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Aryeh Azriel..... Rabbi
 Craig H. Marantz..... Rabbi
 Wendy Shermet..... Cantor
 Dennis DePorte..... Executive Director
 Joan Cooper..... Elementary School Coordinator
 Elyce Azriel..... Middle/High School Director
 Lynne Jensen Director of
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 Claudia Sherman..... Communications Coordinator
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 John Lehr Assistant Treasurer
 Michael Walts..... Past President
 Nancy Nogg..... WRJ-O President
 Jacob Bleicher OTYG President

Reach Out...and Email Us!

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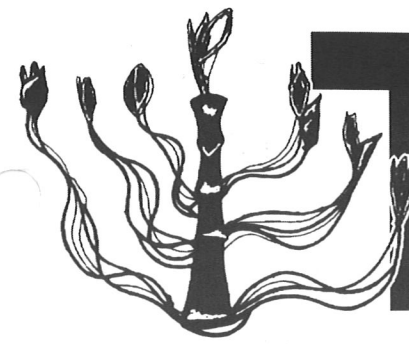
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Celebrating *Nishmat Chayim*, the Breath of Life, with Dr. Michael Isaacson May 13, 7:30 p.m. at Temple Israel

"A classically-trained musician steeped in Judaic knowledge," Dr. Michael Isaacson, who will give the *D'var Torah* at the Shabbat worship service, "continues our long tradition of fine musicians writing for synagogue services," said Cantor Wendy Shermet.

Known as one of the most prolific and accomplished American Jewish composers of our time, Dr. Isaacson has composed and published more than 450 works, and conducted and produced more than 40 albums. He is the founding music director of the Israel Pops Orchestra and the Milken Archive of American Music, and creator of the New York Museum of Jewish Heritage permanent exhibit's symphonic music. Dr. Isaacson has assisted film composers, written music for several television series and a number of cantatas, and arranged for the Bob Hope Show as well as the Boston Pops. He also pioneered the NFTY (North American Federation of Temple Youth) American folk music style.

Born and raised in Brooklyn, NY, Dr. Isaacson studied at The Julliard School, earned his undergraduate degree in music education at Hunter College and his master's in musical composition at Brooklyn College. He received his Ph.D. in

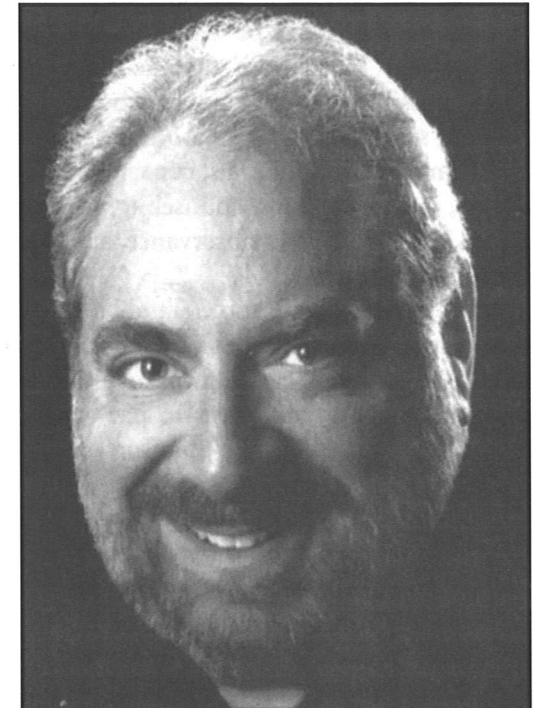
composition from the Eastman School of Music.

In addition to recordings with the Hollywood Pops, Dr. Isaacson has conducted and produced new recordings of music with the Munich Philharmonic, the Mexico City Symphony, the Tel Aviv Symphony, and the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra.

At Temple Israel, Dr. Isaacson will conduct one of five Sabbath evening worship services he has composed. The work is called "*Nishmat Chayim*, The Breath of Life" for cantor, soprano, two-part equal voice choir, organ, and woodwind quintet. Cantor Shermet, Dr. Tamara Field, Jonathan Rathsmann, Kol Rina, a woodwind quintet, and a group of 5th and 6th graders will sing during the service. Dr. Isaacson has also composed music for the High Holy Days and lifecycle settings, which he will present during a sermon-in-song.

"His music was the first that I became familiar with when I started as a soloist at Stephen S. Wise in Los Angeles," recalled Cantor Shermet. As Temple continues to celebrate and to study the 350th year of Jewish settlement in America, Dr. Isaacson will reflect on the evolution of Jewish American music.

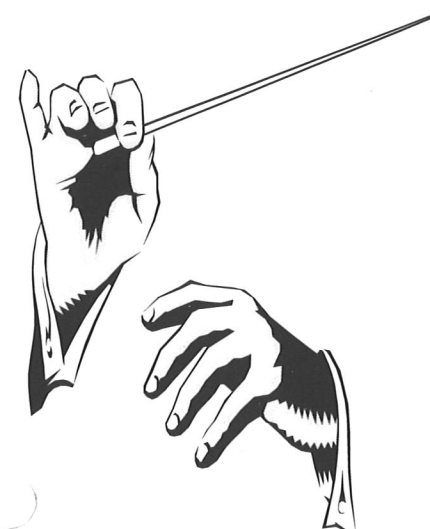
Our thanks to the Special Donor-Advised Fund of the Jewish Federation of Omaha Foundation for sponsoring Dr. Isaacson's visit to Omaha.



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Celebrating 350 Years of Jews in America

President's Tidings

Gary Kaplan

First, if you received an orange-colored Temple Self-Assessment Dues form and have not returned it, please do so as soon as possible. We need everyone's help to maintain our vibrant congregation. Did you know that it costs over \$2,000 per family to serve the congregational needs of Temple members each year? Our Fair Share Plan allows us to serve all ages and income levels of Jews in our community. By paying your correct Fair Share Commitment, you ensure the future of Temple Israel and Reform Judaism in Omaha. You make possible our Religious School, Sabbath services, Bar and Bat Mitzvahs and Confirmation, funerals, conversion classes, journey groups, counseling, retreats, High Holy Days observance, and social justice work.

If you love what Temple stands for, if you love what it has done for your family and if you can afford to give more, then please volunteer to pay an extra 25% as a Temple Sponsor, or \$2,000 extra as a Temple Patron.

Second, I hope that you all had wonderful Passover celebrations with family and friends. Truly we are set apart from others and given a special appreciation of life, when each year, in the midst of family and friends, we stop and remember what our lives would be if we were still slaves in Egypt. As we read, "This is because of what God did for me when he brought me forth out of Egypt."

Third, with respect to the new build-

ing site, we have heard a mixture of enthusiasm and concern. While no site is likely to be perfect or universally accepted, the Board of Trustees is looking at solutions to the concerns that were raised. We are certainly open to donations of alternate sites. In the meantime, work is underway to obtain the major gifts needed to make this dream a reality.

Fourth, I am happy to report that the Board listened to the requests of families with grade school children who have been asking for a change in the scheduling of the midweek session of Religious School. We heard that we could reduce the stress of their busy lives by shifting our classes to Wednesday afternoon when most teachers give less homework and there are less extracurricular activities. This shift in scheduling required numerous changes within our part time teaching staff. Next fall we will be moving Thursday afternoon classes to Wednesday afternoon. I especially appreciate commitments by Religious School Steering Committee Co-chairmen Maria Neesman and Katherine Finnegan, and a group of hard working volunteers to make this transition work.

Finally, I have enjoyed my two years as Temple President. I thank you all for your support of Temple and for your reasonableness when things didn't go as you had hoped. We have great leadership to carry us forward. Sally and I wish them and you all the best.

**Stand at the Foot of Mount Sinai With Us
On Erev Shavuot, Sunday, June 12**

Join Dr. Leonard Greenspoon, Professor of Classical and Near Eastern Studies and of Theology at Creighton University, and Temple's clergy for a study of the meaning of the Ten Commandments and Torah in our 21st century lives.



Welcome New Members!

- Rachel and Gil Dysico
• Hannah, 1½ years old
• The Dysico family recently moved to Bellevue from Colorado because of a job transfer for Gil, a defense contractor working on the SAC base. Rachel is staying at home with Hannah. They are originally from Illinois and are delighted to be back in the midwest. They enjoy bike riding and hiking.
- Jennifer and Paul Miller
• Sophia, 5th grade
• Marissa, 4th grade
• Madelin, 1st grade
• Brett, age 1
• The Millers, from Kansas City, moved to Omaha in April for Paul's job transfer with Union Pacific Railroad Company. The girls attend Ezra Millard Elementary. Brett is anticipating pre-school at the C.D.C. Jennifer is a stay-at-home mom.
- Amy Cooper and Paul Rabinovitz
• Amy and Paul will be married at Temple on May 29. Amy, a life-long Omahan, works for Nebraska Health Systems. Paul moved from the Los Angeles area to Omaha five years ago to become Vice President of Strong Entertainment Lighting, a division of Ballantyne of Omaha. Amy has a son Adam, age 5, and Paul has two daughters, Katelyn, 11th grade, and Amanda, 7th grade.
- Ruth and Frank Sklarsky
• Lauren, 5th grade
• Lydia, 2nd grade
• The Sklarskys recently moved here from Bloomfield Hills, MI, for Frank's new position at ConAgra. Ruth is a homemaker. The girls attend Ezra Millard Elementary. Their cat, Mr. Shasta, has adjusted well to the move!

Confirmation/Graduation Marks an End and a Beginning for Students

Friday, May 20, 7:30 p.m.

Meagan Katelman, one of six high school seniors who will be confirmed and graduated on Friday night, May 20, said the ceremony is "not so much a completion but the beginning of life as a Jewish adult."

"The Shabbat on May 20 is a celebration of our students," said Elyce Azriel, Director of Temple's Middle/High School. "Their confirmation/graduation is something in which the entire congregation should gather and take pride," she added. The service will include readings on social justice and a prayer recited by the students' parents in gratitude to God "for the gift and blessing of parenthood." During the Oneg Shabbat, sponsored by the twelfth grade parents, seventh graders' *mitzvah* projects, a requirement to become a bar or bat mitzvah, will be on display in the Friedman Social Hall.

Temple's twelfth grade course, entitled "Senior Seminar: Tough Choices," combines a look at some key social and political issues that have been the focus of the American Jewish community's energy over the past several decades.

Hollis Glaser, a professor at the University of Nebraska at Omaha who teaches the class, said, "We try to expose the students to issues that they wouldn't get anywhere else to give them a more diverse view of the world before they go to college or beyond." The class discussed what's happening in the Omaha Latino immigrant community with Angie Krieger, an attorney; gay rights with Michael Gordon from Citizens for Equal Protection; healthcare; and anti-Semitism with Anti-Defamation League Director Bob Wolfson. Other speakers were Dr. Magda Peck and Carol Bloch.

In addition, three of the students attended *L'Taken: A Teen Social Justice Program* sponsored by the Reform Movement's Religious Action Center in Washington, D.C. *L'Taken* exposes students to a range of public policy issues facing America and the Jewish community through the people who work on these concerns day after day in Washington.

Joel Passer met with the office staff of Senators Ben Nelson and Chuck Hagel, as well as workers from Congressman Lee Terry's office. Jeremiah Bleicher also met with the Nebraska Senators' staff, as well as Representative Jeff Fortenberry's staff. Jake Bleicher talked with the office staff of Iowa Senators Tom Harkin and Charles Grassley, and Representative Steve King. The students had an opportunity share views and insights and then study Jewish texts related to the topics.

- Mazel Tov to our
• Grade 12 Confirmands/Graduates
• and Their Parents!
- Jacob William Bleicher,
• son of Ellie and Jon Bleicher
- Jeremiah Aaron Bleicher,
• son of Stacie and Bob Bleicher
- Jacob Finnicum,
• son of Debbie and Doug Finnicum
- Naomi Alloy Fox,
• daughter of Shelly and Rick Fox
- Meagan Elizabeth Katelman,
• daughter of Lorrie and Gary Katelman
- Joel Zachary Passer,
• son of Sandy and Jeff Passer
- Adam Trubnikov,
• son of Maya Wertheimer
• and Alexander Trubnikov

May they go from strength to strength!

Temple Israel
Annual Meeting
and Dinner
Sunday, May 22
6 p.m.
Honoring
Outgoing President
Gary Kaplan,
Installing New President
Wendy Goldberg and
New Officers and Trustees
and Bestowing Several Awards.
Invitations will mail soon.
Please RSVP for dinner
by Monday, May 16.

Nominations Presented for Board of Trustees

The Nominating Committee is pleased to present the following slate for approval at the 134th Annual Congregational Meeting.

Officers to serve one-year terms: President: Wendy Goldberg; President-elect: Jon Meyers; Vice Presidents: Andi Willensky and Sally Kaplan; Secretary: Amee Zetzman; Treasurer: John Lehr.

Trustees: Ted Friedland, Jill Idelman, Mike Norton and Magda Peck.

Annual Reports

Committee, auxiliary and budget reports will be distributed at the May 22 Annual Congregational Meeting.

If you are unable to attend this special evening, the reports will be available in the Temple office.

The Last Day is a FUN Day Sunday, May 22

The last day of Religious School is going to be one of the best days! And it's not just because you can sleep late on Sunday for the next several months. Temple is providing a light breakfast at 10 a.m. for all Religious School families followed by an awards ceremony in the Sanctuary, recognizing the student's accomplishments.

Special guest, Robbo, from Atlanta, GA, will entertain at the final prayer assembly of the year.



Robbo, sponsored by the Janis Yale Enrichment Fund, is actually Robb Zelonky, who writes and performs original songs for children. A former school music teacher, Robbo has sung all over the country from the White House to the Cincinnati Folk Festival where he co-starred with folk legend Arlo Guthrie.

With imagination and humor, Robbo encourages kids to become friends with his song "Giant in My Closet," to take a whimsical approach to unlikely circumstances such as a broken arm in "Owie, Zowie, Kablowie," or going to the doctor in "The Shot Blues." He tangoes to the task of cleaning up a messy bedroom in "Blow Your Nose" (you've got to see it to believe it), and does his Elvis impression to "Don't Wanna Share My Toys."

"It means a lot to me to make people happy," explains Robbo about the purpose behind his music.

Parents will enjoy this interactive, entertaining, humorous performance (with a dash of learning) and are invited to stay through the morning.

To find out more about Robbo before his Omaha performance, visit his website at: www.blanket.kid.com.

What's Happening in Religious School

Joan Cooper, Elementary School Coordinator

Grade 6 Project Presentations Sunday, May 1 & 8
As a highlight of a year of history studies and research, 6th graders will finish making their presentations of individual research projects for the sixth grade families. Each student presentation will include a speech and a visual or audio display about a Jewish hero.

Religious School Steering Committee Sunday, May 8
This is our last meeting for the school year but our work is not done! Please join us at 8:45 a.m. to set meeting dates for 05/06 and organize our volunteer opportunities for the upcoming school year. RSVP to Maria Neesman (496-9143), Katherine Finnegan (398-0075) or call the Religious School office.

Third Grade Visits the Rose Blumkin Home Sunday, May 8
The class will be meeting at the main entrance of the Blumkin Home at 10:15 a.m. We will be helping the residents celebrate Yom Ha'atzmaut by performing a special play, singing some songs and having cake for Israel's Birthday. Our morning will conclude by 11:45 a.m. so parents have time to pick up siblings from Temple Israel by Noon.

Year End Celebration and Awards Ceremony Sunday, May 22
You won't want to miss this day! Our morning will begin with a light breakfast for all families and we'll convene in the Sanctuary for an awards ceremony recognizing the accomplishments of our children! Then we have a special guest joining us for our final prayer assembly of the year. Come meet ROBBO and listen to his delightful music in this interactive and humorous performance.

Birthday Blessings Shabbat Service

Friday, May 20, 7:30 p.m.

Children and adults who celebrate their birthdays during the month of May will be invited to the *bimah* for a special blessing at this service of Confirmation/Graduation.

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.

YOM HA'ATZMAUT

JCC OMAHA COMMUNITY CELEBRATION

Experience a variety of **fun activities for kids and adults**
in honor of Israel's 57th year of Independence.

Sunday, May 15, 2005
12:30-4:30 pm
Jewish Community Center
333 South 132nd Street

Look what's **NEW** at this year's Yom Ha'Atzmaut celebration!

- An exhibit from the Israel Traveling Gallery, featuring art sales from a variety of Israeli artists.
- Israeli Wine Tasting
- Israeli Concert
- Rockwall Climbing

Questions: Contact Rachel Blum at 334-6404.

A Lesson in Time

350 Years of Jews in America 1956-1969

According to the *American Jewish Year Book of 1956*, the past 15 years reflected a great increase in Jewish synagogue membership, particularly in Reform and Conservative congregations. There was also a substantial increase in Jewish religious school attendance.

As Reform and Conservative congregations embraced new rulings, fervently Orthodox leaders banned official contacts between their rabbis and counterparts in the other movements in 1956.

Meanwhile, segregationists bombed Atlanta's oldest and most prestigious Reform temple in 1958, after its rabbi called for racial justice following a series of violent attacks against Jewish institutions in the South.

When Shlomo Carlebach released his first record album in 1959, it became an instant hit and created a new genre, new-Chasidic Orthodox folk music. The following year, Elie Wiesel published an English-language edition of his memoir, *Night*. When the movie *Exodus* was released in 1960, it engendered identification with the state of Israel among Jews and Christians alike.

Also in 1960, American Conservative rabbis voted to allow the use of electricity on Shabbat and the use of cars, buses or trains to get to synagogue.

In 1962, the Reform Movement opened the Religious Action Center in Washington, D.C., dedicated to the pursuit of social justice and religious liberty. In 1964, the American Jewish Conference on Soviet Jewry and the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry were established. Their successful campaign was influential in the release of 1.5 million Jews from Soviet bondage. They emigrated to Israel, the United States and Western Europe.

Abraham Joshua Heschel, the American Jewish religious philosopher, walked arm in arm with Martin Luther King and other black leaders in the 1965 civil rights march from Selma to Montgomery, AL. That year also marked a turning point in Catholic-Jewish relations as the church decried hatred, persecution, and displays of anti-Semitism in *Nostra Aetate*, the official Catholic statement on Jews, issued as part of Vatican II.

Sandy Koufax, a Los Angeles Dodger pitcher, declined to play in game one of the 1965 World Series, because the day fell on *Yom Kippur*. He also set a major league record that year when he pitched his fourth no hitter in four years.

American Jews raised \$430 million for Israel in the wake of the 1967 Six Day War between Israel and its Arab neighbors. As the fate of the Jewish state was propelled to the forefront of American Jewish consciousness, both tourism and emigration to Israel rose dramatically.

In 1968, the Jewish Defense League was established in New York City by Rabbi Meir Kahane in response to what he saw as a rise in anti-Semitism.

Students in Massachusetts formed *Havurat Shalom* in 1968, devoted to fellowship, peace, community and a "new model of serious Jewish study." The group served as a forerunner of Jewish counterculture and the *chavurah* movement, and sought to promote Jewish renewal.

After it opened in 1968, the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College in Philadelphia was the first rabbinical seminary to admit women as students.

Founded in 1969, the Association for Jewish Studies marked the growth of Jewish studies on American college campuses. By 2003, it would boast 1,600 members.

Women of Reform Judaism-Omaha

WRJ-O Board Installation

Wednesday, May 18, 7 p.m.



Join us for friendship, fun and the installation of the 2005-2006 board at Julio's (132nd and Center). The new board was approved at the WRJ-O Donor Tea on April 12 and is as follows:

- President:
Cindy Goldberg
- Past President:
Nancy Nogg
- Vice Presidents of Membership:
Linda Saltzman, Nancy Nogg
- Vice President of Development:
Marta Fox
- Vice President of Religious Action:
Susan Rothholz, Becki Brenner
- Vice President of Programming:
Danielle Gordman, Rosie Zweiback, Bonnie Pfrenger
- Vice President of Finance:
Susan Lehr
- Vice President of Public Relations:
Karli Newman, Deb Marburg
- Vice President of Religious Living:
Jennifer Cohen, Wendy Reiss, Ellen Long
- Recording Secretary:
Jill Baron
- President Elect:
Danielle Gordman

Please Welcome WRJ-O's Newest Members!

Rose Bernstein and Bonnie Pfrenger

Celebrate With Israeli Roses

Look for WRJ-O volunteers selling Israeli roses at the community-wide Israel Independence Day celebration on Sunday, May 15. (See page 4 for details of this family event.) These long-lasting, fragrant roses are available in a variety of colors.

An Awesome Array of Activities in April!

WRJ-O Hosts Annual Friendship Tea

About 125 members of churches from Nebraska and Iowa attended the Rabbi Sidney H. and Jane Brooks Annual Friendship Tea at Temple Israel on April 10. Temple President Gary Kaplan and WRJ-O President Nancy Nogg welcomed the visitors in the Sanctuary before they took a tour of the holiday and lifecycle tables set up in the Friedman Social Hall and the Milder Center.

"I really enjoyed the presentations,"



Guests visited stations to learn about Jewish holidays and lifecycle events. (Above left) Andie Gordman shares the beautiful customs of Shabbat and the ritual objects used. (Above right) Participants stood under the chupah and talked with WRJ-O volunteers about the significance of various Jewish lifecycle events.



said Reverend Mr. Frank Mascarello from Papillion. "Being part of the Christian faith, I believe this is part of our origin. The Friendship Tea helps me see where all of the things we do are derived from."

Many thanks to the following volunteers for making this another successful year for the tea: Chairman Hillary Fletcher, Rabbi Craig Marantz, Cantor Wendy Shermet, Michelle Bucher, Len Burrell, Cindy Goldberg, Wendy Goldberg, Dora Goldstrom, Rini Gonsher, Andie Gordman, Stephanie Grossman, Ellen Long, Deb Marburg, Ducky Milder, Karli Newman, Gretchen Radler, Stacey Rockman, Patsy Wallace, and Allyson Wilczewski.

Ministers Institute Always a Popular Gathering

Bob Scott (left to right), Rector of Holy Spirit Episcopal Church in Bellevue, Deacon Julie Fisher, and Kip Colegrove, Rector of St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Nebraska City, were among the many clergy who attended the 65th Annual Sidney H. and Jane Brooks Institute on Judaism for Christian Clergy. They heard guest speaker Dr. Gilya Gerda Schmidt speak about "Martin Buber and Life on the Narrow Ridge."



Many Heros Sighted at Temple's Blood Drive

Approximately 30 people donated blood at Temple's annual blood drive in April, including Florence Hauss (below) for the third year. "It's real easy," she said. "My husband needed blood so I know what healthy blood means. If I can help someone else, it's my pleasure."



Helping to make this vital *mitzvah* successful was the dedication of co-chairmen Harry Alloy, Bonnie Pfrenger and Judy Vann, and the following volunteers: Doris Alloy, Esther Bogdanoff, Toby Fellman, Wendy Manvitz, Denise Meyers, Silvia Roffman and Judy Zweiback.

Noshing, Sharing, Laughing Part of WRJ-O Donor Tea

Over 40 women attended the Women of Reform Judaism-Omaha Donor Tea on April 12. Sharon Boorstin, author of *Let Us Eat Cake: Adventures in Food and Friendship*, was the delightful guest speaker. Pictured with Ms. Boorstin are Silvia Roffman and Susie Norton who co-chaired the event.



April/May 2005 • Nisan/Iyar 5765

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					29 Torah Tots 10-11:30 a.m.	30 Moments of Remembrance 9:45 a.m. Passover Service & Yizkor 10:30 a.m.
1 Teacher Meeting 9:30 a.m. Religious School Grades K-6 10 a.m.-Noon Caring Community Bakefest 10 a.m.-Noon Continuing Hebrew 10:15 a.m.-Noon	2	3 Overcoming the Obstacles to Faith Noon-1 p.m. Family School & Keep Up 6:15-8 p.m. AA, Alanon & Gambler's 12-step 7:30 p.m.	4 Religious School Grades 7-12 @ Beth Israel 6:30 p.m. Community Yom HaShoah Service & Program @ Beth Israel 7 p.m.	5 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.	6 Torah Tots 10-11:30 a.m. Tot Shabbat Dinner Following 6 p.m. Shabbat Service 7:30 p.m.	7 Bagels & Sacred Books 9:30-10:15 a.m. Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m. Bat Mitzvah of Aviva Marshall
8 Religious School Steering Committee, 8:45 a.m. Teacher Meeting, 9:30 a.m. Religious School Grades K-2, 4-6, 10 a.m.-Noon Grade 3 @ Blumkin Home 10:15-11:45 a.m. Mentors for Jews-by-Choice 10:15 a.m. Continuing Hebrew 10:15 a.m.-Noon Rosh Chodesh Group @ Home of Susan Rothholz 7 p.m.	9	10 Overcoming the Obstacles to Faith Noon-1 p.m. Family School & Keep Up 6:15-8 p.m. AA, Alanon & Gambler's 12-step 7:30 p.m.	11 OTYG Board Reception @ Azriel Home 5 p.m. Religious School Grades 7-12 @ Azriel Home 6:30-8 p.m.	12 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.	13 Torah Tots 10-11:30 a.m. Shabbat Service Dr. Michael Isaacson 7:30 p.m.	14 Bagels & Sacred Books 9:30-10:15 a.m. Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m. Bar Mitzvah of Samuel Weinstine
15 Teacher Meeting, 9:30 a.m. Religious School Grades K-6 10 a.m.-Noon Continuing Hebrew 10:15 a.m.-Noon Men's Spirituality Group 10:15 a.m.-Noon Queer Brood @ Home of Hollis Glaser, 6 p.m.	16	17 Family School & Keep Up 6:15-8 p.m. Board of Trustees 7:30 p.m. AA, Alanon & Gambler's 12-step 7:30 p.m.	18 Conversation with the Rabbi Noon-1 p.m. WRJ-O Board Installation @ Julio's 7 p.m.	19 Adult Study With the Clergy 10-11:30 a.m. Religious School Grades 3-6 4-6 p.m. Interfaith Marriage No-Host Dinner @ Pasta Amore 7 p.m.	20 Shabbat Service Confirmation/Graduation 7:30 p.m.	21 Bagels & Sacred Books 9:30-10:15 a.m. Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m. Bar Mitzvah of Benjamin Prescott
22 Teacher Meeting, 9 a.m. Religious School Grades K-6 10 a.m.-Noon Continuing Hebrew 10:15 a.m.-Noon Prayer Assembly with Robbo, 11:30 a.m. Annual Congregation Dinner & Meeting 6 p.m.	23	24 AA, Alanon & Gambler's 12-step 7:30 p.m.	25	26 Adult Study With the Clergy 10-11:30 a.m.	27 Shabbat Service 6 p.m.	28 Bagels & Sacred Books 9:30-10:15 a.m. Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m.
29	30 Office Closed Memorial Day	31 AA, Alanon & Gambler's 12-step 7:30 p.m.	1	2 Adult Study With the Clergy 10-11:30 a.m.	3 Shabbat Service 6 p.m.	4 Bagels & Sacred Books 9:30-10:15 a.m. Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m. Bar Mitzvah of Nikolas Schrager

Worship Services

Friday~April 29

6 p.m.
Early Worship Service

Saturday~April 30

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

Friday~May 6

6 p.m.
Tot Shabbat
Dinner immediately following
7:30 p.m.
Shabbat Service
Rabbi Aryeh Azriel
Oneg Shabbat sponsored by Ilka Oberst and Gary Marshall
in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter

Saturday~May 7

9:30-10:15 a.m.
Bagels and Sacred Books
10:30 a.m.
Shabbat Service
Bat Mitzvah of Aviva Shoshana Oberst-Marshall
Daughter of Ilka Oberst and Gary Marshall
Torah Portion: Kedoshim
Leviticus 19:1-20:27
Haftarah: Amos 9:7-15

Friday~May 13

7:30 p.m.
Shabbat Service
Dr. Michael Isaacson
Oneg Shabbat sponsored by Barbara and Robert Hurwitz
in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of their grandson

Saturday~May 14

9:30-10:15 a.m.
Bagels and Sacred Books
10:30 a.m.
Shabbat Service
Bar Mitzvah of Samuel Calvin Weinstine
Son of Melany and Marc Weinstine
Torah Portion: Emor
Leviticus 21:1-24:23
Haftarah: Ezekiel 44:15-31

Friday~May 20

7:30 p.m.
Shabbat Service
Confirmation/Graduation
Oneg Shabbat sponsored by the
families of the Grade 12 students

Saturday~May 21

9:30-10:15 a.m.
Bagels and Sacred Books
10:30 a.m.
Shabbat Service
Bar Mitzvah of Benjamin Osius Prescott
Son of Karen Schliefert and Michael Prescott
Torah Portion: Behar
Leviticus 25:1-26:2
Haftarah: Jeremiah 32:6-27

Friday~May 27

6 p.m.
Shabbat Service
Rabbi Craig Marantz

Saturday~May 28

9:30-10:15 a.m.
Bagels and Sacred Books
10:30 a.m.
Shabbat Service
Torah Portion: Bechukotai
Leviticus 26:3-27:34
Haftarah: Jeremiah 16:19-17:14



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

OTYGers Head to St. Louis!

Sean Bernstein, Chelsea Taxman, Jake Bleicher, advisor Leora Azriel (pictured right, front row, left to right), Anne Joseph, Robert Friedman, Nate Joseph, Ashley Bernstein and LaShanna Bernstein (back row, left to right) traveled with Lynne Jensen, Director of Youth and Informal Education, to St. Louis. The



spring Chavurah theme for the April 15-17 event was "NFTY Eye for the Jewish Guy," using the reality t.v. idea to explore Jewish values.

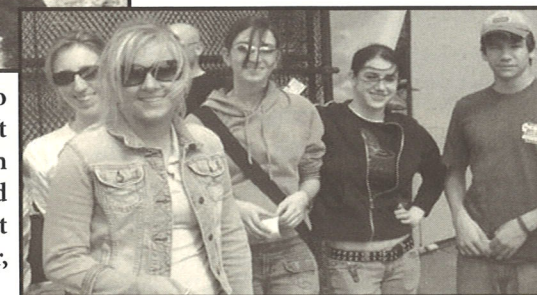
(Left) The OTYGers (and a mom!) groove into the television theme of the weekend by spoofing "The Partridge Family."

Grade 10 Students Enjoyed Their Bite of the Big Apple

Thirteen classmates accompanied Rabbi Aryeh Azriel and chaperones Hollis Glaser and Lynne and Patrick Jensen to New York City April 7-10. The group enjoyed services at Congregation B'nai Jeshurum, the Broadway musical "Hairspray," tours of Ellis Island and "Jewish New York," a genuine kosher deli, a stroll through Times Square, and many other New York sights during their visit.



Waiting outside the modern photo exhibit "Ashes and Snow" are (left to right) Lauren Josephson, Sarah Spooner, Jessie Danon, Amy Schweid and Josh Finnicum. Students not pictured are Eliza Cowan, Nick Ferer, Aaron Parsow and Anne Rips.



The group enjoyed a beautiful spring day in Central Park. Pictured at left are (front row, l to r) Justin Slutzky, Josh Finnicum and Brandon Thomas. (Middle row) Amy Schweid, Jackie Neesman and Nimrod Ginsburg. (Back row) Taylor Workman, Allie Levinger and Aaron Passer.

JYG Celebrates a Chocolate Covered Passover

Twelve JYGers enjoyed a "choco-tastic" time searching for chocolate covered afikomen, drinking four glasses of chocolate milk, and making (and eating!) s'more Hillel sandwiches at their April 20 chocolate seder.

A shout out to Julianna Scheet and Brandon Idelman who won giant Hershey bars for finding the hidden afikomen!



(First row, left to right) Brandon Idelman, Zach Spooner, Sam Weinstine; (middle row) OTYG liaisons Jaclyn Adelson and Sarah Bleicher, Zach Helm; (last row) Julie Sadofsky, Hannah Grossman, Melanie Long, Ben Prescott, Charles Parsow, Max Sherman, Molly Noodell, Julianna Scheet



(Above) S'more makers were used to toast marshmallows to make the sweet Hillel sandwiches during the seder.

Public School Teachers and Administrators Honored



At the Public School Teachers Shabbat, Catlin Elementary School fifth grade teacher, Renate Horn, attended with her student Lauren Cooper. Rabbi Aryeh Azriel dedicated the Torah portion he read that night to the teachers who all gathered on the *bimah* during the worship service. Amanda Ouren from Oakdale Elementary School, with her fifth grader David Glazer, also attended.



Outreach and Synagogue Community is a new committee at Temple Israel dedicated to building a strong Temple family that is inclusive, accessible and exciting. We ask you to consider the following question:

Who are we? We are...

Tall, short, blond, brunette, some redheads;
Latina, Caucasian, Israeli, American;
born Jewish, Jew-by-Choice, exploring Judaism, not Jewish;
gay, straight, single, married, divorced;
parents, children, men, women, newborn babies, octogenarians, college students...

And the list goes on. The Outreach and Synagogue Community Council is celebrating the diversity of our congregation by providing a variety of forums and activities to bring people together. Check out what we're doing. Let us know what you want from the Temple family. Let us know how you'd like to get involved in the Jewish community.

Questions: contact Wendy Goldberg, wgoldberg@cox.net or 393-6391, or Program Director Rosie Zweiback, rzweiback@templeisraelomaha.com or 556-6536.

To RSVP for these events, contact the Temple office: 556-6536 or mkube@templeisraelomaha.com.

Mentors for Jews-by-Choice: Finding a Jewish Mother When You Really Need One

Sunday, May 8, 10:15 a.m.
Temple Israel Library
Coffee and Conversation (and Bagels!)



Those who have chosen Judaism or are in the process of converting are invited to attend this community conversation. Join Rabbi Azriel and our Outreach Fellow John Dacey to explore how one becomes integrated into the Temple family and feels a part of the Jewish people. Questions? Contact Rosie Zweiback. RSVP to the Temple office.

Jewish Women Wonder: A Tallit of Our Own?

Sunday, May 8, 7 p.m.

Join this monthly Rosh Chodesh celebration where women gather for friendship, food and fascinating conversation. This month's topic is the meaning of the tallit and how women might like to make it part of their worship experience.



Hosted at the home of Susan Rothholz, 1349 South 101st Street, #206. RSVP to the Temple office.

Jewish Food for the Queer Brood

Sunday, May 15, 6 p.m.

Gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender Jews, their partners and families are invited to an informal dinner at the home of Hollis Glaser, 1709 North 50th Street. The food will be good and it will give us a chance to meet each other. Children are welcome. Feel free to contact Hollis with questions at hollis_glaser@unomaha.edu. RSVP to the Temple office.

Hey, I Married a Non-Jew and We're Working it Out.

How About You?

Thursday, May 19, 7 p.m.
at Pasta Amore

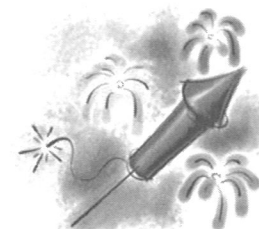
(Rockbrook Shopping Center,
108th and Center)

All interfaith couples are invited to this no-host dinner sponsored by Nikki and Adam Kirshenbaum at one of Omaha's best Italian restaurants. This informal social is an opportunity to mingle with others who are trying to bridge two worlds through their marriage. Questions? Contact Adam at akirshenbaum@blackwellsanders.com. To reserve a place at the table, contact the Temple office.

Independence Day: It's Not Just a Political Phenomenon!

Sunday, July 3, 6 p.m.

Steve Danon, informal chair of the single-parent families group at Temple, invites all single-parents and their children to come to a rollicking bar-b-que complete with fireworks.



Make your way to 4804 South 160th to celebrate independence! Questions? Contact Steve at sdanon@aol.com or 894-0830. RSVP to the Temple office.

Building Bridges of Understanding

Temple Israel has a long-standing tradition of reaching out to the wider Omaha community to promote interfaith understanding. Our clergy frequently meet with local professors and their students for Q and A sessions in the Sanctuary. The WRJ-O Friendship Tea, the Sidney and Jane Brooks Institute on Judaism for Clergy, and the Public School Teacher Shabbat are other gatherings we host to increase understanding and build bridges to the mostly Christian community around us.

Several years ago, we sponsored a three-session class called "A Taste of Judaism: Are you Curious?" It was pitched to the general community with ads in the Omaha World Herald and on the radio. The response was overwhelming. We had to add a second session to accommodate over 130 adult learners. Space restrictions forced us to turn away more than 140 people who had hoped to join us.

In late August, we plan to offer this series again, but it doesn't happen without the commitment of our volunteers who personally respond to each inquiry to screen applicants and provide that welcoming touch. If you are committed to interfaith work and would like to help Temple in reaching out to the wider community, please come to an informational meeting on **Sunday, May 15, 10:15 a.m.** in the library. The time commitment can be tailored to your schedule. Please RSVP to the Temple office, mkube@templeisraelomaha.com or 556-6536, so we can save you a seat (and a bagel)!

Community-wide
Yom HaShoah Observance
7 p.m. on Wednesday, May 4
Beth Israel Synagogue

An American soldier tells
his story of liberating a
concentration camp.
Sponsored by Jewish Educational
and Library Services

Bylaw Amendment

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.

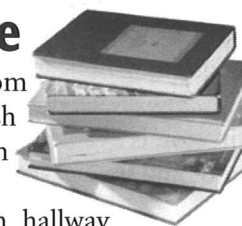
Purpose:

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.

Federation Library Books Available at Temple

Books from the Kripke Jewish Federation Library are available in the main hallway after worship services on Friday evenings and Saturday mornings. This convenient service has been provided by Gary Katz, Administrator of the library. "I've been bringing a little bit of everything," he said. In addition to a variety of general selections, he has made available books that highlight Temple's upcoming speakers and scholars, fiction, popular movies, large print books, and books on tape.

Books can be borrowed for 28 days and movies for 14 days before returning them to the Federation Library. To renew books and videos, call Gary at the library, 334-6462.



Change in Religious School Schedule Brings Opportunities

This school year has nearly come to an end; however, our work for next year has just begun!

We are very excited about the new ideas and opportunities for our students. To help with planning for next year, each student will receive a pamphlet listing ways that parents can get involved. With your assistance, we can help Temple Israel's Religious School grow and become the best that it can be.

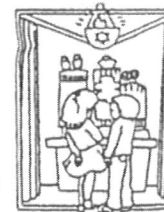
Remember, next year's schedule has changed! Grades three through six will meet on Wednesdays, 4-6 p.m. Grades seven through twelve will still have class on Wednesdays, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Grades Kindergarten through six will continue with Sunday classes, 10 a.m. to Noon, and Family School meets at their regular Tuesday time of 6:15-8 p.m.

We look forward to an exciting year ahead with parents taking an active role in their child's Jewish education.

Please call volunteer coordinators Louri Sullivan, 445-4037, or Jordana Glazer, 343-1364, Religious School Coordinator Joan Cooper or Middle/High School Director Elyce Azriel (556-6536) for more information about opportunities for parents to assist in our school.

Tot Shabbat Friday, May 6 6 p.m.

Join us for this short service of song and prayer, followed by cookies and juice. Toddlers through children in the primary grades are encouraged to bring their families. Come enjoy songs and a story with Rabbi Marantz. Afterwards, stay for a child-friendly Shabbat dinner. Please RSVP to the Temple office, mkube@templeisraelomaha.com or 556-6536. Cost is \$5 per adult; children, no charge.



Dear Miss Manners:

A non-Jewish friend of mine and her family will be attending services this Friday night for the first time. What should I tell her about proper conduct in the temple?

Signed,
Concerned Friend

Dear Concerned:

Miss Manners is delighted that you would ask this before your friend's visit, rather than letting her step blindly through the landmines of good decorum.

Here are a few suggestions for making her visit pleasant and meaningful:

- Bring quiet activities for her young children to enjoy when their interest drifts from the service—books, crayons, stuffed animals, etc.
- Refrain from speaking during the service. (Miss Manners does know there are times when a quiet question or two must be asked!)
- Ask her to silence her cell phone and pager. Don't forget to check your own!
- Jeans, tennis shoes and t-shirts should be avoided. Remember, your clothes and demeanor show respect for yourself and for your hosts.
- Try to minimize your trips in and out of the sanctuary to maximize the relevance of the service for everyone attending.
- And, finally, avoid a pet peeve of Miss Manners'—no gum chewing!

These suggestions will help assure that you and those around you of have a good Shabbat.



The following extend their gratitude and thanks for the uniongrams received in celebration their joyous events:

Lisa and Brad Green, in honor of their marriage;

Beth Spizman, in honor of the birth of her son, Maxwell.

Our Sympathy

The Congregation records with sorrow the deaths of...

Virgil Hiatt, brother-in-law of Doris and Richard Rosinsky;

Rabbi Arnold Fink, father of Rabbi Dan Fink;

Norman Cain, husband of Ruth Cain, uncle of Barbara Mueting, and brother-in-law of Pearl Herzog;

Fanny Gummers, mother of Fayna Belzer and Arnie Manvitz, stepmother of Claire Flatowicz and Bob Gummers, and sister of Reva Oruch and Edith Abrams;

Ruby Schondelmeyer, grandmother of Sarah Schondelmeyer;

Rose Frankel, grandmother of Harris, Hillary and John Frankel and Amy Kleeberg, and sister of Ida Arkin;

...and extends sympathy to their bereaved families.

Fiscal Year Ends May 31

Temple's fiscal year will end May 31, 2005. Please make every effort to pay any outstanding obligations by that date.

As always, Dennis DePorte, Executive Director, is available to discuss in confidence any special situations.

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.

Congratulations

On the Birth of:

Benjamin Graham Levitsky, son of Rachel and Josh Levitsky. Grandparents are Janet and Robert Graham, Chicago, IL, and Joan and Melvin Levitsky, Syracuse, NY.

Mika O'Mara Bresel, daughter of Kallen and Michael Bresel. Grandparents are Judy and Robert Zimmer, and Marge and Jim Bresel. Great-grandparents are Barbara Zimmer, Fremont, NE, and the late Harold Zimmer, the late Lorraine and LeRoy Cross, Myra and Leo Sivin, and Morris Bresel and the late Jean Bresel.

Vivi Hope Spitz, daughter of Jane and Eric Spitz, Brookline, MA. Grandparents are Renee and Sandy Kasner, and Gloria and Bob Spitz, Philadelphia, PA.

Kaden Boyd Bates, son of Mara and Kenneth Bates. Grandparents are Harriett Birkey, Marlton, NJ, and Mary Jean and Art Bates, Wetherfield, CT. Great-grandmother is Rose Klein, Cherry Hill, NJ.

Haley Morgan Hornstein, daughter of Laura and David Hornstein. Grandparents are Joan and Ernie Bahm, Ashland, NE, Shiela and Ray Tomps, and Larry Hornstein. Great-grandmother is Helen Earnest, North Loop, NE.

On the Engagement of:

Julie Westerfield and Arnold Robinson. Parents are Karen and Steve Westerfield, and Betti and Richard Robinson, Norfolk, NE.

On the Marriage of:

Mr. and Mrs. Brad Green. Mrs. Green is the former Lisa Coren. Parents are Fran and Mickey Coren, and Ruth and Lester Green, Bethesda, MD.



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

IN MEMORY OF: Sarah Becker: Sandy and John Lehr; Norman Cain, Audrey Cohen: Sandy and Jeff Passer; Marsha Coren: Jeanne and David Dvorkin; Bob Frye: Bev Gilinsky; Evelyn Kenkel: Sandy and Paul Epstein; Brother of Leonard Lewis, Ben Miller: Shirley Weinstein; Enid Levey Pollack: Joanne and Jerry Freeman; Rosalyn Rathsam: Doris and Harry Alloy, Toby Fellman, Joan and Milton Marcus; Lois Stern: Doris and Richard Rosinsky, Mickey Stern, Shirley Weinstein

IN HONOR OF RECOVERY OF: Mel Linsman: Noni and Hal Selner; Blake Lund: Lisa and Denny Lewis, Audrey and Morrie Shapiro; Bob Newman: Lisa and Denny Lewis, Stacey and Jonathan Rockman; Zeph Telpner: Sally and Maynard Telpner

IN HONOR OF BIRTHDAY OF: Joyce Cohen: George Eisenberg; Lois Epstein: Susan and Jerry Wolper; Jordana Glazer: Cindy and Bruce Goldberg; Debby Greene: Phyllis and Normand Roffman, Edye and Joe Vitek; Esther Meiches: Audrey, Morrie and David Shapiro; Silvia Roffman: Debby Greene, Larry Greene; Cynthia Schneider: Suzy Rubin

IN HONOR OF ANNIVERSARY OF: Mr. and Mrs. Herman Barrish: Harriett and Sherm Sperling; Edythe and Lloyd Krasne: George Eisenberg, Cheryl Lerner, Joan and Milton Marcus, Bea and Ben Schneider, Julia Shapiro and Sandi McCreight, Audrey, Morrie and David Shapiro, Harriett and Sherm Sperling, Sally and Maynard Telpner, Elaine Tepperman, Betty Rae and Ben Weiser

IN HONOR OF B'NAI MITZVAH OF: Brittany Baines, William Clark, Aviva Marshall, Ben Prescott, Julie Sadofsky, Jordan Slutzky, Sam Weinstine: Scott Goldberg, Brenna Robinson; Danny Pachman: Doris and Harry Alloy, Scott Goldberg, Brenna Robinson; Arielle Ida Pilley: Audrey and Morrie Shapiro

IN HONOR OF BIRTH OF: Alex Friedland: Nancy and David Jacobson, Debbi and Speedy Zweiback; Brady Meyerson, Vivi Spitz: Debbi and Speedy Zweiback

IN HONOR OF NEW HOME: Kathy and Steve Simon: Darlynn and Tom Fellman, Sharon and Howard Kooper.

Contribution Form

All donations received will be placed in the Endowment Fund unless specifically directed otherwise.

In Memory of _____

In Honor of ☐ Recovery ☐ Birthday ☐ Anniversary ☐ Other _____

of (name) _____

☐ Fund _____ ☐ Amount _____

Recipient Name _____

Address _____

Donor Name _____

Address _____

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, at 556-6536.

\$6.00 fund contributions:

- David Bleicher Camp Scholarship
- Mel and Genevieve Bornstein Social Justice
- Rabbi Sidney H. and Jane 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)