Living Torah: Disorder

If a cluttered desk is a sign of a cluttered mind, of what, then, is an empty desk a sign?

- Albert Einstein

Phrase: Be happy, It’s Adar

Practice: Make your house clean enough to be healthy, messy enough to be happy.

Mount Zion’s Year of Connecting to Torah: Take Hold of Torah - Take Hold of Mussar/Instruction
L’DOR VA’DOR
FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION

MAZEL TOV TO...
Our members who will celebrate a milestone anniversary in March: Brian & Rachel Steil, Michael & Suellen Buelow, Dan Rybeck & Kate Searls, Stuart Block & Julie Ostrowsky, Howard & Eunice Gelb, Ray & Rosemary Sevett.

ZICHRONAM LIVRACHA
May their memories be a blessing

We note with sorrow the passing of our member:

Edith Calin
Our condolences to her family.

Mike Moheban
Our condolences to his family, including his wife, Lois Moheban.

Muriel Weinstein
Our condolences to her family.

WE EXTEND CONDOLENCE TO...
Peter Bloch (Bonnie Rubinstein) on the death of his mother, Janet Bloch, on January 26.

Jillian Holiday (Jean Taylor) on the death of her mother, Betty Elain (Arndt) Peterson, on February 5.

Richard Levey, on the death of his father, Alan Levey, on January 24.

Betty Marz on the death of her son, Benjamin Marz, on December 29.

Laura Magel on the death of her father, Lawrence Magel, on January 26.

Marilyn Silver on the death of her daughter-in-law, Pam Silver, on February 8.

May God grant peace to all who mourn and comfort to all who are bereaved.

FROM THE RABBI

The Middah for the month of Adar (be happy - Purim is coming!) is Disorder. It is the very stuff of which our world is made - Tohu vaVohu - (Genesis 1:2). Without primordial chaos none of us would be here!

Our sages taught “Ein Mukdam um’uchar baTorah - There's no earlier or later in Torah.” So next time you are late for Torah study, don't worry - you're in great company.

Finally, it is a well known fact among those of us who have untidy offices, that Albert Einstein (who we are proud to call one of our own) had a notoriously messy desk. In typical Rabbinic fashion, he asked, “If a cluttered desk is a sign of a cluttered mind, of what, then, is an empty desk a sign?”

In a recent U of M study, written up in the NY Times “college students were placed in a messy or a neat office and asked to dream up new uses for Ping-Pong balls. Those in messy spaces generated ideas that were significantly more creative, according to two independent judges, than those plugging away in offices where stacks of papers and other objects were neatly aligned.” (Seriously - don't you wish you had a PhD so you could study alternate uses for Ping Pong balls and be published in the NY Times??) this is very good news, undermining the previously prevailing theory that “even slight disorder and neglect can encourage nonchalance, poor discipline and nihilism.”

(Source: well.blogs.nytimes.com).

So take heart, messy people, we have the support of the Torah, the Sages, Einstein, the U of M and the NY Times. What more could you ask?

L’shalom,
Esther Adler, Rabbi

NOAZIM - 20s/30s GROUP

Making Judaism relevant to 20- & 30-somethings at Mount Zion!
For more information on upcoming events, to get involved, or to simply get on our mailing list, email Cantor Strauss-Klein at jstraussklein@mzion.org or find our group on Facebook!

Soul Food Friday

Come for the food, stay and feed your soul! First Friday of every month.

March 6

Shabbat Dinner* @ 7:15 p.m. | Kabbalat Shabbat Service @ 8:15 p.m.
Connect with new people at this friendly and inviting service! Singles, couples, partners, ALL are welcome!
*For dinner, RSVP on NOAZIM Facebook page ($5).
Friday, March 20, 7:30 p.m.

Offerings of the Heart: Wise Aging
Pulpit Guest: Rabbi Debra Rappaport

Those in their sixties and seventies are part of an extraordinary, history-making generation, now in a “third chapter” stage of life. These healthy years of aging are not the end; they are full of potential for learning and growth.

Rabbi Debra Rappaport was ordained in 2007 at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, after fifteen years in the business world. Prior to returning to the Twin Cities last year, she served seven years as congregational rabbi in Colorado, and has been actively pursuing Jewish mindfulness practices since 1999. She is working part time at Sholom Alliance in St. Paul and as freelance rabbi in the Twin Cities.

2015 Mensch of the Year Award and Brotherhood participates in Shabbat
At Erev Shabbat services on Friday, March 20

Please join Brotherhood as we recognize this year’s Mensch award recipient, Shel Finver. We are delighted to recognize Shel, who has held a leadership role in numerous activities at Mount Zion and Brotherhood. Shel has served on Mount Zion Temple’s Israel, Religious School Evaluation and Sukkot at Butwin committees. Shel has been our liaison to the Twin Cities Yom HaShoah Committee, and St. Paul Area Council of Churches annual MLK Breakfast planning committee. He is a member of CHAIM (Children of Holocaust Survivors Association In Minnesota) and a former volunteer fundraiser for the Jewish Federation of St. Paul. Shel sings in Torah Tones, continues his Jewish learning and seeks ways to apply that learning. He currently attends Mount Zion Temple’s Mussar Institute with 74 others, and participates in the Jewish Community Action’s Tzedeck Institute, a Twin-Cities wide social justice training initiative.

Shabbat Across America
Invite your friends to turn Friday into Shabbat
Friday, March 13, 7:30 p.m.

Tot Shabbat
Tot Shabbat is the second Saturday of every month. For families with children from birth to seven years old
Saturday, March 14, 10:30 a.m.
Passover Prep!

Please bring a healthy, nut-free vegetarian dish to share.

March

Friday Shabbat Evening Services
March 6, 6:30 p.m.
Shir Tzion Participates
Soul Food Friday, 7:15 p.m. (see p. 15)

March 13, 7:30 p.m.
Shabbat Across America
Professional Choir

March 20, 7:30 p.m.
Food for Thought, 5:45 p.m. (see p. 10)
Pulpit Guest: Rabbi Debra Rappaport
Brotherhood Participates
Annual “Mensch” Award
Guitar Corps
Birthday Blessings

March 27, 7:30 p.m.
SPORTY/Teens Participate
Teen Mifgash

Saturday Shabbat Morning Services
March 7, 10:00 a.m.
Ki Tisa - Ex. 31:18-33:17*
Steven Frisch, Bar Mitzvah

March 14, 10:00 a.m.
Vayakhal - Pekudei - Ex. 37:17-39:21 & Num. 19:1-10*
Shabbat Parah
Celebrate Shabbat!

March 20, 10:00 a.m.
Shir Tzion Participates
Soul Food Friday, 7:15 p.m. (see p. 15)

March 21, 10:00 a.m.
Vayikra – Lev. 3:1-4:26, Ex. 12:1-3*
Brotherhood Participates
Annual “Mensch” Award
Guitar Corps
Birthday Blessings

March 27, 10:00 a.m.
Tzav – Lev. 7:11-38*
Shabbat HaGadol
Celebrate Shabbat!

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At Erev Shabbat services on Friday, March 20

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Did you know that the long prayer we do after Shabbat services is actually an abridged version? Learn some of the history of the prayer and learn how to lead the long version of Birкат HaMazon (Blessing after the Meal) after Shabbat lunch on this Shabbat.

Schedule Every Shabbat Day
9:00 a.m. Open Torah Study - Drop in any time to study the week’s Torah portion (listed above). *Using a triennial [3 year] cycle, we are reading the second third of each parashah this year. (Torah study will be in Sisterhood Lounge in June).
10:00 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service

Daily Service Schedule
Daily services are held in the Harris Chapel, Monday through Thursday at 5:45 p.m., Sundays at 9:30 a.m. (Brotherhood offers a free coffee.)

March

Mondays: Patrick Zimmerman, Henry Lippman, Sandra Lyksett
Tuesdays: John Mast, Arnie Krohn, Amy Johnson
Wednesdays: Eric Lund, Marjorie Abrahamson, Mitch Wittenberg
Thursdays: Rita Grossman, Jonathan Eisenthal, Abram Eisenthal
Sundays: Rita Grossman, Ray Sevett, Lindsay Nauen, Gloria Levin, Dan Rybeck, Kurt and Anne Schaeffer

If you would like to participate in Leading or Greeting at daily services, contact Janet 651-482-9951 or Charles 651-646-6543.

Learn the “long” Birкат HaMazon
Saturday, March 28, approx. Noon (after lunch following services)
Rabbi Adam Stock Spilker

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Passover Prep!
Please bring a healthy, nut-free vegetarian dish to share.

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Purim has always been one of my favorite holidays. From dressing up as Esther as a little girl to last year’s Frozen theme, Purim has never failed to be memorable! Both of my sons were born around Purim. I fondly remember the hamantaschen a friend brought to me in the hospital after my younger son Ari was born Erev Purim 2009, and the belly dancer’s outfit I had worn as my Purim costume my year in Jerusalem made a much different impression the following year, when I was 38 weeks pregnant with my older son Henry!

But Purim can be a little baffling to those new to it. My husband Nick, who is a Jew-by-choice, had his first experience with Jewish worship services at a Purim shpiel. I clearly remember his quizzical looks as a different impression the following year, when I was 38 weeks pregnant with my older son Henry!

It is perhaps a little-known fact that Yom Kippur and Purim are related in Jewish tradition. The word “pur,” meaning “lot,” appears in both Yom Kippur and Purim, connecting the two holidays linguistically. The Jewish mystical text the Zohar even interprets the Biblical name for Yom Kippur, Yom Hakippurim, as “the day that is like Purim” (“yom kpurim”).

On the outside, these two holidays couldn’t seem more dissimilar. On the one day, we fast and in this way afflict our body, on the other, we eat and drink to excess. One day is characterized by solemnity, the other by merriment. But each serves a purpose: the one day, we fast and in this way afflict our body, on the other, we eat and drink that can be readily consumed without further preparation. Hamantaschen are a perfect example of a “portion,” and you can purchase them at Mount Zion on Sundays during Religious School and during the Purim Carnival on March 8.

You have the opportunity to fulfill the mitzvah of Lishmoa Megillah, hearing the story of the book of Esther, when we chant the megillah on Wednesday evening, March 4. Both days we will have an abundance of food, so you can take care of the S’udat Mitzvah, the festive meal, at the same time.

In the Talmudic tractate Megillah, where the mitzvot of Purim are listed, the mitzvah of Matanot La’evyonim, gifts to the poor, is mentioned last. But in the spirit of “Acharon, acharon chaviv” (usually translated as “last but not least,” but literally meaning “the very last is the most beloved”), this mitzvah of providing monetary support for the poor is the most important of all the mitzvot of Purim. It is so important that even those who are in need of charity themselves are obligated to give. We are required to give to at least two people, at least an amount of money equivalent to a meal. In this way, the poor can celebrate the festive meal as well. You can help kick off our annual March Food Drive in support of Neighborhood House by dropping a bag of food in Mount Zion’s lobby before enjoying the Purim shpiel! Please fulfill this mitzvah and help ensure that all Minnesota’s food shelves are filled for the month of March.

Chag Purim Sameach!

Jennifer Strauss-Klein, Cantor
FROM THE PRESIDENT

I am writing this month about an important issue in our congregation and indeed across all of North America and perhaps the world: when and how to clap during the singing of Mi Chamocha. When you are at services and we begin to sing Mi Chamocha do you wonder should I only clap during the refrain? Should I clap during the whole song? Should I clap on the beat or off it (I can’t do that) What would Rashi clap and what is bothering Rashi anyway?

We can go to our sources for some enlightenment on this question. In Psalm 47:2 we are told “All you peoples, clap your hands, raise a joyous shout for God.” Even inanimate objects clap as in Psalm 98:8-9 “Let the rivers clap their hands, the mountains sing joyously together at the presence of the Lord…” and Isaiah 55:12 “Yea, you shall leave in joy and be led home secure. Before you, mount and hill shall shout aloud, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands”. However, don’t get too excited because clapping can be negative too as in Job 27.23 when talking about a storm “It claps its hands at him and whistles at him from its place.”

Clapping is thought to be our earliest musical instrument. Clapping and the playing of musical instruments was prohibited on Shabbat, mostly because one might be tempted to make or repair a musical instrument. However, the rabbis have mostly ignored this prohibition because most of us no longer make musical instruments. I guess they weren’t thinking about beat boxing. Clapping has become a recognized acceptable Shabbat practice as it reflects our joy on Shabbat (Swimming in the Sea of the Talmud-Lessons for Everyday Living by Rabbis Michael Katz and Gershon Schwartz). Maimonides suggested clapping in a different way on Shabbat and holidays-like back of hand to front- to mark the difference in the day.

Clapping has positive effects. Babies clap instinctively when responding to positive stimuli. Hand clapping while singing improves motor and cognitive skills in children. Clapping may induce endorphins in the brain and is helpful in working with autistic people and burn victims.

Lets look at clapping with the Mussar lens. Am I clapping too loudly—taking up more than my clapping space? Do I honor the person next to me who isn’t clapping on the beat? Am I jealous of the really good clapper? Check out youtube for Kent “Toast” French, the world’s fastest clapper per at 721 claps/minute.

So you can see that clapping during Mi Chamocha is a huge issue. My recommendation is to come to services, join joyfully in the singing AND clapping, and not worry too much about it. My wishes to you for a Chag sameach, a Happy Purim. ;-).

Betsy Rest, President

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Mount Zion Temple
Board of Directors

As we find many ways to strengthen connections at Mount Zion, this column is a way to get to know members of Mount Zion’s Board of Directors. Our nominations process for the Board is very open and involves many people. Therefore our Board is as diverse and representative as can be. We are grateful for all who serve in leadership and volunteer their talents for our community. We are blessed that Batya Spector volunteered to write these vignettes.

Glenn Hardin

Glenn Hardin asks these questions of himself as a Mount Zion Temple congregant and Board member: “How can I serve? How can I help?” He asks them because he wants our congregation to be as welcoming to all as Midrash says Abraham was with his ‘four-sided open tent’ of hospitality; Glenn reflected that Abraham never first asked, ‘Who are these people? Are they one of us?’ Following this principle, Glenn agreed to serve on a Board-directed task force seeking a vision for greater inclusion of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT) congregants and their families. Glenn values Board discussions on its obligation to balance creatively what he calls the “financial, cultural and religious perils” of synagogue life. He participates in Torah Tones when his schedule allows and loves chanting and hearing service prayers in Hebrew because, he explained, “Hebrew words carry many meanings and the ancient Hebrew prayers connect us to a communal memory, to people who chanted them over 2000 years ago when they were first developed”.

In 1989 Glenn came to Minnesota from California to work at the state crime lab. He now teaches forensic science at Hamline University and is a consulting forensic toxicologist. Glenn, his wife Allyson Perling and children Jasper and Netta live in St. Paul; they joined Mount Zion in 2008.

Steve Levin

Love of Jewish music and Torah study motivated Steve Levin to join a congregation in Brooklyn, NY, where he, his wife Rita Stollman Levin, and daughter Elena lived before moving to St. Paul in 2003. These were also the reasons he joined Mount Zion Temple the same year. Steve initially served on the Board of Directors 2004-2009 including positions on the Executive Committee. He rejoined the Board in 2011 and is Membership Committee chair and a congregational Vice President.

Over the years, Steve applied his management skills, honed while working in corporate and academic organizations, to his congregational roles. Mount Zion Temple’s ongoing fall ‘Open House’ for potential members and monthly ‘Food For Thought’ program are two community engagement efforts he initiated; they continue with other lay leaders. Currently Steve is helping our Administrative staff adapt the synagogue’s technology to strengthen further members’ congregational connections or in Steve’s words, “to know and be known”. Steve attends weekly Torah studies, Mussar class, and sings in Torah Tones. He is also a Jewish Family Services’ Board member.

Steve, a retired C.I.O., is fulfilling a management consulting contract for the University of Minnesota’s technology division. Rita teaches high school social studies in St. Paul, and Elena is a St. Catherine’s University student.

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Co-Sponsor an Oneg Shabbat

Sponsoring an Oneg Shabbat after Friday evening services is a lovely way to honor or remember a loved one or to celebrate an upcoming simcha. When you sponsor an Oneg Shabbat you help our community connect in the way that is part of our Mount Zion culture. For more details contact Larry Solomon at lsolomon@mzion.org or 651-698-3881.

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Food for Thought
Learn and Nosh before Shabbat Services

Friday, March 20
5:45 - 6:15 p.m. Gathering and a Light Nosh
6:15 - 7:15 p.m. Food for Thought Discussion
Discussion over wine, juice, and light appetizers. Child care available.

Climate Change in the Ancient World:
Was it Good for the Jews?
Guest Speaker: Bernard Bachrach

Bernard Bachrach, a member of Mount Zion, is Professor of History at the University of Minnesota where he teaches and writes about medieval history. His books include “Jews of Barbarian Europe.” He is a prolific author and the recipient of several teaching and research awards.

Library News

The Oral History Project

As we move farther away in time from Mount Zion’s sesquicentennial celebration, it is important to remember that one of the congregation’s most important projects in its history – The Oral History Project – was initiated in anticipation of Mount Zion’s 150th anniversary. Co-chaired by Batya Spector and Mary Ann Wark, the committee for the project also included Sandy Abramson, Jennie Franklin, Siana Goodwin, Nancy Mason Hauser, Henry Lippman, Sue Lund, Lindsay Nauen, Connie Ross, Ellen Sampson, and Steve Silverman.

116 people were interviewed from 2002 through 2007 including former rabbis, congregational presidents, board members, Holocaust survivors, and many other members. Their collective memory spans the twentieth century, and into the twenty-first, initially recorded on videocassette, then on DVD. Nancy Mason Hauser has been transcribing the interviews for several years now. To date, 48 volumes have been transcribed and are in the white looseleaf notebooks on display in the library, along with member family histories, and 12 volumes of events photographed by Sue Lund. Because these are irreplaceable, all are Reference materials which cannot be checked out. Still – it is definitely worth your while to come by and open up any transcript and read these fascinating and compelling personal histories, memories, and events in Mount Zion’s history as recalled by your fellow members.

Bob Epstein, Librarian (librarian@mzion.org)

Implications of the Holocaust for Multireligious Conversations
Luncheon program featuring Victoria Barnett
Wednesday, April 22, 11:45 a.m at Mount Zion
Cost: $12 (includes buffet lunch with vegetarian options)

As the event of the Holocaust recedes further into human history, popular and academic understandings of its implications have grown broader. Today, the history of the Holocaust is often taught comparatively in courses on human rights, ethics, and contemporary genocide. And as we become increasingly aware of the multireligious nature of our world, interfaith conversations focus on the commonalities and tensions between and among people of various religions, not just Judaism and Christianity. How can recent scholarship about the Holocaust inform these newer conversations, and how in turn have these developments shaped the field of Holocaust studies? How can the Holocaust be understood in its historical particularities as well as in terms of more universal questions? Victoria Barnett will discuss these developments and how they are being addressed in the field of Holocaust studies and in interreligious circles.

Victoria Barnett, Ph.D., is Director of Programs on Ethics, Religion, and the Holocaust at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. She earned a doctorate in religion and conflict at George Mason University, where she studied at the Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution. She has written numerous articles and book chapters on the role of religious leaders and institutions during the Holocaust, and is currently working on a book about the role of international interfaith and ecumenical leaders during that period.

Details and registration: stthomas.edu/jpc/programs/public-events

Sponsored by the Jay Phillips Center for Interfaith Learning in collaboration with Mount Zion Temple, the Center for Jewish Studies at the University of Minnesota, and the Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies at the University of Minnesota and co-sponsored by the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, with the generous support of the Hoppberger Family Foundation.

This was [Hillel’s] motto:

“...[D]on't say, ‘When I have leisure, I will study.' Perhaps you never will have that leisure!”

- Pirke Avot (Ethics of our Ancestors) 2:4
PURIM at Mount Zion:
The Best Jewish Holiday for All Ages!
Purim commemorates the story of Esther, who rescued the Jews of ancient Persia (now Iran) from persecution. Traditions include dressing in costume and eating hamantaschen (triangular stuffed pastries). It is our Spring time (!) chance for some fun!

Megillah on the Roof
The story of Esther in a Fiddler spoof! An all-star congregant cast! All choirs and children participating. Directed by Peter Bloch.

Wednesday, March 4
For all ages!
5:00 p.m. - Shushan Deli, $7 Adults, $4 Kids
Are you hungrier than Haman? Find out at the Shushan Deli. Feed your stomach and stimulate your brain.
6:00 p.m. - Brief Service, Megillah Reading, and Megillah on the Roof Production

Purim Carnival
Sunday, March 8
10:30 a.m. – Brief Service Shpiel!
11 a.m.-1 p.m. – Purim Carnival – Open to Everyone! Invite your Friends!
Purim is right around the corner! We need YOUR help to make the carnival a success!

Booth Sponsorship: You can sponsor all or part of an inflatable, game, food, and more. Volunteers: We’re looking for lots of help to run all the fun activities, as well as set-up and clean-up volunteers! Choose the booth and time that works best for you. To sign up, go to mzion.nirsham.com or the bulletin board by the alley door.
Questions? Contact Ana Apter at aapter@mzion.org.
Mount Zion Safety Task Force
Interim Report

By Susan Robiner, Co-Chair, Safety Task Force

Last fall, the Religious School committee identified a need to take a hard look at our building and school’s security. From that initial interest, a Task Force was approved and that Task Force has been in place for approximately a year. It is led by Andrew Greenseid and Susan Robiner with Task Force members Penny Druker, Ian Ellis, David Knapp, Jon Strauss, and staff members Ana Apter and Larry Solomon. In its initial meetings, the Task Force focused on defining its scope and goals, ultimately concluding that it should first focus on evacuation, sheltering in place/lockdown and medical emergencies as its safety priorities and further that this work should be oriented toward three key populations: the Religious School; attendees at our religious services; and those attending meetings or activities in the Temple.

The Task Force is gathering best practices information from other local temples and places of worship, and from broader Jewish resources such as the federation and the URJ. A Task Force member also attended an excellent conference entitled “Worship Without Worry” and the Task Force is using those conference materials in its work. The Task Force, through its staff members, has prepared a draft evacuation plan for the Religious School which has been reviewed by the St. Paul police community relations department. The Task Force also arranged for the St. Paul police to tour the building to provide security recommendations. The tour took place recently and the Task Force will review the written recommendations. The Task Force is sensitive to the need to balance its concerns with the Temple’s mission to be an open, welcoming community.

Clergy Visits

Our clergy would like to visit or call you if you are ill or homebound. To be sure we visit all of our members in need, please call us at 651-698-3881 and let us know the name of the person who needs a visit and all available information such as location (home or specific hospital or nursing home) and phone.

Thanks for helping us make connections!

Mount Zion’s Calendar is ONLINE!

All Worship Service times see page 3. Full Mount Zion calendar is available at www.mzion.org.

In 2014 Neighborhood House provided over 1,000,000 lbs in food

The Wellstone Center Food Shelf
• Serves over 2500 lbs of food daily to over 10,000 families each year.
• One of the largest and most multicultural food shelves in the area.
• One-half of those served are children.

The Francis Basket Food Shelf
• The only food shelf in Highland Park.
• Close to 1 in 10 Highland residents live at or below the poverty level.
• Provides 11,000 lbs of food monthly to 2,200 families annually.

$50 = 185 meals
That equals nourishing a family of 4 with lunch and dinner each day for a week.

How you can help:
1. Give online: mzion.nirsham.com/form/donation. Your dollar can be stretched 3X further with the bulk purchasing power of Neighborhood House.
2. Drop off food donations at the Mount Zion Mitzvah Food Shelf Project table. A complete list of needed items can be found at the food donation table located in the main lobby.

Questions? Contact Jennifer Wall at 651-341-9467 or jwalleditor@hotmail.com

Powerful Tools for Caregivers

Thursdays, March 12 - April 16, 9:30 a.m. to noon.
at Jewish Family Service of St. Paul (1633 W. 7th St.)

This program helps family caregivers reduce stress, improve self-confidence, communicate feelings better, balance their lives, increase their ability to make tough decisions and locate helpful resources.

Classes consist of six sessions held once a week. Two experienced Class Leaders conduct the series. Interactive lessons, discussions and brainstorming will help caregivers take the “tools” they choose and put them into action for their lives!

Cost: $40. Participants will receive The Caregiver Helpbook, a book developed specifically for the class. Scholarships are available.

For more information or to register contact Chris Rosenthal at 651-690-8920 or crosenthal@jfssp.org.
Festival Morning Services

Both the 1st and 7th days of Passover are full holy days. The intermediate days are “regular festival days” and do not have a special service.

1st Day Festival Service
The Voice of Turtledove is Heard
Saturday, April 4, 10:00 a.m.
During the service, led by Rabbi Adler and Cantor Strauss-Klein, we will hear Shir Hashirim, the Song of Songs, along with songs inspired by this beautiful text sung by the Torah Tones, our adult choir. A Shabbat Passover potluck lunch will follow the service.

7th Day Festival Service (including Yizkor Prayers)
Friday, April 10, 10:00 a.m.
New this year! This service will be held at Sholom Home East, 740 Kay Ave., St. Paul.
Rabbi Spilker and Cantor Strauss-Klein will lead a Festival service for Mount Zion at Sholom Home East. All are welcome to attend.
The 7th day of Pesach features the commemoration of crossing the Red Sea which is the Torah portion that will be chanted.

Why is this night different from all other nights?
What makes it special, one could argue, is not the matzah or the Haggadah, but the fact that the family spends the evening at the table together, eating and talking. No one calls to say “I’ll be late, start without me.” Nobody leaves early for a meeting, a game, a favorite TV show. And the result is, what we do on all other nights of the year is forgettable, but the Seder leaves us with warm and precious memories.

New This Year!
Mount Zion’s Congregational Passover Seder
Friday, April 3, 6:00 p.m.
Join us in a communal celebration of Passover led by our President, Betsy Rest. A sumptuous Passover feast will be served!

Menu:
Popovers
Matzo Ball Soup (individually served)
Apricot Chicken
Potato Kugel
Roasted Vegetables
Flourless Chocolate Torte (individually served)

Register online at mzion.nirsham.com
Prices: Adults $18; Children (13 and under) $4 by Friday, March 20. (After March 26, Adults $25; Children $8)

For excellent resources on Passover and all other Jewish learning, go to: myjewishlearning.com
THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS

RABBIS’ DISCRETIONARY FUND
In memory of:
Dr. Anne Kapp Hyman
Karmit & Charlie Bullman
Reece Holland Lusich
Jules & Janice Goldstein
Muriel Weinstein
Randy & Lori Weinstein
In honor of the birth of
Oscar Elon Izaakson
Woodsy Smith & Lena
Izaakson
Joshua Chain Vital
Victor Vital
In yahrzeit memory of:
Archie Gingold
Carla Gingold Feldhamer
Ben Marz
Bette Marz
In honor of Rabbi Adler’s appointment to the Neighborhood House Board of Directors:
Carol & Sandy Weisberg
Donations:
Marc & Maya Raffe

CANTORS’ DISCRETIONARY FUND
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Reece Holland Lusich
Jules & Janice Goldstein
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Mike, z”l & Lois Moheban
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In honor of the birthday of:
Jerry Trostman
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With a speedy recovery to:
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Nancy Mendelsohn & Jay
Horvath
Art Rybeck
Rybeck Seals Family
Joseph Schwartz
Walter Schwartz

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS
From Confrontation to Conversation
Israel Advocacy Conference on February 8, 2015

Over 350 high school, college, and adult community members from 28 college, synagogue, and Jewish institutions participated in a five-hour Israel Conference. Thank you to the 40 Mount Zion volunteers who helped make it all happen! The purpose of the day – the 5th annual JCRC and Mount Zion partnership – was as follows:

Overall Objective: Participants will leave inspired to engage in Israel advocacy on campus and in the community and equipped with tools for success.

Goals:
1. To teach all participants about the challenges that Israel’s supporters face on campus. This conference will focus on what is happening on campuses in Minnesota and how partnerships of campus and community organizations are addressing the challenges.
2. To give students the preliminary advocacy training that is needed to address anti-Israel efforts and anti-Semitism on campus.
3. To give community members the preliminary advocacy training to address anti-Israel efforts and anti-Semitism in the community.
4. To teach the value of conversation over confrontation in Israel advocacy. To provide methods of dialogue which involve honoring the humanity of people with whom you disagree.
5. To show student leaders that the Jewish community supports their efforts to support Israel.
6. To build community across generations and geography.
7. To model the power of building consensus for effective Israel advocacy around the US.

An Israel Book Discussion
Flexigidity
By Josh Gottesman
Monday, March 2, 7:00 p.m.
at Mount Zion

Join us for an engaging conversation about Israeli life through its literature. Even if you cannot read the book in advance, you are welcome. Questions: Contact Charles at CSFodor@aol.com or Jonathan at jkeisenthal@comcast.net.
**LOWER SCHOOL NEWS**

**Save the Dates!**

**March:**

- **Sunday, March 1:** 6th grade Tzitzit Tying Workshop
- **Wednesday, March 4:** Family friendly Purim Service & Shpiel
- **Sunday, March 8:** Daylight Savings Time begins (spring ahead!); Purim Carnival
- **Sunday, March 15:** No School—Spring Break
- **Wednesday, March 18:** No School—Spring Break
- **Sunday, March 22:** Noar Tzion event: Chocolate Seder!
- **Sunday, March 29:** Kindergarten Model Passover Seder

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**2nd Grade Joy of Hebrew**

**Lower School Tu BiSh’vat Seder**

**3rd Grade Shabbaton**

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**CHAI SCHOOL NEWS**

**7th grade In Action!**

**Sunday, March 29**

Save the date and watch your email for more details. See you there!

**Chai School Tu BiSh’vat Seder**

**Sacred Choices Shabbaton**

**Youth Groups**

**Noar Tzion**

(4th-6th grade youth group)

**Chocolate Seder**

**Sunday, February 22, 12:15-3:15 p.m.**

Get ready for Passover with the best seder ever—a CHOCOLATE one! Everything on the seder plate is chocolate, and we drink four cups of...you guessed it—chocolate milk! We’ll eat lunch first, but make sure to save room for this tasty afternoon.

**Water Park of America**

**Saturday, March 14**

Pretend it’s summer as we head to the Water Park of America for an evening of food, water, and fun! Watch your email for registration information.

**SPORTY**

(9th-12th grade youth group)

**A Piece of the Puzzle:**

**Teen Shabbat Dinner & Service**

**Friday, March 27, 7:30 p.m.**

Each of us plays a vital role in our different communities—almost like a puzzle! Join SPORTY for dinner and services as we explore what it means to be a part of a community. The Israeli teen mifgash will be joining us.

**SPORTY Board meetings**

**Meetings are Wednesdays from 7:30-8:30 p.m.**

March 4, 11, 25
A Word from Mount Zion Sisterhood

Recently, Sheri and I (Ruth Garner) attended the WRJ Fried Leadership Conference in Austin, Texas and it was an amazing experience for both of us. We learned a lot from the workshops and feel we are better women and leaders because of it. Sheri and I connected with old friends and made new friends along the way. Because we ladies are a party waiting to happen, we especially loved spending time together. This gave us a chance to think about the next year and what we want to do with the opportunity given to us to lead our wonderful women of Mount Zion.

We agree one of the most moving parts of the weekend was Shabbat Services Friday night and Saturday morning. The district presidents lead services with the help of Julie Silver as our song leader. Can you imagine? She is amazing! She was moved and amazed by 240 women coming together in song and prayer. It was beautiful and the Ruach was tangible in the air. I don’t think either of us will ever forget those services. 240 leaders of WRJ, 240 strong, intelligent, amazing women who love Sisterhood, their congregations and Judaism. 240 women sharing and coming back to their own circles to try and pass on what they learned.

We have come back excited, energized, spirits high but thoughtful and ready to tackle the challenge of being Co-presidents of Mount Zion Sisterhood. We have come back stronger together and are ready to make the “Magic” happen. So please, stop us, talk to us, ask us what we learned, and tell us what your hopes and dreams for Sisterhood are. Tell us what you want from Sisterhood. Tell us how to make the “Magic” happen for you.

Thank You,
Ruth Garner (on behalf of myself and Sheri Frisque)

Brotherhood Co-Presidents

2015 Mensch of the Year Award and Brotherhood participates in Shabbat

At Erev Shabbat services on Friday March 20, please join Brotherhood as we recognize this year’s Mensch award recipient, Shel Finver. See p. 3 for more details.

Brotherhood Bagel Brunch

Sustainability – Creating a Safe, Healthy Home, Workplace, Community and Planet

Sunday, March 29, Brunch: 9:45 a.m., Discussion: 10:30 a.m.

In conjunction with the Yarok (Green) Committee of Mount Zion, we will sponsor environmentalist Terry Gips to talk to us about Sustainability, just in time for Earth Day. Want to know what that is, and how important it is to our society? Come hear Terry and enjoy a complimentary bagel and lox breakfast.

Our monthly board meeting is open to all members, and includes dinner and camaraderie. Please come and bring your ideas, and see what your Brotherhood is up to. We will be nominating board members to serve for the coming year. Our next meeting is at March 24, 6:00 p.m.

Brotherhood Office Elections will be held at the May Board meeting. If you’re interested in serving as a member of our 2015-2016 leadership team or would like to nominate someone, please contact Co-Presidents Richard Newmark or Brian Serle. We need a secretary, and vice presidents of membership and events. Your ideas for future Brotherhood initiatives and programs are also welcome.

Hold the Date: May 29-31 marks our 4th Annual Retreat

This has been our major event of each year, and it continues to grow, indicating the great level of interest our members have in the retreat. This is not just a weekend getaway. Many friendships are strengthened in a rural environment that fosters spirituality, learning, outdoor activities and communication. We are now in the planning stages; our committee needs members who want to be involved in making this another great success for Brotherhood. E-mail bkserle@yahoo.com

B’Shalom
Brian Serle and Richard Newmark, Brotherhood Co-Presidents

Donate Blood at Mount Zion!

Wednesday, April 22 with appointments from 2:30 - 7:30pm.

Donors can sign up online at redcrossblood.org or download the Red Cross Blood app for Apple or Android smartphones. Volunteers are needed to work either 2:15 - 5 p.m. or 5 - 7:30 p.m. shifts. Donations of baked goods and/or fruits or veggies to feed the donors are also needed and appreciated. Questions? Contact Terri Stander at 651-293-1776.
Rosenthal brings 40 years of perspective to JCA

JCA director Vic Rosenthal’s four decades of community organizing and activism began when he was studying for a degree in history at State University of New York (SUNY) Binghamton and attended a talk by Ralph Nader.

“He spoke about the role of students in American society,” Rosenthal recalled. “It was one of those speeches where hundreds of people are listening and it feels like the person is speaking just to you. He gave a call to action and said our world is not going to change unless we organize to change it.”

The next day, Rosenthal joined the New York chapter of PIRG (Public Interest Research Group), a nonprofit that organizes students for social change.

“I haven’t been just an observer since 1975,” he says. Rosenthal’s career led him to VISTA, then senior citizen advocacy and the Minnesota Senior Federation, where he served as director for nine years. He began volunteering with Jewish Community Action (JCA) in 1996, joined the staff two years later and was named director in 2000. He and his wife, Chris, joined Mount Zion Temple last year.

JCA works with congregations and unaffiliated Jews to create alliances with other communities and to build a Jewish voice for social justice in the Twin Cities and the greater Midwest.

Although JCA aligns itself with a number of social issues, Rosenthal said one of the most important challenges right now is for the Jewish community to understand its role in supporting communities of color.

“We know what it is like to be the ‘other,’” he said. “The challenge for most Jews in Minnesota is to recognize the privileges we have.”

A good way to do that is to look for opportunities to have conversations with people who are different from us, in terms of race, religion, socioeconomic status, or world view.

“If we only talk to people who are like us we don’t learn how to engage in healthy dialogue,” Rosenthal said. “We can disagree without being disagreeable.”

Social Action Update

Tzedek = Justice

Rosenthal brings 40 years of perspective to JCA

Keynote speaker Eugene C. Roehlkepartain, Ph.D, Vice President, Research and Development, Search Institute, will present on The Power of Relationships for Kids’ Success: Beyond the Cliché.

The conference is free and open to anyone interested in raising healthy youth, including parents, educators, clergy, youth workers, and professionals. It will feature sessions led by experts on the social and emotional wellness of adolescents, as well as resources for families and professionals. Learn from Join us for expert-led sessions on the social and emotional wellness of adolescence. Registration for the Healthy Youth-Healthy Communities Conference opens in February.

For more information, visit www.jfcsmpls.org or contact Danielle Livon-Bemel, Community Youth Specialist, at 952-542-4865 or dlivonbemel@jfcsmpls.org.

Healthy Youth-Healthy Communities Conference
Sunday, March 15, 12:00 - 5:00 p.m. at Mount Zion

In the Community

URL Olin-Sang-Ruby Union Institute and the WRJ Midwest District present

Mah Jongg & Canasta Weekend
March 20-22

Eat, pray, play, and eat again! For mavens and beginners. Play ‘til you drop, improve your skills, meet other mah jongg and canasta lovers, share a relaxing shabbat, and have a great weekend with friends. Mah jongg and Canasta instruction will be available, and games will be organized by skill level. Fee: $180 per person (in double rooms), or $150 for WRJ members. For more information and to register, go to: osrui.urjcamps.org/yearround/mah_jongg_weekend

Devorah Quilting Kallah
April 15-19

OSRUI has pieced together this fabulous adult program for all levels of quilters. At Devorah we will explore ways to stitch together our creativity, spirituality, Jewish identity, and personal life stories into quilts that wrap us with warmth both physically and emotionally. Limited space available. For more information and to register, go to: osrui.urjcamps.org/yearround/programs/devorah

Mzion.org

Tzedek Committee Meetings in 2015
Mount Zion’s Tzedek Committee meets monthly to address social justice issues in our community. All are welcome. Meetings happen on Mondays from 7:00 - 8:30 in Mount Zion’s library.

March 16
April 20
May 18 NOW on Tuesday, May 19

Contact Michael Kuhne (michael.kuhne@minneapolis.edu) or Donna Koren (donna.koren@state.mn.us) with questions.
Mount Zion Temple
1300 Summit Avenue
Saint Paul, MN  55105
Address Service Requested

Rabbi Adam Stock Spilker
Rabbi Esther Adler
Cantor Jennifer Strauss-Klein
Cantor Rachel Stock Spilker
Larry Solomon, Executive Director
Ana Apter, Interim Religious School Director
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Scholar-in-Residence
Alan Morinis
Sunday, March 1 at Mount Zion

Learn more about Mussar from the expert!

Food for Thought
Friday, March 20, 5:45-7:15 p.m.
Climate Change in the Ancient World:
Was it Good for the Jews?
Guest Speaker: Bernard Bachrach
See page 6 for more details.

Passover
Begins Friday Eve, April 3
See page 8

Purim at Mount Zion
Wednesday, March 4
For all ages!
5:00 p.m. Shushan Deli

Purim Carnival
Sunday, March 8
10:30 a.m.
Brief Service Shpiel
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Purim Carnival
Open to Everyone!
Invite your Friends!
6:00 p.m. Brief Service, Megillah Reading, and Megillah on the Roof Production