

Aryeh Azriel.....	Rabbi
Craig H. Marantz.....	Rabbi
Wendy Shermet.....	Cantor
Michelle Shkolnick.....	Executive Director
Joan Cooper.....	Elementary School Coordinator
Elyce Azriel.....	Middle/High School Director
Stephanie Grossman	Director of Youth and Informal Education
Rosie Zweiback.....	Program Director
Claudia Sherman.....	Communications Coordinator
Gary Kaplan	President
M. Ronald Brodkey.....	Vice President
Larry Gendler	Vice President
Wendy Goldberg	Vice President
Rick Fox	Secretary
Jon Meyers.....	Treasurer
John Lehr	Assistant Treasurer
Dr. Michael Walts	Past President
Stacey Rockman	WRJ-O President
Janet Baack.....	OTYG President

Temple's Wish List

Often, one of our congregants wishes to give a gift to our Temple and asks the question, “What does the congregation need?”

A birthday, an anniversary, a Bar/Bat Mitzvah and/or any life cycle event may inspire your generosity and, thereby, make our wishes come true.

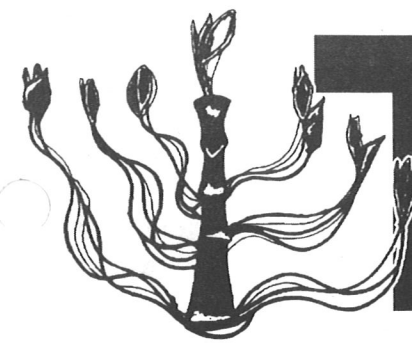
Travel Money for Youth
High Holy Days Octet
Musicians for Holidays/Shabbat
Musical Artist-in-Residence
Jewish Enrichment Trips
Fund for Resource/Special Needs Teacher
Jewish Software for Computers
Telephone System for Shut-ins for Worship Services
Computer Scanner
Portable CD/Cassette Players
Religious School Listening Center Head Sets
Religious School Teacher Desk



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AS I SEE IT...

*“...Guard your tongue from evil, and
your lips from deceitful speech...”*

Gossip is an ancient sin...the impact of gossip is as destructive to life as is any physical damage. With slanderous words we can destroy an individual's self-esteem and life itself.

I have seen how hurtful and damaging gossip has been. I have seen the anguish of those who are the object of gossip. Aware of its insidious nature, our tradition has vigorously condemned it. For example, the rabbis taught: "Whoever spreads malicious gossip is like one who denies God. One is also forbidden to listen to malicious gossip."

“If you hear an evil matter, bury it seven fathoms underground.” “God loves not tale bearers even when they

What's

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Inside...

Tax letters will be mailed by the end of January, 2004 and will include all payments received through January 2.

are right.”

This Hasidic story illustrates that point. It is about a man who committed the sin of slander. In contrition he went to the rabbi and asked, "How can I make repentance? I did not intend to hurt my neighbor with cruel and malicious words."

The rabbi replied, "I'll tell you what to do. Take this sack of feathers, go about the village and place a feather on every porch. When you have completed this assignment, come back to me." Much later he returned with the empty sack. "I've done my penance, rabbi. I am truly sorry."

“No, no.” said the rabbi. “You are not done. Now return to every porch in the village and retrieve the feathers and

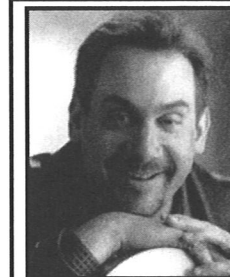
put them in the sack."

The entire day he attempted to find the feathers. But finally he returned with an empty sack. "Rabbi, I could not find the feathers. The wind has blown them away."

"Now you understand," said the rabbi, "that's the way unkind words are. Once they leave your mouth, like feathers, you can never get them back."

The words of our mouths bring either pain or healing, distress or strength. Our world is so filled with turmoil and conflict we should not add to it. We should seek with our words to build bridges and promote peace.

Hugh Bernal



Rabbi Joe Black

The Rockin' Rabbi

February 6
7:30 p.m.

Shabbat Shira Service

Whether he's leading worship services at Congregation Albert in Albuquerque, NM where he is the senior rabbi, singing a duet with Bruce Springsteen, performing at CAJE (the Conference on Alternatives in Jewish Education) or in Israel, singer-songwriter Rabbi Black is described as energetic, surprising and dynamic.

"He's a first-class Jewish entertainer!" declared Rabbi Aryeh Azriel.

Known for bringing joy to the experience of learning for both children and adults, his musicianship and sense of spiritual awareness create an opportunity for the head and heart to come together.

Although he gives only about a dozen performances each year, he will participate in Shabbat worship services at Temple Israel on Shabbat Shira, the Sabbath of Song. He chooses communities where his creative musical approach can counsel, guide, and teach...but most of all, entertain.

His trip to Omaha is sponsored by the Janis Yale Enrichment Fund. The community is invited to enjoy Rabbi Black's talents.

President's Tidings

Gary Kaplan

Last month I told you about some of the ideas we brought back from the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ) Biennial that will strengthen Temple. We also gained new perspectives on our responsibilities to our nation. One of the most pressing issues we face concerns the reproductive rights of women.

Background: There is a very real threat to women's freedom in America. It is hard for many to believe that American women could be forced back into the dark of night for back-alley abortions, but President Bush is only one Supreme Court vote away from doing just that.

Let's be clear that Reform Jewish teaching is not pro-abortion. Abortion should not be a routine substitute for contraception or abstinence. Neither should it be denied simply because 25% of Americans want to impose their religious views on all women.

All life is sacred in Judaism. Although an unborn fetus is precious and is to be protected, Judaism views the life of the mother as paramount, placing a higher value on existing life than on potential life. The teachings are especially clear before the fetus is viable. Judaism also places a high value on the health of the woman (both physical and mental health).

Currently, women in the U.S. have the right to consult their own conscience and religious teachings when faced with an unwanted pregnancy. President Bush may soon have enough votes in the U.S. Supreme Court to reinterpret the Constitution to force all women to live by the Christian Right's belief about when a fetus becomes a person. Even if there are serious health risks for the woman or the baby, even if there are risks due to the inability of a pregnant girl to care for a baby, or even if the pregnancy is a result of rape—all women could be forced to live by the Christian Right's interpretation of the Bible.

People of faith from many backgrounds actively support a woman's right to choose. We are pro-choice—not pro-abortion. Being pro-choice means we honor all choices. It means we trust women and their families to decide whether and when to have children. We recognize that in a pluralistic society such as ours, government must not impose laws about childbearing based on any one belief of when personhood begins. Government does have an important leadership role in safeguarding the constitutional right to choose, protecting clinics and ensuring that abortion and family planning services are available to all without regard to income.

Action: The URJ, Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR) and Women of Reform Judaism (WRJ) urge us to not stand idly by on the issue of personal rights and religious freedoms. At Temple we will offer teaching, discussions, and I hope, action on this issue.

I know that Temple members have diverse opinions regarding this topic. Our goal is for Temple to be a place where we can debate issues respectfully and open our hearts to each other in a context of Reform Jewish teachings and beliefs. **With this in mind, your participation in the Social Justice Forum on Sunday, February 8 is vital (see page 8). Mark your calendars!**

Welcome New Members

Ilka Oberst and Gary Marshall
Lucille Nearenberg
Jonathan Rathsam
Erica and Barry Rubin

Welcome

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

Meir Alter, the Gerer Rebbe

We welcome **Kate Koester** and **Kristin A. Posman** who have recently chosen Judaism: May they go from strength to strength!

"Welcome Back" Cantor Shermet

Cantor Wendy Shermet, who has been at Temple for nearly three years, has accepted the Board's request to continue at Temple and has renewed her contract for a full five years!

Among her accomplishments have been beautiful music, well-trained B'nai Mitzvah students and the finest choir we have ever had. Cantor Shermet provides fun experiences for the young children in Religious School and for adults who enjoy her wry sense of humor. She recognizes the differing abilities of students and helps them to do their best. As an ordained clergy, she also officiates at funerals and weddings, either with a rabbi or on her own, and visits with those in our community who are hospital-bound.

After decades of recruiting a new cantor every few years, we are very fortunate to have the stability and maturity that she brings to the staff and the congregation.

Wendy, her husband Len, and son Sam are all enjoying life in Omaha. They recently purchased a new home with a barn for Len's carpentry and woodworking business. We welcome them as long-term members of our community.

A Thank You To The Congregation

"We wish to offer our sincere thanks to Congregation of Temple Israel and our deepest appreciation to you for the receipt of the generous contribution to Yad L'Kashish (Lifeline for the Elderly). Today in Israel when each citizen is affected by government cuts, we at Yad L'Kashish are determined to continue fulfilling our goals. It is only with the help of contributions such as yours that we are able to do so." (Temple Israel raised over \$1,600 during our Yom Kippur drive.)

Nava Ein-Mor, Executive Director

Meet the Staff!



She Welcomes You To Temple... And So Much More!

Maureen Kube is usually the first person you see when you come into the office at Temple Israel. As the receptionist, she runs the switchboard. She also performs secretarial duties and has been working with Program Director Rosie Zweiback this year.

Among a myriad of duties, "I take contributions and the accompanying information," she said. She designs event flyers and postcards, keeps track of reservations and helps with seating charts for dinners at Temple, sells gift certificates for Temple, does the bulk mailings ("a big process that includes stuffing, sorting, counting and paperwork"), meters mail, copies documents on the Risograph and Xerox machines, catalogues new books for Temple's library and even helps Gift Shop customers when she's needed.

Prior to working at Temple, Maureen was a dental assistant for about ten years and then worked for the property management company of the Woodmen Tower for 14 years. She's been at Temple for three years and said, "I enjoy everything about my job. It keeps me busy, and I enjoy working with such wonderful people. They're always there to support you. I don't think I've ever worked in a place where everyone gets along so well together. It's teamwork. We're always there for each other."

Maureen has lived in Omaha all her life and graduated from Westside High School. Her family includes her parents, Virginia and Jerry Kube, her brother Jim, a lawyer in Norfolk, and a sister Nancy in Lincoln.

When she's not busy at Temple, "I love to go to movies," said Maureen. She also enjoys going to concerts or to any kind of play or musical at the Orpheum Theater. "I also love to travel." She has been to Hawaii which was "pretty neat!"

Grateful to be working at Temple, Maureen added, "I hope to be here for a very long time."

February Religious School FUNdraiser

Plans are underway for a FUNdraiser to be held during Religious School, Sunday, February 29. Included will be: a pre-owned jewelry and Judaica sale, bake sale and Haggadah sale.

Please contact us if you would like to assist in any way or if you have jewelry to donate. To arrange for pick-up of earrings, necklaces, scarves, belts or Judaica, contact Kathy Beauchaine at 397-8446 or beaucha@alltel.net.

We are raising funds for a color printer and inks, plus other supplies for OUR school. Cash donations also gladly accepted!

Birthday Blessings Friday, January 23, 6 p.m.

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

Three Cheers For Temple Volunteers!

This month's stars are:
Lynne and Patrick Jensen
Colleen Kennealy
Sandy Passer
Dorothy Spizman

Shabbat Supper Series Israel Matters

Following the success of our summer Shabbat night out at The Sitar restaurant to discuss Amos Oz, we once again offer a unique way to study, worship and dine.

Friday, January 16, 6 p.m. in the Chapel, Rabbi Craig Marantz will present a D'var Torah entitled "Israel Diaries." His passion for Israel and his recent visit there have inspired new reflections on the meaning of this land to the Jewish people. Immediately following services, all are invited to enjoy a lovely no-host meal at Pasta Amore, located in Rockbrook Village on 108th and Center, where conversations about Israel will continue. We have reserved a private room so that we may celebrate Shabbat together.

Make your dinner reservation by Wednesday, January 7 through the Temple office, 556-6536 or tisrael@qwest.net.

OTYG Service Celebrates Diversity Friday, January 23, 6 p.m.

Omaha Temple Youth Group (OTYG) has invited youth groups of the Islamic, Hindu and Christian faiths to attend their annual Diversity Service at Temple Israel. "We basically show them what a Shabbat service is," said Josh Bleicher, OTYG Religious and Cultural Vice President.



"It's a basic Shabbat youth group service with a lot of English so they can all understand it," Josh explained. Josh and Joel Passer are writing the service with help from Rabbi Craig Marantz. OTYG members will lead the service "to show everyone we're celebrating and learning to accept diversity," he said.

"It's on the same night as a regular Family Shabbat service," Josh added. "It's definitely for families."

Don't Get Snowed Under... 2004 Brings Opportunities Galore!

Rabbi Jan Katzew

Director of the Union for Reform Judaism
Department of Jewish Education

Temple Israel's Educator-in-Residence

Friday, January 9

6 p.m. Shabbat Worship Service
for all members of the Congregation~
Rabbi Katzew will give a D'var Torah

Saturday, January 10

9 a.m. Bagels and Sacred Books
with Rabbi Katzew

10:30 a.m. Shabbat Worship Service

Sunday, January 11

9 a.m. Rabbi Katzew will meet
with Religious School Teachers

10 a.m. Rabbi Katzew will join the
Prayer Assembly

10:30 a.m. The Four B's with
Rabbi Katzew (*Raising Mensches:
Helping Your Human Being Become a
Humane Being*)

Rabbi Katzew's residency at Temple
Israel is supported by the Margaret
and Arnold Robinson Family Jewish
Education Fund.

Rabbi Earl A.

Grollman

Temple Israel Scholar-in-Residence February 20-22

"When Life Isn't Always Fair"

A pioneer in the field of crisis
intervention, Rabbi Grollman is a re-
spected authority on the subjects of
dying, death and bereavement. Since
1987, he has devoted himself to writ-
ing and lecturing on the subject of
how to respond to grief and crisis.

In addition to helping families and
volunteers affected by the Oklahoma
City Federal Building bombing, Rabbi
Grollman has written more
than two dozen books. He also co-
authored a series with his daughter
to address crises that children and
adults must often face together.

He will speak at Shabbat wor-
ship services on Friday night and
conduct workshops on Saturday
and Sunday. His residency is co-
sponsored by Thomas Belford and
John A. Gentleman Mortuaries and
the Hermene Zweiback Center for
Lifelong Jewish Learning.



More Maimonides

Tuesdays, 8:30-10 a.m.

Beginning February 3

Due to its popularity last year,
a class on Maimonides, the great
Jewish philosopher, religious thinker
and physician of the 12th century,
will be offered again this year. Rabbi
Aryeh Azriel will guide the class
on its continuing journey through
Maimonides' writings.

Mort Glass, who took the class
last year, said it "was really very in-
teresting." He enjoyed being able to
get Rabbi Azriel's viewpoint as well
as Maimonides'.

Judy Vann also took the class last
year. "It was stimulating and truly
one of my favorite classes taken at
Temple, because Maimonides is a
fascinating individual, and Rabbi
brought Maimonides to life for me."

Prior knowledge of the topic
is not required. All learners are
welcome. The class is on Tuesdays
through March 30. Register through
the Temple office, 556-6536 or
rzweiback@qwest.net. The only fee is
for the book.

JEWES AND GUITARS

A JEWISH JOURNEY GROUP

HAVE FUN WITH JEWISH FOLK ROCK!

Wednesdays, beginning February 4, 7-8:30 p.m.

JOIN US if you are interested in
any of these:

- Joyful, non-traditional Jewish music
- Reliving your camp music experience
- Learning new tunes that NFTY sings
- Learning song leading skills
- Enjoy singing along

Singers, guitar players and com-
plete novices are encouraged to come.

Music Mavens Gary Kaplan and
Mike Walts will lead this musical class.

Please register with Rosie Zweiback,
Program Director, at 556-6536 or
rzweiback@qwest.net. There is no
charge to participate.

Dr. Michael J. Cook

Professor of Intertestamental and Early
Christian Literatures and The Sol and Arlene
Bronstein Professor of Judaeo-Christian
Studies, Hebrew Union College - Jewish
Institute of Religion

Dr. Cook will deliver the Rabbi
Sidney H. Brooks Memorial Lecture
on **Thursday evening, April 29** at the
University of Nebraska at Omaha.
He will also be the speaker at the
Annual Rabbi Sidney H. Brooks
Institute on Judaism for Clergy on
Friday, April 30 at Temple Israel.

Women of Reform Judaism-Omaha



Come for Lunch!

Come to Learn!

Come for Sisterhood!

Come to explore the

MIKVAH MYSTIQUE: WOMEN OF THE WATER!

WRJ-O invites you to a special lunch program on **Thursday, January 15, 11:45 a.m.**, at The Kripke Jewish Federation Library at the J.C.C.

Rabbi Aryeh Azriel and Shani Katzman will introduce us to the Jewish tradition of the mikvah. Suzanne Singer will give us a tour of Omaha's mikvah, located in the Rose Blumkin Jewish Home.

A box lunch of delicious veggie and dairy sandwiches is included. Your \$7 check is your reservation. *Please RSVP by Thursday, January 8. Sitter Service is available (\$3 fee)-reservations required.*

Please bring a personal care item such as soap, lotion or shampoo to donate to a local shelter.

Women In The Community...

You Are Invited To A Unique Passover Seder! Wednesday, March 17 7 p.m.

Passover has many symbols and
imperatives that are particularly
meaningful to women. A Women's
Seder provides a warm venue to teach
and learn and discover them together.
Come and enjoy the company of Jewish
women from Omaha, Council Bluffs,
Sioux City and Lincoln while Rabbi
Amy Katz, a graduate of the Jewish
Theological Seminary, and Yachad, the
Traveling T'fillah Band, all of Kansas
City, lead us in experiencing this pow-
erful Jewish holiday in new ways.

A traditional Seder plate and deli-
cious Passover desserts will be served.
The gift shops of Beth El and Temple
Israel will sell special Passover items
as well as cookbooks and holiday idea
books

Hosted by WRJ-O, NCJW, Hadassah
and the Beth El Sisterhood, this prom-
ises to be an unforgettable Seder and a
new tradition for the Jewish women in
our region.

Look What's Cooking!

Join us for a special night of cook-
ing, "Mediterranean style." The talented
chefs from the Classy Gourmet will share
some of their favorite recipes and dem-
onstrate the steps to preparing a unique
meal. Mark your calendars for **Monday,
February 23, 6:30 p.m.**, to learn new rec-
ipes and sample these exciting dishes.

Seating is limited and will fill quickly
so watch the next *Tidings* for reserva-
tion information. For further ques-
tions please contact Rosie Zweiback
at Temple, 556-6536, or Lori Miller at
lori402@cox.net.

Did you know...
The Pancake Man flipped
560 flapjacks at the Pancake
Breakfast on December 7?



Surf and Chant

Anxious about having an *aliya*? Just log on to Temple's website at www.templeisrael-ne.org and click on to Cantor's Classroom (left side of the page). In seconds you'll be able to hear Cantor Wendy Shermet chant the blessings that are recited before and after reading Torah along with the printed Hebrew and transliterations in English lettering. It couldn't be easier!

Worship Services

Friday~January 2

6 p.m.
Sermon
Rabbi Craig Marantz

Saturday~January 3

9:30-10:15 a.m.
Bagels and Sacred Books
10:30 a.m.
Shabbat Service
Bat Mitzvah of Rachel Martin
Daughter of Julie and Mark Martin
Torah Portion: Vayigash
Genesis 44:18-47:27
Haftarah: Ezekial 37:15-28

Friday~January 9

6 p.m.
Tot Shabbat
Dinner immediately following
6 p.m.
D'var Torah
Rabbi Jan Katzew
Educator-in-Residence

Saturday~January 10

9:00-10:15 a.m.
Bagels and Sacred Books
With Rabbi Jan Katzew
10:30 a.m.
Shabbat Service
Bar Mitzvah of Max Sherman
son of Usha and Dan Sherman
Torah Portion: Vayechi
Genesis 47:28-50:26
Haftarah: I Kings 2:1-12

Friday~January 16

6 p.m.
Sermon
Rabbi Craig Marantz

Saturday~January 17

9:30-10:15 a.m.
Bagels and Sacred Books
10:30 a.m.
Shabbat Service
Torah Portion: Shemot
Exodus 1:1-6:1
Haftarah: Isaiah 27:6-28:13; 29:22-23

Friday~January 23

6 p.m.
OTYG-led Family Diversity Service

Saturday~January 24

9:30-10:15 a.m.
Bagels and Sacred Books
10:30 a.m.
Shabbat Service
Torah Portion: Va'era
Exodus 6:2-9:35
Haftarah: Isaiah 66:1-13, 23

Friday~January 30

6 p.m.
Grade 4 Family Shabbat Service
6 p.m.
Early Worship Service
Union Prayer Book

Saturday~January 31

9:30-10:15 a.m.
Bagels and Sacred Books
10:30 a.m.
Shabbat Service
Bat Mitzvah of Hannah Ferer
Daughter of Mary and Whitney Ferer
Torah Portion: Bo
Exodus 10:1-13:16
Haftarah: Jeremiah 46:13-28

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.

\$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
Michelle Shkolnick's Discretionary

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 Michelle Shkolnick, Executive Director, at 556-6536.

January 2004 • Tevet/Shevat 5764

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Office Closed	2 Shabbat Service 6 p.m.	3 Bagels & Sacred Books 9:30-10:15 a.m. Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m. Bat Mitzvah of Rachel Martin
4 Religious School Kindergarten-Grade 6 10:00 a.m.-Noon	5	6 Basic Judaism 6:15-8 p.m. Family School 6:15-8 p.m. AA, Alanon, Gambler's 12-step 7:30 p.m.	7 Religious School Social Justice Club & Dinner 5:30-6:30 p.m. Grades 7-12 6:30-8:30 p.m. Adult B'nai Mitzvah 6:30-8:30 p.m. Grade 12 Parent Meeting 6:45 p.m.	8 Adult Study with the Clergy 10-11:30 a.m. Religious School Grades 3-6 4-6 p.m. Kol Rina Choir 6:30-8 p.m.	9 Tot Shabbat & Dinner 6 p.m. Shabbat Service Rabbi Jan Katzew Educator-in- Residence 6 p.m. Religious School Teacher Dinner 6:45 p.m.	10 Bagels & Sacred Books with Rabbi Jan Katzew 9-10:15 a.m. Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m. Bar Mitzvah of Max Sherman Ma'agal Ha'rav @ Azriel Home 2 p.m. OTYG Movie Night 7-10:30 p.m.
11 Religious School Teacher Meeting 9 a.m. Prayer Assembly 10 a.m. Kindergarten-Grade 6 10 a.m.-Noon The 4B's with Rabbi Jan Katzew 10:30 a.m. Club 56 Noon-3 p.m.	12	13 Basic Judaism 6:15-8 p.m. Family School 6:15-8 p.m. AA, Alanon, Gambler's 12-step 7:30 p.m.	14 Religious School Grades 7-12 & Dinner 6-8:30 p.m. Adult B'nai Mitzvah 6:30-8:30 p.m. History of Israel II 6:45-8:30 p.m.	15 Adult Study with the Clergy 10-11:30 a.m. WRJ-O Mikvah Mystique @ JCC Noon Religious School Grades 3-6 4-6 p.m. Kol Rina Choir 6:30-8 p.m.	16 Shabbat Service 6 p.m. Israel Matters Discussion & Dinner @ Pasta Amore following	17 Bagels & Sacred Books 9:30-10:15 a.m. Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m. Rabbi Azriel Unplugged @ Gilinsky Home 7 p.m.
18 Religious School Partnership 8:45-9:45 a.m. Religious School Kindergarten-Grade 6 10 a.m.-Noon OTYG Board 3-4:30 p.m.	19	20 Family School 6:15-8:00 p.m. Board of Trustees Meeting 7:30 p.m. AA, Alanon, Gambler's 12-Step 7:30 p.m.	21 Conversations with Rabbi Marantz Noon-1 p.m. Religious School Grades 7-12 6:30-8:30 p.m. Adult B'nai Mitzvah 6:30-8:30 p.m. History of Israel II 6:45-8:30 p.m.	22 Adult Study with the Clergy 10-11:30 a.m. Prayer Hebrew & Music 11:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m. Religious School Grades 3-6 4-6 p.m. Kol Rina Choir 6:30-8 p.m.	23 Family Diversity Service 6 p.m. OTYG/JYG Dinner & Activity Following Service	24 Bagels & Sacred Books 9:30-10:15 a.m. Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m.
25 Religious School Kindergarten- Grades 2, 4-6 10 a.m.-Noon Grade 3 @ Federation Library 10:15-11:45 a.m.	26	27 Basic Judaism 6:15-8 p.m. Family School 6:15-8 p.m. AA, Alanon, Gambler's 12-step 7:30 p.m.	28 No Religious School	29 Adult Study with the Clergy 10-11:30 a.m. Prayer Hebrew & Music 11:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m. Religious School Grades 3-6 4-6 p.m. Kol Rina Choir 6:30-8 p.m.	30 Shabbat Service 6 p.m. Union Prayer Book Service 6 p.m. Grade 4 Family Shabbat Dinner Following Service	31 Bagels & Sacred Books 9:30-10:15 a.m. Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m. Bat Mitzvah of Hannah Ferer

January At Temple

Throughout this month, we will welcome Shabbat together at 6 p.m. for the Friday Evening Shabbat Worship Services. The blessing of challah and Kiddush in the hallway outside the sanctuary will precede the service.

Email Us At...

Temple Israel-tisrael@qwest.net
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Rosie Zweiback-rzweiback@qwest.net
Stephanie Grossman-s_grossman@qwest.net
Claudia Sherman-cgwriter1@cox.net



Tot Shabbat

Friday, January 9, 6 p.m.

Dinner immediately 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, planned with child-friendly favorites in mind.

Tot Shabbat services are "really nice," said Rachel Levitsky who attends with her husband Josh and their 17-month-old daughter Mia. "I think the kids have a good time, and Rabbi Marantz does a really good job engaging the kids," she added.

Rachel said parents appreciate not having "to rush home to feed the kids" after services. And at \$5 per family, it's "not expensive!"

Please call the Temple office by Wednesday, January 7, to make a reservation for the dinner.



Rabbi Azriel Unplugged!

Saturday, January 17, 7 p.m.

All adult members of the congregational community are invited for Havdalah, dessert and wine followed by animated conversation with Rabbi Aryeh Azriel at the home of Katherine Finnegan and David Gilinsky (3326 South 98th Street). "This is an opportunity for adult members of Temple Israel to meet one another and discuss Jewish issues of the day," said Todd Hutton, chairman of Temple's Outreach Committee which is hosting the event.

Those who attend will have a chance to quiz Rabbi Azriel regarding his insights into the community, world events and the role of Judaism in our everyday lives. "The range of topics is as broad as those in attendance want it to be," Todd emphasized.

Reservations are requested and can be made through the Temple office, 556-6536 or tisrael@qwest.net. There is no cost to attend.

Social Justice

The Right To Choose: A Jewish Perspective

What is the Jewish perspective on a woman's right to reproductive freedom? How does your personal position on this issue align with your Jewish values? Our parent organization, the Union for Reform Judaism, has taken a position on this issue. Should we? Is it important to have a collective voice as a religious institution on this issue?

Come discuss these compelling questions with Jewish community leaders on **Sunday, February 8, 10 a.m.** in the Milder Center. Education is a vital part in acting on this issue. Join us!

What's Happening in Religious School

Joan Cooper, Elementary School Coordinator

Classes Resume Sunday, January 4
Religious School resumes Sunday, January 4 for grades K through 6. Family School resumes Tuesday, January 6, and the first Thursday classes of the year will be January 8.

Family Prayer Assembly and 4B's Sunday, January 11
Following our 10 a.m. Prayer Assembly, parents are invited to attend the 4B's from 10:30 a.m. to Noon. Parents not attending the learning session or the prayer assembly are asked to pick up their child(ren) at Noon.

Grade Six Project Presentations begin Sunday, January 18
Students have teamed up to research and report on Israeli figures from the past through the present. Presentations will begin at 11:45 a.m. unless otherwise noted. We encourage parents to attend their child's presentation.

Third Graders visit the Federation Library Sunday, January 25
Rita Paskowitz, master storyteller, will lead us on a book treasure hunt from 10:15-11:45 a.m. Blumkin Home residents will be invited to join us to share stories and friendship. Parents are also welcome to stay and browse the shelves.

Fourth Grade Shabbat Service and Dinner Friday, January 30
The congregation is invited to participate in the 6 p.m. service conducted by the 4th grade students. Sitter Service is available during the worship services by advance reservation.

Parent/Teacher Conferences and Open House Sunday, February 1
1st through 6th grade parents and teachers will meet to discuss student progress on a Sunday morning in the classrooms! Families with last names beginning with A-L come from 10-11 a.m. Families with last names beginning with M-Z come from 11 a.m. to Noon. This is a "free" make-up day for students IF a parent attends the brief conference.

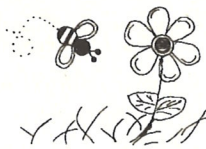
Please join us for

The 4 B's...And A K!

Behaving, Belonging, Believing and Bagels with Rabbi Jan Katzew

Every parent wants to raise a child who is kind, caring and ethical. The big question we face is how to succeed. Rabbi Jan Katzew, the Director of the Union for Reform Judaism Department of Jewish Education, will be here on **Sunday, January 11, 10:30 a.m.** to lead a workshop entitled: *Raising Mensches: Helping Your Human Being Become a Humane Being.*

You won't want to miss this opportunity to learn with the Reform movement's leading educator. Join us for a bagel and great conversation!



Mission Impastable!

OTYG Spaghetti Dinner and Auction

5 p.m., Sunday, February 1

Silent Auction begins at 10 a.m. in the Social Hall

Adults: \$9 each; Children (ages 3-12): \$4 each

Donation & Reservation Form

Name _____

Address _____

Phone (H) _____ (W) _____

Auction Donations (Items and Suggested Values): _____

Reservations

Adults _____ x \$9 each = _____

Children _____ x \$4 each = _____ (ages 3-12 years)

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Omaha Temple Youth Group
7023 Cass Street, Omaha, NE 68132

OTYG has accepted this mission to support:
Omaha Temple Youth Groups
(OTYG, JYG, Club 56 and Club 34)
Camp Rainbow, St. Louis, Missouri
Camp Co-Ho-Lo, Gretna, Nebraska

Call the Temple office, 556-6536,
by Friday, January 23
to make your reservation
or to donate an item or service
for the auction.

Middle/High School Footnotes

Elyce Azriel, Director



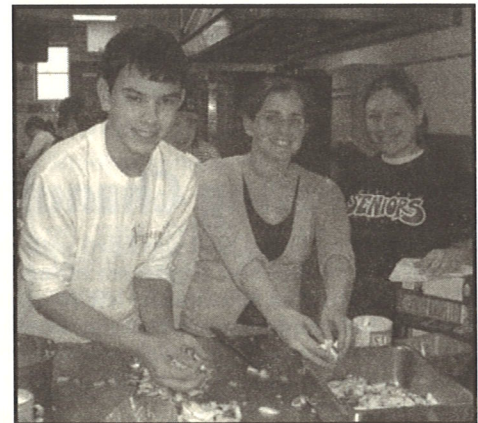
Seeds of Sun Concert

Sounds of Israeli music filled the Sanctuary Wednesday, December 17 when Seeds of Sun kicked off Chagigat Yisrael (celebration of Israel), a special month of learning for Grades 7-11. Pictured (at left) left to right are Yoav Polachek (piano), Mattan Klein (flute), Micahl Cohen (vocals), Itamar Ziegler (drums) and Yuval Lion (bass).



Bible Quiz

Joel Passer (pictured left with two other participants) placed fourth in the 18th Annual Edward Zorinsky B'nai B'rith Bible Quiz. Other Temple youth who participated this year were Samantha Long, who also placed fourth, Aron Neesman, Jacquelyn Neesman, Aaron Passer, Adam Trubnikov and David Trubnikov.



Temple Israel's Middle/High School Social Justice Club and Omaha Temple Youth Group prepared dinner for The Stephen Center on December 7. Sam Anderson, Chelsea Taxman, Janet Baack (pictured above), Jacquelyn Neesman and Jake Bleicher (pictured below) added their special culinary talents to the dinner.



Temple Tidbits

Thanksgiving Spirit Celebrated

Lynne and Patrick Jensen were among those who celebrated the spirit of Thanksgiving and community at the Thanksgiving Interfaith Service in November at Dundee Presbyterian Church. Temple Israel is one of six area congregations that participate in the annual service. "We loved it!" Lynne said. "We had never been before, but we are definitely planning to go every year from now on!" Next year, Temple Israel will be the host congregation.

Celebrating Chanukah Together

The Friedman Social Hall was filled with the joy of Chanukah as over 260 people enjoyed a delicious brisket and vegetarian dinner sponsored by the Women of Reform Judaism-Omaha. Pictured (clockwise, left to right): Susan Rothholz and her granddaughters Sophie, Aleia and Hannah Budwig; The Vega Family and Principal Robert Acamo from Castelar Elementary (Temple's adopted school); John, Sandy, Avery and Jacob Lehr and Scott Goldberg; Susie Norton with her sons Leo and Aaron and nephew Asher Rosenquist; Hilde and Steve Gottlieb.



New Member Reception



If you see any of these people in the halls of Temple...WELCOME THEM! Schmoozing and noshing at the annual New Member Reception at the home of Elyce and Rabbi Aryeh Azriel (above, left to right, clockwise) were Jeremy, Isabella and Annette Wright; Mimi and Michael Silverman and Joan Kaiman.



(Below, left to right) Annette and Isabella Wright, Betsty Marantz, Joann Gordon, Rachel Levitsky and Mimi Silverman.

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

IN MEMORY OF: Richard Bohbot, Harold Firestone, Goldye Goldberg, Gerald Kibel, Ben Kutler, Milton Parker, Adele Slutzky; Allison, Lou, Danny and Alex Pachman; **Dorothy Gimp Brand:** Cookie and Jerry Hoberman, Barbara and Marshall Kushner, Ducky and Mike Milder, The Rockman Family, Judy and Buddy Roffman; **Dorothy Feltman:** Shirley Weinstein; **Ida Forbes:** Phyllis and Bob Newman; **Sadie Gitlin:** Ann R. Cohen; **Phil Handleman:** Elaine Tepperman, Shirley Weinstein; **Nephew of Marsha and Milt Kleinberg:** Allison Latenser; **Jean Ann Krupinsky, Judson Rochman:** Dodi and Steve Redler; **Marvin Pizer:** Ducky and Mike Milder, Anne and Bruce Shackman; **Sally Ricks:** Rose Fine, Phil Sokolof, Robert Weinstein, Shirley Weinstein; **Louis Ross:** Phyllis and Harvey Aronson; **Bernard Ruben:** Molline and Fritz Cassman, June Goodbinder, Maxine and Milton Simons; **Reva Ruderman:** Bernice and Morrie Adler, Babette Field, Allison, Lou, Danny and Alex Pachman, Anne Friedman Shackman, Shelley and Abe Wisnia; **Miriam Mickey" Shafer:** Eleanor and Stanley Slosburg, Ellen and Richard Slosburg, Martha and David Slosburg; **Martin Sugarman:** Audrey Sophir; **Elinor Whitman:** Norman Whitman

IN HONOR OF RECOVERY OF: Leo Bloom: Harriett and Sherm Sperling; **Beth Brodkey:** Toby Fellman, Marilyn and Lou Hurwitz, Barb and Cliff Levitan, Joan and Milton Marcus, Anne and Bruce Shackman, Susie and Jim Silverman, Andi and David Willensky; **Ron Brodkey:** Marilyn and Lou Hurwitz, Judy and Buddy Roffman; **Jean Hodes:** Kathy, Allen and Rachel Horwitz, Harriett and Sherm Sperling; **Stanley Malashock:** Bev and Abe Krasne, Harriett and Sherm Sperling; **Bruce Vann:** Molline and Fritz Cassman

IN HONOR OF BIRTHDAY OF: Jerry Dann: Terry and Jeff Levinger; **Lois Friedman:** Joie Simon; **Pearl Gross:** Peggy and Chris Krasne; **Irv Sherman:** Lois and Lloyd Friedman, Barbara Rips

IN HONOR OF ANNIVERSARY OF: Shirley and Al Brody: Toby Fellman; **Susie and Marvin Cohn:** Fran and Louie Blumkin

IN HONOR OF B'NAI MITZVAH OF: Amanda Bucher: Joan and Milton Marcus, Sheila and Ray Tomps; **Susan Freeman:** Harriett and Sherm Sperling; **David Hirshman:** Allison, Lou, Danny and Alex Pachman; **Grandson of Ruth Oruch:** Shirley Weinstein

IN HONOR OF ARRIVAL OF: Samuel Joseph Combs: Allison, Lou, Danny and Alex Pachman

IN HONOR OF BIRTH OF: Dina Sharyn Saltzman: The Willensky Family

IN HONOR OF ENGAGEMENT OF: Stacy Ginsburg and Greg Horwitz: Allison, Lou, Danny and Alex Pachman; **Kate Koester and Daniel Rosen:** Ann Kaiman, Anne and Bruce Shackman

IN HONOR OF MARRIAGE OF: Katie and Mike Cohen, Jill and Jeff Fredricks, Aviva and Benjamin Gonshe: Allison, Lou, Danny and Alex Pachman; **Andrea and Tony Schrager:** Anne and Bruce Shackman

IN APPRECIATION OF: Rabbi Aryeh Azriel, Rabbi Craig Marantz, Cantor Wendy Shermet, Michelle Shkolnick, Elyce Azriel, Joan Cooper, Stephanie Grossman, Claudia Sherman, Rosie Zweiback, Lori Bennett, Marie Briggs, Willie Clark, Vicki Ducharme, Gloria Ketter, Maureen Kube, Bonnie Sullivan, Lonnie Williams

Women of Reform Judaism Tribute Fund

IN HONOR OF BIRTH OF: Dina Sharyn Saltzman: Lois and Mel Epstein, Marilyn and Marty Warren

Congratulations

On the Birth of:

Dina Sharyn Saltzman, daughter of Linda and Kevin Saltzman. Grandparents are Alice and Robert Lachin, Potomac, MD, and Rosalie and Ernie Saltzman. Great-grandmother is Mrs. Maury Young, Chevy Chase, MD.

On the Engagement of:

Kate Koester and Daniel Rosen. Parents are Susan and Bob Koester, Chicago, IL, and Margo and Bill Rosen.

Jessica Blumkin and Andrew Shefsky. Parents are Susie and Irv Blumkin, and Penny and Marvin Shefsky, Roswell, GA.

On the Marriage of:

Mr. and Mrs. Tony Schrager. Mrs. Schrager is the former Andrea Gerdes. Parents are Karen and Craig Gerdes, Eureka, IL, and Beth and Harley Schrager.

Our Sympathy

The Congregation records with sorrow the deaths of...

Dorothy Gimp Brand, mother of Judy Zweiback and grandmother of Tim Zweiback;

Sherman Frederick Neff, husband of Jeanie Neff, father of Andrea Bodenstein and Jane Rubin, brother of Eleanor Singer, and son-in-law of Herman Goldstein;

Marvin I. Pizer, husband of Roselle Osoff Pizer, father of John Pizer and Elizabeth Quicksilver, and brother-in-law of Pearl and Jerry Gross, and Fran and Jerry Milder;

Marilyn A. Weinberg, sister of Howard L. Weinberg and cousin of Margo N. Rosen and Stephen A. Neesman

...and extends sympathy to their bereaved families.

Healing

Mi Shebeirakh, the prayer for physical and emotional healing, is recited at the Friday evening Shabbat service. If you are ill and would like a *mi shebeirakh* 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.