

Upcoming Events

Intro to Hebrew with Eliad Eliyahu

Sundays, February 21 and March 6 and 20, 11 a.m.

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

Wednesdays, February 24 and March 2, 6:30 p.m.

Diversity in Israel: A Real Reality Show with Eliad Eliyahu

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

Tot Shabbat

Saturday, February 27 and March 26, 9 a.m.

Student/Parent/Teacher Conferences and Family Art Project

Sunday, February 28
10 a.m. - Noon

Temple TED Talk

Sunday, February 28, 11 a.m.

March First Friday

Friday, March 4
Candle lighting and kiddush in the Simon Community Court, 5:30 p.m., Service, 6 p.m., dinner following services

Toddler & Parent Program

Sunday, March 6, 10:30 a.m., Social Hall

OTYG Spaghetti Dinner

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

Scholar-in-Residence Rabbi Uri Regev

Friday, March 11 - Saturday, March 12



Rabbi Uri Regev is an internationally renowned leader and advocate of religious liberty and the liberal movements of Judaism in his native Israel and around the world. For seven years, until recently, he served as president of the World Union for Progressive Judaism, a global umbrella organization of the Progressive, Reform, Liberal and Reconstructionist movements, serving more than 1,200 congregations and communities in 42 countries on six continents.

Currently, Rabbi Regev serves as the President and CEO of a new educational and advocacy Israel-Diaspora partnership, "Freedom Of Religion for Israel" and of its Israeli counterpart, "Hiddush – For Freedom of Religion and Equality."

Religious Freedom & Rights in Israel: Why American Jewry Should Care!

Schedule

Shabbat Evening Services

Friday, March 11, 6 p.m.

In religion unlike in politics, united we fall divided we stand!

Torah Study with Rabbi Uri Regev

Saturday, March 12, 9 a.m.

Parsha Pekudei

Shabbat Morning Services

Saturday, March 12, 10:30 a.m.

Kiddush Lunch Talk After Services

Saturday, March 12, Noon

Advancing religious pluralism in Israel - how important is it really, and why aren't we serious about it?

Hermene Zweiback Center
 Lifelong Jewish Learning

Clergy Report

Our Travels Through Israel!

The Omaha community high school trip to Israel in December with 35 teenagers and 3 clergy was an exhausting blast.

After flying west to go east (no room on the Omaha nonstop to Newark with all of us!), we had a quick lunch in Tel Aviv, a visit to Independence Hall and then bussed our way north to Nahariya. This is the center of the Federation Partnership region, and where the trip was based for the next five days. Our 11th and 12th graders from three synagogues spent time not just with each other, but also met and socialized with Israeli high school students. Additionally we joined activities with four other U.S. regions, which brought us to 85 students in all. Over Shabbat, they had homestay with Israeli families, one of the most valuable experiences of the trip.

We volunteered at the Western Galilee Medical Center, at a food bank and at a community center for teens with cerebral palsy. We also visited Rosh Hanikra, Kibbutz Kfar Masrik and Kibbutz Sulam Tzor's high school, the Ghetto Fighters Museum, the Ethiopian House, the Druze village of Julis Amir and the wonderful town of Akko. Akko was a huge favorite not just for its Crusader-era fortress, but because we finally got to eat real shawarma and falafel!

We said goodbye to the other regions and drove east to the hills above the Galilee, where the teens got to drive ATV's and see some of the countryside. We travelled south to spend two days in Jerusalem. We toured the Kotel tunnels and had some time at the Kotel itself. The kids went to David's City, Yad Vashem and Mt. Herzl, and we had a great evening food tour in and around Machane Yehuda, the large open market.

Shawarma and hummus remained favorites, although I started craving Israeli cookies: All. Day. Long.

After Jerusalem, we travelled still further south to the Dead Sea, where it actually rained but our intrepid teens went "swimming" anyway. This was followed by a session of rappelling at Nahal Tamar, a visit to Ben Gurion's grave and a physically surprising camel ride, whereupon we had Bedouin hospitality for dinner and sleeping. The following day was our final one. We arrived back in Tel Aviv, had lunch at Dr. Shakshuka (a must cuisine stop in Israel) and took a 3-hour bike ride tour of the city. A final dinner, final packing and back to the airport in the morning.

We have much to be thankful for in our community here. Thirty-five teens got to know each other

better, helped by their parents, their synagogues and the Federation. Friendships were made and a greater world view was achieved in meeting Israeli contemporaries. And personally, I had the pleasure of getting to know the students from the other synagogues and their rabbis. In between constantly counting everyone to be sure we had the same amount of kids we left Omaha with, we laughed a lot.



Cantor Shermet



PURIM CELEBRATION

Wednesday, March 23, 4 p.m.

Join us at 4 p.m. in the Social Hall for great carnival fun! At 5:30 p.m. we will enjoy kosher hot dogs and chips for dinner. At 6 p.m. we will gather in the Schragar Sanctuary for the Purim Spiel and Service. Afterwards, we will gather in the Simon Community Court for some delicious Hamantaschen.



Tribute & Transition

Rabbi Aryeh Azriel's 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 him with a special community celebration the weekend of May 27-29.

A magnificent Tribute Book is being prepared for distribution during the celebration weekend to honor Rabbi Aryeh and Elyce Azriel. 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 support his Youth Engagement Fund.

There are multiple size options to create your tribute message. Temple Israel can help with wording or special graphic design features. To assist in our layout

and design, we ask that you reserve a space no later than **TUESDAY, MARCH 15**.

You can find the form online at www.templeisraelomaha.com/transition/tributebook or we have copies in the Temple Israel Office. You can also send your graphics/images to **Cassandra Hicks, chicks@templeisraelomaha.com**. If you have any questions, please contact **Mendy Halsted, 402-680-9246 or mendyhalsted@gmail.com**, or **Cassandra Hicks, 402-556-6536**.

You can deliver your own message of appreciation in one of the following ways:

- Option A: Full Page - \$360
- Option B: Half Page - \$180
- Option C: Quarter Page - \$100
- Option D: Business Card/Eighth Page - \$54
- Option E: 5 Lines of Copy - \$36
- Option F: 2 Lines of Copy - \$18

Temple Israel Transition Timeline

We will be honoring Rabbi Azriel's service and devotion for the past 28 years to our congregation and also conduct a process to identify the leadership that will shape the next chapter in our storied history. There will be many opportunities for the entire congregation to thank Rabbi Azriel and contribute to the process of transitioning to new leadership. For the very latest information please visit: www.templeisraelomaha.com/transition/updates

February - March

Senior Rabbi Search Committee formed and starts meeting

March 15

Deadline for reserving space in Rabbi Azriel Tribute Book

April 27

Senior Rabbi Search Congregational Conversation; all congregants welcome! Meet Rabbi Crystal and participate in the search process

May 27

Rabbi Azriel Celebratory Shabbat and Oneg at Temple Israel

May 28

Dinner honoring Rabbi and Elyce Azriel

June 10

Farewell Shabbat celebration with Rabbi Brown and family

July 1

Rabbi Crystal and new asst/assoc rabbi join Temple Israel

July 8

Welcome Shabbat with new clergy

August - December

Senior Rabbi Search Committee interviews candidates and identifies our next leader

January 2017

New senior rabbi announced (expected)

July 1, 2017

Senior rabbi joins Temple Israel

Transition Update

Assistant Rabbi Search Report

It is more than a bit surprising to find myself chairing a rabbi search committee twice in one year. While we were not planning to hire a new assistant rabbi at this time, we accept that life is unpredictable, change must be embraced and we move forward with hope. The assistant rabbi search committee was formed in January and represents a broad cross-section of our membership. Our committee includes: Jessica Cohn, Rachel Dysico, Mike Halsted, Jill Idelman, Brandon Koom, Stan Krieger, Dan Marburg, Jeff Platt, Silvia Roffman and Cantor Wendy Shermet.

We are working diligently to bring a wonderful rabbi to Omaha to join our Temple family. We have received eight applications, five from newly-ordained rabbis who will graduate from Hebrew Union College in the spring and three from rabbis already working in the field. In early February, our Interim Senior Rabbi

Darryl Crystal and I attended "placement" at the New York City campus of HUC, where the 22 graduating students and the congregations that want to hire an assistant rabbi start the process of making a match. We interviewed the five students who applied to our position. The search committee will then determine which candidates to bring to Omaha for onsite interviews. Concurrently, we conducted phone interviews with our more seasoned applicants who may also be invited for a visit. It is our hope to have our next assistant rabbi hired by late spring and to join our staff in early summer.

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer to assist with hosting duties when our candidates come to interview, please contact me at rozback@cox.net or 402-669-2835.

Here are some questions I have received about hiring new clergy:

Why don't we just hire our new senior rabbi now?

There are several reasons we will not hire a senior rabbi at this time.

1. We have already committed to Rabbi Darryl Crystal to be our interim rabbi for one year. We would not break our contract with him nor would it be feasible to have two senior rabbis on staff at the same time. Rabbi Crystal, with his years of congregational and interim experience, has already been an outstanding source of support to our staff and lay leadership as we navigate the unexpected departure of Rabbi Brown.
2. This is a terrible time to start a search for a senior rabbi. Senior rabbi positions post in late summer and are often filled by December. If we sought to hire a senior rabbi now, we would find a fairly small applicant pool. It is to our advantage to post our position this summer to attract the best applicants.

Why would a rabbi want to be our assistant without knowing who the senior rabbi will be?

The senior rabbi supervises and mentors the assistant so this is a fair question. However, being

a rabbi at Temple Israel is an exciting opportunity regardless. Our interim, Rabbi Crystal is highly respected and experienced in mentoring young rabbis. Our cantor, with 15 years at Temple, will also be a valued colleague. With Rabbi Azriel in town, very strong clergy will actually surround our new assistant to provide support. Plus, for someone with passion and vision, this position offers an incredible opportunity to make his or her mark.

Why not wait and let the new senior rabbi help hire the next assistant rabbi?

We are a fairly large congregation and our clergy work very hard teaching, leading worship services and providing pastoral care. If we wait until our next senior is hired to fill the assistant position, we would have only two clergy in place for all of next year. Moreover, we are a congregation that values personal relationships with our clergy. We will be very excited to welcome our new assistant this summer so we can start forming the connections to our rabbi that add meaning to our lives

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.

Some of the auction items include:

- time share & airfare to Mexico •
- parking spaces • sports tickets •
- theater tickets • party/celebration services •
- and much more! •

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 or 402-556-6536, by Tuesday, March 1.

תפילות Pray

Tot Shabbat

Saturday, February 27 and March 26, 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.

March First Friday

Friday, March 4

Candle lighting and kiddush in the Simon

Community Court, 5:30 p.m., Service, 6 p.m., dinner following services

Menu: Beef & Vegetable Fajitas, Spanish Rice, Vegetables and Desert

Cost is \$5 per person, max of \$20 per family. Please RSVP to Temple Israel, RSVP@templeisraelomaha.com or 402-556-6536, by Wednesday, March 2.

1st Fridays

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, March 16

No Religious School on Sundays, March 13 and 27

K-12 Student-Parent-Teacher Conferences and Family Art Project

Sunday, February 28, 10 a.m. - Noon

Please RSVP to Jen Goodman, 402-556-6536.

5th and 6th Grade Jewish History Tour

Wednesday, March 2, 4-6 p.m., JCC Historical Society

Congregation

Adult Education

Contact Program Director Scott Littky for more information.

Torah Study

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

Wednesdays @ Temple

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

Wednesdays, February 24 and March 2, 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. Dr. Bruce Buehler is a medical genetics doctor in Omaha, Nebraska and is affiliated with multiple hospitals in the area, including Children's Hospital and Medical Center and Nebraska Medical Center.

Consider The Alternative - Screening and Discussion

Wednesday, March 9, 6:30 p.m.

Humanizing the conversation about charter schools, public schools and closing the achievement gap. How does this issue relate to our Jewish community?

Thursday Mornings @ Temple

Diversity in Israel:

A Real Reality Show with Eliad Eliyahu

Thursdays, February 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.

Sundays @ Temple

Temple Israel Book Club

Sunday, February 21, 11 a.m.

Intro to Hebrew with Eliad Eliyahu

Sundays, February 21 and 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, February 28, 11 a.m.

Howard and Lee Needleman will be presenting Lesley Hazlton's talk which calls for a new appreciation of doubt and questioning as the foundation of faith - and an end to fundamentalism of all kinds.

Toddler & Parent Program

Sunday, March 6, 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.

Baby Brunch for Children Under One Year & Their Parents

Sunday, March 20, 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.

Engage פעילות

Frost/Nixon

Sunday, February 28, 5 p.m.

Bluebarn Theater, 1106 South 10 Street

We have a block of tickets reserved and after the show we will have the opportunity to meet the director and cast for a short discussion. Cost is \$28 per person. Please RSVP to Program Director Scott Littky, 402-556-6536.

OTYG

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

OTYG Spaghetti Dinner

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

See full details on page 5.

Congregation

Births לידה

Mazel tov on the birth of...

Ayala Rose Benton, daughter of Adrianna and Jay Benton, granddaughter of Bonnie Hines and Michelle and William Pelmer, JR, and great-granddaughter of the late Richard and the late Billie Spiegall, Ramona and George Rudolfo and Carol and William Pelmer.

Samuel David Friedland, son of Jamie and Ted Friedland, grandson of Terri and Dick Zacharia and Nancy Friedland and the late David Friedland, and great-grandson of the late Trickle and Ed Milder, the late Minnette and Sam Zacharia, the late Rose and Maurice Friedland, and the late Evalyn and Paul Blotcky.

In Sympathy נחמה

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

Charles Davidson, survived by daughters Chelle Davidson and Roxie Krasno;

Phyllis Glazer, survived by husband Richard "Dick" Glazer, sons Jim (Jordana) Glazer, John (Jennifer) Glazer, grandchildren David, Grant, Emily, Danny and Jane, brother Bruce (Janice) Bernstein, many loving nieces, nephews and cousins.

Corinne K. Levin, survived by husband Hugh S. Levin M.D., daughter and son-in-law Deborah and Paul, son and daughter-in-law Michael and Jane, grandchildren Lisa, Daniel and Eric and seven great-grandchildren;

Helen Mell, survived by daughter Debbie Massarano;

Stuart Edward Muskin, survived by wife Bettie, sons and daughters in law Alan and Linda Muskin, Bruce and Mary-Beth Muskin, and Michael Muskin and Diane Murata, grandchildren Tracy Gordon (Randy), Scott Muskin (Andrea), Anne Brower (Matt), Emily Muskin and Zachary Muskin, and great Grandchildren Grant, Josh, Calvin, and Maggie Gordon, and Campbell Muskin;

...and extends sympathy to their bereaved families.

New Members

Joshua Bernick and his girlfriend **Amy Katt** have joined Temple Israel recently. Amy is from the Omaha area and has lived here all her life. Joshua works for the National Park Service and moved to Omaha in the fall of 2014. He moved from North Dakota where he lived for almost five years while working at Theodore Roosevelt National Park. In Omaha, he works for the National Park Service's regional office which provides support to over 60 parks in 13 states. Josh, as a result of working for the NPS, has lived in such places as Washington, DC, Yosemite National Park and Grand Teton National Park. His favorite hobbies are photography and playing golf. Amy is passionate about music and is a member of flute choir which performs throughout the year at a variety of events.



Gail and Kyle Knapp

have recently joined Temple Israel. Gail grew up in the Boston area and Kyle in New Hampshire. They met when they were teenagers. Kyle's father was a Unitarian minister and his family moved to Omaha a few months after he met Gail. After he moved, Gail and Kyle wrote letters to each other until he moved back to the east a year later. A year after that they married and moved back to Omaha and have been here 38 years. Gail works as a city planner and uses her geography background in the making of maps. Kyle is a songwriter and guitarist and has his own recording studio. For enjoyment, they love being with their three adult children and grandchildren, baking, reading, coffee with friends, walks and Gail loves listening to Kyle play guitar and sing.



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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 Women's Night Out

A lot of fun was had by this great group of ladies as they were guided by Sarah Linn of Door Decor to create their own masterpieces!

