

## Upcoming Events

**Family Game Night,  
Havdalah and Potluck Dinner**  
 Saturday, January 16, 5-8 p.m.

**Shabbat Shira**  
 Friday, January 22, 6 p.m.

**Mitzvah Fair for 3rd & 4th Grade**  
 Sunday, January 24, 10:15 a.m.  
 Beth El Synagogue

**Baby Brunch for Children Under  
One Year & Their Parents**  
 Sunday, January 24, 10:30 a.m.

**Intro to Hebrew  
with Eliad Eliyahu**  
 Sundays, January 24 and 31,  
 February 7 and 21, March 6  
 and 20, 11 a.m.

**Temple TED Talk**  
 Sunday, January 24, 11 a.m.

**Poker Tournament**  
 Tuesday, January 26, 7 p.m.

**All the News That is Fit for the  
Jews with Scott Littky**  
 Wednesdays through January 27  
 6:30 p.m.

**All the News That is Fit  
for the Jews with Scott Littky**  
 Thursdays through January 28  
 10 a.m.

**Tot Shabbat**  
 Saturday, January 30, 9 a.m.

**Kibitz with the Clergy**  
 Sunday, January 31, 11 a.m.

## 1st Fridays

### February First Friday

Friday, February 5

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

Service, 6 p.m., dinner following services

Menu: Chicken Marbella, Roasted Vegetables, Rice Pilaf  
 and Red Velvet Cake

Cost is \$5 per person, max of \$20 per family. Please RSVP to  
 Temple Israel, [RSVP@templeisraelomaha.com](mailto:RSVP@templeisraelomaha.com) or 402-556-6536,  
 by Wednesday, February 3.

# 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.



Suggested donation: \$5 per person or \$10 per family. Money will  
 be collected at the door. Please RSVP to Temple Israel, 402-556-  
 6536 or [RSVP@templeisraelomaha.com](mailto:RSVP@templeisraelomaha.com). Sponsored by the Men  
 of Reform Judaism.

# Clergy Report

## Learning From Experience

As we depart the winter holidays, a time when many families gather around their multi-generational tables, I find myself reflecting once again on the battles that seem to take place between the generations. It is not unusual for generations to have a hard time understanding each other, but I often wonder if this chasm in intergenerational understanding is broadening over time.

I remember when, as a child, I taught my grandmother how to use a microwave and a cordless phone. What was second nature for me seemed to be a college course for a woman raised during the Great Depression. I laughed at the time, perhaps out of arrogance, that such a simple thing would be so challenging for a grown woman. And the judgment does not just flow in one direction. As a “young-ish” rabbi, I’ve heard the gripes from my elders about how self-centered and independent my generation has become. Statistics seemingly back up such comments as we see that the newer generations of Jews are less charitable than their parents generation. (*Contemporary Jewish Philanthropy in America, Kosmin & Ritterband*).

At a time when we are living longer, having kids later and are more transient than ever, it can often seem that people of different generations are not only looking out at a different world, but that we are unable to be a resource for each other to understand the world we clearly share.

In his book “Being Mortal,” Atul Guwande points out that this was not always the case. In fact, he shares, it used to be the case that the young were dependent upon their elders as the experts due to their experience in life. But today it is often the younger generation who feel that they are expert in navigating this world. Guwande writes that we can see this in what demographers call “age heaping” in the census. “Whereas today people often understate their age to census takers, studies of past censuses have revealed that they used to overstate it.” In other words, where we used to lie that we are older, now we lie that we

are younger. We have traded our value for experience for youth.

One of the wonderful countercultural gifts of synagogue life is that it is a place where the generations blend together. While we often try to “theme” certain Shabbat services or other synagogue programs to particular age groups, my hope is that we do not segregate ourselves to such a degree that we lose the ability to engage with those who have experienced the world from a different perspective and at a different time.

Speaking as that “young-ish” rabbi, I often say to my elders that the world today is not the world you knew at my age. We are facing different realities, whether they are financial, demographic, technological or otherwise. But that does not mean that we do not need the wisdom of your experience. Try to see the world through our eyes and then speak up. Guide us, help us to understand this new reality. Please, do not throw your hands up in the air because we seem to take a different path in the road. And, due to my time in the synagogue community, I can say to my peers that better than any website is the wisdom of our elders. Google has information, but the generations who have come before us have a deep wisdom in the ways of our world, regardless of the changing times. Come to First Friday not just to see your peers, but to sit with a World War II veteran. Tell your child when they are getting antsy, not to play a game on your phone, but to go hear the story of a grandparent. Such wisdom will serve them well, it will serve us well and when the time is right, it will be precisely what we pass on to our grandchildren.

At a time when everyone seems to want to be younger and Youtube seems to have replaced the role of grandparents as our great storytellers, I pray that our synagogue continues to be a place where youth and experience engage as the greatest gift we can give each other.



Rabbi Brown

# Congregation

## 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.



## 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, [slittky@templeisraelomaha.com](mailto:slittky@templeisraelomaha.com) or 402-556-6536.



## Cantor Shermet Sabbatical

Cantor Shermet is taking a sabbatical from January 31 - April 1. She will return to her regular hours at Temple Israel the week of April 4.

# Under the Sea With OTYG

## 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. There will be great food, amazing silent auction items and friends and family to share this wonderful event with. Proceeds will be going to support Camp Rainbow, a camp for kids with cancer and other blood-related diseases, along with funding youth activities.

The cost is \$10 for adults, \$4 for children ages 6-12 and no charge for children five and younger. Please RSVP to Temple Israel, [RSVP@templeisraelomaha.com](mailto:RSVP@templeisraelomaha.com) or 402-556-6536, by Friday, February 1.

**Now requesting donations!** Please contact Director of Youth and Young Adult Engagement Aliyah Lasky, [alasky@templeisraelomaha.com](mailto:alasky@templeisraelomaha.com) or 402-905-0409.

# Calendar

## תפילות Pray

### Shabbat Shira

Friday, January 22, 6 p.m.

### Shabbat Service featuring Teen Israel Trip Reflections

Friday, January 29, 6 p.m.

### Tot Shabbat

Saturday, January 30, 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: January 30, February 27, March 26, April 30 & May 28.



### February First Friday

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

Menu: Chicken Marbella, Roasted Vegetables, Rice Pilaf and Red Velvet Cake

Cost is \$5 per person, max of \$20 per family. Please RSVP to Temple Israel, [RSVP@templeisraelomaha.com](mailto:RSVP@templeisraelomaha.com) or 402-556-6536, by Wednesday, February 3.

## 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, February 10

No Religious School on Sundays, January 17 and February 14

### Mitzvah Fair for 3rd and 4th Grade

Sunday, January 24, 10:15 a.m., Beth El Synagogue  
Watch for more details!

### Religious School Steering Committee

Sunday, January 31, Noon

### 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 through January 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.

#### Was DNA God's Way to Protect the Chosen People? with Dr. Bruce Buehler

Wednesdays, February 3, 17 & 24, 6:30 p.m.

DNA is the simplest and most complicated blueprint of life. It has the ability to change and be changed by the environment. Why is it so complex and so simple.

### Thursday Mornings @ Temple

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

Thursdays through January 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.

### Diversity in Israel:

#### A Real Reality Show with Eliad Eliyahu

Thursdays, February 4-25 and March 3, 10 & 24, 10 a.m.

Israel is the homeland of the Jewish People. What does this mean? Israel is a diverse country with Jews from all over the world. As a result, there are issues and problems that are addressed daily to help create a country that is for all Jews.

# Calendar

## Sundays @ Temple

### Baby Brunch for Children Under One Year & Their Parents

*Sunday, January 24, 10:30 a.m.*

We invite you to our Baby Brunch for children under one year and their parents led by Dani Howell. 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.

### Intro to Hebrew with Eliad Eliyahu

*Sundays, January 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 Talk

*Sunday, January 24, 11 a.m.*

"The story of Fred and Leroy - my mom has autism," by Wendy Hamilton, a new member of Temple Israel. See her bio on page 6.

### Kibitz with the Clergy

*Sunday, January 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!

### Toddler & Parent Program

*Sunday, February 7, 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](mailto: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: February 7, March 6, April 3, May 15

## Engage פעילות

### Family Game Night, Havdalah and Potluck Dinner

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

We will be providing Mac & Cheese, Kosher Hot Dogs and a Grilled Chicken Salad Bar for dinner. Please bring a dessert to share! We will also be playing bingo during the evening. Please RSVP to the Temple Israel office, [RSVP@templeisraelomaha.com](mailto: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. There will be great food, amazing silent auction items and friends and family to share this wonderful event with. Proceeds will be going to support Camp Rainbow, a camp for kids with cancer and other blood-related diseases, along with funding youth activities.

The cost is \$10 for adults, \$4 for children ages 6-12 and no charge for children five and younger. Please RSVP to Temple Israel, [RSVP@templeisraelomaha.com](mailto:RSVP@templeisraelomaha.com) or 402-556-6536, by Friday, February 1.

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# Congregation

## B'nai Mitzvah בני מצוה

**Isabella Erica Cooper** will celebrate her Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, January 23. She is the daughter of Julie and Jeffrey Cooper and the sister of Julianna and Paul. Isabella attends Kiewit Middle School where she is in the 7th grade. She enjoys singing and theater in her free time. For her Mitzvah Project, Isabella is building an Unhealthy Home Model for Omaha Healthy Kids Alliance to use in their educational demonstrations.



**Daisy Friedman** will celebrate her Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, January 30. She is the daughter of Joey Hoffman and Josh Friedman and Susi Amendola. Daisy also has two sisters, Terra Goulden and Gracie Gillespie. She is a 7th grade honor roll student at Westside Middle School. For fun and enjoyment, Daisy loves acting, singing, writing, stand-up comedy and photography. For her Mitzvah Project, Daisy chose to volunteer with patients at Nebraska Medicine, as she was once a transplant and cancer patient there. Since she and the hospitalized kids are immuno-compromised, Daisy could not visit in person, so she and a eight-year-old girl – also named Daisy – FaceTimed, shared stories and laughs. Daisy will also assemble gift boxes for Nebraska Medicine’s hospitalized kids for their birthdays and for a pick-me-up.



## New Members

Wendy Hamilton is originally from Reno, NV and moved to Omaha in 1986 when she was 9. She stayed in Omaha through high school graduation (Omaha Northwest) and then left the area to pursue her education and start her career. After living away for 12 years, she “boomeranged” back to Omaha in 2007 which she says is the best decision she’s ever made.

In 2014, Wendy had the honor of giving a TEDxOmaha talk in 2014. Her talk was about growing up with a mom who has autism. Currently her talk has over 25,000 views and she will be presenting it on Sunday, January 24 at Temple Israel during our next TED Talk program.

Wendy also says that she has the silliest pets in the world. She has a very fat, Jewish cat named Mr. Mushnick, who is 14 and completely unaware of his weight problem, and twin greyhounds who are three and a half and make poor choices on a daily basis.



# Congregation

## Israel Trip Pictures



Left: Kibbutz Kfar Masryk in Northern Israel.  
Below: The big group at Jerusalem's Haas Promenade. Right: The ladies at the Kotel.



## Marriage נישואין

*Mazel tov on the marriage of...*

**Mr. & Mrs. Michael Goldstein.** Mrs. Goldstein is the former Dacia Jabenis. Parents are Karen and Daryl Sicrum, Barbara and Gary Goldstein and the late Phyllis Angrisane.

**Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Klein.** Mrs. Klein is the former Shaye Sisneros. Parents are Janet and Epifanio Sisneros and Janet and Harry Klein.

## Conversion גיור

We welcome **Jackie Friedland** who have recently chosen Judaism. May they go from strength to strength!

## Births לידה

*Mazel tov on the birth of...*

**Oak Whitaker Rabinovitz-Higgins**, son of Kate and Brian Rabinovitz-Higgins and grandson of Amy and Paul Rabinovitz.

## In Sympathy נחמה

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

**Beverly Fellman**, preceded in death by parents Dina and Harold Bloom, and brothers Dr. Bruce Bloom and Dr. Bernard Bloom. Survived by husband Richard Fellman, children Dr. Susan and her husband, Dr. Isaac Witkowski, Deborah Fellman, Jon Fellman and his wife, Michelle and Rabbi Daniel Fellman and his wife, Melissa, eight grandchildren, Gabby and Julian Witkowski, Anna, Samantha and Andy Fellman, and Zachary, Jacob and Elizabeth Fellman, brother Brent Bloom and his wife, Rebecca, and sisters and brothers-in-law Arlene Bloom, Naomi Bloom, Jane Pickus, Tom and Darlynn Fellman and Nancy Rips.

**Ruth Oruch**, proceeded in death by husband Herold, sister Pauline Handleman, and brother James Kahn. Survived by daughter Patricia (Jack), sons Michael and Richard (Teri), grandchildren Jennifer, Adam (Leah), Jason and Ryan, and great-grandchildren Benjamin and Harry and sister Tootie Simon.

*...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



### Israel Trip Pictures

*Left: Visiting an Ethiopian house. Above: Overnight hospitality at a Bedouin village. Below: Bike riders through Tel Aviv.*

