

Upcoming Events

Conversations with the Cantor
*Thursdays, November 5 through
December 17, 10 a.m.*

Book Club
*Sunday, November 8, 11 a.m.
Media Center*

URJ Biennial Reflections
*Wednesdays, November 11 & 18
6:30 p.m.*

**November First Friday -
on the Second Friday!**
*Friday, November 13
Candle lighting and kiddush in
the Simon Community Court,
5:30 p.m., Service, 6 p.m.,
dinner following service*

Kibitz with the Clergy
*Sunday, November 22, 11 a.m.
Coffee Area in the Simon
Community Court*

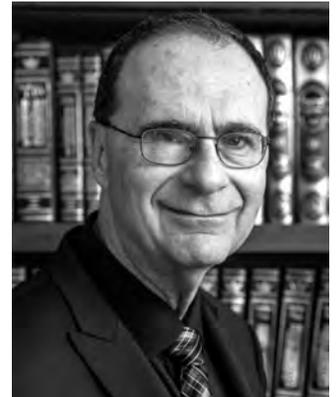
Tot Shabbat
Saturday, November 28, 9 a.m.

The Real Story of Chanukah
*Wednesdays, December 2 & 9
6:30 p.m.*

Chanukah Service & Dinner
*Friday, December 11
Candle lighting and Kiddush in the
Simon Community Court, 5:30 p.m.
Placing new rings on the L'Dor
Va'Dor Sculpture, 5:45 p.m.
Services, 6 p.m.
Dinner immediately following*

Scholar Rabbi Lawrence A. Hoffman, Ph.D.

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. He is the author of over 40 books and hundreds of articles. He co-founded "Synagogue 2000," a trans-denominational project to envision the ideal synagogue "as moral and spiritual center" for the 21st century. 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.



Religion, Ethnicity and More: Judaism as a Conversation
Friday, December 4, 6 p.m.

Is it a religion? A culture? An ethnicity? Or maybe, a conversation? Reimagine Judaism as a three-millennia long conversation about God, life, and the universe; and find yourself engaged in ideas old and new - most particularly, now, the revolutionary shift from inherited ethnicity to the search for identity.

Spirituality in Public: Looking for God in Omaha, Nebraska
Saturday, December 5, 9 a.m.

How, then, do we pray? How is worship changing? And how do we find God - in all the right places?

Spirituality in Private: Even for Those Who Think There Isn't Any
Saturday, December 5, 12:30 p.m.

Yes, Virginia, there is Jewish spirituality, and it is more than fluff. It runs deep through Jewish texts and practice, and constitutes a distinctively Jewish way of being in the world. It is thoughtful Jewish spirituality that connects the dots in our lives and convinces us that we matter

Bagels & Coffee with Rabbi Lawrence A. Hoffman, Ph.D.:
Judaism for the Next Generation: Limits, Truth and Meaning
Sunday, December 6, 10:15 a.m.

The final presentation explores Judaism's response to the frantic search for human meaning against the backdrop of science, art, the challenge to tradition, and the "rereligionization" of America.

Sponsored by

Hermene Zweiback Center
 Lifelong Jewish Learning

Clergy Report

Reflections on Fall

Fall. The very word can elicit a sense of foreboding or despondency, as “falling” connotes lack of control or a possible hard landing. And yet – there exists excitement in the possibilities that a new cycle brings. Our Jewish year both ends and begins in the Fall and our cycle of Torah learning literally rolls and repeats. Every year we read the same parsha’ot, and every year we learn something new from familiar stories and lessons. There is no time for mourning the passing of summer and, in any case, the season will return, just as the Torah rolls back.

The Jewish calendar (*ha’luach ha’ivri*) is lunar-based, unlike our western secular calendar. I have a parallel solar/lunar calendar encompassing the years 1899-2050. It is indispensable for figuring out B’nai Mitzvah dates for two years in advance and for exactly when to read a parsha or commemorate a Yartzheit. Of course, today there is an app for this! Our calendar has its roots in the Babylonian period, and until approximately 10-220 CE relied on a new moon for setting dates. Additional months were added every several years to regulate the yearly cycle which was concerned with agricultural-based events. Eventually mathematics caught up, and by the 12th century our calendar was fully codified by Maimonides in the *Mishneh Torah*.

It was a remarkable achievement, accomplished with mathematics, yes, but without even a hint of a computer. Every month is packed with holidays either mentioned in the Torah or found elsewhere in our literature and history. Every month, that is, except the odd case of *Marcheshvan*, more commonly known as *Cheshvan*. This is the only month in the Jewish cycle that has no holiday, no fast day – nothing, and this year it began after sunset on Tuesday, October 13. I like to think that our forebears were giving us a small rest after the full-on marathon beginning with *S’lichot* and ending with *Simchat Torah*. Perhaps “rest” isn’t the correct intent; perhaps we are supposed to contemplate without further distraction the amazing period we have just been through.

Back to Fall, we needn’t view this time of dying leaves and early snows as bleak. The land needs to rest and

be left alone to prepare for the next growing cycle. In “The Fall of Freddie the Leaf” by Leo Buscaglia, the end of Freddie’s story teaches us this lesson:



Cantor Shermet

At dawn the wind came that took Freddie from his branch. It didn't hurt at all. He felt himself float quietly, gently and softly downward. As he fell, he saw the whole tree for the first time. How strong and firm it was! He was sure that it would live for a long time and he knew that he had been part of its life and made him proud. Freddie landed on a clump of snow. It somehow felt soft and even warm. In this new position he was more comfortable than he had ever been. He closed his eyes and fell asleep. He did not know that Spring would follow Winter and that the snow would melt into water. He did not know that what appeared to be his useless dried self would join with the water and serve to make the tree stronger. Most of all, he did not know that there, asleep in the tree and the ground, were already plans for new leaves in the Spring.

Interim Rabbi Search Update

by Rosie Zweiback

Chair, Interim Rabbi Search Committee

Temple Israel's Interim Rabbi Search Committee is meeting regularly to review applications and conduct phone and Skype interviews with promising candidates. We are pleased with the quality of the applicants and we are committed to finding an excellent candidate whose experience and temperament will be a terrific match for us. The most promising candidates will be interviewed in person. We hope to have an announcement to share with the congregation before Chanukah. Stay tuned to our transition website (www.templeisraelomaha.com/transition) for updates. Please do not hesitate to contact me or anyone on the search committee with questions. Thank you for your support.

Special Events

Celebrate **CHANUKAH**



Latkes, Dreidels & Song

Chanukah Service & Dinner

Friday, December 11

Candle lighting and Kiddush in the Simon Community Court, 5:30 p.m.

Placing new rings on the L'Dor Va'Dor Sculpture at 5:45 p.m. Services, 6 p.m.

Dinner immediately following

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 \$10 for adults; \$5 for children in 2nd - 6th grade; and no charge for kids under 2nd grade. Please RSVP, 402-556-6536 or rsvp@templeisraelomaha.com, by Tuesday, December 8.

MENU

Brisket
Vegetables
Latkes with
Applesauce &
Sour Cream
Dessert

Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

Sunday, November 22, 5 p.m.

First United Methodist Church, 7020 Cass Street
Rabbi Azriel, Rabbi Brown, Cantor Shermet and the Kol Rina Choir will represent Temple Israel and participate in the service along with First Christian Church, First United Methodist Church, St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church, Underwood Hills Presbyterian Church, Hanscom Park United Methodist Church and members of the Muslim community. Following the service, there will be a reception with baked goods provided by each congregation.

Temple Israel Blood Drive

Sunday, December 6, 8:30 a.m. - 2 p.m., Social Hall

Your blood donation is needed and appreciated more than ever right now. Make an appointment today! Contact the Temple Israel office, 402-556-6536. You can also visit www.redcrossblood.org and enter the sponsor code 009113. Walk-ins welcome, but appointments are encouraged for a faster processing time. All donors must bring your American Red Cross donor card or photo I.D. Drink plenty of non-caffeinated fluids and eat a large meal two to three hours prior to donating blood.

Calendar

תפילות Pray

1st Fridays

November First Friday - on the Second Friday!

Friday, November 13, Candle lighting and kiddush in the Simon Community Court, 5:30 p.m., Service, 6 p.m., dinner following services

Jerry Kaye, Director of Olin Sang Ruby, will give the D'var Torah during services and you will have a chance to visit with him during dinner. Win one of three \$1,000 scholarships! Students must be present to win.

Menu: Roasted Chicken, Mashed Potatoes, Roasted Vegetables, Brownies and Ice Cream, Challah and Wine/Juice.

Cost is \$5 per person, max of \$20 per family. Please RSVP to Temple Israel, RSVP@templeisraelomaha.com or 402-556-6536, by Wednesday, November 11.



TOT Shabbat

Tot Shabbat

Saturday, November 28, 9 a.m.

Families with children ages five and under are invited to celebrate Shabbat in a child-friendly service. Bagels, juice and coffee provided. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet other families with young children, connect with our clergy, and add that wonderful Shabbat spice to the life of your family. Tot Shabbat Service will be at 9 a.m. on the following Saturdays: December 19, January 30, February 27, March 26, April 30 & May 28.

למודים Learn

Religious School Grades K-12

Contact Interim Religious School Director Sharon Comisar-Langdon for more information.

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

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

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

No Religious School on Wednesday, November 25

No Religious School on Sunday, November 29

Adult Education

Contact Program Director Scott Littky for more information.

Torah Study

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

Wednesdays @ Temple

We have a suggested donation of \$45 per semester of classes.

URJ Biennial Reflections

Wednesdays, November 11 & 18, 6:30 p.m.

Every two years, the Reform Movement holds its annual conference for professionals and lay members of our congregations. Of course, not every member of a congregation is able to go to the conference; so during these two weeks we will unpack the conference with leaders from our movement and our congregation.

November 11, we will be joined by a member of the RAC staff, with Gary Kaplan serving as facilitator.

November 18, we will be joined by a member of the URJ staff, with Jane Rips serving as facilitator.

The Real Story of Chanukah

Wednesdays, December 2 & 9, 6:30 p.m.

December 2, Dr. Moshe Gershovich, professor and Director of the Natan and Hannah Schwalb Center for Israel and Jewish Studies, will look at Chanukah in terms of modern Israel and how the narrative plays out differently in Israel than it does in the diaspora. December 9, Rabbi Ari Dembitzer, from Beth Israel Synagogue, will look at the development of Chanukah as a religious celebration and the issues surrounding its celebration.

Calendar

Thursday Mornings @ Temple

We have a suggested donation of \$45 per semester of classes.

Conversations with the Cantor

Thursdays, November 5-19 and December 2-17, 10 a.m.
Each week, Cantor Shermet will lead a discussion on a topic of her choosing and expertise.

Sundays @ Temple

We have a suggested donation of \$45 per semester of classes.

Book Club

Sunday, November 8, 11 a.m., Media Center
All are welcome to join our book club. Each month we will read and discuss a different book. Watch the eTidings for the books of the month. Newcomers are welcome.

Temple TED Talks

Sunday, November 22, 11 a.m., Media Center
Join us as congregants share their favorite TED (Technology, Entertainment, Design) Talks and lead a conversation about the topic.

Kibitz with the Clergy

Sunday, November 22, 11 a.m.
Coffee Area in the Simon Community Court
What's on the mind of our clergy? A member of our clergy will lead a discussion of topics that they feel need addressing!

Baby Brunch for Children under One Year and Their Parents

Sunday, December 13, 10:30 a.m.
We invite you to our Baby Brunch for children under one year and their parents. This is a great opportunity to meet other families with babies, schmooze with our clergy and staff, enjoy food together, and share a story or two. There will be toys and a safe place for your babies to play on the floor. For more information, please contact Interim Religious School Director Sharon Comisar-Langdon, 402-556-6536. You can drop in or you can let Sharon Comisar-Langdon know you are coming. We will meet the following Sundays from 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. in the Social Hall: January 24, February 21, March 20 & April 10.

Engage פעילות

Adult Game Night

November 21, 7 p.m. - 10 p.m.
Spielbound, 3229 Harney Street
Come enjoy a night of board games and good company at Spielbound. Cost is \$5. Adults of all ages are invited. RSVP to Program Director Scott Littky, 402-556-6536.

Temple Israel Blood Drive

Sunday, December 6, 8:30 a.m. - 2 p.m., Social Hall
Please contact the Temple Israel office, 402-556-6536, to make an appointment. You can also book your appointment online at www.redcrossblood.org and enter the sponsor code 009113.

OTYG

Contact Director of Youth & Young Adult Engagement Aliyah Lasky for more information.

Young Adults

Contact Director of Youth & Young Adult Engagement Aliyah Lasky for more information.

Nebraska Husker Game for College Kids

Saturday, November 14, Time TBD
Arena Sports Bar & Grill, 3809 N 90 St.
The first round of appetizers is on us! Watch the eTidings for more details!

Congregation

B'nai Mitzvah בני מצוה



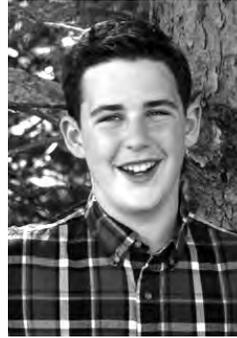
Lauren Kugler, daughter of Traci and Lance Kugler, will celebrate her Bat Mitzvah Saturday, November 14. She is the big sister to Alex, Ryan, Evan and Megan. Lauren attends Westside Middle School where she is in the 7th grade. She participates in the Duke University Talent Program and the Identification Program

Excellence in Youth (Westside Middle School honors program). Lauren enjoys swimming, running, and attending Camp Sabra. For her Mitzvah Project, she volunteered at the Special Olympics where she helped with the opening ceremonies and other various sporting events.



Laura Kirshenbaum, daughter of Jenn Tompkins Kirshenbaum and Matt Kirshenbaum, will celebrate her Bat Mitzvah Saturday, November 21. She is also the sister of Kathleen Kirshenbaum. Laura is a 7th grade student at Alice Buffett Magnet Middle School. Her interests and hobbies are Ballet, Jazz, Modern Dance, JCC Musicals,

school plays, violin, academic competitions and volleyball. For her Mitzvah Project, Laura volunteered at Jackson Elementary School through Completely Kids. She read to and engaged with children and supported children on the computer.



Benjamin Wilczewski will celebrate his Bar Mitzvah Saturday, December 12. He is the son of Allyson and Chris Wilczewski and the grandchild of Kathy and Gene Wilczewski and the late Dr. and Mrs. Bruce Bradin. He has one sister, Brooke Wilczewski. Benjamin is a 7th grade student at Kiewit where is in student

leadership and HAL (High Ability Learner). For enjoyment, he plays football and basketball for Kiewit as well as basketball for Omaha Sports Academy. Benjamin loves playing with his dog Granger and watching scary movies. For his Mitzvah Project, he worked in two areas: first at the Nebraska Humane Society where he helped train/socialize the new dogs to the facility and second was a mentor/coach for Omaha Sports Academy K-2nd Grade for four weeks of the summer during their basketball programs.

Births לידה

Mazel tov on the birth of...

Lily Pearl and Miriam Adele, daughters of Amy and Andy Isaacson, sisters of Maya, granddaughter of Andi Willensky, David and Kitty Willensky and Susan and Michael Isaacson, and great-granddaughter of Lenore Ross and Evelyn and Bill Willensky.

Paxton Nicholas Kenkel, son of Eddie and Deborah Kenkel, grandson of Gail and Tom Kenkel and Nick and Alberta Politi, and great-grandson of Edythe Krasne and the late Lloyd Krasne.

Jonah Stanley Passer, son of Jeremy and Laurie Passer and grandson of Claire and Pierre Flatowicz, Jeff and Sandy Passer and Roberta and the late Joel Simes.

Marriage נישואין

Mazel tov on the marriage of...

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Sloan. Mrs. Bill Sloan is the former Melissa Josephson. Parents are Debbi and Larry Josephson and Janet and Bill Sloan.

Congregation

New Members

Jacob Kahn is originally from the New York/New Jersey area. In high school, he moved to Tampa, FL. He went to college at the University of Central Florida in Orlando. He has recently moved to Omaha and is employed at Planned Parenthood. In college he was very active in public health education and in various leadership opportunities. One of his biggest passions in life is the belief in empowerment through leadership and education.



Daniel Klein and his fiancée **Shaye Sisneros** are new to Temple Israel. Daniel grew-up at Beth El Synagogue and Shaye is from western Nebraska. They are due to be married in December. Daniel will graduate from Creighton University in May with his doctorate in Physical Therapy. Shaye is in the accelerated Nursing Program at Creighton University and will graduate in December of 2016.



Jessica and Andrew Shesky and their two sons **Aaron and Troy** moved to Omaha this summer. For Jessica, it was a homecoming. She grew-up at Temple Israel and you may remember her as Jessica Blumkin daughter of Susan and Irv Blumkin. They last lived in Alpharetta, GA. Andrew is now working for Nebraska Furniture Mart. They are a very active family who love to participate in sports.



Conversion גיור

We welcome **Renee Zacharia** who has recently chosen Judaism. May she go from strength to strength.

In Sympathy נחמה

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

Leon Alexander, preceded in death by wife Eleanor. Survived by brother Howard Alexander, son Joel (Karen) Alexander, daughters Karen Alexander and Robin (Bill) Hoppe, grandchildren Cory (Rakes) Ortiz, Jacob Pilley, Aaron Pilley, Josh Pilley, Arielle (Pilley) Tubbs, and Sarah Alexander, great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews;

Jenda Etta Garelick Epstein, survived by husband Harold "Bae" Epstein, sons, Paul (Sandy) Epstein, Steven Epstein and Gary (Lisa) Epstein, seven grandchildren and nine great grandchildren;

Merilee Rimerman, preceded in death by parents Mollye and Elmer Rimerman. Survived by brother Ron Rimerman;

Frederick J. Simon, preceded in death by parents Lester and Trudy Simon and brother Stephen Simon. Survived by wife Eve Simon, son Todd (Betiana) Simon, daughter Venus Simon French, step-son Richard (Sheila) Ortega, step-daughter Marisa (Michael) Mayhan, brother and sister-in-law Alan and Anne Simon, and eight grand-children: Susannah, Sarah, Aaron, Adam, Shemaya, Mia, Nico and Julian;

...and extends sympathy to their bereaved families.

13111 Sterling Ridge Drive
Omaha, NE 68144
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templeisrael@templeisraelomaha.com
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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



TEMPLE ISRAEL
Jewish Summer Camp Fair

Sunday, November 15, 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

10 a.m.

Prayer Assembly in Sanctuary

10:20 a.m. - Noon

Parents can visit with camp representatives

11:45 a.m. - Noon

K-6th Grade students visit camp tables

Noon

All School & Family Lunch

