

TEMPLE ISRAEL CALENDER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		DECEMBER 1	2	3	4	5
		Family School 6:15-8:15 p.m. AA, Alanon & Gamblers 12-Step 7:30 p.m.	Midrashah 10 a.m. Religious School Grades 7/8 4-6 p.m. High School & Dinner Grades 9-12 6-8:30 p.m. Sisterhood Board Meeting 7 p.m.	Torah Tots 9:30-11:30 a.m. Parent/Toddler Class 10-11:15 a.m. Sisterhood Adult Education 10-11:30 a.m. Religious School Grades 3-6 4-6 p.m. Beginning Beyond Midrash 6:50-7:40 p.m. Beyond Midrash 7:50-8:45 p.m. Kol Rina Choir 7-9 p.m.	Torah Tots 9:30-11:30 a.m. Tot Shabbat 7 p.m. Shabbat Service 8 p.m.	Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m. B'nai Mitzvah of Ryan Blumkin & David Smoler
6 Pancake Breakfast 9-11 a.m. Religious School Pre-Kindergarten II-Grade 6 10-Noon Outreach Program 10 a.m. Sisterhood Chanukah Crafts 11 a.m. Family Worship Assembly 11:30 a.m. Temple Tones 12-12:45 p.m.	7	8 Family School 6:15-8:15 p.m. AA, Alanon & Gamblers 12-Step 7:30 p.m.	9 Religious School Grade 7 4-6 p.m. Grade 8 6-8 p.m. JYG Dinner 6:30 p.m. High School Grades 9-11 6:30-8:30 p.m.	10 Torah Tots 9:30-11:30 a.m. Parent/Toddler Class 10-11:15 a.m. Sisterhood Adult Education 10-11:30 a.m. Religious School Grades 3-6 4-6 p.m. Sisterhood Chanukah Baking 4-6 p.m. Beginning Beyond Midrash 6:50-7:40 p.m. Beyond Midrash 7:50-8:45 p.m. Kol Rina Choir 7-9 p.m.	11 Torah Tots 9:30-11:30 a.m. Yoga Class 9:30 a.m. Early Worship Service 5:30 p.m. Shabbat Service 8 p.m.	12 Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m. Bar Mitzvah of Nicholas Newman
13 Morning Prayer Service 9:15 a.m. Religious School Pre-Kindergarten I-Grade 6 10-Noon Men's Club Brunch 9:45 a.m. Dr. Richard Freund Lecture 10 a.m. Grade 4 @ Blumkin Home 10:30 a.m. OTYG Pizza Sale 12 Noon Light 1st Candle	14 Light 2nd Candle	15 Food for Thought 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Family School 6:15-8:15 p.m. Board of Trustees Meeting 7:30 p.m. AA, Alanon & Gamblers 12-Step 7:30 p.m. Light 3rd Candle	16 Midrashah 10 a.m. TIGGS 12 Noon Religious School Grade 8 4-6 p.m. Grade 7 6-8 p.m. OTYG Dinner 6-6:30 p.m. High School Grades 9-12 6:30-8:30 p.m. Light 4th Candle	17 Torah Tots 9:30-11:30 a.m. Parent/Toddler Class 10-11:15 a.m. Sisterhood Adult Education 10-11:30 a.m. Religious School Grades 3-6 4-6 p.m. Beginning Beyond Midrash 6:50-7:40 p.m. Beyond Midrash 7:50-8:45 p.m. Kol Rina Choir 7-9 p.m. Light 5th Candle	18 Torah Tots 9:30-11:30 a.m. Shabbat Comes to You @ Remington Heights 3:45 p.m. Chanukah Family Dinner 6 p.m. Chanukah Family Service 7:30 p.m. Light 6th Candle	19 Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m. Bar Mitzvah of Steven Patton Light 7th Candle
20 No Religious School Light 8th Candle	21	22 No Family School AA, Alanon & Gamblers 12-Step 7:30 p.m.	23 No Religious School	24 No Religious School	25 Shabbat Service 5:30 p.m.	26 Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m.
27 No Religious School	28	29 No Religious School AA, Alanon & Gamblers 12-Step 7:30 p.m.	30 No Religious School	31 No Religious School	JANUARY 1 Shabbat Service 5:30 p.m.	2 Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m. B'not Mitzvah of Sara Rips & Margaret Terry



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WORSHIP SERVICES

Friday, December 4
7 p.m.
Tot Shabbat
Oneg Shabbat sponsored by
Lisa, Todd and Blake Ephraim in
honor of the 5th birthday of Alex Ephraim
8 p.m.
Sermon
Rabbi Azriel
Oneg Shabbat sponsored by
Frances and Louis Blumkin and
Barbara and Howard Krantz in honor of the
B'nai Mitzvah of their grandsons
Saturday, December 5
10:30 a.m.
B'nai Mitzvah of
**Ryan Nathan Blumkin and
David Elliott Smoler**
sons of Susan and Irvin Blumkin and
Susie and Stewart Smoler
Simcha B'Shabbat
(Text Study and Service in the Chapel)
Torah Portion: Vayishlach
Genesis 32:4-36:43

Friday, December 11
5:30 p.m.
Early Worship Service
Union Prayer Book
8 p.m.
Guest Speaker
Sara S. Lee
Director of the
Rhea Hirsch School of Education
"Priests, Prophets and the
Jewish Future"
Oneg Shabbat sponsored by
Sarah Meyer and Peggy and David DeLand
in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of
Nicholas Cary Newman
(continued on page 2)

Temple Israel
TIDINGS
Founded 1871

As I See It....

Thanksgiving and Chanukah have no connection! Or, do they?
This year the two holidays fall only a few weeks apart. Both are national holidays. They lift up a way of life which Americans and Jews have defended, nurtured, cherished and yearly celebrate.
Each expresses gratitude for Divine providence. We live in a bountiful land. America, from sea to shining sea, is resplendent with natural resources. But American ingenuity and imagination were the engine for our national greatness. And, for these we thank God.
Through Divine providence, the Maccabees were miraculously victorious when they defended their Jewish faith against the imposition of pagan symbols and practices. We continue to reap an enriching bounty from Judaism's spiritual and moral landscape because of the Maccabees' courage in those days. Like those heroes of old we, too, battle against invidious forces that would destroy the stability and moral quality of Jewish life today. For the strength to resist destructive forces we thank God.
Children love Thanksgiving and Chanukah. The turkey and the autumn season with its harvest have an aura that is exciting and inspiring. So, too, is the menorah, latkes, the candles glowing in the home, and the exchange of gifts. Gift giving, beyond everything else, is a child's favorite experience. But like anything else, gift giving can empty or enrich the perception of life's values. In a sharing spirit, gift giving is rescued from excessive materialism.
A Thanksgiving holiday is unmentioned in the basic documents that define American values. Yet, without gratitude,

America is spiritually impoverished. This day beckons us to pause and, with grateful hearts to see beyond the scarring wounds that mar our society. There is another vision born of the healing that comes from a summons to build an equitable, caring nation.
The books of Maccabees were excluded from the Jewish biblical canon. Nevertheless, Chanukah's theme about our ancestors' remarkable efforts to preserve our heritage arouses us to the role we must play today.
Anti-Semitism or Anti-Judaism are not the dangerous issues that characterized Jewish American life four and five decades ago. While these pernicious diseases will probably never disappear, our destiny hinges now more on Jewish education than on Jewish defense. Not weapons, but wisdom is the armor worn by today's defenders of the faith.
Thanksgiving and Chanukah require more than eating turkey or latkes. Something inside, the special part within us that makes our lives joyous and uplifting, evaporates when our celebrations are self-indulgent feasts. To eat a good turkey, to relish a delicious latke, is perfectly okay. But to feed the hungry is a compelling "mitzvah" that connects Thanksgiving and Chanukah to their Biblical roots.
Whatever our children's ages, they must experience a desire to share God's bounty. Thanksgiving and Chanukah capture universal themes. They inspire an inreach to our humanity by an outreach to humankind. As days of sharing, they confront us with the question: "Have you done your sharing yet?"
To each and everyone, then, with joyous salutations, Chag Sameach!

Angel Azriel

MAZEL TOV TO DEBBIE, STEVE AND MICAH ON THEIR
SON AND BROTHER, JONAH PHILIP STIEL

Saturday, December 12
10:30 a.m.

Bar Mitzvah of
Nicholas Cary Newman
son of Sharee and Murray Newman

Simcha B'Shabbat
(Text Study and Service in the Chapel)

Torah Portion: Vayeshev
Genesis 37:1-40:23

Friday, December 18
7:30 p.m.

Family Chanukah Service
"Temple Tones"

Oneg Shabbat sponsored by
the Temple Sisterhood

Saturday, December 19
10:30 a.m.

Bar Mitzvah of
Steven Lawrence Patton
son of Linda and Joel Patton

Simcha B'Shabbat
(Text Study and Service in the Chapel)

Torah Portion: Miketz
Genesis 41:1-44:17

Friday, December 25
5:30 p.m.

D'var Torah
Rabbi Azriel

Saturday, December 26
10:30 a.m.

Torah Portion: Vayigash
Genesis 44:18-47:27

Aryeh Azriel Rabbi
Debbie S. Stiel Rabbi
Sidney H. Brooks . . . Rabbi Emeritus
Jennifer G. Blum Cantor
Ann Kibel Schwartz .Dir. of Education
Dorothy Spizman .Executive Director
Elyce Azriel High School Director
Stephanie and

Bany Grossman . . Youth Advisors
Dr. Larry Roffman President
Dr. Michael Walts. . . Vice President
Dennis DePorte Vice President
Paul Epstein Vice President
Sally Kaplan Secretary
Spencer Brookstein Treasurer
Jane Rips Past President
Diane Graul . . . Sisterhood President
Marc Delman . . Men's Club President
Jen Gates. OTYG President

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Alina and Adrian Nicoara
Jill Schrier

Additional Worship Times

FRIDAY, EREV SHABBAT
December 11 5:30 to 6:15 p.m.
Union Prayer Book Service

Come on your way home from work; meet family and friends. This service is especially planned so that, at its conclusion, you may be home early to enjoy a Shabbat meal and evening.

SUNDAY MORNING CHAPEL
PRAYER SERVICE
December 13

9:15 a.m.

This service gives members of the congregation an additional opportunity to pray and recite kaddish.

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 **Linda, Shane, Nicole, Travis and Marissa Cohn** who have recently chosen Judaism.

May they go from strength to strength!

GIFT TO TEMPLE

A gift of trees along the north fence of the Temple Israel Cemetery has been donated in memory of Robert V. Goldstein and in honor of his parents, Arthur and Ruth Goldstein.

A Note From The Cantor Cantor Jennifer G. Blum

"How Can I Show Respect for the Torah?"

Several weeks ago, a parent of one of our religious school children approached me with a question: "Cantor, I don't read Hebrew and I can't sing, but I want to show my respect for the Torah in some kind of concrete fashion. Is there something (besides being called up for an aliyah) that I can do to experience being close to the Torah?"

A good question and a timely one as well!

In many communities, after the Torah is taken out of the Aron Hakodesh, the Holy Ark, it is proudly marched throughout the congregation in a large procession before it is brought back to the bimah to be chanted or read. This ritualized circuit is known as a "Hakafah." As the Torah and its procession pass, a person may choose to touch the Torah with either the prayer book or tsitsit (fringes) of his/her talit (prayer shawl). Either may be kissed as a sign of love and respect for what the Torah contains.

Another way in which we display this *kavod* or honor, is to continue facing the Torah as the procession moves throughout the sanctuary.

As recently discussed and decided by the Board of Trustees, beginning shortly families celebrating Bar and Bat Mitzvah will have an opportunity to incorporate this wonderful ritual as part of their child's life-cycle event.

Part of Bar and Bat Mitzvah means learning to understand and to embrace the Torah and its teachings.

How powerful for our young adults to literally envelop the Torah in their arms before chanting from it for the first time!

Feel free to ask the rabbis or me for more details about this wonderfully moving new tradition for our Temple community.

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.

Important Tax Notice

In order to be included on the 199 tax information letter you receive from Temple, your payment must be received in the Temple office by **Monday, January 4, 1999.**

Outreach

December Dilemma

Sunday, December 6
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Sally Kaplan, MSW, and Rabbi Aryeh Azriel will co-facilitate this yearly program and discussion on how interfaith families can best handle issues arising with Chanukah and Christmas.

If you plan to stay until 1 p.m. and need extended sitter service (including pizza) for your children, please call Bonnie at Temple, 556-6536.

Rabbi Eric H. Yoffie To Speak at Temple

Rabbi Eric H. Yoffie, President of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (UAHC), will give the D'var Torah at the Shabbat Morning Service Saturday, January 2, 1999.

Since becoming president of the UAHC in June 1996, Rabbi Yoffie has made a return to Torah and the need for increased Jewish literacy his major messages. A staunch fighter for the rights of all Jews in Israel, he is also a leading spokesman in the struggle for recognition of the rights of Reform Jews in Israel.

Rabbi Yoffie, who also served as Executive Editor of Reform Judaism magazine, has written widely on Jewish ethics, the Religious Right, Jewish education and Israel.

Rabbi Yoffie will be in Omaha to attend the B'nai Mitzvah of Sara Rips and Margaret Terry.

**Temple
Is Now
On-Line!**

Add these e-mail addresses
to your directory:

Temple Israel	tisrael@uswest.net
Rabbi Azriel	aazriel@uswest.net
Rabbi Stiel	dstiel@uswest.net
Cantor Blum	jblum@uswest.net
Ann K. Schwartz	a_schwartz@uswest.net
Dorothy Spizman	dspizman@uswest.net

Food For Thought

Tuesday, December 15

11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Temple Israel

We will provide the drinks - bring a Brown Bag lunch.

Cantor Blum will lead a discussion on current issues and events.

Dr. Richard A. Freund Lecture Series

Sunday, December 13
10 a.m.

Rabbi Richard A. Freund, Issacson Professor of Judaic Studies and Director, Bethsaida Excavation Project, University of Nebraska at Omaha, will deliver the second of a five-lecture series. His topic December 13 will be "Do we Believe in Miracles?" The entire congregation is invited to attend.

UAHC Disaster Relief Fund Needs \$\$\$ for Central America

The five-day wrath of Hurricane Mitch has devastated Central America. The UAHC, along with other Jewish organizations, is collecting money for immediate delivery of medical supplies, food and shelter.

Checks are payable to UAHC Disaster Relief Fund (indicate "Central America") and mail to UAHC Disaster Relief, 633 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10017.

The Blumkin Home Needs You for Switch Day

Volunteers are needed for two or three-hour shifts to assist in Dietary, Laundry, Housekeeping, Activities, and Nursing Departments.

Hours of service are 2 p.m. to 9 p.m., December 24 and 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., December 25.

Talented groups or individuals who can provide entertainment are also needed.

Call Lois Wine, 370-4272, for information.



Sara Lee To Speak At Shabbat Worship

Friday, December 11
8 p.m.

Sara S. Lee is the Director of the Rhea Hirsch School of Education, Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, where she is also Professor of Education.

She has served on the National Commission on Jewish Identity and Continuity and has been elected as the future President of the Association of Professors and Researchers in Religious Education.

She and her colleague, Isa Aron, are meeting periodically with a task force studying adult Jewish learning at Temple.

A Mitzvah Day From Heaven



Save this Date

March 21, 1999

You won't be able to resist Mitzvah Day!

There will be so many mitzvot from which to choose.

If you can breathe, you can do a mitzvah!

Your co-chairmen, Susie Cohn, Sandy Epstein and Nancy Wolf, are planning an event you won't want to miss.

This will be a happening. Watch for more details in the January Tidings.

If you have any questions or comments, please call Susie Cohn, 697-1111.

Sisterhood



Pancake and Beef Sausage Day
Sunday, Dec. 6
9 a.m. to 11 a.m.
Adults, \$4.25
Children, \$3.50

And, after the breakfast, create wearable art. Bring clothing or other cloth items that you want to decorate for Chanukah.

We will provide decorations and assistance for you to create unique items for gifts or for yourself.

Yoga with Suzy
Friday, December 11
9:30 a.m.

Suzy Rubin will lead a relaxing and revitalizing Yoga session. What a great way to get into the spirit of Shabbat!

Men's Club
Join us for
Dr. Freund's
Lecture

Sunday, December 13, Men's Club will meet at 9:45 a.m. for a short get-together. They will then join the congregation for Dr. Richard Freund's lecture "Do we Believe in Miracles?" (see page 3.)

Chanukah Cookie Baking Session

Thursday, December 10
4 to 6 p.m.

We're baking for the Oneg Shabbat December 18.

So, after dropping off your children at Religious School, drop into the Temple kitchen for socializing and baking---no experience or having children in school necessary!

Please bring a favorite recipe, along with any special ingredients needed.

Also, bring appropriate cookie cutters.

Call Diane Gaul, 391-5631, with questions or suggestions.

Are you cleaning to make room for Chanukah gifts?

We need Books for Our Spring Book Sale

Bring them to Temple, or call Debbie Josephson, 758-2772, for pick-up.

Don't Forget Gift Certificates Are Great for Holiday Shopping

Call the Temple office, 556-6536, to order certificates from Bakers, Barnes & Noble, The Gap, Cut Foods, Spirit World and Younkers

Proceeds go to the Jewish Camp Scholarship fund.



NOW is the time to buy at Sisterhood's fabulous Gift Shop!

DREIDLES

Lucite, plastic, cloth, silver filigree, marble, papier mache, big ones, small ones, teeny ones

MENORAHS

Noah's Ark, train, brass, lucite, ceramic, wooden—all designs and styles

MEZUZOT

Wooden, lucite, brass, silver—modern, art deco, traditional—for children, lawyers, doctors

BOOKS

Children's, women's, holiday, cook-books, home prayer books

CHILDREN'S KEPOT

Leather, knit, embroidered, Sesame Street designs

Challah Covers	Matzo Covers
Havdalah Sets	Brit Milah Pillows
Needlepoint	Candies and
Canvases	Chanukah Gelt
Seder Plates	Kiddush Cups
Stuffed Animals	Shofars
Chanukah Candles	Videos, Cassettes
Haggadot	Candlesticks

The Omaha Symphony Chamber Orchestra will present "A Celebration of Light" Chanukah program at the J.C.C., Saturday, December 5 at 7 p.m.

Call J.C.C. Membership Services, 334-6426, for ticket information.

"These Lights are Holy" - Chanukah Begins December 13

How Do We Light the Chanukah Candles?

In a celebrated talmudic dispute, two great Jewish teachers, Hillel and Sham-mai, argued whether we should begin by lighting eight candles and gradually decrease to one (Shammai), or begin with one candle and add an additional one each night, thus continuously increasing the light and joy of the holiday (Hillel). The majority ruled with Hillel. Thus, on the first night of Chanukah, we recite or chant the blessings and light one candle with the shamash, two on the second night, and so on. Customarily, the candles are placed in the menorah from right to left but lit from left to right.

Any member or members of the family may chant or recite the blessings. One person lights and holds the shamash, the berachot are pronounced, and the candles are then lit. On Shabbat, the Chanukah candles are lit before the Shabbat candles.

During the eight days, the candles are kindled every night, anytime after sunset, when family members and guests are assembled.

On the first night, one light is lit, beginning on the far right of the menorah. On each succeeding night a light is added to the left of those on the preceding night, and the kindling proceeds from left to right.



In American homes, it just would not be Chanukah without potato latkes. For a nice change, try substituting grated zucchini for the potatoes.

5 potatoes
 1 large onion
 2 eggs
 1/4 c. flour
 salt and pepper to taste
 pinch of baking powder
 oil for frying

Grate potatoes and onion and drain well. Add eggs, flour, salt and pepper. Heat 1" of oil in a large frying pan. Drop the mixture by tablespoons into the hot oil and fry until golden, turning once.

These two blessings are recited each night:

Ba-ruch-a-tah A-doh-nai Eh-lo-hay-nu me-lech hah-oh-lahm ah-sheh kid shah-nu b'mitz-voh-tav v-tsee-vah-nu l-had leek nayr shel-Chan-nu-kah.

Blessed is the lord our God, Ruler of the universe, Who hallows us with His Mitzvot, and commands us to kindle the Chanukah lights.

Ba-ruch-a-tah A-doh-nai Eh-lo-hay-nu me-lech hah-oh-lahm she-ah-sah ni-seem lah-ah-vo-tay-nu-bah-yah-meem ha-haym baz-man hah-zeh

Blessed is the lord our God, Ruler of the universe, Who performed wondrous deeds for our ancestors in days of old, at this season.

The following blessing is added on the first night of Chanukah only:

Ba-ruch a-tah A-doh-nai Eh-lo-hay-nu me-lech hah-oh-lahm she-heh-che-yahnu v'kee-y'mah-nu v'hi-gee-yah-nu lah-z'mahn hah-zeh

Blessed is the Lord our God, Ruler of the universe, for giving us life, for sustaining us, and for enabling us to reach this season.



How did the Game of Dreidel Come to be Associated with Chanukah?

Dreidel is a derivative of a German word meaning "top" and the game is an adaptation of an old German gambling game. Chanukah was one of the few times of the year when the rabbis permitted games of chance. The dreidel, therefore, was a natural candidate for Chanukah entertainment.

The four sides of the top bear four Hebrew letters: nun, gimel, hei, and shin. Players begin by "anteing" a certain number of coins, nuts, or other objects. Each one in turn then spins the dreidel and proceeds as follows: (nun ("nichts") - take nothing; gimel ("ganz") - take everything; hei ("halb") - take half; shin ("shtell") - put in.

JOIN THE FUN AT TEMPLE'S FAMILY CHANUKAH DINNER AND SERVICE

Our festive annual Temple Family Chanukah Dinner and Worship will be **Friday, December 18, 6 p.m.** in the Social Hall.

Everyone is invited - children, parents, grandparents, aunts, cousins and friends! Please bring your own menorah, along with the candles to be lit for your table, and a can of food for the Food Bank.

A Shabbat/Chanukah family service, appropriate for all ages, will be held at 7:30, followed by an Oneg Shabbat.

Please send a check, along with the reservation blank, to the Temple office. **Deadline** is Friday, December 11. **No telephone** reservations will be accepted.

Adults - \$8.25 - Children Grade 6 and under - \$4.00
 Children 2 years and younger - no charge

Name _____

Amount Enclosed _____

Adult _____
 Children Grade 6 and under _____
 Children 2 years and younger _____
 We would like seating with _____

Brisket _____ Vegetarian _____

Synagogue 2000 provides impetus

Livingston Foundation Repairs Temple Chapel

Temple Israel's unique, exquisite chapel was dedicated March 25, 1966, a gift by Milton Livingston in memory of his wife Corinne.

Mr. Livingston served as president of Temple Israel from 1954 to 1956. But his devotion to and support of this congregation extended over many decades.

As Rabbi Sidney H. Brooks wrote for Temple's Centennial celebration in 1971, "...it was only after insistent persuasion that the donor agreed to allow his own name to be included so that his gift be known as the Milton and Corinne Livingston Chapel."

Because the chapel is the only place bearing this generous benefactor's name and because it held such special meaning for him, the Livingston Foundation Trustees were dismayed to learn, following a Synagogue 2000 committee tour of Temple, that there were major criticisms of the chapel's heating, air conditioning, lighting and sound systems.

"It was no longer the welcoming, spiritual space that Mr. Livingston had envisioned," wrote Suzanne Singer, a committee member.

She and her fellow Livingston Foundation Trustees, Bob Kully, Murray Newman, Stanley Slosburg and Jerry Hoberman, voted to fund the correction of the chapel's problems.

The Trustees are very appreciative of John Waldbaum's expertise and tireless work with the contractor. Mr. Waldbaum praised Ron Epstein, of McNeil Company Builders, who assisted him as job superintendent. The Trustees thank Ducky Milder who helped with carpet and fabric selections.

As Mrs. Singer wrote to the Synagogue 2000 committee, "When you are neither too hot nor too cold in the Chapel, when you can read the prayer book without squinting, when you notice no unpleasant odor, and when you see that people who have difficulty hearing are listening attentively, you can remember the walk through the synagogue and know that our Synagogue 2000 exercise had a real impact."

Rabbi Azriel Delivers OTOC Keynote Address Allison Latenser

Almost 1,000 people representing 38 member congregations attended the October 25 OTOC (Omaha Together One Community) annual Fall Assembly.

Rabbi Azriel and Temple Israel members Arlene Moskovitz and Gary Kaplan spoke during the rally.

OTOC got Bob Kerrey's commitment to continue his help with funding for before and after-school enrichment programs in Omaha schools. Each school involved will work to develop its own programs based on the needs of its students.

Bob Glaser, President of the Nebraska Soccer Association, agreed to help South Omaha teams get more practice time and to locate more soccer fields in South Omaha.

Gerry Hinauer, Director of the Omaha Immigration and Naturalization Office, promised to look into larger quarters and a more central location for Omaha's immigration office. The current office is located far from the population it serves and is inadequately sized, given the number of cases handled on a daily basis. The overflow crowd is forced to spill out of the building and brave the elements out in the parking lot. To remedy this situation, Mr. Hinauer agreed to put up a temporary structure until a larger and more centrally located office can be found. Senator Kerrey pledged to support funding for a new immigration building.



Senator Bob Kerrey, left, with Arlene Moskovitz who is on the OTOC Steering Committee and Gary Kaplan, co-chairman of the OTOC Youth and Education Committee.



Representing Temple Israel were, left to right: Eric Elkins, Evy Zysman, Jennifer Elkins, Yale and Litz Trustin, Milt Moskovitz, Kate Ferer, Josh Needelman, Angela Krieger and Lee Needelman. Not pictured: Dana Cohn, Manuel and Karen Delgadillo, Bette Evans, Elizabeth Kaplan, Allison Latenser and Lou Pachman, Gilda Pieck and Silvia and Larry Roffman.

What's Happening In Religious School

Family Worship Assembly **Sunday, December 6**
Parents are invited to join us for a family worship assembly from 11:30 a.m. to noon Sunday, December 6. A family worship assembly is held once a month throughout the school year. The services are designed to help our families worship together in a brief service which is especially designed for elementary school age students and their parents. Rabbi Aryeh Azriel, Rabbi Debbie Stiel and Cantor Jennifer Blum take turns leading these services.

Bible Quiz **December 6**
Jewish youth from Omaha will participate in the B'nai B'rith Bible Quiz. You are invited to attend at 2 p.m. at the JCC.

Parent/Teen Classes on Wednesdays **December 9 and 16**
A series of Parent/Teen classes for 7th and 8th grade families will be held Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 8 p.m. These classes for parents and youth will explore healthful, life affirming choices. The group will discuss peer pressure and how to make tough choices that are consistent with family and religious values. Emphasis will be placed on communications between parents and youth to affirm their willingness to support each other as they face the challenges of modern life. These classes are coordinated with professional staff from Planned Parenthood of Omaha. This series is made possible by a generous donation from an anonymous donor. For more information, call the Religious School office (556-6536).

Grade 4 visits Blumkin Home **Sunday, December 13**
Sunday, December 13, the Fourth Grade will meet at the Rose Blumkin Jewish Home at 10:30 a.m. Fourth graders will light the Chanukah Menorah and light up the afternoon of the residents. Prior to this trip, Lois Wine, volunteer coordinator of the Rose Blumkin Home, will visit the Temple to help the students learn about the elderly and the Jewish value of "Kibbud Zekaynim," honoring the aged.

Jewish Book Report Contest **Deadlines December 13 & 17**
The annual Elinor Whitman Jewish Book Report and Book Jacket Design Contest is sponsored by the Jewish Federation Library and Omaha's Jewish schools. It is open to children in grades K through 8. Application and instruction forms are available in the Temple Religious School office.

No Religious School during Winter Vacation **December 20 - January 3**
There will be no Religious School classes Sunday, December 2, through Sunday, January 3. We wish everyone a safe and enjoyable vacation. Classes and Keep-Up lessons resume Tuesday, January 5.

Sitter Service

Sitter Service is available each Friday evening, Saturday mornings when there is a Bar/Bat Mitzvah and Sunday mornings when there is Religious School. Sitter Service is also available Sunday mornings during Religious School hours. Please make a reservation through the Temple office so we may plan accordingly. Cost is \$2.00 per family if reservations are made prior to Friday. Drop-ins will be \$3 per family. Sorry, there are no facilities for infants.

Please note there will be no sitter service for the December 25th and January 1st, 5:30 Shabbat Evening Services.



Tot Shabbat Services

**Friday, December 4
and
Friday, January 8**

**7:00 p.m.
Livingston Chapel**

A short service of song and prayer, followed by cookies and juice. Toddlers through children in the primary grades are encouraged to bring their families.

Educational Perspectives

Ann Kibel Schwartz

The Wisdom of Our Children

One of my favorite duties as Director of Education is conducting "Chapel" with elementary aged children. Chapel time includes prayers, songs, stories and discussions. Our students ask wonderful questions and give such thoughtful answers that, often, I learn more than I teach.

Recently, we have been discussing a well-known series of questions from Pirke Avot, a book of commentaries in the Talmud: Who is wise? Who is wealthy? Who is strong? etc. Our students are responding with such wonderful answers that we have decided to compile our own Pirke book. However, instead of Pirke Avot which means "Sayings of our fathers," our commentaries will be titled, "Pirke Yeladim" which means "Sayings of our children."

Some of you may be wondering what the answers were to the series of questions that begins with "Who is wise?" According to the sage Ben Zoma, the one who is wise learns from everyone. According to one of our Third Graders, the wise person "really, really listens." Every one who wants to learn more questions and answers, is invited to attend the Third Grade Shabbat Service on Friday evening, January 22, 1999 at 6:45 p.m. The wisdom of our children will be interwoven with the prayers and songs of this service.

Birthday Blessings Family Service December 18 7:30 p.m.

Children who celebrate their birthdays during the month of December will be invited to the Bima for a special blessing at the Shabbat Evening Service.

TO ENSURE A FUTURE AS GREAT AS ITS PAST REMEMBER TEMPLE ISRAEL IN YOUR ESTATE PLANS

"I Wish I Knew What All These Funds Do"

Do you know how vital your donations to Temple Israel's funds are?

Dues alone cannot maintain the programs, maintenance and services provided to our growing membership.

Your contributions support and enable a wide variety of activities that educate and care for our diverse congregation.

The next several issues of the Tidings will each explain some of these funds so that you will be aware of the many ways you can help assure a healthy future for our synagogue.

Caring Committee Fund

The Caring Committee helps people in times of stress and extends friendship to those in isolation or facing life changes.

Services include Shabbat Comes to You (at Omaha's nursing and retirement residences), High Holy Day Services, phone hook-ups for shut-ins, Welcome Baskets for new members, preparation and delivery of meals to recently-hospitalized members and hosting seniors 80 years and over at the congregational Chanukah dinner.

Cemetery Improvement Fund

This provides for extra landscaping and enhancement of the Temple Israel Cemetery.

David Bleicher Camp Scholarship Fund

Established by Rachel Bleicher in memory of her husband, the fund is designated for Jewish camp scholarships to Temple Israel students.

This fund enables our students to experience Jewish camping, which has proved to be an outstanding way to instill Jewish values and a sense of identity and commitment.

Education Fund

This helps pay for extra programming not covered by Temple's operating budget, such as providing incentives to Temple teens who help in the Religious School for their attendance at Jewish camps/conclaves.

Samuel and Ida Kaiman Endowment Fund

Established by their son, Howard, this fund provides particularly for Jewish programming such as camps and Scholars-in-Residence and generally for choir-related purposes and Jewish education.



TREE OF LIFE

Commemorating the joyous moments in families' and friends' lives.

The following leaf has been added to our Tree of Life:

In honor of 80th birthday of Babe Nogg

By her loving husband, children and grandchildren

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:

Caring
Cemetery Improvement
David Bleicher Camp Scholarship Fund
Education
Endowment
Samuel and Ida Kaiman Endowment Fund
Landscape
Library
Music
Rabbi Azriel's Discretionary
Rabbi Stiel's Discretionary
Rabbi Brooks' Discretionary
Cantor Blum's Discretionary
Ann Kibel Schwartz' Discretionary
Dorothy Spizman's Discretionary
Outreach Fund
Charles and Jae Rosenstock Memorial
Milton and Rosalie Saylan Jewish Education Fund
Social Justice
Jennifer Soshnik Scholarship Fund
Brad Sperling Memorial Fund for education of young children
Temple Youth Group
Elinor Whitman Religious Education

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

Congratulations On the Birth of:

Asher Samuel Rosenquist, son of Julie and Thor Rosenquist. Grandparents are Dr. and Mrs. Larry Roffman and Mr. and Mrs. James Rosenquist. Great-grandparents are Dr. and Mrs. Arthur Greene and Mrs. Evelyn Ahlstrand.

Nathan Robert Gendler, son of Tamara Field and Lawrence Gendler. Grandparents are Shirley and Lee Field, Orange County CA and Beverly Gendler and Hymie Gendler.

On the Marriage of:

Mr. and Mrs. Yoav Gershoni. Mrs. Gershoni is the former Jodi Slusky. Parents are Harriet Fishel and Jerry Slusky and Mr. and Mrs. Amon Gershoni.

Our Sympathy

The congregation records with sorrow the death of:

Ida Bloch, mother of Al Bloch.

And extends sympathy to her bereaved family.

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.

Jewish Singles 15th Annual Nationwide Cruise

Call Temple, 556-6536, for information on this special cruise, February 21 to 22, 1999.

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

MEMORY OF: **Edward Belgrade:** Betsy Newman; **Robert Bernstein:** Kathleen Meyerson, Selma and Is Tretiak, Judi and David Goldstein, Joie Simon, Babe Cohn, Silvia and Larry Roffman; **Rose Blumkin:** Kathleen Meyerson; **Ida Bloch:** Frances and Sam Fried, Marcia and Jack Cohen, Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Hoberman, Silvia and Larry Roffman, Barbara and Marshall Kushner, The Boys at the Coffee Shop, Barbara and Dean Frankel, Dodi and Steve Redler, Janey and Jerry Dann, Lois and Rod Shkolnick; **Dr. Daniel Denenberg:** Roz Friedman, Tevee and Bernard Turkel, Joie Simon; **Marshall Denenberg:** Joie Simon; **Rochelle Drolson:** Babe Cohn, Barbara and Dean Frankel, Selma and Is Tretiak, Shirley and Herm Weinstein, Arlene Beber; **Harriett Cherniack:** Fran and Jerry Milder, Edith Epstein, Bettie Fisk, Roz Friedman, Fran and Louie Blumkin, Barbara and Dean Frankel, Barbara and Marshall Kushner, Dorothy Lipp, Shirley Kulakofsky, Mickey Sturm, **Martha Cohen Cherniss:** Leta Rae Cherniss; **Charles Fisher:** Betty Fisher; **Sadie Gitlin:** Ann R. Cohen; **Marshall Lewis:** Phyllis and Bob Newman; **Sarah Makovsky:** Ida and Sam Fedman; **Howard Milder:** Suzy Rubin, Barbara and Marshall Kushner, Terri and Dick Zacharia and family, Anne and Alan Simon; **Dr. Haskell Morris:** Selma and Is Tretiak, Roz Friedman, Rosagene and Susan Baron, Barbara and Eddie Gorelick; **Sidney Novak:** Harriett and Sherm Sperling; **Mary Kiser Rabiner:** Mickey Sturm; **Harry Siref:** Linda Siref Simons; **Max Zablocki:** Esther Taylon; **Ellan Rosen Thurmond:** Kathy, Allen and Rachel Horwitz, Barbara Frohman, Babe Cohn, Eileen and Leonard Jacobson, **Robert F. Wolf:** Hanne Wolf; **Judy Weiner:** Dodi and Steve Redler, Phyllis and Dick Glazer, Marcia and Jack Cohen, Judi and David Goldstein, Terri and Dick Zacharia, Barbara and Gary Goldstein; **Warren Zweiback:** Betsy Newman

IN HONOR OF RECOVERY OF: **Pauline Hoberman:** Judi and David Goldstein; **Rabbi Sidney H. Brooks:** Phyllis and Dick Glazer, Judi and David Goldstein; **Norman Denenberg:** Cook- and Jerry Hoberman; **Edith Epstein:** Barbara Frohman, Selma and Is Tretiak, Barbara and Dean Frankel, Helen and Leo Meyerson, Judi and David Goldstein,

Shirley and Herman Weinstein; **Ajon Farber:** Barbara and Marshall Kushner; **Henry Riekes:** Phyllis and Dick Glazer; **Ted Seldin:** Judy and Jim Farber; **Betty Rae Weiser:** Harriett and Sherm Sperling

IN HONOR OF BIRTHDAY OF: **Amy Ardell:** Pearl Herzog; **Cantor Jennifer Blum:** Andi, David, Amy and Allie Wilensky; **Sheldon Brodsky:** Judi and David Goldstein; **Janet Glass:** Gwen and Ray Pred; **Babe Nogg:** Helen Brodkey, Barbara and Dean Frankel; **Mimi Rogers:** Nancy, Phil, Hannah, Alex and Nathan Wolf; **Millard Rosenberg:** Rose Pitlor, Shirley Kulakofsky, Helen and Leo Meyerson, Arlene Fried, Helen and Morrie Lipp, Mrs. Ernest A. Nogg, Barbara Frohman, Jane and Harlan Rips, Chickie and Stewart Gilinsky, Bea Schimmel, Barbara and Dean Frankel, Dottie and Martin Berger, Litzie and Yale Trustin, Allen Morrow, Maxine and Milton Simons; **Dorothy Rosenblum:** Harriett and Sherm Sperling; **Les Schneiderman:** Helen and Leo Meyerson

IN HONOR OF ANNIVERSARY OF: **Mr. and Mrs. Mat Brodsky:** Esther and Bill Siref; **Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Cohn:** Shirley and Herman Weinstein, Nancy Hornstein and family; **Mr. and Mrs. Les Forman:** Harriett and Sherm Sperling; **Mr. and Mrs. Alan Nogg:** Mrs. Jarvis P. Freiden, Barbara and Dean Frankel; **Mr. and Mrs. Harlan Rips:** Gail and Steve Machov, Linda and Steve Luttbeg; **Dr. and Mrs. Larry Roffman:** Frances and Sam Fried, Dr. and Mrs. Arthur Greene; **Mr. and Mrs. Yale Trustin:** Suzy Rubin; **Mr. and Mrs. Ben Weiser:** Lylyan Merritt and family, Harriett and Sherm Sperling

IN HONOR OF BIRTH OF: **Granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Cohen:** Frances and Sam Fried; **Jacob Meyerson:** Jerry Slusky; **Granddaughter of Fefe Passer:** Frances and Sam Fried; **Grandchild of Barbara Rips:** Barbara and Marshall Kushner; **Grandson of Dr. and Mrs. Larry Roffman:** Frances and Sam Fried; **Granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Hal Selner:** Helen and Ben Rifkin; **Jonah Philip Stiel:** Litzie and Yale Trustin, Judy and Jerry Marburg, Judi and David Goldstein, Marcia and Jack Cohen

IN HONOR OF MARRIAGE OF: **Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Bahar:** Barbara and Gary Goldstein; **Mr. and Mrs. Barry Segell:** Barbara and Marshall Kushner; **Colleen Kennealy and Will Wallace:** The Graul family, The Schweid family

IN HONOR OF B'NAI MITZVAH OF: **Ryan Blumkin and Jay Searson:** Suzy Rubin; **Kyle Zacharia:** Jerry Slusky

IN HONOR OF INSTALLATION OF Cantor Jennifer Blum: The Schweid family, Phyllis and Dick Glazer, Eleanor and Bud Slosburg

APPOINTMENT AS CHANCELLOR OF UNMC Dr. Harold Maurer: Beverly and Millard Seldin, Nancy Hornstein, Barbara and Dean Frankel

IN HONOR OF: **Nikki Cohn:** Shirley and Herm Weinstein

BEING APPOINTED JUSTICE TO THE NEBRASKA SUPREME COURT Ms. Lindsey Miller-Lerman: Shirley, Herman and Robert Weinstein

AKSARBEN PRINCESS Jennifer Hoberman: Marcia and Jack Cohen, Barbara and Dean Frankel

IN APPRECIATION OF SERVICES OF: **Rabbi Aryeh Azriel, Rabbi Sidney H. Brooks, Rabbi Debbie Stiel, Cantor Jennifer Blum, Ann Kibel Schwartz, Dorothy Spizman**

SISTERHOOD TRIBUTE FUND

IN MEMORY OF: **Judy Weiner:** Lois and Mel Epstein, Marilyn and Marty Warren

IN HONOR OF RECOVERY OF: **Brad Epstein:** Marilyn and Marty Warren

IN HONOR OF BIRTH OF: **Jonah Philip Stiel:** Lois and Mel Epstein, Rikki and Alon Mor