

Upcoming Events

Tot Shabbat

Saturday, March 26, 9 a.m.

Saturday, April 30, 9 a.m.

Toddler & Parent Program

Sunday, April 3, 10:30 a.m.

Israel Through the Eyes of the Shalom Hartman Institute with Scott Littky

Wednesdays, April 6-27 and

May 4-18, 6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.

The Writings of Maimonides with Rabbi Azriel

Thursdays, April 7-28 and

May 5-19, 10 a.m.

Temple Israel Book Club

Monday, April 11, 7 p.m.

note date change for April

Erev Pesach Service

Friday, April 22, 4 p.m.

Passover Breakfast & Torah Study

Saturday, April 23, 9:15 a.m.

Passover/Shabbat Service

Saturday, April 23, 10:30 a.m.

Passover Family Seder:

Let Us Make the Seder for You!

Saturday, April 23, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Temple TED Talks

Sunday, April 24, 11 a.m.

Concluding Passover Service and Yizkor

Friday, April 29, 10:30 a.m.

Scholar-in-Residence Danny Maseng

Friday, April 15 - Sunday, April 17

Born in Israel to American parents, Danny first came to the United States to star on Broadway in 'Only Fools Are Sad.' A playwright, actor, singer and composer, Danny has served as Evaluator of New American Plays/Opera-Musical Theater for the National Endowment for the



Arts, as the Director of the Spielberg Fellowships for the FJC, as Spiritual Leader of URJ congregation Agudas Achim in New York and as Cantor of Temple Israel of Hollywood in California. Danny is most excited to now be the Chazzan and Spiritual Leader of Makom Los Angeles, a new, dynamic, post-denominational Jewish Community.

Mr. Maseng is also one of the most popular and respected composers of contemporary Liturgical and Synagogue music. He has been the invited guest of the American Conference of Cantors, the Cantor's Assembly, as well as the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra. His compositions are sung worldwide, with a recent Disney Hall appearance by the renowned Pink Martini, who performed Danny's Elohai N'tzor.

Scholar Schedule

Shabbat Evening Services

Friday, April 15, 6 p.m.

Community Concert

Saturday, April 16, 7:30 p.m.

Open to the public. Free of charge. Dessert reception to follow.

Through Poetry & Music

Sunday, April 17, 10 a.m.

Adult education class open to the public.

Clergy Report

A Rabbi's Gratitude for a Good Host

In the opening book of the Talmud we read the words of Ben Zoma about what it means to be a good guest.

"A good guest says, 'How much my host worked for me! He put so much meat, wine, and bread in front of me - all his exertion was just for me!' A bad guest says, 'What did my host toil for me? I ate just one roll, just one piece of meat, I drank just one cup - all his exertion was for his own household!'"

- Talmud, Berachot 58A

It can be easy to look at the world we are given and wonder why our plate was not filled with more. We are often tempted to question whether we were treated fairly, whether our lot is as good as it should be or whether we have been given everything we deserved.

As I prepare to depart Omaha and close my chapter as a rabbi at Temple Israel, I know that I do so as a guest who was treated to the best a rabbi can receive. Over the past few months I have wished many times that I could be leaving a congregation where I was treated poorly, where I was not inspired and where my plate was never filled. Oh, it would be so easy to leave a place like that. But that is not the case. I leave Temple Israel knowing that this congregation cares as deeply for our clergy as any in the country. And I leave Temple Israel knowing how proud I am to have been here and to have had an impact on a community that takes its Judaism as seriously as we do. I thank all of you who have continued this long standing tradition of *kavod ha-rav*, honoring your rabbis, even when you have disagreed with me, even when I have fallen short of the mark and even when I made the difficult

decision to leave this community at a time already filled with transition.

There is one area in particular I want to touch on in hopes that none of us take it for granted. As I think of the many ways that you have filled my plate over the last four years and the myriad of ways that you have been a superb host for me and my family, I have to note that nothing has filled my plate as immensely as Wednesday nights at Temple. We have a phenomenal Religious School and a first class program for teens. Every Jewish teen in America should have the opportunity to grow up in Omaha. Every Wednesday night I return home exhausted from a long day of teaching and hanging out with our teens and parents, saying to Carrie, wherever the world takes us, we have to bring this experience with us.

No synagogue, no rabbi and no person is perfect. But often we underestimate our successes because it is too easy to see what is missing rather than what fills us up. Getting to know you and your families, being supported by caring leaders and colleagues who pushed me to pursue my passions filled me up. And every Wednesday night, when families came together and when the teens became those supportive leaders, I was filled beyond belief. Thank you for creating this little piece of heaven here in Omaha and thank you for inviting me to partake of it during my time here. I'm taking as much of it with me as we can fit in our luggage!



Rabbi Brown

Nominating Slate for 2016-2017

The Nominating Committee that consists of Justin Cooper, Scott Goodman, Jill Idelman, Dorothy Spizman and Past President Sally Kaplan, presents the following Nomination Slate for 2016-2017: Rosie Zweiback, President; Andie Gordman, President Elect; Dan Gilbert, Vice President; Susie Norton, Vice President; Troy Meyerson, Secretary; Ron Beach, Treasurer; Gary Kaplan, Assistant Treasurer; Mike Halsted, Past President. Lisa Lewis to serve a one year term; Dan Marburg to a serve two year term; Dani Howell, Stan Krieger, and Jeff Platt to serve a three year term.

Tribute & Transition

Community Conversation about Senior Rabbi Search

Wednesday, April 27, 6:30 p.m.

Over 28 years, Rabbi Azriel's leadership and love have had a profound impact on Temple Israel and on all of us. His vision, caring, and joy have shaped who we are, and have put Temple Israel in position to move from strength to strength.

Every member of Temple Israel has a part to play in selecting our next senior rabbi. As a congregation, we must answer: "What do we want Temple Israel to be?" and "What qualities do we need in our next leader?" The Senior Rabbi Search Committee is tasked with synthesizing all of our voices into a vision that connects us with the right person to lead our congregation forward.

Please join us at Temple Israel for a community conversation to share your voice as we start answering these questions. Be on the lookout for more details about this event in the mail and in Temple Israel's Weekly Update. Desserts and drinks will be served, we hope you are able to join us.

Our committee's goal is to connect every congregant in some way with our search process. Every Temple Israel member's perspective contributes to making this a truly unique congregation that will attract a special group of candidates.

Gala Evening
celebrating

Elyce and Rabbi Aryeh Azriel

Saturday, May 28
Omaha Hilton Hotel
1001 Cass Street

6 p.m. Cocktails (cash bar)
7 p.m. Dinner and Program

Reservation deadline is Monday, May 2

Remember to send in your reply cards or fill out the form in the March 24 issue of the Jewish Press!
If you did not receive either, please contact Temple Israel, 402-556-6536,
and we can send you the information. Cost is \$36.

Calendar

Passover

Erev Pesach Service

Friday, April 22, 4 p.m.

Passover Breakfast & Torah Study

Saturday, April 23, 9:15 a.m.

Passover/Shabbat Service

Saturday, April 23, 10:30 a.m.

Passover Family Seder: Let Us Make the Seder for You!

Saturday, April 23, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Join us for our family friendly Passover Seder with delicious food, thought provoking discussion, joyful song and activities for children. The Passover Seder is one of the Jewish peoples' most treasured traditions. To this day, in every corner of the world, Jewish families come together to reconstruct that original Passover Seder, again and again, year after year. And every year, there is more to learn. We look forward to sharing this tradition with you and your family this year at Temple Israel. Dinner will include matzah ball soup, roast brisket, potato kugel, salad, chocolate-dipped macarons for dessert, and all the traditional favorites such as charoset, gefilte fish and, of course, matzah. Kids are advised to get their detective skills ready to search for the afikoman. **Reservations are a must!** Please contact the Temple Israel office, 402-556-6536 or RSVP@templeisraelomaha.com, by Wednesday, April 13 to reserve your seats. Cost of the dinner is: \$25 for adults, \$12 for children ages 6 - 12, and no charge for children ages five and under.



Concluding Passover Service and Yizkor

Friday, April 29, 10:30 a.m.

If you would like to have the names of your loved ones read at the concluding service, please contact Temple Israel, 402-556-6536 or mweidner@templeisraelomaha.com, by Wednesday, April 27 with the names.



תפילות Pray

Tot Shabbat

Saturday, March 26, 9 a.m.

Saturday, April 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.

April First Friday

Friday, April 1

Candle lighting and kiddush in the Simon Community Court, 5:30 p.m., Service, 6 p.m., dinner following services
Menu: Herb Roasted Chicken, Mashed Potatoes, Mixed Vegetables and Chocolate Chip Cookies
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 30.

Calendar

Learn למוּדִים

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 Sunday, March 27

No Religious School on Wednesday, March 30

3rd Grade Shabbat & Family Friendly Service

Friday, April 8, 6 p.m.

Confirmation Service

Saturday, April 30, 10:30 a.m.

Our tenth graders will share a private moment with Rabbi Azriel, Rabbi Brown, and Cantor Shermet to affirm their commitment to the Jewish people. Everyone is invited to share in this poignant rite of passage as we wish our students well in their continuing Jewish education.

Benjamin Brodkey, son of Stacie Brodkey and Marc Brodkey

Aleia Budwig, daughter of Larry Budwig and the late Kirsten Budwig

Adam Cooper-Kahn, son of Amy and Paul Rabinovitz

Kathleen Kirshenbaum, daughter of Jennifer Thompkins-Kirshenbaum and Matt Kirshenbaum

Benjamin Leathers-Arnold, son of Ilene Arnold and Carrie Leathers

Simon Murphy, son of Kate and Joseph Murphy

Madeleine Rauhauser, daughter of Nancy Nogg

Eliana Reiss, daughter of Wendy and Robert Reiss

Senior Celebration

Friday, May 6, 6 p.m.

Last Day of Religious School Classes and School Picnic

Sunday, May 22

Regular classes will be at 10 a.m. Afterwards, we will meet outside in the amphitheatre for a prayer assembly at 11 a.m. and picnic lunch at 11:30 a.m.

Adult Education

Contact Program Director Scott Littky for more information.

Torah Study

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

Wednesdays @ Temple

Israel Through the Eyes of the Shalom Hartman Institute with Scott Littky

Wednesdays, April 6-27 and May 4-18, 6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.

The Shalom Hartman Institute is a center of transformative thinking and teaching. They strive to address the major challenges facing the Jewish people and elevate the quality of Jewish life in Israel and around the world. Using podcasts provide by the Shalom Hartman Institute as our source we will examine issues such as the the role of modern Zionism, Jewish peoplehood and identity and Israel as a values nation.

Thursday Mornings @ Temple

The Writings of Maimonides with Rabbi Azriel

Thursdays, April 7-28 and May 5-19, 10 a.m.

A preeminent medieval Sephardic Jewish philosopher and astronomer, Maimonides became one of the most prolific and influential Torah scholars and physicians Together we will see how and why he is still important today for modern Judaism.

Sundays @ Temple

The Basics of Sign Language with Lina Kogan

Sundays, April 3-17, 10 a.m.

Learn the basics of sign language to help you better communicate with deaf members of Temple Israel. For more information, please contact Program Director Scott Littky.

Toddler & Parent Program

Sunday, April 3, 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.

Calendar

Temple Israel Book Club

Monday, April 11, 7 p.m.

note date change for April

Jessica Fechter who has written the book - Stir: My Broken Brain and the Meals That Brought Me Home – will be here at Temple Israel to meet with our book club and speak about her book. She is a friend of Rabbi Josh & Carrie Brown and her story and book are sure to provide an interesting evening for us.



OTYG & TiYPE

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

TiYPE First Friday Service and Dinner

Friday, April 1, 6 p.m.

Come join Temple Israel Young Professional Engagement for First Friday services and dinner (we will have table reserved just for our Jewish young adults). Please RSVP to Aliyah Lasky, 402-556-6536, by Wednesday, March 30.

Temple Israel Blood Drive

Sundays, April 17, 8:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.

To schedule an appointment, please contact Temple Israel, 402-556-6536, or visit the American Red Cross website, sponsor code: TempleIsrael

Temple TED Talks

Sunday, April 24, 11 a.m., Media Center

NFTY Senior Function/Spring Chavurah

Thursday, April 7 - Sunday, April 10

Community Wide Teen Community Service Project

Sunday, April 17

OTYG Led Service and Lock In

Friday, April 29

Congregation

B'nai Mitzvah בני מצוה

Sydney Kully, daughter of Denese and Tim Kully will celebrate her Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, April 16. She is a 7th grade student at Westside Middle School. Sydney's hobbies and special interests are basketball, volleyball, soccer, swimming, drawing, photography and vacationing. For her Mitzvah Project, Sydney volunteered at the Open Door Mission, Lydia House, and oversaw a clothing drive to help the homeless shelters in the Omaha area. She has a brother, Cameron, and a sister, Madison.



Isabella Persky will celebrate her Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, May 7. She is the daughter of Cindy Kohll Persky & Joshua Persky. Isabella is a 7th grade student at Westside Middle School where she was recently asked to apply to the National Junior Honor Society. She is a part of Westside Middle School Show Choir. Last year she took 2nd Place for the District 66 Speech Contest. For her Mitzvah Project, Isabella volunteered at the Westside Boys and Girls Club helping kids do art projects and assisted in other activities. Isabella is the sister of Isaac and the granddaughter of Gail & Jerry Kohll and the great granddaughter of the late Selma & Is Tretiak, Leona & Jerry Cohn and Louis Kohll.



Congregation

Births לידה

Mazel tov on the birth of...

Miriam Cowan Fahey, daughter of Sara Cowan and Brian Fahey, granddaughter of Alison Freifeld & Ken Cowan and Mary Gryva & John Fahey, and great-granddaughter of the late Milton & Muriel Freifeld, the late Daniel & Elizabeth Cowan, the late Paul & Yolanda Gryva and the late Richard & Lucille Fahey.

Elizabeth Audery Herrick, daughter of Jesica and Greg Herrick and granddaughter of Cathy and Bill Christensen, and Sandy Herrick and the late Milton Herrick.

Leah Bea Roth, daughter of Jen & Rob Roth, granddaughter of Scott & Debbie Friedman, Rosalie Roth, Sidney Roth, and great-granddaughter of the late Lois & Lloyd Friedman, and Julie Anon and the late Norman Anon.

Ian William Saylan, son of Courtney and David Saylan, grandson of Jacki and Steve Saylan, and Joyce and Jim Cockrell, and great-grandson of Rosalie Saylan and the late Milton Saylan

Mia Grace Werner, daughter of Leora and Matthew Werner, granddaughter of Elyce and Aryeh Azriel, and Colleen and Phillip Werner, and great-granddaughter of Marvin Azriel and the late Beatrice Azriel, Marcel and Lydia Azriel, Lois and Eldon Bassett, and Jackie Werner and the late Phillip Werner Sr.

Marriage נישואין

Mazel tov on the marriage of...

Mr. and Mrs. Logan Wilson. Mrs. Wilson is the former Rachel Monsky. Parents are Pam and Henry Monsky, and Holly and Bob Wilson. Grandparents are Ramelle Monsky and the late Hubert Monsky, the late Sid and Nancy Pearlman, Eleanor Wilson and the late Harry Wilson, and Mary Masters Allen and the late Bradford Allan.

A successful scholar weekend with Rabbi Uri Regev!



In Sympathy נחמה

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

Lois Novitsky Friedman, preceded in death by husband Lloyd. Survived by sister Gloria Rosenblum, son Scott (Debbie) Friedman, grandchildren Jennifer (Robert) Roth, Angela Friedman, and great granddaughter Leah Roth;

Susan Jane Scott, preceded in death by her parents Theodore Sanford Sr. and Betty Sanford. Survived by her son Adam, his wife Andrea and granddaughter Mary Evelyn, her brothers Theodore Sanford Jr. and his wife Mary, and Mark Sanford and his wife Kelly, and many nieces and nephews;

...and extends sympathy to their bereaved families.

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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



The 2016 OTYG Spaghetti Dinner & Auction was a lot of fun and raised money for a great cause. Thank you to all who attended!

