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 Craig H. Marantz..... Rabbi
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Reach Out...and Email Us!

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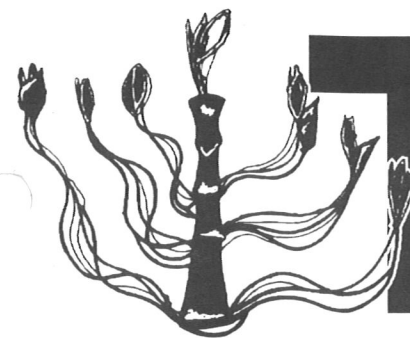
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AS I SEE IT...

On occasion I receive letters or calls from parents of candidates for B'nai Mitzvah, taking exception with our congregation's B'nai Mitzvah policy. In many of these instances, the point is made that children are too young to understand the value of Jewish education or unable to make a pledge to follow-up the B'nai Mitzvah ceremony with continued Jewish learning.

Recently, while on sabbatical, I re-read Robert Kohl's "The Spiritual Life of Children." The author's studies reveal: "There is a natural overlap between the moral and the religious life of children." Apparently the study purports, when the religious life fails to inspire standards of moral behavior, then children view organized religion as hypocritical. They then become alienated from their own spiritual resources and needs.

Not a bad insight for children of tender years. I fully agree.

Organized religion must make spirituality and ethics part of a single fabric. Ceremonials must involve moral and spiritual movement. Religious symbolism must inspire behavioral patterns with deepened commitment to the content inherent in the particular ceremony or symbol.

Children readily recognize hypocrisy and sham. They do so especially in reference to their experience of Bar/Bat Mitzvah.

When parent and child make a pledge to take seriously this ceremony

by proceeding with a renewed commitment to Jewish education, but quickly abandon that pledge, the child can have little respect for religion and its standards or its moral instruction. What a tragedy!

On the other hand, there are parents who do want to approach the issue with absolute integrity. They are profoundly concerned about making a pledge which they feel children are not capable of fully comprehending, or may not be able to fulfill because of life's vagaries. They are up front with their hesitation to pledge because of their reservations about an ability to follow up on the pledge. The following is my response to one such recent letter I received:

I believe a ten-year-old is capable of making a pledge and can, as well, value important ideals and objectives. In an environment where Jewish learning and Jewish life are valued, a child can, under ordinary circumstances, accept the commitment of parents to value spiritual and moral identity with his people and community. I am and have been in touch with thousands of children, and I can bet my life on the potential of young people to be responsive to Jewish values and practices.

I totally agree that Reform Judaism encourages responsible and intelligent choice-making. No one need decide to have a Bar/Bat Mitzvah. Because it was so abused, Reform for many years abandoned the practice. Given the abuse

that is now so pervasive around the United States, I'm pleased that Temple Israel has the fortitude and idealism to adopt standards in line with the meaning of the occasion. Liberalism does not mean the lack of standards. Liberalism can lead to license when it disregards communal obligations. Jewishly, it is a *mitzvah* [commandment] at age 13 to commit oneself to the study of Torah. The ceremony was not an automatic and metaphysical state achieved by a single ceremony. The ceremony demonstrates the reading ability or literacy of a child, now taking on the commitment to study Torah. In historic fact, Bar Mitzvah was an initiation not a conclusion.

The reason for the pledge is to clarify in the mind of child and parent precisely what it means to become a Bar Mitzvah. Certainly no one can predict the future. There are vagaries which produce even more fundamental changes in life than the matter at issue. No one can be held responsible for exigencies that require a shift. But the purpose of Bar Mitzvah is for the child to know that saying "I am a son/daughter of the Commandment," signifies "I am, at this time, pledging to follow the commandment requiring Torah study."

Aryeh Azriel

Celebrating 350 Years of Jews in America

Temple Israel Annual Meeting and Dinner

Sunday, May 22
6 p.m.

We'll say thank you to
outgoing president
Gary Kaplan,
install new members of
the Board of Trustees,
bestow some special
awards, and get an
update on the process of
building a new temple.

Watch for your
invitation in
the mail soon.

Yom HaShoah Observance

Beth Israel Synagogue
Wednesday, May 4, 7 p.m.

This year's community-wide service and program in observance of Yom HaShoah, Holocaust Memorial Day, will commemorate the 60th anniversary of the liberation of the concentration camps.

Norm Smith, who served during World War II with the 101st Airborne, Company C, First Battalion, 506th Parachute Infantry, will be the featured speaker. A teacher from Albion, NE, he was involved with the liberation of a sub-camp of Dachau called Lansburg.

Jewish Educational and Library Services sponsors the event and invites all in the community to attend.

In this Season of Asking Four Questions, Hineni Asks for Your Support

As we prepare to celebrate Passover, marking our people's exodus from Egypt and the beginning of our journey to Israel, families are busy cleaning their homes, planning Seder meals, concentrating on reviewing *Haggadot*, and children are learning to ask the Four Questions.

Getting underway this month is the second phase of the Union for Reform Judaism's (URJ) new movement-wide project, *Hineini: Embracing Our People, Building Our Future*, coordinated at Temple Israel by Andi Willensky. She is asking something, too—for your support of the *Hineini* project by making a donation to help construct synagogue buildings for two Progressive congregations in Israel. Both congregations are providing worship services, schools, adult education and lifecycle celebrations for hundreds of Israelis. But both need a place to meet and worship.

Andi thanked Temple Israel for its "amazing effort in supporting the *Hineini* project last year which led to the Temple community being designated a Builder Congregation by URJ. We are anticipating that congregants will honor the second part of their two-year commitment to *Hineini* by matching the contributions they donated in 2004."

Temple Israel is asking each member of our congregation to contribute \$18 or more to support these two Israeli congregations. Please respond generously when you receive Andi's request in the mail. If you weren't able to participate last year, your involvement this time is highly encouraged.

"It will go a long way," Andi said, "toward giving two congregations in Israel the freedom to celebrate Passover and other holidays in their own synagogues as they quite literally build their futures."

PLEASE NOTE FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE



Temple's East
entrance has
3 handicap
parking spots
and no steps
into Temple.

Quilters Add to International Project



Marge Bresel (far left) led a quilt-basting project at Temple in March with the help of Sandy Passer, Midge Bowers and Shirley Goodman (not pictured). The quilt, which is an international effort and will be donated to a synagogue in Jerusalem, depicts stories about great women of the Bible.

Please Remember

There are two collection bins for non-perishable food staples and personal hygiene items located right inside the Newman Gateway Doors at the south entrance.

The bins are inside a beautiful cabinet that was hand-crafted and finished by the late Ajon Farber, whose artistry is visible inside and outside Temple Israel. Lift the tops on this cabinet's bins—donate your items each time you come to Temple.

Welcome New Members!

Gabriella Cohen Blair
and Jason Blair
Noah, newborn

Gaby and Jason recently moved to Omaha from Lawrence, KS, where they pursued master's degrees in geography and geophysics, respectively. Gaby grew up in New York City and met Jason in Omaha when they were students at UNO. Jason works for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Gaby is busy taking care of Noah, who was born on March 3, 2005.

Stu and Rose Bernstein
Sean (16)
LaShanna and Ashley (15)

The Bernsteins, most recently from the Philadelphia area, moved to Omaha so Stu could take a position at UNO in construction systems. Rose teaches family consumer science at Kiewit Middle School in Millard and the children all attend high school in Elkhorn. Stu commented that "everyone in our family has been made to feel like we're in the right place and are already a part of the Temple family."

Naomi Kaplan

Born and raised in Colorado, Naomi moved to Omaha with her partner Betsy in December. She is a social worker with a strong interest in social justice and social change. Betsy is an attorney. Naomi is passionate about music; she grew up playing violin and viola and is currently learning guitar.

Buber Scholar to Speak at Brooks Lecture Thursday, April 14 7:30 p.m.

Dr. Gilya Gerda Schmidt will be the guest lecturer at this year's Rabbi Sidney H. Brooks Lecture at the Alumni Center at UNO. Her topic will be "The Many Faces of Martin Buber: Herald of a New Age for Christians and Jews." The lecture is open to the public at no charge.

Born in Stuttgart, Germany, Dr. Schmidt is now professor of religious studies at the University of Tennessee. Introduced to the teachings and philosophy of Martin Buber while she was an undergraduate at the University of Pittsburgh in 1983, her dissertation topic was "From Turmoil to Unity: Martin Buber's Efforts Towards a New Concept of Jewish Community 1897-1915."

Dr. Schmidt is the editor and translator of numerous books and articles, including *The First Buber: Youthful Zionist Writings of Martin Buber*.

Dr. Schmidt attended a conference in Germany on Buber in 1985, meeting prominent Israeli Buber scholars there. In 1987, Dr. Schmidt was awarded the Israel Heritage Room Scholarship for her dissertation researching the Buber Archives at Hebrew University.

Sponsored by the Religious Studies Program, College of Arts and Sciences at UNO, the Rabbi Brooks Lecture is held in cooperation with Temple Israel.

In addition to speaking at UNO, Dr. Schmidt will be the guest presenter at the 65th Annual Sidney H. and Jane Brooks Institute on Judaism for Christian Clergy on Friday, April 15 at Temple. Her topic that day will be "Martin Buber and Life on the Narrow Ridge." Temple will welcome back Jane Brooks, who moved to Massachusetts three months ago, for the Ministers Institute.

Group Offers Laughter, History, Friendship

Becki Brenner

March 13 saw the second meeting of the Women's Rosh Chodesh group. The topic was Esther and her relationship with family, King and the Jewish community. We started the evening with a poem that discussed the silent voices of the women at Sinai who could not write down their own interpretations of what they experienced. Think how different the perspective would be if we had the opportunity to record history as we saw and lived it!

After discussion, laughter and, of course, good food, we decided that YES, we need to continue. There will be lots of questions and further discussions on multiple topics so we encourage all women (of all ages) to come and join us. Together we can increase our Jewish knowledge and give honor to those women who came before us.

Our next meeting is Friday, April 8, 5:45 p.m. at Goldberg's (50th and Dodge). We will attend Shabbat services together following dinner and discussion. Please RSVP to the Temple office (mkube@templeisraelomaha.com or 556-6536).

For more information about the group or if you have ideas for future discussions, please contact me at bbrenner@jewishomaha.org or 334-6492.

Birthday Blessings Grade 4 Family Service Friday, April 15, 6 p.m.

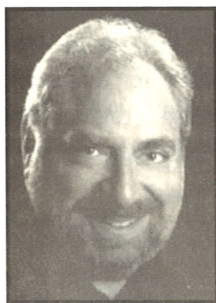
Children and adults who celebrate their birthdays during the month of April will be invited to the *bimah* for a special blessing at this Family Service.



ראש חודש

Musician-in-Residence Michael Isaacson

Composer/ Conductor/ Producer
to Present American Jewish Music
Friday, May 13, 7:30 p.m.



Founding Music Director of the Hollywood Pops and the Israel Pops Orchestras, Michael Isaacson has enjoyed an extraordinary career as one of the most prolific and accomplished American Jewish composers of our time.

He pioneered the NFTY American folk music style and has composed and conducted original scores for the Boston Pops with Joan Baez; *Rich Man, Poor Man II*; *Little Women*; *Bionic Woman*; and *Hawaii Five-O*. He has also conducted and produced new recordings of music with the Munich Philharmonic Orchestra, the Mexico City Symphony, the Tel Aviv Symphony and the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra.

Dr. Isaacson will give the sermon at Temple's Shabbat worship services and conduct Temple's choir, Kol Rina, and some of Temple's children.

Dr. Isaacson's visit to Temple Israel is sponsored by the Special Donor Advised Fund of the Jewish Federation of Omaha Foundation.

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.

There's Been a Whole Lot of Baking Going on!

Bonnie and Nina Pfrenger had fun baking challah and rugelach at Temple on March 15. The project is sponsored by Temple's Caring Community which will deliver the food to patients returning home from the hospital and to newcomers in the congregation. Meet us in the kitchen Sunday, May 1 at Noon for more baking!



A huge thank you to Lisa Epstein and Allison Latenser, our baking "ballabustas," for their culinary inspiration! Hats off to their talented teams of dynamic dough doyennes: Mara Bates; Rose, LaShannah and Ashleigh Bernstein; Pam DePorte; Penny Endelman; Toby Fellman; Marta Fox; Cindy Goldberg; Danielle Gordman; Debbi Josephson; Judy Josephson; Ellen Long; Betsy Marantz; Miriam and Don Moran; Nancy Nogg; Ann Osborn; Bonnie and Nina Pfrenger; Joan and Al Rieder; Linda Saltzman; Lisa and Julianna Scheet; Susie Silverman; Debi Smedlund; Sharon Sobel and Jeff Schweid; Shiela Tomps; and Rosie Zweiback.

New Group Jewish Journey Group Explores Obstacles to Faith Tuesdays, Noon to 1 p.m. April 19 to May 10

"For the believer there are no questions and for the unbeliever there are no answers," said Menachem Mendel, a rabbi of the 19th century. That conclusion does not accord with my own experiences," writes Rabbi Harold M. Schulweis in his book *For Those Who Can't Believe: Overcoming the Obstacles to Faith*.

"I have come to know many believers with profound doubts and many unbelievers with deep yearnings for serious answers," Rabbi Schulweis adds.

Temple's Rabbi Craig Marantz will lead a Jewish Journey Group on the subject matter of Rabbi Schulweis' book. "My personal desire is to provide an opportunity for those who struggle

Women of Reform Judaism-Omah sponsored a hamantaschen baking event at Temple on March 13. Eighteen women (and one gentleman) set an all-time record of baking over 900 hamantaschen for the Purim Carnival and Oneg following the Purim Family Dinner. (Below) Susie Silverman and Linda Saltzman



with conventional notions and beliefs about God to reshape those notions into something more authentic and relevant to their lives, something that embraces the complexity of their lives," said Rabbi Marantz.

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

Rabbi Marantz requests that who register for the group read Rabbi Schulweis' book which can be purchased in the Temple office.

Women of Reform Judaism-Omaha



Donor Dessert Tea

"Memories to Nosh On"

A Presentation by Sharon Boorstin

author of "Let Us Eat Cake: Adventures in Food and Friendship"

Tuesday, April 12, 7 p.m.

Temple Israel Milder Center

Nationally-known author Sharon Boorstin will delight us with a warm, touching discussion of her memoir/cookbook that covers her growing up in "a food-obsessed Jewish family in the fifties and sixties."

She will discuss how her generation of Jewish women differs from that of their mothers—and their own daughters. After reading a few excerpts from her book, Sharon will open the floor to a conversation about our food memories, female friendships and how lives of Jewish women have changed over the past six decades.

She has presented this program to more than 50 Jewish women's groups around the country and has won plaudits for her writings in books, newspapers and publications.

"A charming book...that shows how food nourishes the soul and stirs reminiscences." *Bon Appetit*

Sharon's book will be available for sale and for signing. She has generously offered to donate 10% of sales to WRJ-O.

Invitations have been mailed. To RSVP, return your response card by Friday, April 8 or contact Maureen in the Temple office, mkube@templeisraelomaha.com or 556-6536. Donor categories are \$18, \$54, \$180 and \$360.

If you'd like to bake a scrumptious dessert for the tea, please call co-chairs Susie Norton, 391-7333, or Silvia Roffman, 397-7070.

Proceeds from this evening enable WRJ-O to fund valuable projects in Temple's Religious School and kitchen.



Friendship Tea Sunday, April 10 2 p.m.



Our annual Friendship Tea is a popular event with the Omaha community. We invite non-Jewish congregations to visit Temple Israel and learn about Jewish practices and beliefs. This is the perfect opportunity for your friends, child's teachers, and interfaith family members to learn about Judaism and ask the questions they've always wanted to ask.

The Friendship Tea is organized by Hillary Fletcher, and facilitated by WRJ-O members and the clergy. Please RSVP to the Temple office to join us for a wonderful afternoon.

Cradle Roll Sunday, April 10, 10:30 a.m.

Parents and their pre-school aged and younger children are invited to attend this Passover-themed event. Kids will work on a craft, enjoy a snack, have storytime and chat with the rabbi. Please RSVP to the Temple office, 556-6536. Contact Ann Osborn at annoz13@cox.net or 933-4954 with questions about the event.



Upcoming Board Election

The proposed slate for the 2005-2006 WRJ-O Board is as follows:

President • Cindy Goldberg

Past President • Nancy Nogg

Vice President of Membership •

Nancy Nogg, Linda Saltzman

Vice President of Development •

Marta Fox

Vice President Religious Action •

Becki Brenner, Susan Rothholz

Vice President Programming •

Danielle Gordman, Bonnie Pfrenger,

Rosie Zweiback

Vice President Finance • Susan Lehr

Vice President Public Relations •

Deb Marburg, Karli Newman

Recording Secretary • Jill Baron

Vice President Education •

Betsy Marantz

Vice President Religious Living •

Jennifer Cohen, Ellen Long,

Wendy Reiss

President Elect • Danielle Gordman

This slate will be voted on at the Donor Tea, Tuesday, April 12 at 7p.m.

Ministers Institute Friday, April 15

Clergy from the Omaha community and surrounding areas will gather at Temple Israel for the 65th Annual Sidney H. and Jane Brooks Institute on Judaism for Christian Clergy. WRJ-O members will be setting tables, greeting guests and serving lunch. Please contact Michelle Bucher to volunteer (rmbucher@cox.net or 891-1503).

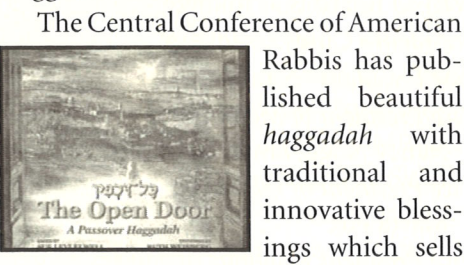
Congregational Seder Sunday, April 24, 6 p.m.

Celebrate Passover as a congregation! This second Seder is coordinated by Debbi Josephson and Judy Josephson, and is a beautiful way to bond with the Temple Israel family (see page 6).

Celebrating Passover Joys and Blessings

Do You Need Passover Haggadot?

The Temple office has several Haggadot available.

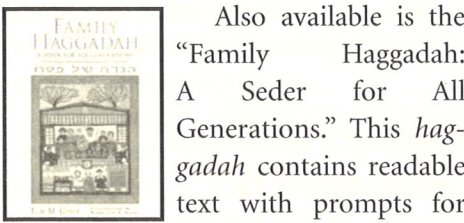


for \$19.95.

We continue to carry the haggadah illustrated by Leonard Baskin which may be purchased for \$12 each.

These beautiful haggadot will be exquisite additions to your Seder. They are both works of art you will be proud to own.

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



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

Yizkor

If you would like to have names of your loved ones read at the Morning Yizkor Service, Saturday, April 30 (10:30 a.m.), call the Temple office, 556-6536, with the names. Please phone by Thursday, April 28.

Visit the
WRJ-O Gift Shop for
seder plates,
matzah trays and
beautiful covers,
Elijah and Miriam cups,
children's books and puzzles
and more!

Weekdays, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.
Sundays during Religious School

Celebrate Passover as a Community at Temple's Second Seder

Sunday, April 24, 6 p.m.

Debbi and Judy Josephson have planned a few seders together in the past. But this year, the sisters-in-law are planning on a few more people than they've served in previous years. They are the chairmen of Temple's Congregational Seder which will feature a traditional festive seder meal including matzah ball soup, roast chicken and a vegetarian selection all catered by Chef Haddam Catering Company. John Haddam is the former executive chef from Joslyn Art Museum.

"The seder is a nice time to get to know other people and enjoy the camaraderie," said Debbi. *She and Judy could use some volunteers to help set tables for the seder on Sunday morning, April 24. Anyone interested can call Debbi at 758-2772.*

Reservations are due by Friday, April 15, for the seder and must be accompanied by payment. People who are not members of Temple can make reservations between April 15 and 19 if seating is still available.

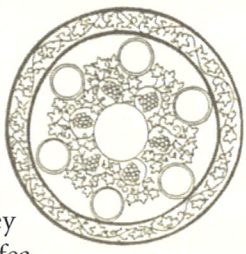
Congregational Seder

Name		
Phone	Amount Enclosed	
	Chicken	Vegetarian
Adults @ \$18 each		
Children Grade 6 and younger @ \$8 each		
Children 2 years and younger @ No Charge		
We would like to sit with		
Deadline for reservations is Friday, April 15. Reservations open for non-members Friday, April 15 through Tuesday, April 19.		
Please send your check and reservation form to: Temple Israel, 7023 Cass Street, Omaha (68132).		

Moments of Remembrance

Saturday, April 20, 9:45 a.m.

Moments of Remembrance, a community gathering of mourners, is intended to be a comforting experience for those who have lost someone dear recently or in the past. In a supportive and caring setting, congregants are invited to share their memories and feelings for loved ones who live only in our memory.



Worship Services

Friday~April 1

6 p.m.
Tot Shabbat
Dinner immediately following
7:30 p.m.
Shabbat Service
Rabbi Aryeh Azriel
Oneg Shabbat sponsored by the Women of Reform Judaism-Omaha

Saturday~April 2

9:30-10:15 a.m.
Bagels and Sacred Books
10:30 a.m.
Shabbat Service
Bat Mitzvah of Julie Joanna Faylon Sadofsky
Daughter of Linda and Rod Sadofsky
Torah Portion: Shemini
Leviticus 9:1-11:47
Haftarah: Ezekiel 36:22-36

Friday~April 8

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

Saturday~April 9

9:30-10:15 a.m.
Bagels and Sacred Books
10:30 a.m.
Shabbat Service
Bat Mitzvah of Brittany Elizabeth Baines
Daughter of Brigitte and Kenny Baines
Torah Portion: Tazria
Leviticus 12:1-13:59
Haftarah: Ezekiel 45:16-26; I Samuel 20:18, 42

Friday~April 15

6 p.m.
Union Prayerbook Service
6 p.m.
Grade 4 and Public Teacher Shabbat Service

Saturday~April 16

9:30-10:15 a.m.
Bagels and Sacred Books
10:30 a.m.
Shabbat Service
Bar Mitzvah of Jordan Jeffrey Slutzky
Son of Lesley and Jeffrey Slutzky
Torah Portion: Metzora
Leviticus 14:1-15:33
Haftarah: II Kings 7:3-20

Friday~April 22

4 p.m.
Shabbat Comes to You
at Remington Heights
7:30 p.m.
Shabbat Service
Rabbi Aryeh Azriel
Oneg Shabbat sponsored by the Women of Reform Judaism-Omaha

Saturday~April 23

9:30-10:15 a.m.
Bagels and Sacred Books
10:30 a.m.
Shabbat Service
Torah Portion: Achare Mot
Leviticus 16:1-18:30
Haftarah: Malachi 3:4-24

Sunday~April 24

10:30 a.m.
Passover Service
Torah Portion:
Exodus 12:37-42; 13:3-10
Haftarah: Isaiah 43:1-15

Friday~April 29

6 p.m.
Early Worship Service

Saturday~April 30

Conclusion of Passover
9:45 a.m.
Moments of Remembrance
10:30 a.m.
Passover Service and Yizkor
Torah Portion: Exodus 14:30-15:21
Haftarah: II Samuel 22:1-51

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

April 2005 • II Adar/Nisan 5765

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 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
3 No Religious School	4 <i>Cantors Concert @ Beth El 7 p.m.</i>	5 No Religious School "A House of Prayer for All People" 7-8:30 p.m. AA, Alanon & Gambler's 12-step 7:30 p.m.	6 No Religious School	7 No Religious School Adult Study With the Clergy 10-11:30 a.m. Kol Rina 6:30-8:00 p.m.	8 Torah Tots 10-11:30 a.m. Shabbat Service 7:30 p.m.	9 Bagels & Sacred Books 9:30-10:15 a.m. Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m. Bat Mitzvah of Brittany Baines
10 Teacher Meeting, 9 a.m. Religious School Grades K-6, 10 a.m.-Noon Prayer Assembly, 10 a.m. Continuing Hebrew, 10:15 a.m.-Noon 4B's, 10:30 a.m. Cradle Roll, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Club 56, Noon-2:30 p.m. WRJ-O Friendship Tea, 2 p.m.	11	12 Family School & Keep Up 6:15-8 p.m. "A House of Prayer for All People" 7-8:30 p.m. WRJ-O Donor Tea 7 p.m. AA, Alanon & Gambler's 12-step 7:30 p.m.	13 Youth Group Dinner 6-6:30 p.m. Religious School Grades 7-9, 11, 12 6:30-8:30 p.m. "Sex Ed 101" Parent Workshop 6:30-8:30 p.m.	14 Adult Study With the Clergy 10-11:30 a.m. Red Cross Blood Drive 1-7 p.m. Religious School Grades 3-6 4-6 p.m. Kol Rina 6:30-8 p.m. Brooks Lecture @ UNO 7:30 p.m.	15 Torah Tots 10-11:30 a.m. Ministers' Institute 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Union Prayer Book Service 6 p.m. Grade 4 & Public Teacher Shabbat Service 6 p.m.	16 Bagels & Sacred Books 9:30-10:15 a.m. Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m. Bar Mitzvah of Jordan Slutzky
17 Religious School Steering Committee 8:45 a.m. Teacher Meeting 9:30 a.m. Religious School Grades K-6 10 a.m.-Noon Grade 2 Parents Meeting 10 a.m. WRJ-O Board Meeting 10 a.m. Continuing Hebrew 10:15 a.m.-Noon	18	19 Family School & Keep Up 6:15-8 p.m. "A House of Prayer 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.	20 Conversation with Rabbi Azriel Noon-1 p.m. JYG Chocolate Seder 4-6:30 p.m. Religious School Scrapbook Club & Dinner 5:30-6:30 p.m. Grades 7-11 6:30-8:30 p.m.	21 Adult Study With the Clergy 10-11:30 a.m. Religious School Grades 3-6 4-6 p.m. Kol Rina 6:30-8 p.m.	22 Torah Tots 10-11:30 a.m. Shabbat Comes to You @ Remington Heights 4 p.m. Shabbat Service 7:30 p.m.	23 Bagels & Sacred Books 9:30-10:15 a.m. Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m. <i>1st Seder</i>
24 No Religious School <i>Passover Service 10:30 a.m.</i> <i>Congregational Seder 6 p.m.</i>	25	26 Family School & Keep Up 6:15-8 p.m. AA, Alanon & Gambler's 12-step 7:30 p.m.	27 Religious School & Dinner Grades 7-12 6-8:30 p.m.	28 Adult Study With the Clergy 10-11:30 a.m. Religious School Grades 3-6 4-6 p.m. Kol Rina 6:30-8 p.m.	29 Torah Tots 10-11:30 a.m. Shabbat Service 6 p.m.	30 <i>Moments of Remembrance 9:45 a.m.</i> <i>Passover Service & Yizkor 10:30 a.m.</i>

Passover Recipes

Famous Passover Brownies

These are really good, a little more like fudge than brownies. Their presentation isn't the most beautiful but their taste makes up for it. They can be served at room temperature or right out of the refrigerator.

Ingredients:

1 cup oil
4 eggs
2 cups sugar
1/2 cup potato starch
1 teaspoon vanilla sugar
1 cup cocoa
1 bag (2 cups) chocolate chips

Directions:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease a 9 inch x 9 inch baking pan. Combine all ingredients and pour into prepared pan. Bake for 30 minutes.

Makes 16 brownies. Recipe can be doubled. It's so easy, your children can make this one. Can also vary recipe by adding marshmallow cream.

Morrocan Charoset Balls

Ingredients:

2 cups pitted dates
1/2 cup golden raisins
1/2 cup dark raisins
1/2 cup walnuts
Sweet red Passover wine,
(up to 2 tablespoons)

Directions:

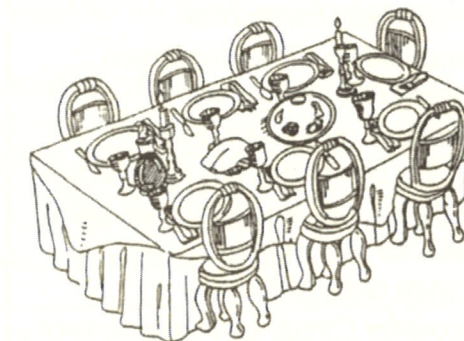
Process the dates, raisins and walnuts in a food processor until the mixture is finely chopped and begins to stick together. Add enough wine to make a sticky mass. Line a baking sheet with waxed paper. Drop slightly rounded measuring teaspoonfuls of the mixture onto a lined sheet. Roll each mound with moistened palms into hazelnut-size balls. Refrigerate for at least 3 hours or until firm.

Yield: about 60 pieces

Do You Want To Share the Seder?

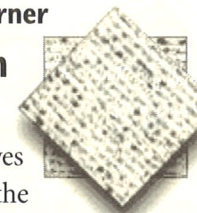
The first Seder will be celebrated
Saturday, April 23.

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 Rabbi Craig Marantz, 556-6536, and we will find a host family for you.



Children's Craft Corner

Make Your Own Matzah Cover



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

Materials:

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

Instructions:

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

Temple Israel Red Cross Blood Drive

Did You Know?

- One single donation of blood can save as many as three lives.
- Blood cannot be stockpiled so there's a constant need for fresh donations.
- Every two seconds a patient suffering from cancer, involved in an accident, receiving an organ transplant, or with a chronic disease, needs blood.
- Only five percent of Americans give blood.
- Giving blood is completely safe.
- You must be in good health, at least 17 years old, weigh at least 110 pounds, know all medications you're taking, and allow about one hour and 15 minutes to donate.

Temple members Harry Alloy, Judy Vann and Bonnie Pfrenger have volunteered to chair Temple's Blood Drive. Please call Temple at 556-6536 to make an appointment to donate. If you have any questions about your eligibility as a donor, call 341-2723 and ask for a donor health consultant at extension 2196.

The following amendment to the Temple Israel Bylaws will be voted upon at the 2005 Annual Congregational Meeting:

Article XV

Enactment and Amendment

Section 15.03—Eight (8) percent of the member units in good standing shall constitute a quorum at all meetings of the Congregation.

Purpose:

The current bylaw defines a quorum as 35 member units which was ten (10) percent of the congregation's membership when the bylaw was adopted. The proposed change to a percentage of member units allows for fluctuations in membership without the need to amend the bylaws every year.

Summer...Camp...Friends...Fun!

A record number of Temple youth have signed up for Jewish camps this summer. Hurry up and join them before it's too late!

Jaclyn Adelson
Yaniv Azriel
Aaron Bleicher
Hannah Budwig
Susan Freeman
Chloé Ginsburg
Dustin Ginsburg
Hamutal Ginsburg
(counselor in training)
Nimrod Ginsburg
Hannah Grossman

Noah Grossman
Molly Helm
Zach Helm
Jordan Jensen
Maddie Jensen
Amy Levinger

Jessica Levinger
Rachel Martin
Leah Miller
Sam Monsky
Justin Norton
Benjamin Ozeroff
Charles Parsow
Arielle Pilley
Ari Rauhauser
Rachel Scheet
Alexis Slutzky
Zach Spooner
Micah Stiel
Lindsey Thomas
Katelin Zetzman



Beber Camp—all sessions open
www.bebercamp.com

Camp Sabra—all sessions open
www.campsabra.com

Herzl Camp—1st session only
www.herzlcamp.org/index.shtml

OSRUI—most sessions closed, please check for availability
www.osrui.org/

Shwayder Camp—all sessions open
www.shwayder.com

Herzl Camp also offers Family Camp August 4-7 so the whole family can experience summer camp together! Check out the website above for more information!



Confidential scholarships are available. Contact Executive Director Dennis DePorte, 556-6536 or ddeporte@templeisraelomaha.com.

Sitter Service Is Available

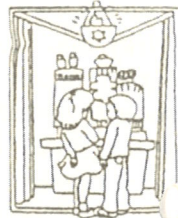
- ✓ Every Friday evening
- ✓ Every Saturday morning when there is a bar or bat mitzvah
- ✓ Every Sunday morning during Religious School
- ✓ Reservations and a \$2 donation are appreciated.

Don't "Pass Over" This Tot Shabbat

Friday, April 1, 6 p.m.

Soon it will be time to remove every trace of bread from the house and clean it from floor to ceiling. Children will be learning the Four Questions and imagining their first taste of matzah. Some people will invite guests to seders in their homes, and others will be invited to seders away from home. But every family who has children, ages five and younger, is invited to enjoy Tot Shabbat with Rabbi Craig Marantz and a special Passover guest.

Call the Temple office, 556-6536, to RSVP for the child-friendly dinner following the service. Adults, \$5 each; children eat for free.



A Workshop for Parents
with Children of All Ages

"Sex Education 101: A New Focus on Teen Sexuality" Wednesday, April 13 6:30-8 p.m.

Author and lecturer Howard Schiffer will lead parents through the minefield of the "birds, bees and beyond" talk with their children. Sharing insights from his book *Sex Education 101: A New Focus on Teen Sexuality*, Mr. Schiffer will help strategize everything from the timing of "the talk" to the setting, how much personal history parents should reveal, establishing boundaries and the breadth of issues that should be covered. Rabbi Azriel will join the discussion at the conclusion of the workshop, adding the Jewish perspective to the topic.

The subject of teen sexuality goes far beyond learning the physical differences between boys and girls, and where babies come from. It involves helping children grapple with physiological and emotional awareness, sifting through confusing messages about sex, and peer pressure to conform. Mr. Schiffer will help parents move past their nervousness and give them the tools to open up the subject at home.

This workshop, funded by the Lazier L. Singer Memorial Fund, is open to the community at no charge. Free Sitter Service is available with advance reservations through the Temple office, 556-6536.

What's Happening in Religious School

Joan Cooper, Elementary School Coordinator

Spring Break Sunday, March 27 – Thursday, April 7
All grades will return to school on Sunday, April 10. Family School resumes on Tuesday, April 12. Have a safe and restful vacation.

New Torah Tots Session Friday, April 8
Tereza Wigodsky provides a variety of activities with Jewish topics for parents and toddlers age 18-48 months to explore together (10-11:30 a.m.). Call 556-6536 for additional information.

Family Worship Assembly Sunday, April 10
Parents, please remember that the assembly is a wonderful time for our children to come together as a community and feel comfortable praying in the Sanctuary. Everyone is encouraged to join Religious School for our family worship assemblies! (10-10:30a.m.)

Grade Four Service and Public School Teacher Shabbat Friday, April 15
A special Shabbat honoring our teachers at Temple Israel and in the Public Schools is this month! The fourth graders will lead the evening service which begins promptly at 6 p.m. Families may invite their public school teachers and principals to the service and/or the dinner that follows. All RSVP's **MUST** be returned by April 1. Seating is limited—late reservations will not be accepted.

RSSC Meeting Sunday, April 17
Calling all volunteers! We are already planning for next year and we need your help for very specific, short term tasks. Please call Maria Neesman (496-9143) or Katherine Finnegan (398-0075) if you're ready to be a part of this active Religious School Steering Committee. Our meetings begin at 8:45 a.m. and conclude by 10 a.m.

Grade 2 Parent Meeting Sunday, April 17
At 10 a.m., second grade parents will meet with Rabbi Azriel and Joan Cooper to discuss ways to help their children succeed in third grade, which marks the beginning of mid-week attendance at Religious School.

No Religious School Sunday, April 24
There will be no classes on Sunday so families may observe the second day of Passover together. Please see page 6 for details about the Congregational Seder.

Grade 6 Project Presentations Sunday April 10 & 17, May 1 & 8
To highlight a year of history studies and research, sixth graders will make presentations of their individual research projects for their families. Each student presentation will include a speech and a visual or audio display about a Jewish hero.

The 4Bs: Behaving, Belonging, Believing and Bagels

Sunday, April 10, 10:30 a.m.

Part II: Christianity Through Jewish Eyes

February's Four Bs, with Rabbi Craig Marantz, was merely a taste of how Judaism understands Christianity. Many questions remain: How does the messiah in Judaism differ from Christian understandings? How do Jews make sense of the Christian concept that God sacrificed his son for the sins of mankind? How do Jews refute anti-Jewish teachings in the book of Paul? Bring your own questions and join us as the conversation continues in the **library** immediately following Prayer Assembly. As always, bagels are on the house.



Congratulations

On the Birth of:

Elijah Charles Hoberman Becker, son of Robin and Brandon Becker, Chicago, IL. Grandparents are Cooke and Jerry Hoberman, Eileen Becker and the late Norbert Becker, Chicago, IL. Great-grandparents are Elizabeth and Louis Ragoven, Chicago, IL, Leah and Benjamin Becker, Chicago, IL, and the late Ann Epstein.

Noah Cohen Blair, son of Gabriella and Jason Blair. Grandparents are Judy Cohen, Edmond Cohen, Susan Larkin, and the late Joe Blair. Great-grandparents are Mary Larkin and the late Eugene Larkin, Margaret Larson and the late Gordon Larson, Rachel and Eligha Cohen, Israel, and the late Dennis Blair.

Alex Michael Friedland, son of Jamie and Ted Friedland. Grandparents are Terri and Dick Zacharia, and Nancy and David Friedland. Great-grandmother is Trickle Milder.

Joshua Matthias Koch, son of Debra Somberg and Johannes Koch, Seattle, WA. Grandparents are Suzanne Richards Singer, Susie and Ray Somberg, and Maria-Luise and Gerhard Koch, Hamburg, Germany.

Ainsley June Meyerson, daughter of Jamie and Troy Meyerson. Grandparents are Penny and Randy Endelman, and Ardeen (DeeDee) and Larry Meyerson. Great-grandparents are Peggy and Chris Krasne, Lois and Bob Endelman, Sonia Forbes, and Leo Meyerson.

Please—

Remember to turn off your pagers and cellular phones before entering the Sanctuary or Chapel.



A Lesson in Time

350 Years of Jews in America 1943-1955

Four hundred Orthodox rabbis marched on Washington, D.C. in 1943, seeking immediate rescue efforts to save Europe's Jews. President Franklin Roosevelt declined to meet with the rabbis whose march was the only one of its kind on behalf of European Jews. Secretary of the Treasury Henry Morgenthau Jr. also tried to influence Roosevelt to admit European Jewish refugees to the U.S. A bill in Congress to allow refugees who "would not endanger public safety" to come to the U.S. temporarily was opposed by the Roosevelt administration. However, in 1944, at the urging of Morgenthau, Roosevelt established a "free port" in Oswego, NY, for 1,000 refugees.

The World Jewish Congress' request to bomb Auschwitz and German rail lines was denied by the U.S. government. But at the Democratic National Convention, Roosevelt promised to support the creation of a Jewish state if he was re-elected.

Calling for "a day school in every community," Shraga Feivel Mendlowitz founded Torah Umesorah, the National Society for Hebrew Day Schools in 1944.

Jews were among the nuclear scientists who perfected the atom, hydrogen and neutron bombs unleashed on Japan in 1945, bringing about the end of World War II.

Under President Harry Truman, hundreds of thousands of displaced persons, many of them Jews, were admitted to the U.S.

In 1945, Bess Myerson was the first Jewish woman to win the Miss America Pageant. The following year, Rabbi Joshua Loth Liebman's *Peace of Mind* topped the bestseller list. Never before had so many Americans of di-

verse faiths turned to a contemporary rabbi to help in meeting spiritual and psychological needs.

On November 29, 1947, the United Nations General Assembly voted to divide Palestine into two sovereign states, one Jewish and one Arab.

Also in 1947, the American Jewish Archives was established on the campus of Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati. In 1948, Brandeis University was established as America's first Jewish-sponsored non-sectarian university. Providing a haven for refugee scholars, Brandeis admitted students on the basis of merit without quotas or regard to religion or race.

Declaring its independence on May 14, 1948, the state of Israel was recognized by the United States and became increasingly central to American Jewish identity.

Synagogues were multiplying at a rapid pace in 1948, responding to the Jewish exodus to the suburbs in America.

Breaking with Orthodoxy in 1950, the Conservative movement permitted Jews to use electricity and drive to synagogue on Shabbat, thereby providing rabbinic sanction for lifestyle changes adopted by most suburban Jews. Hebrew Union College and the Jewish Institute of Religion merged, and the Reform Union of American Hebrew Congregations relocated from Cincinnati to New York in 1951.

Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneersohn succeeded his father-in-law, in 1951, as rebbe of the Lubavitch Hassidim.

Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, convicted of delivering atomic secrets to the Soviet Union, were executed in 1953, contributing to a climate of fear in Jewish circles.

The following year, the 300th an-

niversary of Jewish settlement in the United States helped create an atmosphere of communal optimism which reinforced consciousness and pride. President Dwight Eisenhower sent a community letter of congratulations stating, "You will be marking an anniversary of single importance not only to American citizens of the Jewish faith but in truth to all Americans, Jews and Christians alike. The Jews of America, generation upon generation, have brought to the task of building this great Nation in freedom, a special gift."

Stern College for Women, the first liberal arts women's college under Jewish auspices, opened in 1954. In the meantime, American Jewish organizations were active in support of overturning segregation in public schools.

One of American Jewry's most powerful organizations, the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, was formed in 1955 to present a unified voice addressing the U.S. government on matters related to Israel.

Also in the 1950s, Selman Abraham Waksman was awarded the Nobel Prize in physiology for discovering the first antibiotic against tuberculosis, and Jonas Salk developed the polio vaccine.

Will Herberg's best selling *Protestant-Catholic-Jew*, published in 1955, gave Jews a feeling of insider status in American religion and introduced the concept of a religious "triple melting pot."

That year, the Conservative movement's Rabbinical Assembly Committee on Jewish Law and Standards accepted, as a legitimate minority view, calling women to the Torah on a regular basis.

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

MEMORY OF: Helen Wessel Cherniack, Jay Arthur Cherniack: Liz Cherniack Stiffel; **Audrey Cohen:** Diane and Howard Shandell, Usha, Dan and Max Sherman, Margie and Marlon Somberg; **Phillip Eisenstatt:** Anne and Bruce Shackman; **Ida Fedman:** Paulette Flatowicz, Doris Parker, Noni and Hal Selner, Sheila and Ray Tomps; **Alan Fleishman:** Mrs. Alan Fleishman; **Barbara Frankel:** Fritz Luefschuetz; **Morris Gitlin:** Ann R. Cohen; **Frieda Kaplan:** Doris Parker; **Betty Lefstein Lerner:** Marilyn and Justin Manvitz; **Joan Lieber:** Kathy, Allen and Rachel Horwitz, Harriett and Sherm Sperling; **Ben Miller:** Judy and Keith Josephson, Terri and Dick Zacharia; **Betty Scheindlin:** Noni and Hal Selner and Trudy, Beth and Lilly; **Ellie Slosburg:** Harriett and Sherm Sperling; **Lois Stern:** Phyllis and Harvey Aronson, Fran and Louie Blumkin, Barbara and Eddie Gorelick, Barbara and Gary Goldstein, Nancy and Don Greenberg, Sheryn and Arnold Joffe, Connie and Bob Kully, Barbara and Marshall Kushner, Fritz Luefschuetz and family, Phyllis and Bob Newman, Margo Parsow, Sandy, Jeff, Joel and Aaron Passer, Dodi and Steve Redler, Toni Rosen, Noni and Hal Selner, Anne and Bruce Shackman, Terri and Dick Zacharia; **Sarah Taub:** Harriet Singer

IN HONOR OF RECOVERY OF: Gloria Goodman: Joan and Milton Marcus; **Linda Gordman:** Barbara and Marshall Kushner; **Morris Handleman:** Fran and Norman Plotkin; **Kevee Kirshenbaum:** Gary Gerelick; **Shirley Kulakofsky:** Judy and Keith Josephson; **Bob Newman:** Molline and Fritz Cassman, Toby Fellman, Gary Gerelick, Debbi and Larry Josephson, Fran and Jerry Milder; **Bill Rosen:** Debbi and Larry Josephson;

Tootie Simon: Joan and Milton Marcus, Doris Parker, Noni and Hal Selner

IN HONOR OF BIRTHDAY OF: Dr. Alfred Brody: Toby Fellman; **Henry Davis:** George Eisenberg; **Mrs. Louis Epstein:** Nancy and Gary Epstein; **Wendy Goldberg, Michael Miller:** Danielle and Jeff Gordman and family; **David Goldstein:** Sheryn and Arnold Joffe; **Debby Greene:** Pearl and Jerry Gross; **Maurie Meiches:** Joan and Milton Marcus; **Denise Meyers:** Lisa and Gary Epstein, Judy and Keith Josephson, Sharon Sobel and Jeff Schweid; **Jon Meyers, Margot Roesberg:** Sharon Sobel and Jeff Schweid; **Mrs. Ernest A. Nogg:** Terri and Dick Zacharia; **Sharon Sobel:** Jeff Schweid; **Judy Zweiback:** Debbie and Speedy Zweiback

IN HONOR OF ANNIVERSARY OF: Jan and Steve Fischer: Audrey, Morrie and Dave Shapiro

IN HONOR OF ENGAGEMENT OF: Estee Fleming and Ted Fellman: Danielle and Jeff Gordman and family

IN HONOR OF CHOOSING JUDAISM: David Rice: Ruth and James Keene

IN HONOR OF NEW HOME: Jane Brooks: Noni and Hal Selner; **Mollie and Sam Kohn:** Joan and Milton Marcus

IN APPRECIATION OF: Cherie Lerner: Joan and Milton Marcus

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: Ida Fedman: Lois and Mel Epstein; **Lillian Kurz:** Marilyn and Marty Warren

IN HONOR OF BIRTHDAY OF: Hilde Gottlieb: Lois and Mel Epstein, Nancy and Gary Epstein, Lois and Lloyd Friedman, Sandy and Alan Nogg, Marilyn and Marty Warren

IN HONOR OF B'NAI MITZVAH OF: Molly Goldberg, Scott Goldberg: Marilyn and Marty Warren

IN HONOR OF BIRTH OF: Elijah Charles Becker: Lois and Mel Epstein

Our Sympathy

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

Marsha Coren, cousin of Mickey Coren and Mel Epstein;

Phillip Eisenstatt, brother of Leo Eisenstatt;

Arthur Holzman, nephew of Kate Ferer and cousin of Arlene Moskovitz;

Evelyn F. Kenkel, wife of Raymond Kenkel, mother of Thomas Kenkel, Linda Garrett and Mary Pfantz, and sister of Magdalene Talley, Clara Inman, Irene Tank and Mary Ryterske;

Gerta Slutzky, aunt of Debbie Chasen and Jeff Slutzky;

Lois Stern, wife of Don Stern and mother of Susan Kohll and Adam Stern, and sister of Gail Veitzer;

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