

Upcoming Events

Baby Brunch for Children under One Year & Their Parents

Sunday, December 13, 10:30 a.m.

Conversations with the Cantor

Thursday, December 17, 10 a.m.

Tot Shabbat

Saturday, December 19, 9 a.m.

11th and 12th Grade Israel Trip

December 20 - January 1

Celebrate Shabbat with Chinese Food & A Movie

Friday, December 25, 6 p.m.

All the News That is Fit for the Jews with Scott Littky

Wednesdays, January 6-27

6:30 p.m.

All the News That is Fit for the Jews with Scott Littky

Thursdays, January 7-28, 10 a.m.

January First Friday

Friday, January 8, Candle lighting and kiddush in the Simon Community Court, 5:30 p.m., Service, 6 p.m., dinner following services

Parent/Toddler Program

Sunday, January 10, 10:30 a.m.

Temple Israel Book Club

Sunday, January 10, 11 a.m.

Intro to Hebrew with Eliad Eliyahu

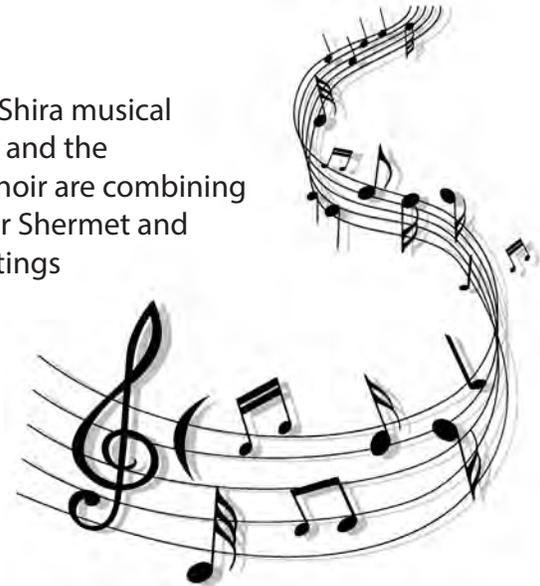
Sundays, January 10, 24 and 31, February 7 and 21, March 6 and 20
11 a.m.

Shabbat Shira

Friday, January 22, 6 p.m.

Don't miss this wonderful Shabbat Shira musical experience! Temple Israel's Kol Rina and the St. Paul United Methodist Church choir are combining voices under the direction of Cantor Shermet and Jerry Brabec. Come enjoy these settings of Psalm 150.

On Sunday, January 24, the choirs will be performing again at St. Paul United Methodist Church at 11 a.m.



Israel Mega Teen Trip

Twenty-six Temple Israel students are leaving at the end of December for a 10-day Israel experience. They will volunteer in the Western Galilee Medical Center, visit a Druze village and explore Druze culture, drive through Jordan River Park, take part in an Israel Advocacy session, ride camels, visit Tel Aviv and much more! A special thank you to the chaperones: our own Cantor Shermet, Beth El's Rabbi Abraham and Beth Israel's Rabbi Dembitzer.



We wish our 11th and 12th Graders a safe and meaningful experience: Spencer Arnold, Ali Brehmer, Sophie Budwig, Whitney Feidman, Nate Gendler, Elias Ginsburg, Max Goldberg, Hannah Goodman, Brandon Idelman, Emily Kazor, Mikayla Langdon, Sophia Leopold, Solomon Marburg, Michael Militzer, Madelin Miller, Olivia Nogg, Seth Norton, Lindsay Osborne, Josie Platt, Isabella Radler, Abby Reiss, Gavin Rogers, Asher Rosenquist, Sierra Simpson, Josephine Slovut and Jacob Wigodsky.

Clergy Report

As I See It...

Some time ago, I was shopping at one of the local discount stores. I came across a display of digital watches...each marked down to one dollar. These are the watches that not only tell you the time in hours and minutes, but also in seconds and sometimes in one-hundredths of seconds. Now a watch for a buck is hard to pass up, and since I was going to camp and did not want to take along anything of real value, I purchased a one-dollar watch. I asked the salesperson why they were selling these watches so cheaply, and the answer seemed to have something to do with an over-stocked inventory.

Last week I happened to hear a conversation on the radio in which the speaker was talking about another watch that is fairly popular – the half-moon watch. This watch has no sweep second hand and it does not have the fine gradations between the five minute intervals. The speaker was suggesting that most people don't really care whether it's 10:17 and 22 seconds. We are happy with "it's about 10:15 or 10:20."

As I listened to the radio conversation, I began to understand why the digital watches were selling for a buck. Fewer and fewer people were interested in the exact time. Now, as I began to think about the time of my retirement... What is time? Webster says, "it's the measured or measurable period during which an action, process or condition exists or continues." In English, this means that "time" is a contrivance, a chosen structure, a framework into which we place our lives and the events of our lives. In reality, time does not exist. And, when it does exist, it does so at our pleasure. Often on Shabbat, for example, I choose to suspend time – not to wear a watch – digital or otherwise. I don't want to know "what time it is," I just want an opportunity to be and to feel and to experience.

Over two thousand years ago, Ecclesiastes told us there is a time for every purpose under heaven: a time to be born and a time to die; a time to weep and a time to laugh; a time to embrace and a time to refrain from

embracing; a time to keep silent and a time to speak; a time to cast away stones and a time to gather stones together...always the concern for the construct of time.

Time, then, is a contrivance...a framework into which we place what matters most...we make time for what matters. It is a structure which we construct to remember what is ultimately important – and to forget or to forgive what is unworthy of us.



Rabbi Azriel

The real "times of our lives" occur when we suspend time, when we "talk until the wee hours of the morning and communicate so openly and intensely that I lost track of time." The real "times" of our lives come when we feel something so deeply and profoundly that if we were asked what day it is, or hour, or month – we would respond – "who cares?" We know, there is a certain joy we feel when we are doing something "in step – in time" with everyone else. But often there is an even greater joy when we know that we are out of step with the majority and that we are experiencing something that they just cannot have.

When we exercise our ability to suspend time, we step into the realm of timelessness and we begin to live beyond the moment, and even beyond the immediate event. We dare to place one foot – perhaps two – into the realm of spirituality.

And Eighteenth Century Chasidic master taught us the following insight: just as the hand, held before the eye, can hide the tallest mountain, so the routine of everyday life can keep us from seeing the vast radiance and the secret wonders that fill the world.

Congregation

Celebrate Shabbat with Chinese Food & A Movie

Friday, December 25, 6 p.m.

Join us at Temple Israel for Shabbat services followed by a catered Chinese dinner and a family movie. The cost is \$8 and children under 13 are free. Please RSVP to Temple Israel by Wednesday, December 23.



Camp Scholarship Information

We feel very strongly that attending a Jewish summer camp is an important part of raising a Jewish child. We do not want one child to miss the experience of camp due to a lack of funds. Here is a list of possible sources of financial assistance.

Jewish Federation of Omaha – A \$1,000 Jewish Experience Grant is a gift from the Jewish Federation of Omaha to children in 3rd – 11th grades to attend a residential summer Jewish camp, with a minimum two-week program. The grant can be paid in two, \$500 payments over two summers or be received as a single \$1,000 payment. The deadline for Jewish Experience Grant applications is March 1, 2016.

There are also scholarships available, based on financial-need, through the Financial Aid Committee of the Jewish Federation of Omaha. The deadline for scholarship applications is also March 1, 2016.

Both grant and scholarship applications are available at www.jewishomaha.org under “Scholarships and Grants” in the Center for Jewish Life section.

Temple Israel’s Annual Super Bowl Party!

Sunday, February 7, 4:30 p.m.

Come watch Super Bowl 50 with us on our big projection screens in the Social Hall! We will be providing all you can eat appetizers and non-alcoholic drinks. BYOB.

There will be activities for kids and sitter service provided. The suggested donation for the evening is \$5/person or \$10/family. The party this year will again be sponsored by the Men of Reform Judaism. Please RSVP to Temple Israel, 402-556-6536 or RSVP@templeisraelomaha.com. Money will be collected at the door.



Questions can be directed to Mary Sue Grossman at mgrossman@jewishomaha.org or 402-334-6445.

Also offered in conjunction with Jewish Experience Grants, if your child has never been to Jewish overnight summer camp and is attending a camp session of 19 consecutive days or longer, you may be eligible for a “One Happy Camper” grant of \$1,000. Visit www.onehappycamper.org to apply.

OSRUI Campership Fund – Call Associate Director of OSRUI, Susan Alexander, 847-239-6980, to obtain an application and discuss the process. Forms will be available in late November and MUST be received no later than March 1, 2016.

Temple Israel – Our congregation has a limited amount of funds set aside to encourage Jewish summer camping experiences. For more information, please contact Executive Director Dennis DePorte, ddeporte@templeisraelomaha.com.

Calendar

Pray תפילות



Tot Shabbat

Saturday, December 19, 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.

1st Fridays

January First Friday

Friday, January 8, Candle lighting and kiddush in the Simon Community Court, 5:30 p.m., Service, 6 p.m., dinner following services

Menu: Beef & Noodles, Green Salad, Roasted Vegetables and Apple Pie

Cost is \$5 per person, max of \$20 per family. Please RSVP to Temple Israel, RSVP@templeisraelomaha.com or 402-556-6536, by Wednesday, January 6.

Shabbat Shira

Friday, January 22, 6 p.m.

Learn למודים

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 Wednesdays, December 23 and 30

No Religious School on Sundays, December 20 and 27, January 3 and 17

11th and 12th Grade Israel Trip

December 20 - January 1

Adult Education

Contact Program Director Scott Littky for more information.

Torah Study

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

Wednesdays @ Temple

All the News That is Fit for the Jews with Scott Littky

Wednesdays, January 6 - 27, 6:30 p.m.

Is it good for the Jews? How often do we hear or say this. We will look at controversial news events and articles and analyze how they relate to us.

Thursday Mornings @ Temple

Conversations with the Cantor

Thursday, December 17, 10 a.m.

Each week, Cantor Shermet will lead a discussion on a topic of her choosing and expertise.

All the News That is Fit for the Jews with Scott Littky

Thursdays, January 7-28, 10 a.m.

Is it good for the Jews? How often do we hear or say this. We will look at controversial news events and articles and analyze how they relate to us.

Calendar

Sundays @ Temple

Baby Brunch for Children under One Year & 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: December 13, January 24, February 21, March 20 & April 10.

Toddler & Parent Program

Sunday, January 10, 10:30 a.m., Social Hall

We are continuing our Sunday morning Toddler and Parent program for children ages 2-3. Dani Howell will facilitate activities, games and songs for toddlers with their parents. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet other families with young children and connect with our Temple Israel community. For more information please contact Interim Religious School Director Sharon Comisar-Langdon, 402-556-6536 or scomisar-langdon@templeisraelomaha.com. 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 10, February 7, March 6, April 3, May 15

Temple Israel Book Club

Sunday, January 10, 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.

Intro to Hebrew with Eliad Eliyahu

Sundays, January 10, 24 and 31, February 7 and 21, March 6 and 20, 11 a.m.

If you're interested in learning a little Hebrew or brushing up on your basic Hebrew, then this class is for you!

Temple TED Talks

Sunday, January 24, 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

Sundays, January 24 and 31, 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!

Engage פעילות

Celebrate Shabbat with Chinese Food & A Movie

Friday, December 25, 6 p.m.

Family Game Night, Havdalah and Potluck Dinner

Saturday, January 16, 5-8 p.m.

Bring your favorite game and a comfort food main dish to share. We will also be playing bingo during the evening. Please RSVP to the Temple Israel office, RSVP@templeisraelomaha.com or 402-556-6536.

Poker Tournament

Tuesday, January 26, 7 p.m.

Cost is \$50 and includes dinner and tournament. For more information and to RSVP, please contact Program Director Scott Littky, 402-556-6536.

OTYG

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

OTYG Spaghetti Dinner & Auction

Sunday, March 6, 5 - 8 p.m.

Join us in celebration of our Temple Israel youth at this year's Spaghetti Dinner and Auction. Proceeds will be going to support Camp Rainbow, a camp for kids with cancer and other blood-related diseases, along with funding youth activities.

Now requesting donations! Please contact Director of Youth and Young Adult Engagement Aliyah Lasky, alasky@templeisraelomaha.com or 402-905-0409.

Congregation

B'nai Mitzvah בני מצוה

Emilie Sacks, daughter of Jamie and Scott Sacks, will celebrate her Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, January 9. She is a 7th grade student at LaVista Junior High. Emilie has one brother, Gregory. For hobbies and fun, Emilie plays volleyball and is a member of River City Junior Club Volleyball Team and participates in show choir at S & J Studios Center Stage Group. For her Mitzvah Project, Emilie volunteered at the Children's Respite Care Center with infants and toddlers. She is also hosting two bake sales to raise money for much needed supplies for the facility.



Leo Truman Ray, son of Shayna and Matthew Ray, will celebrate his Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, January 16. Leo is in the 7th grade at Lewis and Clark Middle School where he is an honor student, participant in Duke Tip, has been the Student of the Month and is on the Dancing Classrooms Competitive Team. While attending Columbian Elementary, he was awarded the Student of the Month and was President of the Ambassadors. Leo enjoys the cross country team, track, reading about and studying psychology and neurology. For his Mitzvah Project, he volunteered for CASA-Douglas County, which advocates for abused and neglected children in the foster care system. Leo also has a sister, Chloe.



New Members

Sara Cowan and Brian Fahey have recently joined Temple Israel as a married couple. Sara's family have been members since they moved to Omaha in 1999. She had her Bat Mitzvah at Temple Israel, and she and Brian were married at Temple Israel in 2012 (one of the last in the Cass St. building). They continued attending Temple Israel with Sara's family for high holidays. They are expecting their first child in February.



Eric Shapiro first came to visit Temple Israel in late August and now has become a member. He grew up in Wayne, NE, about two hours north of Omaha. He has moved around a few times, heading up to the Twin Cities for College, then to Costa Rica, North Carolina, and most recently Virginia. He recently moved back to Omaha with his girlfriend to be closer to family and to pursue an opportunity for a career change. He has a love of music and has been in a couple of bands, most recently a modern-country and rock band in Norfolk, VA. Eric loves to travel and prefers to do this with as small of a backpack as possible. He has even been to several countries and a few continents with only a carry-on bag.



Congregation

Rabbi Azriel Tribute Book

Rabbi Azriel's retirement is fast approaching and momentum is building toward a fitting celebration. Throughout all the extraordinary and ordinary times of our lives, Rabbi Azriel has been there for us as a friend, mentor, counselor, scholar and religious guide. Now it is time for us to show our appreciation by honoring Rabbi Aryeh and Elyce Azriel and family the weekend of May 27-28 with a special celebration, including a Tribute Book.

Festive Shabbat Service

Friday, May 27, 6 p.m.

Celebratory Oneg

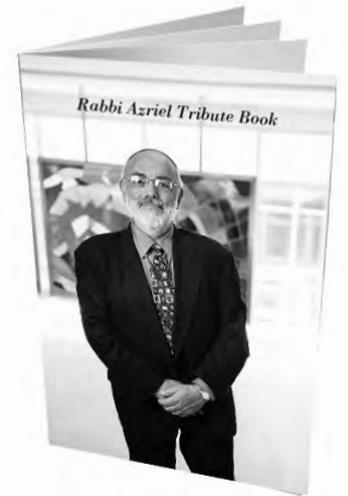
Friday, May 27

Honorary Dinner

Saturday, May 28

This magnificent Tribute Book is being prepared for distribution during the celebration weekend.

The book will include many pictures, copies of his most requested sermons, your tributes and many more features making it a wonderful keepsake. This will be your opportunity to express gratitude for the impact Rabbi Azriel has had over the years. Contributions to the tribute book will help fund his Youth Engagement fund.



We will be sending a mailing out at the end of December with all the information.

Keep Us Informed

Changes in privacy laws now restrict hospital chaplain offices from notifying Temple about congregants who are patients. We want to visit our members. Call and tell us if you or someone you know is ill or in the hospital and might be helped by a visit or telephone call. Help us keep in contact with our Temple Israel family!

Births לידה

Mazel tov on the birth of...

Maya Rose Adeline Bennett, daughter of Megan Adams and Jeffrey Bennett, granddaughter of Bettie and John Adams and Sheree and Fred Bennett, and great-granddaughter of Rose Adams.

In Sympathy נחמה

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

Denny Lewis, survived by wife Lisa Lewis, son Travis Lewis, brother and sister-in-law Gary Lewis and Cherry Witham, brother-in-law David Shapiro, niece, nephews, many family members and friends;

Dorothy Yaffe, preceded in death by husband Sol Yaffe. Survived by son Robert Yaffe and wife Rita, daughter Jane Yaffe-Rowell, sisters-in-law Greta Camel, Annette Yaffe, many grandchildren and great-grandchildren;

...and extends sympathy to their bereaved families.

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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



ABOVE LEFT: Consider the Alternative Panel Discussion. ABOVE RIGHT: Our first Game Night for Adults at Spielbound was a success! BELOW LEFT: Ari Brodkey speaks about life after finishing his Israeli military service. BELOW RIGHT: Helping to serve breakfast at the Stephen Center.

