

Upcoming Events

Chinese Food & A Movie

Sunday, December 25, 6 p.m.

Chanukah Service and Dinner

Friday, December 30, 5:30 p.m.
Candle Lighting and Kiddush,
6 p.m. Services followed by Dinner

TiYPE Chanukah Havdalah

Saturday, December 31, 7 p.m.

The Magic of Rituals with Rabbi Berezin

Thursdays, January 5-12, 10 a.m.

TiYPE: Eat, Pray, Schmooze

Saturday, January 7, 10:30 a.m.

Temple Tots Sunday

Sunday, January 8, 10:30 a.m.

Judah the Birth of a Hero: Uncovering the Wisdom of the Torah with Rabbi Crystal

Wednesday, January 11, 6:30-8 p.m.

The Binding of Isaac: 2,000 Years of Struggle with the Torah with Rabbi Crystal

Wednesday, January 18, 6:30-8 p.m.

Amsterdam, Prague and Malta: A Jewish Journey

Thursdays, January 19 & 26 and
February 2-23, 10 a.m.

Family Bingo Night, Havdalah & Dinner!

Saturday, January 21, 5-8 p.m.

Congregational Meeting

Sunday, January 22, 11:30 a.m.

Scholar-in-Residence Bob Wolfson

Friday, January 27 - Sunday, January 29

Recently retired from the ADL after almost 28 year of nonprofit management and leadership work. During the last ten years. Mr. Wolfson was in charge of managing all aspects of 27 regional offices located all over the United States where by partnering with staff, leadership and donors he was able to bring significant wisdom to bear on all aspects of the operations.



Upon recently returning to live in his native Omaha, Mr. Wolfson opened his own consulting firm. His approach is to add value to every engagement which is accomplished by applying his philosophy of: Impact Innovation/ Thoughtful Change/ Transforming Non-Profits.

Mr. Wolfson's visit to Temple Israel is being sponsored by the Hermene Zweiback Center for Lifelong Jewish Learning.

Schedule of Events

Friday Evening Services

The Jewish Community: Strengths and Challenges

Friday, January 27, 6 p.m.

Saturday Lunch

Stories and Conversations from the front lines: 29 Years of ADL

Saturday, January 28, Noon

Sunday Coffee

The Politics of Hate

Sunday, January 29, 10:30 a.m.

Clergy Report

A Chanukah of Light and Joy

Chanukah in Israel is: street fairs, parties, tzedakah, joyful prayer, jelly donuts, menorahs outside in front of every home and more jelly donuts.

I am filled with wonder whenever I am in Israel for Chanukah. The entire country brings the holiday to life. It is the modern celebration of life and miracle of our people's existence for the last 2,000 years.

When I lived in Israel, the Jerusalem street fair in my neighborhood captured the spirit of celebration. The preparation began at 3:00 in the afternoon as the street was closed and the sound system was checked (I lived a half block from the main street and vividly heard the test). By 5 p.m., the street came to life with musicians throughout the street, outdoor stands from every restaurant and jelly donuts. In Israel jelly donuts are the staple, instead of latkes, and they were everywhere. It was a delight to watch as parents walked holding the hands of their children and to see everyone come together for the lighting of the giant menorah and singing of Ma-oz Tzur, Rock of Ages.

Chanukah is also about caring for others. At Pardes, the Institute where I studied, we sponsored a party for new immigrants from Ethiopia. A group of students from Pardes worked with children of the immigrants once a week to help them learn Hebrew and adapt to Israeli life. This was their first Chanukah. It was amazing to experience the love in the room. There was a play to tell the story of Chanukah, art projects and games. Everyone was uplifted to share as we literally celebrated the miracle of these Jews who found refuge in the Promised Land.

Two years ago when I was in Israel for Chanukah, one of the most powerful experiences for me was praying on the Friday night of Chanukah at the Western Wall to welcome Shabbat. There were throngs of people and a giant menorah mounted near the wall. The singing and dancing was ecstatic and profound as we stood in the place which was once destroyed by Rome and now symbolizes the blessing of Jewish life.

The service for Chanukah contained a special insert for the holiday. My heart overflowed as I said the words:

"And for the miracles and for the salvation and for the mighty deeds, and for the victories, and for the battles which You performed for our forefathers in those days, at this time.

In the days of Mattityahu, the son of Yochanan, the Hasmomean, and his sons – when the wicked Greek kingdom rose up against Your people Israel to make them forget your Torah and compel them to stray from the statutes of Your will – You in Your great mercy stood up for them in their time of distress."

My experience at the Wall concluded as I walked home through the Old City. The Mitzvah of Chanukah is to "Proclaim the miracle." In Israel, people buy special glass boxes so they can put their menorahs outside for everyone to share in the affirmation of faith. It was a magical moment as I walked with hundreds of people, saw the beautiful menorahs and was warmed by the glow of their light as a beacon of faith to guide me home.

Chanukah for all of us is a time to celebrate with family and friends and to affirm the joys of life. On this holiday, we are linked to the Jewish community around the world and throughout history. May your Chanukah be a holiday of "Light and Joy!"



Rabbi Crystal



Congregation

Celebrate Chanukah



Latkes, Dreidels & Song

Chanukah Service & Dinner

Friday, December 30

Candle lighting and Kiddush in the Simon Community Court, 5:30 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! 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 27.

We would like to thank Henry Davis of Greater Omaha Packing for helping to sponsor the Chanukah Dinner.

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.

MENU

Brisket
Vegetables
Latkes with
Applesauce &
Sour Cream
Dessert

Family Bingo Night, Havdalah & Dinner!

Saturday, January 21, 5 - 8 p.m.

We will begin with Havdalah together to end Shabbat, followed by a soup, salad and potato bar. Please bring a dessert to share. Afterwards we'll enjoy an evening of Bingo! Prizes will be awarded to the winner of each game. Please RSVP to Temple Israel, 402-556-6536 or RSVP@templeisraelomaha.com.



Temple Israel's Annual Super Bowl Party!

Sunday, February 5, 4:30 p.m.

Come watch Super Bowl 51 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 per person or \$10 per family. Please RSVP to Temple Israel, 402-556-6536 or RSVP@templeisraelomaha.com. Money will be collected at the door.



Calendar

Pray תפילות

Chanukah Service and Dinner

Friday, December 30

Candle lighting and Kiddush in the Simon Community Court, 5:30 p.m. Services, 6 p.m., Dinner immediately following. See details on page 3.

Learn למודים

Religious School Grades PreK-12

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

Religious School Director Update

It is with great enthusiasm that we announce that Sharon Comisar-Langdon has agreed to continue as our Religious School Director for the 2017-2018 school year. Sharon has served with distinction as the interim director since the fall of 2015. The Board of Trustees asked her to extend her service and has removed the "interim" from her title. Sharon came to the position with over 30 years of experience with the Millard Public Schools. She brings the expertise of a professional educator along with a Jewish "neshama" (soul) to her work. From the way she greets each child and family at the front door of Temple Israel on Sundays and Wednesdays to her caring leadership, Sharon has been a warm and effective school director. We are thankful she said yes to a third year of service!



Grades PreK-6, Sundays, 10 a.m.-Noon

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

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

Family School, Wednesdays, 6-8 p.m.

Winter Break!

No Religious School or Adult Education

December 21 - January 4

Religious School Classes Resume

Sunday, January 8 and Wednesday, January 11

No Religious School - MLK Holiday

Sunday, January 15

Grade 8 Attends Carolyn Dorfman Dance Company Presentation

Wednesday, January 18, 6-8 p.m., Beth El Synagogue
Includes dinner. Parents drop off and pick up kids at Beth El.

Adult Education

Contact Program Director Scott Littky for more information.

Torah Study

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

Wednesdays @ Temple

Judah the Birth of a Hero: Uncovering the Wisdom of the Torah with Rabbi Crystal

Wednesday, January 11, 6:30 - 8 p.m.

Judah is one of the most enigmatic heroes of the Torah. His story begins at a low point when he and his brothers sold Joseph into slavery. He begins to redeem himself as the leader over the next 20 years as he becomes a spokesman for righteousness to save his family. King David the greatest leader of the Jewish people is a descendent of Judah. We will explore how Judah evolves from sin to salvation.

The Binding of Isaac: 2,000 Years of Struggle with the Torah with Rabbi Crystal

Wednesday, January 18, 6:30 - 8 p.m.

God's call to Abraham to sacrifice his son Isaac on Mount Moriah is one of the most troubling stories in the Torah. How could a loving God make this demand? We will explore responses to this dilemma from the time of the Rabbis until today. Questions to be considered include: Was Abraham really going to sacrifice Isaac? How does the test of Abraham relate to the test of Job? What happens to Isaac after his ordeal on Mount Moriah?



Calendar

Let's Meet our Tri-Faith Neighbors

Wednesdays, January 25 & February 1, 6:30 - 8 p.m.

Before we know it the American Muslim Institute and Countryside Community Church will be moving into their new buildings on Sterling Ridge.

January 25, Rev. Eric Elnes, Ph.D., Senior Minister of Countryside, will help us gain an understanding of the beliefs and principles in their movement, the United Church of Christ.

February 1, a representative from the American Muslim Institute will aide us in learning more about the principles and practices of Islam.

Thursday Mornings @ Temple

The Magic of Rituals with Rabbi Berezin

Thursdays, January 5-12, 10 a.m.

Ritual is one of the cornerstones of Judaism, becoming the way in which we mark significant, transitional moments in our lives. In this class, we will explore Jewish rituals: where do they come from? How have they evolved? What makes a ritual successful? And most importantly, how can we reimagine and reinvent rituals to become meaningful markers in our lives?

Amsterdam, Prague and Malta:

A Jewish Journey with Cantor Shermet

Thursdays, January 19 & 26 and February 2-23, 10 a.m.

Explore the sights and sounds of the Jewish communities visited last winter by Cantor Shermet.

Sundays @ Temple

Temple Israel Book Club

Sunday, January 8, 10 a.m., Media Center

All are welcome to join our book club. If you would like to join the book club or would like more information, please contact Program Director Scott Littky.

Temple Tots Sunday

Sunday, January 8, 10:30 a.m.

Children 4 and under (unless enrolled in PreK) and their families are invited to participate in a morning of stories, songs, crafts, and activities!



Grief Support Group with Marla Cohen, MS, NCC, LMHP

Sunday, January 22, 10 a.m.

For those who have suffered the loss of a loved one.

Temple TED Talk

Sunday, January 22, 11 a.m., Media Center

Engage פעילות

Chinese Food & A Movie

Sunday, December 25, 6 p.m.

Join us at Temple Israel for a catered Chinese dinner and a family movie. RSVPs required.

Family Bingo Night, Havdalah & Dinner!

Saturday, January 21, 5 - 8 p.m.

Temple Israel's Annual Super Bowl Party!

Sunday, February 5, 4:30 p.m.

OTYG & JYG

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

OTYG Meeting at Temple Israel (lunch provided)

Sunday, January 8, Noon

Please RSVP to Aliyah Lasky, 402-556-6536 or alasky@templeisraelomaha.com, by Tuesday, December 27.

JYG at the Mark

Sunday, January 22, 12:30 p.m.

20902 Cumberland Rd, Elkhorn, NE 68022

Join our 7th and 8th graders for some great bowling, food and games. Cost is \$20 and includes lunch and activities. Please RSVP to Aliyah Lasky, 402-556-6536 or alasky@templeisraelomaha.com, by Tuesday, January 17.

OTYG Spaghetti Dinner Prep Nights

Tuesday, January 10, 5-7 p.m.

Tuesday, January 24, 5-7 p.m.

Calendar

OTYG Spaghetti Dinner & Auction

Sunday, February 12, 5 - 8 p.m.

Save the date for our celebration of our Temple Israel youth at the Spaghetti Dinner and Auction! There will be great food, amazing live and 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, 402-556-6536, by Friday, February 3.

TiYPE

TiYPE Chanukah Havdalah (ages 18+)

Saturday, December 31, 7 p.m.

Join TiYPE, as we ring in the New Year for dinner in the Old Market at Spaghetti Works (appetizers are on us), followed by hot cocoa and a Havdalah service. Please RSVP to Aliyah Lasky, 402-556-6536, by Monday, December 19.

Eat, Pray, Schmooze (ages 22+)

Saturday, January 7, 10:30 a.m.

Join TiYPE at Saturday morning services at Temple Israel. We will then be going to Swartz's Deli for a great knosh (appetizers are on us). Please RSVP to Aliyah Lasky, 402-556-6536, by Tuesday, December 27.

Camp Scholarship

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 \$2,000 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, \$1,000 payments over two summers or be received as a single \$2,000 payment. The deadline for Jewish Experience Grant applications is February 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 February 1, 2016.

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

Questions can be directed to Diane Stamp at dstamp@jewishomaha.org or 402-334-6407.

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 February 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. The deadline for scholarship applications is also February 1, 2016.

Congregation

B'nai Mitzvah בני מצוה

Jordyn Ashley Kirshenbaum

will celebrate her Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, January 21. Jordyn is a 7th Grade Honor Roll student at Elkhorn Ridge Middle School. She is the daughter of Adam and Nikki Kirshenbaum and the sister of Joseph Kirshenbaum. Jordyn enjoys playing tennis and volleyball. She also enjoys hanging out with her family and friends. For her Mitzvah Project, Jordyn had a bucket list of projects which included volunteering at Completely Kids, Kicks 4 A Cure and a back to school backpack drive for Womenade of Elkhorn.



Elena Rosenblatt and Josh Rosenblatt

will celebrate their B'nai Mitzvah on Saturday, January 28. Elena and Josh are 7th Grade Honor Roll students at Westside Middle School and are participants in the Duke Talent Identification Program.

Elena is a member of the Westside Middle School Show Choir and is playing Belle in the Rose Theater Brigade's production of Beauty and the Beast. Josh plays baseball for the Heroes organization and is among the top-ranked tennis players in the junior division of the Nebraska USTA region.

For their Mitzvah Project, Josh and Elena volunteered at The Heritage at Sterling Ridge, spending time with and assisting senior residents. Elena and Josh are the daughter and son of Rich and Brenda Rosenblatt and the grandchildren of Steve and Ann Rosenblatt, Bob and Sharon Forrester, and Charles Robinson.



New Members

Rebecca Ann Smedlund

has recently joined Temple Israel. Becki grew-up at Temple Israel. She attended Kansas University and is employed at Methodist Hospital. In her spare time Ms Smedlund enjoys hiking and being outdoors.



In Sympathy נחמה

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

Arthur S. Cohen, brother of Sheldon (Joyce) Cohen;

David Fredricks, Preceded in death by parents Carrie and Edward Fredricks, son Terry Lynn Fredricks and daughter Betsy Levine. Survived by wife Arlene, son Alan (Ann) Fredricks, daughter-in-law Sally Fredricks, son-in-law Tom Levine, six grandchildren Jason (Jennifer), Aaron, Tim, Lee, Jeff (Jill) and Claire (Rob), and five great grandchildren Colin, Sophia, Henry, Harrison and Ella;

Shayna Sacks, preceded in death by father A. Michael "Mickey" Sacks, brother Gregory Scott Sacks. Survived by mother Monica Sacks, brother and sister-in-law Scott and Jamie Sacks, niece Emilie, nephew Gregory, uncle and aunt George and Jacque Sacks, family and friends;

...and extends sympathy to their bereaved families.

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templeisrael@templeisraelomaha.com
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INTERIM SENIOR RABBI Darryl Crystal
ASSISTANT RABBI Deana Berezin
CANTOR Wendy Shermet
EMERITUS RABBI Aryeh Azriel
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Dennis DePorte
RELIGIOUS SCHOOL DIRECTOR Sharon Comisar-Langdon
PROGRAM DIRECTOR Scott Littky
DIRECTOR OF YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT ENGAGEMENT Aliyah Lasky
OFFICE MANAGER Misty Weidner



LEFT: Members of our 10th-grade Confirmation class (L-R: Aaron Norton, Peyton Blake, Brooklyn Armstrong, Robert Osborne and Leo Norton) attending the L'Taken Social Justice Seminar in Washington D.C. along with Rabbi Crystal and Aliyah Lasky. RIGHT: On Wednesday, December 14, we enjoyed a wonderful Festivals of the Season concert with the Omaha Chamber Music Society before our winter break .