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. Temple Israel, one of approximately 100 URJ congregations committed to *Hineini*, is helping to construct synagogue buildings for two Israeli Reform congregations, Kehilat Yozma in Modi'in and Kehilat Mevasseret Zion located just outside Jerusalem in the Judean Hills. Both are led by young, energetic female rabbis and have shown dramatic growth since they were established.

One of the *Hineini* recipients is Yozma Modi'in, a preschool in Modi'in. There are 32 children in each of the



six classes with one teacher and two assistants. The preschool operates 12 months a year in "caravans," stationary prefabricated structures. School begins at 7:45 a.m., Sunday through Thursday and ends at 3:45 p.m. except on Fridays when the children are done

at 12:15 p.m. They receive two meals a day at school. Tuition is approximately \$500 a month.

At Gan Zayit, the children meet with Ganenet Orit and her assistants Nomi and Tali, Sunday through Friday. The youngsters bake challah rolls and celebrate Shabbat every Friday when they light candles, make *Kiddush*, and say the *Motzi*.



Andi expressed her "extreme gratitude for the tremendous participation by our congregation in supporting this meaningful project and appreciation for the support of our dedicated staff in achieving Temple's goals for *Hineini*."

Late last year, Temple was designated a *Hineini* Builder Congregation by the URJ for supporting the *Hineini* project. In a letter from Rabbi Yoffie to Andi, she was thanked for having "done a truly extraordinary job in promoting the *Hineini* project at Temple Israel. I wanted to extend my personal thanks to you for your dedication and support. *Hineini* is a very important effort, and it is individuals such as yourself who have made it a success."

"I'm looking forward to this spring when we will kick off this year's campaign," Andi said. "We'll request the second installment of each family's pledge and hopefully attract new participants. Additionally, during May, Temple will proudly host a photo exhibit, provided by the Union for Reform Judaism, depicting Reform Jewish life in Israel."

Women of Reform Judaism-Omaha



Save the Date:

Sunday, March 13

Hamentashen Baking ~ 10 a.m.-Noon

Meet us in the kitchen while your kids/grandkids/carpool attend Religious School. These delicious treats will be enjoyed during Purim events at Temple.

Thursday, March 24

Purim Family Dinner ~ 6:30 p.m.

Experience Purim as a family! Join us at 5:30 p.m. for the reading of the Megillah and Purim spiel and stay for a fried chicken dinner catered by Popeyes (see page 7). There will be an activity for the kids and everyone will enjoy Hamentashen baked by Temple congregants.

Sunday, April 10

Friendship Tea ~ 2 p.m.

Help us host an outreach event for our non-Jewish neighbors. It's an afternoon of warmly welcoming the Omaha community to Temple Israel and teaching them about Jewish practices and beliefs. Please contact Andie Gordman (andiegordman@cox.net or 894-1889) to volunteer.

Tuesday, April 12

Donor Tea ~ 7 p.m.

Celebrated author and food writer Sharon Boorstein will speak about "Memories to Nosh On." Join us for a lively evening of great desserts, engaging conversation, and stories about food, love and family.

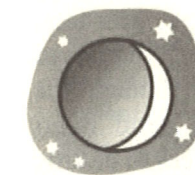
Friday, April 15

Minister's Institute ~ 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Volunteers are needed to greet our guests, help set tables and serve lunch for the 65th Annual Sidney H. and Jane Brooks Ministers Institute. Please help us support this event. Andie Gordman is coordinating volunteer efforts.

Temple Women Begin a New Tradition

Rosh Chodesh, a Jewish way to acknowledge the new moon and welcome a new Hebrew month, is becoming a tradition at Temple Israel. Last month,



Marge Bresel shared a story about an amazing international effort of talented quilters from around the world to create a quilt to beautify a synagogue in Jerusalem. Participants viewed the varied blocks that tell the story of great Jewish women from the Bible and made plans for future gatherings.

This month, all women in the congregation are invited to celebrate Rosh Chodesh on Sunday, March 13 at 7 p.m. at the home of Becki Brenner (6141 Florence Boulevard) for an intriguing discussion of the story of Esther, her relationship with her king and her faith.

Come for conversation, coffee and a little nosh. RSVP to Temple Israel, 556-6536. Let us know if you need a ride to Becki's house. Contact Becki at 334-6492 or bbrenner@jewishomaha.org for directions.

Join us for Game Night!

Game night is back! We will play Mah Jong and Backgammon on Thursday, March 10, at 7 p.m. Don't worry if you don't know how to play, we'll teach you! There will be tables for all levels of players, so bring your friends for an evening of fun! We look forward to seeing you there!



Have you signed up yet? Dinner and a movie... Saturday night, March 12

Join others from Temple Israel and see "King of the Corner," a film about the American Jewish experience, co-written by Professor Gerald Shapiro, an award-winning creative writing and literature instructor at UNL.

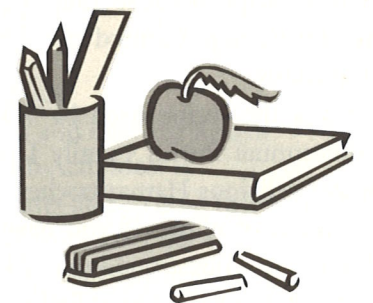
First, enjoy a no-host dinner with the screenwriter at Dish, 11th and O Streets in Lincoln, and then see the movie at the Mary Riepma Ross Media Arts Center.

Movie tickets are \$8.

To sign up and carpool to Lincoln, register with Rosie Zweiback at 556-6536 or rzweiback@templeisraelomaha.com.

Attention All Religious School Students!

Have you asked your public school teachers to join you for dinner and Shabbat worship services on April 15?



Services begin at 6 p.m.
Dinner immediately following.

**Reservations are needed
by Friday, April 1.**

Space is limited — please
RSVP early to Brigitte
in the Temple office

baspard@templeisraelomaha.com
or 556-6536

Adults: \$8.50, children: \$5

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 worshipers are seated.

Purim at Temple!

Chutzpah Hamantaschen *

1 pkg. Deluxe yellow cake mix
(18.25 oz pkg.)
1 cup all-purpose flour
2 eggs
2 tablespoons water

With an electric mixer, combine dry cake mix, flour, eggs and water until well blended. Dough will be soft.

Chill for one hour or more. On a lightly floured surface, roll out a quarter of dough 1/8 inch thick. Cut into 2½-3 inch circles. In the center of each circle, place 1 teaspoon filling. Bring edges together to form a triangle, pinching seams together from top down to corners, leaving a small opening in center. Repeat with the remaining dough, working with a quarter of the dough at a time. Place on a lightly greased cookie sheet. Bake at 375 degrees for six minutes or until lightly brown. Remove and cool on rack. Makes about 4 dozen.

Hint: Solo fillings (available at most stores in the baking section) work well with this recipe because they are the right consistency. Canned pie fillings are too runny.

This is the recipe used by WRJ-O for the annual Purim Family Dinner. It makes delicious Hamantaschen with a minimum of effort. If you have any problems or questions call Allison Latenser at 553-8853. Good luck!

*Taken from *The Jewish Parents' Almanac* by Julie Hilton Danan.

Birthday Blessings Purim Family Service Thursday, March 24, 5:30 p.m.

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

As The Grogger Turns The Reader's Digest Scroll of Esther

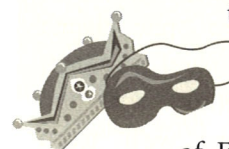
King Ahasuerus dethrones Queen Vashti after she disobeys his order to dance in her birthday suit at his banquet. Esther (Hadassah) is crowned queen at a beauty contest. Mordecai (Esther's uncle) refuses to bow before Haman (the king's right hand man) who then seeks to destroy all the Jews. Mordecai appeals to Esther to save her people. (She has not yet revealed to the king that she is Jewish.)

Esther, at great personal risk, approaches the king and invites him and Haman to a banquet where Mordecai is finally honored for having saved the king's life earlier. Esther's banquet is such a hit, she invites the king and Haman for leftovers. At the second banquet, Esther pleads for her people. Aghast at Haman's plans, the king grants her request and condemns Haman to die on the very gallows he built for the Jews. Everyone (except for Haman and his family) lives happily ever after.

Marvelous Masquerade Mystery to be Unveiled!

The senior staff is nervously awaiting their costume selection, once again! What will it be? We've been out on the prairie and down on the farm. Prior to that there were the Beatles and stars from Broadway musicals. And before that there were characters right out of the Book of Esther; a plethora of Elvis Presleys; characters from Star Trek, The Blues Brothers, bumblebees, pirates, and the Wizard of Oz folk.

What Machiavellian machinations is the staff up to this time?



Purim Carnival Sunday, March 20

Featuring:
The Return of the
Giant Caterpillar
Face Painting
Cake Walk
PopToss
Clown

Pre-Kindergarten and
Kindergarten children
are invited
to a special preview
from 11:30 a.m. to Noon

Carnival open to the
community from
Noon until 2 p.m.

Great food for lunch!
Plus popcorn, cotton candy
and much more!



Bring your family and
friends for a
fun-filled afternoon!

Sponsored by the
Omaha Temple Youth Group

Worship Services

Friday~March 4

6 p.m.
Tot Shabbat
Dinner immediately following
7:30 p.m.
Shabbat Service
Scholar-in-Residence
Pamela Nadell
*"Remembering the
Celebrations of the Past"*
Oneg Shabbat sponsored by the
Women of Reform Judaism-Omaha

Saturday~March 5

9-10:15 a.m.
Bagels and Sacred Books
Scholar-in-Residence
"Seeking Haven and Making Lives"
10:30 a.m.
Grade 5 Shabbat Service
Torah Portion: Vayakhel
Exodus 35:1-38:20
Haftarah: I Kings 7:40-50

Friday~March 11

7:30 p.m.
Guitar Shabbat Service
Thomas Friedman
Rabbi Craig Marantz
Michael Walts
Oneg Shabbat sponsored by the
Women of Reform Judaism-Omaha

Saturday~March 12

9:30-10:15 a.m.
Bagels and Sacred Books
10:30 a.m.
Shabbat Service
Torah Portion: Pekude
Exodus 38:21-40:38
Haftarah: II Kings 12:5-16;
Isaiah 66:1, 23

Friday~March 18

6 p.m.
Union Prayerbook Service

Saturday~March 19

9:30-10:15 a.m.
Bagels and Sacred Books
10:30 a.m.
Shabbat Service
Bar Mitzvah of
William James Emmanuel Clark
Son of Mindy and Wayne Clark
Torah Portion: Vayikra
Leviticus 1:1-5:26
Haftarah: Esther 7:1-10; 8:15-17

Thursday~March 24

5:30 p.m.
Megillah Reading
Purim Family Dinner following

Friday~March 25

7:30 p.m.
Shabbat Service
Rabbi Craig Marantz
Oneg Shabbat sponsored by
Allison Latenser and Louis Pachman
in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of their son

Saturday~March 26

9:30-10:15 a.m.
Bagels and Sacred Books
10:30 a.m.
Shabbat Service
Bar Mitzvah of Daniel G. Pachman
Son of Allison Latenser
and Louis Pachman
Torah Portion: Tzav
Leviticus 6:1-8:36
Haftarah: Jeremiah 7:21-8:3; 9:22-93

Remember Our Funds

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

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

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

\$6.00 fund contributions:

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



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

March 2005 • I Adar/II Adar 5765

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3 Adult Study With the Clergy 10-11:30 a.m. Religious School Grades 3-6 4-6 p.m. Kol Rina 6:30-8:00 p.m.	4 Torah Tots 10-11:30 a.m. Tot Shabbat Dinner Following 6 p.m. Shabbat Service Pamela Nadell Scholar-in-Residence 7:30 p.m.	5 Bagels & Sacred Books Scholar-in-Residence 9-10:15 a.m. Grade 5 Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m. Parents Meeting Following
6 Teacher Meeting 9 a.m. Religious School Grades K-6 10 a.m.-Noon Scholar-in-Residence Bagel Brunch 10 a.m.-Noon Caring Community Challah Baking Noon	7	8 Genesis Journey Group Noon-1 p.m. Family School & Keep Up 6:15-8 p.m. AA, Alanon & Gambler's 12-step 7:30 p.m.	9 No Religious School Lost Tribe-Jewish Fiction from the Edge 6:30-8 p.m.	10 Adult Study With the Clergy 10-11:30 a.m. Religious School Grades 3-6 4-6 p.m. WRJ-O Game Night 7 p.m.	11 Torah Tots 10-11:30 a.m. Shabbat Comes To You @ Remington Heights 4 p.m. Guitar Shabbat Service 7:30 p.m.	12 Bagels & Sacred Books 9:30-10:15 a.m. Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m. "King of the Corner" Movie Night with Prof. Gerald Shapiro 4:30 p.m.
13 Teacher Meeting 9:30 a.m. Religious School Grades K-6 10 a.m.-Noon WRJ-O Purim Baking 10 a.m. City Council Candidates Forum 10 a.m. Rosh Chodesh Group @ Becki Brenner Home 7 p.m.	14	15 No Religious School Caring Community Challah Baking 9:30 a.m. AA, Alanon & Gambler's 12-step 7:30 p.m.	16 No Religious School Conversation with the Rabbi Noon-1 p.m. Lost Tribe-Jewish Fiction from the Edge 5:30-7 p.m.	17 No Religious School Adult Study With the Clergy 10-11:30 a.m. Kol Rina 6:30-8:00 p.m.	18 Torah Tots 10-11:30 a.m. Union Prayer Book Service 6 p.m.	19 Bagels & Sacred Books 9:30-10:15 a.m. Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m. Bar Mitzvah of William Clark Middle/High School Ma'agal Ha'rav @ Azriel Home 2:30-4 p.m.
20 Religious School Steering Committee 8:45 a.m. Teacher Meeting 9:30 a.m. Religious School Grades K-6 10 a.m.-Noon Purim Carnival Noon	21	22 Family School & Keep Up 6:15-8 p.m. "A House of Prayers for All People" 7-8:30 p.m. Board of Trustees 7:30 p.m. AA, Alanon & Gambler's 12-step 7:30 p.m.	23 Religious School Scrapbook Club 5 p.m. All School Dinner 6 p.m. Grades 7-12 6:30-8:30 p.m.	24 Adult Study With the Clergy 10-11:30 a.m. Religious School Grades 3-6 4-6 p.m. Megillah Reading 5:30 p.m. Purim Family Dinner 6:30 p.m.	25 Shabbat Service 7:30 p.m.	26 Bagels & Sacred Books 9:30-10:15 a.m. Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m. Bar Mitzvah of Daniel Pachman
27 No Religious School	28	29 No Religious School "A House of Prayers for All People" 7-8:30 p.m. AA, Alanon & Gambler's 12-step 7:30 p.m.	30 No Religious School	31 No Religious School Adult Study With the Clergy 10-11:30 a.m. Kol Rina 6:30-8 p.m.	I Tot Shabbat Dinner Following 6 p.m. Shabbat Service 7:30 p.m.	2 Bagels & Sacred Books 9:30-10:15 a.m. Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m. Bat Mitzvah of Julie Sadofsky

Purim Sing-along
A Wicked, Wicked Man

Oh, once there was a wicked, wicked man
And Haman was his name, sir.
He lied and lied about the Jews
Though they were not to blame, sir.

(Chorus)
Oh, today we'll merry, merry be
(sing 3 times)
And nosh some hamentaschen.

And Esther was the lovely queen
Of King Ahasuerus.
When Haman said he'd kill us all,
Oh my! How he did scare us!

(Chorus)
But Mordecai her cousin bold
Said, "What a dreadfull villain;
If we don't act at once, my dear,
Our life's not worth a shillin'."

(Chorus)

When Esther speaking to the king
Of Haman's plot made mention,
"Aha!" said he, "Oh no he won't;
I'll spoil his bad intention."

(Chorus)
And so, my friend, came to an end
This clever Mr. Smarty,
For he became a wiser man
At Esther's Purim party.

(Chorus)



Come to the Purim Spiel and Family Dinner!
Prev Purim, Thursday, March 24

5:30 p.m.

Everyone is invited to come for the fun! Purim Spiel, Costume Parade, Reading of the Megillah. Children of all ages who wear their costumes will receive prizes!

6:30 p.m.

After shaking your grogger and booing the dreaded Haman, stay for the Purim Family Dinner and Hamantaschen Oneg sponsored by the Women of Reform Judaism-Omaha. Enjoy fried chicken and all the fixings (or something special if you're vegetarian!) from Popeye's. Beverages are included. There will be an activity planned for children.

Please send a check and the reservation form below to the Temple office by Monday, March 21 so we may plan accordingly. No telephone reservations will be accepted.

Purim Family Dinner

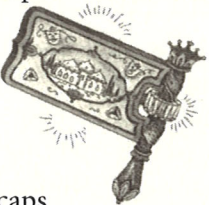
Name _____	Amount Enclosed _____
Phone _____	
	Chicken _____ Vegetarian _____
Adults @ \$7 each	_____
Children Grade 6 and younger @ \$4 each	_____
Children 2 years and younger @ No Charge	_____

Deadline for reservations is Monday, March 21. Please send your check and reservation form to: Temple Israel, 7023 Cass Street, Omaha (68132).

Make Your Own
Grogger

Materials needed:

- Juice cans with smooth-edged lids, cleaned and dried
- Adhesive backed paper
- Stickers or colored tape
- Jingle bells
- Scissors
- Glitter
- White glue
- Pipe cleaners



1. To make the end caps for the can, trace the circular end on the adhesive paper. Draw another circle 1" larger around the first circle. Make two, one for each end of the can. Cut out the circles.

2. With the scissors make cuts spaced 1" apart around the circle, from the outer edge in.

3. Peel off the backing of the adhesive paper. Cover the closed end of the juice can.

4. Place 1 or 2 jingle bells inside.

5. Now ask an adult to poke a hole in the center of the metal or plastic end of the can.

6. Bend a pipe cleaner in half and insert the two ends into the hole. On the inside of the can, twist the two ends to prevent them from slipping back through the can. The wire loop on the outside of the can will be your handle.

7. Put the lid on the can and cover with the other paper circle, sealing the jingle bells inside.

8. Cut a strip of adhesive paper which is the width of the can and is long enough to wrap around the can with 1" of overlap. Remove the paper backing and wrap around the can, covering the entire outside of the juice can.

9. Now let's decorate it. You can use colored tape to make stripes or decorative shapes and symbols. Personalize your grogger with some of your favorite stickers. Draw decorative lines with white glue and sprinkle them with glitter. Shake off the excess.

Reprinted from www.holidays.net

Alive and Well! Temple's Caring Community

Challah, Rugelach and Fun...Oh My!

The Caring Committee is up and running full speed...and we've changed our name to reflect our new mission of serving our community in many, many more ways! To accomplish this we need you to get involved...and help fill our freezers!

We'll be baking challah and rugelach on Sunday, March 6, Noon-2 p.m., and Tuesday, March 15, 9:30 a.m. Not a skilled baker? Come anyway and share a good time and a cup of coffee with us. Contact Lisa Epstein, 496-9159 or nespirts@aol.com, for questions or to sign up.

Can You Cook?

Linda Saltzman (below, left) and Danielle Gordman are calling on all cooks to help provide a warm meal to someone coming home from the hospital. If you can be of assistance on occasion, please send Rabbi Marantz an email at cmarantz@templeisraelomaha.com and let him know you can help.



Sitter Service Is Available

- ✓ Every Friday evening
- ✓ Every Saturday morning when there is a bar or bat mitzvah
- ✓ Every Sunday morning during Religious School
- ✓ Reservations and a \$2 donation are appreciated.

"For Those Who Can't Believe: Overcoming the Obstacles to Faith" Tuesdays, April 19-May 10 Noon-1 p.m.

If you've read the book, *For Those Who Can't Believe*, by Rabbi Harold Schulweis, (or if the title just intrigues you), you'll be interested in this new journey group facilitated by Rabbi Craig Marantz and sponsored by the Hermene Zweiback Center for Lifelong Jewish Learning.

There is no charge, but please register with Rosie Zweiback at 556-6536 or rzweiback@templeisraelomaha.com.

If you rescued a child from a burning building, you'd be on the evening news.

If you saved a life in combat, you'd receive the Silver Star.

If you donate blood, you probably won't make the local news or get a parade in your honor.

But you are just as heroic!

You may have saved **three** lives with one pint of blood!

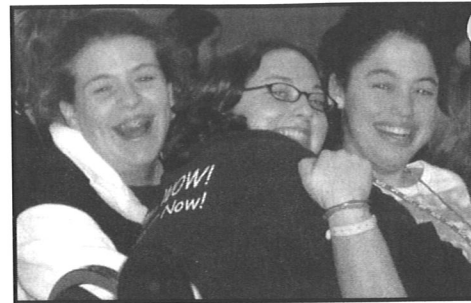
In Omaha there's...

a child suffering from sickle cell anemia, a teenage accident victim, an expectant mother who will require emergency surgery during childbirth.

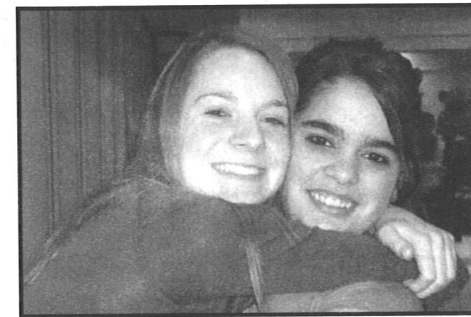
Please be their hero.

Give blood at Temple Israel's Blood Drive on **Thursday, April 14 from 1-7 p.m.** Call the Temple office, 556-6536, to schedule your donor time.

NFTY Convention ROCKED!



Anne Rips (above left) had a great time reuniting with Jewish camp friends at the NFTY convention in Los Angeles. This year's theme was "The Next 350 Years of Jews in America."



Eliza Cowan (left) and Jackie Neesman LOVED spending a rain-soaked day at Universal Studios on a break from religious programs. Want to join in the fun at the NFTY Spring Chavurah? Contact Lynne Jensen, ljensen@templeisraelomaha.com or 556-6536.

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.

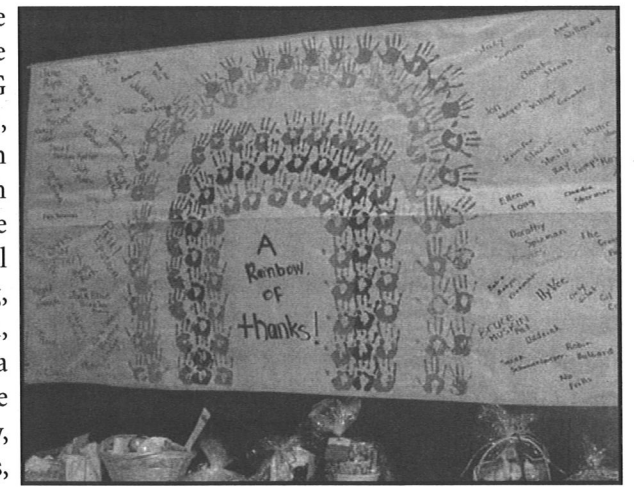
Way to go OTYG!

Over \$18,000 was raised at the Annual Spaghetti Dinner and Auction on Sunday, February 13. All the youth groupers and Youth Director Lynne Jensen did a wonderful job organizing the event.

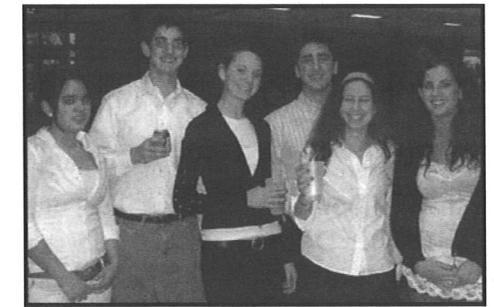
Special thanks to auctioneer Jim Farber; kitchen helpers Jon Bleicher, Len Burrell, Rick Fox, Patrick Jensen and John Terry; Dennis DePorte and the Sons of Italy for donating the delicious sauce and meatballs; our support team of Elyce Azriel, Ellie Bleicher, Hollis Glaser, Maria Neesman, Ann and Dave

Noodell, Margo Parsow, Jane and Harlan Rips, and Michelle Terry; and JYG and OTYG members Jaclyn Adelson, David Anderson, Sean Bernstein, Jake Bleicher, Sarah Bleicher, Eliza Cowan, Jessie Danon, Max Halsted, Hamutal Ginsburg, Nimrod Ginsburg, Justin Idelman, Nate Joseph, Lauren Josephson, Shira Kronick, Nick Laudin, Jackie Neesman, Aaron Parsow, Charles Parsow, Anne Rips, Chelsea Taxman, Alex Terry, Caroline Terry, and David Trubnikov.

Thank you to all who came to enjoy the dinner and to bid on the wonderful donated auction items.

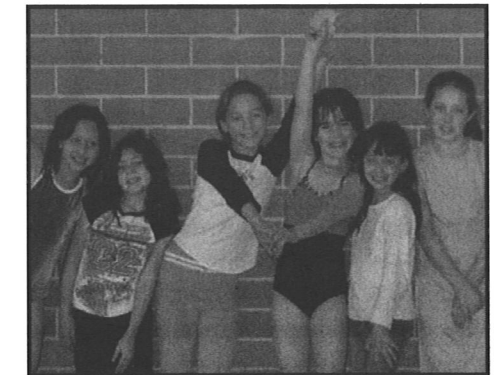


(Above) A rainbow of thanks handmade by OTYG covered a wall of the Friedman Social Hall at the Spaghetti Dinner and Auction.



(Left to right) Jackie Neesman, Aaron Parsow, Eliza Cowan, Sean Bernstein, Shira Kronick and Chelsea Taxman had a great time serving up pasta and fun at the dinner!

Cartwheels for Compassion



Sarah Potash, Michelle Davidson, Sarah Kohll, Ariel Kohll, Kylee Kirshenbaum, Alexis Slutzky and Jordan Slutzky (not pictured) cartwheeled their way into raising \$1,200 for tsunami relief through the Jewish Joint Distribution Committee.

A Lesson in Time

350 Years of Jews in America 1928-1942

The dedication of Yeshiva College's Washington Square campus in New York in 1928 symbolized the "successful arrival of Orthodoxy in the mainstream of American Jewry." The National Conference of Christians and Jews was also established in 1928 to further interfaith activities in the United States.

Financially, countless Jewish individuals and businesses suffered losses two years later when the Jewish-owned Bank of the United States failed. However, the hard times in this country didn't discourage German Jewish refugees, including Albert Einstein, from immigrating here in the 1930s.

At Columbia University, the first chair in Jewish history at a secular university was established in 1930. Another first, in 1931, "Of Thee I Sing," composed by George Gershwin and written by George S. Kaufman, Ira Gershwin and Morris Ryskind, was the first musical to win a Pulitzer Prize.

In 1932, eighty-two percent of the Jewish vote supported Franklin D. Roosevelt for president of the United States. The same year, the Council of Jewish Federations was established as an umbrella organization for 200 Jewish Federations in the United States and Canada.

As Germany's anti-Semitic policies mounted in 1933, the American Jewish Congress led a boycott of German goods. The American Jewish Committee opposed the boycott, fearing that Jews in Germany would suffer the consequences.

Max Baer, wearing a Star of David on his boxing shorts, won the 1934 world heavyweight boxing title. Henry "Hank" Greenberg, the first Jewish

baseball superstar, elected not to play on Yom Kippur in 1934, despite the fact that his Detroit Tigers were in a race for the pennant.

In 1937, the Columbus Platform provided new guidelines for Reform Jews by placing new emphasis on Jewish peoplehood, religious practices, and the building up of Palestine as a "Jewish homeland."

A 1937 survey reported there were 4,771,000 Jews and 3,728 Jewish congregations in the United States.

Thanks to the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 which enforced a five-day, 40-hour week, increasing numbers of Jews were able to embrace both the American pattern of work and the Jewish day of rest.

On his popular radio program and in his widely read magazine, *Social Justice*, Father Charles Coughlin, a Catholic priest, denounced Jews in 1938, the same year that the United Jewish Appeal was founded to support humanitarian programs domestically and abroad.

Felix Frankfurter became an associate justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. Two young men from Cleveland, Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster, introduced a new comic book story in 1938 about a character named Kal-El who was known as Superman on Earth. The following year, Irving Berlin introduced his song, "God Bless America."

A 1938 editorial in the *New York Times* opposed creation of a Jewish state in Palestine and suggested that one be created in Africa instead.

Sixty percent of Americans in an opinion poll, believed the persecution of Jews in Europe was either entirely or partly their own fault. In 1939, a Gallup poll found that 66 percent of Americans opposed allowing 10,000 refugee chil-

dren to be brought from Germany to be cared for in American homes. The SS St. Louis, carrying several hundred Jewish refugees, was denied permission to land at a U.S. port.

In the 1940 election, ninety percent of the Jewish population, now estimated at nearly four percent of the country's inhabitants, voted for FDR. This was the highest percentage Jews have ever constituted of the total population.

Stephen Wise received news, confirmed by the U.S. State Department, of the Nazi plan to annihilate European Jewry in 1942. He announced that two million had already been killed by the Nazis in an "extermination campaign." A day of mourning was observed on December 2. In New York, 20,000 attended a rally protesting Nazi atrocities. And although the State Department was accused of failing to pass information about crimes against Jews to the president, a House bill died that would have permitted immigration of French refugees. Congress also denied Roosevelt a third war powers bill that would have suspended immigration laws. A day of mourning for the Jews of Europe was observed here and in 29 other countries.

Anti-Zionists in the Reform movement organized the American Council for Judaism in 1942 which opposed a Jewish state and sought to restore Reform Judaism to its classical moorings.

During World War II, more than 500,000 Jews, including numerous generals and several admirals, served in the American armed forces.

To be continued...

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

IN MEMORY OF: Sarah Becker: Elberta Cohen; William Z. Cherniss: Leta Rae Cherniss; Audrey Cohen: Esther Canar, Molline and Fritz Cassman, Toby Fellman, Janice and Sheldon Harris, Sheryn and Arnold Joffe, Debbi and Larry Josephson, Connie and Bob Kully, Sandy and John Lehr, Anne and Bruce Shackman, Joie Simon, Debi, Jeff and Becky Smedlund, Harriett and Sherm Sperling, Elaine Tepperman, Sandy and Alan Thelen, Training and Consulting Connection, Edye and Joe Vitek; Barbara Frankel: Elberta Cohen, Judy and Jerry Marburg; Rosie Gross: Debbi and Larry Josephson, Harriett and Sherm Sperling; Joy Grossman: Elberta Cohen; Samuel Heyman: Ducky and Mike Milder, Margo, Aaron and Charles Parsow; Brother of Mr. and Mrs. Pat McNeal: Connie and Bob Kully; Jay Parsow: Mary-Beth, Bruce, Anne, Emily and Zach Muskin; Anne Rosenblatt: Sandy and Paul Epstein, Renee and Mo Handleman, Sandy and John Lehr, Joan and Milton Marcus, Noni and Hal Selner; Judy Scioli: Margo, Bill, David, Daniel and Kate Rosen; Mark Salomon: Judy and Jerry Marburg; Morris Sophir: Audrey Sophir; Monet Wintroub: Harriett and Sherm Sperling; Lucille Zelinsky: Elly and Bob Gordman

IN HONOR OF RECOVERY OF: Jerry Cohn: Doris and Richard Rosinsky; Adele Hornstein: Lillian and Jack Schragar; Howard Kaiman: Joe Hurley; Bob Newman: Sandy and Paul Epstein, Joan and Milton Marcus, Betsy and Jody Newman; Simmey Siegel: Renee and Mo Handleman

IN HONOR OF BIRTHDAY OF: Dina Bloom: Sheila Tomps; Sheldon Cohen: George Eisenberg; John Dacey: Joan and Milton Marcus; David Goldstein: Joie Simon; Nelson Gordman: Connie and Bob Kully; Hilde Gottlieb: Doris

and Harry Alloy, Debbi and Scott Friedman, Jill and George Idelman, Debbi and Larry Josephson, Joan and Milton Marcus, Rosalie and Milt Saylan, Debi, Jeff and Becky Smedlund, Sheila and Ray Tomps; Deborah Greene: Nancy and Marian Nogg; Hy Hurwitz, Lisa Lewis, Sally Telpner: Audrey and Morrie Shapiro; Gertrude Korney: Judy Vann; Ducky Milder: Joan and Milton Marcus; Margot Roesberg: Sharon Sobel and Jeff Schweid

IN HONOR OF ANNIVERSARY OF: Betsy and Art Davidson: Mary-Beth, Bruce, Anne, Emily and Zach Muskin, Harriett and Sherm Sperling

IN HONOR OF B'NAI MITZVAH OF: Molly Goldberg, Scott Goldberg: Lillian and Jack Schragar; Douglas Selik: Rosalie and Milton Saylan

IN HONOR OF ELECTION TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR THE UNITED JEWISH FEDERATION: Joe Kirshenbaum: Sandy and Paul Epstein
IN HONOR OF MIDLANDER OF THE YEAR AWARD: Dr. Harold Maurer: Joanie and Marty Lehr

IN APPRECIATION OF: Howard Kaiman: Noni and Hal Selner

IN HONOR OF MANY ACHIEVEMENTS FOR MANKIND: Harlan Noddle: Harriett and Sherm Sperling

IN HONOR OF INDUCTION TO OMAHA BUSINESS HALL OF FAME: Jack Baker: Sandy and Paul Epstein

IN HONOR OF RETIREMENT OF: Margaret Cohn: Renee and Mo Handleman

IN HONOR OF NEW HOME: Jane Brooks: Elaine Tepperman

IN APPRECIATION OF: Rabbi Aryeh Azriel, Rabbi Craig Marantz, Cantor Wendy Shermet, Dennis DePorte, Elyce Azriel, Lori Bennett, Willie

Clark, Joan Cooper, Vicki Ducharme, Edith Gamble, Brigitte Gaspard, Lynne Jensen, Maureen Kube, Claudia Sherman, Bonnie Sullivan, Lonnie Williams, Rosie Zweiback

Women of Reform Judaism Tribute Fund

IN MEMORY OF: Anne Rosenblatt: Marilyn and Marty Warren; Audrey Cohen: Lois and Mel Epstein, Marilyn and Marty Warren

Congratulations

On the Birth of:

Ben Larmore Cooper, son of Emily and Josh Cooper. Grandparents are Cheryl and Ron Cooper. Great-grandparents are Fran and Jerry Milder, Pauline Schneider and the late Erwin Schneider, Doyle Larmore and the late Elaine Larmore, and the late Faye and Ben Cooper.

Blythe Austin Mogil, daughter of Leslie and Todd Mogil. Grandparents are Charlcie and Jim Hopkins, and Suzi and Mike Mogil.

Our Sympathy

*The Congregation records
with sorrow the deaths of...*

Ida Fedman, wife of Sam Fedman, mother of Linda Abrahamson and Phyllis Tejaral, and sister of Molly Kosowsky;

Robert E. Fry, son of Joyce Schmidman Palm;

Rose B. Gross, aunt of Lois Friedman;

Joseph Langnas, father of Alan Langnas;

Margaret Owen, grandmother of Ann Noodell

*...and extends sympathy to
their bereaved families.*