Simcha

Joy!

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. In previous bulletins we have focused on Shalom, Tzedek, and Shayachut. For Summer, we turn to Simcha, where we will “Focus on gratitude and seek joy even in a time of great upheaval.”
**Letter from the Rabbi**

When it happened, people said “This time is different.” I think they were right. It seems to me that on October 7 our world changed, perhaps forever. And that forced us to change. To open our eyes to realities that we might have preferred not to see. To consider things we would prefer not to consider. Friends began to disagree. Venemendy. Communities threatened to split apart. And every day the news seems to get worse. I didn’t want to write about Israel in this column. But for me, and I suspect many others in our community, it weighs heavily on my mind and heart 24/7. People ask me where I stand, and I think the honest answer is “on very unsteady ground.” I can tell you how I feel, though. I was raised with the idealism of the young, pioneering, democratic Israel that was greenining the desert. The little country that could. I believed in the IDF as the most ethical and humane army in the world. I believed that America was a safe place to live a Jewish life. Today I feel like the child who just discovered Santa isn’t real. I feel confused, and frightened, and despairing, and hopeful. I want to read news that confirms my own biases, and I must read news that defies them as well.

I often say that however we affiliate, we are all Paradox Jews; I believe Judaism is founded and grounded in paradox. We acknowledge the sanctity of both life and death. We recognize the need for both the work week and Shabbat. At the Passover Seder we recline like royalty while eating the bread of affliction. We mix the sweet Charoset with the bitter horseradish. Our very name, Yisrael, means “wrestles with God.” Our sacred texts are full of “machloket” - disagreements on matters of ritual and theology. Judaism teaches us over and over to live in a world of “Yes, and...”

So, yes this time is different, and it also isn’t. We have experienced “different” before, and we have not only survived, but emerged stronger. The Jews are a resilient people. We recite in the Passover seder: “‘B’chol dor va dor amad aleinu l’chaloteinu - In every generation enemies arose to destroy us...’” And we are still here. I often find myself feeling like it has never been this bad. And then I consider the other side of B’chol dor vador - the generations before me probably also felt like it has never been this bad...And we are still here.

So, yes, we are in very troubled times. And we are resilient. Yes, friends and family members are finding themselves on opposite sides of a great divide. And we can (and must) learn ways to listen to each other with open hearts so that relationships can survive across differences*. We need to be able to hold multiple realities in our minds and our hearts. We need to resist black/white, either/or responses to the very complicated yes/and moment we are in.

Yes, this time is different, frightening, dangerous. And we can (and must) have hope and faith in a better future. And we have to work to make it so in any way we can. So I offer this prayer, from where I stand on shaky ground, and from my hopeful heart:  

_Eloheinu v’elohi Avoteinu v’imoteinu, Our God, as You blessed our ancestors, bless, safeguard, and watch over the captives brutally taken by Hamas. Embrace them with your compassion, strengthen them and fortify their spirits, bring them out from their darkness and return them home speedily and in good health._

I pray for the people of Medinat Yisrael, the State of Israel. May God grant wisdom to her leaders, safety to her soldiers, and security to her people.

I pray for non-combatants suffering in Gaza, for their nourishment, shelter, health, and a future with humane leadership.

I pray for the safety and security of Jews here and everywhere they may live.

And I pray, O God, that all the descendants of Abraham may learn to live together in peace and bring to fruition the prophecy of Micah (4:3-4):

_They shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation shall not take sword against nation; They shall never again know war; Each shall sit under their own vine and fig tree and none shall live in fear._

* Here and Here are guides for respectful conversation.

_Esther Adler, Rabbi_
Make Shabbat Your Sanctuary

Join for Engaging, Musical, Inspiring Shabbat Services

**Friday Night**

Kabbalat Shabbat Service (through May 31): 6:30 pm – Join in person or online (Zoom; Livestream; Facebook)

**Summer Shabbat Service Times**

**Friday Shabbat Evening Services**

**June 7 - August 30 at 6:00 p.m.**

5:30 p.m. Kabbalat Panim – Greeting Time | 6:00 p.m. Shabbat Service, followed by a half-hour Oneg

**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

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**Shabbat for the Soul**

Including Israeli musician Tzachi Buchnik

*Friday, May 17, 6:30 pm*

Live from Margolis Hall (livestreaming and zoom)

This is the night of MZ’s Annual Meeting (see p. 6)

Honoring our MZ Milestone Members (over 10 years)

This service includes musician Tzachi Buchnik, who lives in our partnership region in Israel. He lives in the Golan Heights, works at the Jordan Valley Regional Council, and is the father of three sons.

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.

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**Camp Send-Off Shabbat Service**

Friday, June 7, 6:00 p.m.

All youth attending Jewish Summer Camps and Israel and Mitzvah Programs will be honored. Youth attending overnight programs will receive a special gift. To learn more about camp, see p 15.

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**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 we prepare this message, we are looking forward to the Passover seder, where we come together over stories, symbols, and song. Communal singing marked the birth of our peoplehood at the shores of the Sea of Reeds, when Miriam exhorted, “Shiru Ladonai, ki ga’oh ga’ah” (Sing to Adonai, for God has triumphed gloriously). Despite living in a world where many of us have instant access to just about any recorded music that exists, the opportunity to sing together with real, live people can be hard to find, which is one reason we love our communal singing at services.

But liturgical music is just one facet of our rich Jewish musical heritage, which is why we are thrilled that “Bo’u Nashir,” the Jewish communal music series at the Minnesota JCC that began last year, will be returning this summer! “Bo’u Nashir” means “Come, let’s sing!” in Hebrew, and last year’s festival included numerous local Jewish musicians as well as visiting guest artists, all with the goal of preserving Jewish cultural heritage while empowering Jewish musical artists to innovate new traditions. Having been to several events last year, we know there will be many meaningful, intergenerational, multifaceted singing experiences! Stay tuned for 2024’s lineup—it promises to be just as amazing!

Jennifer Strauss-Klein, Cantor
Rachel Stock Spilker, Cantor

Trope Troupe

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

Todah Rabah to our February-April Ba’alei Korei (chanting Torah): Hana Bibliowicz, Siana Goodwin, Miriam Itzkowitz, Abbey Kanzer, John Mast, Shelley Robbins, Kent Simon, Deb Winston

Todah Rabah to our Megillat Esther chanter: Siana Goodwin, Shelley Robbins

Todah Rabah to our February-April Haftarah chanter: Siana Goodwin, Kent Simon, Deb Winston

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

Come Sing with Us!

Shir Tzion, for 2nd through 6th graders

Shir Tzion children’s choir is a Mount Zion treasure. The choir rehearses in the sanctuary on Sundays from 9:00 to 9:30 a.m. Directed by Cantor Spilker, Shir Tzion sings the first Friday of every month for the 6:30 pm Shabbat service. The choir also performs at special programs. Singing with Shir Tzion is a wonderful way for students to learn prayers, strengthen their Hebrew skills, and expand their Jewish music repertoire while serving the congregation and having fun! Contact Cantor Spilker at rspilker@mzion.org with questions.

Shir Chants, for 7th through 12th graders

Open to all students in Grades 7-12, this ensemble is for all teens who enjoy singing or playing instruments and want to continue beyond Shir Tzion. Rehearsals are on Sunday mornings from 8:45-9:15 a.m before Religious School. We sing for the High Holy Days, First Friday Shabbat services, and special Religious School tefillah. Contact Cantor Strauss-Klein at jstraussklein@mzion.org with any questions.

Both Shir Tzion and Shir Chants will have a Choir “Boot Camp” on Sunday, September 8, 12:30 - 2:30 pm. Registration coming soon!

Bo’u Nashir (Hebrew: בוּנָשִּׁיר) means Come, Let’s Sing!

Save the Date: July 15-21

Bo’u Nashir is a series of Jewish communal music experiences in the Twin Cities that connects our diverse community through song and story, roots into Jewish musical traditions from across the diaspora, and celebrates local contemporary Jewish music. The 2024 Festival will include a wide range of experiences to come together to lift your voice in community with Bo’u Nashir. From niggunim (wordless melodies) to piyutim (liturgical poems set to music), Yiddish labor movement songs to Ladino folksongs, Jewish singing traditions carry the stories and yearnings of the Jewish people throughout time and diaspora. Please stay tuned for updates!

Musician and Scholar Joey Weisenberg Visits the Twin Cities

Tuesday, June 25, 7:00 pm at Shir Tikvah
Wednesday, June 26, 7:00 pm at Capp Center
More details and registration coming soon!
From the President

Though here in Minnesota we have had neither an earthquake nor a visible eclipse, it is nonetheless a season of change. At Mount Zion we are approaching the annual meeting and summer. Since last June, my reports to you have been full of news, decisions, votes, and action that our board has taken. It has been a full year, and it has been my honor and privilege to lead the board, and I am looking forward to another active year of service as your President. I hope you will join us for Mount Zion’s 168th annual meeting, on Friday, May 17 at 5:30pm. The annual meeting culminates Mount Zion’s business or fiscal year, and will be filled with reports from clergy, key committee chairs, and myself. This year we’ll also vote to adopt the new code of ethics. I look forward to seeing you there! The annual meeting will be followed immediately by our regular Shabbat service. But fear not: we will fortify you with a double oneg: both before the annual meeting and after services!

Starting in June, we will shift to outdoor 6pm services on Friday nights, weather permitting. Summer outdoor services are one of Mount Zion’s not-so-hidden treasures. They give us so much to be thankful for. A summer evening in the courtyard, looking at the beautiful Edelstein Gardens, listening to birds chirping and the traffic of Summit Avenue, enjoying the guitar corps and other musical guests, and the warmth of the summer sun, amidst the Mount Zion community, so beautifully and thoughtfully led in prayer by our clergy: it’s its own type of magic. If summer outdoor services haven’t been part of your Mount Zion experience, please consider giving it a try.

When we gather in June for summer services, we will still be counting the Omer, the 49 days from Passover to Shavuot (Feast of Weeks). Shavuot begins on Tuesday, June 11 when we will celebrate with our Confirmation Class. Counting means anticipating. It suggests rhythm and continuity. May we experience these days, as our vision suggests, with shalom, (wholeness and peace), Tzedek (justice), Shayachut (belonging), and Simcha (joy).

Warmly,

Amy Schwartz Moore, President

Bubbly, Bagels, B’Yachad

May 5, 9:30 - 11:30 am

Tickets are now on sale
$10 for one; $15 for two

If attending in person is not possible, virtual tickets provide access to the silent auction and Meetups.

Mazel tov to Abby!

We are thrilled that Abby Gore will be earning her Masters of Arts in Jewish Nonprofit Management from Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Los Angeles on Monday, May 13. Abby has worked on this masters over the past two years while working full-time at Mount Zion. In honor of this work, Abby will be promoted to Director of Youth and Young Adult Engagement.

B’ruchim HaBa’im
Welcome to our new members!

Sarah Levine
Shoshanah Peterson
Melissa Reed and her daughter Eleanor Lesch
Chuck and Leslie Sicher
Pete Stahl
Sarah Sutton
Randy and Patty Tucker
Jo Zecherle

An invitation for members who joined since January 2022

New Member Shabbat Nosh
Shabbat afternoon, Saturday, May 11, 4:00 – 6:00 pm

Please join us on Shabbat afternoon at Rabbi and Cantor Spilker’s home. We will have nosh with clergy and staff, synagogue leadership, and all members who joined Mount Zion since January 2022. Please come with your entire household for a time of connection.
MOUNT ZION’S
168TH ANNUAL MEETING
Friday, May 17, 5:30 pm

5:00 pm Kabbalat Panim (Greeting Time) - Hors d’oeuvres

5:30 pm Mount Zion’s Annual Meeting
Our Annual Meeting will include honoring our Volunteer of the Year, Dan Schibel, reflections by President Amy Schwartz Moore and Rabbi Spilker on this past year, appreciation to outgoing members and committee chair Lija Greenseid, Giving Committee, installation of new Board members, voting on the Ethics Code, and a presentation of the FY24 Budget.

Honoring our Volunteer of the Year
Dan Schibel

We are honoring Dan Schibel as this year’s Volunteer of the Year. For many years, Dan has led our Safety and Security Committee – collaborating with clergy, staff, members and community safety and law enforcement organizations to ensure we can gather safely and securely. In addition to his laser focus on issues of safety, Dan is a regular volunteer for anything that has to do with bicycles, the environment, and brisket. We are so grateful to Dan for his tireless work as a volunteer and look forward to honoring him at the annual meeting.

6:30 pm Shabbat for the Soul Services
See p. 3

Honoring our Milestone Members

We are inviting and honoring all from our community who have belonged to Mount Zion at least 10 years. Re-connect with friends. It is a celebration and a reunion!

We will honor four groups on this Shabbat eve: all who have been members 10+ years, 18+ years, 36+ years, and 54+ years. RSVP to Terese at tmccauley@mzion.org by May 10 for a special gift.

We last honored our milestone members in 2019!

Nominating Committee Report 2024

The following persons have been nominated in accordance with Article XV, section 6 of the By-laws to serve as Directors for a two-year term from June 2024 – May 2026. They are eligible to serve for a second two-year term in 2026.

1. David Cherner
2. Andrew Fein
3. Abbey Kanzer
4. Peggy Kipp
5. Yvonne Lerew
6. Mandy Roll-Kuhne
7. Sarah Weinman *
8. Dani Waldman

The following people have been nominated in accordance with Article XV, section 5 of the By-laws to serve as Directors for a second term from June 2024 – May 2026. Michael Tortorello is ineligible for additional consecutive term as a Director because he served a full two-year term; Steven Cohen is eligible to serve for a second two-year term in 2026 because he has served only one year, having been placed on the Board by Board action in 2023 pursuant to Article VI, section 3.

Michael Tortorello
Steven Cohen

The above people have been contacted and have agreed to accept their respective nominations.

* Slate member Sarah Weinman is filling a mid-term vacancy after Kathleen Riley chose to step down from serving the remainder of her two-year term. If elected, Sarah Weinman will serve until the end of Kathleen Riley’s vacated term, and then be eligible to serve 2 additional terms pursuant to the by-laws.

Respectfully submitted by Susan Robiner, Chair

The 26th Annual St Paul Communal Observance of

Tisha B’Av

The day which commemorates the tragedies that have befallen the Jewish people.

Monday, August 12 / 9 Av
at Temple of Aaron (616 Mississippi River Blvd)
8:00 pm – Connecting Past and Present – Teaching TBD
8:45 pm – Ma’ariv Service, chanting Eicha (Lamentations), and singing Kinot (songs of lament)
Candles will be provided.
Cosponsored by Beth Jacob, Mount Zion, and Temple of Aaron.
Shavuot / Confirmation

Tuesday, June 11 / 6 Sivan

7:30 pm Shavuot/Confirmation Service
In Person and via Livestreaming.

Our 2024/5784 Confirmation Class

Francesca Olivia Berg
Sydney Mae Bond
Adam Laszlo Greenseid
David Eder Griffith
Aliyah Gabrielle Karon
Mira Havivah Kaufman
Eitan Dov Lerman
Georgia Violet Levin
Allison Renae Parker
Benjamin Cooper Strauss
Bernardo Francisco Tortorello
Arion Simmon Wallen

Mazel tov!

Tikkun Leil Shavuot
Engaging Study on the night of Shavuot

9:15 Shavuot Oneg – Cheesecake and Refreshments (dairy free and gluten free options)

9:45 Torah Study in Shiur (Large Group) and Chevruta (In Pairs)
Experience deep learning that touches the soul. We will have paired learning on a text (chevruta) followed by a lesson (shiur). Our Rabbis, Cantors, and Educators will pick topics from Hadar Institute’s Project Zug program. More information to come in the weeks before Shavuot. Zoom or in person.

11:45 Standing at Sinai – A brief ritual on the ark steps in the Sanctuary (also Livestreaming)

Wednesday, June 12 / 6 Sivan

10:00 am Shavuot Festival Service
In Person and via livestream (with Yizkor prayers)

Festival Morning Services
Intimate community for song.
Intimate community for solace.
Intimate community for memory.
Intimate community for celebration.
Intimate community for being on your own but knowing you are part of something eternal.

Engage the mitzvah.
Try our Festival Morning services for Shavuot in person and online.

Yizkor prayers are traditionally said four times a year in memory of a deceased parent(s): Yom Kippur, Sh’mini Atzeret (8th day of Sukkot), Passover (7th day), and Shavuot. Even if you have not attended in the past, it is a meaningful opportunity to remember.

Counting the Omer
This year, we are providing this resource for counting the Omer, the days between Passover and Shavuot.

Shavuot is the Jewish festival marking originally the “first fruits” of the harvest and then the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai and occurs seven weeks after Passover. For more information, go to reformjudaism.org or myjewishlearning.com.
Sign up now - Religious School Registration!
Religious School Registration will be available for the 5785 / 2024-2025 School Year on April 28. Keep an eye on your email and register by June 7 to get our Early Bird price!

Join us for Yom Acharon
The Last Day of School!
Sunday, May 19

9:30 am Students Attend Class
10:45 am Religious School Celebrations
(Parents/Guardians and Congregants invited)

Celebrate the end of the school year for our lower school students. Join us for a special T’filah at 10:45am where we will celebrate a year full of learning together, show gratitude for the educators and community members who made the year happen, and honor our 6th grade students for completing their Lower School study and our 2nd grade students for completing their first year of Hebrew. Picnic to follow!

11:45 am End-of-Year Picnic

Religious School Calendar
May 5 – Yom Hashoah (Holocaust Memorial Day) Observance
May 10 – Chai School Graduation and Senior Send-off
May 10 – Gemilut Chasadim Project
(Presentation after Shabbat Services)
May 12 – Yom HaMishpacha Brunch
May 15 – Last day of Chai School
May 19 – Yom Acharon (Last Day of School)
June 12 – Confirmation/Shavuot

Chai School Graduation and 7th Grade Gemilut Chasadim Project Presentations
Friday May 10, 6:30 pm
Join us for a special Shabbat service celebrating our seniors and seventh graders. Mazel Tov to all Mount Zion High School Seniors!

MZ Summer Reading Challenge!
Mount Zion Religious School and Library are teaming up with a special challenge for all Mount Zion lower school students this summer! Stay tuned for more information about how to participate and special prizes!

Mazel Tov
Mount Zion High School Seniors!
*Indicates a Chai School Graduate

Ben Akerman-Knopf
Simon Amnuel
Alexander Bagdade*
Eli Berg
Sonia Brunelle*
Lilith Brunelle
Tyler Burbey*
Sam Cohen
Noah Damro
Ashley Denenholz
Sarah Finlay

Mason George
Arija Greenseid*
Adam Griffith*
Yana Hamilton
Dina Kaufman*
Julia Levin
Eliana Mann*
Ezra Mogelson
Yossi Olkon
Camden Paper
Eli Peres

Roman Schibel*
Riley Spieler
Raymond Strauss
Henry Strauss-Klein*
Zinni Tanzer-Tragatsch
Lacey Thomas
Bea Tortorello*
Ellie Wickard
Joseph Woods-Weisman
Congratulations to our OSRUI Harris Award Winners!
Students receive these awards ($750 for new campers and $100 for returning campers) given in memory of Jean B. and Robert W. Harris by writing reflections and creating advertisements for OSRUI.

New Camper Award Winners: Michal Lerew-Zimanski, Franklin Maki, Avi Cherner, Booker Saltz, Eve Strauss-Klein, Jacob Gore
Returning Camper Award Winners: Theo Dittberner, Zelda Strauss-Klein, Lilah McSpadden

Brotherhood

Yom HaMishpacha Mother’s Day Brunch
Sunday, May 12 - Sponsored by Brotherhood. See p. 15.

Placing Flags for Veterans
Friday, May 24 at the Mount Zion Temple Cemetery

Mount Zion Brotherhood is sponsoring
A Night with the Saint Paul Saints
Watch the Saints take on the Toledo Mudhens on Tuesday, June 18, 7:07 pm at CHS Field
Front gates open 90 minutes prior to game time.

Cost: $22 per ticket*
Payment: paypal.me/mzbrotherhood. Make sure to provide your mailing address. Or mail a check payable to the Mount Zion Brotherhood to Joel Knoepfler, 1902 Duck Pond Drive, West St. Paul MN 55116. Order tickets by Friday, May 17. Your tickets will be mailed to you between May 27 and June 7.

*If a game is postponed or cancelled, your tickets may be exchanged for any future Saints home game during the 2024 regular season for equal or lesser value tickets (subject to availability). If this occurs, we recommend exchanging tickets in advance of the game you wish to attend. NO REFUNDS are given for the tickets.
The following members valiantly served our country in the United States Armed Services. May their memories be a blessing.

Names will be read at the Memorial Day service on May 27 11:00 a.m.

Sidney Abramson
Stanley Donsker
Joseph Harris
Mark Levenson
Benjamin H. Plechner
Howard Silver
Charles M. Silverman
Irving M. Silverman
Jerome Silverman
Louis Silverstein
Sam Singer
Jacob Sklar
Edward A. Sloane
Samuel Sloane
Alvin C. Slonim
Alvin Z. Slonim
James Jackson Smith

Ted Abramson
Bernard Druck
Lewis R. Harris
Leo Levey
Jack Pred
William B. Randell
Leonard Rapoport
Harold Ravits
Eugene Rinkey

Ted Abramson
Gerald “Buddy” Druck
Michael Harris
Abraham I. Levin
George L. Levin
Irving Levine
Sheldon Levine
Louis Levitt
Irvin L. Robins
Morwin Rockowitz

Jerome Adler
Leonard Drucker
Robert W. Harris
James Levy
Clarence W. Levy
James Levy
Howard J. Henly
Irvin H. Dym

Robert Adler
Henry Edelstein
Alvin Henle
Donald G. Horwitz
Leonard Lieberman
Irvin Liener
Albin Lindahl

Milton Altman
Jack Edelstein
Dr. Jesse E. Edwards
Edward Henly
Morris L. Kahn
Robert Marks

Harry Applebaum
Dr. Jerome E. Edwards
Edward Henly
Harold J. Henly
Vernon Schwartz
Hans Rosen

Samuel Asher
Karl Elsinger
Elkan Henly
Harold J. Henly

Ralph N. Cardozo
Hart N. Cardozo
Harold Hoffman
James Levy
William Rossman

Harold Cantor
Leonard Drucker
Robert W. Harris
Irving Levine

Jerome Silverman
Louis Silverstein
Sam Singer

Howard Harris

Mount Zion Cemetery, located on Payne and Larpenteur Avenues in St. Paul.

Memorial Day Observed

Monday, May 27, 11:00 a.m. at the Mount Zion Cemetery and via Facebook Live

Mount Zion will honor the memory of all those who served our country. Please join us at Mount Zion Cemetery, located on Payne and Larpenteur Avenues in St. Paul. Do you play the trumpet? We are in need of someone who can play Taps at the service. Please contact Rabbi Adler for details at eadler@mzion.org.
Brotherhood presents Mount Zion’s

Men’s Retreat

Friday-Sunday, May 31 - June 2
Dunrovin Retreat Center (near Stillwater)

This will be a weekend of camaraderie, spirituality, and enjoying the great outdoors especially designed for men of all ages from 20s on up!

Some activities and sessions include:

• Celebrate Shabbat with a musical, interactive service and study
• Relax and make new friends from Mount Zion
• Learn about and experience Mussar, Judaism’s thousand-year-old practice of character development. (This is the third year of including Mussar which past participants have universally appreciated!)
• Fish on the St. Croix River (bring your gear)
• Talk informally about substantive topics in our lives
• Enjoy the quiet and serenity of the retreat grounds
• Bike, yoga, hike, play cards and games, and schmooze!
• Optional bike ride to and from the retreat starting from Mount Zion

Register at tinyurl.com/mens-retreat-2024

Cost: $245 or $195 for first time attendees or those under 40. Finances are not a barrier to participation. You can request a scholarship by contacting Bruce Matza or Bruce Noyes.

Questions? Please contact:
Bruce Matza at BruceMatza@InnovationsInManagement.com / 616-901-1823 or Bruce Noyes at BruceNoyes@gmail.com / 651-329-0705.
**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).

**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.

**Simcha (Joy)** – We will:
- Focus on gratitude and seek joy even in a time of great upheaval.
- Celebrate life. L’chaim!

Rabbi Spilker, Robert Garfinkle, Kate Tucker Sicher, 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)*

To read the mission, core work, and four strategic directions go to [mzion.org/about/vision](http://mzion.org/about/vision).
**B’nei Mitzvah**

**Sophia Makhlin**  
**May 11, 2024**

Sophia Makhlin is the daughter of Boris and Yuliya Makhlin and she has an older brother, Mark. She is in 7th grade and attends Dakota Hills Middle School. Her favorite subjects are math and science. Sophia is a competitive swimmer. She also plays clarinet and piano. Sophia likes skiing, camping, biking, and kayaking. Sophia will be donating a portion of her Bat Mitzvah gift money to Jewish Family Service.

**Isabel Levin**  
**August 3, 2024**

Isabel is the daughter of Jill and Al (of blessed memory) Levin. She has two older sisters: Julia and Georgia, and a brother, Sam. She is the granddaughter of Dorothy and Leonard (of blessed memory) Levin of Edina, Minnesota and Gerald and Mary Jorgensen of Dubuque, Iowa. Isabel will be in 7th grade in the fall at Sanford Middle School in Minneapolis. She likes swimming and playing volleyball. Isabel also enjoys solving the daily New York Times puzzles and spending time with her family.

**Gabriel Vavra**  
**May 18, 2024**

**Arianna Hymes**  
**June 22, 2024**

Arianna Alyse Hymes is the daughter of Meagan and Brian Hymes. Arianna has an older brother, Evan. Arianna is in the 7th grade at Laura Jeffrey Academy, where one of her favorite subjects is LASS (Language Arts and Social Studies combined). Arianna is actively involved in theatre, music, and Girl Scouts. A portion of her Bat Mitzvah gifts will be donated to the Animal Human Society and Ruff Start Rescue, as Arianna has been volunteering to help with the successful adoption of cats and dogs needing families.

**Sam Levin**  
**August 3, 2024**

Sam is the son of Jill and Al (of blessed memory) Levin. He has three sisters: Julia, Georgia and Isabel. He is the grandson of Dorothy and Leonard (of blessed memory) Levin of Edina, Minnesota and Gerald and Mary Jorgensen of Dubuque, Iowa. Sam will be a 7th grader at Sanford Middle School in Minneapolis in the fall. He likes playing sports and video games. Sam enjoys watching football with his Bubbie and spending time with friends and family.

**Silas Swanson**  
**August 17, 2024**

Silas Swanson is the son of Mara Gottfried-Swanson and Josh Swanson, and the older brother of Harrison. His grandparents are Adele Gottfried, Brad and Linda Gottfried, and Duane and Nancy Swanson. He will be an eighth grader at Dakota Hills Middle School in the fall. His favorite subject in school is history. He enjoys reading, playing hockey and lacrosse, visiting historic sites, trying different restaurants, and playing video games. Silas will be donating a portion of his gift money to Project Home in St. Paul.

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**The Living Mussar Podcast**

This podcast features members from our Mount Zion community sharing their insights on the transformative power of Mussar practice, along with many others from the Twin Cities area. Whether you are a seasoned Mussar practitioner, somewhat familiar with Mussar, or are curious to learn more about Mussar, our inaugural season offers something for everyone, exploring topics of character development, ethical living and Jewish wisdom. Listen and follow now for inspiration and guidance on your journey of personal and spiritual growth.

Media sources for learning more about both Living Mussar and Twin Cities Mussar (links in the online bulletin)

- twincitiesmussar.org - Twin Cities Mussar website
- Growing a Mussar Community documentary - Watch Rabbi Spilker and other TC clergy sharing their enthusiasm about our growing Mussar community (20 min)
- Follow Twin Cities Mussar on Facebook and Instagram
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 on July 1, 2024. You can save $1,000 on two plots if you buy before July 1. Contact Kate Tucker at ktucker@mzion.org to arrange a meeting.

Thank You...For Your Contributions

These donations were received between February 16 and April 18. Donations received after April 18 will be included in the next bulletin.
Yom HaMishpacha
Honoring those who raised us on this Mother’s Day

Sunday, May 12 - 4 Iyar - at Mount Zion

10:00 a.m. Complimentary Brunch
Sponsored by Brotherhood
Why wait in a line at a restaurant? Bring your family to this complimentary brunch.

11:30 a.m. An uplifting, brief, and musical service honoring all parents and those who raised us
The service, led by our clergy, is for all in our congregation, a way to honor or remember your parents and/or those who raised you. This year we will also welcome the youngest members of our Mount Zion community! Families with babies born or adopted since last May will be honored with a gift in a special ceremony.
This service will also be available livestreamed on our website.

Women of Mount Zion Temple

Please join the Women of Mount Zion Temple for
Spring Brunch, Some Business, and Time to Socialize
Sunday, June 2, 11:00 am at The Linden Apartments Community Room (725 Linden St., Mendota Heights, MN 55118)
Contact Margie Abrahamson doxarella@gmail.com or 651-323-3926 with inquiries.

The Mount Zion Temple Garage Sale 2024!
Join us for a Garage Sale Planning Meeting on Tuesday, May 7, 7:00pm at Mount Zion.
Bring your friends! Everyone is welcome! Start cleaning out your closets!
Sign up to volunteer to help set-up, help during the sale and/or help packing up at the end. Any and all help is greatly appreciated. Sign up genius will be used for work days and sale days. Link to follow. Please contact Linda Morgan at lfmorgan@comcast.net, Chris Epstein at cepstein5@yahoo.com, or Nancy Krohn, at nmkrohn@comcast.net with any questions.

Volunteers needed!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Collection and Set-up Dates</th>
<th>Garage Sale Dates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sun, July 21 10:00 - 6:00 pm</td>
<td>Wed, July 31 6:00 - 9:00 pm - Opening Night $5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon, July 22 3:00 - 7:00 pm</td>
<td>Thurs, August 1 12:00 - 7:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues, July 23 3:00 - 7:00 pm</td>
<td>Fri, August 2 10:00 - 4:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed, July 24 10:00 - 4:00 pm</td>
<td>Sun, August 4 10:00 - 4:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thur, July 25 3:00 - 7:00 pm</td>
<td>Mon, August 5 12:00 - 7:00 pm - Half Price Day</td>
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<td>Fri, July 26 10:00 - 4:00 pm</td>
<td>Tues, August 6 10:00 - 7:00 pm - Bag Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun, July 28 10:00 - 6:00 pm - Last day to donate!</td>
<td>Wed, Aug 7 Charity Shopping - by appointment</td>
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Set up continues! (Donations no longer accepted)
Mon. July 29 10:00 - 7:00 pm
Tues. July 30 10:00 - 7:00 pm
Wed. July 31 10:00 - 5:00 pm
Post-Garage Sale Volunteers Needed
Wed, Aug 7 3:00-5:00 pm & 6:00-9:00 pm
Pack up and Clean up
Thurs, Aug 8 8:00 am 12:00 pm
Donation pickup and final cleanup
Yom HaShoah 5784/2024
Minnesota and the Dakotas’ Annual Holocaust Remembrance Day Commemoration
Sunday, May 5, 4:00 - 6:00 pm
at Bet Shalom Congregation (13613 Orchard Road Minnetonka)
The Yom HaShoah Commemoration is co-sponsored by the Jewish Community Relations Council of Minnesota and the Dakotas, Children of Holocaust Survivors Association of Minnesota (CHAIM), Minneapolis Jewish Federation, St. Paul Jewish Federation, Generations After MN, and the Micki and Mort Naiman Holocaust Education Fund.

Yom Hazikaron
Sunday, May 12, 7:00 pm
at Beth El Synagogue – Minneapolis (ID Required).
Come together with the Twin Cities community to observe Yom Hazikaron, Israel’s solemn day of remembrance for fallen IDF soldiers and victims of terror. Join us for a poignant program featuring personal narratives, moments of reflection, and moving music guided by our master of ceremonies for the evening, Nicole Edwards.

From Darkness to Joy
May 13, 6:30 - 7:30 pm at Temple of Aaron
Mount Zion is a co-sponsor
Join us for a unique service for the St. Paul Jewish Community – “From Darkness to Joy,” as we transition from Yom Ha’Zikaron to Yom Ha’Atzmaut. We’ll be joined by musicians from our Partnership2Gether region, Sovev Kinneret, whose melodies will uplift us. Let’s honor the past and embrace the future with hope together.

Yom Ha’atzmaut
Sunday, May 19, 2:00 - 5:00 pm
at the Sabes Center – Minneapolis (ID Required).
Join the Twin Cities Jewish community in celebrating Yom Ha’Atzmaut, Israel’s 76th Independence Day. Immerse yourself in the Israeli culture with Israeli short film screenings and a silent disco. Transport yourself to the streets of Rehovot and Sovev Kineret with VR headset experiences and enjoy live music from Israeli musicians from our St Paul P2G partnership and the HMJDS choir and much more!
We are thrilled to welcome
Rabbi Heather Renetzky
as our Director of Congregational Engagement!

The Board passionately supported Rabbi Heather Renetzky's candidacy and voted unanimously in February to hire her. Rabbi Renetzky will be ordained as a rabbi in June and will begin at Mount Zion in July. She will be building on the engagement work led by Shai Avny, with the added focus of our Strategic Plan. She will join the rabbis and cantors as part of Mount Zion's clergy team with pulpit, life-cycles, and counseling work comprising approximately 20% of her responsibilities. She will participate in our High Holy Day services and programs.

As Rabbi Renetzky finishes her final year of rabbinical school at Hebrew College in Newton, MA, she will be wrapping up her position as student rabbi at Temple Shir Tikva in Wayland, MA and as rabbinic apprentice with the Center for Small Town Jewish Life in Waterville, ME. Previously, she served as Director for the Boston-area Jewish Education Program (BJEP) and as Education Director at Ramah Galim in Northern California.

A Macalester graduate, Rabbi Renetzky served as the Program Coordinator for J-Pride in Minnesota, which brings together the Jewish LGBTQ community in the Twin Cities. She spent two summers training as a chaplain, working with oncology and ICU patients at Mercy Hospital in MN, and with residents living with dementia at Hebrew Senior Life in MA.

Rabbi Renetzky is a firm believer in the healing power of deep listening, trees, and homemade chocolate chip cookies.

MZ Small Group
Congregant organized and led gatherings.

The Mount Zion Bicycle Group will be riding throughout the spring and summer months. Check the group’s web page for more specific information about each ride. You can also get on the group's email list: mzion.org/groups/bicycling (If you are on the email list, you'll also receive notification of pop-up rides that may take place beyond what is listed here.) Please note that electric bicycles are welcomed!

Questions? Contact Michael Kuhne at michaelckuhne@gmail.com. All rides listed are Sundays (please double-check the times and starting locations).

- 19 May, 1:00 - 3:00 Minneapolis River Ride. (20-25 miles)
- 23 June, 1:00 - 4:00 Gateway and Browns Creek Trail Ride. (34 miles)
- 14 July, 11:00 - 2:00 Tour of North Ramsey County. (30 miles)
- 11 August, 5:00 - 8:00 Luce Line Evening Ride. (30 miles)
- 8 September Around Mille Lacs. (68 miles)

Could this be an MZ Small Group?
Congregant organized and led gatherings.

A New Musical MZ Small Group?!
Singing with others has documented physical, psychological, and emotional benefits. It can engage us in community, build social bonds, and foster a sense of collective joy. If you would like to gather in community with other MZ adults to sing old favorites, and to learn soon-to-be favorites from one another, this might be the MZ Small Group for you. Renae Goldman is exploring interest in creating such a group. Please email her at renaemzgoldman@gmail.com to express your interest, or if you have questions.

Hava nashira (Let's sing together)!
Meaningful Volunteer Opportunity!

By Michael Tortorello

In the next couple of weeks, Mount Zion will be purchasing two inflatable, queen-size mattresses and turning our synagogue into a home. In our derashot—our sermons—that “home” would usually stand as a metaphor for Torah, ancestry, community. But today, let’s be literal: We’re talking here about real mattresses—the kind you buy at Costco. And we’re describing an actual home—the place where you sleep.

During the month of June, six families will be living in the classroom wing of our building and spending the evenings in Johnson Hall.

The families are asylum-seekers, likely from Ecuador and other Latin American countries. Many have recently crossed the Southern border, seeking safety from violence and freedom from privation. All our guests have legal status to reside in the United States.

Members of Mount Zion likely hold a wide range of feelings and opinions about “the border crisis” (as it’s often called in the media). I recently heard an immigration lawyer, John Brunining, from the Advocates for Human Rights, offer a clarifying description of the situation. Inexorably, things move across a border—in both directions: People, pollution, cash, investments, dance moves, birds, crops, students, tourists. They move like water—which, of course, also moves across the border. Immigration, then, is a given. The question is what kind of immigration system we want. One that is dangerous, predatory, and cruel? Or one that recognizes a shared humanity and offers aid and protection?

It’s fine if you don’t see it that way. Let’s get back to actual people who live nearby. You could call them neighbors. At the end of last year, some 23,000 migrants in Minnesota were waiting for their immigration cases to move through the Fort Snelling Immigration Court. They’ll wait an average of 700 days to find out if they can remain in the United States. Recent arrivals generally must wait six months for a work permit.

In the midst of all that waiting, many people find themselves seeking housing in a bizarro market with close to zero affordable two-bedroom apartments. That dilemma has pushed many migrants into county homeless shelters. And now those are full. Which is why we’re lucky to be the custodians of a beautiful, capacious building, and a community of people who are able to help.

Parts of this shelter story may sound familiar. In many ways, this volunteer program mirrors our congregation’s longtime participation in Project Home—another partnership with Interfaith Action. The name for this new program is “Faithful Hospitality.”

Interfaith Action has designed Faithful Hospitality to rely mostly on overnight shifts.

We’ve created evening shifts just for the weekends: Saturday and Sunday. (Those are good times for congregants to sign up with kids, ages 12 and up.) Guests will arrive at our synagogue in the evening, perhaps spend a little time in Johnson Hall, and then head to the classrooms to rest. During the day, families will depart for Central Presbyterian Church, in St. Paul, where they will be able to receive legal guidance, health resources, English language instruction, and workforce support.

Sign up to volunteer at mzion.org

If you’ve read this far, you may be wondering, How hard would it be to volunteer?

Here’s an overview of what volunteers do:

• Greet guests in the evening. Help them get situated.
• Share a very light evening snack and needed supplies. (Almost no clean-up necessary.)
• For overnight volunteers: Spend the night on an air mattress in the Fireside Lounge. (Bring your own bedding, please.)
• Help guests get up in the morning and close up the space when they head out for the day.
• Tune in for a short training session in late May. We’ll reach out to you with a date.

The new air mattresses, as you may have gathered by now, are not for the guests. They’re for the members of our congregation who want to welcome these families to share our building and make it a temporary home. That’s you. Or it could be you.

Questions? Please reach out to me (Michael Tortorello) at mountzionshelter@gmail.com.

See Mount Zion’s 2017 Congregational Statement on Immigrant 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. Our efforts have been supported this Spring by Rabbi Ricky Kamil. Rabbi Ricky has helped us organize and plan and has been meeting with congregants to listen and learn about the justice issues that matter most to Mount Zion members. Rabbi Ricky is active in promoting justice throughout the Twin Cities’ Jewish community and is also helping us build stronger connections with interfaith partners. Please look for Rabbi Ricky at Mount Zion events. We are so grateful for his energy and dedication.

Immigration Justice – 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 at Mount Zion. On an ongoing basis we need Target and Cub gift cards for the family. If you can help, please drop off gift cards at the Temple Office during normal business hours for the Tzedek Committee. For more information, contact Mark Joffe (marksjoffe@gmail.com).

Faithful Hospitality - Mount Zion, in collaboration with Interfaith Action and other area religious institutions, is proud to host asylum seeking families during the month of June. The 5-6 families have started the asylum process and have been vetted by Interfaith Action. We will need many people to volunteer to help in this hosting effort. See page 18 for more details.

Climate Justice - The Climate Action Small Group and Tzedek Committee hosted a Climate Resource Fair in April, bringing together community partners and presenting numerous strategies for local and home efforts to mitigate our climate crisis. Watch for expanded recycling at MZ in the near future! More updates will be posted in This Week at Mount Zion under “Act.”

Racial Justice - The Race, Reparations, and Rondo Small Group is building momentum. We met with City Council member, Rebecca Noecker, to hear details of Saint Paul’s reparations initiatives. We are also supporting the Yes! For Saint Paul Families Campaign which will help make childcare and early learning more affordable for families in St. Paul. Childcare is one of the greatest burdens on working families and hundreds of children are on waitlists for childcare and pre-K. This disproportionately impacts BIPOC and low-income families and makes it harder for children to start kindergarten ready and for parents (especially mothers) to work. Early learning has been found to positively impact an individual’s life and prospects for success. If you are a Saint Paul resident, look for this initiative on the ballot this Fall. For more information on our racial justice initiatives, contact Michael Kuhne (michaelckuhne@gmail.com).

The Tzedek committee values your input and suggestions. You are welcome at any and all Tzedek events!

Diana Dean and Michael Kuhne, Tzedek Committee Co-Chairs

Naturalization Ceremony

Wednesday, 5 June, 10:00 am.

Mount Zion is honored to host a naturalization ceremony, sponsored by Mount Zion’s Tzedek Committee. This stirring ceremony features over 200 individuals completing their immigration journeys as they become United States citizens. Individuals are welcome to watch this joyful ceremony, and there will also be opportunities to volunteer, both the day before and the day off. (Please use this form to volunteer at the event: https://signup.com/go/OigwyYUC) Look for further communications in This Week at Mount Zion and the Shabbat Cards as we get closer to the event’s date. If you have questions, contact Michael Kuhne (michaelckuhne@gmail.com).
SUMMER PICNIC!

Sunday, August 18, 11:30 am - 2:00 pm
at Camp Butwin (945 Butwin Rd, St. Paul)
Sponsored by Mount Zion Brotherhood, Begegenen, SPORTY, and the Women of Mount Zion Temple.

You are cordially invited to Mount Zion’s 168th Annual Meeting
Friday, May 17, 5:30 p.m.
Our Annual Meeting will include honoring our Volunteer of the Year, Dan Schibel, reflections by President Amy Schwartz Moore and Rabbi Spilker on this past year, appreciation to outgoing members and committee chair Lija Greenseid, Giving Committee, installation of new Board members, voting on the Ethics Code, and a presentation of the FY24 Budget.

5:00 pm Kabbalat Panim (Greeting Time) Hors d’oeuvres
5:30 pm Annual Meeting
6:30 pm Shabbat for the Soul Services
See page 6 for more details