



# ITON TZIYON

## עיתון ציון

**Mount Zion Temple Bulletin**

November/December 2019 | Cheshvan/Kislev/Tevet 5780  
Vol. 164, No. 2

A sampling from our many

## MZ Small Groups



**Learning and Acting for Immigrant Justice  
and Criminal Justice Reform**



**Classical Music Lovers Group**



**MZ Small Groups Havdalah**

## *Panim el Panim*

Connecting Face to Face  
פנים אל פנים

## L'Dor VaDor

From Generation to Generation

### Mazel Tov To...

Our members who will celebrate a milestone anniversary in November or December: **Tamara & Mark Wentworth, Jeff & Faye Kelberg, Paul & Lisa Dorn, Brian & Judith Krasnow, Chuck & Maureen Davidson, Jason & Mishelle Berglund, Don & Rhoda Mains.**

**Jennifer and Matt Coleman** on the birth of their daughter, and to **Mayda and Marc Raffe** on the birth of their granddaughter, *Eliava Galit*, on September 23.

**Shel Finver and Dee Albert** on the birth of their grandson, *Aharon*, on October 9.

**Ariel Kagan and Brian Dockstader** on their marriage on September 21.

**Barbara Sarapas** on the marriage of her son, *Joel*, to *Liz Salm* on August 7.

### ZICHRONAM LIVRACHA...

*May their memories be a blessing*

*We note with sorrow the passing of our members:*

**Jerry Gotler**

*Our condolences to his family, including his family.*

### We Extend Condolences to...

**Jonathan (Patty) Akers** on the death of his father, *Sheldon Akers*, on September 22.

**Adele (Curt) Brown** on the death of her mother, *Ann Oppenheimer*, on September 6.

**Shirley Kulevsky** on the death of her brother, *Richard Graff*, on September 28.

**Rick Linsk (Nancy Crotti)** on the death of his father, *Joseph "Yussie" Linsk*, on October 12.

**Laura Pickner** on the death of her sister, *Michele Johnson*, on September 5.

**Randy (Barbara) Trefethren** on the death of his mother, *Claudia Trefethren*, on September 7.

**David (Marissa) Upin** on the death of his father, *Alan Upin*, on August 26.

**Marissa (David) Upin** on the death of her son, *David Rosenblum*, on September 15.

## Letter from the Rabbi

*Not by might, nor by power, but by My spirit alone, says Adonai of Hosts.*

— From the prophetic book of Zechariah 4:6



This verse "Not by might..." is the most well known from the Haftarah portion chanted during the Shabbat of Chanukah.

On the face of it, the statement seems ironic to be read during Chanukah. If there is any holy day on the Jewish calendar that celebrates military might, it is Chanukah. The Maccabees were able to rededicate the Temple only after vanquishing the Syrians on the field of battle. It is indeed paradoxical that we should be exhorted by the pacifistic prophet Zechariah: "Not by might, nor by power, but by My spirit..."

And yet, while the Maccabees only lasted one hundred years in power, Judaism has survived millennia. Our people have outlived great and powerful empires that once strutted noisily across the stage of history. Truly the gifts we have given the world have nothing to do with might and only the spirit of ethical monotheism that pervades all of western civilization.

This is not the whole truth however. Without power and might, Jews would not have survived. After the Kishinev pogroms in 1903, Hayim Bialik decried the "descendants of the Maccabees" who hid in cellars like cowards in his poem *The City of Slaughter*. Abba Eban, who was a dove in Israeli politics, acknowledged that the three most important events in recent Jewish history were made possible by military means: the defeat of Hitler, the birth of the State of Israel and Anwar Sadat's decision to make peace with Israel, which happened only after Sadat realized he could not beat Israel militarily.

So in what way can "spirit" surpass "might"? Adlai Stevenson said of America, "If we win men's hearts throughout the world, it will not be because we are a big country, but because we are a great country. Bigness is imposing, but greatness is enduring."

This is the spirit that Napoleon Bonaparte paid tribute to in his later years. He said to his minister of education, "Do you know, Fontaine, what astonishes me most in this world is the inability of force to create anything? In the long run, the sword is always beaten by the spirit."

Perhaps this is why we focus more on the miracle of lights during Chanukah, the true power of the occasion, than on the military victory. And perhaps this is why Zechariah's statement speaks to the truth of this holy day.

Wishing you and your family the feeling of gratitude during Thanksgiving and then the light of the spirit during Chanukah,

*Adam Stock Spilker, Rabbi*

### WELCOME...B'RUCHIM HA'BAIM... TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!

Max Bielenberg & Livy Traczyk,  
and their son Ezekiel

Mara Greenebaum

Michelle Karon

Sara & Jeff Maki,  
and their children Amelia & Jonah

Susan Raatz

Barbara Schulman

Rabbi David & Marcy Thomas

*"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 **Nate Ordansky** who has re-affirmed his Judaism through meeting with a Beit Din (three rabbis/cantors) and immersing in the mikveh. **May he go from strength to strength!**



**URJ BIENNIAL 2019**  
DECEMBER 11 - 15 • CHICAGO, IL

[URJ.org/Biennial](http://URJ.org/Biennial) #URJBiennial



# Make Shabbat Your Sanctuary

## Monthly Services in Margolis Hall

**Visual T'filah** - November 15, 7:30 pm

**Shabbat for the Soul** - December 20, 7:30 pm

## Honoring our Past, Shaping our Future

Pulpit Guest: **Nancy Brady**, Neighborhood House President  
**Friday, November 15 (7:30 pm)** during Shabbat Services

A night to learn stories of the founding of Neighborhood House in 1897 by the women of Mount Zion and to imagine new dimensions for our partnership with this flagship organization in the historic west side of St. Paul.



*Nancy Brady has been the President of Neighborhood House since 2014 and she was the Campaign Director when the organization built the Wellstone Center which opened in 2006. Nancy has 30 years of nonprofit leadership experience in an array of areas including strategic planning, fundraising, volunteer engagement, marketing and communications, program development, project management and community relations.*

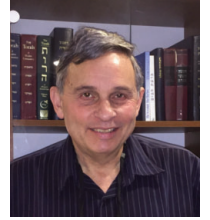
We are looking for a few people who can volunteer a couple hours a week to join "Opportunity St. Paul" through Interfaith Action. See p. 18 for details.

## What is Israel's Human Rights Record?

**Friday, December 6**

*Following Shabbat Services (approx. 7:45 pm)*

Guest Speaker: **David Bernstein**  
*President of Israel Movement for Progressive Judaism*



*See p. 12 for details.*

## Tearing Down Accessibility Barriers in North America and in Israel: How's it going?

Pulpit Guest: **David Lepofsky**

**Friday, November 8 (7:30 pm)** during Shabbat Services



David Lepofsky is a professional and lay leader in Canada's disability community. He earned a Master of Law from the Harvard Law School in 1982, and was admitted to the Ontario, Canada Bar. His achievements as a lawyer and disabilities rights advocate have led to many awards and honorary degrees. In 2010 Canadian Lawyer Magazine listed him among Canada's 25 most influential lawyers. David is also an alum of OSRUI, the Reform summer camp in our region.

## November

### Friday Shabbat Evening Services

**November 1, 6:30 pm**

Shir Tzion Participates

**November 8, 7:30 pm**

Pulpit Guest: **David Lepofsky**  
Honoring the WMZT  
Professional Quartet

**November 15, 7:30 pm**

Food for Thought (p. 16)  
Pulpit Guest: **Nancy Brady**  
Birthday Blessings  
Visual T'filah

**November 22, 7:30 pm**

Celebrate Shabbat!

**November 29, 7:30 pm**

Celebrate Shabbat!

### Saturday Shabbat Morning Services

**November 2, 10:00 am**

*Noach – Gen. 6:9-8:14\**  
Celebrate Shabbat!

**November 9, 10:00 am**

*Lech L'cha – Gen. 12:1-13:18\**  
Celebrate Shabbat!

**November 16, 10:00 am**

*Vayaira – Gen. 18:1-18:33\**  
Lucia Luepker, Bar Mitzvah

**November 23, 10:00 am**

*Chaye Sarah – Gen. 23:1-24:9\**  
Mark Makhlin, Bar Mitzvah

**November 30, 10:00 am**

*Toldot – Gen. 25:19-26:22\**  
Celebrate Shabbat!

## December

### Friday Shabbat Evening Services

**December 5, 6:30 p.m.**

Shir Tzion Participates  
Guest Speaker: **David Bernstein** (p. 12)

**December 13, 7:30 pm**

Celebrate Shabbat!

**December 20, 7:30 pm**

Birthday Blessings

**December 27, 7:30 pm**

Family Service, 5:30 pm  
Study with Keshet, 5:30 pm  
Congregational Shabbat Dinner and  
Chanukiah Challenge, 6:15 pm  
All Choirs Participate  
Chanukah Shabbat Service, 7:30 pm  
(See p. 6)

### Saturday Shabbat Morning Services

**December 6, 10:00 am**

*Vayeitzei – Gen. 28:10-30:13\**  
Celebrate Shabbat!

**December 14, 10:00 am**

*Vayishlach – Gen. 32:4-33:20\**  
Celebrate Shabbat!

**December 21, 10:00 am**

*Vayeishev – Gen. 37:1-37:36\**  
Robert Peres, Bar Mitzvah

**December 28, 10:00 am**

*Miketz – Gen. 41:1-41:52\**  
Shabbat Chanukah  
Addison Brailovsky Baker, Bar Mitzvah

## Torah Study on Shabbat Morning

**9:00 am** Drop in any Shabbat to study the week's Torah portion.

*\*Using a triennial [3 year] cycle, we are reading the last third this year.*

## Daily Services All welcome!

Monday-Thursday, 5:45-6:00 pm; Sunday, 9:30-9:45 am.

Led by members of our congregation in the Harris Chapel.



As many of you know, this September we welcomed a new organist and pianist, Kraig Windschitl, to Mount Zion. He is absolutely delightful, and if you haven't met him yet, you really must! His musical experience is vast, but he is new to Jewish music, and as a result I've found myself trying to explain it: Why is it that I have three versions of a "traditional" tune, but none of them are exactly right (i.e., the "way we do it" at Mount Zion)? Why is it that (at least to me) some organ stops sound "churchy" and others don't? Along those lines, what makes something "sound" Jewish, anyway?

Jeffrey A. Summit, rabbi at Tufts University, has written extensively on music in contemporary Jewish life. He writes of freshman attending services there for the first time who say he sings "all the wrong tunes," and when asked what the "right" ones are, respond, "the ones we sing at home!" He maintains that when Jews speak of "real" or "correct" music, they "construct a version of Jewish history in which immutable truth can be found....historical connections, both real and imagined, provide validity and authenticity." So I invite you to consider what you think of as authentic "Jewish music." Are there composers, modes, instruments, or time periods you associate with Jewish music? What is it about those that makes them Jewish?

I am reminded of the Composers Datebook motto: "all music was once new." Many musical elements of our worship—especially the organ, choir, and guitar—were (and still are) considered controversial, and their use (or avoidance thereof) has helped define Jewish denominational differences. We need look no further than Mount Zion's own history to see how this has played out. An organ was purchased in 1871, and a little over 100 years later, the premiere of Debbie Friedman's Sing Unto God service--right here in our sanctuary!--changed the musical face of Judaism to this day. As Rabbi Jason Rosenberg writes, "It's a good reminder that almost any time someone says 'that's not Jewish,' what they really mean is 'that doesn't feel like the Judaism with which I'm familiar.' There's nothing wrong with having our preferences, or with having those preferences grounded in what we find familiar. But let's not make the mistake of elevating those preferences to objective fact." Tastes will inevitably change as new generations of Jews find their own meaning in the liturgy and how music conveys it. However we define Jewish music, and whatever we like or don't like about it, perhaps it is a comfort to realize that the debate about what is Jewish music has been around for as long as we have, and will continue long after us!

*Jennifer Strauss-Klein, Cantor*

## Trope Troupe

**Todah Rabah to our September & October:**

**Ba'alei Korei (chanting Torah):** Sue Benfield, Tyler Burbey, Sally Glick, Renae Goldman, Siana Goodwin, Glenn Hardin, Abbey Kanzer, Dina Kaufman, David Knapp, Maurice Kolodny, Steve Levin, Orrin Mann, John Mast, Laura Mathews, Amy Moore, Shelley Robbins, Marilyn Salmon, Kent Simon, Avery Wallen

**Haftarah Chanters:** Sue Benfield, Siana Goodwin, Arija Greenseid, Glenn Hardin, Alex Klass, Elly Schibel, Adam Wernick

**Kohélet/Ecclesiastes:** Siana Goodwin

To sign up e-mail Cantor Strauss-Klein [jstraussklein@mzion.org](mailto:jstraussklein@mzion.org).

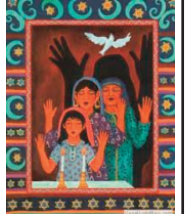
## A Mount Zion Journey to Santa Fe, New Mexico

Join Cantor Spilker for a travel adventure to learn about **New Mexico's Conversos and Crypto-Jews** Sunday-Friday, June 14-19, 2020

For adults and serious learners of all ages!

in partnership with **ROAD SCHOLAR**

To see pricing, program highlights, or to enroll online, go to [mzion.org](http://mzion.org). To enroll by telephone, please call Road Scholar toll free at (800) 322-5315, reference Program # 22854 -- New Mexico's Conversos and Crypto-Jews in Santa Fe starting on 6/14/2020 and please note that you are a member of the Mount Zion Temple group.



For questions, please contact Cantor Spilker at [rspilker@mzion.org](mailto:rspilker@mzion.org) or 651-698-3881.

## Tot Shabbat

*Tot Shabbat is the second Saturday of every month.  
For families with children from birth to seven years old.*

**Hakarat HaTov: Giving Thanks!**

Saturday, November 9, 10:30 a.m.

**Chanukapalooza!**

Saturday, December 14, 10:30 a.m.

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

## Nominating Committee for The Board of Directors

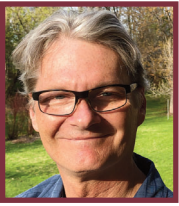
The Nominating Committee meets in late January to prepare a slate of Officers and Directors for a congregational vote at the Annual Meeting. At the November Board of Directors meeting, the President will present 12 names to the Board for participation on the Committee. (12 more come from the previous year's committee for a total of 24 participants). The Committee should be representative of the entire congregation, so that we can put together a Board that represents everyone. If you would like to be part of this important process, contact President Michael Kuhne at [michaelckuhne@gmail.com](mailto:michaelckuhne@gmail.com) or Chair Ellen Konstan at [ellen.konstan@gmail.com](mailto:ellen.konstan@gmail.com).

## Caring Community

**We'll be here for you...**

Caring Community supports Mount Zion congregants in times of challenge and joy. We can provide meals, rides, visits, shiva support, or work with you in other ways. While it can be very difficult to ask for help, it is a mitzvah and a gift to others to give them the opportunity, and strengthens our community. Please reach out to us: our Congregational Engagement Director Shai Avny ([savny@mzion.org](mailto:savny@mzion.org)), clergy, or staff.

# From the President



*What follows is an excerpted version of my Erev Rosh Hashanah speech:*

I have thought often of what I want to keep in front of me during my term as president. I share my focal points with you so that you might hold me accountable to them.

First, the **safety and security of this community** is an obvious priority. The Safety Committee, led by David Knapp, implemented many thoughtful measures over the summer, and a review by the JCRC security director indicated that our security measures are good – and getting better. We have created a group of specially trained volunteers called *shomrim*, or watch guards, who help keep us safe while maintaining a welcoming atmosphere. We now have 14 *shomrim* and will have additional trainings for new volunteers. We will continue to analyze our safety options, and we will secure our community.

Second, I am committed to **our tzedek and social action efforts**. As the former Tzedek Committee chair, tzedek is where I found a home at Mount Zion, a place where I felt that I – with others — could make a difference. Mount Zion has a justifiably proud tradition of bold and compassionate social action, currently led by Vic Rosenthal and Diana Dean. We are doing impressive work: inter-faith dialogue, immigration reform, and local economic development are just a few of the areas of focus. Throughout these efforts, the Union of Reform Judaism's *Brit Olam* motivates our participation. It reads, in part, that we will foster “a culture of sacred and civil dialogue in our community where all opinions are heard,” that we will act “in solidarity with vulnerable communities,” and that we will build “relationships across lines of difference in our local community.” In so doing, we pray and act for “a world in which all people experience wholeness, justice, and compassion.”

Another area of focus is **inter-faith families at Mount Zion**. The statistics are difficult to pinpoint, but suffice it to say that many members of the Mount Zion community are not, in fact, Jewish; rather, they are the spouses and partners of Jewish individuals, the children of mixed-faith families, or the grandparents of mixed-faith families. At Mount Zion, we see these fellow travelers as loving — and loved — members of our community. We continue to reflect on how we might both acknowledge and nurture our inter-faith families.

Along with many Mount Zion congregants, I spent three wonderful days in Washington DC at the Religious Action Center's Consultation on Conscience this past May. The RAC impressed me with their commitment to youth; at every opportunity they had **young people leading** the assembled. I recognize that Mount Zion should do no less. Our young people are not just the future of Judaism, but they are also the energy and excitement of the present. We always have a teen representative on the Board of Directors, and we continually evaluate our youth programming, seeking ways to make it even stronger.

.....

Finally, a word about giving and receiving. Thanks to you, our income from membership dues has increased. Your generosity to the Annual Campaign is strong. In our quiet stage, our Endowment Campaign, “Make Firm Our Steps,” is promising. In my role as president, I have been privy to these extraordinary acts of generosity.

All of this is to say that I am humbled and awed. I was raised in rural poverty, the son of a road construction worker and a seasonal maid. We did not go hungry, but I remember the taste of general assistance cheese. My mother and father worked hard to keep their family of six children clothed, fed, and educated. While I am not ashamed of my socio-economic roots, until recently, I carried prejudices about wealthy people with me into adulthood. Those negative prejudices have been obliterated as I have been witness to people giving generously, frequently anonymously, time and time again. I watch in wonder, and I am transformed. Mussar teacher Alan Morinis observes, “that practicing generosity opens the heart, and [...] ultimately the reward for generosity is that the giver receives the gift of the presence of God dwelling among us” (*Everyday Holiness* 162). I would add that the receiver receives the gift of God's presence as well, as I have reaped so much from time among you and this community.

May the coming year be secure and filled with gratitude, youthful energy, justice, generosity, and above all, joy. Shana tovah!

*Michael Kuhne, President*

## L'Chaim 5780 Annual Campaign Celebrating Cantor Strauss-Klein's 10 years of serving Mount Zion

Her voice brings depth to worship and lifecycle events at Mount Zion. She adds joy to weddings and comfort to funerals. She cherishes the special relationships that she builds with youth through the B'nei Mitzvah process. Though it all, her light touch and sense of humor endear her to us all.



*“Cantor Strauss-Klein provides inspiration for us to look into the meaning of the music and prayers we sing with thoughtful dialogue and a magnificent sense of humor. The music of Mount Zion is the cement that fills the gaps in my Judaism.”*

- Neil Segal

*“Even though her voice needs no embellishment, Cantor Strauss-Klein generously creates a space for all to participate in the music at Mount Zion, elevating the experience for so many.”*

- Renae Goldman

Contributions to L'Chaim 5780 Annual Campaign will honor Cantor Strauss-Klein's time at Mount Zion. All gifts will fund Mount Zion's essential needs in our annual budget.

Please consider donating today. Secure giving can be done online at [mzion.org](http://mzion.org) or you can send a check with L'Chaim 5780 in the memo line. If you have questions, you can contact Jana Nelson, 651-269-4381, [jnelson@mzion.org](mailto:jnelson@mzion.org).



# Happy Chanukah



First Night of Chanukah: Sunday, December 22 / 25 Kislev

Questions about Chanukah? Go to: [mzion.org](http://mzion.org) and [myjewishlearning.com](http://myjewishlearning.com)

## Shabbat Chanukah for all Ages!

**Friday, December 27** — All are welcome to any part of the evening.

**5:30 pm Family Shabbat Service** - Open to all but geared for ages 4-12 and their families. We will use *Mishkan T'filah for Youth*, the prayer book used in Religious School services. All are then encouraged to join for Shabbat dinner where we will light the Chanukah lights!

**5:30 pm Study Session:** Meet Keshet Berlinsky Edry our community *shilicha* (emissary) from Israel! Keshet will talk about bringing light in Israel today, and share a few modern time "nissim" (miracles) in the pursuit of social justice.



**6:15 pm Congregational Shabbat Chanukah Dinner and Chanukiah Challenge!**

*Sponsored by Women of Mount Zion Temple (WMZT). Featuring an improved meal including latkes!*

**Cost by December 20:** \$10 adults; \$5 kids (11 and under)  
**Cost after December 20:** \$12 adults; \$7 kids

We will sing. All choirs will participate. We will light. We will play dreidel. We will witness the Chanukiah Challenge! Bring your own Chanukiah / Menorah to light if you wish!

**7:30 pm Shabbat Chanukah Services** - After our Chanukah and Shabbat candle lighting in Margolis Hall, we will continue a festive service in the Sanctuary.

## Chanukiah Challenge

**During Shabbat Dinner, Friday, December 27**

**Chanukiah Challenge:** We challenge children and all interested adults to come up with the cleverest, wildest, wackiest, lightest-up-thenightest, Chanukah menorah for our Chanukiah Challenge. Use any material you want. Make it large or small. It doesn't have to work, but it must look like a chanukiah. Adults may help! All entries must be brought to the Temple office by Thursday, December 26.

Make sure your own name is attached to your entry and ... **please name your chanukiah!** (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 Chanukiah Challenge 5780.



# Our Bodies, Our Souls

## 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Jewish Retreat for Women

January 24, 4:00 pm – January 25, 8 pm (optional 2<sup>nd</sup> night stay)

### Riding the Waves:

### The Ebb and Flow of our Lives through Jewish Ritual

#### Top Ten Reasons To Attend OBOS This Year:

1. **Connect** – Meet and build new friendships with interesting, engaging, creative, women from their 20s-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 beautiful nature. Listen to the voices of 50 women singing together in prayerful services.
  4. **Nourish** – Allow the retreat staff to prepare you four delicious meals. 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, shmoozing, quiet meditation or getting a massage. This retreat is for YOU!
  6. **Learn** – Inspired by to our fantastic clergy, Rabbi Esther Adler and Cantor Rachel Stock Spilker, we will explore flow and cycles in our lives with assistance from others in our Mount Zion community.
  7. **Inspire** – Led by dynamic and talented songleader Wendy Goldberg, melodies, harmonies, and music weave throughout our retreat. Sing, dance, listen and enjoy the sounds of women's voices rising together!
  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. **Enjoy** – 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 Mount Zion Temple's greatest offerings for women of any age!
- Cost**, includes lodging for one night, four delicious meals, and all programming:  
\$170 – Early-bird for Mount Zion members, now through December 23.  
\$190 – Non-members as well as members registering after December 23.  
\$40 – Additional fee for those wishing to stay for a second night & depart on Sunday.

Confidential financial assistance is available to members.

**The Clara Margolis Women's Leadership Fund** is offering full scholarship to first-timers in their 20s and 30s. Contact Cantor Rachel Stock Spilker for details at 651-698-3881 or [rspilker@mzion.org](mailto:rspilker@mzion.org).

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

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

# B'nei Mitzvah

Lucia Luepker  
November 16, 2019

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online

**Lucia** (Rivkah) Luepker is the daughter of Carl and Heather Luepker. She is the granddaughter of Cherri Ries and the late Stanley Millman and Ellen and Russell Luepker. Lucia's family also includes her older brother, Liam, and her dog, turtle, and guinea pig. She is in the 7th grade at Nova Classical Academy, where her favorite subjects are math and Latin. Lucia is on the Nova cross country and track teams. Her passion is horses. One of her dreams is to attend a performance at the famous Spanish Riding School in Vienna, Austria. For her *Gemilut Chasadim* (Mitzvah) Project, Lucia volunteers at Hold Your Horses, a non-profit organization that offers equine assisted therapy services to help improve the lives of people with disabilities. She will also donate a portion of her gift money to this organization.

Gabriel Fink  
January 4, 2020

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online

**Gabriel** is the son of Stephanie and Jeremy Fink and brother of Laila. He is the grandson of Sandy and Shel Olkon (Golden Valley, MN), Ellen and Andy Margles (Washington, UT), and Dr. Michael Stern (Chesterland, OH). Gabriel is a seventh grader at Heilicher Minneapolis Jewish Day School where his favorite classes are language arts, science and social studies. Gabriel enjoys playing basketball, reading, drawing, reading, Circus Juventas, reading, and traveling. Some of his favorite trips include eleven US National Parks, Maine, Israel and Petra. In the future, he would like to visit every National Park and the Galapagos Islands. For several years, Gabriel has joined Meals on Wheels to package and deliver Thanksgiving meals. Feeding the hungry also plays a central role in Gabriel's parsha. Therefore, he has chosen to donate a portion of his gift money and to volunteer for his *Gemilut Chasadim* (Mitzvah) Project with organizations that support people experiencing food insecurity.

Mark Makhlin  
November 23, 2019

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online

**Mark** is the son of Boris and Yuliya Makhlin. Mark has a younger sister Sophia. Mark is in the 7th grade at Dakota Hills Middle School. Mark's favorite subjects in school are Science and Math. Mark loves to play soccer. Mark is working toward a black belt in Kung Fu. Mark loves to play piano and study the Russian language. He acts in Russian theater. Mark loves outdoor activities such as camping in summer and downhill skiing in winter.

Addison Brailovsky Baker  
December 28, 2019

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online

**Addison** (Adi) Brailovsky Baker is the son of Anna Brailovsky and Eric Baker and grandson of Michael and Lucy Brailovsky and younger brother of Charles (Chai) Brailovsky Baker. He is in the 8th grade at Nova Classical Academy in Saint Paul, where his favorite classes are Language Arts and History. He also attends the University of Minnesota Talented Youth Math Program. His favorite activities include painting at the Studio 7 visual art program in Minneapolis, which he has attended since he was 7, and playing chess and creative games like Dungeons and Dragons. He has also played piano since he was 5. He can most often be found curled up with a cat and a good book. For his *Gemilut Chasadim* (Mitzvah) Project, Addison worked with residents in the Sholom Home Memory Care unit. He will donate a portion of his Bar Mitzvah gift money to the Friends of the Mississippi River, to help protect our local environment.

## Yesher koach to the B'nei Mitzvah Class of 2018-19

In honor of their becoming B'nei Mitzvah, families contributed to a fund instead of giving individual gifts to classmates. They raised \$12,092; half of this will be saved for them to give as their Confirmation Class gift in 10th grade. The other half (\$6,000) will be distributed to the organizations the students chose in 7th grade, Heifer International (50%) and Sholom East (50%). Well done/kol hakavod!



# THANK YOU...FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS

## RABBIS' DISCRETIONARY FUND

In appreciation of:  
*Rabbi Adler*  
 Connie Dickson & Aidan Weingarten  
 Betty Fantle  
 Raline Paper  
 Erica Stern  
 David & Marissa Upin  
 MN TOLI Seminar c/o Merry Meltz Holloway  
*Rabbi Spilker*  
 Michael & Cindy Garr  
 Erica Stern  
 David & Marissa Upin  
 In honor of becoming Bar Mitzvah:  
*Sam Cohen*  
 Warren & Susanne Cohen  
 In memory of:  
*Natalie Harris*  
 Barney Harris  
*Elizabeth Kanny*  
 Margaret Spiegel  
*Helaine Lesser*  
 The Silverman, Friedberg & Hughes families  
*Mark Levenson*  
 Darlene Levenson  
 In yahrzeit memory of:  
*A. Irving Birnberg*  
*Grace H. Birnberg*  
*Susan B. Dockman*  
 Mindy B. Jewett  
 Gary M. Birnberg  
 Todd H. Birnberg  
 Ralph M. Birnberg  
*Anne Sampson*  
*Martin W. Sampson, Jr.*  
 Martin Sampson

## CANTORS' DISCRETIONARY FUND

In honor of becoming Bar Mitzvah:  
*Sam Cohen*  
 Warren & Susanne Cohen  
 In appreciation of:  
*Cantor Spilker*  
 John Mast  
*Cantor Strauss-Klein*  
 Erica Stern  
 In memory of:  
*David Burgess*  
 Gloria & Bill Levin  
*Jerry Segal*  
 Jessica & Neil Segal

## MAXINE APPLEBAUM ART ENHANCEMENT FUND

In yahrzeit memory of:  
*Howard Applebaum*  
 Stuart Applebaum  
 In memory of:  
*Marshall Kieffer*  
 Sally & Jimmy Beloff

## ELSA BRONSTIEN PULPIT FLOWER FUND

In yahrzeit memory of:  
*Arthur Goldberg*  
*Rebecca Goldberg*  
*Maurice Melamed*  
 Audrey Cohen  
 Barbara Melamed

## BROTHERHOOD FUND

Donation:  
 Gilad Lerman

## CARING COMMUNITY FUND

In honor of the special birthday of:  
*Siana Goodwin*  
 Janet Kampf & Jennifer Kampf  
*Lois Seltzer*  
 Mary Ann & David Wark  
 In memory of:  
*Joseph Linsk*  
 Mary Ann & David Wark  
*Claudia Trefethren*  
 Mary Ann & David Wark  
 In yahrzeit memory of:  
*Bella Glass*  
 Rozanne Glass  
*Sam Rest*  
 Betsy & Pola Rest

## CEMETERY MAINTENANCE FUND

In memory of:  
*Dale Cowle*  
 Marion Cowle  
 Brian & Judith Krasnow  
 In yahrzeit memory of:  
*Dorothy Eisenreich*  
 Angela Canter  
*Leo Fox*  
 Bill Fox & Family  
*George Lloyd Levin*  
 Bill & Gloria Levin  
*Philip Perling*  
 Allyson Perling & Glenn Hardin & Family  
*Jack H. Pred*  
 Susan S. Pred  
*Terry L. Tilsen*  
 Steve & David Tilsen

## EDELSTEIN GARDEN FUND

In yahrzeit memory of:  
*George Esrig*  
 Tom & Randy Edelstein  
*Ann Mendelson*  
 Tom, Randy, Henry & Elisa Edelstein

## IRENE FINBERG CAMP SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Mazel Tov on the special anniversary of:  
*Delores & Stan Karon*  
*Shirley & Freeman Rosenblum*  
 Peggy & Ira Denenholz

## Z. WILLARD FINBERG EDUCATION FUND

In memory of:  
*Marshall Kieffer*  
 Dee Dee Harris

## GENERAL ENDOWMENT FUND

In memory of:  
*Alan Upin*  
 Judi & Todd Marshall

## SARA & YALE JOHNSON MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of:  
*Jason Gorka*  
 Michael & Todd Johnson & Johnson Brothers Family

## KULAM FUND

In memory of:  
*David Rosenblum*  
 Janet Kampf & Jennifer Kampf

## JULIE LAZOR FUND

In yahrzeit memory of:  
*Bertha Applebaum*  
 Daniel & Susan Levey  
*Freda Gang*  
 Toba Lazor  
*Morton Lazor*  
 Toba Lazor

## L'DOR V'DOR FUND

In memory of:  
*Sheldon Akers*  
 Judi Levin Marshall  
*Michele Johnson*  
 Judi Levin Marshall

## MANDEL MUSIC FUND

In yahrzeit memory of:  
*Stelle Mandel*  
 Roxy Lerner  
*Dr. Raphael Weisberg*  
 Roxy Lerner

## MITZVAH FOODSHELF FUND

In honor of the special birthday of:  
*Lois Seltzer*  
 Rita Grossman  
 Lois Moheban  
 In memory of:  
*Dale Cowle*  
 Jeanne Levitt  
*Alan Upin*  
 Dr. & Mrs. Stanley Leonard  
*Toni Weinberg*  
 Michael & Suellen Buelow  
 Wishes for a speedy recovery to:  
*Eric Cowle*  
 Brian & Judith Krasnow  
 In yahrzeit memory of:  
*Leontine Robitshek Bierman*  
 Judyth Katz  
*Rose Brand*  
 Steve & Gail Brand  
*Shirley M. Brand*  
 Steve & Gail Brand  
*Julius Greenspoon*  
 Steve & Gail Brand  
*Gad Jacobus*  
 Dan & Denise Jacobus  
*Marion King*  
 Steve & Gail Brand  
*Mary Jacobson Lipkin*  
 Rolla Breitman  
 Donations:  
 Sandy & Ed Abramson  
 Karin Cudd

## THE JANE STEINMAN MUSIC FUND

In honor of the birth of:  
*Abby, the granddaughter of Bob & Joanne Gillman*  
 Judy & Harvey Arbit  
 Donation:  
 Gary Steinman

## TZEDEK FUND SOCIAL JUSTICE

In appreciation of:  
*Shirley Kulevsky*  
 Batya Spector

## YAHRZEIT FUND

In memory of:  
*Sarah Gotlib*  
 Ellen Shammash  
 In yahrzeit memory of:  
*Elijah Aaron*  
 Elsie Shallom  
*Esther Abramson*  
 Joni Abramson & Dan Dudon  
 Richard Abramson  
*Molly Blaize*  
 Jeff Oberman & Kathy Conner  
*Hazel Brim*  
 Jean King & Stuart Appelbaum  
*Henry Borow*  
 The Borow Moore Family  
*Esther Cohen*  
 Solomon Cohen  
 Mark & Jill Cohen  
*Arjeth Coleman*  
 Jessica & Brent Griffith  
*Dorothy Eisenreich*  
 Angela Canter  
*Jonas Ellis*  
 Ian Ellis  
*Sarah Ellis*  
 Ian Ellis  
*Albert D. Lipschultz*  
 Bill & Joni Burg  
*Joseph Fodor*  
 Victoria Fodor  
*Leo Fox*  
 Bill Fox & Family  
*Robert Fink*  
 Mirriam & Art Thell  
*Albert Goodman*  
*Arthur Goodman*  
*Constance Goodman*  
*Henrietta Cook Goodman*  
*Max Goodman*  
 Mary Ann Reilly & Stephanie Goodman  
*Candy Gray*  
 David Gray & Family  
*Edward Elias Grosmann*  
 Carla Grosmann  
*Marice L. Halper*  
 Bob Rubenstein

*David Herring*  
*Elaine Herring*  
*Dean Honetschlager*  
*Mary Ann Honetschlager*  
 Beth Honetschlager  
*Michael Knapp*  
 David Knapp & Yasmine Moideen  
*Harry Leikind*  
 Steven Leikind  
*Ed Lerew*  
 Annette & Thaddeus Lerew-Zimanski  
*Yakov Lev*  
 Rafail Lev & Family  
*Florence Levin*  
 Stephen, Rita & Elena Levin  
*Lillian Margolis*  
 Melanie & Andre LaMere  
*Ann Mendelson*  
 Tom, Randy, Henry & Elisa Edelstein  
*Leon G. Michael*  
 Elaine M. Herring  
*Flossie Newark*  
*Lester Oberman*  
*Ruth Oberman*  
 Jeff Oberman & Kathy Conner  
*Harold Pelly*  
 Susanne & Natalie Spitzer  
*Arthur Rock*  
 Susan Grupe  
*Janet Rosenberg*  
 Shirley Kulevsky  
*Harold Rosoff*  
 Stewart Rosoff  
*Jean Weiler Rubenstein*  
 Bob Rubenstein  
*Saul Sander*  
 Darlene Levenson  
*Mina Schaeffer*  
 Rosemary Sevet  
*Marcella Sechter*  
 Pearl Rosen  
*Mordecai Shallom Shallom*  
 Elsie Shallom  
*Joyce Mae Smith*  
 Victoria Fodor  
*Sophie Smith*  
 Michael & Shelli Smith  
*Lee Stern*  
 Erica Stern  
*Bess Stone*  
*Edward Stone*  
 Arthur Stone  
*David Willenson*  
 Daniel Linwick  
*David Samuel Winter*  
 Nancy Winter

## ZAIKANER-PERWIEN TERRACE FUND

In memory of:  
 Arvin B. Zaikaner  
 Phyllis Miller

## Thank you for donating supplies to our kitchen:

Mara Gottfried-Swanson  
 Judith Feldman  
 Bruce Noyes  
 Stuart Block  
 Allyson Perling

# Religious School News

"IM EIN KEMACH, EIN TORAH;  
IM EIN TORAH, EIN KEMACH." (PIRKEI AVOT)

## Bread and Torah

November 17

**Without sustenance, there can be no Torah;  
Without Torah there can be no sustenance.**

As we prepare to celebrate Thanksgiving, religious school students will learn about the interrelationship between bread and Torah. They will spend school time preparing bags of food and household goods for single mothers and their children living at Jeremiah Program, one of Mount Zion's Tzedek partner organizations. **Parent/Guardian volunteers are needed!** To participate in the mitzvah that feeds families in need, contact the office at [office@mzion.org](mailto:office@mzion.org).



### Hebrew School (Grades 2-6): Fall Goal Setting Conferences Sunday, November 17



Parents/guardians will have the opportunity to set learning goals with their child's Hebrew teacher. Don't miss out on this unique opportunity! This is the only Hebrew conference day for the 2019-20 school year.

Questions? Contact [office@mzion.org](mailto:office@mzion.org)

## Lower School Shabbatonim

Students in each class join together for a Shabbat of learning, bonding, and fun at Mount Zion. Shabbatonim offer students a unique and unforgettable way to create community within their class through a Shabbat experience. The Shabbaton will begin and end with family pieces, with plenty of time reserved for class bonding, fun, and learning!

### Fourth Grade Shabbaton

Friday, Nov. 1, 4:45 pm - Saturday, Nov. 2, 3:15 pm

### Sixth Grade Family Retreat

Saturday, Nov. 9, 9:45 am - Sunday, Nov. 10, 11:15 am

### Fifth Grade Shabbaton

Friday, Dec. 6, 4:45 pm - Saturday, Dec. 7, 4:45 pm

## Religious School Calendar Highlights

- Nov. 1-2** 4th Grade Shabbaton
- Nov. 1-3** 8th/9th Grade Torah & Teva Shabbaton
- Nov. 3** Change Clocks Back 1 Hour  
9:45 a.m. 7th Grade Sacred Choices  
Parent/Guardian Meeting  
10:30 a.m. 11/12th Grade Mahloket Matters Class  
12:20 p.m. Noar Tzion Carnival & Tie-Dying
- Nov. 9-10** 6th Grade Family Retreat
- Nov. 17** Bread and Torah Family Mitzvah Day  
Hebrew School Conferences (Grades 2-6)  
10:30 a.m. 11/12th Grade Mahloket Matters Class  
11:45 a.m. All-School T'filah & Song Session  
12:15 p.m. JYG Trampoline Park
- Nov. 24** 10:30 a.m. 11/12th Grade Mahloket Matters Class  
12:20 p.m. Noar Tzion Winter Wonderland  
SPORTY Bake-Off
- Nov. 27-Dec. 1** NO SCHOOL - Thanksgiving Break
- Dec. 6-7** 5th Grade Shabbaton
- Dec. 7** SPORTY Chanu-Craft
- Dec. 8** Camp Fun Day – Wear Your Camp Gear!  
11:45 a.m. All-School T'filah & Camp Song Session  
12:15 p.m. JYG Tie Blanket Making
- Dec. 15** 10:30 a.m. 11/12th Grade Mahloket Matters Class  
11:45 am All-School T'filah & Chanukah Song Session
- Dec. 18** Chai School Chanukah Program
- Dec. 22** Chanukah Begins at Sundown
- Dec. 27** Congregational Chanukah Celebration
- Dec. 23-Jan. 1** Winter Break – No School
- Jan. 5** Hebrew School Resumes  
9:45 a.m. 6th Grade D'var Torah Workshop & Interfaith Family Conversation
- Jan. 8** Chai School Tri II Begins

### SCHOOL CLOSING DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER

Please tune to WCCO for Hebrew and Religious School closings (WCCO AM Radio 830, WCCO TV Channel 4, [www.WCCO.com](http://www.WCCO.com))



Snow cancellations will also be posted on the [mzion.org](http://mzion.org) home page, Mount Zion Facebook page, and you will receive a text message. Cancellation decisions will be made by: 1:30 p.m. for Wednesday Session I, 4:30 p.m. for Wednesday Session II, 8:00 a.m. for Sunday Session.

# Youth Engagement News

## Summer Camp at OSRUI

Registration is now open. Go to [mzion.org/learn/summer-camp](http://mzion.org/learn/summer-camp) for all info, including scholarship and first-time camper awards. Contact Rabbi Spilker at [aspilker@mzion.org](mailto:aspilker@mzion.org) with questions.



## Shabbatonim

### Torah and Teva: 8th/9th Grade Shabbaton!

**Friday, November 1 – Sunday, November 3**

Meet at Mount Zion at 4pm on Friday for a weekend at the beautiful Audobon Center of the North Woods in Sandstone, MN. Explore the outdoors, challenge yourself, and celebrate Shabbat with your friends! Bus returns to Mount Zion at 1:30pm on Sunday.

## Youth Groups

**Noar Tzion** (4th-6th grade youth group)

### Carnival

**Sunday, November 3, 12:15 pm**

Join for a magical and festive afternoon including a live performance, tie-dye, facepaint and carnival food! Cost: \$15

### Winter Wonderland

**Sunday, November 24, 12:15 pm**

Celebrate all things cold-weather related with winter-themed cookie decorating, a snow-person exhibition and hot cocoa to warm up!

### Sip and Paint

**Sunday, January 26, 12:15 pm**

Make some beautiful art while listening (and maybe dancing) to fun tunes and sipping on hot cider.

**Gesher JYG** (7th-8th grade youth group)

### Trampoline Park

**Sunday, November 17, 1:00 pm**

Come bounce around with JYG!

### Tie Blanket Making

**Sunday, December 8, 12:15 pm**

A cozy evening of a movie and tie blanket making (to be donated).

**SPORTY** (9-12th grade youth group)

### SPORTY Bake-Off

**Sunday, November 24**

Teens bring in their best baked good to be judged by guest judges!

### Chanu-Craft

**Saturday, December 7, 5:00 - 9:00 pm**

The whole community is invited to this fundraiser towards the Mount Zion scholarship fund.

# Women of Mount Zion Temple

## Chanukah Market Set Up

**Sunday, November 3, 10:00 am**

We need your help to set up the Chanukah market! Find out what new and fun things we have for sale and have a great time schmoozing with others. For more information, please contact Ruth Garner, [ruthsgarner@gmail.com](mailto:ruthsgarner@gmail.com) or Sheri Frisque, [sherilyn.frisque@ids197.org](mailto:sherilyn.frisque@ids197.org).

## Honoring the Women of Mount Zion Temple

**During Shabbat Services, Friday, November 8, 7:30 pm**

Please join us for Shabbat services for a special service honoring the Women of Mount Zion Temple. See p. 3 for info on the Guest Speaker.



## Our States Have Crazy Shapes

**Sunday, November 10, 10:00 am**

Why does Minnesota have a bump on its northern border? Please join us for food and fun as Lynn Garthwaite talks about the quirky stories and the interesting personalities behind the decisions that created our jigsaw puzzle of a map.



## Red Cross Blood Drive

**Wednesday, November 20, 2-7pm**

Please visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) and enter: SP Circle of Faith or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) to schedule an appointment.

# Brotherhood

## Brotherhood Roundup

### The Bagel Bar

Please join us in the Summit Avenue lobby for hot coffee or cocoa, fresh bagels and lox, and other treats every Sunday when there is religious school. Thanks to your donations, Brotherhood has been able to support many programs at Mount Zion. To volunteer to join us at the Bagel Bar contact Bruce Noyes at [BruceNoyes@gmail.com](mailto:BruceNoyes@gmail.com)

### Monthly Brotherhood Meetings

We meet the last Tuesday of each month at Mount Zion from 6:30-7:30. Join us as we plan our programs and enjoy a complimentary dinner of pizza and salad. Next meeting date is November 26.

Warm personal regards,  
Bruce R Matza, *Brotherhood President*

# The Climate Crisis: The Facts and What We Can Do

Roxane Gudeman, *Professor Emerita in Psychology, Macalester College*  
Wednesday, **November 20, 7:30 pm** – Mount Zion Temple

In this 75-minute presentation and discussion, Prof. Gudeman will use resources provided by The Climate Reality Project to give an overview of the massive environmental changes occurring and steps we can take to stop or reverse them. This presentation will be a part of The Climate Reality Project's **24 Hours of Reality: Truth in Action**. On November 20-21 thousands of presentations will be given around the world. Additional resources come from her research about artists collaborating with scientists to communicate about the climate.

Roxane Gudeman taught in the psychology department at Macalester from 1985 –2005. Currently she is teaching a class titled Artists Engaging Climate Change for the U of MN's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI). She participated in a three-day "Climate Reality" training at the Minneapolis Convention Center led by VP Al Gore in August 2019.



## About the Climate Reality Project

"Founded by Nobel Laureate and former US Vice President Al Gore, The Climate Reality Project is working to catalyze a global solution to the climate crisis by making urgent action a necessity across every level of society. With a global movement more than 5 million strong and a grassroots network of trained Climate Reality Leader activists, we are spreading the truth about the climate crisis and building popular support for clean energy solutions. For more information, visit [www.climate realityproject.org](http://www.climate realityproject.org) or follow us on Twitter at @ClimateReality."

## President of Israel Movement for Progressive Judaism Visits Mount Zion Dec 2019 and Mar 2020

**Friday, December 6**

Following Shabbat Services (approx. 7:45 pm)

### What is Israel's Human Rights Record?

In connection with world human rights day on December 10.



David Bernstein is a founding member of Kibbutz Yahel the first Reform Movement Kibbutz in Israel where he made Aliyah in 1979. For 20 years he worked with the Jewish Agency as Director of the Partnership and Overseas Relations Department, and was a founder and Director of the Partnership 2000 project, which partnered 45 Israeli cities and regional councils with Jewish Communities throughout the world. Since 2014, David has been part of the senior professional team of the Israel Movement for Progressive Judaism.

# Reform Judaism: A Life of Meaning

A Scholar-in-Residence with **Rabbi Dana Evan Kaplan, Ph.D.**

**Thursday-Sunday, January 30-February 2, 2020**

*Reflections of the past as we prepare for the future of Reform Judaism in 21st c. America.*

Thursday, January 30 (12-1:00 pm)

**Rashi Study on Genesis**, Downtown Minneapolis

Jacob as Harbinger of Reform Judaism

Shabbat, January 31 (Friday 7:30 pm)

**Reform Judaism: A Life of Meaning**

Shabbat, February 1 (Saturday Noon)

**American Religion in the New Millennium**

Living in the context of Americans' four views of God.

Saturday Evening For Young Adults:

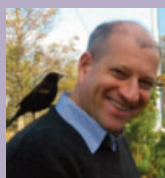
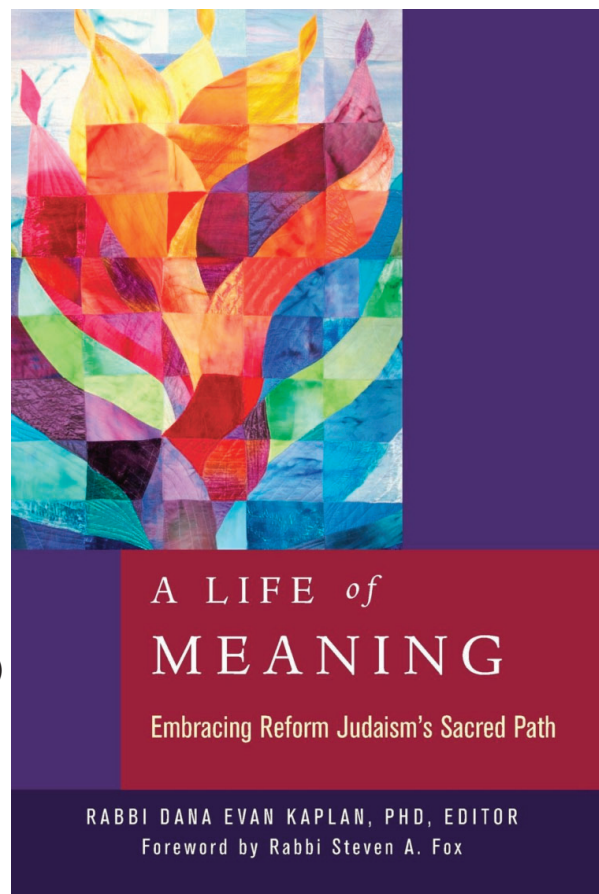
**Havdalah, Nosh, and Conversation:** What Makes Reform Judaism "Reform" Anymore? (Asking for a friend)

Sunday, February 2 (10-11:30 am)

**What Makes Reform Judaism 'Reform' and not 'Conservative'?**

**And how do we make informed, Jewish decisions?**

We will look at slides of synagogue architecture since 1900 as a jumping off point for discussing changing patterns of belief and behavior.



Dana Evan Kaplan is a rabbi, scholar, writer, speaker, and organizational consultant. He is currently the Rabbi of Temple Beth Shalom of the West Valley in Sun City, Arizona. Previously he has served congregations in Alabama, Jamaica, and South Africa. Rabbi Kaplan is the author and editor of several books, including most recently *A Life of Meaning: Embracing Reform Judaism's Sacred Path*. It is a collection of short, entertaining articles by a broad range of the most important Reform rabbinic thinkers active today. The book provides a range of perspectives on modern Judaism, describing theological and practical ways to find purpose in life, both as individuals and as a community.

# Best of Israel 2.0

An Eclectic, Active, Insider Tour  
crafted by Rabbi Spilker

A Rare Opportunity Mount Zion Trip

## Nov. 4-13, 2020

Curious? Come to our Kick-off Event!  
Thursday, Nov 14, 2019- 7:00 pm

Home of Jeffrey Burton & Varda Nauen  
Delicious food & beverages will be served,  
along with a surprise or two  
RSVP to Rabbi Spilker [aspilker@mzion.org](mailto:aspilker@mzion.org)

# MUSSAR AT MOUNT ZION

2019-20 / 5780



## The World of Mussar is opening before you ... and you are invited to enter.

Mussar may best be described as “Jewish spiritual ethics” and has been practiced for centuries by people who sought to cultivate and strengthen the qualities of the inner mensch. There are no pre-requisites nor is Hebrew required.

Come join in small group study as we explore Jewish teachings on humility, gratitude, equanimity, patience, order, and honor among others – and discover how we can improve these qualities in our own lives. Conversations will be in a safe, supportive, exciting, and collaborative environment.

## Mussar for Parents/Guardians/Grandparents

**Cantor Jennifer Strauss-Klein**

Using the *American Mussar* curriculum and the book *The Spiritual Practice of Good Actions: Finding Balance Through the Soul Traits of Mussar* by Greg Marcus, **Cantor Strauss-Klein will lead interested parents and grandparents in a journey of connecting Jewish wisdom to parenting.** Together, we will study six core *middot* (soul traits), engage in group discussion, and share our personal practices. We will discuss how these soul traits impact ourselves, show up in our relationships to our kid(s), our partner/spouse, and in our parenting styles. Come be a part of this meaningful learning circle!

**When?** **Sunday mornings (9:45-11:00 am) at Mount Zion**

Jan 12 (Humility)

Jan 26 (Patience)

Feb 9 (Gratitude)

Feb 23 (Compassion)

Mar 1 (Order)

Mar 15 (Equanimity)

**Cost:** The fee per person – including a book, materials, and webinars for the year is based on *American Mussar's* charge for use of their program materials. We are offering a sliding scale. Choose the fee that feels most comfortable for you: \$54 (scholarship option) or \$108 (our true costs) or \$180 (sustainer option). Additional support is available from our clergy.

**Mussar Va'ad (Community of Practice) with Sara Lynn Newberger** — Study and train in patience, humility, loving-kindness, and other soul traits to become your best self. This va'ad (practice group) will accommodate both those with and without prior experience with Mussar practice.

**When?** **Mondays, November 4 - May 18, 7:00-9:00 pm at Beth Jacob**

*Sara Lynn Newberger is director of Hineni-Adult Jewish Learning and Contemplative Practices: Talmud Torah of St. Paul*

**Cost:** Tuition for the classes is \$360 for the public or \$280 for Hineni Supporters and Beth Jacob, Mount Zion or JCC members. Register at [ttsp.org](http://ttsp.org). Financial support is available from *Hineini* and from our clergy.

**MZ Small Group: Advanced Students of Mussar** This MZ Small Group is for anyone who has taken at least one Mussar classes and are interested in enhancing your study and/or practice, in a bi-weekly va'ad gathering. The group will be self-led by participants and meets every other Wednesday, 10:00 - 11:30 am. Details at [mzion.org/groups/experienced-students-of-mussar](http://mzion.org/groups/experienced-students-of-mussar).

**Adventures in Mussar - A continuing va'ad with Julie Dean.** Uptown Sundays 4-6pm. **Cost:** \$250.

Sign up at [mzion.org](http://mzion.org).

## Food for Thought

Learn and Nosh before Shabbat Services

**Friday, November 15**

**5:45 - 6:15 p.m. Food before the Thought**

**6:15 - 7:15 p.m. Food for Thought Discussions**

### Jewish Morocco Revealed

Join Cantor Spilker, Phil Goldman and others as they share experiences from their 2018 congregational trip to Morocco through slides and stories. Beginning with appropriate "Food before the Thought", and continuing on to the (Jewish and other) sights, smells, and sounds of a musical and truly magical trip.



## Building a Jewish Home, Creating a Jewish Family

**Mondays, January 27 - February 10, 7:00-8:30 p.m.**

*Rabbi Adam Stock Spilker*

\$36 members/\$50 public per person

### Ready to take a positive step in your life?

- Explore ways to bring Jewish traditions into your home in a judgement-free class.
- Hear from others about their decisions or practices.
- Make practical (small) decisions about holidays, values, and even artwork to hang on your walls.
- This open, guided class is for interfaith, same-faith, mixed roots, or single households.

What does it mean to have a "Jewish" home? This three-part class is for couples or single heads of households, who want an open and structured way to reflect. The emphasis of the class will be on making choices that are right for you after study and discussion on key questions of Jewish life. Examples: What Jewish values will we emphasize? What books and periodicals and art will be in our home? What rituals will we incorporate? What will Shabbat look like in our home?



*Mount Zion and the Center for Jewish Studies at the University of Minnesota Present*

## Why did the PLO collect a Jewish Studies library?

**Monday, December 2, 7:30 pm at Mount Zion**

Some remember the PLO, in its founding years in the mid-1960s through the early-1980s, as a heroic group of freedom fighters; others recall a merciless group of terrorists. Largely unnoticed in the West at the time, and almost entirely forgotten today, is the fact that the PLO in those same years was also the home of a think tank run by PhDs from Georgetown and Cambridge dedicated to studying Judaism, Jewish history, Zionism, and Israel. In this lecture, Professor Jonathan Gribetz will speak about his current book project called *Reading Herzl* in Beirut that tells the fascinating story of this think tank, the PLO Research Center.



*Jonathan Marc Gribetz is an assistant professor in the Department of Near Eastern Studies and in the Program in Judaic Studies at Princeton University.*

## Israel Book Club

**Monday, November 4, 7:00 pm**

We will be discussing *A Simple Story*, by Israel's Nobel laureate in literature, S.Y. Agnon.

Set in the Jewish Eastern European life now vanished, *A Simple Story* is a story of love unrequited, marriage, melancholy and madness. Through these travails, the protagonists of the tale achieve a greater awakening.



**Monday, January 6, 7:00 pm**

We will be discussing *Thou Shalt Innovate*, by Avi Jorisch.

This is the first study to focus primarily on Israeli innovations that extend, improve, and save lives. Presenting uplifting profiles of fifteen innovations, all framed as contributing to Israel's success at being "a light unto the nations," Jorisch argues that the Israeli commitment to tikkun olam, repairing the world, is a characteristic written in Judaism's spiritual DNA.



Questions? Jonathan Eienthal: [johnnyirondale@gmail.com](mailto:johnnyirondale@gmail.com) or Charlie Levine: [cdlevine@comcast.net](mailto:cdlevine@comcast.net).

## ENGAGE:

### An Evening of Jewish Learning

Saturday, January 18, 7:00 p.m. at Talmud Torah of St. Paul  
\$25 in advance; \$30 at the door (under 30 - free)

First-rate teachers, wonderful learning, wide-ranging topics – from cerebral to hands-on! Round out the evening with schmoozing, live music, and refreshments...and all that in the middle of the winter. Registration starts in mid-December at [ttsp.org](http://ttsp.org).

Co-sponsors: Hineni and St. Paul JCC.



## Library Happenings

### Library Year-End Roundup

2019 has been a good year for Jewish fiction of all kinds, and the library has been fortunate to corral a few. Taffy Brodesser-Akner writes about a newly-single father whose ex-wife dumps their kids on him, then disappears, in *Fleishman is in Trouble*. *The Shallows*, by Matt Goldman, features Minnesota detective Nils Shapiro in his third outing, following *Gone to Dust* and *Broken Ice*. Steven Pressfield's *36 Righteous Men* is a Sci-fi police investigative procedural of the near future in the middle of a worldwide apocalyptic environmental disaster, following two New York City detectives trying to find out who is killing all the world's Lamed-Vavniks, and how he was able to even figure out who they were. Amanda Stiers' comic *Holy Lands* follows the adventures of a divorced New York cardiologist and his far-flung dysfunctional family, after he ditches his medical practice to raise pigs in Israel. Lara Vapnyer's *Divide Me By Zero* is a darkly comic tale about Katya Geller, who as a young girl, was told by her mother that math was the answer to everything. But as she bumps up against 40, she loses the love of her life, is getting divorced, her mother is dying, and her parenting skills are being tested. How can math help her now?

Chanukah is our holiday with some of the best Jewish children's books. Among them are Esme Codell's *Hanukkah, Shmanukkah!*, a send-up of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*. Then there is Alexandra Cooper's *Spin the Dreidel!*, the book with a dreidel in its spine which fascinates young readers. For the very young there is the Board book version of Tomie de Paola's *My First Chanukah*. Then there are several titles by Eric Kimmel, whose clever trickster is featured in *Hershel and the Hanukkah Goblins*, a favorite of children; his *The Chanukah Guest*, republished as *Hanukkah Bear* with drawings by a new illustrator; and *The Magic Dreidels*. These and many other wonderful Chanukah tales await you in the library! Please visit – I'll be happy to help you read more about it!

-Bob Epstein, Librarian

## Learn Hebrew This Year!

Follow synagogue services, be more involved in your children's Jewish education, or simply enhance your own ties to Judaism.

Tuition (includes all materials): \$75 members/\$100 non-members (Minimum of five students).

To register, go to [mzion.org](http://mzion.org).



### Beginning Adult Hebrew, Part II

Taught by Siana Goodwin

**Wednesdays, January 22 - April 1, 6:00 - 7:15 p.m.**

(ten classes)

Building on familiarity with the aleph-bet, emphasis will be on developing ease in reading Hebrew and introducing basic elements of Hebrew construction and grammar.

### Fast-Tracking Your Hebrew Literacy Keys to Demystifying our Prayers and Torah

Taught by Siana Goodwin

**Sundays, January 5 - March 8, 9:45 - 11:00 am**

(eight classes)

Even without extensive formal Hebrew study, by using translations and understanding Hebrew structure, recurring patterns of prefixes, suffixes, and conjunctions, Hebrew roots and how to use a Hebrew dictionary, it's possible to proceed from mystification to meaning.

*"As someone who chants sacred text frequently, I've found that both the ease of decoding a text and my pleasure in learning is enhanced by understanding the text. In this class I'll share techniques that I've picked up along the way."* - Siana

### College-Level Modern Hebrew – at the JCC!

**Tuesdays & Thursdays, October 24 - January 23, 7:00-8:30 PM**

\$450 per semester (doesn't include the cost of the textbook)

The level of these classes will be determined by the participants. Register your interest and take the placement test. Please go to [www.ttsp.org](http://www.ttsp.org) to use a short placement tool.

### 3rd Annual

## Great Big St. Paul Challah Bake

**Thursday, November 14, 5:30 p.m. at Mount Zion**

*Mount Zion is a community partner.*

Grab your family and friends, and get ready to brush up on your braiding skills. Our annual challah bake is back and better than ever!

Tickets: \$20/person; \$50 for a family of 4; Free for children under 5. Sign up at [jewishstpaul.org/great-big-st-paul-challah-bake](http://jewishstpaul.org/great-big-st-paul-challah-bake). Sponsored by the St. Paul Jewish Federation.

# Begegenen!

## For Active Adults

Formerly Prime Timers

For more information about the group or questions about any events, contact Begegenen Chair Phil Goldman at [pgold1926@gmail.com](mailto:pgold1926@gmail.com) or 651-491-0864.

### Working on a Razor's Edge: The Creation of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

Monday, November 4, 7-9 pm

A biography of the making of this significant institution. Jay Phillips Center for Interfaith Learning. Presentation by Ed Linenthal, Ph.D. University of St Thomas (2115 Summit Ave.). Free and open to the public. Details at [stthomas.edu/jpc](http://stthomas.edu/jpc). Contact Phil Goldman if you are interested in joining us for dinner at Cecil's Deli.

### Just a Dog

Presentation by Kate Dietrick, Archivist, Upper Midwest Jewish Archives

Friday December 6, noon

First Fridays event, University of Minnesota, Andersen Library

In the 1920s local Jewish businessman J.L. Sinykin became the first person in the United States to train guide dogs for the blind. Lux of La Salle, a German Shepherd, was trained by Sinykin for Senator Thomas D. Schall. Learn more about Sinykin's pioneering work and how Lux and other guide dogs turned out to be more than just a dog. Contact Phil for carpooling and details.

**The Band's Visit** - Tony Award Winning Best Musical

Thursday, December 12, 7:30 pm SOLD OUT!

### Multi-Congregation Collaboration

Mount Zion's Begegenen, along with several other religious institutions, has been invited to become part of a Multi-Congregation Collaboration in order to create and share programming aimed at the "senior" populations at each. Contact Phil Goldman if you have topics or thoughts to share, or would like to take part in the next upcoming planning meeting for this group (date and time TBD).

**Thurs. Nov 21** - Gloria Dei (700 Snelling Ave) is offering a session called "Listening as a Spiritual Practice." Nancy Agneberg will be leading this class and it will be offered two different times on that day, 1:30-3:00 pm OR 7:00-8:30 pm. Register online through the Gloria Dei calendar or by email at [nagneberg48@gmail.com](mailto:nagneberg48@gmail.com)

**Mon. Dec 5, 9:30 am** - Gloria Dei has invited us to take part in their Movie Morning event where they will be showing The Lady in the Van starring Maggie Smith. No need to register —just come for popcorn and conversation!

# Social Action Update

## Tzedek = Justice

The Tzedek Committee is busy planning for the next few months. This Fall we are focusing on affordable housing in the Twin Cities. In November we will show the film "Jim Crow of the North," a documentary that shows how housing discrimination was (and is) a serious problem in the Twin Cities. The film is part of a project on Mapping Prejudice that examines the use of restrictive covenants to prevent groups of people, based on race, from owning homes in some communities.

The Tzedek Committee of Mount Zion is part of the St. Paul Interfaith Coalition on Immigrant Rights which is working on both immigration and housing issues. One of the biggest challenges confronting new immigrants is the lack of affordable housing. We are planning to work with this coalition and interfaith congregations on a book reading project that will start in early 2020. Stay tuned! All will be invited to join this book read, engage in meaningful discussion, and collaborate with our interfaith partners.

Members of the Tzedek Committee are also partnering with Sporty to get more involved in work on climate change. Mount Zion is already doing some great work on composting and other energy saving initiatives. Our committee, some of whom attended the Climate March in September, will be working with Sporty as the lead on other climate change projects.

Lastly, in an effort to increase our work with Interfaith Action and the Neighborhood House, we are undertaking a new project called *Opportunity St. Paul*. (See below)

For more information about *Opportunity St. Paul* or any of the other work we are doing, please email Diana Dean, [dianamdean@msn.com](mailto:dianamdean@msn.com) or Vic Rosenthal, [vic.rosenthal@gmail.com](mailto:vic.rosenthal@gmail.com).

## Mount Zion to Host a Naturalization Ceremony

Wednesday, January 8, 10:00 am



If you have ever attended a naturalization ceremony when individuals become citizens of the United States, you know what a powerful event it can be. If you haven't had the pleasure, here is your chance! Join us as Mount Zion hosts a naturalization ceremony on January 9.

*This event is sponsored by Mount Zion's Tzedek Committee.*

## Volunteers needed at Neighborhood House

You can be involved in anything from teaching ESL classes, helping in the food shelf, with child care, career counseling and much more. It can be a one-time only activity or an ongoing commitment. you get to choose. Please be in touch with Stephanie Wolkin, our Mount Zion liaison with Neighborhood House for more info. [infosteph@aol.com](mailto:infosteph@aol.com) or 651-653-1664.

**In addition, we are looking for a few people who can volunteer a couple hours a week** to join "Opportunity St. Paul" through Interfaith Action. This is a way to get training to support your volunteer efforts and get to know others who are engaged in this effort. Mount Zion will have a group of about ten people who will join this larger interfaith effort. Contact Vic Rosenthal [vic.rosenthal@gmail.com](mailto:vic.rosenthal@gmail.com) / 651-343-8013 for more info.





Mount Zion Temple  
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PRESORTED STANDARD  
US POSTAGE PAID  
PERMIT NO. 814  
TWIN CITIES, MN

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Shai Avny, Congregational Engagement Director  
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Michael Wall, President-Elect

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## Travel with MZ

### Santa Fe, NM

June 4 -19, 2020

See p. 4

### Best of Israel 2.0

November 4 -13, 2020

See p. 14.

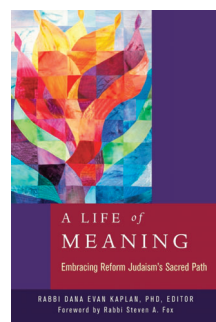
## The Climate Crisis:

The Facts and What We Can Do

Wednesday, November 20, 7:30 pm



See p. 12



## Reform Judaism: A Life of Meaning

A Scholar-in-Residence with  
Rabbi Dana Evan Kaplan  
January 30-February 2, 2020

See p. 13

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## Shabbat Chanukah for all Ages!

Friday, December 27 — All are welcome to any part of the evening.

## Congregational Shabbat Chanukah Dinner and Chanukiah Challenge

Sponsored by Women of Mount Zion Temple (WMZT).



See p. 6 for details.