



Upcoming Events

**Meanings within Meanings,
Stories within Stories:
Uncovering the Wisdom of the
Torah with Rabbi Crystal**
*Thursdays, March 2, 9, 23 & 30
and April 6, 10 a.m.*

March First Friday

Friday, March 3
*Candle Lighting and Kiddush
in the Simon Community Court,
5:30 p.m., Service featuring the
First Friday Band, 6 p.m.,
dinner following services*

Mayoral Candidates Coffee with Heath Mello

Sunday March 5, 10 a.m.

Jewish Influences in Modern Comic Books with Barry Grossman

Wednesday, March 8, 6:30 p.m.

Grade 1 & 2 Shabbat Service

Friday, March 10, 6 p.m.

Purim Celebration

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

Women's TiYPE Night: Our Purim

Saturday, March 11, 2-5 p.m.
Create Craft Studio

Temple Tot Shabbat

Saturday, March 25, 9 a.m.

OTYG Youth Service

Friday, March 31, 6:15 p.m.

Cantor in Residence Patti Linsky

In 1996, Patti was in an automobile accident resulting in severe back and neck injuries. Soon after, she underwent surgery for a hernia - her doctor accidentally cut a nerve in her leg. Following was a decade of descent into painkillers and alcohol in an effort to mask her physical and emotional pain.

In 2007, Patti entered, and remains, in recovery - "It was the first time in years that I felt authentic, the first time I experienced real feelings." She was forced to look within, "If I am not a Cantor, then who am I?"

With that question, she embarked on her spiritual quest, searching for her next chapter. Patti actively chose to be open to every possibility. In doing so, she enrolled in a Woman's Empowerment Course in which she was asked to write a bucket list. One of the ten items stood out and hit a resonant chord -- she wanted to perform a one-woman show so that she could tell her story.



Schedule of Events

Adult Education

A Mom, A Wife and a Cantor walk into a Bar...

Wednesday, March 15, 6:30 p.m.

Cantor Patti Linsky performs songs and stories from her acclaimed one woman show "Altar EGO."

Adult Education

God's Perfect Child

Thursday, March 16, 10 a.m.

Cantor Patti Linsky reads her essay about second chances from the published collection "Shades of Blue," edited by renown author and playwright Amy Ferris.

Shabbat Service

The Spirituality of Recovery

Friday, March 17, 6 p.m.

Clergy Report

Finding Spirituality

I am still in touch with a certain friend from high school. Over the course of his adulthood he has journeyed from Marxism to Socialism to Buddhism, culminating today into the mainstream liberal Democratic party, with active Protestant Christianity attached. He calls himself a “cultural Christian”, an interesting description. We Jews often hear others of our faith who are not self-described “observant,” call themselves “cultural Jews.” I’ve never really thought about what cultural Christianity is, outside of the obvious example of those who celebrate Christmas and Easter and little else. My friend finds his spirituality in church participation and says it has immensely bettered his life.

My spirituality has always come through music, and this means all kinds of music. Music is a gift; one can say that it is a God-given gift but in any case we are blessed to have it. For a musician, “mindfulness” or “being here now” (as Baba Ram Dass used to say) is about paying attention to one’s instrument in an extremely personal and internal manner. So consider what we do when we sing. We breathe and let go. There are people who cannot un-tighten themselves fully enough to breathe. And for others, letting go is the difficult challenge.

Part of the cantorial tradition is the concept of the *hatimah*, or signature. In traditional Judaism, the community is allowed the space to recite externally or internally the prayer in their own individual time;

when the cantor senses that this has been accomplished, the end of that prayer is then chanted as a signal to move the service along. This practice has the further benefit of paying attention to the needs of the individual in his or her dialogue with God, even while taking into account the needs of the group. *Ma’ariv* is one such prayer.



Cantor Shermet

Every musician has a distinct physical relationship with his or her instrument. For someone who sings, which “ought to be” all of us, it is integrated with every aspect of our being – and is just as changeable as the way we feel upon waking on any given day. Our bodies are our instruments and our voices are a reflection of their wholeness and health, or lack thereof. I’m not referring to the quality of the voice, rather its strength and energy. We can pray silently, of course. But we are also required to have *minyan* of 10 people for certain prayers; this amount of people gives strength and community through vocalization. I often have B’nai Mitzvah students who practice only silently while at home. It is usually because being heard makes them feel exposed and vulnerable to criticism, or worse, laughter. Adolescents are acutely attuned to the perceived judgments of the world – and I’m not sure how much that goes away as we age.

Understanding of faith is deeply personal. Along the journey, please keep singing – out loud.

President’s Update

In February, Temple Israel Trustees Andie Gordman, Susie Norton and I took a “field trip” to Deerfield, Illinois, to spend Shabbat with Rabbi Stoller. At a musical Shabbat service featuring two guitars and an Israeli bongo player, Rabbi Stoller welcomed us, his “new friends from Omaha” and called us to the bimah for an aliyah. Torah study was lively, thought provoking and crowded. We got to see how BJBE conducts a B’nai Mitzvah service, as well. With over

100 B’nai Mitzvah students each year, there are usually two services every weekend and most students “double up.” A highlight of the visit was Shabbat lunch with the Stoller family in their lovely home.

Everyone we met clasped our hands, told us that we had hired a true gem and that we had better treat him well! We assured them that we would take very good care of their rabbi – soon to be our rabbi!

Congregation

Purim Celebration

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

Join us in the Schrager Sanctuary for our annual Purim Spiel and Service. Afterwards we will gather in the Social Hall for the Purim Carnival and lunch of kosher hot dogs, chips and Hamentashen. Regular Grades PreK-6 Religious School classes begin at 10 a.m.

Join Us For Passover

Erev Pesach Service

Monday, April 10, 4 p.m.

Passover Breakfast

Tuesday, April 11, 9:30 a.m.

Passover Service

Tuesday, April 11, 10:30 a.m.

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

Tuesday, April 11, 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 macaroons 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 afkoman.

Reservations are a must! Please contact the Temple Israel office, RSVP@templeisraelomaha.com or 402-556-6536, by Monday, April 3, to reserve your seats. Cost of the dinner is: \$27 for adults, \$14 for children ages 6-12, and no charge for children ages five and under. **After April 3, the cost of the dinner is: \$37 for adults, \$24 for children 6-12, and no charge for children ages five and under.**

Concluding Passover Service and Yizkor

Monday, April 17, 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 Thursday, April 13, with the names.



Coming Soon...

The Stoller Family Welcome and Integration Committee is hard at work planning a year of great events and opportunities to meet Rabbi Stoller, his wife Karen Flayhart and their two children, Lindsay and Zachary.

To help them get to know the congregation, and to help us as congregants as well, we are going to create the Temple Israel Family Album. Volunteers will help photograph congregants starting in March. More details to follow soon. In the meantime get your smiles ready!

Calendar

תפילות Pray

March First Friday

Friday, March 3

Candle Lighting and Kiddush

in the Simon Community Court, 5:30 p.m.

Service featuring the First Friday Band, 6 p.m.,
dinner following services

Menu: Vegetable Lasagna, Soup, Salad and Ice Cream
(Chicken Nuggets for children will be available)

Cost is \$5 per person, max \$20 per family. Please RSVP
to Temple Israel by Wednesday, March 1.

1st Fridays

Purim Celebration

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

See details on page 3.

Temple Tot Shabbat

Saturday, March 25, 9 a.m.

למודים Learn

Religious School Grades PreK-12

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

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.

No School Sunday, March 19 and

Wednesday, March 22.

Grade 1 & 2 Shabbat Service

Friday, March 10, 6 p.m.

Please join us and our 1st and 2nd Grade Families,
Teachers and Madrichim. Everyone is invited to come
support our 1st and 2nd grade students as they
participate in this family friendly Service and Oneg.

Grade 6 Family Retreat

Friday, March 10 - Saturday, March 11

Lied Lodge and Conference Center, Nebraska City

Purim Carnival

Sunday, March 12

See details on page 3.



Adult Education

Contact Program Director Scott Littky for more information.

Torah Study

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

Wednesdays @ Temple

Jewish Influences in Modern Comic Books with Barry Grossman

Wednesday, March 8, 6:30 p.m.

A Mom, A Wife and a Cantor walk into a Bar...

Wednesday, March 15, 6:30 p.m.

Cantor in Residence Patti Linsky performs songs and
stories from her acclaimed one woman show "Altar
EGO."

Wednesday Night Adult Education – Class Change

Wednesdays, March 29, April 5 & 19 and May 3

Due to the recent death of Dr. Moshe Gershovich we
are in the process of planning a different class. Watch
the eTidings for more information in the near future.

Thursday Mornings @ Temple

Meanings within Meanings, Stories within Stories: Uncovering the Wisdom of the Torah with Rabbi Crystal

Thursdays, March 2, 9, 23 & 30 and April 6, 10 a.m.

The Rabbis believe that beyond the words of a story
in the Torah that every word and letter conveys a
message from the Divine. The mystics expressed
this idea when they said that the Torah is not just
parchment and ink, it is black fire written on white
fire. The early sage who wrote the Torah commentary
called Midrash, Medieval rabbis and mystics, modern
scholarship, and contemporary writers all offer
interpretations of the Torah to for their age.

Calendar

God's Perfect Child

Thursday, March 16, 10 a.m.

Cantor in Residence Patti Linsky reads her essay about second chances from the published collection "Shades of Blue," edited by renown author and playwright Amy Ferris.

Sundays @ Temple

Mayoral Candidates Coffee - with Heath Mello

Sunday March 5, 10 a.m.

Temple Book Club

Sunday, March 26, 10 a.m.

Temple Tots Sunday

Sunday, April 2, 10:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

The Magic of Hebrew Chant:

Healing the Spirit, Transforming the Mind, Deepening Love with Rabbi Shefa Gold

Sunday, April 2, 10 a.m.

It turns out that the magic words of creation, transformation, healing and the expression of our infinite depths have been hidden in plain sight in the words of our inheritance – words that lie sleeping on the page, just waiting for our love to arouse them. So many words, buried in books, seem all but dead. When I find the divine breath within me and resuscitate those words, they come alive and become vehicle of power and healing. They become incantations. In this workshop, we will explore the power and magic of Hebrew Chant as we transform the words of prayer into spiritual practice.

Grief Support Group

For many, support groups are also important in the grief process. Some feel ready to begin at 3 months, some at 6 months, some may not feel ready until a year passes. Whenever you feel ready, Temple Israel's Grief Support Group will welcome you. It is with this in mind that we would like to invite you to participate in our Grief Support Group, led by Marla Cohen, MS, NCC, LMHP. With Marla, you will have an opportunity listen and learn from others who find

Engage פעילות

OTYG & JYG

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

OTYG Meeting

Sunday, March 5, 12 p.m.

Sunday, March 26, 12 p.m. (lunch provided - please RSVP to alasky@templeisraelomaha.com by Monday, March 20)

Sunday, April 2, 12 p.m.

OTYG Youth Service

Friday, March 31, 6:15 p.m., Sanctuary

Inviting all 9th-12th graders to join OTYG for an intimate youth group service. If you are interested in participating in the service, please contact the OTYG's Religious and Cultural Vice President, Elijah Marburg, marburgelijah@gmail.com. Regular Shabbat evening services will be taking place in the chapel.

TiYPE

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

Women's TiYPE Night: Our Purim

Saturday, March 11, 2-5 p.m., Create Craft Studio

A night to commemorate Purim and the strong female roles involved in this story. It will be a full night of crafting, laughing and fun. Depending on the craft you would like to make, please bring between \$20-\$40 dollars for your project. Snacks will be provided. Please RSVP to Aliyah Lasky by Monday, March 6.

themselves in similar situations as they strive to find a "new normal" in their lives. As you connect with others in the group, you will support one another through the grief process. **Spring dates for grief group will be Sundays, March 12 and April 23, 10-11 a.m.** If you have any questions about the Grief Support Group, please call the Temple Israel office, 402-556-6536.

Calendar/Congregation

New Member

Emily Gordon recently joined Temple Israel. Emily grew up in Omaha and attended the University of Tampa where she received a Bachelors of Arts in Elementary Education and a Master's of Curriculum

and Instruction degree. Emily, is a full time teacher in the Omaha Public School District. She is also the younger sister of Sara Stoller, sister-in-law to Asher and Aunt to Ava, Ruby, Lola, and Samuel.

B'nai Mitzvah בני מצוה

Jack Morton Scioli will celebrate his Bar Mitzvah on Friday, March 17, at Temple Israel and on Saturday March, 18, at Beth El. Jack is the son of Anthony and Andee Scioli, the brother of Joe Scioli, and the grandson of Bruce and Pam Friedlander, Frank Scioli and the late Judith Scioli.



Jack is a 7th grade honor roll student at Westside Middle School and is a participant in the Duke Talent Identification Program. He plays baseball with the Omaha Pacesetters and is a member of the Westside Connection Show Choir. For his mitzvah project, Jack taught baseball to a good friend with special needs.

Eli Lopez, son of Amanda and Mario Lopez, will celebrate his Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, March 25. Eli is a 7th grader at Millard Central Middle School. He enjoys playing video games, baseball, football and is on the Millard



Central football team. He spends his spare time with his family, friends and his dog Little Dude. For his Mitzvah Project, Eli has been volunteering at the Rose Blumkin Home.

Abigail Friedland will celebrate her Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, April 1. She is the daughter of Jackie and Jason Friedland and the sister of Nicole Friedland. Abigail is a 7th grader at Russell Middle School where she was awarded the



“Display of Positive Attitude” Principal’s Award. Abby loves crafting, cooking and babysitting. In school she is a member of the Quiz Bowl team as well as Asset Builders. She plays viola in her school orchestra. For her Mitzvah Project, Abby is volunteering at HETRA as an equipment manager. She will also be donating arts & crafts items from her bat mitzvah celebration (decorations as well as those that are brought in by guests) to Completely KIDS.

Mia Menolascino Zweiback will celebrate her Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, April 8. She is the daughter of Amy and Tim Zweiback and the sister of Max Zweiback. Mia is a 7th grader at Westside Middle School. Mia is the recipient of a



Hebrew School Special Appreciation Award. For enjoyment, she loves hanging out with friends, Camp Shwayder and skiing. Mia’s Mitzvah Project involved serving as a counselor at Monroe-Meyer Institute Summer Camp.

Congregation

Births לידה

Mazel tov on the birth of...

Addisyn Ann Waldbaum, daughter of Adam and Amanda Waldbaum, brother of Ari, and granddaughter of John & Natha Waldbaum and Steve & Sonya Davis.

In Sympathy נחמה

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

Jo Ann Black, preceded in death by parents Marvin and Sylvia Bierman. Survived by children Julia (David) Lega and Jordan (Carly) Black, grandchildren Ian Lega, Samantha Lega and Cameron Black, sister Cheryl (Jon) Isley, brother Dr. Philip (Dr. Mary Wampler) Bierman;

Dorothy (Ann) Fleishman, preceded in death by husband Alan Fleishman;

Nancy Goldstein, preceded in death by husbands Robert V. Goldstein and Aaron Levine and brother Herman Barron. Survived by sons Larry (Maureen), Buddy (Diane), and Jeff (Laura) Goldstein, grandchildren Jason, David, Karen, Andrea, Daniel and Adam Goldstein, brother Phil (Kathy) Barron, sister-in-law Ceil Barron, brother-in-law David (Judi) and sister-in-law Kay Goldstein;

Ramelle Monsky, preceded in death by parents Hyman and Anne Ferer, husband Hubert "Hub" W. Monsky, daughter Sharon Lynn Monsky, brother Harvey Ferer. Survived by son Henry (Pam) Monsky, daughter Robin Monsky, five grandchildren and one great-granddaughter;

E.E. "Gene" Nelson, preceded in death by wife Donna R. Nelson, daughter Suzi McBride, brothers Arnold, Harold and Victor, and sisters June and Phyllis. Survived by daughter Juanita (Doug) Davidson, son William Nelson, brother Leo (Lila) Nelson, grandchildren Robert and Dennis Kennedy, Bryan (Jamie) Scholtes, Brandon (Sarah) Scholtes, Erik (Tennille) Nelson, Mike (Heather) McBride, Austin and Michelle Davidson, 18 great-grandchildren, and many nieces, nephews and friends.

Sarah "Babe" Nogg, preceded in death by husband E. Leo Nogg, brothers Jack and Henry Sterling, and sister Minnette Zacharia. Survived by children Robert Nogg, Terrie (Jan) Kleinman, Linda (Brian) Cote, grandchildren Dana Kiper, Jennifer (Leo) Lopez, Kelsey Nogg, Lisa (Mark) Goodman, Heidi (Steve) Page, Elise (Gregg) Jaffe, Brad (Robin) Kleinman, Nick (Jennifer) Cote, Adam (Carla) Cote, and Jordan Cote, sixteen great-grandchildren, many other loving friends and family;

Myrna Raffkind, survived by sister Judy Zweiback (Allen Ross), nephew Tim Zweiback (Amy), and great-nephew/niece Max and Mia.

Harold S. Selner, preceded in death by parents Nathan and Rose Selner, siblings Harry, Minnie, Gertrude, Jack, Sylvia and Eva. Survived by wife "Noni", daughters Beth (Jim) and Trudi, granddaughter Lily, numerous special nieces and nephews, countless friends;

Martin (Marty) Louis Warren, survived by wife Marilyn Dvorkin Warren, sons and daughters-in-law Marc and Barbara Warren, Mitchell Warren and Alice Kriz, grandchildren Luke, Sarah, Rachel and Benjamin, nieces and nephews Randi and Michael Poscover, Robyn Wolper, Rikki and Alon Mor, great nieces and great nephews, Rebekah, Jacob and Zachary Poscover, Yarden, Maya and Tali Mor, Benjamin and Jonah Wolper, and brother-in-law Mel Epstein;

...and extends sympathy to their bereaved families.

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INTERIM SENIOR RABBI Darryl Crystal
ASSISTANT RABBI Deana Sussman 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



Everyone had a blast at our young families/couples Shabbat evening which featured singing, talking, praying and, of course, eating! Thanks to PJ Library Omaha for supplying fun activities for the kids and these great photos!

