

## Upcoming Events

**Erev Pesach Service**  
 Monday, April 10, 4 p.m.

**April First Friday Service & Oneg**  
 Friday, April 7  
 Candle Lighting and Kiddush in the Simon Community Court, 5:30 p.m., Service featuring the First Friday Band, 6 p.m., oneg following services

**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.

**Concluding Passover Service and Yizkor**  
 Monday, April 17, 10:30 a.m.

**A Taste of Talmud II with Rabbi Darryl Crystal**  
 Wednesdays, April 19 and May 3  
 6:30 p.m.

**Music of Today as Prayer and Prayer of Today as Music: What's it all About? with Scott Littky**  
 Thursdays, April 20 & 27 and May 4-18, 10 a.m.

**Annual Meeting**  
 Tuesday, May 23, 7 p.m.

## Scholar-in-Residence Rabbi Levi Weiman-Kelman

Rabbi Levi Weiman-Kelman is the founder and leader of Congregation Kol HaNeshama in Jerusalem, Israel. Congregation Kol HaNeshama is an active and lively center for Progressive Judaism in Jerusalem. The kehila is located in Baka and serves as a focal point for Jewish pluralism and social action in the neighborhood and surrounding area. The community is founded upon the core value of equality of all human beings and mutual responsibility. Rabbi Weiman-Kelman is a much sought after scholar who promises to provide us with a very enlightening weekend.



## Schedule of Events

### Shabbat Service

**A Jerusalem Synagogue That Changed the Way We Pray**  
 Friday, April 28, 6 p.m.

### Adult Education

**Interfaith Dialogue in Jerusalem Today: How Jewish, Christian and Muslim Leaders Share Their Stories.**  
 Saturday, April 29, 9 a.m.

### Afternoon Session

**Song of the Soul: A Jewish Prayer Workshop**  
 Saturday, April 29, 1-3 p.m.

### Coffee and Bagels

**My Life in Israel: A Father, a Synagogue Rabbi, a Faith Leader**  
 Sunday, April 30, 10 a.m.

# Clergy Report

## The Seder: Meaning within Meaning

*"Every generation is obligated to see themselves as if they were brought out of Egypt."*

- Talmud

The Passover Seder is the most celebrated holiday in Jewish homes. Each family brings the holiday to life with special traditions; for some it is creating their own Haggadah, for others it is a cherished ritual for finding the Afikoman, and some lead the Seder the same way a beloved relative did in the past. Passover takes on its meaning when we go beyond rote observance of rituals to make the Exodus our story today. Let me share with you several passages from the Haggadah and the way I have experienced them come to life.

*"This is the bread of affliction that our ancestors ate in the land of Egypt. Let all who are hungry come and eat."*

Every year when I lived in New York we had a marvelous potluck Seder on the second night of Passover with 100 to 150 people. (I always appreciated the many variations on chicken and kugel). One year the Seder was different, guests were invited from a local assisted living facility. I had the honor to sit with Sarah and Alvin. Sarah was blind and Alvin was confined to a wheel chair. They had been married for over 50 years and they were the only Jewish residents where they lived. There is a wonderful tradition of welcoming guests and hospitality for the Seder. Talking to Sarah and Alvin and seeing their gratitude for being included in the Seder I developed a new appreciation for this Mitzvah.

*"It happened that Rabbi Eliezer, Rabbi Yehoshua, Rabbi Elazar ben Azariah, Rabbi Akivah and Rabbi Tarfon were reclining (at a Seder) in Bnei Berak. They were discussing the Exodus all that night, until their students came and told them, "Masters! It is time for the morning prayer, the Shema."*

I had heard about it, but I had not experienced it until last year, **an all-night Seder!** This was not just a Seder that ran late, but the invitation was extended to come for the night and to be part of a minyan for

services early in the morning when the sun came up. It brought to life the passage above about the sages studying all night.

Two months earlier I had gone with a group to Poland to affirm the story of 1,000 years of Jewish life and to remember those who died in the Shoah. To share the story of our liberation from Egypt, think of the destruction of the Holocaust and then see the sun rise in Jerusalem was awe inspiring.

*The Passover Seder is completed as our heritage instructs us. Its symbols are done by our hands so may we do it next year! God who dwells on high soon may you lead your people to Zion. Next year in Jerusalem!*

Our people have recited the words, "Next year, in Jerusalem," for 2,000 years." The words speak of the liberation of our people and our return to Israel. They also remind us of the liberty we experience in our lives.

I had a profound experience of liberty the year I worked as a hospital chaplain: liberty from the trauma of disease. All during the winter I had worked with a young woman in intensive care who had Guillain-Barré syndrome. Her muscles became so weak that she could not breathe on her own and needed to be on a respirator. The only way she could communicate was by raising her eyes for "yes" and lowering them for "no."

It was on the first night of Passover that that year she was able to breathe on her own and leave the ICU. The joy that she and her family felt as she began to regain her strength and return to health was incredible. It was a time of liberation and a moment to give thanks for the blessing of life.

Our heritage inspires us today as we take the stories and rituals of our people and weave them with our own life experiences. I hope your Seders are rich and meaningful and that you can take the time to add new stories of joy to the Haggadah of your life. May you have a sweet and blessed Pesach!



Rabbi Crystal

# Passover

## 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. 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. **Reservations are a must!** Please contact the Temple Israel office, [RSVP@templeisraelomaha.com](mailto:RSVP@templeisraelomaha.com) or 402-556-6536, to reserve your seats. **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](mailto:mweidner@templeisraelomaha.com), by Thursday, April 13, with the names.

## The Brandon Thomas Pursuit of Passion Scholarship

We will be presenting the Brandon Thomas Pursuit of Passion Scholarship to one of our graduating seniors. Brandon was just shy of graduation from the Institute for the Culinary Arts when he died at age 21 from injuries he sustained in a motorcycle accident.



Brandon was passionate about his career choice and was a loving and caring friend to all who knew him.

When asked to describe Brandon, his mother Andie Gordman said, "Brandon had a passion for culinary arts, he knew from a young age he always wanted to be a chef. Thanksgiving was absolutely his favorite holiday and he couldn't wait to help plan the menu and cook the meal."

On **Friday, May 5**, during services, the Brandon Thomas Pursuit of Passion Scholarship will be presented to Jacob Wigodsky, son of Tereza Wigodsky and Andrew Wigodsky. The evening will conclude with an Oneg after services. The Oneg is sponsored by Elly and Bob Gordman, Andie Gordman and Dan Fitzgerald and Lindsey Thomas in celebration of Brandon Thomas and all of the graduating seniors.

## Save the Date for the Annual Meeting

Tuesday, May 23, 7 p.m.

Please join us for the Annual Meeting to honor Rabbi Darryl Crystal for his great service and leadership as our Interim Rabbi during this year of transition. We will also be voting on the Bylaws and the Board of Trustees 2017-2018 slate. Afterwards, we will enjoy a wine and cheese oneg.

# Calendar

## תפילות Pray

### April First Friday Service & Oneg

Friday, April 7

Candle Lighting and Kiddush

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

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

1st Fridays

### Temple Tots Shabbat

Saturday, April 22, 9 a.m.

### Omaha Community Holocaust Commemoration

Wednesday, April 26, 7 p.m., Beth Israel Synagogue

## 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 Sundays, April 9 & 16, and Wednesday, April 12.

### Religious School

Wednesday, April 26

4-6 p.m. Regular Religious School Classes Grades 3-6

No School Dinner

No 6 p.m. Religious School Classes

### Community Yom Hashoah Commemoration at Beth Israel Synagogue

Wednesday, April 26

5:30 p.m. Yom Hashoah Teen Program, Grades 8-12,

Includes Dinner

7 p.m. Community Yom Hashoah Service

### Teacher Appreciation Luncheon

Sunday, April 30, Noon

### High School Senior Sendoff and Celebration

Friday, May 6, 6 p.m.

Following the service, Temple Israel's high school seniors will be given a celebratory blessing by the Clergy as they prepare to begin the next phase of their lives. The Brandon Thomas Pursuit of Passion Scholarship will be awarded during the evening. A lovely Oneg sponsored by the Gordman Family will follow the Service.

**Logan Armstrong**, son of Mindi Armstrong

**Spencer Arnold**, son of Brenda and Barton Arnold

**Alex Belgrade**, son of Robyn Belgrade and  
James Belgrade

**Zachary Belgrade**, son of Robyn Belgrade and  
James Belgrade

**Annie Boggust**, daughter of Paula and Matt Boggust

**Avi Dolson**, son of Racquel and Thomas Dolson

**Whitney Feidman**, daughter of Nancy Feidman and  
Ted Feidman

**Nathan Gendler**, son of Tamara Field and  
Lawrence Gendler

**Max Goldberg**, son of Cindy and Bruce Goldberg

**Gayle Goldstein**, daughter of Dacia and Michael  
Goldstein and the late Debra Lyddon Goldstein

**Grant Goldstein**, son of Dacia and Michael  
Goldstein and the late Debra Lyddon Goldstein

**Geordi Gonzales**, daughter of Dana and  
Edward Gonzales

**Hannah Goodman**, daughter of Jennifer and  
Scott Goodman

**Emily Kazor**, daughter of Michelle and Stu Kazor

**Nicholas Kizlin**, son of Ronna Jo Kizlin

**Mikayla Langdon**, daughter of Sharon Comisar  
Langdon and Randy Langdon

**Sophia Leopold**, daughter of Lisa and Julian Leopold

**William McGauvran**, son of Kathy and  
John McGauvran

**Jacob Meyerson**, son of Jennifer and Scott Meyerson

**Aaron Noddle**, son of Kim Noddle and Jay Noddle

**Olivia Nogg**, daughter of Patty and Tony Nogg

**Seth Norton**, son of Susie and Mike Norton

**Lindsay Osborne**, daughter of Ann and Don Osborne

**Josie Platt**, daughter of Ellen and Jeff Platt

**Isabella Radler**, daughter of Gretchen and  
David Radler

# Calendar

**Bennett Ray**, son of Shayna and Matthew Ray

**Asher Rosenquist**, son of Julie Roffman and

Thor Rosenquist

**Phillip Schrager**, son of Laura and Rick Schrager

**Ian Schrier**, son of Jeff Schrier

**Madeline Simon**, daughter of Kim and James Simon

**Josephine Slovut**, daughter of Beth and

Mitchell Slovut

**Samantha Sullivan**, daughter of Louri Sullivan and

Charlie Sullivan

**Cecelia Vann**, daughter of Wendy and John Vann

**Joshua Wax**, son of Melissa Wax and William Wax

**Jacob Wigodsky**, son of Tereza Wigodsky and

Andrew Wigodsky

## 10th Grade Confirmation

*Friday, May 12, 6 p.m.*

Our tenth graders will share a private moment with our Clergy 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. Confirmation families are invited to share Shabbat dinner with the class following the service. Reservations are required for dinner; cost is \$15 per person. Please RSVP to Jen Goodman, [jgoodman@templeisraelomaha.com](mailto:jgoodman@templeisraelomaha.com) or 402-556-6536, by Wednesday, May 10.

**Brooklyn Armstrong**, daughter of Mindi Armstrong

**Peyton Blake**, daughter of Denise and Chris Blake

**Alec Feidman**, son of Nancy Feidman and

Ted Feidman

**Elijah Marburg**, son of Deb Marburg and

Dan Marburg

**Aaron Norton**, son of Susie and Mike Norton

**Leo Norton**, son of Susie and Mike Norton

**Robert Osborne**, son of Ann and Don Osborne

**Heather Slovut**, daughter of Beth and Mitchell Slovut

**Isabella Wright**, daughter of Annette van de Kamp

and Jeremy Wright

## Adult Education

Contact Program Director Scott Littky for more information.

## Torah Study

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

## Wednesdays @ Temple

### A Taste of Talmud II with Rabbi Darryl Crystal

*Wednesdays, April 19 and May 3, 6:30 p.m.*

The premise of the class is that the Talmud is the standard upon which modern Jewish life is based. The course will introduce major themes in the Talmud including guidelines for constructive debate, the Rabbis' vision of an ideal society and the importance of affirming human dignity.

## Thursday Mornings @ Temple

### Music of Today as Prayer and Prayer of Today as Music: What's it all About? with Scott Littky

*Thursdays, April 20 & 27 and May 4-18, 10 a.m.*

Often when we hear a new song it seems to grip us and cause us to look for a deeper meaning. We also see this in worship. Why is this? Can contemporary music serve as Prayer?

## Sundays @ Temple

### Temple Israel Book Club

*Sunday, April 23, 10 a.m.*

### Grief Support Group

*Sunday, April 23, 10 a.m.*

For many, support groups are also important in the grief process. Some feel ready to begin at three months, some at six 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 to listen and learn from others who find 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. If you have any questions about the Grief Support Group, please call the Temple Israel office, 402-556-6536

# Calendar/Congregation

## OTYG & JYG

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

## NFTY's Senior Function and Spring Chavurah

Thursday, April 20 (Senior Function)

Friday, April 21-Sunday, April 23

## OTYG Lock-In with Elections

Friday, April 28, 5:45 p.m.-Saturday, April 29 8, a.m.

Calling all 8th-12th graders-join OTYG for our annual lock-in/elections at Temple Israel. \$25 includes dinner, programming, and the social. RSVP and/or further questions about elections, contact Aliyah Lasky, [alasky@templeisraelomaha.com](mailto:alasky@templeisraelomaha.com), by Tuesday, April 18.

## OTYG Board Installations

Friday, May 5, 6 p.m.

Join OTYG for services as we welcome in the youth group's new leadership board. RSVP to Aliyah Lasky, [alasky@templeisraelomaha.com](mailto:alasky@templeisraelomaha.com), by Monday, May 1.

## Teen-Wide Mitzvah Day

Sunday, May 7, 2:30-4:30 p.m.

Join the high school Jewish community for a day of giving back. Please RSVP to Aliyah Lasky, [alasky@templeisraelomaha.com](mailto:alasky@templeisraelomaha.com), by Monday, May 1.

## TiYPE

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

## TiYPE: Breaking of Pesach

Monday, April 17, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

17551 Pinkney Street, Omaha, NE 68116

Enjoy a night with TiYPE and the breaking of Pesach. There will be all of the delicious foods for your heart's desire and great movies, games, and fun involved. RSVP to Aliyah Lasky, [alasky@templeisraelomaha.com](mailto:alasky@templeisraelomaha.com), by Monday, April 3.

## TiYPE Trivia Night

Thursday, May 11, 7-10 p.m. Varsity Sports, 4900 Dodge St.

Join TiYPE 21+ for a great night of trivia! RSVP to Aliyah Lasky, [alasky@templeisraelomaha.com](mailto:alasky@templeisraelomaha.com), by Monday, May 8.

## March Board of Trustees Update

Rosie Zweiback, President

At the March board meeting, based upon recommendations from the Bylaws committee, chaired by Sally Kaplan, the Board of Trustees voted in favor of presenting updates to the Temple Israel Bylaws for approval by the congregation. Substantive changes were proposed in two areas:



Rosie Zweiback

### Board of Trustee representation:

A member of the Board of Trustees shall serve as a Temple Israel representative on the Tri-Faith Board. The following committee chairs or their designated representative will serve on the Board of Trustees: Religious School Steering Committee, Membership Committee, Social Justice Committee and Dues Oversight Committee. (See Article 1, Section 1.01, items d and e)

### Membership:

The Bylaws have been updated to confer the status of membership to the non-Jewish spouse of a Jewish member. Provisional Membership will be available for non-congregants who are studying for conversion to Judaism, based on clergy recommendation and board approval. Provisional Members are granted a single year of membership privileges, excluding life cycle events and voting privileges. Their children may enroll in Religious School. (See Article XIII, section 13.01)

Please refer to the Temple Israel website to see the current Bylaws and the red-lined version of the proposed changes. A copy of the proposed changes will also be mailed with the May Tidings. Changes to the Bylaws must be approved by a vote of the congregation.

# Congregation

## Births לידה

*Mazel tov on the birth of...*

**David Solomon Marcovitz**, son of Max and Tziporah Marcovitz, brother of Nachum, Hadassah and Batsheva, grandson of Mimi Rogers and Scott Farkas, and great-grandson of Ronald and Elaine Marcovitz, and Jerry Farkas.

**Aaron Bailey Grossman**, son of Drs. Bethami and Lenny Grossman, grandson of Rabbi Samuel and Dori Joseph and Drs. Steven and Alla Grossman, and great-grandson of Judith Joseph.

**Abraham Robert Halpain**, son of Sarah and Evan Halpain, grandson of Debra Sherman, Mark Sherman, Carolyn Gassert, Dale Halpain, and great-grandson of Phyllis Sherman and the late Irvin Sherman, Annette Lewis and the late Herbert Lewis, the late Jean and Robert Halpain, the late Shirley and Danniell Badders.

## Conversion גיור

We welcome **Judy Roberts and Dolly Smith** who have recently chosen Judaism. May they go from strength to strength!

## In Sympathy נחמה

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

**Herbert M. Berkowitz**, preceded in death by wife Nicole Berkowitz. Survived by nieces, Ronnie (William) Eubel of Peru, IL and Ruth Sang of Highland Park, IL, nephew, George (Ilene) Sang of Glencoe, IL, and one great-nephew, Adam Bloom of Bellingham, WA., and many Newman cousins;

**Joseph Cohen**, survived by son Gil Cohen;

**Harriet (Pinky) Greenberg**, survived by sons Marty (Jane) Greenberg and Rick (Karen) Greenberg, four grandsons, sister Ethel Goldberg, and brother Sandy (Renee) Kasner;

**Gabriel Klein**, survived by wife Minnette Klein and step-daughters Celia Rose Saunders and Mendy Rose Halsted;

**Rose Cohn Perelman**, preceded in death by parents Zalman and Jennie Katz, brother Maurice Katz, sisters Sara Zalkin and Phyllis Crandel, first

*...and extends sympathy to their bereaved families.*

husband Lyman Cohn and second husband Harold Perelman. Survived by children Larry (Margaret) Cohn, and Jeffrey (Pamela) Cohn, grandchildren Danny (Andrew) Cohn and Michael (Asmita) Cohn, great-granddaughter Nora Alice, as well as many loving nieces and nephews;

**Jack Cople Rockman**, preceded in death by wife Corinne. Survived by sons Jonathan (Stacey) and Stephen, sister Rita Gromb and partner Shirley Shapiro, granddaughter Caroline, and grandsons Dominic (Gill), Sam, Daniel, Oliver and Misha. Survived by many loved ones;

**Donald E. Tawzer**, survived by Wife Dorothy, daughter Sandra Bleicher (Joel) son, John Tawzer daughter, Kathy Niemann (Jim) grandchildren, Alison Eggers, Katherine Eggers, Sarah Bleicher, Aaron Bleicher, Kyle Niemann, brother, Chuck Tawzer (Lottie) and many nieces and nephews;

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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



*The Tri-Faith Prayer Retreat: Sacred Prism started at Temple Israel with chanting and learning and continued the following day at Countryside Community Church.*