

## Upcoming Events

### Tot Shabbat

Saturday, September 26 &  
 October 31, 9 a.m.

### Erev Sukkot Services & Program

Sunday, September 27, 4:30 p.m.

### Reform Rabbinic Responsa: Congregational Concerns with Rabbi Brown

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

### Speaking Metaphorically: An exploration of metaphors used in Jewish stories as a window into our lives today with Rabbi Brown

Thursdays, October 1-29, 10 a.m.

### First Friday Shabbat Service & Dinner with Rabbi Rex D. Perlmeter

Friday, October 2, Candlelighting &  
 kiddush in the Simon Community  
 Court, 5:30 p.m., Service, 6 p.m.,  
 dinner following services

### Erev Simchat Torah Service & Consecration

Sunday, October 4, 4:30 p.m.

### Structure of the Prayer Services with Cantor Shermet and Guests

Wednesdays, October 7, 21 & 28  
 and November 4, 6:30 p.m.

### Kibitz with the Rabbis

Sundays, October 11 & 25, 11 a.m.  
 Simon Community Court

## Scholar Rabbi Rex D. Perlmeter

Rabbi Rex D. Perlmeter grew up at Temple Israel, as he says, "almost literally!" His family was active in the congregation; his father Stan served as acting President from 1973-74 and as President from 1974-76. His mother, Jan (of blessed memory), was President of our Sisterhood from 1968-1970 and went on to serve as President of the former District 20 of the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods. Rex and his brothers, Jeff and Michael, were raised in the congregation.



See the schedule on page 3.

He was ordained at the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in 1985, after graduating from Princeton University in 1980 with a degree in Comparative Literature. He served from 1985-1996 as rabbi at Temple Israel of Greater Miami, during the last seven years of which he was Senior Rabbi. He went on to serve as spiritual leader of the Baltimore Hebrew Congregation from 1996 to 2008. This flagship Reform congregation was in a significant moment of institutional transition, within which Rabbi Perlmeter brought about a sense of cohesion and new enthusiasm. The vision driving his pulpit rabbinate was one of creating multiple options for people to connect effectively with their Jewish identity and to encourage their fulfillment of that identity in conscientiously chosen acts of mitzvot.

Throughout his years on the pulpit, Rabbi Perlmeter could often be found raising an impassioned voice for issues of social justice. In the summer of 2012, Rabbi Perlmeter founded the Jewish Wellness Center of North Jersey, a holistic program designed to help synagogues and individuals strive for wholeness in body, heart, mind and soul. At the end of 2012, he chose to leave the URJ in order to devote himself full-time to this new and exciting rabbinate. Rabbi Perlmeter is a trained Jewish Mindfulness teacher, Spiritual Director and is working toward a Masters of Social Work degree at New York University. In addition to launching the Center, Rabbi Perlmeter continues to serve in a consultant and scholar-in-residence capacity to congregations. He is a co-author of the curriculum based on "Making Prayer Real" with author Rabbi Mike Comins and is serving this year as part-time Interim Manager of Colleague Care for the Central Conference of American Rabbis.

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# Clergy Report

## The Key Please

In 1990, the Americans with Disability Act (ADA) was signed by President George H.W. Bush. This law opened the doors for all Americans living with a disability to be treated equally under the law. In addition, the ADA also required public entities to make their buildings accessible by requiring elements such as ramps, railings and automated doors. It was not until I became a parent that I realized how vast these changes must have been. As my friend told me upon our first child Hannah's birth, "You are going to get to know every elevator, every ramp and every button in every building once you start pushing that stroller around."

While we all know that there is no such thing as complete perfection in any project, I'm thankful every time I wheel our stroller easily into our building and every time an elderly grandparent is given the chance to safely step the two steps onto our bima next to their grandchild, that our space is accessible.

Unfortunately, Judaism is not as easily accessible as our new building. Whether the obstacle is language or belief, time or energy, there are any number of obstacles that stand between many of us and our Judaism. If I had one wish for our people it would be to remove all these barriers in order that all of us can access the beauty of our tradition. Like a building with 20 floors, our tradition has amazing views to offer us, if only they were accessible.

The place that grants the most access to these floors is without a doubt Jewish camp. Every summer almost 50 students from our congregation attend a Jewish camp and every fall they return filled with Jewish friends, Jewish passion and an enviable accessibility to our tradition.

Amongst the cabins of a Jewish camp, our kids find the keys to our Jewish world. It is often at camp that they discover Judaism is not a destination, but a series of tools that will open up their world, guide their decisions and provide them with a better understanding of themselves than any other entity in their life.

But at more than \$1,000/week, Jewish camp is not accessible either. Just as I am grateful for our building's accessibility, I'm grateful that national organizations such as the Foundation for Jewish Camping and generous funds in our Omaha Jewish community already help kids get to camp. But it is not enough. Accessing the deepest beauties of our tradition should be a right and not a privilege. I hope and pray for the day that Jewish camp is not an experience limited to those able to access it. I hope and pray that all of us can do our part to make it so.



Rabbi Brown

## High Holiday Thank You's!

To those who accepted Pulpit honors: Elyce Azriel, Carrie Brown, Andie Gordman, Mike Halsted, Paul Miller, Paul Rabinovitz, Rosie Zweiback.

To Kol Rina for participating in the Rosh Hashanah service and Yom Kippur Service.

To all the greeters and ushers who welcomed congregants.

To our readers and chanters: Denise Blake, Jack Cohen, Ed Cohn, Shane Cohn, Sharon Comisar-Langdon, Pam DePorte, Jerry Freeman, Dan Gilbert, Danielle Howell, Lester Katz, Jenn Kirshenbaum, Iiyah Lasky, Joanie Lehr, Dan Marburg, Solomon Marburg, Ducky Milder, Mike Mogil, Howard Needelman, Aaron Norton, Leo Norton,

Robert Osborne, Joshua Persky, Miles Remer, Isabella Seina, Josh Siegel, Beth Slovut.

To our Torah holders: Lina Kogan, Susan Stern, Isabella Wright, Jeff Zacharia.

To those who sounded the Shofar: Dan Gilbert, Micah Gilbert, Noemi Gilbert, Alex Kraft, Rabbi Josh Brown, Drew Wigodsky, Sid Zacharia

Marla Cohen for leading "The Moments of Remembrance" and Brent Bloom for leading "A Yom Kippur Meditation."

JYG and OTYG for kicking off the High Holiday food drive at Rosh Hashanah services.

# Our Congregation

## Habitat Humanity and Sukkot!

There is an old story in which a teacher tells her students that during the holiday of Sukkot, Jewish families are instructed to dwell in temporary, flimsy structures to commemorate the Israelites wandering in the wilderness. A young girl on her way home sees an old man living in a cardboard box on the street and asks, "Are you celebrating Sukkot, too?" This year we will celebrate Sukkot in Temple Israel's own temporary, flimsy structure but with an added portrayal.

Temple Israel has been connected with Habitat for Humanity for several years and has been working alongside a coalition of Christian church groups to bring home the dream of homeownership. When that dream becomes a reality, that temporary, uncertain structure now has a secure foundation. The transient nature of that flimsy structure becomes permanent. Wounds begin to heal. Where one could not plant roots before, now they plant roots that grow deep and not just tall.

Join us on Sunday, September 27, 4:30 p.m., to share a meal in our Sukkah and hear from a Habitat family who has flourished as a result of being able to put down roots. Learn how you can help perform the mitzvah of building a home even with no construction experience. Help with the financial needs of providing affordable homes, help with feeding the volunteers and learning about who is a Habitat family.



## Rabbi Rex D. Perlmeter Schedule

### 1st Fridays

#### **First Friday Shabbat Service & Dinner with Rabbi Rex D. Perlmeter**

*Friday, October 2, Candlelighting & kiddush in the Simon Community Court, 5:30 p.m., Service, 6 p.m., dinner following services*

Rabbi Perlmeter will be giving D'var Torah about "The Principles of Jewish Spirituality," as well as leading the dinner discussion "Can I be Jewish and Do I Have to Be? - Experiencing and Experimenting." Cost is \$5/person, max of \$20 per family. Please RSVP to Temple Israel, 402-556-6536 or [RSVP@templeisraelomaha.com](mailto:RSVP@templeisraelomaha.com) or, by Wednesday, September 30.

#### **Shabbat Morning with Rabbi Rex D. Perlmeter**

*Saturday, October 3*

Torah Study, 9 a.m.

Services, 10:30 a.m.

#### **Lunch with Rabbi Rex D. Perlmeter: Delving More Deeply into Jewish Spirituality and Mindfulness**

*Saturday, October 3, Noon*

Open to entire congregation, no RSVPs required.

#### **Healing Service & Havdalah with Rabbi Rex D. Perlmeter**

*Saturday, October 3, 5 p.m., Chapel*

Open to entire congregation, no RSVPs required.

# Congregation

## New Members

**Daniel Cohn and Andrew Miller** along with their daughter, **Nora**, recently moved to Omaha where Danny grew up. Danny is the Director of Public Relations at the Arbor Day Foundation and Andrew is a



stay-at-home father. Andrew is from Denver. He and Danny were living in Chicago for the past 15 years. They returned to Omaha to raise their daughter here because "we know what a special place the Omaha Jewish community can be." Raising their daughter takes up most of their spare time but they are huge foodies and Andrew is an amazing cook. They also enjoy drinking "daddy juice" (wine) under the supervision of their 11 year old wheaton terrier, Porter, named after Cole Porter.

**Kristin & Matthew Faier** have just moved back to Omaha from Tennessee and have joined Temple Israel. Their daughter Ashley and son-in-law Alexander along with their grandchildren, Elijah and Emmett are already members of Temple. They moved back to be close to their family. For fun and enjoyment they enjoy cooking, gardening, exercising, reading, Big Red football, Nashville Predators hockey, their dog Sadee and, of course, playing with their grandchildren.

**Jessica & Jamie Feinstein** are returning to Temple Israel as members. Jessica grew-up at Temple Israel and her parents are still members. Jamie is from Denver and they met as campers at Shwayder Camp



when they were 13. They have three children: **Meyer, Ezra and Greta**. Meyer's 1st grade Religious School teacher is Dora Goldstrom, who was also Jessica's teacher. For fun they love the Omaha Children's Museum, the zoo, being outside and swimming at Sunset Hills Pool. They also have two dogs: Sheriff and Bella.

**Lisa & Charles Lucoff** and their children **Makayla and Kori**

have recently joined Temple Israel. Lisa is originally from Omaha and Chuck from Milwaukee.



Lisa's sister's family and her parents are also members of Temple Israel and you may remember Lisa at Temple Israel as a young person. Lisa works in HR and Chuck in financial services. Their eldest, Makayla, is now in the Kindergarten class at Temple Israel.

# Congregation

**Margaret & Catamount (Cat) Mayhugh**, along with their children, **Margaret Delia and Beowulf**, are new to Temple Israel. They live in Avoca, IA, and are both lawyers. Cat is from Denver and Margaret from Tampa. They met in law school. They moved back to Iowa to care for Cat's family farm that has been in his family for over 100 years. Cat is also a farmer, artist and author. They have a cat named Tittle and are in the process of setting up a law firm together in the Avoca/Harlan area.



**Diana & Jason Williams** and their daughter, **Addison**, are new members of Temple Israel. Diana grew up here at Temple Israel. Her parents, Wendy & Todd Manvitz, grandparents, Doris & Harry Alloy and Marilyn & Justin Manvitz, and aunt and cousins are long time members. Diana is a teacher and Jason is an Investment Specialist. They also have a 4-year-old golden retriever named Wilson.



**Pamela & James Silverman** are new to the area and have recently joined Temple Israel. They were members of Temple Israel before they moved to Naples, FL. They have recently returned to Omaha to be closer to their children and grandchildren. Jim is in sales and marketing and Pam is a home maker. They enjoy home renovation, car shows and spending time with their grandchildren.

Our Temple Israel family is always growing and we love connecting with members of the community. If someone you know is looking to join a synagogue here in Omaha, direct them our way and we can help them be a part of Temple Israel's family.

For information about membership, please contact Program Director Scott Littky, [slittky@templeisraelomaha.com](mailto:slittky@templeisraelomaha.com) or 402-556-6536.

# Congregation

## B'nai Mitzvah בני מצוה



**Brandon Wigodsky** will celebrate his Bar Mitzvah on October 3. He is the son of Andrew Wigodsky, Tracy Miller and Tereza Wigodsky. He is the brother of Jacob Wigodsky, Josh Boreham and Mackenzie Boreham. Brandon is an 8th grade student at Westside Middle School and the recipient

of the President's Academic Achievement Award. He is interested in technology, animals and acting.



**Jon-Aron "Jack" Beach** will celebrate his Bar Mitzvah on October 10. He is the son of Mona Jones & Ron Beach. He is the brother of Dru and Will. Jon-Aron is a 7th grade honor student at Harlan Community Middle School. His interests and hobbies include wrestling, cross country, fishing, hunting

and canoeing with his dad and brother. He cares for his pets, Bear, a black lab, Meg, a chocolate lab, Pip, a Teacup Yorkie, a hamster named Robo, cats Fluffy and Chip plus lots of Koi and goldfish. He enjoys video gaming and loves attending Shwayder Camp. For his Mitzvah project, Jon-Aron helped with the Teal Pumpkin project at Halloween to bring awareness about kids with food allergies. Also, he assisted in the delivery of honey cakes to our elderly Temple Israel members for Rosh Hashanah.



**Ruby Platt** will celebrate her Bat Mitzvah on October 17. She is the daughter of Ellen & Jeff Platt and the sister of Josie. Ruby is a 7th grade student at McMillan Magnet Center Middle School where she is part of the honors language arts special projects program. Her

interests and hobbies are the volleyball team, robotics team and softball. For her Mitzvah project, Ruby assisted at Tully's Kennel in the care and socialization of puppies. She also collected towels and blankets for the Nebraska Humane Society.



**Jordan Raffel** will celebrate his Bar Mitzvah on October 24. He is the son of Wendy & Adam Raffel and the brother of Ben. Jordan is a 7th grade honor student at Buffet Middle School and a participant in the Duke University Talent Identification Program. His interests and hobbies are the school football

team, Buffet robotics team, biking and spending time with his family and friends. For his Mitzvah project, he volunteered at the Nebraska Humane Society where he helped to bake dog treats and collect towels and blankets.



**Max Menolascino Zweiback** will celebrate his Bar Mitzvah on October 31. He is the son of Amy & Tim Zweiback and the brother of Mia. He is the grandson of Judy Zweiback & the late Warren Zweiback; Donna Menolascino and the late Dr. Frank Menolascino. Max is a 7th grade student

at Westside Middle School where he is a City Math Team Champion. His interests and hobbies include drums, Select Soccer, frisbee, video games and Camp Shwayder. For his Mitzvah project, Max volunteered at the Food Bank of the Midlands.

# Congregation

## In Sympathy נחמה

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

**Jerry Cohn**, preceded in death by wife Soralee Cohn, mother and father Lil and Dave Cohn, and brother Ronnie (Beanie) Cohn. Survived by his three daughters, Nancy Cohn (Robert Weinstein), Susan (Jerry) Fleischman, and Debbie (Dr. Bruce) Sobel, three grandchildren Stephanie and Ali Weinstein, and Whitney Sobel, sister Sheryn (Arnold) Joffe, brother Marvin (Susie) Cohn, and niece and nephew Karen and Gary Javitch;

**Leonard B. Jacobson**, preceded in death by father Robert B Jacobson, mother Rae Jacobson and wife Esther R London Jacobson. Survived by wife Eileen Jacobson, sons Mark Jacobson, Bruce (Shelly) Jacobson, stepsons Michael (Rachel) Sellz, Barry (Marsha) Engel, Greg (Karen) Engel, many grandchildren and great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, cousins and friends;

**Naomi U. Kaminsky**, survived by husband Irving Kaminsky, daughters Shoshana Beth Kaminsky and Kate (Joseph) Kaminsky Murphy, grandchildren Yonatan Yosef Nansel, Nadav Amiel Nansel, Simon Alex Murphy and Clara Remily Murphy;

**Laura Jean Kutler**, preceded in death by parents Harriet and Ben Kutler. Survived by daughters Lindsey Chait (Anthony Simeone) and Jessica Chait, brothers Robert Kutler, David (Debi) Kutler, Howard (Nancy) Kutler, and Bruce (Pam) Kutler, grandchildren Hunter Simeone and Anastasia Simeone, and close friend Daniel Kiper;

**Mario Lopez, Sr.**, survived by wife Magdalena Dominguez, children Mario Lopez, Rady Garuda Lopez, Irene Lopez and Ruth Dominguez;

**Mary Saferstein**, preceded in death by husband Jack Saferstein, brothers Harry, Julius, William, and Jerry Siref. Survived by daughter Rhonda Saferstein and son-in-law Jeff Hansen; daughter Diane Shandell (Howard) ; and son Mark Saferstein. Grandchildren Jacklyn and Max Saferstein-Hansen, Dylan and Rachel Saferstein, Jessica and Ally Shandell and Tyler Hansen;

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

## Births לידה

*Mazel tov on the birth of...*

**Samuel Leif Kaplan**, son of Elizabeth Kaplan and Steven Christensen and grandon of Sally & Gary Kaplan, Erleen Christensen and Robert Christensen;

**Hannah Beatrice Lund**, daughter of Allie Schrader & Alex Lund, granddaughter of Kellie Schrader & the late William Schrader and Jan & Blake Lund, and great-granddaughter of the late Ben & Beatrice Schneider;

**Benjamin Loren Meyers**, son of Beth & James Meyers, grandson of Donna & Dale Barnes, Jackie & Mike Roach, Berta Ackerson and Denise & Jon Meyers, and great-grandson of Lois Melland, Elizabeth and Lou Bourdet, Barbara Ackerson and Sue Meyers;

**Samuel Becker Stoller**, son of Sara & Asher Stoller, grandson of Dr. Peter & Genevieve Gordon and Drs. Herschel & Lilly Stoller, and great-grandson of Francis Rechner and Esther Misle;

## Marriage נישואין

*Mazel tov on the marriage of...*

**Mr. & Mrs. Zachary Roberts.** Mrs. Zachary Roberts is the former Alyson Friedman. Parents are Suzanne & Tom Friedman and Wanda & David Roberts.

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SENIOR RABBI Aryeh Azriel  
RABBI Josh Brown  
CANTOR Wendy Shermet  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Dennis DePorte  
INTERIM RELIGIOUS SCHOOL DIRECTOR Sharon Comisar-Langdon  
PROGRAM DIRECTOR Scott Littky  
DIRECTOR OF YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT ENGAGEMENT Aliyah Lasky  
OFFICE MANAGER Misty Weidner

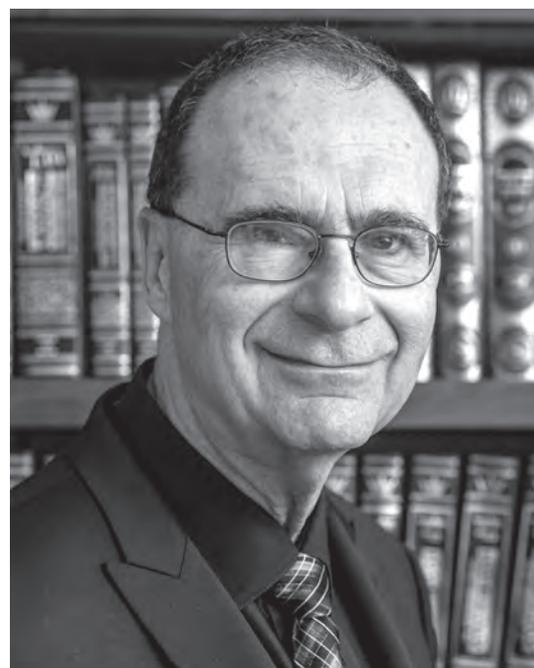


## Save the Date for our Scholar-in-Residence

**Rabbi Lawrence A. Hoffman, Ph.D.**

*December 4 - 6*

Dr. Lawrence A. Hoffman was ordained as a rabbi in 1969, received his Ph.D. in 1973, and has taught since then at the Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion, in New York. In 1994, he co-founded "Synagogue 2000," a trans-denominational project to envision the ideal synagogue "as a moral and spiritual center" for the 21st century. Now known as "Synagogue 3000," it has launched Next Dor, a national initiative to engage the next generation through a relational approach featuring strong communities with transformed synagogues at their center. For almost forty years, he has combined research, teaching and a passion for the spiritual renewal of North American Judaism.



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