

Spotlight

YOUR FAVORITE PHOTOS



Temple Israel's Kol Rina and the St. Paul United Methodist Church Choir blended their voices during services at Temple Israel on March 4 to continue an eight year tradition. They also performed an encore at St. Paul Methodist Church on March 6.

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Calendar

Zio's Pizzeria School Fundraiser
Sunday, March 27, Noon - 9 p.m.

Educators' Shabbat Service and Celebration of Debbie Friedman's Music
Friday, April 1, 6 p.m.

Social Justice Table Talk: Talking with Children About Race
Tuesday, April 5, 6:30 p.m.

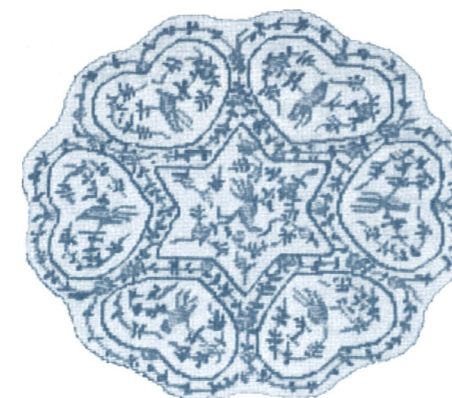
Electronic Recycle and Paper Shredding Day
Sunday, April 10, 10 a.m.

Navigating the Prayer Service
Wednesday, April 13, 6:30 p.m.

Deli Day at Temple Israel
Sunday, April 17
Lunch: 11:30 a.m. - 1p.m.
Dinner: 5-7 p.m.

Congregational Seder

Passover Worship Service: Tuesday, April 19, 10:30 a.m.
Congregational Seder: Tuesday, April 19, 6 p.m.
Concluding Worship Service and Yizkor: Monday, April 25, 10:30 a.m.



This Seder Plate was adapted from one in the Precious Legacy exhibition made by Joseph Vater in Vienna around 1900. The original plate came from the State Jewish Museum in Prague. The copy of this plate is used by Joanie and Marty Lehr and their family for Passover. Joanie crafted this needlepoint piece for the Temple Israel Tapestry Project.

On the fourteenth day of Nisan, we celebrate the anniversary of Israel's liberation from Egyptian bondage. This year, as we watch the tenuous liberation of Egyptians from their own oppression, we are reminded that if our forefathers had not been freed many centuries ago, we might still be slaves in Egypt.

On Tuesday, April 19, at 10:30 a.m., the clergy will lead a Passover service. The office will be closed that day. But that evening, at 6 p.m., the congregation and guests are invited to a seder at Temple Israel. One of the most joyous occasions in Jewish life, the seder table evokes perpetual hope that despite present-day trials and tribulations, there is a brighter future for the Jewish people.

Dinner will include matzah ball soup, chicken, potato kugel, salad, chocolate-dipped macaroons for dessert, and all the traditional favorites such as charoses, gefilte fish and matzah, of course. Kids are advised to get their detective skills ready to search for the afikoman.

"The food was great," said Debbie Finnicum who attended the congregational seder at Temple Israel last year. "We made some new friends, and I only had to cook one night. My mother was with us from Phoenix, and she loved it so much she asked if we could go again this year."

Reservations are a must! Please contact the Temple Israel office, 402-556-6536 or mkube@templeisraelomaha.com, by Friday, April 15, to reserve your seats. Cost of the dinner is adults \$23; children (six to twelve years old) \$12; no charge for children five and younger. After Friday, April 15, the cost of the dinner is adults \$28; children (six to twelve years old) \$17.

A concluding Passover service including Yizkor on Monday, April 25, at 10:30 a.m., will bring this seven-day holiday to a close. If you would like to have the names of your loved ones read at the concluding service, please contact the Temple Israel office, 402-556-6536 or bsullivan@templeisraelomaha.com, by Friday, April 22 with the names.

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Purim



Cantor Shermet

This year we celebrated Purim on Saturday evening, March 19. Purim occurs in the month of Adar, but because there are 7 leap years out of every 19 years (to adjust the Hebraic lunar calendar with the modern solar calendar), this year it falls on the 14th day of Adar II. Purim is not a *chag*, or Torah holiday! Neither Purim nor Chanukah is mentioned in the Torah, and it is ironic that both these celebrations are the most “fun,” at least to our children.

We are all familiar with the story itself and its major characters. Historians figure that Ahashueras was probably Xerxes I of Persia, since the Book of Esther took place in the 5th century BCE. A “pur” is an Akkadian word that means “lot,” as in casting your dice for chance or fate. Haman cast lots to fix the date for the destruction of the Jews, and this date was the 13th of Adar. That date is now the Fast of Esther in remembrance of the fast she proclaimed prior to coming before the King to plead for her people. “Purim” is the plural; in Hebrew, the suffix “im” is added to the majority of masculine words.

Purim was celebrated by at least the 2nd century BCE in the Hasmonean era, but later after the Destruction of the Temple in 70 CE, the rabbis gave it more weight. *Megillat Esther* is a Talmudic tractate, and carries with it the laws for observance of Purim, and its own cantillation and blessings. The most important rule for Purim is to read the Megillah both evening and morning in the synagogue. Those of you who have travelled to Jerusalem may have seen really gorgeous Esther scrolls in art galleries. The scrolls are beautifully painted and the covers themselves are decorated in silver.

Most synagogues have a carnival spirit to their celebrations of Purim. *Groggers*, which is Yiddish and means “noisemaker,” are

whirled whenever we hear Haman’s name. This is to “blot out the memory of Amalek” (Deut. 25:19) who was allegedly Haman’s ancestor. The Amaleks, you remember, attacked us from behind in our journey through the Sinai, and we remember this incident on the Shabbat just before Purim, called *Shabbat Zachor* (the Sabbath of Remembrance). As on Chanukah, we insert in the service *Al Hanissim*, a prayer for thanksgiving.

Another Purim rule is to exchange gifts of food with friends or give to a charity, called *mishloach manot*. We eat hamentaschen, which are “Haman’s pockets.” A further rule is to literally drink until one cannot tell the difference between Haman and Mordechai. The reason may be that the prayers *Baruch Mordecai* and *Arur Haman*, both taken from the “lily of Jacob” hymn sung after reading Esther, have the same numerical value of 502.

The Purim spiel has been a custom for a long time, and Purim is a very big occasion in Israel. Critics of the holiday say that there is no historical proof for it, and that there is no concrete, straightforward religious message. Again, like Chanukah, it is more nationalistic than religious, as it regards Jews fighting to preserve their culture, faith and the right to live where they choose. Haman is the prototypical anti-Semite.

Because of its status as a minor holiday, there isn’t a great deal of special music written for Purim. The music tends to be either satirical or informational, such as long songs with many stanzas that describe the Purim story. Purim was the exception to the ban on play-acting. In the time of the Gaonim in Babylonia, it was common to dramatize the story of Esther. A dummy Haman was burned, which also occurred during the Middle Ages. The spiel as we know it today came about in the early 18th century. The first recorded one was in 1708, published in Frankfurt, Germany, called “Ahasveros Spiel.” Some scholars maintain that the spiel was the beginning of Jewish theater and melodrama.

Note From the President



John Lehr

Contrary to the belief of some, I have not sat on Temple Israel’s board for 16 years for its unabated fun or financial rewards. For me, having a hand in the purpose and direction of the congregation is truly its own reward, but why? What is it about who we are and what we do that causes me to devote my time and my money, and to ask the same of my friends, family and fellow congregants?

In short, it’s because we matter, and we have mattered for a really long time, and are certain to matter long into the future. We bring our congregants closer to each other, closer to the community and closer to God, all through a belief system and framework that has sustained our people through the millennia, which is as modern and relevant today as it is ancient and beyond our grasp.

As we think, dream, plan, fundraise, and ultimately build our next congregational home, your board, professional staff, and committees are all thinking a great deal about what we want to be when we get there. What I want Temple Israel to be is exactly what it is now – the spiritual home to welcome our children when they are born, educate and inspire them, connect them to each other and the community for the rest of their lives, confidently send them off to college and beyond, welcome them back home, and to welcome the children of others who we are lucky enough to have made Omaha their new home. We want to marry them, share their joys, ease their sorrows, and always be here when we are needed, remembering that even when we don’t need Temple Israel, we are thankful it’s here and ready. As Omaha’s Reform outpost of אור לגויים – a light unto the nations – we matter to our community, just as we matter to our members.

Of course, there’s nothing that we do that we can’t do better – that’s what takes most of my Temple time – but my involvement continues because no other institution does or can do what we do.

In the News

Nancy Hornstein, and her family, **Jill and Joe Goldstein and their sons Jack and Alex**, are honorary chairs of Child Saving Institute’s annual fundraising campaign, “Dough in the Toe.” CSI assists children and families in our community who are in crisis. **Dana Kaufman** and **Nikki Kirshenbaum** are members of the CSI Guild Board.

Sandy Passer and **Jane Rips** are new Methodist Hospital Volunteers in Partnership Board members-at-large. Sandy also was honored with a Friend of the Board Award.

Amy Rabinovitz is a recipient of a Shofar Award for her dedication and commitment to Boy Scouts. The award recognizes “outstanding service by adults in the promotion of Scouting among Jewish youth.”

Andy Ruback, NRG Media-Lincoln general manager, has been recognized by Radio Ink magazine as one of only five managers in the small-market category and the only general manager west of the Mississippi on the annual “best of” list of honorees.

First Responders Critical Support Foundation (formerly known as Firefighters and Police Appreciation Foundation) raises funds for critically needed equipment and training not available in the department’s budgets. **Ray Somberg** is president and executive director of the foundation. **Bruce Shackman** is on the executive committee, and **Ron Brodkey**, **Murray Newman**, **Nancy Noddle**, and **Jane Rips** are members of the Foundation Board.

Mitch Sherman, who has worked at the *Omaha World-Herald* since 1996 as a sports writer, has taken a new job as senior writer for ESPN’s recruiting network and will occasionally contribute to the network’s broadcast platforms. He will be covering college football and basketball recruiting across the country.

Hannah Budwig, a freshman at Westside High School, has been invited to attend the National Young Leaders State Conference, sponsored by the Congressional Youth Leadership Council. The four-day event assists young scholars in assessing their leadership skills and abilities to determine how to view each student’s leadership role in the community.

Susan Freeman, a sophomore at Cornell University, was elected president of Alpha Epsilon Phi sorority.

Janice and Bob Batt were honorary chairs of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation annual gala, “Big Dreams, Big Hearts...Real Hope for a Cure” at the Qwest Center in February. **Robyn and Bob Freeman** were among the event chairs. **Amea Zetzman** is president-elect of the Board of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, and **Troy Meyerson** is a current Board member.

Recipient of two gold key awards in the Scholastic Art Awards of Nebraska competition this year, **Molly Helm’s** art work will move on to New York City for national judging. Molly is a junior at Brownell-Talbot.

Jordan Jensen, a junior at Westside High School and current president of OTYG, won NFTY’s Wendy Blickstein Memorial D’var Torah competition. Jordan read her d’var at the closing banquet of the NFTY National Convention in February in Dallas. She won a \$5000 scholarship which can be applied to the cost of any NFTY North American or regional program, NFTY’s Summer Travel Program, or a URJ camp.

Ask the Clergy

Rabbi Linder

Q: Am I allowed to eat matzah on other nights besides Passover? (Delicious with butter!)

A: *Matzah* can be eaten except for two occasions. One is fast days. No unleavened bread on Yom Kippur, for example. The other is much more interesting; you cannot eat *matzah* on the day before Passover. The reason for this is to make sure that the Passover *matzah* has special significance above and beyond its culinary delights.

Do you have a question for the clergy? Send it to templeisrael@templeisraelomaha.com.

Worship AND HOLIDAYS

Shabbat Evening

Friday, March 25
Shabbat Comes to You at
Blumkin Home, 2:30 p.m.
Service, 6 p.m.
Alternate Service, 7:30 p.m.
Bishop John Shelby Spong

Shabbat Morning

Saturday, March 26
Sparks Beneath the Surface,
9:15 a.m.
Service, 10:30 a.m.

Shabbat Evening

Friday, April 1
Educators Shabbat and
Celebration of Debbie
Friedman's Music, 6 p.m.

Shabbat Morning

Saturday, April 2
Sparks Beneath the Surface,
9:15 a.m.
Service, 10:30 a.m.

Shabbat Evening

Friday, April 8
Shabbat Comes to You at
Remington Heights, 4 p.m.
Service, 6 p.m.
Midrash Keit: Master
Storyteller Rita Paskowitz

Shabbat Morning

Saturday, April 9
Sparks Beneath the Surface,
9:15 a.m.
Service, 10:30 a.m.

Shabbat Evening

Friday, April 15
Service, 6 p.m.
Tot Shabbat, 6 p.m.
Dinner following

Shabbat Morning

Saturday, April 16
Sparks Beneath the Surface,
9:15 a.m.
Service, 10:30 a.m.

Shabbat Evening

Friday, April 22
Service, 6 p.m.

Shabbat Morning

Saturday, April 23
Sparks Beneath the Surface,
9:15 a.m.
Service, 10:30 a.m.

Shabbat Evening

Friday, April 29
Service, 6 p.m.

Shabbat Morning

Saturday, April 30
Sparks Beneath the Surface,
9:15 a.m.
Service, 10:30 a.m.

Educators Shabbat and Celebration of Debbie Friedman's Music

Friday, April 1, 6 p.m.

To foster a friendly atmosphere of understanding and sharing, the Temple Israel Religious School is sponsoring "A Celebration of Learning: An Educators Shabbat." Children in kindergarten through sixth grade will have a chance to share Shabbat with their public or private school teachers, principals and their Religious School instructors.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for secular educators to see how their Jewish students are involved in Temple Israel," said Lori Bennett, Religious School Coordinator, "in addition to honoring their Religious School teachers. We hope your family will participate in the evening's activities."

At 5:30 p.m., Religious School classrooms will be open for tours. A family Shabbat worship service will follow at 6 p.m. Kol Rina will sing selections from the music of Debbie Friedman, the well known Jewish singer - songwriter who passed away earlier this year. The elementary school children will also sing one of her songs.

Families are encouraged to invite their teachers and principals to both the worship service and dinner. Dinner will be served at 7:15 p.m. Reservations for dinner must be made by Monday, March 28. Cost of the dinner is \$9 per adult and \$6 per child age four and older. Families are asked to pay for their guests and can co-host a teacher and a principal with other Temple Israel families. Each family is asked to bring three dozen treats for dessert. At 7:30 p.m., Religious School staff and Temple Israel's clergy will be available to answer questions.

Tot Shabbat

Friday, April 15, 6 p.m.

Ted and Jamie Friedland and Troy and Jamie Meyerson will host this Tot Shabbat. This month's dinner will feature a pasta bar following the kid-friendly Shabbat worship service of prayer, stories, and songs. Join the Friedlands, and their children Rose and Alex, and the Meyersons, with their children Ainsley, Aiden, and Audrey, for friendship and fun. Tot Shabbat is co-sponsored by Women of Reform Judaism. The cost for the dinner is \$5 for adults and no charge for children. Please contact the Temple Israel office, 402-556-6536 or mkube@templeisraelomaha.com, to make a dinner reservation.



Shelby Goodman found the afikoman at last year's Seder.

Passover Seder Sponsored by Tri-Faith

Wednesday, April 20, 6 - 8:30 p.m., St. Martha's Episcopal Church, 780 Pinnacle Drive, Papillion, (enter through the west doors, lower level)

Rabbi Azriel, Rabbi Linder and Cantor Shermet will lead a model Passover seder sponsored by the Tri-Faith Initiative, the partnership of Temple Israel, the Episcopal Diocese of Nebraska, and the American Institute of Islamic Studies and Culture.

"The opportunity to share, teach and experience a Pesach celebration with Christians and Muslims in our community is awe-inspiring," asserted Rabbi Azriel. "Three communities in search of knowledge, friendship and love are coming together to unfold and clarify the most important narrative in human history - the journey toward freedom."

Members of all faiths are invited to participate in the seder which is an opportunity to appreciate and learn about the Omaha community, both socially and religiously. The Tri-Faith Initiative is committed to celebrating religious and cultural differences, beyond theological doctrine, extending to art, music, cuisine, ethics and holidays.

Cost is Adults \$15, children \$8; no charge for children five and younger. Please RSVP by Tuesday, April 5, to Nancy Kirk, info@trifaith.org or 402-934-2955. You can also register online, www.tri-faith.org.

Passover Seder at Remington Heights

Thursday, April 21, 4 p.m., 12606 West Dodge Road

Join Remington Heights residents and members of Temple Israel to celebrate Passover at an afternoon Seder. Rabbi Azriel will lead a traditional Passover Seder including the reading of the Haggadah and ceremonial food followed by a festive meal. Reservations are requested by Friday, April 15. Contact Program Director Wendy Goldberg, 402-556-6536 or wgoldberg@templeisraelomaha.com, for more information.

Do You Need A Place for the First Seder?

The first Seder will be celebrated on Monday, April 18. Please contact Program Director Wendy Goldberg, 402-556-6536 or wgoldberg@templeisraelomaha.com.

Volunteer Opportunities

Passover Set Up

Tuesday, April 19

Volunteers are needed to set the tables for the congregational seder. If you can help, please contact Executive Director Dennis DePorte, ddeporte@templeisraelomaha.com or 402-556-6536.

Model Seder

Wednesday, April 20

If you would like to assist with cooking the meal or setting up for the model seder, please mention your interest when you call to make a reservation. Meal preparation is planned for Tuesday, April 19, and Wednesday, April 20, prior to the dinner.

The Seder Plate

There are a number of symbols that occur throughout the seder, but perhaps the focal point of the whole event is the seder plate. It contains a roasted shankbone, symbolizing the Pesach sacrifice in the Temple; a roasted egg, symbolizing either the spring season or mourning (for the destruction of Jerusalem); maror (bitter herbs) to represent the bitter experience of the Hebrew slaves; haroset (a mixture of apples, nuts, raisins, spices, wine) symbolizing the mortar the Hebrew slaves used to build for the Egyptians; and karpas (parsley, celery, or another green vegetable) symbolizing the green of spring. The table must also have three pieces of matzah, each piece used for a different purpose, usually held in a special pouch made to be used during the seder.

March

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2 Grades 3-6 4-6 p.m. Family School 6-8 p.m. Grades 7-8 6-8 p.m. School Dinner, 6 p.m. Rituals and Belief: Death and Mourning 6:30 p.m.	3 Adult Study with the Clergy 10-11:30 a.m. Kol Rina Rehearsal 6 p.m. Rabbi Brooks Lecture @ UNO, 7 p.m.	4 Rabbi Sidney H. and Jane Brooks Institute on Judaism for Clergy and Educators 10 a.m. Shabbat Service Kol Rina and St. Paul United Methodist Choir 6 p.m. Congregational Dinner 7 p.m.	5 Sparks Beneath the Surface 9:15-10:15 a.m. Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m. Bar Mitzvah of Gavin Rogers
6 Teacher Meeting, 9 a.m. Grades K-6 10 a.m. - Noon Adult Education Meeting 10 a.m. Kol Rina and St. Paul United Methodist Choir @ St. Paul 11 a.m. Grade 2 Parents Learning Coffee, 11:30 a.m.	7	8	9 Grades 3-6 4-6 p.m. Family School 6-8 p.m. Grades 7-8 6-8 p.m. School Dinner 6 p.m. Rituals and Belief: Death and Mourning 6:30 p.m.	10	11 Shabbat Comes to You @ Remington Heights 4 p.m. Shabbat Service 6 p.m.	12 Sparks Beneath the Surface 9:15-10:15 a.m. Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m. Torah and Haftarah Reader: Miles Remer
13 Blood Drive, 9 a.m. Hebrew Teacher Meeting, 9 a.m. OTYG Board Meeting, 9 a.m. Grades PreK-6, 10 a.m.-Noon Revitalizing the Festivals, 10 a.m. Grade 3 @ Blumkin Home 10:15 a.m. OTYG Lunch & Program, Noon Club 56 Israeli Cooking, Noon	14 Derek Torah Judaism 101 @ JCC 7:30 p.m.	15 Executive Meeting 5:45 p.m. Adult B'nai Mitzvah 6:30 - 8 p.m. Board of Trustees 7 p.m. AA, Alanon & Gambler's 12-step 7:30 p.m.	16 No Religious School No Family School No Middle School	17 Adult Study with the Clergy 10-11:30 a.m.	18 Shabbat Service 6 p.m.	19 Sparks Beneath the Surface 9:15 - 10:15 a.m. Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m. Bar Mitzvah of Brandon Idelman Grades K-6, 5 p.m. Purim Service, Sing-Along, and Carnival 5-8 p.m.
20 Purim No Religious School	21 Derek Torah Judaism 101 @ JCC 7:30 p.m.	22 Adult B'nai Mitzvah 6:30 - 8 p.m. AA, Alanon & Gambler's 12-step 7:30 p.m.	23 No Religious School No Family School No Middle School	24 Adult Study with the Clergy 10-11:30 a.m.	25 Shabbat Comes to You @ Blumkin Home 2:30 p.m. Shabbat Service 6 p.m. Alternate Shabbat Service Bishop John Shelby Spong 7:30 p.m.	26 Sparks Beneath the Surface 9:15-10:15 a.m. Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m. Bar Mitzvah of Ben Oyler
27 Grades PreK-6 10 a.m. - Noon Book Sorting Day, 10 a.m. Prayer Assembly, 10 a.m. PreK & Kindergarten Seder 11 a.m. Zio's Pizza School Fundraiser, Noon Religious School Steering Committee Meeting, Noon	28 Derek Torah Judaism 101 @ JCC 7:30 p.m.	29 Adult B'nai Mitzvah 6:30 - 8 p.m. AA, Alanon & Gambler's 12-step 7:30 p.m.	30 Grades 3-6 4-6 p.m. Family School, 6-8 p.m. Grades 7-8 B'nai Tzedek Dinner and Field Trip 6 p.m. @ JCC Family School Dinner 6 p.m. Teaching the Holocaust through A Moral Lens 6:30 p.m.	31 Adult Study with the Clergy 10-11:30 a.m.		

April

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2 Sparks Beneath the Surface 9:15-10:15 a.m. Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m. Bar Mitzvah of Cole Horner
					Educators Shabbat Service and Celebration of Debbie Friedman's Music 6 p.m.	
3 Grades K-6 10 a.m. - Noon WRJ Meeting 10 a.m. Grade 4 @ Blumkin Home 10:15 a.m. Kindergarten Roundup 11 a.m. OTYG Board Meeting Noon	4	5 Talking with Children About Race 6:30 p.m. Adult B'nai Mitzvah 6:30 - 8 p.m. AA, Alanon & Gambler's 12-step 7:30 p.m.	6 No Religious School No Family School No Middle School	7 Adult Study with the Clergy 10-11:30 a.m.	8 Shabbat Comes to You @ Remington Heights 4 p.m. Shabbat Service Midrash Keit Master Storyteller Rita Paskowitz 6 p.m.	9 Sparks Beneath the Surface 9:15-10:15 a.m. Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m. Bat Mitzvah of Monica Siegel
10 Grades PreK-6, 10 a.m.-Noon Electronic Recycle and Paper Shredding Day 10 a.m. Grade 6 @ Cemetery 10 a.m. Grade 2 Very Important Person Seder 11 a.m.	11 Derek Torah Judaism 101 @ JCC 7:30 p.m.	12 Adult B'nai Mitzvah 6:30 - 8 p.m. AA, Alanon & Gambler's 12-step 7:30 p.m.	13 Grades 3-6 4-6 p.m. Family School 6-8 p.m. Grades 7-8 6 p.m. School Dinner 6 p.m. Navigating the Prayer Service 6:30 p.m.	14 Adult Study with the Clergy 10-11:30 a.m.	15 Shabbat Service 6 p.m. Tot Shabbat 6 p.m. Dinner immediately following	16 Sparks Beneath the Surface 9:15 - 10:15 a.m. Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m. Bar Mitzvah of Michael Militzer
17 Teacher Meeting 9 a.m. Grades K-6 10 a.m.-Noon Grade 6 Putting God on the Guest List 10:15 a.m. Deli Lunch, 11:30 a.m. OTYG Welcomes 8th Graders Noon Deli Night, 5 p.m.	18	19 Passover Office Closed Passover Service 10:30 a.m. Congregational Seder 6 p.m.	20 No Religious School No Family School No Middle School Passover Seder Sponsored by Tri-Faith @ St. Martha's Episcopal Church 6 p.m.	21 Adult Study with the Clergy 10-11:30 a.m. Passover Seder @ Remington Heights 4 p.m.	22 Shabbat Service 6 p.m.	23 Sparks Beneath the Surface 9:15-10:15 a.m. Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m.
24 No Religious School	25 Conclusion of Passover Office Closed Passover Service & Yizkor 10:30 a.m.	26 Adult B'nai Mitzvah 6:30 - 8 p.m. AA, Alanon & Gambler's 12-step 7:30 p.m.	27 Grades 3-6 4-6 p.m. Family School 6-8 p.m. Grades 7-8 6 p.m. School Dinner 6 p.m. Navigating the Prayer Service 6:30 p.m.	28 Adult Study with the Clergy 10-11:30 a.m.	29 Shabbat Service 6 p.m.	30 Sparks Beneath the Surface 9:15-10:15 a.m. Shabbat Service 10:30 a.m.

Congregation

New Members



David Barg moved to Omaha in July from New York City to take the position of director of orchestras and development at the Omaha Conservatory of Music. He is a conductor of young orchestras and holds professional development workshops here, around the country, and in Australia. David, who speaks

five languages, is planning to go to Israel for the first time in May as a participant in the Jewish Community Center's artist exchange program. For you chocolate lovers, David's daughter, 26-year-old Vanessa, lives in New York City and is the founder and president of Gnosis Chocolate, the third largest selling raw chocolate in the country!



Andee Scioli grew up in Omaha, and her husband, **Anthony** is from Rockville, MD. They met at the University of Pennsylvania before attending law school on the east coast. They were married in 1999 and moved to Omaha the same year. Both are now attorneys at Kutak Rock. Sons Jack, seven, is a first grader at

Dundee Elementary School and Joe is four-years-old and goes to the Child Development Center at the Jewish Community Center. The entire family loves to spend their spare time with family and friends. Anthony also enjoys all kinds of sports. Andee prefers running and likes to read. Jack likes football, baseball, swimming and Taekwondo. Joe prefers swimming, playing soccer and going to the zoo.



Not exactly a new member, **Todd Smith** explained that he and his family were affiliated with Temple Israel when he was growing up. Now an attorney, he is joining the congregation again as an adult. He enjoys traveling and has been to Israel, New York, and San Francisco among other destinations.

New York, and San Francisco among other destinations.

Births לידה

Alexander Lawrence Yale, son of Sarah and Adam Yale. Grandparents are Cynthia and Mogens Bay, and Donald Yale, Denver, Co. Great-grandmother is Marie Belsky, Dodge, NE.

Jonathan Louis Schroeder, son of Antonia and Andrew Schroeder, Midwest City, OK. Grandparents are Karen and Manuel Delgadillo, and Cindy and Bruce Schroeder. Great-grandparents are Virginia and Louis Hanisch, Lucille Bausch, Fairbury, NE, and the late Martin Bausch, the late Belen and Salvador Delgadillo, and the late Doris and Jerome Prosterman.

In Sympathy נחמה

The Congregation records with sorrow the deaths of our members' relatives...

Esther Bernstein, mother of Stuart Bernstein;

Carl Fredricks, brother of David Fredricks, uncle of Alan Fredricks;

Herbert Abraham Lewis, father of Debra Sherman;

Gladys Raffkind, sister of Millie Needelman, aunt of Howard Needelman

...and extends sympathy to their bereaved families.

B'nai Mitzvah בני מצוה



Cole Horner, son of Angela and Paul Horner, will become a Bar Mitzvah on April 2. A student at McMillan Magnet Center, Cole has a ten-year-old brother, Caleb, and a sister, Camille, six. Cole had been helping tutor students at Dundee Elementary School which he formerly attended. For his mitzvah project, he stays after school and helps children who need additional assistance with their school work. He has found that the children respond to him well and enjoys the satisfaction of helping them.



A seventh grader at Westside Middle School, **Monica Siegel**, will become a Bat Mitzvah on April 9. Her parents are Andrea and Michael Siegel who also have two sons: Tyler, 15, and Josh, 9. For her mitzvah project, Monica has been organizing and providing meals for residents of Rainbow House which provides accommodations for families of patients undergoing long-term treatment at Children's Hospital and Medical Center.



On April 16, **Michael Militzer**, son of Ellie and Paul Militzer, will become a Bar Mitzvah. A student at Beveridge Magnet School, Michael assists residents of SarahCare, which provides professional services in a secure and caring environment for older adults with health-related needs. Michael helps the residents with exercises, games, and crafts and even plays his saxophone for their entertainment. He also volunteered to help at SarahCare's Alzheimer's fundraiser.

When is an Appropriate Time to Make a Donation to a Discretionary Fund?

There are four discretionary funds to which you can make a donation at Temple Israel. Each of the clergy - Rabbi Azriel, Rabbi Linder, and Cantor Shermet - maintains a discretionary fund. In addition, there is a discretionary fund for the use of the executive director of Temple Israel. The four funds are used to support a variety of needs at Temple Israel and for congregants. But when do you contribute to a discretionary fund? Appropriate occasions are for simchas such as a Bar or Bat Mitzvah, a wedding, a bris or naming ceremony, in appreciation of a special program, and for memorable events that happen in the lives of fellow members. It's also a reverent way to acknowledge a funeral, a stone setting, or a yahrzeit.

Tree of Life

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

The following leaves have been added to the Tree of Life:

**Celebrating
the Bat Mitzvah of
Monica Hope Siegel
With Love,
Grandma Anne & Pa Steve Siegel
April 9, 2011**

**In Honor of
90th Birthday of
Harold Bernstein
From
Mort Zuber & Joie Simon
Bob & Beverly Zuber**

**Celebrating
80th Birthday
Larry Roffman
From
Your Friends**



Gretchen Radler made rugallah for Blumkin Home residents at the Chef demo in February.

Additional Recipes Requested for "The Missing Ingredient"

Andie Gordman and Danielle Gordman are chairing a cookbook project sponsored by the family of the late Stephen Simon. The title of the project is "The Missing Ingredient" (formerly "Recipes in Remembrance") and will be dedicated to the memory of loved ones missing from our lives.

"Making my Grandma Berdie's recipes warms my heart and fills my house with love in a way other recipes don't," said Danielle. "We all have special recipes from departed loved ones, and this cookbook is a wonderful way to share those recipes and memories."

Andie also remembers enjoyable family events involving "cooking good food and sharing meals that have always been a way to bring us together and make memories. This project is a wonderful way for us to share our memories of loved ones who are no longer with us and a way to bring our families closer together."

Kathy Simon, Stephen's wife, came up with the idea for the cookbook as a way to honor the memory of a family member or friend. Recipes have a way of keeping precious memories alive. She met with the cookbook committee in March. If you would like to get involved, please contact Danielle, 402-343-1435, or Andie, 402-320-5335.

Thank you to all who have contributed recipes so far. The goal is to collect 200 to 300. More recipes are requested and can be submitted on forms available at www.templeisrael-ne.org. Click on Congregation and then on WRJ Sisterhood, or you can contact Andie or Danielle.

Women of Reform Judaism

Passover Greetings for College Students

We are preparing Passover greetings to send to college students, both in town and out of town. If there has been a change in your child's address, please contact Rosie Zweiback, rozback@cox.net.

Women of Reform Judaism Installation

Thursday, May 5, Noon

Join WRJ as we honor outgoing President Susie Norton for her services and welcome incoming President Mimi Silverman and her board. Watch for additional information.

Women of Reform Judaism Plans Final Book Sale for 2012

WRJ has scheduled its final book sale for **April 20 - 24, 2012**. Please continue to donate your books.

Shop Temple Israel Gift Shop Online

Temple Israel's Gift Shop, operated by Women of Reform Judaism, is online. The online Judaica store, open 24/7, carries thousands of the finest Judaica available from the best artists in the United States, Israel, and the rest of the world, according to Judaica Beautiful, an online fundraising web store with which Temple Israel is planning to affiliate.

Sandy Nogg, Temple Israel Gift Shop manager, said, "We will still have the physical Gift Shop, and shoppers can always ask us questions about what they see online. We see this as an additional service to our customers."

Temple Israel Staff

Contact information is available on our website templeisrael-ne.org/aboutus/.

Social Justice

Talking with Children about Race. Are You? Should You Be? When? And How?

Tuesday, April 5, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Temple Israel and Table Talk will co-host a conversation with featured speaker Thomas Christie, multicultural school/community administrator in Lincoln Public Schools.

Table Talk, started in 2004 as a project of the Social Justice Committee of Catholic Charities, hosted more than 500 people of various racial and ethnic groups last October at private homes, a few houses of worship, and community centers to establish bonds of communication in pursuit of racial understanding. Ellen Platt, a member of Temple Israel, is on the Board of Directors of Omaha Table Talk. Mother of two adopted African-American daughters, she found Omaha Table Talk to be "the first...safe experience we had discussing race with a mixed group of people."

"Judaism challenges us to 'love thy neighbor as thyself,'" explained Rabbi Linder, "because by loving another human being, you are showing love to the divine spark within YOU as well as that other person." Please make a reservation by contacting the Temple Israel office, 402-556-6536.

Ongoing

Navigating the Prayer Service

Wednesdays, April 13 and 27, 6:30 - 8 p.m.

Enhance your Jewish literacy and strengthen your Jewish identity. This two-week crash course on the structure and mechanics of a synagogue prayer service includes Shabbat and daily services. New learners are welcome. Register by contacting Program Director Wendy Goldberg, 402-556-6536 or wgoldberg@templeisraelomaha.com. The class is sponsored by the Hermene Zweiback Center for Lifelong Jewish Learning.

Social Justice Committee Considers LB48

Mimi Silverman, Chair

Temple Israel's Social Justice Committee created a sub-committee to review whether to take a stand on LB48, an Arizona-style immigration reform act. The process was lengthy and stressful as we researched and reviewed the "idea" of the bill and then sunk our teeth into the actual bill itself. For the first time in many years we were able to review a bill prior to it coming through the process. We were able to be proactive instead of reactive.

We did not come to consensus. Temple Israel's policies require that, "Social action participation by Temple or any of its arms should always be pursuant to a consensus within the group participating. Such action should never be pursuant to a simple majority of the acting auxiliary. In order to measure whether 'consensus' has been achieved, we recommend that all social actions be approved by at least a three-quarter majority of any meeting at which a quorum is present."

At the time I am writing this, the bill is in committee, and it appears it most likely does not have enough votes to move to the general Unicameral for a vote. The decision should be made in the early part of March.

Please let me or Rabbi Linder know if you would like to be part of this sub-committee. Special thanks to committee members Gary Kaplan, Mark Javitch, Paul Miller, Rabbi Linder and Wendy Goldberg.

UPDATE: LINCOLN - A debate in the Nebraska Legislature on the hot-button issue of illegal immigration has been put off until next year. On March 9, the Judiciary Committee decided not to advance an Arizona-style bill or any other immigration-related proposals and instead conduct an interim study on the issue focusing on a law recently passed by the Utah Legislature. Utah's law has been described as a common sense, bipartisan solution. It allows Utah to issue "guest worker" permits allowing illegal immigrants already living in Utah to continue working there. The law sidesteps the issue of racial profiling by requiring law enforcement officials to check the legal status of dangerous criminals only. (From the office of the Great Plains ADL.)

Teaching the Holocaust Through a Moral Lens

Wednesday, March 30, 6:30 p.m.

Throughout the month of April, Temple Israel Religious School teacher Na'ama Artzi will be visiting kindergarten through sixth grade classes to lead age-appropriate discussions about the Holocaust. Relying on the thesis she wrote for her Master's degree from Loyola University, Na'ama will share the story of Janusz Korczak, a Jewish physician, educator and child advocate. During the early 20th century when Jews were confined by immense restrictions, Korczak's philosophy of building kites with the children in his orphanage allowed them a sense of freedom outside their reality. As part of this all-school educational experience, Na'ama will be sharing the story of Korczak with parents and how we are able to learn the moral lessons of Holocaust - human rights, responsibility of community, peaceful living with diversity - from his methods.

Kindergarten Round up

Sunday, April 3, 10:30 a.m.

We invite all children who will attend public school kindergarten in the fall 2011 to come meet our Religious School kindergarten teachers and share some learning time in class. Moms and dads will have an opportunity to talk with Religious School Coordinator Lori Bennett about the nuts and bolts of Religious School.

Invitations have been mailed. If you have not received one, but would like to join us for Roundup, please contact Lori, 402-556-6536 or lbennett@templeisraelomaha.com.



Club 56ers Adam Silverman, Aleia Budwig, Ellie Reiss, Chloe Ray and Whitney Feidman prepared vegetables for their Israeli lunch.



OTYGers Sophia Miller, Sophie Goldberg, Madison Baron, Morissa Miller, Hannah Perry and Haley Burns prepared sack lunches for the Stephen Center.

Calendar

Family Prayer Assembly

Sunday, March 27, 10 a.m.

PreK and Kindergarten Seder

Sunday, March 27, 11 a.m.

Zio's Pizza Fundraiser

Sunday, March 27, Noon – 9 p.m.

Religious School Steering Committee Meeting

Sunday, March 27, Noon

Grades 7 & 8 students and parents B'nai Tzedek presentation and dinner

Wednesday, March 30, 6-8:30 p.m. @ JCC

Educators Shabbat Service

Friday, April 1, 6 p.m.

Children's Choir will perform

Grade 4 Visit to the Blumkin Home

Sunday, April 3, 10:15 – 11:45 a.m.

No Religious School, Family School, Middle School

Wednesdays, April 6 & 20

Grade 6 Field Trip to Temple Israel Cemetery

Sunday, April 10, 10 a.m.

Grade 2 Hosts a Very Important Person Seder

Sunday, April 10, 10:45 a.m.

A lively Passover Seder led by Rabbi Linder for second graders and their very special persons.

Grade 6 Parent Meeting

Sunday, April 17, 10:15 a.m.

No Religious School

Sunday, April 24

Temple Israel Deli Lunch

Sunday, April 17, 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

See Deli Night Insert for menu.

Deli Night will be from 5-7 p.m.

Omaha Jewish Chai School at the JCC

Wednesdays, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Questions? Please contact Omaha Chai School Director Miriam Gross, 402-334-6445 or mgross@jewishomaha.org.

Dates: March 30, & April 6, 13, 27

Spotlight on the Haggadah and Arts course taught by Daniel Christensen

In this hands on, mixed media arts course, Omaha Jewish Chai students have been exploring the elusive text and artistic tradition of the Passover haggadah.

On the first evening, the students perused the close to one hundred volume illuminated Haggadah collection at the Kripke Jewish Federation Library. The students chose the artists and editions that most touched them and are referring to those texts each week for inspiration for their own pieces.

Seeing kids who didn't think that they had artistic abilities finding that they are able to grasp the interpretive concepts of the haggadah through art is a gratifying experience as a teacher. These kids are all engaged, every last one..." said Daniel Christensen of the class.

At the end of the year, the class will create and print their own artistic interpretive versions of this sacred ritual guide, which holds a record as the text with the most commentary ever written about it. This year these teens will be sharing more than just the Ma-Nishtana at the seder table!

Here are some quotes from our students about their reasons for choosing this course:

"Art is therapeutic and Jewish topics are really easy to interpret through art, there are so many multiple meanings." **Ariel Kohll**, Class of 2013

"I never pay that much attention to the actual words of the haggadah at seder, and an art class seemed like a great way to study them." **Ben Noodell**, Class of 2012

Omaha Temple Youth Group



Rachel Saag, Maddie Jensen, Hannah Perry, Hannah Budwig and Morissa Miller performed at the Spaghetti Dinner while Ariel Kohll played her guitar.

A "Gleeful" Thanks!

Thanks to everyone who helped plan, work or attend the OTYGlee Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser on February 13! We will be able to send a substantial donation to both Camp Rainbow and Camp CoHoLo as well as fund OTYG programming. The kids worked hard and anyone who was there will agree it was a fun filled night of great food, singing and community. Thank you very much!



Vanessa and Marissa Cooper (front) attended the Spaghetti Dinner with their dad Justin Cooper and their Grandmother Judy Cooper.



Volunteer Appreciation!



Susie Norton grew up in Omaha and at Temple Israel. "My great-grandparents were Temple Israel members so my Temple Israel roots run deep," she said. From her own naming ceremony, Bat Mitzvah, and confirmation to her wedding, "all my lifecycle events have taken place at Temple Israel or under the auspices of Temple Israel clergy." Susie met her husband Mike when she was earning her law degree at the University of Kansas.

Currently on "extended hiatus from paid employment to raise our four sons, Justin, Seth, Aaron, and Leo," Susie is the president of Women of Reform Judaism which gives her a seat on the synagogue's Board of Trustees. "I really enjoy working with WRJ," she pointed out, "getting to know so many wonderful women who have so much to offer our congregation." She has also volunteered at Religious School.

In addition, Susie has been involved with the Child Development Center at the Jewish Community Center, the Jewish Federation, and the National Council of Jewish Women. In the secular community, she has volunteered for the National Kidney Foundation of Nebraska, the Children's Museum, Clarkson Hospital Service League, and her sons' school.

Following the example set by her parents, Silvia and Larry Roffman, "I grew up just knowing that giving back to my community of my time, experience and passion were all parts of life," she explained. "I try to focus my volunteer efforts in places where my children and family are centered which includes Temple Israel and our school system. Don't we all make time for the things that are important to us?" she asked. "Community service is a priority for me."

Celebrating Staff

For the past three years, **Amy Filler-Katz** has been the Omaha Temple Youth Group (OTYG) advisor. The best part of the job, she says, is "the kids." She delights in the joy the teens have for the work they do. "They still have that eternal optimism. It's wonderful to be around them."

Amy, who grew up in Buffalo, NY, and Chicago, IL, has watched as "OTYG has grown to be a stronger organization. The kids know they can do whatever they set out to do. They have that confidence."

Amy's daughter, Emily, who will soon graduate from high school, has been a member of OTYG while her mother has been the advisor. Although many teenagers would prefer not to have one of their own parents be so involved in a youth activity in which the teen is active, Emily encouraged her mother to be the advisor. "She asked me to stay," mentioned Amy who describes the position "as helping the kids run their own program, teaching them how to run an organization. For every event they have, there are leadership positions to help organize the event. I just sort of facilitate it all, making sure it all falls into place. Youth group teaches life skills on managing an organization."

Research coordinator for radiation oncology at UNMC, Amy found that "the more you get to know the kids, the more they want to talk to you about everything. It's not unusual to have three or four calls when I come home from work" in addition to being with the kids on Wednesday nights and Sunday mornings.

Amy, however, is stepping down as OTYG advisor in May. "Amy has worked incredibly well with our youth to develop leadership responsibilities, foster relationships and enhance their sense of Judaism. She is a remarkable asset to our community, and we are thankful for the work that she did with us!" stated Rabbi Linder.

Amy emphasized that it has "really been a privilege to work with the teens. I admire them and look forward to seeing what their future hold for them."



Donations

IN MEMORY OF:

Alan Bramson: Betty Sanford

June Brune: Sherrie, David, Rachel and Jordan Saag

Jill K. Combs: Nell and Silvert Mawrence

Friedel Davis: Harriett and Sherm Sperling

Julie Durmaskin: Milt Moskovitz

Eugene Eisenberg: Employees of Ameritrade Compliance Department, Rosalyn Sedlak

Carl Fredricks: Sandy and John Lehr

Pearl Gross: Terri and Dick Zacharia

Alan J. Fleishman: Mrs. Alan Fleishman

Jill Folsom: The WRJ-O Board

Orly Gilinsky: Carolyn Slack

Stewart Gilinsky: Chickie Gilinsky

Marion K. Kavares: Corinne and Hugh Levin

Betty Lerner: Marilyn and Justin Manvitz

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Ruth Sokolof: Charney and Jerry Rosinsky

Dawn Sosland: Harriett and Sherm Sperling

Sylvia Sutton: Harriett and Sherm Sperling

Sarah Taub: Charney and Jerry Rosinsky, Harriet Singer

IN HONOR OF THE RECOVERY OF:

Bernie Bogdanoff: Maxine and Jack Noodell

Barbara Frohman: Mendy and Mike Halsted and family

June Goodbinder: Barbara Frohman

IN HONOR OF THE BIRTHDAY OF:

Harold Bernstein: Etta and Harold Epstein, Sue and Tom Friedman, Marcia Gallner, Eileen and Leonard Jacobson, Beverlee Krasne, Sandy and John Lehr, Joanie and Marty Lehr, Marilyn and Justin Manvitz, Margo Parsow, Phyllis Roffman

Marty Lehr: Ellen and Richard Slosburg

Leo Meyerson: Carol and Steven Bloch, Penny and Randy Endelman, Bev and Dick Fellman, Sharon and Tony Gedroez, Phyllis and Dick Glazer, Nancy Hornstein, Sharon and Howard Kooper, Sandy and John Lehr, Joanie and Marty Lehr, Carolyn and Max Lettween, Morris Miehli, Lyra Ann Monasee, Nancy [Silverman] Limprecht, Jan and Les Schneiderman, Susie and Jim Silverman, Joye Tatz, Annette and Irv Yaffe, Dorothy Anne Yaffe

Ducky Milder: Phyllis and Dick Glazer

Nancy Noddle: Phyllis and Dick Glazer

Harlan Rips: Carol and Steven Bloch

Dr. Larry Roffman: Phyllis and Dick Glazer, Irene Gotsdiner, Nancy Hornstein, Joanie and Marty Lehr, Debbie Schwartz and family, Linda, Todd, Rylee and Zane Zimmerman, Joie Simon and Mort Zuber

Sherm Sperling: Margo, Aaron and Charles Parsow

Judy Zweiback Ross: Joanie and Marty Lehr, Rosie Zweiback and family

IN HONOR OF THE ANNIVERSARY OF:

Andie and Larry Kavich: Joanie and Marty Lehr

Joodi and Norm Veitzer: Sandy and Stuart Kutler, Harriet Singer, Heidi and Mark Singer

IN HONOR OF THE MARRIAGE OF:

Karen and Gary Javitch: Diane and Howard Shandell

Deb and Eddie Kenkel: Penny and Randy Endelman

IN HONOR OF THE BAT MITZVAH OF:

Abby Reiss: Marj and Bud Phillips

IN HONOR OF YEARS AT THE JCC LIBRARY:

Gary Katz: David Bittner

IN HONOR OF RECEIVING THE YOUNG LEADERSHIP AWARD:

Danielle Gordman: Sandy and John Lehr, Ducky and Mike Milder

IN HONOR OF RECEIVING NFTY PRESIDENT'S AWARD:

Jordan Jensen: Susie and Mike Norton

IN APPRECIATION OF:

Toby Fellman: Lourdes Secola

Dr. Michael F. Sorrell: Lourdes Secola