

Upcoming Events

10th Grade Confirmation

Friday, May 12, 6 p.m.

Temple Israel Annual Meeting

Tuesday, May 23, 6:30 p.m.

Holy Smokes

Tuesday, May 23, 7:30 p.m.
 with Rabbi Steven Abraham

Temple Tots Shabbat

Saturday, May 27, 9 a.m.

Erev Shavuot Study & Dinner

Tuesday, May 30, 6 p.m.

Shavuot Service and Yizkor

Wednesday, May 31, 10:30 a.m.

June First Friday Shabbat Service & Picnic

Friday, June 2, 6 p.m.

Friday Shabbat TiYPE Night

Friday, June 9, 6-9 p.m.

Movie & Discussion Night at Temple Israel: Atomic Falafel

Wednesday, June 14, 7 p.m.

Holla for Havdallah with TiYPE

Saturday, June 24, 6-9 p.m.

July First Friday Shabbat Service & Picnic

Friday, July 7, 6 p.m.

Concert Series with College-Age TiYPE

Saturday, July 8, 5:30-10 p.m.

Welcome

Rabbi Brian Stoller and Family to Temple Israel!

We look forward to welcoming the Stoller Family to Temple Israel and to Omaha. Rabbi Stoller will begin his tenure as our Senior Rabbi on July 1. There will be a number of opportunities in July and August for you to get to know Rabbi Stoller and his family.

July

July 7 First Shabbat Service and Congregational BBQ Dinner

July 16 Biking Outing

July 22 Young Family Havdalah

July 23 Women's event at the home of Danielle Gordman to welcome Rabbi Stoller's wife, Karen Flayhart.

July 30 New Member Ice Cream Social at Rosie Zweiback's home.



August

August 13 Jewish Heritage Day at Werner Park, (Storm Chasers game)

August 14 Annual Temple Israel Golf Outing

August 19 Young Adult Event at Beercade

August 20 First Day of Religious School and Breakfast

August 20 Tri-Faith Picnic

Clergy Report

Jews by Choice

I have a confession to make: sometimes the grocery store intimidates me. And, very likely, this sounds crazy. The grocery store is an unavoidable part of life. But, sometimes I dread it. I dread it because sometimes, at the grocery store, a seemingly simple task becomes a gargantuan undertaking. For me, it's the cereal aisle. Like many Americans, cereal is my breakfast of choice on most days of the year. It's quick, it's easy, and it doesn't take much thought or advance preparation. But after consuming a box of cereal, eating it day after day, sometimes I want a change. This time, I don't want Honey Bunches of Oats. But what do I want?

A simple question with a complicated answer. When I go to the grocery store, I don't have a couple of choices of cereal. I don't even have several choices of cereal. I have literally dozens of choices of cereals. Which cereal has the least amount of sugar and the most amount of protein? How does the fiber content look? How much high fructose corn syrup is in this one compared to that one? And suddenly, I look up after frantically comparing cereal boxes to one another and realize I've been standing in the cereal aisle for fifteen minutes.

And when I think of the holiday of Shavuot, this mortifying scene in the grocery store is what always comes to mind. Now this would seem to be counterintuitive. After all, Shavuot is not a holiday about choice. Or is it? Shavuot is the holiday where we celebrate the receiving of Torah at Mount Sinai. Generations ago, the Israelites stood at the foot of the mountain and vowed before God and one another that they would commit themselves to commandments.

This holiday is not about an abundance of choice, you might think. In fact, it's quite the opposite. Many might even think that the choice has been taken from us, and that this holiday represents the absence of choice. "Our ancestors made this decision for us generations ago," we could argue.

"They had the chutzpah to make promises not only for themselves but for generations of Jews for all time. I don't have any choice here; someone else has already committed me to a life of Torah."



Rabbi Berezin

I disagree. For me, Shavuot represents the many choices that we make every single day for ourselves and for our families. We live in a world filled to the brim with options. In many ways, we live in the cereal aisle with more choices than we could have ever imagined. How will we spend our time? How will we prioritize our choices? Who will be present? Which values will guide us? Which framework will inspire us to live intentionally and add meaning to our lives?

We have to choose Judaism each and every day. Just as Ruth, whose story we read on Shavuot, chooses a life of Judaism and Torah, so too must we. We live in an era of unprecedented choice when it comes to religious life. Today, we are not forced to belong to a specific faith community, and we are (hopefully) not singularly defined by our Judaism. For many of us, Judaism is—at least in part—voluntary. Some of us were born into the covenant, others of us found our way to Judaism through alternative means. But the bottom line is this: however we define ourselves with regards to Judaism, we are all Jews by choice. We all have to choose Judaism, each and every day. In a world where it would be simple to divest ourselves of our Jewish identities, we actively choose Torah and hold fast to it.

Shavuot serves as our alarm clock, our wake up call to reexamine ourselves and our choices. As we count the Omer, we reflect on the spiritual and ethical teachings that will help us to become our best selves. And so, each year, when we are the best versions of ourselves, we actively and intentionally recommit ourselves to a life of Judaism, to Torah, to tikkun olam (the repair of the world) and to community.

Congregation

Temple Israel Annual Meeting

Tuesday, May 23, 6:30 p.m.

Did you know that this past year, over 140 congregants volunteered to serve on 23 Temple Israel committees? That is a remarkable number of amazing people doing great work for this congregation! From Membership, to Caring, to Tri-faith, to You Name It, our volunteers have been busy enhancing our programs, revising our policies, reviewing our books and finding us a new Senior Rabbi!

PLEASE come to the Annual Meeting to celebrate our volunteers and learn about the great work they have accomplished this year. We also need YOU to vote on the revisions to the Temple Israel By-Laws and to approve the Board of Trustees slate which includes four new trustees: Jessica Cohn, John Glazer, Lester Katz, and Hap Pocras. Finally, we will honor and thank Rabbi Darryl Crystal for his service as our Interim Senior Rabbi. Afterwards, we will enjoy a wine and cheese oneg.

New Rosh Chodesh Women's Group

All Girls, Ladies, Women, Females Of Any Age Welcome!

Known, but seldom celebrated, is the monthly holiday of Rosh Chodesh. Rabbi Deana Sussman Berezin and Cantor Wendy Shermet intend to change that lack of celebration with the formation of a new, inter-generational women's group.

As a reward for refusing to give up their gold for the creation of the golden calf at Sinai, women, specifically, were gifted with "Rosh Chodesh" which acknowledges and ushers in each new Hebrew month. Historically, Rosh Chodesh has been celebrated in many different ways but its essence has always been the same: an opportunity for women of every generation to gather and connect, learn and pray, socialize and create.

Nominating Slate for 2017-2018

The Nominating Committee that consists of Denise Blake, Stacie Brodkey, Dani Howell, Dan Marburg, and Past President Michael Halsted, presents the following Nomination Slate for 2017-2018: Rosie Zweiback, President; Andie Gordman, President Elect; Dan Gilbert, Vice President; Susie Norton, Vice President; Troy Meyerson, Secretary; Gary Kaplan, Treasurer; John Glazer, Assistant Treasurer; Mike Halsted, Past President. Jessica Cohn, Lester Katz, Lisa Lewis, and Hap Pocras to serve a three year term.



Rosie Zweiback

The Rosh Chodesh Women's Group will be inclusive, casual, stimulating and rewarding. A variety of avenues will be explored: cooking, reading, speakers, yoga, nurturing old and new friendships, and strengthening our community by sharing the gifts and talents of our Temple Israel women, young and old.

Save the date for our first gathering: **Sunday, July 23** - poolside - for cocktails and appetizers at the home of Danielle Gordman. We will be welcoming Karen Flayhart, wife of our new Senior Rabbi Brian Stoller. What better way and reason to begin this new, exciting chapter in the Rosh Chodesh Women's Group!

More information will follow soon, as will the calendar for future activities, hosts and dates.

Temple Israel & Omaha Gives

Temple Israel will be participating again this year in Omaha Gives. Please visit omahagives24.org to arrange for a donation to be made to Temple Israel on Wednesday, May 24.



OMAHA GIVES!

powered by the Omaha Community Foundation

Treasurer's Report

Budget Report - Spring 2017

Gary Kaplan, Treasurer

As the fiscal year comes to a close at the end of May, we wanted to provide an update on the budget process. Overall, Temple Israel is financially sound. The Endowment, which provides 15% of the operating budget each year, has continued to grow due to natural growth in its investments. However, during the year end audit and preparations for our 2017-2018 budget, it has become clear that our income has fallen short of estimates for a variety of reasons.

At its May meeting, the Board will vote on certain steps for the coming year to right size the budget so that income and expenses will be better aligned. On the revenue side, we will improve our estimates of dues income, set up processes to ensure that dues are collected across all accounts, build in additional fundraising events, and reach out to donors in order

to increase the number of Patrons and Sponsors at Temple Israel.

On the expenditure side, we have looked for savings in office practices including outsourcing the production of the Tidings, reviewing all service contracts, and identifying some programs that will only continue if sponsors are found to help underwrite the program's costs. In addition, the Board made the difficult decision to return the position of Program Director from full time back to part time, which it previously was for over a decade.

We are committed to fiscal responsibility and thank you for your support. For questions or concerns, please contact Temple Israel Treasurer Gary Kaplan, 402-660-0631.

Calendar

תפילות Pray

Temple Tots Shabbat

Saturday, May 27, 9 a.m.

Erev Shavuot Study & Dinner

Tuesday, May 30, 6 p.m.

Shavuot is the holiday when the Jewish people accepted the Torah and Mount Sinai. Ruth is read on this holiday to highlight the acceptance of the Torah. Jewish tradition says that Ruth was the first convert to Judaism. Please join us as we explore the kindness and devotion of this sacred text. RSVPs are required for the dinner. Please contact the Temple Israel office, 402-556-6536, by Thursday, May 25.

Shavuot Service and Yizkor

Wednesday, May 31, 10:30 a.m.

If you would like to have the names of your loved ones read during Yizkor, please contact Temple Israel, 402-556-6536, by Thursday, May 25, with the names.

Summer First Friday Shabbat Service & Picnic

Friday, June 2, 6 p.m., Friday, July 7, 6 p.m.

Friday, August 4, 6 p.m.

Please bring your own picnic or a yet to be determined Food Truck will be here for those who wish to purchase a meal. Watch the eTidings for more details.

Old School Shabbat

Friday, June 9, 6 p.m.

We welcome all young families, young couples or anyone wanting to meet new people at Temple Israel. Dinner is included as well as fun activities sponsored by PJ Library. This is a casual evening where we will talk, sing, eat, pray and enjoy Shabbat. The evening will cost \$5/person or a max of \$20/family. Please RSVP to Temple Israel, 402-556-6536, by Tuesday, June 6.

Shabbat Service

Friday, June 16, 6 p.m.

Join us for Rabbi Crystal's final service as we thank him for his service and wish him well.

Calendar

Learn למודים

Religious School Grades PreK-12

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

Please Remember to Return Your 2017-18 Religious School Registration !

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.

2017 First Day of Sunday Classes for PreK-6th Grade

Sunday, August 20

2017 First Day of Wednesday Classes

Wednesday, August 23

Enjoy a wonderful summer!

Engage פעילות

Grief Support Group

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.

Maj Jongg Tournament

Sunday, August 6

Registration fee is \$35 and includes continental breakfast, lunch and one raffle ticket. The registration deadline is Friday, July 28. To register, please visit www.templeisraelomaha.com or call the Temple Israel office, 402-556-6536.



TiYPE

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

Friday Shabbat TiYPE Night

Friday, June 9, 6-9 p.m.

Join our college-age TiYPE group for Shabbat services at Temple Israel, followed by dinner at Hunan Fusion! Appetizers are on us! RSVP to Aliyah Lasky, alasky@templeisraelomaha.com, by Monday, June 5.

Holla for Havdallah with TiYPE (21+)

Saturday, June 24, 6-9 p.m.

Welcome the summer with TiYPE for a nice service, followed by dinner, beverages, games, and movies! RSVP to Aliyah Lasky, alasky@templeisraelomaha.com, by Monday, June 19.

Concert Series with College-Age TiYPE

Saturday, July 8, 5:30-10 p.m.

Join TiYPE for dinner at DJ's Dugout in Aksarben Village, followed by enjoying the concert at Stinson Park-The Confidentials will be playing! RSVP to Aliyah Lasky, alasky@templeisraelomaha.com, by Monday, July 3.

Friday Shabbat TiYPE Night

Friday, July 28, 6-9 p.m.

Join TiYPE for Shabbat services at Temple Israel, followed by dinner at Hector's! Appetizers are on us! RSVP to Aliyah Lasky, alasky@templeisraelomaha.com, by Monday, July 24.

Calendar/Congregation

B'nai Mitzvah בני מצוה

Charles Michael Blum will celebrate his Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, May 20. He is the son of Rachel Blum and Mike Blum. Charles is currently a 7th grader at Davis Middle School where he is an Honor Roll Student. He has also received awards for his grades and attendance. Charles LOVES Basketball! He enjoys playing the game, watching the game, playing NBA 2K, and even helps coach a 3rd grade instructional league. He enjoys all sports and being active, likes listening to music, and loves shopping for shoes, especially when it's with his friends. For his Mitzvah Project, Charles volunteered at the Boys and Girls Club North Omaha unit, where he spent his afternoons working with the kids in their program. He played basketball with them, worked on projects, and helped serve snacks to all participants on a weekly basis.



Ethan Josef Bargas will celebrate his Bar Mitzvah on Monday, June 12, in Israel. Ethan is the son of Sharon and Damon Bargas and the brother of Hannah Faye Bargas. Ethan is currently a 7th Grade student at Westside Middle School. He enjoys basketball and baseball.



Wyatt Almeida, will celebrate his Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, July 29, at Camp Sabra. He is the son of Daryn and Cassius Almeida. Wyatt is currently in the 7th grade at Westside Middle School. He is a member of Westside Connection Show Choir, Wyatt enjoys Tennis, Soccer, anything water related, making stop-motion films, loves his dogs, singing and summers at Camp Sabra, so much so that he has chosen to have his Bar Mitzvah there

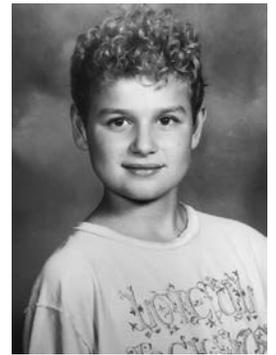


with all his campmates. For his Mitzvah Project, Wyatt volunteered at Hands, Hearts and Paws, a dog rescue shelter. Through his volunteering, he learned about all the ups and downs of rescue in hopes of making a difference. Wyatt's goal is to educate the public to adopt and not shop for your dog and how people can help save lives fostering, adopting and donating. He hopes to be a part of the rescue community throughout his life.

Hanna Bierner, will celebrate her Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, August 12. She is the daughter of Samuel Bierner and Joseph Pinson and the sister of Sara. Hana is currently in the 7th grade at Elkhorn Grandview Middle School. Hanna enjoys horseback riding, playing clarinet in the middle school band, watching anime, and Minecraft. Hanna will be deciding on her Mitzvah Project over the summer and is looking forward to working on it.



Asher Wright will celebrate his Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, August 26. He is the son of Jennifer Wright and Paul Nelson and the brother of Adilene Nelson. Asher attends King's Science and Technology Magnet Center where he will be entering the 8th Grade. Asher enjoys being outside. He loves all activities in the outdoors; riding bikes, swimming, hiking and exploring. Asher also has recently taken up Golf! Asher loves Astronomy, Geology and Computer Science. In his down time he also enjoys listening to music and making videos with his family and friends. For his Mitzvah Project, Asher has been collecting non-perishable items and toiletries throughout the community and putting together baskets for those in Need. Asher has been working with Food Bank for the Heartland to facilitate the donations.



Congregation

Engagement אירוסין

Lindsay Best and Nicholas Newman. Parents are Marvis and Alan Best and Sharee and Murray Newman.

Kylie Zacharia and Teddy O'Connell. Parents are Terri and Dick Zacharia and Beth and Jim O'Connell.

In Sympathy נחמה

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

Marsel Azriel, survived by wife Lydia Pinchas Azriel, son Rabbi Aryeh Azriel (Elyce), daughter Tali Chilson (Cyril), grandchildren Leora Werner (Matt), Yaniv, Greg and Daniel, great-grandchildren Gabe and Mia Werner;

Dale W. Ebers, MD, survived by daughter Julie Ebers Timme and son-in-law Bob, son Doug Ebers and daughter-in-law Mary, daughter Barbara Person and son-in-law Scott Burger, daughter Elizabeth Truesdale and son-in-law Steve, son Mark Ebers and daughter-in-law Cathy, and Jill Dolberg and son-in-law Erin, 16 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

Shirley Goldstein, survived by son Donald (Andi), and daughters Gail Raznick (Phil) and Kathy-Goldstein Helm, grandchildren Rebecca Groothuis (Derek), Deborah Baum (Matt), Emily Raznick, Ben Johnson (Shawn), Zak Helm and Molly Helm and four great-grandchildren;

Marian Groussman, survived by husband Max Groussman, daughter Jennifer Golan, son Jeff Groussman (Janel), daughter Denise Blake (Chris), grandchildren Sage, Rayce, Clay and Colt Golan, Jett and Shelby Groussman and Peyton and McKenna Blake;

Asher Tuck Katz, survived by parents Howard T. Katz and W. Cheryl Katz, grandparents Melvin and Estaline Katz, Gail and Ed Wilson, Lena Ainsworth, sisters Jennifer Cook and Lily Katz, and brother Kovi Katz, and uncles Lester Katz and Jack Becker;

...and extends sympathy to their bereaved families.

Joan Kern, survived by daughter Jodi Levine (Mike), sons Randie Bell (Cindi) and Rick Bell (Kathi), grandchildren Rachel Brodsky, Adam Bell, Michael Bell, and Stephani Bell;

Edythe Krasne, preceded in death by husband Lloyd Krasne. Survived by children Susan McKinley (John), Gail Kenkel (Tom), Doug Krasne (Amy), grandchildren Melissa (Britt) Gray, Chuck (Kim) McKinley, Matt Kenkel (Anna), Eddie Kenkel (Deborah), Liz Cleveland, and Ellie Krasne, and 12 great grandchildren;

Rose Pitlor, preceded in death by husband, Norman Pitlor. Survived by children, Steve (Marcia) Pitlor, and Judi Moore; grandchildren: Jessica (Luke) Adams, Lisa (Ian) Abramson, Russell (Melissa) Moore, David (Mindy) Pitlor, and Kimberly (Jay) O'Meara; great-grandchildren: Zoey, Benny, Eli, Derek, Oscar, and Mia;

David Romanik, survived by son Marc Romanik and cousin Joan Marcus;

Norma Seldin Silverman, preceded in death by husband, Stanley C. Silverman, sister, Ruth. Survived by children, Jeffrey L. (Mary Kay) Silverman, Denise Silverman, grandchildren, Lance, H. Scott and Monica, great-grandchildren, Jacob, Andrew, Abigail, Gabrielle and Noah, brothers, Ted (Sarah) Seldin, Millard (Beverly) Seldin;

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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

**Holy Smokes
Cigar Smoker**

*Tuesday, May 23, 7:30 p.m.
with Rabbi Steven Abraham
Tuesday, July 25, 7 p.m.
with Rabbi Brian Stoller*
We look forward to this men's only (21+) evening featuring cigars, spirits, beer and philosophical discussions of men's issues and perspectives from Jewish texts.



*Movie &
Discussion Nights
at Temple Israel*

Atomic Falafel

Wednesday, June 14, 7 p.m.
Movie followed by a discussion

I am. Shimon Peres

Wednesday, July 19, 7 p.m.
Movie followed by a discussion



**Jewish Heritage
Day at Werner
Park: Omaha
Storm Chasers
vs Iowa Cubs**

*Sunday, August 13
2:05 p.m.*
Watch the eTidings for more details.



**Temple Israel
Golf Outing**

*Monday,
August 14
Shadow Ridge
Country Club*
Watch the eTidings for more details.

