



Temple Israel Tidings

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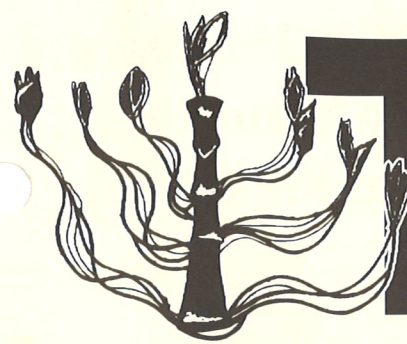
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Turning The Torah...

Barry Schwartz, a psychologist and author, was interested in the notion that the ability to make choices is central to our sense of freedom and happiness. The more choices, the more freedom...Right?

So, he decided to sell jams at a Farmers' Market. I'll ask you to bear with me here.

On one day, he went to a Farmers' Market and had three different types of jam available. Similar to Ted & Wally's, one could sample any number of jams before purchasing. Going even further, Schwartz didn't mind if you tried all three, only to decide not to buy anything! Many people tried samples. Some bought, and some didn't.

The next week, he opened his booth at a different Farmers' Market. This time, he offered ten different kinds of jam. Again, hordes of people took advantage of the free samples. Again, some bought, and some didn't.

After weeks of experimentation, he compiled the results: In EVERY case, he sold more jams when he only provided three options, as opposed to ten. Interestingly, when he sold ten kinds of jam, the "original three" flavors were included. We're not talking about profits here. We're talking simply about the number of items sold. When he offered less, people bought more. A conclusion: people make MORE choices when there is LESS to choose from. We are paralyzed by choice.

And Reform Judaism's catch phrase? Choice through knowledge.

As Reform Jews, we make religious choices. Choices about liturgy and theology. Choices regarding holiday celebrations, home rituals, temple activities. Choices about youth group membership, synagogue attendance. The list is as endless as our options.

We should have options. We should have to struggle with whether or not to keep *kosher*, just as we struggle about *Shabbat observance* and a host of other Jewish laws, customs and rituals. This is what makes us *Yisrael* – one who struggles with God.

My issue is this: We try and take others' choices and adopt them as our own. The most common example around the country has to do with *tikkun olam*. If you ask a Reform Jew what they love about their temple, most will say something about social justice and repairing the world. But at most Reform congregations across America (including ours), serious social justice work is done by a select few of the congregation. Most people talk about it, as if they've made that choice, but few actually make it a priority.

Our high school is another example. For the past three years I have felt that if a student has made a choice not to regularly come on Wednesday evenings, he/she should also make the choice not to be confirmed, as if they've made a different choice. It's not a punishment

– it's a cause and effect! I understand completely that some students are overwhelmed with school, sports, jobs (sometimes more than one!) and hopefully, a balanced social life.

We need to be honest about the choices we make. Just as choices can paralyze us from doing anything, I suggest that making too many choices can hinder us from doing things **meaningfully**. There's a Talmudic phrase: "You catch everything, you catch nothing."

Last week, I had a conversation with a congregant about some of this. This person has a teenage child, and together they made the decision that this child will not get confirmed, because this child has not made the choice to be here on Wednesday nights.

My point here is not that every teenager needs to attend Temple Israel high school (although that would be fantastic!) any more that every congregant needs to do every social justice opportunity that Temple offers. There are lots of options; they need to be prioritized. My point is that we need to be a bit more honest with ourselves about our priorities, and live with the consequences of those priorities (both for good and for bad).

Otherwise, we're just tasting ten different jams, and walking away with nothing.

Eric Linder

KNOW THYSELF; KNOW THY NEIGHBOR

Summer Shabbat Speakers Series

Join us on Fridays at 6 p.m. in the Livingston Chapel to hear our members' stories as Temple Israel hosts an array of speakers showcasing a slice of Jewish life in Omaha.

Speakers

June 19 - Rabbinic Intern Nicole Luna - How Rabbis Are Made - Reflections on My HUC-JIR Rabbinical Training

June 26 - Brent Bloom - Report from Blooms Organic

July 3 - Women of Reform Judaism Caring Committee, Lisa Epstein, Judy Josephson, Bonnie Pfrenger, and Sherrie Saag

July 10 - Debbie Finnicum - My Life of Social Justice and Community Service Followed by an outdoor BBQ on the Temple lawn. \$10 per family, \$5 for individual. Please RSVP to the Temple office, mkube@templeisraelomaha.com or 556-6536, by Wednesday, July 8.

July 17 - Rabbi Eric Linder - Reflections From my Trip to Israel

July 24 - Judge Larry Gendler - Jewish Influences in My Life From Childhood Through College Years

July 31 - Mark Javitch - My Life Since Returning to Live in Omaha Four Years Ago

August 7 - Cantor Wendy Shermet - Reflections From My Sabbatical Followed by an outdoor BBQ on the Temple lawn. \$10 per family, \$5 for individual. Please RSVP to the Temple office, mkube@templeisraelomaha.com or 556-6536, by Wednesday, August 5.

August 14 - Air Force Captain Jonathan Beha - Jewish Life in the Military

August 21 - Dr. Howard and Lee Needelman, Rita Paskowitz and Wendy and David Goldberg - Friendship Tour of Turkey

New Members We Want to Get to Know You!



If you have joined Temple Israel in the past year, please join the clergy for a meet and greet.

- **Wednesday, July 15, 5 p.m.** with Rabbi Eric Linder at Dundee Dell, 5007 Underwood Avenue
- **Sunday, August 2, 10 a.m.** with Cantor Wendy Shermet at Paradise Bakery, Village Pointe Shopping Center

Please RSVP by contacting the Maureen Kube, 556-6536 or mkube@templeisraelomaha.com.

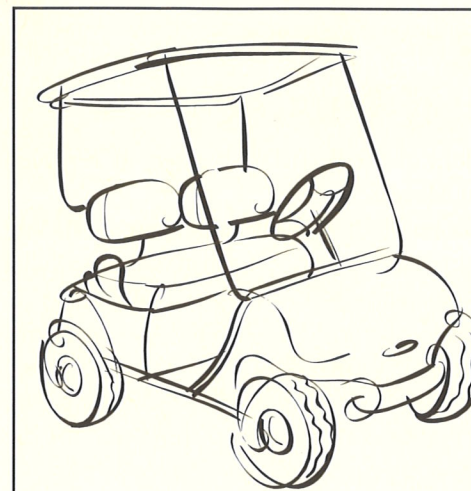
Purchase Price of Cemetery Plots Increased to Maintain Grounds

In order "to just keep up with the cost of maintaining our cemetery," Cemetery Chair Tom Friedman explained, the purchase of a cemetery plot and burial have been increased by the Temple Israel Board of Trustees. As of August 1, 2009, the price of plots is \$1,100, perpetual care is \$900, interment is \$900, and cremains interment is \$500.

Temple members can still purchase at the current rates until August 1 by calling the Temple office at 556-6536. Executive Director Dennis DePorte as well as Tom Friedman can, can assist in selecting a plot or plots.

"It's a good thing for people to plan ahead," mentioned Tom. "It relieves a lot of stress on your survivors and leaves them to think about the funeral service."

Those who would like to help maintain the cemetery are welcome to contribute to the Cemetery Improvement Fund. "Contributions are always appreciated," said Tom.



Save the Date! Temple Israel Annual Golf Outing Contests, Prizes, Lunch Monday, August 24 At Ironwood Country Club

Chaired by Dan Marburg
and Jeff Smedlund

Registration information will
be mailed later this summer.

Cantor Wendy Shermet to Visit Italy, Moldova and Israel

Cantor Wendy Shermet will be on sabbatical from June 1 to August 1. She'll take the opportunity to visit Italy and Moldova, and enroll in a seminar at the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem. "I'm grateful for the opportunity to take the sabbatical," Cantor said.

"We have an enormous Jewish history" in Italy, she explained. She also has a personal reason to visit the popular European tourist destination. Her father, Naval Reserve Commander Robert Shermet, died on a NATO mission in the Dolomites (the Italian Alps). His military aircraft was crashed and lost. "After years of looking through the internet," she said, "I met a man who was in the Navy at the time and had all the information necessary to proceed." She plans to hike to the crash site at 9,000 feet with a few Italian men who were on the mountaineering team that found the plane. The crew and most of the plane were returned to the United States. Cantor Shermet has a plaque that she hopes to affix to the crash site.

She's also traveling to Moldova, an independent republic since 1991, when it declared its independence from the former Soviet Union. "Our family, the Shermets, are allegedly from there, and I did my master's thesis for Cantorial School on the Jewish music of that region," she added.

In Jerusalem, Cantor will rendezvous with her son Sam, 15, who is going to Israel on the ARTZA trip this summer.

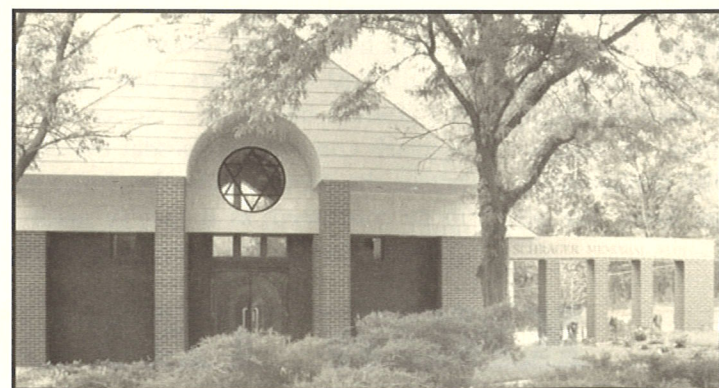
At the Hartman Institute in Jerusalem, Cantor Shermet will participate in a two-week seminar on Judaism's core responses to crisis and uncertainty. Cantor looks forward to teaching what she learns as she encounters prominent thinkers at Hartman's pluralistic research and leadership institute and re-engages with life in Israel.

While she is away on sabbatical, the Rabbis and Rosie Zweiback will be working with the cantor's students in the summer. Soloists Tami Field, Jill Idelman, Jeff Schweid and Sarah Schondelmeyer will sing during worship services. Brenna Robinson and Scott Goldberg, both incoming high school seniors, will also help during services.

Schrager Memorial Chapel Completed

With the completion of the Schrager Memorial Chapel at the Temple Israel Cemetery, families have more options for funerals and memorial services in addition to the main sanctuary and the Livingston Chapel at Temple.

Also, Yizkor services between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, and services for the burial of holy books, talitot and other sacred objects, can now be conducted in the Schrager Memorial Chapel at the cemetery.



Temple Israel is grateful to Phil and Terri Schrager for generously donating funds from their charitable foundation, and to Janet Farber, executive director of the foundation, to build the chapel.

Community Supported Agriculture Shareholders

Shareholders' Pick up Day
Thursdays, 4:30 p.m.
At Temple Israel, South Entrance

Shareholders' Tour
the Bloom Farm
Sunday, July 12, 10 a.m. - Noon

Shareholders' Potluck Supper
Tuesday, August 4, 6 p.m.

Save the date!

Tri-Faith Picnic

Sunday, August 2
12:30 - 3:30 p.m.

All Saints
Episcopal Church
9302 Blondo Street

Jan Schneiderman Begins Term as President of Board of Trustees

Jan Schneiderman was installed as president of the Board of Trustees at Temple's annual meeting on May 31. She succeeds Jon Meyers.

In his remarks, Meyers spoke of the success stories of the past year including "God's To-Do List" which was awarded an honorable mention for outstanding social action programming by the Commission on Social Action of Reform Judaism.

Meyers also extolled the Strategic Response Team (SRT) created "to deal with the struggles and challenges that many of our congregants have faced and many more will face in the future" and thanked Magda Peck for bringing the issue to the forefront. He thanked Jeff Schweid and the finance council and committees "for the painstaking work done this year."

Phil and Terri Schrager were recognized for their generosity in funding the building of the newly completed Schrager Memorial Chapel.

Sally Kaplan, Katherine Finnegan and Wendy Vann were also praised for their efforts in changing Confirmation at Temple back to tenth grade and for recommending redesigning a new curriculum for eleventh and twelfth graders.

Likening his term to his "turn to steer the bus," Meyers said, "this is my stop where I get off this bus. It's sure been a great ride!"



Gary Kaplan was awarded Temple's Social Justice Award for "his commitment to social issues and for his continued service to our congregation through his work on the board and the URJ Board. Meyers also announced that Judy Josephson was the recipient of this year's Harriett Sperling Caring Award for "her dedication to those who need a bit more care and attention and for her work fundraising for the cemetery."

Rabbi Aryeh Azriel congratulated Meyers on his work as president "with humor, laughter, smiles

and enthusiasm." Rabbi Azriel also welcomed Schneiderman who comes with "rich experience in community work." He thanked God and the congregation "for giving me the opportunity to continue to serve this historical congregation and to celebrate the end of 21 years in this blessed community."

Schneiderman also thanked Meyers and welcomed Nicole Luna, Temple's summer rabbinic intern. The new president then mentioned that two special women, Lois Friedman and Sue Meyers, sent her off to a convention of the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) 33 years ago. Despite Schneiderman's declaration at that event that she didn't want to be president of any organization at any time ever in her life, she conceded, "...here I am -- four presidencies later."

"My goals for this term are to buy a piece of land to stick a sign on that says 'future home of Temple Israel' and to establish a solid working team with the board, the staff, and with the entire congregation. My hope is that we will develop a close communication with one another."

Other newly elected officers are John Lehr, president elect; John Waldbaum, vice president; Mike Norton, vice president; Stacey Rockman, secretary; Katherine Finnegan, treasurer; Jon Meyers, past president. New members of the Board of Trustees are Jordana Glazer, Paul Rabinovitz, Howard Shrier, and Mike Silverman. Dan Marburg and Jeff Schweid are renewing members of the board.



Welcome Nicole!

Rabbinic intern Nicole Luna arrived in Omaha in late May and is here at Temple for the summer. She commented that "it's been an enjoyable and intense beginning participating in the life and planning of the congregation." She also noted the congregation's spirit of welcoming and hospitality "is so alive and vibrant!"

Temple's Office Hours During the Summer

From June 1 to August 31,
office hours are from
8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Monday thru Friday.

Shop...Eat...Help Temple Israel, Too!

Whole Foods, Baker's, Bag 'N Save and The Bookworm Gift Certificates are available in the Temple office. Buy them and keep them handy for shopping at these stores which are gracious enough to return a percentage to Temple. The reimbursements are used for camp scholarships.

Women of Reform Judaism-Omaha



2009 - 2010 WRJ Board Installations



(Pictured l-r) Susie Norton, Stacie Brodkey, Mimi Silverman, Susan Lehr, Jennifer Miller, Mary Wampler, Rosie Zweiback, Danielle Gordman, Ann Osborne, Lynne Jensen (Not pictured) Sharon Bargas, Marlen Frost, Nikki Kirshenbaum, Kim Noddle, Kelly Nogg, Erica Rubin and Sherrie Saag

Donations for Used Book Sale

Please drop off any gently used books, CD/DVD, music, VHS tapes and books on tape at the Temple office during business hours. Please contact Susie Norton, 391-7333, to schedule a book pick up if needed.

WRJ Book Sorting

Sunday, June 28, 10 a.m.

Tuesday, June 30, 6:30 p.m.

Please plan to pitch in with book sorting and the book sale — it's a major fundraiser for our many worthy projects, AND it's FUN!! Questions? Contact Wendy Goldberg, 556-6536, or Linda Sadofsky, 397-2400.

Summer Speaker Series

WRJ Caring Community

Lisa Epstein, Judy Josephson,
Bonnie Pfrenger, & Sherrie Saag
Friday, July 3, 6 p.m.

Celebrate our Caring Community volunteers and thank them specifically for their work for Temple Israel. Learn how to get involved with our Blumkin volunteers, knitters, card makers, soup and challah makers, assisted living volunteers and more!

WRJ Annual Used Book Sale Set Up

Thursday, August 6

Friday, August 7

Please let us know if you are interested in helping set up for the book sale. Please contact Wendy Goldberg, 556-6536, Linda Sadofsky, 397-2400, or Danielle Gordman, 343-1435.

WRJ-O Used Book Sale

Friday, August 7 & Sunday, August 9 - Monday, August 10
Come shop the book racks — you'll be amazed by our collection

Public Preview Party - Fee is \$20

Friday, August 7
Noon - 4 p.m.

Temple Members' Book Sale Browse

Friday, August 7

Temple members may browse the book sale during the Congregational BBQ dinner following services.
(See page 2 for RSVP details for BBQ.)

Used Book Sale Hours

The general public is welcome to the sale free of charge.

Sunday, August 9 ~ 10 - 4 p.m.

Monday, August 10 ~ 10 a.m. - Noon (1/2 price sale)

Monday, August 10 ~ Noon - 4 p.m. (Fill a grocery bag full of books for \$5)

All proceeds of the sale support the work of WRJ-O. Any books that are left will be donated to the Omaha Public Library to support its used book sales.

Please let us know if you are interested in helping.
Please contact Linda Sadofsky, 397-2400, Danielle Gordman, 343-1435, or Wendy Goldberg, 556-6536.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					19	20
					Shabbat Comes to You @ Remington Heights 4 p.m. Shabbat Service 6 p.m.	Sparks Beneath the Surface 9:15-10:15 a.m. Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m.
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
		WRJ Meeting @ Susie Norton's Home 7 p.m. AA, Alanon & Gamblers' 12-step 7:30 p.m.		Adult Study with the Clergy 10 a.m. CSA Pick up 4:30 p.m.	Shabbat Service 6 p.m.	Sparks Beneath the Surface 9:15-10:15 a.m. Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m.
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
WRJ Book Sorting Day 10 a.m.		WRJ Book Sorting Day 6:30 p.m. AA, Alanon & Gamblers' 12-step 7:30 p.m.		CSA Pick up 4:30 p.m.	Office Closed Shabbat Service 6 p.m.	Sparks Beneath the Surface 9:15-10:15 a.m. Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m.
			JULY			Independence Day
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
		AA, Alanon & Gamblers' 12-step 7:30 p.m.		CSA Pick up 4:30 p.m.	Shabbat Service 6 p.m. Outdoor BBQ immediately following	Sparks Beneath the Surface 9:15-10:15 a.m. Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m.
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
CSA Shareholders Trip to Bloom Farm 10 a.m.		AA, Alanon & Gamblers' 12-step 7:30 p.m.	New Member Happy Hour with Rabbi Eric Linder @ Dundee Dell 5 p.m.	CSA Pick up 4:30 p.m.	Shabbat Comes to You @ Remington Heights 4 p.m. Shabbat Service 6 p.m.	Sparks Beneath the Surface 9:15-10:15 a.m. Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m.
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
		AA, Alanon & Gamblers' 12-step 7:30 p.m.		CSA Pick up 4:30 p.m.	Shabbat Comes to You @ Blumkin Home 2:30 p.m. Shabbat Service 6 p.m.	Sparks Beneath the Surface 9:15-10:15 a.m. Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m.

Worship Services

Friday~June 19
4 p.m.
Shabbat Comes to You
at Remington Heights
6 p.m.
Shabbat Service
Rabbinic Intern Nicole Luna, "How Rabbis are Made; Reflections on My HUC Rabbinical Training"
Guest soloist Jeff Schweid

Saturday~June 20
9:15-10:15 a.m.
Sparks Beneath the Surface
10:30 a.m.
Shabbat Service
Torah Portion: Sh'lach L'cha
Numbers 13:1-15:41
Haftarah: Joshua 2:1-24

Friday~June 26
6 p.m.
Shabbat Service
Brent Bloom, "Report From Blooms Organic"
Guest soloist Tami Field

Saturday~June 27
9:15-10:15 a.m.
Sparks Beneath the Surface
10:30 a.m.
Shabbat Service
Torah Portion: Korach
Numbers 16:1-18:32
Haftarah: I Samuel 11:14-12:22

Friday~July 3
6 p.m.
Shabbat Service
WRJ Caring Community: Lisa Epstein, Judy Josephson, Bonnie Pfrenger, and Sherrie Saag
Guest soloist Tami Field

Saturday~July 4
9:15-10:15 a.m.
Sparks Beneath the Surface
10:30 a.m.
Shabbat Service
Torah Portion: Chukat-Balak
Numbers 19:1-25:9
Haftarah: Micah 5:6-6:8

Friday~July 10
6 p.m.
Shabbat Service
Debbie Finnicum, "My Life of Social Justice and Community Service"
Guest soloist Jill Idelman
followed by an outdoor BBQ

Saturday~July 11
9:15-10:15 a.m.
Sparks Beneath the Surface
10:30 a.m.
Shabbat Service
Torah Portion: Pinchas
Numbers 25:10-30:1
Haftarah: Jeremiah 1:1-2:3

Friday~July 17
4 p.m.
Shabbat Comes to You
at Remington Heights
6 p.m.
Shabbat Service
Rabbi Eric Linder, "Reflections From my Trip to Israel"
Guest soloist Tami Field

Saturday~July 18
9:15-10:30 a.m.
Sparks Beneath the Surface
10:30 a.m.
Shabbat Service
Torah Portion: Matot-Mas'ei
Numbers 30:2-36:13
Haftarah: Jeremiah 2:4-28; 3:4, 4:1-2

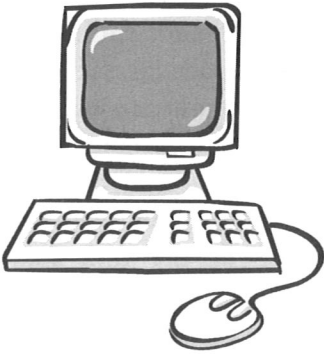
Friday~July 24
2:30 p.m.
Shabbat Comes to You
at Rose Blumkin Home
6 p.m.
Shabbat Service
Judge Larry Gendler, "Jewish Influences in my Life From Childhood Through College Years"
Guest soloist Tami Field

Saturday~July 25
9:15-10:15 a.m.
Sparks Beneath the Surface
10:30 a.m.
Shabbat Service
Torah Portion: D'varim
Deuteronomy1:1-3:22
Haftarah: Isaish 1:1-27

Birthday Blessings

Friday, July 17 and
Friday, August 14
6 p.m.

Children and adults who celebrate their birthdays during the months of July and August will be called to the bimah and receive a special blessing from the rabbi.



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

Sitter Service

is available...

- Wednesday evenings during Religious School hours so that parents can take advantage of adult education opportunities;
- each Friday evening except when there is a Tot Shabbat;
- Saturday mornings when there is a bar or bat mitzvah;
- Sunday mornings when there is Religious School.

Advance reservations and a \$5 donation are appreciated. Please email Maureen, mkube@templeisraelomaha.com for reservations. Young children, including infants, are welcome. Please sign in and sign out your child's name.

Youth & Education

Temple Board Approves Returning Confirmation to Tenth Grade

Beginning next year, Temple Israel's youth will experience Confirmation in the tenth grade instead of the twelfth grade. This policy change, made at the May Board of Trustees meeting, is the result of a recommendation made by a year-long presidential task force whose members were asked to examine issues regarding youth programming post B'nai Mitzvah.

A year ago, Jan Schneiderman, a member of the task force, observed, "one only has to look at the Consecration pictures in the Religious School wing and then look at the Confirmation pictures since the board voted to move Confirmation to twelfth grade to know that we are giving significantly less kids a memorable Jewish milestone on which to build their Jewish identities." This statement rang loud and clear for everyone on the task force.

Via phone calls and email surveys to participating and non-participating students and their parents, members of the task force considered the factors that contributed to the attrition in the Confirmation program. Input was even received from graduates of Temple Israel's Religious School Confirmation program. The committee's goal was to ensure that Temple's Confirmation process is inclusive, attainable and something the students look forward to each week.

Another benefit of the program is that "we're going back to the model of year-long study with the clergy during the Confirmation year and moving the New York trip back to the tenth grade," said Sally Kaplan, task force co-chair

with Katherine Finnegan. "This program change is based on information that a lot of people volunteered; they want more time with the clergy."

"We want as many of our congregants as possible to have the experience of Confirmation," pointed out Katherine. "Confirmation is just one of many rites of passage and a building block for our kids before they leave and begin their own journeys away from home. These changes should make it very realistic for entire B'nai Mitzvah classes to be standing in their Confirmation gowns on Shavuot."

Religious education does not end at Confirmation and neither has the planning for our eleventh and twelfth grade students under our Religious Education Director Elyce Azriel and the Religious School Steering Committee chaired by Wendy Vann. Elyce and Wendy have been busy planning a curriculum for the eleventh and twelfth grades. The goal of this change is that ultimately Temple will create more engaged Jewish learners. Students who continue to come after Confirmation will find more exciting and flexible options.

Wendy said, "the RSSC is very excited to see these changes implemented! We feel that giving our children an enriching Jewish experience is our number one goal. Our children are much busier than we were as kids, and acknowledging that, we must take the necessary steps to bring our curriculum into the twenty-first century to meet our children where they are."

More information will be available in your Religious School bulletin this fall.

Temple Carpool Lives On For Another Generation

In the 1980s, Kate Kirshenbaum and Suzy Sheldon were carpool Mom. They took turns driving their kids, Matt and Adam Kirshenbaum and Wendy and Lisa Sheldon to Religious School at Temple Israel.



The kids have grown up and have kids of their own now. The carpool (although not the same car) has survived through the generations.

In 2009, Kathleen Kirshenbaum, daughter of Matt and Jenn Tompkins Kirshenbaum, and Benjamin Raffelson of Wendy and Adam Raffel, started carpooling to Religious School at Temple together.

Save the Date!

OTYG Fall Rush

Sunday, August 23
11 a.m. - 6 p.m.
at Mahoney State Park

waterpark, mini golf, paddle boats

Watch your mail for more information in early July!

Temple Teens Make the Most of Summer

Last summer, Emily Katz, 16, was a volunteer counselor at Camp Rainbow which gives seriously ill children a chance to grow, discover, thrive and be "normal" for a week. She was there again this summer, because "being a volunteer at Camp Rainbow was one of the most rewarding experiences of my life," she insisted.

Relying on donations for financial support, Camp Rainbow is a beneficiary of Omaha Temple Youth Group's annual spaghetti dinner.

Molly Goldberg, 17, was also a volunteer counselor at Camp Rainbow this summer. "I think Camp Rainbow is an excellent project in terms of tikkun olam and social action," she said. The one-week camp near St. Louis concluded on June 13. Both Emily and Molly are students at Westside High School.

Ten Temple youth are among 21 from Omaha looking forward to going on this summer's ARTZA trip, Omaha's community teen trip to Israel. They are Sam Burrell, Laura Gilinsky, Molly Gilinsky, Haley Gordman, Chloe Heyman, Sam Monsky, Rachel Saferstein, Talia Simon, Lindsey Thomas, and Sam Weinstine.

Thanks Susan; Good Luck Haley!

Omaha Temple Youth Group's new Board for 2009-2010 was installed on Erev Shavuot at the holiday worship service. Outgoing OTYG President Susan Freeman describes her year as president of OTYG as "amazing...(which is) an understatement, because it was so much more. I think this year proved to be a huge turnaround for the youth group. Not only did OTYG hold many social and educational programs, another extremely successful spaghetti dinner, and won Temple Youth Group (TYG) of the Year for NFTY Missouri Valley; but our membership increased, our involvement on the regional and national levels grew immensely, and we all had a fun and memorable time doing this."

Susan, who just graduated high school this spring, loved her position on the board and "would not trade anything for the amazing year it allowed me to experience. I could not have asked for a better board or advisor to work with."

Susan will be succeeded by Haley Burns as the new president of OTYG. "I am so excited to be able to help strengthen and improve OTYG even more," she declared. "With being TYG of the year, I have high standards set for me!"

Temple Youth Group to Host Fall Chavurah in Omaha; Register Now for Summer NFTY "Tute"

Omaha Temple Youth Group will host the NFTY - Missouri Valley Region Western Fall Chavurah, November 13 - 15. About 125 high school students from Missouri, Iowa, Illinois, Kansas, Wyoming and Colorado are expected to converge on Omaha for this exciting event at Temple Israel. Housing will be needed for them. If you have room for three to four teenagers to sleep for a night or two, please contact OTYG Advisor Amy Katz, 556-6536 or akatz@templeisraelomaha.com. Beds are not needed.

Other NFTY events in 2009 - 2010 start with NFTY Institute or "Tute," August 4 - 9 at Goldman Union Camp in Zionsville, IN. Activities include climbing the Alpine Tower, swimming, sports, singing, dancing and experiencing Judaism with other teens who will become friends for a lifetime. **A \$50 deposit is needed as soon as possible to enroll in NFTY's Summer Institute. The cost to attend is \$345 and is due by July 15.** Please contact Amy Katz if you're interested.

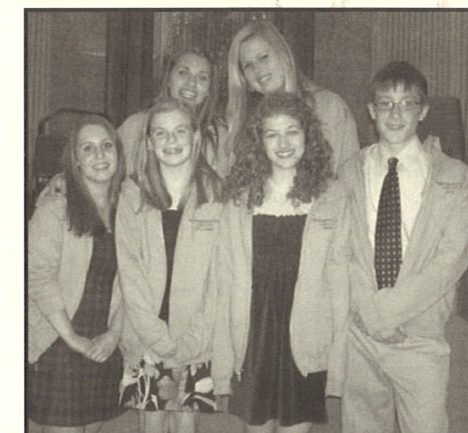
LTI is scheduled for Labor Day weekend in Kansas City. Junior Youth Groups will convene in Overland Park, KS, December 4-6. Winter Conclave will be in St. Louis, January 15-18, and Spring Conclave is planned for April 16-18 in Denver.

Tov Maod to Our Book Contest Winners!

Nine Temple Israel youth were presented awards by the Kripke Federation Library for their entries in the 18th Annual Elinor A. Whitman Book Appreciation Contest. This year's contest included a total of 61 entries with 15 winners. Children in Kindergarten through sixth grade were eligible to complete.

Congratulations to: Elias Ginsberg, Jack Goldstein, Abby Hack, Shaylie Hollst, Kathleen Kirshenbaum, Laura Kirshenbaum, Sydney Kully, Michael Militzer and Jordan Saag.

2009-2010 OTYG Board



(Pictured front l-r): Hannah Grossman, Morissa Miller, Jordan Jensen, Zane Fletcher (Back l-r): Haley Burns, Sophia Miller (Not Pictured) Julie Sadofsky

We Want to Know What You Did That Summer!

The theme for the New Year's issue of the *Jewish Press*, which will be published on September 18, is "What We Did That Summer." The Jewish Federation will feature this summer's young adult mission to Israel. The JCC will submit a story and photos from the ARTZA trip. There are other events happening this summer as well in which you might be participating. Take pictures and write about your experiences and send them to the editor of the *Jewish Press*.

Perhaps you'd like to share memories of summers past. Did you get married, celebrate the birth of a baby, or go on a family trip?

Your stories and photos are being requested by the Jewish Press. **Please send them to Carol Katzman, editor of the Press, no later than August 1.** Her email address is ckatzman@jewishomaha.org. Or you can call her with questions at 334-6450.



Tree of Life

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

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

**Children are Grand
Zachary, Chana, & Talia
Bahar
Love, Mimi and Alan**

Congratulations

On the Birth of:

Gideon Avraham Feferman, son of Whitney and Dan Feferman, Rishon Letzion, Israel. Grandparents are Sherry and Jeff Taxman, and Shoshana and Bob Feferman, Mishawaka, IN. Great-grandparents are Barbara and Marvin Taxman, and David Feferman, Mishawaka, IN.

Cory Benjamin Nogg, son of Jaime and Brian Nogg. Grandparents are Patty and Steve Nogg, and Judy and Craig Goldford. Great-grandparents are Harlan Studna and the late Betty Studna, Jeanie Lee Parelman and the late Seymour Lee, Marvin Goldford and the late Iris Goldford, Audrey Silverman, and the late Harvey Rosen.

On the Engagement of:

Laurie Simes and Jeremy Passer. Parents are Roberta and Joel Simes, St. Louis Park, MN, Claire and Pierre Flatowicz, and Sandy and Jeff Passer.



Our Sympathy

The Congregation records with sorrow the deaths of...

Lois Dvorkin Epstein, wife of Mel Epstein, daughter of David Dvorkin, sister of Marilyn Warren;

Normand Edward Roffman, husband of Phyllis Roffman;

...and extends sympathy to their bereaved families.

Temple 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, 556-6536.

\$6.00 fund contributions:

Rabbi Azriel's Fund for Jewish Professionals
Robert and Janice Batt Fund
David E. Beber Fund
David and Rachel Bleicher Camp Scholarship
Mel and Genevieve Bornstein Social Justice
Rabbi Sidney H. and Jane Brooks Institute on Judaism for Clergy Caring
Cemetery Improvement
Lorene R. Cohn Trust
Loyal B. Cohn Trust for the Advancement of Jewish Studies Education
Erwin Eisenberg Campership Fund Endowment
Harvey D. Ferer Scholarship Fund
Israel Travel Fund
Samuel and Ida Kaiman Endowment
Sol and Jeanette Krizelman Social Justice
Landscape
Library
Jon Meyers Leadership Development Music
Outreach
Ruth and Bernard Raskin Youth Activities
Lewis and Flora Rubin Memorial Fund
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
Norman Whitman Fund for Jewish Learning
Janis L. Yale Enrichment
Hermene Zweiback Fund for Lifelong Jewish Learning
Rabbi Azriel's Discretionary
Rabbi Linder's Discretionary
Cantor Shermet's Discretionary
Executive Director's Discretionary
Prayer Book (\$30 donation)

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

IN MEMORY OF: Lillian Ban: Robyn and Jim Belgrade, Fran and Louie Blumkin, Susie and Mike Norton, Linda Siref-Simons; **Jackie Roffman Christensen:** Judy and Buddy Roffman; **Lois Epstein:** Linda Abrahamson and Sam Fedman, Susan Arnold and Walt Thomas, Keri, Phillip, Zachary, Chana and Talia Bahar, Stacie and Marc Brodkey, Suzi and Mike Carter, Vicki and Jerry Chesen, Anne and Alan Cohen, Fran and Mickey Coren, Toby Fellman, Claire and Pierre Flatowicz, Norma and Marshall Fried, Debbie and Scott Friedman, Phyllis and Dick Glazer, Dora Goldstrom and George Walker, Nancy and Don Greenberg, Nancy Hornstein, Judy and Keith Josephson, Sandy and John Lehr, Barbara and Cliff Levitan, Lisa and Denny Lewis, Mary Beth Luby, Sharee and Murray Newman, Susie and Mike Norton, Anne and Harvey P'ckel, Ann and Robert Pierson, PPIC and Associates, Christa Reason, Inalou Raznick, Dodi and Steve Redler, Roaslie and Ernie Saltzman, Jane and Russ Swayer, Jan and Les Schneiderman, Patrick Shannon, Theresa Shepard, Addie Shneider and family, Susie and Jim Silverman, Joie Simon, Ricki and Jeff Skog, Janet and Jerry Slusky, Debi and Jeff Smedlund, Harriett and Sherm Sperling, Terri and Dick Zacharia; **Dee Fox:** Debbie and Steven Dresner, Lisa and Denny Lewis, Susie and Mike Norton; **Ruth Fox:** Anne and Alan Cohen, Lisa and Denny Lewis, David Shapiro; **Rose Gerber, Harry Siref:** Linda Siref-Simons; **Rose Katzman:** Babe Cohn; **Leonard Klein:** Lesly Ozar and family; **Jay Lashinsky:** Barbara Lashinsky; **Libby Lincoln:** Babe Cohn, Bonnie London, Lillian Schrager; **Milton Parker, Aaron Singer:** Doris Parker; **Constance Morgan-Jensen:** Denise and Jon Meyers, Jeff Schweid; **Margot Roesberg:** Toby Fellman, Lisa and Denny Lewis, Susie and Mike Norton, Sivi and Larry Roffman; **Normand Roffman:** Tami and Alan

Bernstein, Anita and Lee Bernstein, Chenta and Steve Bernstein, Stacie and Marc Brodkey, Mel Epstein, Norma and Marshall Fried, Phyllis and Dick Glazer, Dora Goldstrom and George Walker, Debi and Brent Hicks, Ann Kaiman, Shirley Kulakofsky and family, Sandy and John Lehr, Lisa and Denny Lewis, Sally and Sheldon Masnek, Jenni and Mike Mitten, Yvette and Randy Roffman, Rosalie and Ernie Saltzman, Debbie Schwartz, Joie Simon, Debi and Jeff Smedlund, Marilyn and Marty Warren, Terri and Dick Zacharia; **Rose Rosen:** Beverlee Krasne; **Ethel Saathoff:** Anne and Alan Cohen; **Hershel Shulman:** Mel Epstein; **Harold Stern:** Lillian Schrager; **Mikhail Zevakin:** Premies Sterlization Company

IN HONOR OF THE RECOVERY OF: Morris Aizenberg: Lourdes Secola; **Gloria Kaslow:** Molline and Fritz Cassman; **Lloyd Krasne:** Edythe and the Whole Family; **Ducky Milder:** Toby Fellman, Sylvia and Jerry Kaiman

IN HONOR OF THE BIRTH OF: Gideon Avraham Feferman: Marge and Jim Bresel, Eileen and Leonard Jacobson, Jeff Schweid, Lourdes Secola

IN HONOR OF ANNIVERSARY OF: Beth and Ron Brodkey: Toby Fellman, Phyllis and Dick Glazer, Babe Nogg, Susie and Mike Norton and the Norton Boys; **Corinne and Hugh Levin:** Toby Fellman; **Maxine and Jack Noodell:** Doris Parker, Gwen and Ray Pred, Rose and Bud Schwartz, Lourdes Secola

IN HONOR OF THE MARRIAGE OF: Judy and Allen Ross: Phyllis and Harvey Aronson, Frances and Sam Fried, Phyllis and Dick Glazer, Barbara and Marshall Kushner, Lisa and Denny Lewis

IN HONOR OF THE TEMPLE ISRAEL CONFIRMATION/GRADUATION OF: Amanda Bucher: Gloria Friedman

IN HONOR OF THE GRADUATION OF: Rebecca Noddle: Debra and Steven Dresner

IN HONOR OF THE COLLEGE GRADUATION OF: Joel Passer: Fefe Passer

IN APPRECIATION OF PAST TEMPLE PRESIDENT: Jon Meyers: Lois and Lloyd Friedman, Debbie and Scott Friedman, Phyllis and Dick Glazer

IN HONOR OF NEW TEMPLE PRESIDENT: Jan Schneiderman: Robin, Kenny, Lauren and Adam Baer, Carol and Steve Bloch, Debbie and Scott Friedman, Sue and Dave Meyers

IN HONOR OF NEW WRJ-O PRESIDENT: Susie Norton: Phyllis and Dick Glazer

IN HONOR OF COMMUNITY AGRICULTURAL PROJECT: Rebecca and Brent Bloom: Lourdes Secola

IN HONOR OF ESTABLISHMENT OF THE HARRY TRUSTIN BOULEVARD: Harriett and Sherm Sperling

IN APPRECIATION OF: Rabbi Aryeh Azriel, Rabbi Eric Linder, Cantor Wendy Shermet, Dennis DePorte, Elyce Azriel, Lori Bennett, Willie Clark, Vicki Ducharme, Wendy Goldberg, Amy Katz, Maureen Kube, Claudia Sherman, Bonnie Sullivan, Misty Weidner, Lonnie Williams

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 on 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.