

TIDINGS

January 2018 · שבט / טבת · 5778

Temple Israel

The Reform Jewish Congregation of Omaha



Adult Purim Bash

Not Your Kids' Carnival!



Saturday, February 24, 7 - 11 p.m.

Let's have a Purim party for grown-ups!

New this year, Temple Israel is hosting our inaugural Adult Purim Bash: Not Your Kids' Carnival. Please join us as we celebrate Purim with Esther, Mordechai, Vashti, Haman, and King Ahasuerus.

Each character will have a signature drink and a station for games and activities.

There will be a costume contest with prizes to delight your inner child, and your adult sensibilities will be pleased to enjoy the open bar, heavy hors d'oeuvres, and professional DJ.

This bash is the place to be! This event is for adults only (21+).

Cost is \$18. RSVP to Temple Israel, 402-556-6536 or RSVP@templeisraelomaha.com, by February 20.

Purim Carnival & Spiel!

Wednesday, February 28, 4 p.m.

Everyone is invited to Temple Israel's Purim Carnival and Spiel!

Join us at 4 p.m. in the Social Hall for great carnival fun!

At 5:30 p.m., we will enjoy kosher hot dogs and chips for dinner.

At 6 p.m., we will gather in the Schragar Sanctuary for the Purim Spiel and Service.

Afterwards, we will gather in the Simon Community Court for some delicious Hamantaschen.

As always, costumes are encouraged!



May 2018 Be a Blessing to Us All

Theodore Herzl once said, "If you will it, it is no dream." He was, of course, talking about the creation of a Jewish State, the State of Israel. In the face of doubt, criticism, and ridicule, Herzl held firm to the belief that the creation of a Jewish State not only could happen, but that it would happen. He knew what he was doing was going to be an uphill battle and that many would think him ludicrous, and yet he carried on.

For me, this embodies the very essence of a hero, and so when I was asked to teach a class about one of my Jewish heroes, Herzl immediately came to mind. His mantra, "If you will it, it is no dream" became my mantra. Theodore Herzl has a great deal to teach us about pursuing our dreams. From him we learn:

1. It is OK to change your mind: Though we now consider him to be the Father of Zionism, in his early years, Herzl was anything but. He once wrote that the idea of returning to our ancestral homeland was childish and utterly absurd. We would have nothing to talk about, nothing in common, he said. Just a few years later, Herzl would become the strongest voice in the push toward Zionism. He demonstrated for us the importance of listening and allowing our experiences to shape our lives. And when that happens, we evolve, and things we once believed to be right, may require us to reevaluate.

2. It is essential to plan for the next generation: Herzl's dream was not realized in his lifetime. But he never questioned whether it would occur—he knew that it would. And knowing that he would not live to see his dream willed into being, he fervently pursued what he wanted so that the next generation might not have to go through what he did.

3. It takes a village: Herzl recognized that this dream could not be realized by him and him alone. Through the course of his writing, he states plainly that what he put forth was not new—rather it was an age old dream held by every generation of Jews since the Temple was destroyed and we were forced out of the Land. In order to make this dream a reality, he would need the assistance of other Jews worldwide, from every background and nationality imaginable. He valued the work of each individual and knew that a project of this magnitude would require all hands on deck.

As we enter this new year of 2018, may we take these words and these lessons to heart. May we grow and change and evolve and make way for new ways of thinking to come upon us. May we continue to plant the seeds for the next generation, and may we all be blessed with community to help see our dreams through. May we find the new year to be a blessing to us all.



Rabbi Berezin

Deana S. Berezin

President's Report

In December, 1979, as a new officer in Omaha Temple Youth Group, I got to attend my first Biennial—the Reform Movement's national convention—in Toronto, Canada. I remember the thrill of being with 4,000 Jews, the energy of the youth delegation, and the Friday night song session that exceeded all expectations. My mother was also there as a delegate from Temple Sisterhood, and I remember her excitement to learn from the greatest leaders and teachers in our movement.



Rosie Zweiback

Fast forward 38 years. This December, I had the privilege to attend my 8th Biennial and it continues to be a powerful and inspiring experience that makes me proud to be a Reform Jew. This time, I went to sessions about temple security, what's new in Jewish music, and new strategies to engage our teens. I got up early to attend a worship service led by Nava Tehila, a spectacular group of musicians from Jerusalem, and I stayed up late for a song session with Kol B'seder, who composed some of my favorite music from when I went to summer camp in the 70's. (Google these groups and listen to their music. They are fantastic!)

Biennial has something for everyone: for current Temple Israel leaders, future leaders, and anyone who wants to learn more about modern Jewish practices and beliefs. We were a small but mighty group this year, and there is room for a lot more of us to attend. So please save the date for the 75th Biennial. Meet me and Rabbi Stoller and 6,000 Reform Jews in Chicago, December 11-15. I promise it will be an unforgettable experience.

Leadership Development Completes Program

Every two years, a group of Temple Israel members are selected and invited to attend the Jon Meyers Leadership Development Program, a training program that teaches members how to be leaders in the congregation. In addition to the robust training program, registration for the Union for Reform Judaism Biennial conference is gifted to members who complete the program, through the generosity of the Jon Meyers Leadership Development Fund.

The 2017 program included guest speakers, learning activities, tours of other synagogues in the community,

and project work, and it concluded with a celebratory dinner together on December 14. This group worked on a project together to dream up a new Purim celebration. They are very excited to present us with the Temple Israel Adult Purim Bash: Not Your Kids' Carnival!

Congratulations to the members who completed the program this year: Mindi Armstrong, Christopher Blake, Jessica Cohn, Gil Dysico, Jackie Friedland, Larry Gittelman, Wendy Hamilton, Brandon Koom, Lisa Lucoff, Joseph Pinson, Eric Shapiro, Jeffrey Smedlund, Beth Spizman, Leora Werner, and Jeremy Wright.

Yasher koach!

Announcing Conversations with the Clergy

Above the doorway to our sanctuary, there is an inscription that says, "*Da lifnei mi atah omed – Know before whom you stand.*" I am grateful for the relationships I have started to build with you over the last six months. I am beginning to know before whom I stand – but I want to know more. I want to know what inspires you, what you're passionate about, what troubles you, what brings you joy, what sparks your Jewish soul. I want to know you in a real, meaningful way.

So next month we will be launching "Conversations with the Clergy," an inclusive, congregation-wide conversation with Rabbi Berezin, Cantor Shermet, and myself about big questions—questions like: What is your Jewish story? Why are you part of Temple Israel? What do you hope to gain from your involvement in our holy community? Starting this year, we'll meet in small groups for coffee in people's homes, share our stories, and talk about why we're here. This will be a great opportunity to strengthen our connections with our fellow congregants, to make new friends, and to grow spiritually as we explore what Judaism and Temple Israel mean to us. Most importantly, it will be an opportunity for me and our clergy team to get to know you in a deeply personal way, and I am incredibly excited for that.

I am delighted to tell you that Sally Kaplan, a past president of Temple Israel, and Lester Katz, a current member of our Board of Trustees, will be chairing our "Conversations with the Clergy" initiative, and they will be working in partnership with Cat King, our Director of Engagement and Communications, to bring it to life. In the coming weeks, you will be hearing more from Sally, Lester, and Cat about how you can join the conversation.



Rabbi Stoller

Your participation in "Conversations with the Clergy" is very important to me, and I want to invite you to do so in whatever way is most comfortable for you. Maybe you'll host a coffee in your home. Maybe you'll attend one because a friend asks you to. However you participate, I want you to invest yourself in your Jewish life and take ownership of it. I want to take this journey together, and discover our individual portals into Jewish life together, and elevate our lives together.

I want to know you. I want you to know each other. And I want all of us to know God, and the power of Judaism to transform our lives. *Da lifnei mi atah omed – know before whom you stand.* Let's realize this vision of synagogue life in the 21st century together.

OUT OF THIS WORLD WITH OTYG

OTYG Spaghetti Dinner & Auction

Sunday, March 4, 5 - 8 p.m.

Join us in 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. Some of the auction items include: theater tickets, party services, jewelry, gift certificates, sports tickets, and much more! Proceeds will support Camp Rainbow, a camp for kids with cancer and other blood-related diseases, along with funding youth activities.

Cost: \$10 for adults, \$4 for children ages 6-12, no charge for children five and younger.

Please RSVP to Temple Israel, 402-556-6536, by Friday, February 23.

Now Requesting Donations!

Please consider contributing to our annual Spaghetti Dinner Auction! Please contact Director of Youth and Young Adult Engagement Aliyah Lasky, 402-556-6536, for more information.

Religious School



Toda raba!

Thank You for Your Heartfelt Support of our Religious School!

Religious School Families, watch for Sharon's monthly emails on Religious School event details and calendar changes. Contact Religious School Director Sharon Comisar-Langdon for more information.

Sunday, January 21	Grades PreK-6 Religious School & Temple Tots
Wednesday, January 24	Grades 3-6 Religious School School Dinner, Family School, Grades 7-12 Religious School
Sunday, January 28	Grades K-6 Religious School
Wednesday, January 31	Grades 3-6 Religious School School Dinner, Family School, Grades 7-12 Religious School
Friday, February 2	Grades 1 & 2 Shabbat and Family Dinner
Saturday, February 3	Temple Tots Shabbat
Sunday, February 4	Grades PreK-6 Religious School
Wednesday, February 7	Grades 3-6 Religious School School Dinner, Family School, Grades 7-12 Religious School
Sunday, February 11	Grades K-6 Religious School & Temple Tots
Wednesday, February 14	Grades 3-6 Religious School School Dinner, Family School, Grades 7-12 Religious School
Sunday, February 18	No Religious School—Presidents Day
Wednesday, February 21	Grades 3-6 Religious School School Dinner, Family School, Grades 7-12 Religious School
Sunday, February 25	Grades PreK-6 Religious School & Temple Tots
Wednesday, February 28	Grades PreK-6, Family School, Grades 7-12 Religious School Purim! Purim Carnival & Dinner, 4 p.m. Purim Spiel, 6 p.m.

Youth & Young Adults

JYG

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

Schmooze and Snack with JYG

Sunday, January 21, 2 - 4:30 p.m.

Enjoy a day in from the cold with JYG for some movies, snacks, chit chat at Temple Israel. RSVP to Aliyah Lasky, alasky@templeisraelomaha.com, by Monday, January 15.

Junior Youth Group Chavurah

Friday, February 2 - Sunday, February 4

OTYG

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

Tri-Faith Youth Banquet and Movie Night

Saturday, January 20, 1 - 4 p.m.

American Muslim Institute

The 9th-12th grade teens from all three faith groups are invited to join Tri-Faith Youth for a potluck meal and a movie at AMI. Please bring a dish to share (no pork, shellfish or gelatin, and please keep meat & dairy separate). RSVP to Ben Leathers-Arnold, benleathersarnold@yahoo.com, by Tuesday, January 16.



OTYG Meeting

Sunday, January 21, Noon - 1 p.m.

Join OTYG and the board as they discuss and plan upcoming programming and events. RSVP to Ben Leathers-Arnold, benleathersarnold@yahoo.com, by Thursday, January 18.

OTYG Lounge Night

Thursday, January 25, 5 - 7 p.m.

Catch up with OTYG and schmooze at lounge night. Feel free to bring your school work and study materials to Temple Israel. Snacks will be provided. RSVP to Ben Leathers-Arnold, benleathersarnold@yahoo.com, by Monday, January 22.

OTYG Meeting

Sunday, February 11, Noon - 1 p.m.

Join OTYG and the board as they discuss and plan upcoming programming and events. RSVP to Ben Leathers-Arnold, benleathersarnold@yahoo.com, by Thursday, February 8.

OTYG Shabbat

Friday, February 16, 6 - 9 p.m.

Join OTYG as we attend Shabbat services together, followed by a fun activity afterwards. Stay tuned for more details. RSVP to Aliyah Lasky, alasky@templeisraelomaha.com, by Monday, February 12.

OTYG Prep Nights for Spaghetti Dinner

February 12, 13, 15, 17, 20 & 22, 5 - 7 p.m.

Join OTYG as they prepare for Spaghetti Dinner at Temple Israel. Please RSVP for the days you are available to Ben Leathers-Arnold, benleathersarnold@yahoo.com, by Thursday, February 8.

OTYG Meeting

Saturday, February 24, Noon - 4 p.m.

Join OTYG and the board as they discuss and plan upcoming programming and events. RSVP to Ben Leathers-Arnold, benleathersarnold@yahoo.com, by Monday, February 19.

TiYPE

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

Bingo Night at Temple Israel

Saturday, January 20, 5 - 7 p.m.

Join us for a fun night of playing the game that never gets old. Bring friends and plan to make new ones as we have fun together at Temple Israel. TiYPE will have our own table to mingle at. We will begin with Havdalah, followed by kosher hot dogs, chicken nuggets, and salad bar. Bring a dessert to share. Afterwards we will enjoy an evening of Bingo with prizes! Cost: \$5 per individual, \$15 per family. Please RSVP to Temple Israel, 402-556-6536, by Tuesday, January 16.

Pray • Learn • Engage

Wednesday Evening Adult Education

Guiding Principles for the Synagogue Community

Wednesdays, 6:30 - 8 p.m.

Mishpat: Be Fair and Compassionate

Taught by: Cantor Wendy Shermet

January 24

Justice is blind, holding everyone to the same standard; and yet, each person is a unique individual. Judaism teaches that good leadership is about balancing justice and mercy by applying policies, rules, and expectations equally to everyone, while also being compassionate and understanding of each person's particular needs and circumstances.

Al Harish'a: Look for the Good in Others

Taught by: Rabbi Aryeh Azriel

February 7

We all do things from time to time that irritate or anger others. When that happens, we may have a tendency to let someone's negative traits dominate our perception of them. But we must resist that tendency. The Torah teaches that every human being is made in God's image, so we must consciously look for the good and emphasize the positive traits in each other.

Tzadikim: Disagree Respectfully

Taught by: Rabbi Aryeh Azriel

February 14

Beit Hillel and Beit Shammai were both proficient in the law, but Beit Hillel prevailed in nearly every debate because, according to the Talmud, they were more respectful in argument. Beit Hillel would speak gently, praise Beit Shammai's acumen, and acknowledge that, although they disagreed with Beit Shammai's conclusions, there was truth to be learned from what they had to say. As friends and fellow congregants, we will often disagree, but when we do we must, like Beit Hillel, be kind and respectful to those on the other side.

Y'rushalayim: Help to Create a Friendly and Supportive Environment

Taught by: Rabbi Deana Sussman Berezin

February 21

The idea of Jerusalem is a community based on the precept "love your neighbor as yourself." We must each do our part to make our Temple Israel community one in which every person feels important and appreciated, that their input is valued, and that they are supported by the other members of the community.

Thursday Morning Symposium

Jewish Heroes, Heroines, and Personalities

Thursdays, 10 - 11:30 a.m.

Through study of their writings, speeches, and music, along with biblical and historical sources, we will learn about some of the most fascinating personalities who have shaped the Jewish experience from ancient times to the modern day. The Symposium will be taught by Temple Israel clergy, with guest sessions led by our Tri-Faith clergy partners and other outstanding teachers in the Omaha Jewish community.

Paul: The Jewish Apostle

Taught by: Rev. Dr. Eric Elnes, Senior Minister, Countryside Community Church

January 25, February 1

Yehudah Amichai

Taught by: Rabbi Aryeh Azriel

February 8 & 15

Joseph, Moses, and David

Taught by: Dr. Ari Kohen, Professor of Social Justice, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

February 22, March 1

Pray • Learn • Engage

Temple Tots

Sundays, January 21 and February 11, 10:30 a.m.

Saturday, February 3, 9 a.m.

We are looking forward to a year full of fun activities and Jewish learning with our youngest members and their families. Enjoy stories, songs, crafts (and bagels, of course!) with your child, while connecting with our Temple Israel community. All are welcome—bring friends!



Kol Rina and Saint Paul United Methodist Choir Exchange

Friday, January 26, 6 p.m., Temple Israel

Sunday, January 28, 10:30 a.m., St. Paul

Kol Rina and the St. Paul United Methodist Church choir will sing with each other the final weekend

in January, which is *parsha B'shalach Shira*, the "Sabbath of Song." Come enjoy favorite songs, hear something new, nosh with your friends, and brighten your winter with live music.

February First Friday Shabbat Service and Dinner with Grades 1 and 2

Friday, February 2

Candle lighting and Kiddush in the Simon

Community Court, 5:45 p.m. Services, 6 p.m.,

Join us for a congregational dinner after services.

Cost is \$5/person, max of \$20 per family. Please

RSVP to Temple Israel, 402-556-6536

or RSVP@templeisraelomaha.com or, by

Wednesday, January 31.



Pray • Learn • Engage

Bingo Night

Saturday, January 20, 5 p.m.

How much fun is BINGO?! Join us for a fun night of playing the game the never gets old. Mark your calendars and make it a date. Bring your friends and plan to make new ones as we have a little fun on a Saturday night at Temple Israel. We will begin with Havdalah together to end Shabbat, followed by kosher hot dogs, chicken nuggets, and salad bar. Please bring a dessert to share. Afterwards we will enjoy an evening of Bingo! Prizes will be awarded to the winner of each game. Cost: \$5 per individual, \$15 per family. Please RSVP to Temple Israel, 402-556-6536 or RSVP@templeisraelomaha.com by Tuesday, January 16.

Love and Logic Parent Training

Sundays, January 21, 28 and February 4, 10 a.m.

Love and Logic™ is a philosophy of raising and teaching children which allows adults to be happier, empowered, and more skilled in their interactions with children. Temple Israel is pleased to offer a four-session class on Love and Logic™ taught by Karen Gustafson, MS, NCC, LIMHP, Executive Director of Jewish Family Service. Karen is a licensed independent mental health practitioner. Cost is \$10 per family for the course manual. To register, please contact Temple Israel, 402-556-6536.

New Member Brunch

Sunday, January 21, 11 a.m.

Are you a new member? Are you thinking of joining Temple Israel? You are hereby cordially invited to our New Member Brunch where we will introduce you to the clergy, staff, lay leaders, and other members. Our goal is to welcome you and provide a casual forum for conversation and questions. The brunch is a great way to learn more about our synagogue and the many opportunities to engage in our community. We are eager to meet you! Please RSVP to Temple Israel, 402-556-6536 or RSVP@templeisraelomaha.com.

Temple Israel Book Club

Book club is a great way to meet and connect with others at Temple Israel. It's timed perfectly for any parents whose children are in religious school. What a great way to spend a chilly Sunday morning: in a warm room with friends talking about all the things great books make us think about. Check it out! You might love it.

***In the Garden of Beasts* by Erik Larson**

Sunday, January 21, 10:30 a.m.

Publishers Weekly called it "mesmerizing" and the New York Times calls this book Erik Larson's "best and most enthralling work of novelistic history." *In the Garden of Beasts* chronicles Hitler's rise to power through the interesting lens of a quiet Yale law professor who was appointed by President Roosevelt to be Nazi Germany's first ambassador, as well as his libertine and free-spirited daughter Martha. Get your copy now and join us for what is sure to be a fervid discussion. And if you need to borrow a copy, contact Cat King.

***All Our Wrong Todays* by Elan Mastai**

Sunday, February 11, 10:30 a.m.

What if we lived in a 2016 that had no pollution, no crime, and no poverty? What if an incredible invention in 1965 made life fifty years later a nearly problem-free utopia? And what if someone, let's call him Tom, goes back in time to 1965 and makes it so that invention was never invented? This is where the book *All Our Wrong Todays* takes us: to a 2016 that looks like it does today, asking the question: What if the world we live in today is actually a dystopian society? The book gets really interesting when Tom finds that life in our 2016 is better for him personally than the utopia he left behind. Does he go back? Should he? Wrestle with these questions, and enjoy a lively discussion, at book club.

Pray • Learn • Engage

Temple TED Talks

“All It Takes is 10 Mindful Minutes”

by **Andy Puddicombe**

Sunday, January 28, 10:30 a.m., Media Center

Can 10 minutes really change your life? It can if you use it to refresh your brain with meditation.

Brian Nogg is the host of January’s TED talk and he’s looking forward to the discussion about mindfulness and how we can use it to improve our lives. Brian says, “This subject is my passion and I am interested to hear what others think about it and their experiences with these subjects.” Join us to learn more!



“Why people of different faiths are painting their houses of worship yellow” by **Nabila Alibhai**

Sunday, February 25, 10:30 a.m., Media Center

Justin Grau is hosting February’s TED talk and he chose this one because the “Colour in Faith” project, despite the difference in approach, has similar motivations as our own Tri-Faith Initiative. “The idea was to unite people of different faiths by getting them to paint each other’s houses of worship, mosques, temples, synagogues, churches, paint them yellow in the name of love,” explains Alibhai in her talk. Come find out how this community in Nairobi is bringing people of many faiths together with hope, and optimism, and, yes, yellow paint.



Pray • Learn • Engage

Super Bowl Party

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

Come watch Super Bowl LII 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 \$7 per person or \$15 per family. Please RSVP to Temple Israel, 402-556-6536 or RSVP@templeisraelomaha.com, by Friday, February 2.

Holy Smokes

Tuesday, February 6, 7 p.m.

Copa Cabana, 17520 Wright Street, #108

Holy Smokes is an exclusive and always entertaining event for the men of Temple Israel (21+) to share an evening of cigars, spirits, beer, and philosophical discussions of the sacred and the profane. Emeritus Rabbi Aryeh Azriel will be our teacher this February at Copa Cabana. The cost is only \$20 and includes two drink/cigar coupons. RSVP is required, RSVP@templeisraelomaha.com, by Friday, February 2.

Young Families/Old School Shabbat

Friday, February 9, 5:45 p.m.

In partnership with PJ Library, we invite you to join us for an Old School Shabbat dinner & songs. We welcome all families with young children, young couples, or anyone wanting to meet new people at Temple Israel. Dinner is included and we will eat, talk, sing, pray, and enjoy Shabbat together. Cost: \$5 per child, \$7 per adult, max \$25 per family. RSVP to Temple Israel, 402-556-6536, by Tuesday, February 6.

Taste of Tri-Faith

Sunday, February 11, Noon

The theme of 2018 Taste of Tri-Faith is hunger. As in the past, we will be bringing and enjoying foods that reflect our faith traditions, as well as bringing non-perishable food to donate to food pantries that serve the hungry in our community. Temple Israel is proud to host this event and welcome our

Tri-Faith members to share food with each other and the community all around us. Please bring a donation of canned or boxed food, as well as a dish to share. Be sure to provide a sentence or two about the story behind the dish, and avoid pork, shellfish, gelatin, and alcohol. All allergens should be identified as well. Please join us to celebrate food and the joy that comes with sharing it. RSVP to Temple Israel, RSVP@templeisraelomaha.com. For more information, contact Cat King.

Rosh Chodesh

Rosh Chodesh is Temple Israel's intergenerational women's group, and we are already halfway through our first year of programming! All women in the congregation are welcome to join us for social, informational, and recreational events. Mark your calendars for our next events:

Poetry Slam and Storytelling

Hosted by Ellen Platt

Tuesday, February 13, 6:30 p.m.

Culinary Arts Program Overview and Cooking Demo at Metro Community College

Hosted by Susie Norton and Andi Gordman

Tuesday, April 10, 6:30 p.m.

RSVP to Temple Israel, 402-556-6536 or RSVP@templeisraelomaha.com.

Pride Planning Team

Solidarity through Pride! That's the theme of the 2018 Heartland Pride Parade and Temple Israel wants to be a part of it. If you want to be a part of it contact Cat King, 402-556-6536 or cking@templeisraelomaha.com, to sign up to be part of the planning team. All are welcome!

Purim Volunteers Needed!

We need your help for Purim! Are you theatrical? We need help with the spiel. Are you a baker? We need help baking Hamantaschen cookies. Do you like having fun? We need help with the carnival. Please contact Cat King if you want to help in any of these three areas. Thanks!

Tri-Faith Construction Update

When land was purchased for the Tri-Faith Initiative in 2011, a fully-fledged campus with three houses of worship and an interfaith center still seemed like a distant dream. But as 2017 ends, Temple Israel has celebrated four years in its new location, American Muslim Institute's mosque and educational center has been open since May, Countryside Community Church has broken ground, and the Tri-Faith Commons is only a few years from completion.

Rick MacInnes, the Countryside Relocation Committee chair, said construction partners Project Advocates and Vrana Construction and church leaders initially projected completion for late 2018. Now that work is underway, they have revised the construction deadline and are expecting the new church to open in the spring of 2019.

"We are not looking at this as a negative, but rather an even better time for us to open our new doors. As spring unfolds and brings about a feeling of renewal—this is an important aspect of Christianity, the resurrection of Christ, Easter, and the season's themes of rebirth and hope," MacInnes said. "I received positive feedback from Countryside members... they liked the probable better-weather time of the year to move."

Two other major elements are expected to be completed around the same time as the church, said John Waldbaum of commercial real estate company Colliers International. A road circling the Commons will provide vehicle access to all parking areas and buildings. Because Hell Creek bisects the site, a circular bridge will cross the creek in two places, adjoining walking paths that will unify all the buildings on the Commons.

"The walking paths and pedestrian bridge will physically connect members of the three faith groups," said Bob Freeman, who serves on the Tri-Faith board of directors and is a member of the Temple Israel congregation. "The unique circular

bridge will provide each congregation easy access to a beautifully landscaped common area in the middle of the grounds."

The Tri-Faith Center will be the last building to be constructed after the Commons is completed. The Tri-Faith board of directors is in the process of bringing in an executive director who will begin providing leadership for the organization—and the evolution of the Tri-Faith Center—sometime next year.

Vic Gutman of Vic Gutman & Associates, which provides project management and communication services for the Tri-Faith Initiative, says the capital campaign for the Commons and Tri-Faith Center is now within \$2 million of its \$9.75 million goal. Approximately 99 percent of all funds raised for the Tri-Faith Initiative have come from Omaha community members and local philanthropic foundations.

Community members are invited to support Tri-Faith with a financial gift, and they may designate their contribution specifically for the capital campaign, Gutman said. More information is available at www.trifaith.org or by calling 402-934-2955. The Tri-Faith Initiative is a 501(c)(3) organization, and all monetary donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by tax laws.

"The first phase of our mission will be done when all the buildings are built; the first phase was to co-locate," Gutman said. "Beyond that, what impact we have will be through educational programs, social programs, things of that nature. The most important part will be how we all live and work together and share our model of trust and cooperation with the rest of the world."



New Member

Adam Krasne and his fiancé **Kellini Hager** got engaged on an October evening at sunset after a hot air balloon ride over Lake Zorinsky. As they prepare for a spring wedding next year at Joslyn Art Museum, they will be sure to take time for things they love doing together such as traveling, going to museums, and cooking together. Both grew up in Nebraska. Adam graduated cum laude from Creighton University with a degree in accounting and is an accountant at Lutz and Company, PC. Kellini is earning her BSN in the Accelerated Nursing Program at Methodist College; she also has a degree in finance from DePaul University in Chicago. They are building a house in Omaha and plan to adopt a sheltie puppy when it is completed this year.



Our Congregation

לידה Birth

Mazel tov on the birth of...

Levi Leb Benton, son of Adrianna and Jay Benton, grandson of Bonnie Hines and Michelle and William Pelmer, Jr., great-grandson of the late Richard and the late Billie Spiegel, Ramona and George Rudolfo, and Carol and William Pelmer.

Emmett Martin Wilder Gobel, son of Carrie and John Gobel, and grandson of Sally and Gary Kaplan, Patricia Gobel, and Pat Gobel.

נחמה In Sympathy

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

Milton Glazer, beloved husband of the late Helen Levin Glazer; lovely father of our member Jane (Harlan) Rips, James (Liz) Glazer, and Bruce (Wendy) Glazer; proud grandfather of Sara, Anne, Madelyn, Shayna, and David;

Reva (Rimmerman) Oruch, beloved wife of the late Robert Rimmerman and the late Albert Oruch; loving mother of the late Harlan Rimmerman, Mark (Linda) Rimmerman; mother-in-law of Carol Rimmerman; proud grandmother of our member Shayna (Matt) Ray, and five other grandchildren; great-grandmother of Bennett, Chloe, Leo, and six other great-grandchildren; and also survived by numerous nieces and nephews;

Ilene Pachman, beloved wife of the late William Hafits and the late Bill Pachman; sister and sister-in-law of the late Rose and Herman Loewenstein; lovely mother of the late Larry Hafits; mother-in-law of the late Richard Delisle; lovely mother of Fran Delisle, Susie (Paul) Shyken, Karen Pachman (Mike Cook), Howard (Mary) Pachman, our member Louis (Allison Latenser) Pachman; mother-in-law of Pat Hafits; proud grandmother of numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren;

...and extends sympathy to their bereaved families.

Weekly Donations

November 27 - December 17

Cantor Shermet Discretionary Fund

Shelly and Arnie Ban, Ducky Milder and
Sheila Tomps in Memory of Eileen Remer
Susan and Jerry Wolper in Honor of
Mel Epstein's new Home

Caring Fund

Naomi and Amanda Fisher Leiserowitz in Memory
of Ron Clayman
Bennett and Jim Greenspan in Memory
of Eileen Remer
Margo Parsow in Honor of Marty Rick's Award

Education Fund

Linda and Bob Waxman in Memory of Gerald Gross
Susan and Mark Stein in Memory of Rachel Klein
Beeson, Betty Laser and Phil I. Laser

Endowment Fund

Sandy and John Lehr in Memory of Ilene Pachman
Sandy and John Lehr and Sandy and Alan Nogg
in Memory of Regina Rothenberg

Hermene Zweiback Fund for Lifelong Jewish Learning

Lisa Lewis in Memory of Robert Hack
and Meg Zweiback

Landscape Fund

Anne, Alan and Marty Cohen in Memory of
Paul Nietzel's Brother and in Honor of
Jan Schneiderman's Birthday
Yvette Roffman in Memory of Eileen Remer
Carla and Harris Tulchin in Memory of Gerald Gross

Music Fund

Joan Marcus in Memory of Milton Glazer
Harry and Doris Alloy in Memory of Lillian Noodell
and Eileen Remer
Brent and Rebecca Bloom, Doris Cohn, Justin and
Joan Cooper, Michael and Michaela Daly,
Janey Dann, Judy Feigin, Betty Foster, Dan
and Sarah Gilbert, Dora Goldstrom and

George Walker, Rosalie Greenspan, Ann and
Jon Harding, Myron Kaplan, Beatrice Karp,
Judy and Milt Katskee, Natasha Kraft, Vic
and Ruth Larson, Joanie Lehr, Lisa Lewis,
Sonny and Harriet, Marko, Gloria and Ray
Millimet, Jack and Maxine Noodell, Doris
Parker, Sandy and Jeff Passer, Mr. and Mrs.
Donovan Schuler, Rabbi Maximo and
Jeanne Schechet, Claudia Sherman, Barry
Summer, Linda Wagner, Christine and Andy
Wasserman, Lisa and Michael Wasserman,
Phyllis Wasserman, Tessa and Steven
Wasserman, Jacqueline Wills and Lois and
Norm Wine in Memory of Eileen Remer

Rabbi Sidney H. and Jane Brooks Institute on Judaism for Clergy

Miriam Brooks in Memory of Rabbi Sidney H. Brooks

Rabbi Stoller Discretionary Fund

Susie and Jim Silverman in
Honor of Marty Ricks' Award
Rosalie Greenspan in Memory of Sarah Masters and
in Honor of Marty Rick's Award
Rosalie Greenspan in Honor of
Doris Alloy's Recovery

Temple Israel Discretionary Fund

Michael Canar in Memory of Max Canar, Esther
Canar and Ellen Joseph

Temple Israel Youth Group Fund

Sandy and Alan Nogg in Memory of Ilene Pachman

Toby Fellman Camp Fund

Lourdes Secola and Sheldon Lerner in Honor
of Jackie Neesman's Wedding

Social Justice Fund

Lourdes Secola and Sheldon Lerner in Honor of
the birth of Levi Leb Benton

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Assistant Rabbi Deana Sussman Berezin
Cantor Wendy Shermet
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All Are Welcome

Do you need assistance getting to and from Temple Israel for services and events?

Would you like to meet new people when you are here?

Is there any way we can make it easier for you to participate?

Let us know! Cat King is our new Director of Engagement and Communications and she looks forward to hearing from you. Contact her at cking@templeisraelomaha.com or 402-556-6536.