



ITON TZIYON

עיתון ציון

Mount Zion Temple Bulletin

Winter | December - February 2023-24 | Kislev-Adar 5784

Vol. 168, No. 2

Tzedek צדק Justice



Last summer, Mount Zion adopted a new vision: **“Our Jewish congregation envisions a community and a world where all people experience Shalom (wholeness and peace), Tzedek (justice), Shayachut (belonging), and Simcha (joy).”** mzion.org/about/vision. Each cover of the four bulletins this year will focus on one of these four aspirations. We focused on Shalom in the Fall. Now we turn to Tzedek, our pursuit of justice that is a core commitment of Judaism.

Photo from last May’s “Yom Maasim Tovim Mitzvah Day at Neighborhood House”, courtesy of Sue Lund Photography

L'Dor VaDor

From Generation to Generation

Mazel Tov To...

Alan Milavetz and Bonnie Resnick on the marriage of their daughter Zoe to Adam Green on September 3.

"The giving of Torah happened at one specific time, but the receiving of Torah happens all the time, in every generation." - Meir Alter, the Gerer Rebbe

We welcome **Alex Beaumont** and **Sebastian Mangiamele** who have completed our conversion program recently and has thus chosen Judaism: **May they go from strength to strength!**

ZICHRONAM LIVRACHA...

May their memories be a blessing

We note with sorrow the passing of our members:

Eunice Gelb

Our condolences to her family.

Elliot Krelitz

Our condolences to his family including his wife Liz Krelitz and children Claire, Mason, and Asher.

Darlene Levenson

Our condolences to her family.

Al Levin

Our condolences to his family, including his his wife Jill Levin and children, Julia, Georgia, Sam, and Isabel.

Stephen Wolf

Our condolences to his family including his wife Barbara Wolf, daughter, Amy (Jason) Kaufman, and granddaughters Mira and Dina Kaufman.

We Extend Condolences to...

Melissa (Nathan) Damro on the death of her mother *Diane Stahl* on October 28.

Maureen (Charles) Davidson on the death of her sister *Margaret McCormick* on October 13.

Brad (Sarah) Elkin on the death of his father *Max Elkin* on Saturday, September 16.

Bob and Rose Krawetz on the death of their son *Anthony Krawetz* on September 21.

Rafail (Yelizaveta Kladnitskaya) Lev on the death of his sister *Eugenia Deutch* on September 19.

Eric (Celita) Levinson on the death of his mother *Gabrielle Levinson* on September 14.

Joe (Shelley) Rothstein on the death of his mother *Olivia Rothstein* on October 18.

Steve Silverman on the death of his brother *Charles M. Silverman* on October 23.

Lisa Von Drasek on the death of her twin brother *Robert Alan Roomberg* on October 2.

Miriam (Dao) Yang on the death of her father *Steven Beugen* on October 12.

Letter from the Rabbi



During these late fall and early winter months we read the book of Genesis. The story of Creation. But right now, it feels we are living instead, the book of destruction. The very beginning, the first week of creation is so beautiful, so full of promise as all the wonderful things come into being. Humanity is born of the earth and of God, and blessed, and then...

We are taught that humans are created in the image of God, but it has never been made clear just what that means. To me it means that we were given ultimate potential, and the power to choose what to do with it. Just as God has the power to create and the power to destroy, so do we.

In a D'var Torah on Genesis, Rabbi Shai Held reflects on the nature of humanity, God, and technological and moral progress.¹ *"Genesis pulls the cord at both ends. On the one hand, the Torah makes a tremendous amount of space for human initiative and achievement. On the other hand, the Torah implies that we should pay careful attention to where this story of ostensible progress ends up. Moral achievements are tenuous and tentative, always subject to setback and reversal. The Bible asks us to embrace complexity, and to reject one-dimensional understandings of human potential."*

And then Held makes a bold statement: *"God is anything but naive, and the Bible does not hold inane ideas about human progress or 'the inherent goodness of humanity.'" The Jewish view is neither that human beings are inherently good nor that we are inherently bad. The Jewish view is that human beings are inherently complicated, pulled in many directions at once, capable of breathtaking kindness as well as horrific cruelty and staggering indifference.*

Jewish thought steers a course between two equally simplistic conceptions of human nature. On the one hand, it refuses to assume that people are so irredeemably sinful that we're incapable of accomplishing anything. But it just as passionately dismisses the fantasy that we are so good-natured at heart that if we just held hands and swayed lovingly, human life would be perfect, and lions and lambs would lie down together."

Held's D'var Torah on B'reishit really speaks to me as I struggle to comprehend what is going on in Israel and Gaza, and how it is being played out on the news and social media. Unlike Held's view of Torah, social media loves simplistic conceptions - It is crystal clear who is right and who is wrong. Who is the oppressor and who is the oppressed. Who is the perpetrator and who is the victim. Who shall live and who shall die...

These days I find myself longing for the old days when there were only three TV stations broadcasting the news; while we surely formed opposing opinions, we were basically working from the same facts. Today the facts I may be getting from CNN or Times of Israel, have almost nothing in common with the facts others are getting from Fox News or Al Jazeera. It is no wonder that the world makes little sense when there is so much information, misinformation, and disinformation accosting us 24/7.

Trying to figure out what is true in all of this is exhausting. I try to live with a "yes, and..." outlook rather than a "yes, but..." approach, and so while I stand firmly and deeply with Israel, I also grieve for the loss of innocent Palestinian lives. While I know with full certainty that Hamas is a terrorist organization and its acts of unspeakable violence are absolutely unjustifiable - full stop - I also know that Israel's hands are not entirely clean. And that breaks my heart.

I find some comfort in Rabbi Held's reminder that this unfathomable complexity is the price of being human. It is the shadow side of the infinite potential we have to create and to heal.

Rabbi Held concludes his D'var Torah with a nechemta - a message of hope: *"Judaism's view is that we are called to be world-builders; God believes in our ability to renew ourselves, and to make real and deep contributions to bringing about a more just, decent, and*

Cont. on p. 6

¹This article draws from my sermon at Mount Zion on October 13, 2023, the first Shabbat following the Hamas massacre. You can read Rabbi Shai Held's D'var Torah [here](#).

Make Shabbat Your Sanctuary

Join for Engaging, Musical, Inspiring Shabbat Services Friday Night

Kabbalat Shabbat Service: 6:30 pm – Join in person or online ([Zoom](#); [Livestream](#); [Facebook](#))

Saturday Morning

Torah Study: 9:00 am - In person or online via [Zoom](#)

Shabbat Shacharit (Morning) Service: 10:00 am – In person or [Livestream](#)

Tot Shabbat: 10:30 am - In person (second Saturday of every month) *Designed for families with children from birth through 6 years old.*

Please see our updated description of Shabbat services at Mount Zion at mzion.org/pray/shabbat.

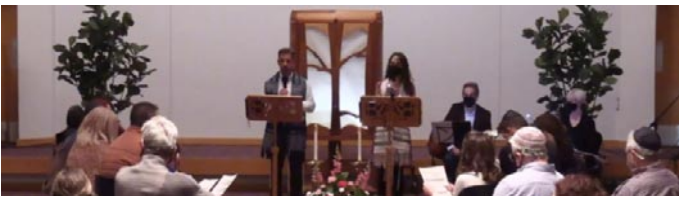
Shabbat for the Soul

Fridays, 6:30 pm on Dec. 8, January 12, Feb. 23, March 15, April 19, May 17

Live from Margolis Hall (livestreaming and zoom)

We move from the formality of the sanctuary to our social hall to create a more intimate service. Our singing is accompanied by violin, guitar, keyboard, and percussion. **The evocative music opens our hearts and awakens our spirits.**

Shabbat is always for the soul, but there is a particularly soulful atmosphere at “Shabbat for the Soul” services. It is a more contemplative worship style with the congregation sitting in the round. We use a single page handout for the prayers. A slower pace enables us to focus on the meditative effect of the music, the potential for deeper awareness and prayer, and the feeling of community.



Shabbat at Home

Don't come to Mount Zion for services on **February 9 and March 9!**

(We will only have a brief service that night)

Invite your friends and fellow congregants to share a Shabbat evening together. You can have a traditional dinner or a casual one, a potluck, or whatever works for you. The goal is to make it a special evening that is shared and meaningful. Please consider including new members, or someone you don't know well. For this Shabbat at Home, we are inviting you to plan a gathering on your own.

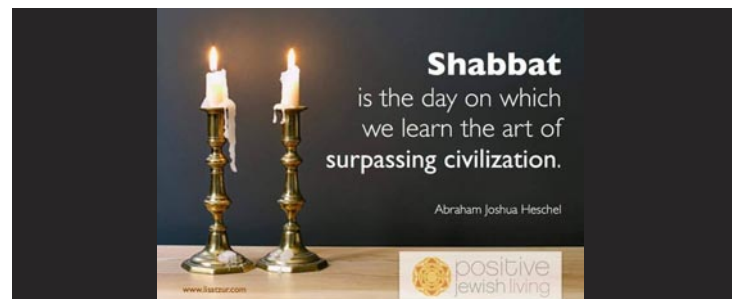
Shabbat at Home has been a beloved annual tradition at Mount Zion. Of course, any Shabbat can be a Shabbat at home, so feel free to enjoy whenever you can.

Need help to prepare for Shabbat at Home? Attend a workshop on January 28. *Details on page 18.*

Hiddur Tefillah

Fridays, 6:30 pm on December 22 and February 16

[Hiddur Mitzvah](#) is the enhancement of a Mitzvah by making it visually beautiful. In our Hiddur Tefillah services, instead of seeing the service in black and white on the pages of a book, our words of prayer are enhanced by beautiful images projected on the wall in Margolis Hall. We take time with the prayers and the music, engaging our senses more fully than usual. We sit in rounded rows, to more fully appreciate the community around us. Our singing is accompanied by violin, guitar, keyboard, and percussion.



Daily Services - on Zoom!

Monday through Thursday at 5:45 pm; Sunday at 9:30 am

The tradition of Daily Services at Mount Zion goes back to the 1950s and has been uninterrupted ever since. Since the pandemic began, a rotation of lay leaders and Rabbis Adler and Spilker lead the brief and meaningful connection. You are welcome to join once or more! An important mitzvah is to participate on the day of a loved one's yahrzeit.

Monday through Thursday: [Join via Zoom](#) or call 929-205-6099 and then enter the meeting ID 727 277 057.

Sundays: [Join via Zoom](#) or meeting ID 545 289 167.



As most of you know, I've been on vocal rest for a little over a month, having had a cold and then overdoing it at the High Holy Days. So many of you have so thoughtfully reached out with messages of support, and for that, and the generous support of my friends and colleagues, I am tremendously grateful! It has not been an easy time for anyone, and it is very difficult to be separated from my

Mount Zion community during a time of such communal tribulation. I once again find myself relying on the *middot* (character traits) of *savlanut* (patience), *bitachon* (trust), and *sh'tikah* (silence). I've leaned on *savlanut* as I know my vocal cords are healing, but not at the rate I wish they would. That's where *bitachon* comes in: I've been told, and I trust, that this will heal in time, and I will be able to return to full capacity. In the meantime, I have learned a lot about *sh'tikah* in these last few weeks. I am generally following the advice of my doctors as well as Rabbi Shimon ben Gamliel in Pirkei Avot 1:17, in which he says "I have found nothing better for a person than silence." I can't say I completely agree—it's hard on a singer not to sing—and fortunately I haven't had to be completely silent, even as I am greatly limited in what I how I can use my voice. But this has caused me to be very mindful of how I do choose to use it, and what is truly worth saying. As a *shlicha tzibur*, a "messenger of the congregation," my voice has so often been prominent, and I hope this experience causes me to become a better listener. I thank all of you for your *savlanut* as I recover, and I look forward—with *bitachon*—to the day when we can lift our voices together again!

Jennifer Strauss-Klein, Cantor

Twin Cities Jewish Community Chorus



As Beth El will celebrate its 100th Anniversary by hosting an interfaith community sing "100 Years, 100 Voices," featuring 9 CHOIRS & 200 SINGERS from around the metro, led by renowned choral director Nick Page. They are

putting together a Twin Cities Jewish Community Chorus comprised of members of all area synagogue choirs, and other members of the Jewish community who love to sing! To sign up, please fill out the form on mzion.org.

For questions, please contact Cantor Ben Tisser at Beth El: btisser@bethelsynagogue.org

Trope Troupe

... the more Torah, the more life. -Hillel

Todah Rabah to our August - November Ba'alei Korei (chanting Torah): Sonia Brunelle, Siana Goodwin, Alli Grams, Harriet Guthertz, Abbey Kanzer, Parker Mason, John Mast, Shelley Robbins, Steve Silverman

Todah Rabah to our Kohelet/Ecclesiastes chanter: Siana Goodwin

To sign up to chant Torah or Haftarah on Shabbat, e-mail Cantor Jennifer Strauss-Klein at jstraussklein@mzion.org.

Clergy and Executive Directors may have come and gone but Julie has been the rock for so many congregants throughout the years.

Honoring Julie Beckman for 36 years of service to Mount Zion.



As Julie retires at the end of December, we want to share our memories with her.

Please write a thank you, a tribute, and/or a memory from the past. These will be collected for a Book of Memories and Tributes to be presented to Julie at a staff luncheon in December.

Please send your words to Mayda Raffe maydaraffe@gmail.com or mail them to Mount Zion. We have extended the deadline to Monday, December 4.

If you would like to make a contribution in honor of Julie, please give to the Caring Community fund.



From the President



These are challenging times, and it is hard to know what to say. I would like to offer wise presidential words about the heinous attack by Hamas, and the ongoing crisis in the Middle East. There has been untold suffering, and our hearts are broken. I read of increased antisemitism worldwide. And it is not letting up. Every thought gives rise to another thought, and it is hard to know what to say.

So for the moment I will turn my attention to updating you on items more local to Mount Zion, knowing that we are in good hands with the wisdom of our clergy and our strength as a community. As I stated during my Rosh Hashanah address, as president I spend my time thinking about the whole of Mount Zion: our community, clergy and staff, budget, and our future. So here is a brief update on some of these items.

First – our building. Many of you have heard mention of “the boiler” and how we need to replace it. Recall that our landmark building, designed by architect Erich Mendelsohn and built in the mid-1950s, is operating with its original heating system. Much like your own home, components need to be updated from time to time, and sometimes replaced altogether. Our building is no different from your home: but it, and the cost of maintaining it, is far, far larger in scale. At a recent board meeting, Ian Ellis and Scott Miller, the co-chairs of our buildings and grounds committee, presented an assessment and prioritization of a maintenance program. Near term (6-12 months) high priority items include a replacement of our HVAC controls, and intermediate term items (12-36 months) include heaters, air handlers and other components. The near-term items are around \$300,000. The longer-term estimates are 3-5 million dollars. Additionally, our roof is compromised, and we are experiencing some leaks: leaks which, like any leaks, can cause damage, and grow if not found and fixed. We are working to understand the extent of these problems and what remediation is needed. We will need to fund these critical repairs too.

As for our clergy, you have likely seen the message from Cantor Strauss-Klein reporting her need to rest her vocal chords. I know that all of you join me in wishing her a complete recovery through vocal rest, which cannot be rushed. If you are like me, you may not

have initially understood that “vocal rest” means complete silence. This would be challenging under any circumstance, even more so with four children at home! So on behalf of the congregation we all extend our thanks to Nick, Henry, Ari, Zelda and Eve for their contributions too. We all pray that we will soon again be able to worship with Cantor Strauss-Klein blessing us with her exquisite gifts. And of course our especial thanks to Cantor Spilker and others for stepping in during this period.

On another front, we have a strong team working on developing an ethics policy for Mount Zion. As I mentioned in a previous bulletin, this does not flow from anything amiss. We are developing this policy at the recommendation of the URJ. The team is led by President-Elect Jon Strauss and includes board member Dick Cohen, along with Tracy Fischman, Steve Warch, Judi Orland, Rabbi Spilker and myself. We expect to share a draft with the congregation this winter to seek your feedback.

On the staffing front, we are delighted to welcome Victoria Loud as Executive Assistant and Terese McCauley as Clergy Assistant. At the same time we are saying farewell to Amy Dolney and Julie Beckman in those roles. We have noted this before but it can't be said enough that Julie's departure from Mount Zion is monumental. She started at Mount Zion when all of our clergy were still students, and before some of our staff were born! Amy and Julie are generously training Victoria and Terese on the many details that make our congregation hum. We appreciate your patience as we bring these staff on board. Of course I must mention that Larry Solomon is being the ultimate mensch in stepping out of retirement while we bridge to a new Executive Director. Varda Nauen is leading that search committee along with committee members Alison Mellin, Eric Rice, Jennifer Schneider, Robert Richman, Ian Ellis, and of course Rabbi Spilker and myself. We are excited about promising candidates.

In sum, there is much in process. And much of it is challenging. I will keep you posted, and we will sort it out. In this week's Torah portion, Parashat Vayishlach, Jacob wrestled with angels during a challenging time, and prevailed. We are doing the same.

Please don't hesitate to reach out with comments or questions.

Warmly,

Amy Schwartz Moore, President

L'Chaim Mount Zion 5784 Annual Campaign Veshinantam Levanecha! Honoring Those Who Teach Our Children!



Join us in expressing our gratitude to Sue Summit and our Religious School Teachers by contributing to the L'Chaim 5784 Annual Campaign. Mount Zion's Religious School has nourished the hearts, minds, and souls of generations of young people, developing strong Jewish identities and fostering active membership in our community. Please [contribute online](#) or by mailing a check to the office.

Thank you to the 142 households who have already participated by making a contribution. This free-will offering in response to gratitude supports our essential work and services as a congregation. Our goal is high participation at any level.

Thank you,
Lija Greenseid, Giving Committee Chair

If you have questions, please contact Finance Manager Janelle Norlien at jnorlien@mzion.org in the Mount Zion office.



MOUNT ZION
L'CHAIM 5784
ANNUAL CAMPAIGN



Rabbi Letter Continued from p. 2

compassionate world. [And] we are all also asked to live with our eyes open, in full view of just how complicated both we and the world are. We can and must improve ourselves; but we cannot perfect ourselves. We can and must improve the world, but we cannot perfect it. That's part of what it means to wait for the messiah rather than pretend that we are the messiah. But waiting for the messiah is not an excuse for fatalism or despair. On the contrary, we wait by working, and building, and dedicating our lives to causes and realities greater than ourselves."

I hope and I pray for an end to this nightmare and a beginning of healing. Until then we can take care of one another in our complexity, in our clarity and our confusion, in our pain and in our hopes. We can pose honest questions to the news and to each other, and listen openly to the many truths around us, while trying to weed out the many falsehoods. We can try to live with our eyes and our hearts open, and believe in our ability to renew ourselves, and make real and deep contributions to bringing about a more just, decent, and compassionate world."

Esther Adler, Rabbi

Staff Updates!

Julie Beckman, who has served 36 years as Mount Zion's Clergy Assistant, will be retiring in December. Amy Dolney, who has been Mount Zion's Executive Assistant for the past two years, will also be leaving in December to stay at home after the birth of her first child. Mount Zion is excited to announce that we have hired a Clergy Assistant and an Executive Assistant who have been able to train under Julie and Amy. We also welcome a Building Services Associate to work with Elias.

Terese McCauley

Clergy Assistant / tmccauley@mzion.org

Terese is a graduate in Gender, Women, and Sexuality studies from University of Minnesota, Morris. She has worked in administration since 2013. In her spare time, she enjoys writing, staring at her cat, and learning about history. She is a Leo.



Victoria Loud

Executive Assistant / office@mzion.org

Victoria is a graduate of Minneapolis College and has a background working in administrative settings, including as the American Indian Success Center Coordinator Assistant while she was at Minneapolis College. In her free time, she likes to watch movies and spend time with her husband. She is excited to start making connections with the community!



Maria Rubio

Building Services Associate / mrubio@mzion.org

Maria has worked with as a member of our Maintenance staff part time over the years, but she officially joined full time in November 2023. Maria loves plants and cooking.



B'nei Mitzvah

Elana Broderius

December 2, 2023

Picture removed online

Elana (Elana Gavriela) is the daughter of Deanna Scher and Allen Broderius. Her grandparents are Steve and Margaret Broderius of Duluth, MN and Amy and Mark Scher of Potomac, MD. She has an

older brother, Isaac. Elana is a 7th grader at Saint Paul Academy. Her favorite subjects are English, social studies, and math. She loves performing in plays and musicals and also enjoys playing softball. This is her first year working in Mount Zion's Madrichim program in the pre-K/kindergarten class. In honor of her Bat Mitzvah, Elana will donate a portion of her gift money to the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy because she feels passionate about combating climate change.

Gabriel Hellwig

December 9, 2023

Picture removed online

Gabriel (Hobbes) Hellwig is the son of Annette (Thaddeus) Lerew-Zimanski and Travis (Jamae z"l) Hellwig. He has an older brother Cole Zimanski, a younger sister Michal Lerew-Zimanski, and two

younger brothers Caelum and Vincent Hellwig. Gabriel is a 7th grader at Chippewa Middle School and his favorite subject is history. He also plays cello in the school orchestra and takes piano lessons. He is a Boy Scout and recently completed the Ner Tamid religious award as he prepared for his bar mitzvah. In his free time he enjoys reading, Legos, and racecars. Gabriel will be donating a portion of his gift money to the Children's Home Society of South Dakota.

A Weekend of Light:

intergenerational worship, joy, and learning with our Musician-in-Residence

Eliana Light!

December 1-3

Full Schedule at mzion.org.

Eliana Light envisions a joyful, vibrant, heart-centered Judaism that speaks to the soul and moves the spirit, reminding us that we all are One. Eliana believes in the power of t'fillah to change our lives, communities, and world, and is the founder of the Light Lab, whose mission is to make Jewish liturgy and prayer practice accessible and meaningful to all seekers. To learn more about Eliana and hear samples of her music, go to: www.ElianaLight.com!



Plan Ahead: Cemetery Plot Cost is Going Up!

Thinking of buying cemetery plots? NOW is the time! Individual plot cost will be going up \$500 of July 1, 2024. You can save \$1,000 on two plots if you buy before July 1. Contact Larry on Isolomon@mzion.org to arrange a meeting.





Poland - June 2-10, 2024

History, Heritage, and Hope

With Rabbi Esther Adler & Co-hosts Phil and Renae Goldman

For 1000 years, Poland was the heartland of European Jewish life and culture. Rabbinic Judaism, Yiddish and Hebrew literature, secular Jewish political parties, and other forms of a vital, diverse Jewish culture flourished in Poland until the Holocaust, when it became a central part of one of the most devastating moments of our history.

With experienced educator guides we will explore rich Jewish legacy, Holocaust sites, and Poland's Jewish cultural resurgence. There will be time to reflect on our experiences, meet locals, and enjoy food and music.

Highlights include:

Warsaw

- [Polin Museum](#) of the History of Polish Jewry
- [Warsaw Ghetto Path of Remembrance](#)
- [Treblinka](#)
- [Forum for Dialogue](#)
- [Nozyk Synagogue](#) - Still standing after the Shoah
- [Tykocin](#): The world of the shtetl
- [Ringelblum Archives](#) and Jewish Genealogy Center
- Free time in Warsaw "[Paris of the North](#)"

Krakow

- [Auschwitz/Birkenau](#)
- [Kazimierz Jewish Quarter](#)
- [Altshul Synagogue](#) and [Tempel Synagogue](#)
- [Ghetto Heroes Square, Empty Chairs Monument](#)
- [Oskar Schindler Museum](#)
- [Krakow Market Square](#), a UNESCO World Heritage Site
- [Galicia Museum](#) with live Klezmer music
- Shabbat Dinner with the local community.

Estimated cost: Cost per person with 20 participants (land only): In a double room: \$4350 per person, in single room \$4980. If there are 30 participants, costs will go down.

Contact: [Rabbi Esther Adler](#)

Contact [Phil Goldman](#) for Genealogy resources.

First Friday Family Shabbat Dinner

Food, Friends, Family: Shabbat!

Next Dinner: Friday, February 2 - Register by Jan 29!
(December 1 registration closed on Nov. 27).

- Meet and Greet at 5:15 pm
- Blessings and Dinner at 5:30 pm
- Services at 6:30 pm

Drop-in childcare available on a first-come first-served, based on capacity and staffing.

Members: \$25 for a household; individuals are \$10 each.

Non-members: \$36 for a household; individuals are \$12 each.

B'ruchim HaBa'im

Welcome to our new members!

Barb Amram

Fritz Bimberg

Audrey Cohen

Sarah Davini and her children Freddie and Bonnie

Eric Smith and Joyce Denn

Katya and Eugene Glozman,

and their children Naomi and Natan

Abby Gold and her daughter Emma Swenson

Aimee Gonzalez-Cameron

Heather and Oliver Hennig and their daughter Josie

Cynthia Jacobs

Alla and Ryan Kelly and their children Jack and Benji

Rossi Mangiamele and Connie Rose-Mangiamele

Sam Nolley and Maureen O'Brien

and their children Cece and Viv

Elizabeth and Ben Rosenstein

Jennifer and Patrick Rosenstiel

and their children Ainsley, Caden, and Berit

Adam Turner and Hosu Klessig

and their children Elliot and Evie

Laurie Wohl and Stephen Shulhofer

MZ New Member Informal

Q & A with Rabbi Spilker

The Unspoken Customs, Esoteric Rituals, and Secret Rooms of Mount Zion

Sunday, February 4, 10:30-11:45 am

For new members but open to all interested.

- Mount Zion's culture and customs – (ie, why do we do it "that" way?)
- History of Jews in St. Paul starting from when it was called "Pig's Eye."
- Includes optional tour of the building replete with brief stories.

Israel - March 25-April 3, 2024

A St. Paul Jewish Federation Trip

Led by clergy from Beth Jacob, Mount Zion, Temple of Aaron including Rabbi Adam Stock Spilker. [Details](#)

Israel - June 16-25, 2025

For individuals, couples, and families – Meant as a first-timer trip. Led by Tour Guide Uri Feinberg with Rabbi Adam Stock Spilker and Cantor Jennifer Strauss-Klein. [Details](#)

Germany / France - October 26 - November 2, 2025

Led by Tour Guide Mike Hollander with Cantor Rachel and Rabbi Adam Stock Spilker [Details](#)



First Night of Chanukah: Thursday, December 7 / 25 Kislev

Questions about Chanukah? Go to: mzion.org and myjewishlearning.com

Chanukah Shabbat Extravaganza

Friday, December 8 - **For Everyone!**

5:45-6:30 pm - Join the Mount Zion community on the ZaiKaner-Perwien Terrace (weather-permitting) to light our giant Chanukah, eat Chanukah appetizers, and sing songs outside before we enter the sanctuary for Shabbat.

6:30 pm Shabbat for the Soul Chanukah Service - Enjoy a festive, musical service and the...



Chanukah Challenge!

We challenge children and all interested adults to come up with the cleverest, wildest, wackiest, lightest-up-the-nightest, Chanukah menorah for our Chanukah Challenge. Use any material you want. Make it large or small. It doesn't have to work, but it must look like a Chanukah. Adults may help! **All entries may be brought with you to Shabbat Services on Friday, December 8. Please create a sign that includes your name and the name of your Chanukah!** (Examples: CeeDees Chanukah Lights! (made of CDs); Sew many candles, sew little time... (made of thread spindles); Happy ChanIKEA! (made of many parts!). Every entry receives a prize and a certificate! Show us what you can do and enter the Chanukah Challenge 5784.

Celebrate Chanukah at Religious School!

Sunday, December 10

Lower School Chanukah Chooplah - Lower School students will spend the morning at Religious School celebrating Chanukah together! Activities may include dreidel competition, sufganiyot tasting and of course a visit from Zlateh the Goat!

Honor Teachers for the 3rd Day of Chanukah - On this 3rd Day of Chanukah, join us in expressing our gratitude to Sue Summit and our Religious School Teachers by contributing to the [L'Chaim 5784 Annual Campaign](#). Mount Zion's Religious School has nourished the hearts, minds, and souls of generations of young people, developing strong Jewish identities and fostering active membership in our community. We are grateful to our wonderful educators who are supporting our children during these challenging times. Help us reach our goal of 280 households. All gifts, regardless of size, make a difference! [Contribute Now](#)



Wednesday, December 13

Chanukah with Chai School

Yedidya Yasu, our community Shaliach will be joining Chai School students for a special Chanukah program. We will light the Chanukah, sing songs and enjoy a delicious treat together.

Religious School News

Religious School Calendar Highlights

- December 10: Lower School Chanukah Celebrations
- December 15-16: 5th Grade Shabbaton
- December 24 – January 6: No Religious School for Winter Break
- January 7: Lower School Returns
- January 10: Chai School Returns
- January 14: No Religious School for MLK Day
- February 4: JDAIM @School
- February 18: No Religious School for Presidents' Day
- March 24: Purim Carnival
- March 27-31: No Religious School for Spring Break

Lower School Chanukah Chooplah

Sunday December 10

Lower School students will spend the morning at Religious School celebrating Chanukah together! Activities may include dreidel competition, sufganiyot tasting and of course a visit from Zlateh the Goat!



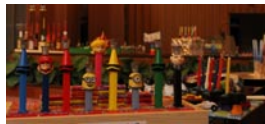
Chanukah with Chai School

Wednesday December 13

Yedidya Yasu, our community Shaliach will be joining Chai School students for a special Chanukah program. We will light the Chanukiah, sing songs and enjoy a delicious treat together.

Chanukiah Making Contest!

Everyone is invited to DIY your very own Chanukiah to bring to our congregational Chanukah celebration on Friday December 8 where we will be having a Chanukiah competition! Your Chanukiah can be made out of any materials you want and does not need to be functional, the more creative the better! We can't wait to see what you all make! **All entries may be brought with you on to Shabbat Services on Friday, December 8. Please create a sign that includes your name and the name of you Chanukiah!**



Resources for Talking with Kids about Israel

- [How To Talk to Children About Israel Today](#) The Jewish Educator Portal (jewishedproject.org) - Webinar
- [Resources for Talking about Israel with Children with Cognitive Disabilities](#) (substack.com) - All Ages
- [Helping Youth After Community Trauma For Educators](#) (jewishedproject.org) - All Ages
- [What To Tell Kids When The News Is Scary](#) - NPR Podcast for Parents of kids grades K-7
- [Walking the Tightrope: Talking About the Current Situation in Israel with Children](#) (jewishjournal.com) - All Ages
- [How to Talk to Kids About What's Happening in Israel Right Now](#) – Kveller - All Ages

These links are live in the online bulletin at mzion.org.

Save the dates for

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!



Saturday, March 23

- 5:30 - 6:30 pm. Adult text study
- 6:00 pm - Shushan Deli
- 7:00 pm - Brief Service, Megillah Reading, and spiel

Sunday, March 24

- 10:00 am – Purim Service/spiel & Megillah Reading
- 11:15 am-1 pm – Purim Carnival – Open to Everyone!

Neighborhood House March Food Drive



February 26 - April 6

Funds raised during the March Food Drive will be matched by Minnesota Foodshare. Details to come!

Youth Engagement News

Our three youth groups, Noar Tzion (3rd-5th grade), JYG (6th-8th grade) and SPORTY (9th-12th grade) have had fun kick-off events in the fall and have so many exciting events in the winter and spring! Keep an eye out for registration information and more details. SPORTY Board, our 9th-12th grade leaders, sell pizza and snacks at Grover's Grub in Margolis Hall every Wednesday, 5:30-6pm before Religious School; come get some pizza and hang out with us before class! Reach out to Abby agore@mzion.org with any questions.



Noar Tzion (3rd-5th grade)

- Sunday, Dec 10, 12:15-2pm – Pizza and Painting: Join to make your own pizza and do a fun art project
- Sunday, Feb 4, 12:15-2 – Macaroni and Magic: Join for an awesome magic show and have yummy pasta

JYG (6th-8th grade)

- Sunday, Dec 10, 12:15-2pm – Pizza and Painting: Join to make your own pizza and do a fun art project

SPORTY (9th-12th grade)

- Friday-Saturday, Jan 5-6 – Lock-In! Spend the night at Mount Zion! We will celebrate Shabbat with the congregation, play games, and engage in well-loved lock-in traditions!

OUR HEARTS ARE WITH ISRAEL

It is an absolute moral imperative to condemn without equivocation the massacre that took place on October 7th. And it is a moral imperative to attend to the extraordinary suffering that Palestinians in Gaza are now undergoing, and that the two are not exclusive of one another.

- David Meyer, UCLA

Our Old Sign



This sign was put up on our lawn in 2006. Following the 2nd Lebanon War and in the shadow of the 2nd intifada, many synagogues were putting up signs that said, "We Stand with Israel." After a process of congregational input, we decided to post a sign with the additional message: "We Pray for Peace in the Middle East." We felt the two messages were in dialectical conversation. We didn't have a process to determine how long the sign would stand. In the summer of 2021, about 100 congregants engaged in one or more classes and conversations facilitated by [Resetting the Table](#) to consider next steps.

Our New Sign



After congregational input including two Town Hall meetings, the Board voted in Spring of 2022 to approve the current sign which also welcomes all to Mount Zion. The Torah text is still in dialogue with Israel. The full text of Deuteronomy 16:20: "Justice, justice shall you pursue, that you may thrive and occupy the land that Adonai your God is giving you!"

During the process, congregants advocated for different messages. We share a couple here to reflect some of the diversity of views in our community and invite you to engage in dialogue with each other.

- **We Pray for Justice and Peace for Israelis and Palestinians**
- **We Stand with Israel, the Eternal and Democratic Nation of the Jewish People**

During this challenging moment during the Israel-Hamas War, please take time to be informed, to listen to others, to stay in relationship with friends, congregants, and co-workers who see the situation differently, and to not hold anyone to the first thing that they say. And take care of yourself.



The Jewish Community Relations Council of Minnesota and the Dakotas
and Mount Zion Temple present:



Antisemitism

What is it? Why now? What now?

A Series in February and March 2024

(Updated considering current events)

Sundays, 10:00-11:30 am

In Person at Mount Zion (1300 Summit Ave, St. Paul) and via Zoom

Co-Sponsored by Hineni, St. Paul Jewish Federation, Jewish Community Action, Beth Jacob, and Temple of Aaron

“Antisemitism can be defined as the marginalization and oppression of people who are Jewish or are perceived to be Jewish based on the belief in stereotypes and myths about Jewish people, Judaism, and Israel. Parallel to all systems of oppression, antisemitism manifests as the dehumanization or exploitation of, or discrimination or violence against, Jewish people based on stereotypes and disinformation.”

– Anti-Defamation League and Union for Reform Judaism joint curriculum on antisemitism (2021)

February 11: **A Persian-Jewish Perspective on Antisemitism** – Rabbi Tarlan Rabizadeh

Rabbi Rabizadeh is American Jewish University’s VP for Jewish Engagement. As a Persian Jew in an overwhelmingly Ashkenazi community, Rabbi Rabizadeh has made it her mission to bridge the gap between the communities, encouraging learning from other traditions and cultures. a bachelor’s degree in political science from Boston University and ordained at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion.



March 3: **Antisemitism and Anti-Zionism**

This session takes as a given that critique of Israel’s government is kosher. The question is when does critique of Israel cross the line into antisemitism? There is also the question of what do we mean by Zionism and Anti-Zionism? Many people have tried to find language to define these categories. We will invite three speakers who represent three public definitions of antisemitism (IHRA, Nexus, Jerusalem) — two of which were adopted recently by the White House’s National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism — to help us talk about the relationship between views about the nation-state of Israel and/or its government and antisemitism.

March 10: **How to be an Upstander:**

Responding to Antisemitism Individually and Collectively

This morning will include two tracks, one for adults and another for teens and young adults and their parents/guardians.

Also on **Friday, Shabbat March 15 (6:30 pm)**, Rabbi Spilker will deliver a sermon on **Purim Antisemitism vs Chanukah Antisemitism**.

Envisioning our Future – Kivvun La’Atid: Mount Zion 2040



As we shared in the Fall Bulletin, the Kivvun La’Atid Implementation Team (KILT), charged with putting in motion the newly adopted vision and strategic path (*derech*), is in the very early stages of its work, having met twice. The team and their areas of responsibility include

- Tracy Fischman (Invest in Leaders and Strengthen Management)
- Sarah Weinman (Deepen Jewish Living and Learning)
- Shai Avny (Engagement and Belonging 2.0)
- Michael Kuhne (Repairing the World - Protect People and the Planet)

Rabbi Spilker, Robert Garfinkle, and President Amy Schwartz Moore are also part of the team. If you are interested in learning more about this work, feel free to contact team members. Also, there will be many opportunities in the future for congregational members to provide their input, talents, and skills as we work together to build the next exciting iteration of Mount Zion.

President-Elect Jon Strauss (Chair)

VISION

Our Jewish congregation envisions a community and a world where all people experience *Shalom* (wholeness and peace), *Tzedek* (justice), *Shayachut* (belonging), and *Simcha* (joy).

OUR 2040 DERECH (PATH)

As we live out our mission, this is the Derech (Path) we will follow toward our vision:

Jewish congregation – We will:

- Inspire Jewish experiences, stories, and practices.
- Learn from Jewish history as we continue to innovate in our *kivvunim* (directions) of *Torah* (thoughtful study), *Shabbat* (soulful rest and uplifting, musical worship), *tzedek* (action that has impact), and *Israel* (intentional engagement with the Jewish people worldwide).

Shalom (Wholeness and Peace) – We will:

- Strive to be a caring, compassionate community grounded in *chesed* (loving-kindness).
- Create an environment where each of us can bring our whole selves and listen to and learn from each other with curiosity and respect.

Winter bulletin focus:

Tzedek (Justice) – We will:

- Engage congregants with diverse experiences and perspectives to learn from Jewish texts and from each other and honor disagreements as is our tradition. This will prepare us to partner with others to take action in the work of *tikkun olam* (healing and repair of the world).
- Be guardians of the Earth, pursue equity, and counter oppression in its many forms.

Shayachut (Belonging) – We will:

- Connect in person *panim el panim* (face to face) and strengthen our online connections.
- Nurture and grow our intergenerational and inclusive community and honor our community members who are not Jewish. Deepen relationships with each other and our clergy and staff.

Simcha (Joy) – We will:

- Focus on gratitude and seek joy even in a time of great upheaval.
- Celebrate life. *L'chaim!*

To read the mission, core work, and four strategic directions go to mzion.org/about/vision.

Our Bodies, Our Souls

27th Annual Jewish Retreat for Women

Now more than ever, it's time to be together.

January 26, 4:00 pm – January 28, 9 am

Reasons to Attend OBOS This Year:

1. **Connect IN PERSON** – Meet and build new friendships with interesting, engaging, creative women from their 20s to their 80s in a fun, casual setting.
2. **Relax** – Enjoy time to unwind, let go, and breathe more deeply as you nestle into a woodland lodge. Maybe even schedule a massage!
3. **Uplift** – Participate in creative services looking out onto a beautiful nature scene. Listen to the voices of 50 women singing together in prayerful services.
4. **Nourish** – Allow the retreat staff to prepare four delicious meals for you. We will do our best to honor specific dietary needs.
5. **Rejuvenate** – You choose how you spend your time: inspiring Shabbat services, interesting workshops, walking in the woods, a Shabbat nap, creative art projects, schmoozing, quiet meditation or getting a massage. This retreat is for YOU!
6. **Learn** – Be inspired by fantastic teachers.
7. **Inspire** – Sing, dance, listen, and enjoy the sounds of women's voices rising together! Led by dynamic and talented songleader Wendy Goldberg, melodies, harmonies, and music weave throughout our retreat.
8. **Affirm** – Enjoy an environment that affirms each person's unique gifts. The positive, friendly atmosphere of the retreat welcomes new participants and helps everyone feel part of the larger community of women at Mount Zion.
9. **Comfort** – The retreat takes place in lovely Stillwater, MN at the peaceful Dunrovin Retreat Center, located on 50 acres along the St. Croix River. You may choose a single or double room. Linens and towels are provided.
10. **Discover** – Come find out what makes this Shabbaton one of the greatest offerings for women of any age at Mount Zion Temple!

OBOS is made possible, in part, by a generous donation from the Women of Mount Zion.

Cost, includes lodging for two nights*, four delicious meals, and all programming:

\$195 – Early-bird for Mount Zion members, now through Friday, December 14.

\$215 – Non-members as well as members registering after December 14.

Finances are not a barrier to participation. [Email](mailto:rspilker@mzion.org) Cantor Spilker for confidential financial assistance (available to members).

Registration priority given to Mount Zion members through December 27.

*In addition to overall cost increases due to inflation, Dunrovin is now requiring our group to have two nights included in all individual registration fees. We encourage you to take advantage of this change by staying both Friday and Saturday nights because it is FUN and the change to the registration amount is minimal.

The Clara Margolis Women's Leadership Fund is offering half-off the Mount Zion registration rate for MZ members in their 20s and 30s who are attending OBOS for the first time. Contact Cantor Spilker rspilker@mzion.org.

[Register at mzion.org](http://mzion.org)

THANK YOU...FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS

RABBIS' DISCRETIONARY FUND

In appreciation of:
Rabbi Adam Stock Spilker
 Gloria & Bill Levin
Rabbi Misha Zinkow
 Jessica Griffith
 Anniversary of:
Karen & Fred Gordon
 Judy & Harvey Arbit
 In honor of:
Linda Fiterman's birthday
 Judy and Harvey Arbit
 In memory of:
Eunice Gelb
 Sue Winthrop
Thomas Hyatt
 Joni Abramson
Elliot Krelitz
 Andy Fein
 Heyman Family
 Hilbink & Gerber Family
 Janet Kampf
 Seth Levin & Mia Nosanow
 Rick Linsk
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 Batya Spector
Al Levin
 Jill Levin & Family
Olivia Rothstein
 Kay Mogelson
Stephen Wolf
 Andy Fein
 In yearzeit memory of:
Benjamin Titow
 Arlene Spilker
 Donations:
 2017 Israel Trip Members

CANTORS' DISCRETIONARY FUND

In appreciation of:
Cantor Jennifer Strauss-Klein
 Kay Mogelson
 In honor of:
Cantor Jill Abramson
 Edward Abramson
 In memory of:
Elliot Krelitz
 Laurie Hadler
 Mayda & Marc Raffé
Al Levin
 Jill Levin & Family
Deryck Smith
 Sarah A Carpenter
Stephen Wolf
 Laurie Hadler
 In yearzeit memory of:
David Burgess
 Gloria & Bill Levin

THE MAXINE APPLEBAUM ART ENHANCEMENT FUND

In memory of:
Terri Nevin
 Sally & Jimmy Beloff
Olivia Rothstein
 Stuart Applebaum & Sally Beloff
 & Family
David Schwartzman
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In yearzeit memory of:
Eva Applebaum
 Beloff Family
Maxine Applebaum
 Stuart Applebaum
 Beloff Family
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BLOOM LIBRARY FUND

In memory of:
Elliot Krelitz
 Ellen Krelitz & Andrea Krelitz
 In yearzeit memory of:
Rose G Rubinstein
 Sally & Mitch Rubinstein

CARING COMMUNITY FUND

In honor of:
Julie Beckman's retirement
 Ed Abramson
 David Geddes
 Bill & Gloria Levin
 Stephen Levin
 Leslie Martin & Fred Haeusler
 Sally & Mitch Rubinstein
 Holly Ross & Gary Steinman
Shelly Robbins' special birthday
 Joni Abramson
 In memory of:
Janice Jacobson
 Neil & Jessica Segal
 In yearzeit memory of:
Yehuda Frankel
 Alexandra Oppenheimer
Bella Glass
 Rozanne Glass

DR. IRWIN AND NETTIE EPSTEIN YOUTH LEADERSHIP TRAINING FUND

In honor of:
The Epstein Family
 Roxanne Epstein Rosenthal
 In memory of:
Olivia Rothstein
 Scott & Sheri Yarosh

IRENE FINBERG CAMP SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In memory of:
Barbara Harris
 DeeDee Harris
Samuel Yelin's brother
 Mayda & Marc Raffé

FUND FOR MOUNT ZION

In appreciation of:
Rabbi Adam Stock Spilker,
Rabbi Esther Adler, Cantor Rachel
Stock Spilker, Cantor Jennifer Strauss-
Klein & Staff
 Jennifer, Geoff, Jackson
 & Parker Mason
 In memory of:
Eunice Gelb
 David & Mary Ann Wark
Elliot Krelitz
 Kari Bjorhus & Ken Carlson
 Sharon & Michael DeMark

GENERAL ENDOWMENT FUND

In memory of:
Eunice Gelb
 Linda & Rich Freeman
Elliot Krelitz
 Jonathan & Kate Eisenthal
 Courtney ODonnell

JEAN B. HARRIS AND ROBERT W. HARRIS SUMMER CAMP FUND

In memory of:
Eunice Gelb
 Fidelity Charitable
Judy Harris
 Roxanne Epstein Rosenthal

SARA AND YALE JOHNSON MEMORIAL FUND

In honor of:
Sylvia Kaplan
 Gloria Johnson
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 In memory of:
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Marie Constance Rajamannan
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Timothy Sanken
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Shahnaz Talebi
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Rocky Wirtz
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JULIE LAZOR CONFIRMATION AWARD

In yearzeit memory of:
Freda Gang
 Toba Lazor
Bessie Lazor
 Toba Lazor
Morton Lazor
 Toba Lazor

MALMON-COHEN EDUCATION FUND

In memory of:
Elliot Krelitz
 Nancy, Joel, Ben & John Miller

MITZVAH FOODSHELF

In honor of:
Sue Lund
 Elsie Shallom
 In memory of:
Eunice Gelb
 Tammy & Carl Birnberg
 Bruce & Richard Goodman
 & Susan & Brad Rappaport
 Harley & Deb Haase
 Janet & Ed Swadden

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 In yearzeit memory of:
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 Bonnie Abrahamson
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 Rose Krawetz

RALINE PAPER FUND

In celebration of:
The Hubbard Family
 Raline Paper
 In yearzeit memory of:
Isaac Schuman
 Raline Paper

TORAH RESTORATION, MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENT FUND

In memory of:
Elliot Krelitz
 Judi Levin Marshall
 & Todd Marshall

THE JANE STEINMAN MUSIC FUND

In memory of:
Elliot Krelitz
 Gary Steinman & Holly Ross
Cleda B Ross
 Holly Ross
 In yearzeit memory of:
Jane Steinman
 Jessica Steinman

TZEDEK FUND - SOCIAL JUSTICE

In memory of:
Anthony Krawetz
 Bob & Rose Krawetz
Elliot Krelitz
 Margie Abrahamson
 Steve & Ruth Abrahamson
 Jean King Appelbaum
 & Stuart Appelbaum
 Lynn Shannon
 In yearzeit memory of:
Jean Litman
 Carol Gurstelle
Esther Ruder
 Carol Gurstelle

Yahrzeit Fund

In yearzeit memory of:
Ben Charles Bergal
 Jean & Michael Folger
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David Willenson
 Daniel Linwick
Suzanne Wolfe
 Sally Silk & Family

ZAIKANER-PERWIEN TERRACE FUND

In memory of:
Eunice Gelb
 Mitch & Margie Fink

MZ Caring Community Team

Without a doubt, the past month has been trying for all of us, as Jews, as parents and as a sacred community. The Team Leaders of the Caring Community Team want you to know that we stand ready to assist you, whether that assistance is in a time of personal challenge, medical challenge or simply a need for a kind and ready ear. Debbie Perlman, American psalmist, writes the following:



- Embrace me with hope and calm,
- Lingering reminders of Your care.
- Let each new day bring progress,
- Aligning me toward wholeness.

Please don't hesitate to reach out. We are here for you and your family. Contact us at mzcaringcommunity.mandy@gmail.com

Mandy Roll-Kuhne, *Chair, Caring Community Team*

Not Your Grandmother's Scammer!

Sunday, January 7, 10 am -12 pm at Mount Zion and via Zoom
Open to everyone!

Learn how to protect yourself and your loved ones against the ever increasing threat of online fraud and theft. Scams target people of all backgrounds, education levels, ages and professions; all of us will be vulnerable to a scam at some point in our lives. And the scammers are getting smarter and taking advantage of new technology to get you to provide your personal information without you even being aware of it.

Information Security Analyst Marsha Himes will join us for an interactive session and take us through the cyber crime current landscape, expose costly myths, and teach us best practices for protecting ourselves.

For information, contact Ellen Konstan (ellen.konstan@gmail.com) or 651-485-7143. Presented by *Mount Zion Caring Team*. Co-sponsored by *Begegenen and Brotherhood*.

5784 Yom Kippur Fast Appeal

Yesher koach to our community for the **\$30,762 tzedakah raised** for the below organizations. We also donated **2308 pounds of food** to Neighborhood House for the Yom Kippur Food Drive.

Jeremiah Program: \$1,640

Jewish Community Action: \$1,112

Nechama: \$1,840

A Jewish Response to Disaster

Leket Israel: \$1,215

MZ Cemetery - Perpetual Maintenance: \$1,463

Neighborhood House: \$4,120

Our Synagogue Partnerships: \$926

(Reform Congregations in Modiin and Bat Ayin)

IMPJ: \$6,374

Israel Movement for Progressive Judaism

IRAC: \$6,374

Israel Religious Action Center

Hallie Q Brown Community Center: \$2,114

Mazon: \$2,723

A Jewish Response to Hunger

Jewish Effective Giving: \$861

Helen Keller International (Vitamin E program)

Thank you to all who donated to our Emergency Campaign for Israel!

Ed Abramson * Stuart Appelbaum and Jean King Appelbaum * Leah Bailey and Dave Talley * Janis Batt * Arnie and Judy Brier* Ralph Birnberg * Stuart Block and Julia Ostrowsky * Carolyn Borow and Brad Moore * Jeff Burton and Varda Nauen * Jennifer and Jeff Butwinick * Suzanne and Ryan Carlson* Sarah Carpenter * Gloria and Neil Cramer * Tom Cytron-Hysom and Bob Boyce * Julie Dean and Scott Deetz * Sharon and Michael DeMark * Brooks and Terri Edwards * Jonathan and Kate Eisenthal * David and Karen Ellis * Ted and Jackie Flaum * Andy Fein and Julie Martin * Henry and Amy Fink * Shel Finver and Dee Albert * Tracy Fischman and Paul Gore * Adam Garen * Robert Garfinkle and Susan Koch * David Geddes and Sheila Stanton * Sally Glick * Carolyn Glickstein * Abby Gold * Mark Goldberg and Michelle Basham * Emme Goldhart * Phil and Renae Goldman * Jules and Janice Goldstein * Shane and Mavis Goldstein * Natalie Goldston * Bruce Goodman * Siana Goodwin * Mark Gordon and Anne Zweibel * Andrew and Lija Greenseid * Jessica and Brent Griffith * Sue Grupe * Carol Gurstelle * Harriet Guthertz and Laura Mathews * Meredith Hicks and Adam Gerhardstein * Rebekah Jacob * Janet Kampf * Abbey and Deirdre Kanzer * Joel and Janet Knoepfler * Joe and Ellen Konstan * Shirley Kulevsky * Jim and Robin Lackner * Rob Lebowitz and Rabbi Esther Adler * Steve and LoRene Leikind * Seth Levin and Mia Nosanow * Steve Levin * Bill and Gloria Levin * Rick Linsk and Nancy Crotti * Dorothy Lipschultz * Eric and Sue Lund * Todd and Judi Marshall * Leslie Martin and Fred Haeusler * Jennifer and Geoff Mason * Jennifer and Geoff Mason * Nancy Mason Hauser * Howard Mironov and Jan Dubinsky * Rachel and Mike Molzahn * Michelle Morris * Paul Moss * David Nathan and Laura Ford-Nathan * Joe and JoAnn Nathan * Joan Ostrove * Raline Paper * Barbara Penn * Adele Porter * Rebecca Povarchuk * Valentin Povarchuk * Marc and Mayda Raffe * Pola Rest Robert * Richman and Kristin Beckmann * Hannah Riederer * Kathleen Riley * Ellen and Martin Sampson * Dan and Lisa Schibel * Beth and Lisa Schmid * Daniel and Jessica Schroeter * Ellen Seesel * Lynn Shannon * Judy Sharken Simon and Chris Simon * Rich Sheinfeld and Heidi Goldstein * Rob Shumer * Barry and Carolyn Silverstein * Woody Smith and Elena Izaksonas * Daniel Sogin and Emily Duke * Batya Spector * Bert and Arlene Spilker * Pete and Sue Stein * Julia Stein Dittberner and John Dittberner * Michael Stiffman and Pita Adam * Rabbi Adam and Cantor Rachel Stock Spilker * Jon and Kay Strauss * Sue and Jeff Summit * David and Mary Ann Wark * Chad Weinstein and Cathy Huber * Sarah Weinman and Trevor McSpadden * Sandy and Carol Weisberg * Adam Wernick and Thyra Fossum * Deb and Bob Winston * Barbara Winthrop * Sue Winthrop * Lee and Gary Zechmann

Israel

A Mount Zion J-Term Class

The History of the State of Israel: Zionism through 2023

How did we get here and what will happen next?

A seven-part class with Master Educator Uri Feinberg
\$36 (members); \$54 (public) for the entire series. [Register at mzion.org](https://mzion.org).

In the aftermath of the devastation that befell the Jewish people which began on Simchat Torah, October 7, 2023, many may find themselves on very shaky ground. How did this happen, why did this happen, what actually happened and how can I explain how I feel and why? These may be only some of the questions emphatically circling our consciousness. While no one can promise answers to all these questions, we believe that a deep dive into the history of the State of Israel will offer a first step towards a broader, stronger foundation of knowledge on which to stand.

Mondays and Tuesdays in January – 12:00 to 1:15 pm via Zoom

- Session #1 – Tuesday, Jan 2: **The Foundation of Zionism**
- Session #2 – Monday, Jan 8: **WWI and The British Mandate**
- Session #3 – Tuesday, Jan 9: **Setting the Stage for 1948**
- Session #4 – Monday, Jan 15: **Highs and Lows of the New State**
- Session #5 – Tuesday, Jan 16: **Nation Amongst Nations**
- Session #6 – Monday, Jan 22: **Stranger in a New Land**
- Session #7 – Tuesday, Jan 23: **What Happened on October 7?**

[Detailed information on each session available at mzion.org](https://mzion.org).

Uri Feinberg, a licensed tour guide since 1999, has worked as a tour educator for a wide range of groups including synagogue, Federation, URJ and CCAR leadership, interfaith, multi-generational and more. Uri's experience has been driven by a clear desire to share the power of the Land and State of Israel, to strengthen Jewish identity and a connection with the Jewish People. **Uri will be leading Mount Zion's 2025 trip to Israel.**



Please personally invite friends and co-workers who might be curious.

Many asked for a learning session that they could attend to better respond to friends/co-workers and/or actually invite them to attend to learn. Please do not share this event via social media. This is something you can do to make a difference.

How did we end up here? Background on Zionism and the history of Israel to better understand the Israel-Hamas War

Sunday, December 10, 10:00 - 11:15 am at Mount Zion Temple and via livestreaming.

For the Jewish community and their invited friends.

Taught and facilitated by the Jewish Community Relations Council of Minnesota and the Dakotas

JCRC educators will use a 45-minute slide presentation to cover an overview of the history of Zionism and the Israeli-Arab and Israeli-Palestinian conflict followed by 30 minutes of q and a.



Voices from Israel:

How the Israel-Hamas War is affecting everything

All [via Zoom](#) (same link for all three sessions). All sessions begin at 11:30 am:

- **Session 1: Tuesday, December 5 – Uri Feinberg** (see bio above) will speak personally as a father of three daughters, two of whom are in the IDF, about what average Israelis are going through in the past weeks and will describe the remarkable volunteer infrastructure set up after the protest movement.
- **Session 2: Monday, December 11 – Rabbi Haviva Ner-David and Suheil Diab**, members of a chapter of [Standing Together in Israel](#), will talk about how their group of Israelis and Palestinians in Israel are facing this moment.
- **Session 3: Wednesday, December 27 – Fighting a Just War** – Rabbi Spilker, who will have been in Israel the week before, will debrief his experiences. Participants will also listen to part of the "Identity Crisis Podcast" on fighting a just war. The podcast is with Yehuda Kurtzer who consults Tal Becker to explore just war theory through legal, philosophical, and Jewish frameworks and analyze the actions of the IDF and Hamas accordingly.

The Art of Challah Braiding

Thursday, January 18, 6:30 – 8:00 pm at Mount Zion

Cost: \$10/person; \$20/2 people; \$25/ 3+ in the same household

There is a limit of 40 people, so please [REGISTER in advance](#).

This event is for all over the age of 13.

Learn the art of challah braiding and a little Torah with Rabbi Alexander Davis and Liz Rappaport from Beth El Synagogue. Bring your favorite apron and come ready to learn how to create beautiful challah braids in this hands-on workshop. Participants should plan to take home a challah that is ready to bake and enjoy!

Unfortunately, due to the nature of this particular braiding method, we are unable to offer a gluten free option for this program. If you are interested in exploring options for gluten free challah, please reach out to Cantor Spilker at rspilker@mzion.org.



Preparing for “Shabbat at Home”

A practical how-to with a touch of spirituality on how to host a Shabbat evening for friends and family.

Sunday, January 28, 11 am-12:15 pm - in person and parts via Zoom

Workshops (you will be able to choose two of the three):

1. The Meaning of “Kiddush” – a Text with Multiple Layers
2. Setting the Shabbat Table and Observance Options for the Shabbat Evening
3. How to Sing/Say the Blessings - *and what they mean*



Brotherhood

Bagel Bar - Open every Sunday morning when Religious School is open. Join us for a bagel, lox, cream cheese, and great conversations.

Bi-monthly Broterhood Meeting - January 30, 6:30 pm at Mount Zion. We will select the Mensch-of-the-Year.

Honoring Brotherhood during Shabbat on Friday, March 8. Members of the Brotherhood will be conducting portions of the service and honor our Mensch-of-the-Year for 2024.

Dessert and Game Night

Saturday, February 3, 7:00-9:00 pm - *Everyone welcome!*

Bring a dessert or snack to share and your favorite games and activities. From Monopoly to Poker to Mah Jong, it is a fun evening for all! There may be a Special attraction this year. *Co-sponsored by Brotherhood and Begegenen.*

Women of Mount Zion Temple

Blood Drive

Wednesday, December 6, 2:00 - 7:00 pm

To schedule an appointment, call 1-800-733-2767 or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: SP Circle of Faith.

Every 2 seconds someone in the U.S. needs blood.

Save the Dates!

More information will be emailed closer to the date.

- January 19: Shabbat Services Honoring WMZT. Sheri Frisque will be recognized as Woman of Valor.
- January 20, 1pm: Mid-Winter Shabbat at Como Conservatory
- February 20, 7pm: Wine and Wisdom

Social Action Update

Tzedek = Justice

Justice, Justice!

Tzedek Committee continues its pursuit of justice, focusing on racial justice, climate justice and the work of welcoming refugees and asylum seekers.

As we work towards racial justice, Tzedek Committee continues to support Saint Paul's reparations initiative. Remember to join us for the annual Tzedek Shabbat, held this year on January 12. We also plan to read Wendell Berry's *The Hidden Wound*, a reflection on the damaging effects for all of us of racism in the United States. We will hold a book discussion on January 21. All are welcome. More details will follow.

In keeping with our commitment on immigration justice, and Mount Zion's identity as a sanctuary support congregation, Mount Zion continues to support three asylum seeking families from Peru, Guatemala, and Egypt. Specific needs will be publicized through the weekly, *This Week in Mount Zion*. On an ongoing basis we need Target and Cub gift cards for the families. If you can help, please drop off gift cards at the Temple Office during normal business hours for the Tzedek Committee.

The Tzedek Committee is actively supporting Jewish Community Action's Decriminalizing Communities Coalition. This is a partnership of local groups committed to more just and functional Justice and Immigration systems in our state and in the nation. To familiarize yourselves with the current initiatives, see jewishcommunityaction.org/decriminalizing-communities. For more information or questions, please contact Diana Dean (dianamdean@msn.com), or Mark Joffe (marksjoffe@gmail.com).

Under the leadership of Siana Goodwin, [MZ's Climate Action Small Group](#) has been active. Tzedek Committee and the Climate Action small group are planning to host a Community Tu BiSh'vat Seder on Wednesday, January 24. We are also currently planning on another climate action fair, set for April 7, 2024. Stay tuned for Climate Action webinars in the coming months.

The Tzedek Committee meets the second Sunday of each month from 12:30-2 pm. All are welcome!



Last April, we bereaved a beloved member of our congregation, Vic Rosenthal, z"l. Vic was a founder of Jewish Community Action and its long-serving Executive Director until his retirement, a co-chair of Mount Zion's Tzedek Committee until his death, and an activist on the local and national levels. In his memory, his family donated a picnic table that sits on our lawn overlooking our welcome sign. A plaque includes the message, "A loving family man and a passionate organizer for racial and social justice."

Rondo and Reparations: The Black and Jewish Communities' Histories in our Neighborhood

Pulpit Guest - Jonathan Palmer

Friday, January 12, 6:30 pm during Shabbat Services



The neighborhoods north and south of Rondo Avenue, extending south into today's Summit-University neighborhood and north to University Avenue, were always diverse including many Jewish families. By the 1950s about 85 percent of Saint Paul's African-American population lived in the neighborhoods. Most of the original Rondo Avenue and much of the historic Rondo neighborhood were destroyed when Interstate 94 was built in 1956. More than 600 African American families lost their homes. Numerous businesses and institutions were also lost. Reflecting on this loss, St. Paul set up the St. Paul Recovery Act Community Reparations Commission on January 4, 2023.

A native of the Washington D.C. Metro area, Jonathan Palmer was born into a family committed to public service and politics. Jonathan's long biography of service, writings, and awards includes most recently serving as Executive Director of the Hallie Q. Brown Community Center for the past fifteen years.

Tu BiSh'vat Seder and Potluck

Wednesday, January 24, 6:30-8:30 pm

Sponsored by the Climate Action Small Group and Tzedek Committee. Details and registration coming soon! Contact Siana Goodwin (sgoodwin2@comcast.net) for more info.



New Volunteer Opportunities Coming Soon!

We are thrilled to announce the upcoming launch of a new and inclusive center at 1080 Montreal Ave in St. Paul. This expansion will allow Neighborhood House to provide even more comprehensive services to the community. With this exciting expansion of services, we have an increased need (and new opportunities) for volunteers to make our programming possible.



If you're interested in learning more about these opportunities, email Shane Springer at sspringer@neighborhoodhousemn.org. As details come together, we will connect back with you to share more about the role specifics, and open opportunities!

Winter Gear Drive

Neighborhood House is accepting ALL SIZES of new or gently used winter gear, including winter coats, snow pants, waterproof mittens/gloves and hats, and winter boots. Please no large holes, stains, and zippers must be in working condition. Please leave any items you are donating in the Tzedek box outside of the Religious School's office at the Temple.

Rabbi Adam Stock Spilker
 Rabbi Esther Adler
 Cantor Jennifer Strauss-Klein
 Cantor Rachel Stock Spilker
 Larry Solomon, Interim Executive Director
 Alisha Sawyer, Religious School Director
 Abby Gore, Youth and Young Adult Engagement Associate
 Amy Schwartz Moore, President
 Jon Strauss, President-Elect

Teresa Matzek, *Iton Tziyon*, editor
 tmatzek@mzion.org
 Website: www.mzion.org

A Weekend of Light:

intergenerational worship, joy, and learning with our
 Musician-in-Residence

Eliana Light! December 1-3

See p. 19 for details.



The Art of Challah Braiding

Thursday, January 18, 6:30 – 8:00 pm at Mount Zion

Cost: \$10/person; \$20/2 people;
 \$25/ 3+ in the same household

See p. 18 for details.



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Learning Opportunities in Response to the Israel-Hamas War

- **Voices from Israel: How the Israel-Hamas War is affecting everything**
- **The History of the State of Israel: Zionism through 2023**
 How did we get here and what will happen next?

See p. 16 for details.

Mount Zion's Open Kehillah Council Meeting

Developing an Ethics Code and Imagining our Committee Structure

Tuesday, December 12, 7-9 pm in person and [via Zoom](#)

For the Kehillah Council, Board of Directors, and all interested members.

In a time of staff transition (Executive Director and office staff), we are slowly working on the implementation of Kivvun La'Atid: Mount Zion 2040. In August, we looked at part of our Engagement Strategy. In this December meeting, we will begin to look at an element of the "Invest in Leaders and Strengthen Management" strategy by assessing what is working or not working with our committee structure. We will not yet be making decisions. We will also solicit feedback on a new Ethics Code for Mount Zion developed by a Board task force. We look forward to your engagement at this meeting!