



## Upcoming Events

### Grade 2 Family Education Day

Sunday, November 3, 10 a.m.

### Rabbinic Panel to Discuss the Pew Survey: A Portrait of Jewish Americans

Tuesday, November 5, 7 p.m.  
Temple Israel

### Camp-Style Shabbat

Friday, November 8, 6 p.m.

### Camp Alumni Havdalah

Saturday, November 9, 7 - 8:30 p.m.

### Second Sundays Breakfast

Sunday, November 10, 9:30 a.m.

### Camp Day

Sunday, November 10, 10 a.m. - Noon

### OTYG Movie Night and Lock In

Saturday, November 16 -  
Sunday, November 17, Temple Israel

### Volunteer Bakers Needed

Sunday, November 17, 6:30 - 8 p.m.

### Experience Shabbat for Grades K-6

Saturday, November 23, 4 - 6 p.m.

### Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

Sunday, November 24, 5 p.m.  
Temple Israel

### Lauter Tun Series

Sunday, November 24, 7 - 8 p.m.,  
Lauter Tun Bar, 3309 Oak View Drive  
#102

### Chanukah, Shabbat Service & Dinner

Friday, November 29, 6 p.m.

### December First Friday

Friday, December 6, 5:30 p.m.  
Candlelighting in the Community  
Court, 6 p.m. Service, 7 p.m. Dinner

### URJ Biennial

Wednesday, December 11 -  
Sunday, December 15, San Diego

## Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

Sunday, November 24, 5 p.m., Temple Israel

The Interfaith Thanksgiving Service, held on the Sunday before Thanksgiving, rotates its home each year between the participating congregations. First held at Temple Israel in 1995, the service provides an opportunity for members of different faiths to come together as a community and celebrate the similarities between the religions.

This year's service with the theme "Season's of Change" is being held at the new Temple Israel. A sermon will be delivered by Rev. Rene Jensen from First Christian Church.

"It's the beginning of a new tradition for us, because we're in a new neighborhood, so now we have to think about what that means, especially this year," Rabbi Josh Brown said. "We have so much to be thankful for. To be in this new space and welcome people in, it will be very exciting."

The service will include music and songs from a combined choir made up of members of the various participating congregations, including Temple Israel's Kol Rina. Music includes "Thanks Be to Thee," by George Frideric Handel, and handbells performed by the First United Methodist Church members. Temple Israel members will also blow the shofar.

The Interfaith Thanksgiving Service has previously been held at Dundee Presbyterian Church, First Christian Church, St. Margaret Mary's Parish and last year's host and former Temple Israel neighbor, First United Methodist Church.

"We're really excited to be able to come and worship in your new space," said Rev. Dr. Jane Florence, the senior pastor at First United Methodist. "It's one of the favorite opportunities for worship for some of our parishioners of the entire year. It's really a great chance to be in solidarity and community with our brothers and sisters from the other Abrahamic traditions. It's very special and very meaningful to recognize we don't have to be divided by lines."

Future Tri-Faith Initiative neighbors from the Episcopal Diocese of Nebraska and the American Institute of Islamic Culture and Studies are also invited to attend the service.

Monetary donations and non-perishable food will also be collected for Together, a non-profit organization dedicated to preventing homelessness and assisting those in need.

### Volunteer Bakers Needed

Sunday, November 17, 6:30 - 8 p.m.

We need a few volunteers willing to help bake some sweets for the Interfaith Thanksgiving Service and First Fridays. Contact Program Director Wendy Goldberg if you can help or if you have any questions.

# Clergy Report

## As I See It...

*Presented here is the unedited text of Rabbi Azriel's letter to the congregation from the Dedication Magazine.*

Welcome Home!

I want to share with you what I believe to be our overarching needs in this special hour of dedication, and a vision of what our synagogue, which is able to serve those needs, must become. The first need is for the synagogue to be creative and flexible enough to validate the right of each member to conduct an individual search, at his or her own pace, for personal identification with Jewish heritage. And the second need is to reactivate our commitment to structuring the synagogue as a "caring community."

Every adult member is a member by choice in the fellowship of the Jewish people. And that commitment can be brought to fruition by a wide range of thoughts and actions. There are, after all, 613 opportunities for Jewish self-expression. All of them are different and equally meaningful touchstones to the heritage of what it has always meant to be a committed Jew, whatever the time or place. And the role of the clergy in this exercise is to assist the individual in his or her own search by placing before the members, with patience and encouragement, the widest possible range of options for observance and participation.

When dialogue takes place between mutually respectful and caring members of a synagogue community, honestly conducted and patiently pursued, then every individual member can find personal fulfillment in the midst of that community because one knows that the commitment of others is equal to one's own, even though it may differ in form and detail.

To create and sustain an environment in which this can occur requires the development of many new inlets for participation in the synagogue in addition to the successful models of the past. It must be recognized that each individual member can bring only his or her distinctive skills, temperament and time to bear on the community's

needs, aims and desires. All we can be sure of is that each one of us can do something, and do it well, if given the opportunity.

When these qualities exist in the life of the synagogue, it becomes a place where people are able to relax with one another; to be patient with one another; to trust one another enough to be able to let someone else take the lead; and to return again and again to share in the experience and labors devoted to bringing about their common purposes. Such a synagogue means more than just a building: it is a place where friends are met and food is shared; where births and marriages and growing up are celebrated, and deaths are mourned; it is the classroom where we study and teach; it is the extended family whom we feed and clothe; it is the home we design and decorate and beautify. It is more than building and grounds. It is first and foremost people, people to whom we are related by the myriad of shared experiences; people with whom we laugh and weep, labor and play, worship and dream.

Decide for yourself, as if you were one of the founders of Temple Israel, what kind of synagogue you would establish were you now called upon to create it from scratch? The fact is, in a very real way, the very same decisions which had to be made 142 years ago are being made again now. You are there, right now, at the beginning, so choose your own route from the dozens of paths before you.

Everything is possible! It's all open before us, as well as so much more! Am I a dreamer? Then dream with me if you will! We cannot turn back the clock, but we can wind it up again. Let us never forget, "Nothing happens without a dream, and nothing great happens without a great dream!"



*Rabbi Azriel*



*Cynthia Kohli Photography*

# Chanukah Service



Celebrate

# CHANUKAH

with Latkes, Dreidels & Song

## Chanukah Service, Dinner and Game Night

*Friday, November 29, 6 p.m. Shabbat Service, followed immediately by dinner*



Join us for a special, family-friendly, interactive Chanukah service, followed by dinner and games for all ages. Bring your dreidels!

We also need to spread our lights among those in our community by bringing non-food items to donate to the Jewish Family Services Pantry, i.e. laundry detergent, dishwashing detergent, deodorant, shaving cream, razors, shampoo, conditioner, feminine hygiene products, tissues, paper towels and dish towels.

Bring your favorite family menorah to decorate your holiday table!

The cost of the meal is \$9 for adults; \$5 for children in sixth grade or younger; and no charge for second graders and younger kids. Please RSVP to [rsvp@templeisraelomaha.com](mailto:rsvp@templeisraelomaha.com) by Tuesday, November 26.

### CHANUKAH MENU

Brisket  
Vegetables  
Latkes with Applesauce  
& Sour Cream  
Dessert

Temple Israel 

Chanukah 2013



# Calendar of Events

## תפילות Pray

### Shabbat Evening Service

*Fridays, 6 p.m.*

### Shabbat Morning Service

*Saturdays, 10:30 a.m.*

### Camp-Style Shabbat

*Friday, November 8*

To kick off Temple Israel's Camp Weekend we will be offering a camp-style Shabbat service, with camp music and inspiring camp moments will be shared by clergy and camp alumni.

### Camp Alumni Havdalah

*Saturday, November 9, 7 - 8:30 p.m.*

Join us for an evening of celebrating Jewish camp life with s'mores and songs around a campfire, weather permitting. Bring chairs and blankets and get ready to share your favorite camp stories. If the weather does not cooperate, the evening will be moved indoors.



### November First Friday with Grade 5 Leading Services

*Friday, November 1, Candle lighting in the Community Court, 5:30 p.m., Service, 6 p.m., Dinner immediately following*

The special Shabbat menu will include: Chicken Marbella, Greens with Pears and Walnuts, Israeli Couscous with Mushrooms, Broccoli, Challah and Wine and Homemade Baked Goods for dessert. Please RSVP, 402-556-6536 or [RSVP@templeisraelomaha.com](mailto:RSVP@templeisraelomaha.com).

Following dinner, we hope you stick around for Shabbat Lounge, with great live music, conversation and drinks, sponsored by WRJ.

*Temple Israel First Fridays are sponsored by Bob and Elly Gordman, Andie Gordman and Dan Fitzgerald, and Lindsey Thomas, in memory of Brandon Thomas.*

### Experience Shabbat for Grades K-6

*Saturday, November 23, 4 - 6 p.m.*

All Kindergarten through Sixth Grade students and their families will Experience Shabbat together during this special session of Religious School. We will meet from 4- 6 p.m. for a family learning experience about Chanukah. This Religious School session will focus on age appropriate Chanukah learning, hands on activities for the whole family

to do together and of course food and stories.

This is a Religious School class session in place of classes on Sunday, November 24. Feel free to bring older and younger siblings along as well - Grandparents and extended family members too!

For more information, contact Director of Lifelong Learning Debbie Massarano, [dmassarano@templeisraelomaha.com](mailto:dmassarano@templeisraelomaha.com).

## למודים Learn

### Religious School Grades K-12

Contact Director of Lifelong Learning Debbie Massarano for more information.

Grades K - 6, Sundays, 10 a.m. to Noon

Grades 3 - 6, Wednesdays, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Grades 7 - 12, Wednesdays, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

No Family School on Wednesday, November 27

No Religious School on Sunday, December 1

### Grade 2 Family Education Day

*Sunday, November 3*

This is an opportunity for families to come together to learn, meet other families in the group, and learn with our clergy and staff.

### Join us for Second Sundays!

*Sunday, November 10, 9:30 a.m.*

Each Second Sunday of the month when we have Religious School, we invite the entire family to come and spend the morning at Temple. Breakfast will be served (at a minimal charge). While our children engage in learning in their classrooms, there will be several options for our adults:

- Join us at Prayer Assembly
- Hang out in the café drinking coffee, reading the paper, schmoozing with friends
- Engage in learning opportunities
- Volunteer in our classrooms
- Get to know our Rabbis, Cantor and staff

Second Sundays at Temple Israel is the place to be!

### Camp Day

*Sunday, November 10, 10 a.m. - Noon*

Come for Second Sunday breakfast and stay for Camp Day! While students have a regular day of classes, their parents are invited to speak with representatives from various Jewish summer camps, including OSRUI, Beber, Sabra, Shwayder, Herzl and the Jewish Community Center. Information about financial aid options will also be available.

# Calendar of Events

Susan Alexander, from OSRUI, will also be giving a talk about the importance of Jewish camping and how to choose the right camp for your child. After class, students will be invited to speak with camp representatives as well.

## Interplay II

November 14, 6 p.m.

This month's program is a celebration of Thanksgiving, The Giving Thanks Thanksgiving Feast. Families are asked to bring your child's favorite food for a potluck dinner. If you are interested in enrolling or if you have any questions about the program, contact Natasha Kraft, kraftyer@gmail.com, or call the Tri-Faith Initiative office, 402-934-2955.

## Hermene Zweiback Center Lifelong Jewish Learning

Sponsored by the Hermene Zweiback Center for Lifelong Jewish Learning. Contact Director of Lifelong Learning Debbie Massarano with questions.

## Torah Study

Saturdays, 9:15 - 10:15 a.m.

Shabbat Worship follows, 10:30 a.m.

Discuss the Torah portion of the week over fresh bagels, juice and coffee. Sessions led by our clergy. Newcomers welcome.

## Lauter Tun Series

Sunday, November 24, 7 - 8 p.m.

Lauter Tun Bar, 3309 Oak View Drive #102

Cantor Wendy Shermet and Music Minister Jerry Brabec will be engaging in lively conversation at the Lauter Tun Bar in West Omaha. They will discuss a variety of topics on the last Sunday of each month through December.

## Thursday Mornings @ Temple

Fee: \$45 for members, \$55 for non-members

## Dilemmas of Faith:

### God and Spirituality in the Modern World

Thursdays, October 3 - November 21, 10 a.m.

Rabbi Azriel will lead a discussion about faith and what it means to be Jewish in today's modern society. He questions whether faith is an essential component of Jewish life, and asks what role faith and spirituality have in the modern world.

## Hiddur Mitzvah: The Art of Beautifying Judaism

Thursdays, December 5 - January 23, 10 a.m.

Rabbi Brown will look at Judaism through the spectacles of an artist. What happens when Judaism inspires the work of artists? This course will explore the elegant literature of our ancient texts and the beautiful works Jews have produced for the world to enjoy. We will pay particular attention to the works of art commissioned for the new sanctuary and have the opportunity to speak with the artists who have put their skills into our new sacred space.

## Wednesdays @ Temple

### Tools to Engage in a Conversation about Israel as an American Jew

September 11 - November 20, 6:30 - 8 p.m.

## Leadership Development

### Leadership Development Class

Thursday, November 7, 21, December 5, 7-9 p.m.

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## Engage פעילות

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## Caring

Contact Program Director Wendy Goldberg to help.

## Shabbat Comes to You

Friday, November 29, 2:30 - 3:30 p.m., Rose Blumkin Jewish Home

## OTYG

Contact Director of Youth Engagement Nikki Flatowicz for more information.

## Movie Night and Lock In

Saturday, November 16 - Sunday, November 17, Temple Israel

## JYG

Contact Director of Youth Engagement Nikki Flatowicz for more information.

## JYG Chanukah Sweater Party

Saturday, November 23, 7 p.m.

# Congregation

## New Members



**Daryn and Cassius Almeida** have lived in Omaha since 1996 when the company Cassius worked for transferred him to Omaha. He is the Director of Product Management & Risk at Proxibid while Daryn is currently a full-time homemaker and mom to their nine-year-old son **Wyatt**.

Daryn and Cassius decided to join Temple Israel to help their son “become more connected” to his Jewish heritage and to help Daryn and Cassius educate and guide him.

The Almeidas have a great love of dogs and have rescued several from the Nebraska Humane Society. They currently have a black lab/border collie mix named Ellie and a yellow lab named Gunner. In addition to caring for dogs, the family enjoys taking road trips, and Cassius loves fishing.



**Mikal Brotnov** is from Kamiah, ID, and was born and raised on the Nez Perce Reservation. He is currently working on his PhD in History at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and he and his partner, Mark Eckstrom, moved to Omaha because of its larger Jewish community.

Mikal enjoys board games such as Clue and Risk. He also plays bridge. The couple have two Shih-Tzu/Poodles named Lola and Koko.

Born in Jamaica, **Shannon-Jo Hamilton** divided her time between her mother’s home outside Fort Lauderdale, FL and her father’s home in Kingston, Jamaica. She moved to Omaha in February 2013 after taking a job with Voices for Children in Nebraska, a children’s advocacy organization. Shannon works as a Child Welfare Policy Associate. She holds a Bachelor’s degree in Political Science and Criminology and a Juris Doctor degree with a focus on



children and families.

Having been born on an island and raised in Florida for part of the year, Shannon learned how to swim before she could walk. Her mother was raised in a Jewish neighborhood and she raised Shannon and her brother to be very observant of Jewish ritual, though Shannon didn’t realize their traditions were Jewish until she began studying Judaism after college.



**Suzy and Dr. Norm Sheldon** are returning to Temple Israel to be closer to their daughter and her family, including grandchildren Benjamin and Jordan Raffel.

Norm is a dentist at Horizon Dental Center while Suzy is a homemaker.

**Meagan and Samuel Spomer** were married in November 2012 and plan to start a family within the next few years. Meagan grew up at Temple Israel and Sam moved to Omaha with his family when he was about 10 years old. His father was a Major in the Air Force and moved here to work at Offutt Air Force Base.

Meagan attended the University of Kansas and received her law degree from the University of Nebraska. She currently works as an attorney at YoungWilliams, a child support center. Sam received his undergraduate degree from the University of Nebraska and his law degree from Creighton, and he works as the Director of Operations for UNO Hockey.

Sam is a big sports fan, particularly hockey and football, and Meagan enjoys reading and travel. They have a miniature schnauzer named Jake.

# Congregation

## New Members continued...



**Leora Azriel and Matthew Werner** are engaged to be married in January 2014. Leora was born in Baltimore and moved to Omaha with her family when her father became Rabbi at Temple

Israel. Matt is from Hastings, NE and moved to Omaha for college. He currently works for Green Plains Renewable Energy while Leora works at the Jewish Community Center as the BBYO/Teen Director.

Leora and Matt enjoy cooking, hiking, traveling and spending time with their dachshund, Edward.

## B'nai Mitzvah בני מצוה



**Isabella Seina**, daughter of Tanya and Craig Seina, will celebrate her Bat Mitzvah on November 9. For her mitzvah project, Isabella, a 7th grader at Lewis and Clark Middle School, volunteered for the Nebraska Italian Greyhound Rescue Association, a pet rescue organization that specializes in greyhounds. Her family is a foster home for the organization and Isabella knows they

could always use an extra hand. In addition to puppies, Isabella's interests include playing violin, swimming and photography.

## Rose Blumkin Jewish Home Residents Visit New Building



ABOVE: Blumkin Home residents were able to relax and enjoy the Dedication Magazine in the Community Court and enjoy the view from the bimah during their tour of the new building.

## In Sympathy נחמה

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

**Sam Fedman**, father of Linda Abrahamson;

**Stephen L. Siegel**, survived by wife Anne, and sons and daughters-in-law Michael and Andrea Siegel, Richie and Marion Siegel, Andy and Elisa Siegel, grandchildren Tyler, Monica, Josh, Jordan, Piper, William, and Alex Siegel;

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

**Jonathan Sobel**, brother of Sharon Sobel;

**Maynard Tatelman**, survived by children and spouses, Sheryl Tatelman and Arie Meler, Scott Tatelman, Eric and Deb Tatelman; grandchildren, Yoni Meler, Danny Meler and Alec Tatelman;

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SENIOR RABBI Aryeh Azriel  
RABBI Josh Brown  
CANTOR Wendy Shermet  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Dennis DePorte  
DIRECTOR OF LIFELONG LEARNING Deborah E. Massarano  
PROGRAM DIRECTOR Wendy Goldberg  
DIRECTOR OF YOUTH ENGAGEMENT Nikki Flatowicz  
STAFF WRITER David Golbitz  
RELIGIOUS SCHOOL COORDINATOR Jen Goodman



*LEFT: Kol Rina members Maxine Noodell, left, Deb Marburg, Sharon Sobel, Pam DePorte and Jennifer Miller before the Dedication service begins (Cynthia Kohll Photography). BOTTOM LEFT: Judy Farber and Nancy Noddle displaying some of the homemade challahs for the Dedication oneg. (Cynthia Kohll Photography) BELOW: On their trip to New York, Grade 9 students had a humbling experience eating lunch with Holocaust survivor Hanna Slome. (L-R) Rabbi Josh Brown, Lindsay Osborne, Mikayla Langdon, Hannah Goodman, Hanna Slome, Josie Platt, Olivia Nogg, Nikki Flatowicz, Emily Kazor and Bella Radler.*

