



# ITON TZIYON

## עִתּוֹן צִיּוֹן

**Mount Zion Temple Bulletin**

December 2020 | Kislev/Tevet 5781

Vol. 165, No. 1

May you find  
a little  
light  
each and every day.



# L'Dor VaDor

From Generation to Generation

## Mazel Tov To...

**Adam and Crystal Stein**, on the birth of their son, and **Sue and Pete Stein** on the birth of their grandchild, **Julius Stein**, on September 20.

**Paulina Marell and Scott Overacker** who were married on July 24.

**Patrick and Liza Henry** on the birth of their daughter, **Zipporah**, born on November 6.

## ZICHRONAM LIVRACHA...

*May their memories be a blessing*

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

**Lewis (Buddy) Harris**

*Our condolences to his family, including his son  
Barney (Pamela) Harris.*

**Philip Margolis**

*son of Rabbi Harry and Clara Margolis  
Our condolences to his family, including his wife  
Nancy N. Margolis.*

**Jane Trosdahl**

*Our condolences to her family.*

## We Extend Condolences to...

**Stephanie (Michael Tortorello) Curtis**, on the death of her father, **Robert Curtis**, on October 2.

**Jessica (Brent) Griffith** on the death of her father, **Alan Gross**, on October 16.

**Jules (Janice) Goldstein** on the death of his brother, **Lewis Goldstein**, on November 3.

**Adriana Silva (Luciano) Kolodny** on the death of her sister, **Ana Maria Fischer**, on November 18.

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

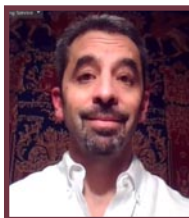
## 5781 Yom Kippur Fast Appeal

*Yesher koach to our community for the \$11,286 tzedakah raised for these organizations:*

Jeremiah Program: \$1764, Jewish Community Action: \$1020, Nechama: A Jewish Response to Disaster: \$715, Leket Israel: \$639, MZ Cemetery - Perpetual Maintenance: \$524, Neighborhood House: \$3,060, Israel Movement for Progressive Judaism \$482, Hallie Q Brown Community Center: \$1052, Mazon: A Jewish Response to Hunger: \$1478, Our Synagogue Partnerships (Reform Congregations in Modiin and Bat Ayin): \$254

## Letter from the Rabbi

### Storing our Light for the Future



When the Maccabees conquered the Temple in 164 BCE, they found only one cruse of oil with the unbroken seal of the high priest. It was enough to fuel the menorah for a day. As we know, and as the Talmud teaches about Chanukah centuries after the events, the miracle was that the single cruse of oil lasted for eight days. But who was the priest who hid the oil before the war?

That is the key question. As the Seleucid Greeks conquered Jerusalem in 167 BCE and defiled the Temple, an anonymous priest decided to hide the valuable cruse of oil with the seal of the high priest. He did so in a way that it could be found three years later by the Maccabees. That was an act of faith and hope for the future.

I will never forget the story of our congregant Henry Oertelt, z"l, who sang in the choir at the Oranienburger Strasse Synagogue in Berlin before World War II. He buried his manuscripts of Louis Lewandowski's music for the High Holy Days in the courtyard of the synagogue after Kristallnacht in 1938. When all seemed desperate, he hid what was valuable so that he could hold onto hope. He survived the Shoah, returned to Berlin in 1946 and dug up his musical score. His journey took him to Minnesota. Shortly before his death, Henry wanted Mount Zion to have his music of Lewandowski, the book of his memories of survival. I will never forget what it felt like when he handed it to me. It was like touching the cruse of oil.

None of us remember when the Temple was dedicated but we all know when it was rededicated, the first night of Chanukah, the 25<sup>th</sup> of Kislev. When we return to something we thought was lost, that is the miracle; that is the light; that is what we remember.

Light and memory come not only after miracles and traumatic stories of survival. We can return to what was lost all the time. We feel as if we are losing hours every day especially, for many, during these days of isolation. If we want to feel the warmth of the fire, the light in times of darkness, we need to "return" to each day as if it were itself the miracle. Each day may seem the same. In that cycle of repetition, we may not see the light.

If you want to see something you have never seen before, take the same walk you took yesterday, Rabbi David Wolpe teaches. You only get to depth the second time. Depth comes from repetition. Life is not a circle but a spiral. We cannot appreciate music upon first hearing it or a painting on its first viewing or a person when first meeting. In Judaism, we have the holidays to help us think about returning to a place we have been and yet we are different. That is where the light is stored.

Rachel and I send you light from our home to yours during our festival of lights and in the midst of this pandemic. May we keep that light safely stored and surely, we will have a rededication in our future that we will remember for generations!

L'shalom,

*Adam Stock Spilker, Rabbi*

## Accessibility & Inclusion

As we look toward 2021, the Accessibility and Inclusion Committee is excited once again to take part in the recognition and celebration of Jewish Disability Awareness, Acceptance and Inclusion Month (JDAIM). Co-created in 2008 by one of our very own members of the Twin Cities Jewish community, JDAIM has grown from a small grassroots movement to an international effort uniting Jews across the globe in the shared vision of a community built on mutual respect, acceptance, and belonging for all – including those with disabilities (*an estimated one in four adults in the U.S.*). **JDAIM 2021 programming at Mount Zion, which will take place the weekend of February 26.** To learn more, contact us, or participate in our work, please visit our page at [mzion.org/connect/accessibility-and-inclusion](https://mzion.org/connect/accessibility-and-inclusion).

*This email was sent to the congregation on November 25, 2020 / 9 Kislev 5781.*



**RABBIS**

Adam Stock Spilker  
Esther J. Adler

**CANTORS**

Jennifer Strauss-Klein  
Rachel Stock Spilker

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Larry Solomon

**RELIGIOUS SCHOOL  
DIRECTOR**

Susan Amram Summit

**CONGREGATIONAL  
ENGAGEMENT DIRECTOR**

Shai Avny

**PRESIDENT**

Michael Kuhne

**PRESIDENT-ELECT**

Michael Wall

Dear Mount Zion Community,

Our last communication regarding Covid-19 was in August when we wrote that all worship services and core activities, including Religious School, would be online through December.

We are writing now to inform you that our Opening Task Force has determined that we will continue with our current status at least through March 31, 2021.

This will not come as a surprise. The Covid-19 crisis has surged in recent weeks and new state-wide restrictions are being enacted in a "Dial Back" campaign.

We have been operating in a "Phase I" stage where we are holding most services and activities online. In this stage, we have held outdoor gatherings with limited numbers, allow for staff, including the catering company Spirit of Asia which rents our kitchen, to be in the building periodically, invite B'nei Mitzvah families to be in the sanctuary for a Shabbat morning service while clergy are remote via Zoom, and allow for special controlled in-building activities such as the recent use of our building as a polling site for the election.

We will not begin to consider entering a Phase II of opening until there are at least four weeks of under 4% positive testing rate in Ramsey, Hennepin, and Dakota Counties. While state epidemiologists say 5% is a level of concern, we are using the slightly more cautious 4% as our threshold. We pray that this improvement will come soon and speedily, but we know that it will not likely be for a while. As a corollary, if testing rates go above 4% in any of our surrounding counties, we would consider dialing back our opening.

As we have said previously, we continue to demonstrate that our community can support each other while remaining physically distanced. We can worship, study, celebrate, and mourn remarkably well through computer and phone. We miss embracing, but how fortunate are we to live in a technological age of such social, spiritual, and educational connections!

Please be in touch with Larry Solomon with any questions ([lsolomon@mzion.org](mailto:lsolomon@mzion.org) / 651-698-3881).

This is an extraordinarily challenging time. The community spread of Covid-19 has dramatically increased recently and requires even more diligence and physical separation. Even while we will place hopes in the vaccine, we know there will be challenges and we are here to support you.

Wishing you a good Thanksgiving where we can reflect on gratitude even as we may grieve how it is not the same.

L'shalom,

Michael Kuhne, President  
Phil Goldman, Chair, Opening Task Force  
Sue Summit, Religious School Director  
Larry Solomon, Executive Director  
Adam Stock Spilker, Rabbi

*The Opening Task Force members: (with their expertise): Phil Goldman, Chair (legal, OSHA/industrial hygiene); Ian Ellis, (corporate facilities manager); David Knapp (safety and security); Dr. Gary Kravitz (public health, infectious disease practitioner); Joan Ostrove (inclusion and accessibility); Neil Segal (operations, Ames Center performance venue); Michael Wall (president-elect), Larry Solomon, Sue Summit, and Rabbi Spilker.*



# Make Shabbat Your Sanctuary

## Shabbat Services during Covid

While services and main programs are online and not in person due to Covid, Shabbat Services times remain the same every Friday and Saturday and are live on Zoom.

### Friday Night

**Shabbat Eve:** 6:00-7:00 pm – Join live on [Zoom](#) or call and enter Meeting ID: 147 120 944

Shabbat Eve Services will also be available on our [livestream page](#) or on [Facebook](#).

### Saturday Morning

**Torah Study:** 9:00-10:00 am - Join live on [Zoom](#) or call and enter Meeting ID: 949 308 718

**Shabbat Services:** 10:00-11:00 am – Join live on [Zoom](#) or call and enter Meeting ID: 905 418 669

**Tot Shabbat:** 10:30 am (second Saturday of every month)

*Designed for families with children from birth through 6 years old. We offer to families with young children a forum for prayer, religious observance, and community connection. Please email the office at [office@mzion.org](mailto:office@mzion.org) by Friday noon to receive an email with the Zoom link to Tot Shabbat or to be added to the Tot Shabbat email reminder list.*

**Instructions to call into services using your phone:** To connect by calling in for audio only, dial 929-205-6099 or 312-626-6799. Then, when prompted, put in the meeting ID listed for any service or event below, then press #. When asked for a participant number, just press #. (Pressing \*6 during the call will mute and unmute you).

## Connecting

**Clergy:** We invite you to schedule time to talk with our rabbis and cantors. They are always happy to meet with you! Contact them directly or be in touch with Julie Beckman, [jbeckman@mzion.org](mailto:jbeckman@mzion.org), 651-698-3881.

**Caring Community:** We are here to help! And we welcome your support in reaching out to others. (In fact, go ahead and call someone at Mount Zion right now to say hi and check in.) We provide meals, calls, technology advice, and other support. Please be in touch to let us know how we can lighten your burden. Contact Shai Avny, Congregational Engagement Director, [savny@mzion.org](mailto:savny@mzion.org).

**Financial Support:** These times are affecting more and more people. We can be one part of your support and we can let you know about other resources for no interest loans, vocational services, and more. Please be in touch with Larry Solomon, Executive Director, [lsolomon@mzion.org](mailto:lsolomon@mzion.org), or any of the rabbis or cantors.

**Learning:** We have open study opportunities every Monday (noon), Thursday (noon), and Saturday (9:00 am). These hour-long groups are great not only for study but for camaraderie as well!

### Welcome... B'ruchim Ha'Baim... New members since May 2020!

Ralph Figueroa

Monique Garcia

Nate Hoch

Nancy Karasov

Kathleen Riley

Aaron Silver and Noam Sienna, and children Ruth and Perel

Ronna Hammer and Roman Soto

Adam and Crystal Stein, and son Julius

Alex Treitler and children Lucia, Ivy, and Ella

Sarah Weinman and Trevor McSpadden,  
and children Pearl, Lilah, and Suzannah

Joel Wilke

## Daily Services All welcome!

**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. During Covid, 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 online](#) or call 929-205-6099 and then enter the meeting ID 727 277 057 followed by the pound sign (#), then another pound sign (#) for participant ID. (Dial 312-626-6799 if the first number is busy.)

**Sundays:** [Join via Zoom online](#) or call the same number above but use meeting ID 545 289 167.

# Happy Chanukah



First Night of Chanukah: Thursday, December 10 / 25 Kislev

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

## Fire, Freedom, and Fun!

**A Chanukah Parade Publicizing the Miracle of Chanukah**  
(*Pirsum Haneis* / פרסום הנס)

**Sunday, December 13, 4:30-5:15 p.m.**



Join us in a car parade along Summit Avenue, from Mount Zion to the Capitol. **Decorate** your car in whatever fun, fancy, or funky Chanukah way you'd like, **light-up decorations encouraged**. Governor Tim and Gwen Walz will join us on Zoom for the candle lighting and then wave to us as we drive by the Governor's mansion.

Cars will line up in front of Mount Zion at 4:30, and we'll

begin with candle-lighting on torches in front of Mount Zion. We will send a Zoom link to listen on your phone (and for those watching from home)! Each car will receive a bag of Chanukah treats and surprises, then we'll be on our way, spreading the light of Chanukah in St. Paul, advertising the miracle of religious freedom.

Please register at [mzion.org](http://mzion.org) **by Wednesday, December 9**. This will be a contact-free event. All participants will remain in their cars for the entire time.

*We are grateful for Mount Zion's Brotherhood for their generous support of this event.*

## ChanuCraft

Sunday, December 13 via Zoom

All of the proceeds made at this fundraising event will go towards SPORTY (Mount Zion's own teen youth group), which offers local Jewish teens a place to make friends, learn about social action, become leaders and have fun, all in a Jewish context. Deadline for signing up has passed.

## Online Community Chanukah Dinner and Candle Lighting

**Thursday, December 10 via Zoom**

Join us for a Community Chanukah Dinner at 6 pm and then a Chanukah Candle Lighting at 7 pm. For detail or questions, contact Sheri Frisque at [sherifrisque@yahoo.com](mailto:sherifrisque@yahoo.com).

*Sponsored by Women of Mount Zion Temple, Brotherhood, and Mount Zion Temple.*

## Make this Chanukah brighter than ever!

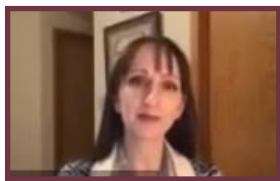
**A Mount Zion Community Gathering Every Night of Chanukah!**



Join us to light your Chanukah candles with MZ staff, clergy, and members of the congregation. We will sing the blessings and Chanukah songs and schmooze with a few surprises. **Please prepare your Chanukah (menorah) and join us online every night of Chanukah at 6 pm\***

*\*On the first night (December 10), dinner (see box to the left) will begin at 6 pm and we will light at 7 pm.*

*\*On the fourth night (December 13), lighting will be part of the "Fire, Freedom, and Fun" event at 4:30 pm.*



"I wish it need not have happened in my time," said Frodo. "So do I," said Gandalf, "and so do all who live to see such times. But that is not for them to decide. All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given us."

—J.R.R. Tolkien

"God is NOT doing the thing that I want God to do!"

—Eve Strauss-Klein

Some of you may recognize the first quote from *The Fellowship of the Ring*, but the second is courtesy of my four-year-old. Eve blurted it out during one of her "corona-rages," which is what happens when she remembers she can't do something she wants to because of Covid. If you too have experienced corona-rage, you're in good company, since Frodo, most of our prophets, and pretty much everyone else has at some point not wanted to deal with the circumstances life has handed them.

The challenges of this time seem endless. It's not exactly delivering the One Ring to Mount Doom, but here's a list of a few things I never imagined dealing with pre-pandemic: learning the (literal) ins and outs of audio equipment, achieving the best sound over Zoom, figuring out how to create a "virtual choir," teaching new melodies when I have no idea whether anyone is even singing (much less learning the new tune), and "distance learning."

But these continual challenges have forced a new perspective. After each bout of "I don't wanna," I've pushed myself to search for the good points. I ask, when God doesn't do what I want God to do, how can I find good in that? How can I bear the burden of my own (and others') strong or challenging emotions? How can I bear the burden of not being in control? Of not knowing the ultimate outcome? What spirit-lifting difference can be made by the small things I can control? I don't have the answers, but rather a reliable strength found from asking again and again during these long days, weeks, and months. I've become convinced that when all this is over, I will look back on 2020 as a time that changed me and my family for the better because it forced us to reflect on existential questions that our more comfortable and predictable pre-Covid lives didn't.

As we approach Chanukah, I am mindful that the worst of this pandemic is ahead of us. But the story of Chanukah, like so many in our tradition, starts out bleak and then reminds us that eventually things get better. Every night we add a candle, illustrating how even a small addition of light can make a big difference. A little light can indeed dispel a great darkness. May God give you the strength to kindle light for yourself and light the darkness for others this Chanukah!

*Kein y'hi ratzon*—may this be God's will.

*Jennifer Strauss-Klein, Cantor*

## What Can National and Local Research Tell Us About Our Future Kehillah Council

*A three-time a year gathering of the Board, Committee Chairs, and open to all Mount Zion members.*

**Tuesday, December 8, 7:00 – 9:00 pm via Zoom**



Regarding the Twin Cities Jewish population, did you know:

- That the total number of people in Twin Cities Jewish households increased 39% between 2004 and 2019?
- That the number of Jewish adults increased 29% and non-Jewish adults in Jewish households increased 178% in the same time period?
- That the number of Jewish children increased 1%?
- That although Reform Judaism with 30% of the Jewish population is the largest denomination in the Twin Cities, the largest single demographic group at 47% are those who identify as secular, cultural, or Just Jewish?

Curious to know more? The December Kehillah Council continues an exploration that we began in August with *Kivvun La'Atid / The Direction of Our Future*. We will learn more about the 2019 Twin Cities Jewish Population Study and how we might use it to help plan for our future. We will also have an opportunity to learn more about the 2020 Mount Zion Congregation Survey and how it, too, can help us plan for our future.

Participants can expect to learn about the study and survey and to engage in facilitated discussions. We hope you'll join us!

Please RSVP to Mount Zion's Administrative Coordinator Kelly Kelzenberg [office@mzion.org](mailto:office@mzion.org) so we can send you information in advance of the gathering.



# From the President



Along with my mussar study group, I look for signs of *tikvah* or hope every day. Here are four signs of hope for your consideration.

During every Board meeting since the pandemic struck, we review the membership report. The report takes into account members who resign as

well as members who join. Like many, I had anticipated members resigning for a wide range of pandemic-related reasons. What I hadn't anticipated were the numbers of people who were joining Mount Zion. Every Board meeting, we see more and more people joining Mount Zion.

If that is not a sign of hope, I am not sure what is.

It is gratifying to see people joining during these difficult times. Now, it is up to us to help these new members feel welcome and included. If you want to know how you can do this, I encourage you to contact our Congregational Engagement Director Shai Avny at [savny@mzion.org](mailto:savny@mzion.org). This phenomena of new membership also speaks to another source of hope: the continued vibrancy of our sacred community.

For instance, our religious school has seen a small decline in enrollment, which is to be expected, given the circumstances of our students and their families. Yet, under Religious School Director Sue Summit's leadership, the religious school is doing wonderful work teaching our young people. Our teachers are creative and innovative, committed to creating positive learning environments for the students. The students, many of whom are attending classes via Zoom during the day, are actively pursuing *more* time on Zoom to be with their Mount Zion peers and teachers. For me, the religious school is definitely a source of hope.

Maybe you were anxious about the High Holy Days; I know I was. However, beginning with the joyous Shofar on the Roof ceremony, to the moving Erev Rosh Hashanah hand-washing ritual, to the final gathering for *n'ilah* on Yom Kippur, I was enveloped by meaningful experiences, which were thoughtfully planned and compassionately executed. So many people played a role in making the High Holy Days as wonderful as they were, but central to this experience was Rabbi Spilker's efforts. As I mentioned during a recent Board meeting, Rabbi Spilker's normally long days (raise your hand if you have ever received an email from him after 10:00 pm? after midnight?) grew even longer in the six weeks prior to Rosh Hashannah as he consulted, scripted, planned with our videographer, conducted recordings, and then worked to edit all of it. It was an astonishing exhibit of commitment and endurance. Like me, perhaps you, too, took hope from Mount Zion's High Holy Day experience.

In April, the Board made a very difficult decision. In light of the financial uncertainty caused by the pandemic, we agreed to reduce the compensation packages of all Mount Zion employees. That decision weighed heavily on the hearts and minds of every Board director. However, as we closed the fiscal year (30 June 2020) and reviewed the first quarter of this fiscal year (1 July – 30 September), we found ourselves in a much better financial situation than we had anticipated. At the October Board meeting, we were able to reinstate the compensation packages and reimburse the staff for lost wages. That was a remarkable moment, one that felt not only right but also hopeful.

Hope is there for the finding—and for the creating. As 2020 draws to a close, let us create hope for one another. Let us care for one another. Let us celebrate our Mount Zion community.

*Michael Kuhne, President*

## Amy Schwartz Moore President-Elect (2023-2025)

When Rabbi Spilker and Board President Michael Kuhne told me that it was time to consider who will become President Elect when I become President in May, I shared that I was already thinking. I know Amy Schwartz Moore as thoughtful, experienced, forthright, concerned about Mount Zion, and true to her beliefs. We will be along with the rest of the Board of Directors- a strong, diversified team. I knew who I wanted to ask, and Amy did me - did all of us - the honor of accepting, and I am so very pleased.



*Michael Wall, President-Elect*

## L'Chaim 5781 Annual Campaign

This year's Annual Campaign celebrates Larry Solomon's 10 years of serving Mount Zion. Larry manages Mount Zion's day-to-day administrative, financial, and facility affairs with an easy-going and affable style. We are thrilled to honor him in this way.



Our goal is to achieve broad participation by the end of 2020. We know that giving is a very personal decision and appreciate your consideration especially in light of our separate, once-in-a-generation endowment campaign. Your gift at literally any level will make a difference.

You can contribute on [mzion.org](http://mzion.org). Or mail a check to Mount Zion Temple, PO Box 16367, St. Paul, MN 55116-0367. Contributions are a free-will offering as a response to our gratitude.

If you have questions, please contact Janelle Norlien, Bookkeeper, at [jnorlien@mzion.org](mailto:jnorlien@mzion.org).

L'shalom,  
Harold Katz, Annual Campaign Chair  
Michael Kuhne, President  
Adam Stock Spilker, Rabbi



# Mount Zion Winter “Travel” for all!

with expert Tour Educator Mike Hollander



Mike was the much beloved Tour Educator for Mount Zion’s 2006 Israel Trip. He was born in Canada and made Aliyah to Modiin, Israel in 1988. Before making Aliyah, he completed his BA degree at York University, Toronto in History and began his MA degree in Middle Eastern Studies at Tel Aviv University. He completed his MA from the Cambridge Center for Jewish-Christian Relations in 2008. Jewish education has always been Mike’s passion and he began to guide in 1994.

## Tu BiSh’vat:

### Water, Water, Water! From the Bible to Start Up Nation

**Mike brings Israel to life on a day that celebrates nature and our connection to Eretz Yisrael**

Thursday, January 28, Noon-1:15 pm via Zoom

The Bible describes Israel as “...a land with streams and springs and fountains issuing from plain and hills” and not a land of great rivers like the Nile, Tigris, and Euphrates. This session will explore how for millennia, from our ancestors until the modern era, residents of Israel have had to ensure enough water to farm and live here. The challenges have been enormous but not insurmountable, as Israel has become a world-renowned leader in water technology.



## 7 Countries in 7 Weeks:

### European Jewish Winter Travel from your Living Room

Sundays, January 17-February 28, 11 am - 12:15 pm – [Register at mzion.org](https://mzion.org).

#### Poland - the Epicenter of the Ashkenazi World in 1939

**January 17**

So many of our Jewish ideas and so much of culture comes from Poland. We will go to Warsaw, Krakow, and Auschwitz-Birkenau, and will touch upon 3 central themes - 1,000 years of Jewish life in Polin, the period of the Shoah from 1939-45, and the complicated post-WWII to the present period of resuscitation of Jewish life in Poland, as well as the strengthening of ties between Israel and Poland.

#### Russia: St. Petersburg and Moscow - The Pale and Beyond

**January 24**

Many Ashkenazi Jews say that their ancestors came from ‘Russia,’ however most likely they didn’t! Jews generally were not allowed to live in what is today the Russian Federation until 1860. From that period until the Russian Revolution in 1917, this area was an anvil of Jewish creativity. In addition, major events- including the assassination of Czar Alexander II in 1881, the Russian Revolution, the Great Patriotic War (WWII), the Cold War, and Glasnost - had tremendous impact on the Jewish population in this part of the world and beyond.



# Mount Zion Winter “Travel” for all!

with expert Tour Educator Mike Hollander

## 7 Countries in 7 Weeks (cont)



### **The Golden Age of Jewish Life in Sepharad/Spain – A Guide for the Perplexed**

**January 31**

For centuries, the Jewish community of Spain was one of the world's most significant. Its creative achievements in the arts, sciences, literature, medicine, diplomacy, etc. were unprecedented for a Diaspora community, largely because of the interaction and integration of the Jewish community in Muslim Spain. All this ended during the same year that Columbus set sail to discover America. We will visit some of the more important Jewish centers, including Córdoba, birthplace of Maimonides, Granada, home of the beautiful Alhambra Palace, where Ferdinand and Isabel issued their expulsion order, as well as the beautiful synagogues of Toledo.

### **Berlin - The Rise and Fall of German Jewry - From Success to Shoah to Rebirth**

**February 7**

During the short period from the arrival of Moses Mendelssohn in 1743 to Max Lieberman becoming the President of the Prussian Academy of Arts, the Jewish community in Berlin grew in size and significance. This meteoric rise took less than 200 years. The success of Berlin Jewry was almost unprecedented, and its achievements collapsed quickly after the rise of Nazism in the early 1930s. This journey will examine the growth and success of Berlin Jewry, its quick downfall and the Final Solution conference at Wannsee and will grapple with the complex challenges of Germany's post WWII legacy. We'll also explore issues of memory and *teshuva*, as well as German Israeli relations and the rebirth of a significant Jewish presence in Berlin.

### **In the Footsteps of Theodor Herzl in Budapest and Vienna**

**February 14 and 21**

These two capitals of the Austro-Hungarian Empire boasted thriving and influential Jewish communities, which reached unprecedented heights during the Fin de Siecle era. Austria was the first country to fall under Nazi control outside of Germany in the 1938 Anschluss, whereas Hungarian Jewry was the last major European Jewish community to be rounded up by the Nazis in 1944. This two-part session will explore the achievements of the Jewish community in these two beautiful cities and the complex search for identity leading up to World War II. We will grapple with two very different stories of how anti-Jewish policies and the Shoah developed, and will discuss Jewish life post-1945. We will focus on some key personalities including Theodor Herzl, Hanna Szenes, Raul Wallenberg, Sigmund Freud, Stefan Zweig, and Viktor Frankl.

### **Prague - The Jewish Story in a City in Search of Freedom**

**February 28**

Prague's Jewish story can be understood by walking through the richly preserved Jewish neighborhood which is one of the more visited tourist sites in the city. This city is layered with centuries of quests for freedom from Jan Hus' early 15th century attempts to reform Christianity (a century before Martin Luther) through the Velvet Revolution led by Vaclav Havel in 1989. The Jewish community was a part of this zeitgeist and had a short-lived Golden Age in the late 15th-early 16th centuries. We will explore the oldest synagogue in Europe, the 13th Century Altneuschul, the centuries old Jewish Cemetery, and hear some of the stories of the more prominent Jewish characters, from the Golem of the Maharal through Franz Kafka.

Mount Zion Brotherhood, Women of Mount Zion Temple, the Mental Health Task Force, and Women's Spirituality are delighted to present

## Unglued: A Bipolar Love Story

**Guest Speaker: Jeff Zuckerman, author**

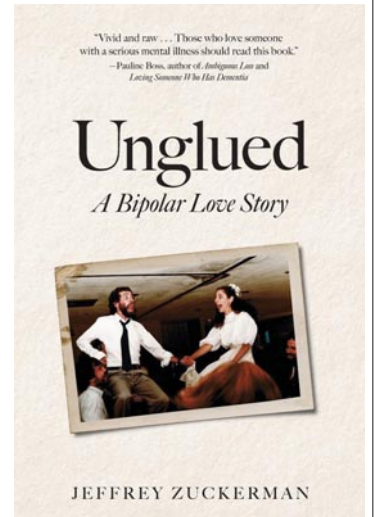
**Sunday, January 10, 10:00 am [via Zoom](#) - Open to All!**

Zoom link on [mzion.org](http://mzion.org) or you can call in at 312-626-6799 and enter Meeting ID: 814 4608 1945.



Jeff Zuckerman's harrowing five-year ride began months before his wife, Leah, was diagnosed with late-onset bipolar disorder. After thirty years of marriage, Jeff, a semi-retired editor and second-string catcher on a recreational softball team, nearly became unglued himself as the woman he loved endured an agonizing manic episode and severe depression. Struggling to manage his own self-care, Jeff needed to learn how to overcome the stigma, loneliness, and guilt that accompanied his wife's battle with a mood disorder.

*Unglued* is a candid, funny and refreshingly irreverent portrayal of the role a spouse takes in loving a partner with a mental illness. Intimate and ultimately hopeful, Jeff's story chronicles the power of compassion, faith and resilience in the survival of a marriage and a caregiver's own well-being. *Unglued: A Bipolar Love Story* is available as a paperback or ebook.



### Israel (Virtual) Book Club

**New meeting date & time:**

**Sunday, January 10, 12:30 pm**

Book: *Liar*, by Ayelet Gudar-Goshen

Join us for a discussion of *The Liar* by one of Israel's most talented young novelists, Ayelet Gudar-Goshen.

Questions, call/text Jonathan Eisenthal at 651-260-6263.



### A Palestinian Perspective - Online Conversations

This series, hosted by Encounter, features Palestinian civil society leaders in conversation with eight Jewish communal leaders who are members of Encounter's leadership network. Over the past 15 years, they and many other Palestinian civil society leaders have courageously hosted thousands of Jewish participants in Encounter's leadership programs. This series offers the opportunity for Jewish leaders to bravely host them and their stories in return, and to continue expanding our conceptual lenses on the conflict. Together we can deepen our commitment to courageous conversation and leadership in service of our Jewish values and future. Sign up or learn more at [poweredbycourage.org](http://poweredbycourage.org).

#### Teaching Amidst Enduring Conflict: Literature & Poetry as Gateways

Wed, Dec 9, 12-1 pm

#### Adaptive Leadership: A View From Ramallah

Thursday, Dec 17 - 12-1 pm

#### Fighting for Peace:

#### Nonviolent Leadership as a Way of Life

Tues, Dec 22, 12-1 pm

#### Living Nonviolence: Becoming a Combatant for Peace

Tues, Jan 5, 11 am-Noon

### Mount Zion's Bloom Library Services Available



Need a great Chanukah book or other Jewish literature? Have a "burning" reference question? Reach out to [librarian@mzion.org](mailto:librarian@mzion.org) for recommendations and answers. With Bob Epstein's retirement, we are fortunate to have volunteers who can provide non-contact book check out. (Please note, this email is checked weekly so your response may be delayed.)

### Building a Jewish Home, Creating a Jewish Family

**Mondays, Jan 25, Feb 1 & 8, 7:00-8:30 pm**

Rabbi Adam Stock Spilker

\$36 members/\$50 public per person



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?

### Learn Hebrew this Year!

Taught by Siana Goodwin

Tuition: \$75 members/\$100 non-members.



### Beginning Adult Hebrew, Part 2

Sundays, Jan 10 - March 21, 7:00 - 8:00 pm

Building on knowledge of the aleph-bet, this class will consist of practice to increase reading skill and facility, plus basic information on Hebrew language structure to begin to build comprehension. Open to anyone with familiar with the aleph-bet.

### Intermediate Adult Hebrew, Part 2

Tuesdays, Jan 5 - March 16, 7:00-8:00 pm

A continuing class, using the text *Prayerbook Hebrew The Easy Way*, by Joseph Anderson. Focusing on acquiring vocabulary and Hebrew grammar specific to understanding the language of our siddur.

## A message from our Congregational Engagement Director Kids, Engagement, and Covid-19



Shalom Y'all!

We are all facing challenges during the pandemic. Some of us are dealing with the fact that we are living alone, some of us are getting bored and we see only our partner (Rabbi Spilker and Rabbi Adler, you will soon have a lot of baby namings), some of us are having fun because our kids

left for college (I will not mention any names, Yasmine Moideen), and me personally, I am willing to give my kids away for a month or two.

There is a song in Hebrew that goes מידלי זו שהמח (Kids are a joy). It is 10% accurate and 90% incorrect during Covid-19. For our members who don't know me, I am married to Mirit. We have three kids and a dog: Marley (our dog) 11, Gev 7, Tzuk 5 and Raviv 10 months old.

Imagine — (well, some of you know) — two working parents, two kids who are in and out of school, and a baby who is with you all day long. By the way Raviv, knows everything that is going on at Mount Zion. What can I say to you? It is pure joy!

The first time we went to distance learning this year I told myself I can deal with distance learning, I do not need to take time off from work. Worst case scenario, I can work in the evening. After a week with them, I can tell you IT WAS A NIGHTMARE! I was helping them get signed into their classes, helping with the activities, making 7 million mostly healthy meals and snacks during the day, putting Raviv to sleep, feeding Raviv, and helping Tzuk during a meltdown because his teacher couldn't hear him.

The next time they had distance learning week, I took a week off from work, my mother-in-law took half days off to help us (God bless her) and we had another “fun” week of distance learning.

For the past 10 months we have been trying to find as a community the best ways to keep everyone engaged. We have been trying to be creative and keep everyone healthy at the same time. I appreciate the fact that we were able to have events outdoors with everyone wearing masks and following our rules.

Some of the events were organized by the Engagement Committee. I want to give them a shout out for their great work with our community. preliminary reading of the recent survey shows that more people would like to be more engaged. If you want to be more involved, all you need to do is write me an email, we will set up a meeting, and I will put you to work 😊 Most members get far more out of the experience than they expected, making new friends along the way.

Chanukah is one of my favorite holidays. This is a great time to spend with our families and friends, lighting candles eight nights. This year it is going to be different but let's make it fun! Try to light the candles with different people via zoom, bake Sofganiot with your kids, have a dreidel competition, make candles with your kids, study about Chanukah. Make it fun for you and your family.

If you are bored or you have a good idea about what we can do at Mount Zion, please send me an email [savny@mzion.org](mailto:savny@mzion.org) and we can set up a time to talk.

Hope to see everyone soon – in person! Stay safe!

Shai Avny



# THANK YOU...FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS

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## CONTRIBUTIONS (CONT)

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Stephanie Wolkin

## News from 1300 Summit Ave



I am still here and very lonely! I am your wonderful building and grounds at 1300 Summit Avenue. I miss everyone! I do not have many visitors these days. However Don and Elias, on the Building Services team, come almost every day to keep me well maintained and clean, and they work hard to minimize COVID germs and spread. Despite being empty since March 2020, many changes and improvements are still happening here. I will tell you of just a few: during the past year, a new telephone system has been installed which offers the most up to date technology and features. Inside the building Johnson Hall has been painted and directional signage has been added to the main hallway. The kitchen has a new ice machine and the bathrooms now have electric soap dispensers and sink facets, that will also help to fight COVID.

Outside has big changes too. The new bridge on Summit Avenue is completed and open, and Summit Avenue has been paved with new curbs and sidewalks installed by Syndicate Street. Our parking lot got new driveway entrances and the entire parking lot was paved and restriped, (thank you to our great neighbors, Kowalski's, who partnered on this project). The Edelstein garden was beautiful this summer and well cared for by our new master gardener.

Lastly, but most important, security was a primary focus of many improvements. A new, comprehensive security system was installed this summer with 23 new cameras and new door monitoring and opening mechanisms. To keep me really safe, the Shomrim (our volunteer "watchers"), circle the building each day to make sure that everything is secure and in good condition. We are really grateful for their service and devotion to the safety and security of all members. As I wait for your return, please stay safe and healthy!

## Make Firm Our Steps Endowment Campaign    Annual Campaign    Legacy Circle

### We are grateful for your generosity!

We want to thank all who have contributed their support, encouragement, and commitment to our wonderful community. Over the past year, we have invited your generosity to our Annual Campaign honoring Larry Solomon's 10 years serving as Executive Director, and to our once-in-a-generation Endowment Campaign called "Make Firm Our Steps." And you have responded! Many have also thought about future giving by joining our Legacy Circle. The willingness to offer your contributions and pledges in this especially challenging year is inspirational. The Giving Committee, Board of Directors, clergy, and staff are grateful. May your willingness to contribute bring extra light to your spirit in the months ahead. *Todah rabah!*

# Religious School News

## Our Religious School Committee, Faculty, Madrichim, Students and Their Families Can Teach and Learn Virtually Everything

That's right; we haven't missed a beat since going online this fall!

This summer's reJEWvenation was focused on re-imagining Jewish education here at Mount Zion and in collaboration with Jewish Educators across the WORLD! Rabbi Amy Ariel and I attended a NewCAJE conference like no other. The Coalition for the Advancement of Jewish Education allows Jewish professionals, teens, and college students to network, engage, and learn from one another. Not only did we learn about dozens of digital tools and newly designed Jewish online curriculum, but we spent time considering the importance of social emotional learning. After all, we serve as a supportive community for one another in times of joy and times of sorrow, times of excitement and times of anxiety, times of good health and times of illness. In fact, we learn in the Talmud that there is a time for every experience under heaven; even a time for embracing and a time to shun embraces. Yes, our Jewish ancestors thought of everything including being physically distanced while being socially connected.

And so, armed with this newly found knowledge and a sense of what our religious school families needed, we reinvented our school. The goal was to make the experience similar enough for families to feel connected to past experiences and different enough to make the experience accessible for everyone. The school committee and faculty members who typically take the summer off, worked through the summer with me to redefine a program that would appeal to a wide range of families.

Abby Gore, Keshet Berlinsky Edry and I worked closely with our P2K partners to enhance our connection with Israel. The Partner2Gether program is a project of the Jewish Agency which strives to connect American and Israeli classrooms to facilitate authentic, meaningful learning for the students. Our Shlichah, Keshet is now teaching in both the lower school and the chai school, which is allowing our students to build relationships without traveling all the way to Israel. Some of our students participated in a pen-pal program over the summer, and now our 6<sup>th</sup> grade class is "twinning" with a 6<sup>th</sup> grade class at Rabin Elementary in Kfar Tavor, a town in Northern Israel. Throughout the year, they will engage in interactive activities and occasional Zoom calls during which they will share knowledge and learn together. The interactions will enhance and reinforce the Judaic Studies curriculum around themes like immigration, the modernization of Judaism, and Israeli culture and society.

I would say that based on the first three months of school, it has been a tremendous success! How do I know? Well, for starters, attendance is at an all-time high with attendance over 95% on any given day. Secondly, students are engaged, eager to be with one another and even asking to stay after class! Thirdly, students who are easily distracted by the cacophony of voices during small-group study can concentrate easily in breakout rooms that tune out the sounds of all the other students. Fourthly, families can participate in their children's education more readily than before – even study Hebrew in conjunction with their children and grandchildren. Commutes are easier, classes are shorter, and we can all see each other's faces during class and T'filah.

Do we miss being together in-person? We sure do, and we are looking forward to the time when we can be together for Shabbatonim, classes, holidays, and life-cycle events! Will our experiences with online learning change how we deliver education after the pandemic? Yes, I'm sure it will. We have learned so much from our experiences and are finding new and exciting ways to present materials and for students to demonstrate their understanding of the lessons. We have become more sensitive to each other's needs and expanded our view of our community. Our partnerships with one another have strengthened, and our sense of community and Jewish identity has strengthened. Oh, and we are still gaining a Jewish education along the way.

Watch your email for upcoming school programs!

*Susan Amram Summit*  
Religious School Director





# B'nei Mitzvah

These young women were called to the Torah as Bat Mitzvah from August through November. They led the service either from their home or from the sanctuary with clergy and congregants witnessing and participating via Zoom. We are looking forward to celebrating with Ella in December!



**Aliyah "Allie" Karon**  
August 29, 2020

Aliyah is the daughter of Jackie Karon; the granddaughter of Jaylene and Bernie Karon (z"l); and the niece of Michelle, Eddie, and David Karon. Allie is entering the 7<sup>th</sup> grade at Heritage E-STEM Magnet School in West St. Paul. Her favorite subjects include Language Arts, Science, and Phy Ed.

Outside of school, Allie enjoys music, theater, art, and dance as well as swimming, skateboarding, and volleyball. Allie's favorite phrase from her Torah portion is, "*Lo tuchal l'hitalel*" which translates as, "You shall not be indifferent." That in mind, her Bat Mitzvah project this upcoming year will focus on social justice efforts. She will donate a portion of her gift money to projects associated with recovery from the pandemic.



**Evelyn "Evie" Swenson**  
October 3, 2020

Evie (Meira Ahava) is the daughter of Steve Swenson and Suzy Frisch, and the youngest sister of Maddie and Grace. Her grandparents are Janet Frisch and Susan and Duane Swenson, and the late Charles Frisch and Marjorie Shark. Evie attends Scott Highlands Middle School in Apple

Valley, where she is in 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Her favorite subjects are social studies and choir. In addition, Evie enjoys participating in theater and playing soccer. She volunteered at the Dakota County Library for her service project. In honor of her bat mitzvah, Evie will donate a portion of her gift money to the World Wildlife Fund.



**Francesca "Chessa" Berg**  
October 10, 2020

Chessa Berg is the daughter of Andrea and Cliff Berg. She is the granddaughter of Sharyn and Edward Hotchkiss, Howard Levine (of blessed memory), and Rodney and Sandra (of blessed memory) Berg. Chessa has an older brother, Harrison. She is in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade at Friendly Hills Middle

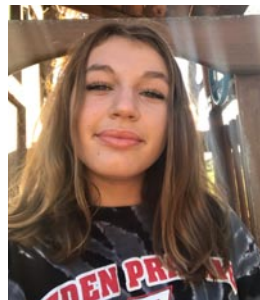
School. Chessa's enjoys many subjects in school, including math, language arts and social studies. Chessa loves to swim and is on the Henry Sibley Girls Swim and Dive team and play soccer. She also enjoys spending time with her friends talking about the Percy Jackson books and going to Herzl Camp in the summer. Chessa is a *madricha* this year at Mount Zion working with students in the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. In honor of her Bat Mitzvah she will be donating a portion of her gift money to defeat homelessness here in the Twin Cities.



**Miranda "Mimi" Shore**  
October 24, 2020

Miranda (Meira) Shore is the child of Sean Shore and Marta Dykhuizen Shore. She is the grandchild of Gail Kramer Shore (of blessed memory), Sheldon and Joan Shore, Lawrence Grossberg, Daniel and Margaret Dykhuizen, and Phyllis Clark Dykhuizen. Mimi has an older sister

named Greta. Mimi is a seventh grader at Highland Park Middle School. Her favorite subjects are Art, French, and Phy. Ed. She also enjoys acting, track, and volleyball. Miranda will donate a portion of her Bat Mitzvah gift money to the Humane Society.



**Sydney Bond**  
November 7, 2020

Sydney (Simcha) is the daughter of Elena and Michael Bond. She is the granddaughter of Michelle Bond and Rick Bond (of blessed memory) and Tatyana and Felix Belkin. She has an older sister, Maya, and a younger brother, Jack. She is in 7<sup>th</sup> Grade at Central Middle School in

Eden Prairie. Sydney's favorite subjects in school are English and Science. Sydney loves swimming, and kind of likes running, a little. She enjoys hanging out with her friends and listening to Broadway music. She is happy to be a *madricha* this year at Mount Zion. In honor of her Bat Mitzvah she will be donating a portion of her gift money to Mental Health Minnesota.



**Ella Wallen**  
December 19, 2020

Ella (Esther) is the daughter of Jennifer and Chris Wallen and the granddaughter of Pat and Joe Simmon and Liz and Doug Wallen. Ella has two older siblings, Benjamin and Avery. She is in the 7<sup>th</sup> Grade at Lake Middle School in Woodbury where she excels in Math and Science as

well as violin in Orchestra. Outside of school, Ella is learning guitar and hopes basketball will not be cancelled this winter. Ella has enjoyed her first year as a *madricha* and looks forward to resuming the role in person. When not distance learning, Ella can be found on the trampoline, outside running for online Gym, texting with her Mount Zion friends, or checking in on her favorite TikToks. In honor of her Bat Mitzvah, she will be donating a portion of her gift money to *Yad Ezra V'Shulamit*, Feeding Israel's Hungry.

# Our Bodies (are Home), Our Souls (are Together)

## 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Jewish Retreat for Women Friday, Jan. 29-Saturday, Jan. 30



This year's OBOS will be one like none other, but we are committed to keeping it **connective, creative, and celebratory!**

### Highlights will include:

Shabbat services \* Song sessions \* Torah study  
Yoga & Jewish teaching \* Art & text study  
Small group conversations \* Informal schmoozing  
The treasured pajama party!

Please consider participating in the entire retreat, which will include some breaks from the screen, but because of the unusual nature of this year, we understand that you may pick and choose what to attend. The online format makes this a great year to invite another Mount Zion woman to check out OBOS!\*

Whether you're a regular OBOS attendee or a first timer, we hope you'll join us to **keep the magic happening!**

Registration will be ongoing, but those who **register by Friday, January 15** will receive a small gift bag delivered to their homes.

*Mount Zion feels that it is important to offer this event without a fee so that everyone can attend without financial burden. However, donations are greatly appreciated to help us continue to provide meaningful programming and an outstanding women's Shabbaton (retreat). Please consider a donation in the range of support you are comfortable with, \$7 - \$72. We honor everyone's needs during these challenging times.*

\*In order to maintain the intimate feel of OBOS and to continue to strengthen connections in our Mount Zion community, registration priority will be given to Mount Zion members and past attendees of OBOS.

## Women of Mount Zion Temple

To get the latest information about these events or how to participate, go to: [mzion.org/connect/women-of-mount-zion-temple](http://mzion.org/connect/women-of-mount-zion-temple). Questions? Contact Ruth Abrahamson at [easabes@gmail.com](mailto:easabes@gmail.com)

### 2020-2021 Board Meetings

Everyone is welcome!

**Sundays at 10 am:** Dec. 6, Jan. 3, Feb. 7, Mar. 7

**Tuesdays at 6:30 pm:** Apr. 6, May 4, June 1

### Upcoming Events - Save the Dates!

**Chanukah Dinner** (see p. 5)

**Irving Berlin: The Ultimate Jewish Immigrant**

*Saturday, December 19 via Zoom; 6:30 pm Havdalah, 7pm Program*  
Charles Troy's unique presentations employ a seamless blend of recorded songs (with lyrics projected onscreen), original graphics, vintage photos, historic video and an extensively researched scripted narrative to dramatize the stories behind the great creations of the American Musical Theatre.

**Notorious RBG:**

**The Life and Times of Ruth Bader Ginsburg**

*Tuesday, January 5, 6:30pm via Zoom*

*From the Illinois Holocaust Museum*

Based on the New York Times bestselling book, *Notorious RBG: The Life and Times of Ruth Bader Ginsburg* is the first-ever museum exhibition focused solely on this judicial icon. The exhibit is a vibrant exploration of Justice Ginsburg's life and her numerous, often simultaneous roles as a student, wife, mother, lawyer, judge, women's rights pioneer, and Internet phenomenon.

**Billy Joel: The Piano Man by Gary Wenstrup**

*Jan. 13, 7 pm via Zoom*

**History of Motown by Gary Wenstrup**

*Feb. 9, 7pm via Zoom*

### Neighborhood House Winter Clothing Drive and Volunteers Needed!

Neighborhood House is running a winter clothing and gear drive to help families get through the winter months. They are accepting gently used and new hats, gloves, scarves, coats, and other winter gear. Most needed items are children's coats and boots.

The Wellstone Center doors are locked to the public, but if you call 651-789-2500 Monday-Friday, 9am - 4pm, an employee will accept your donation. Questions? Please contact Tanika Fears at [tfears@neighb.org](mailto:tfears@neighb.org) or 651-789-2513. Your gifts are greatly appreciated as families prepare for the cold winter months ahead.

Neighborhood House is also looking for volunteers to help with monthly fresh produce distributions. Sign up: for a shift at [neighb.org/support/volunteer](http://neighb.org/support/volunteer)



## Social Action Update

### Tzedek Campaign 2020: After the Election

Since last summer, Mount Zion members have been speaking with each other one-to-one about our community and our country and what keeps them up at night at a time when so much does. There were three areas of focus in addition to civic engagement: racial justice, immigrant justice, and climate justice. Now, after the election, the question is what is possible to act upon in each arena? The Tzedek committee will host three sessions with local experts in policy agendas on the county and state levels on three Sundays in December. These sessions will prepare us for Tzedek Shabbat during Martin Luther King, Jr. weekend where we will hear from inspiring speakers in each arena. Following this Shabbat, all will be invited for a Mount Zion Book Read of “*Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents*” by Isabel Wilkerson in February (dates TBD).

#### After the election, what can we do about racial justice?

**Sunday, Dec 6** (6:00-7:15 pm) - via Zoom

*Vic Rosenthal will facilitate the conversation with Enzi Tanner from Jewish Community Action to provide ideas for next steps.*

#### After the election, what can we do about immigrant justice?

**Sunday, Dec 13** (7:00-8:15 pm) - via Zoom

*Diana Dean will facilitate the conversation with Sarah Buchlaw from Jewish Community Action to provide ideas for next steps.*

#### After the election, what can we do about climate justice?

**Sunday, Dec 20** (6:00-7:15 pm) - via Zoom

*Lisa Hilbink will facilitate the conversation with staff from Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light to provide ideas for next steps.*

### Friday, January 15 – Tzedek Shabbat

5:00 pm **Food for Thought:** Panel discussion and breakout groups

- Sam Grant, Executive Director of MN 350 will discuss Climate Change.
- Jim Bear Jacobs, Program Director for Racial Justice for the Minnesota Council of Churches, to discuss their 10 year focus on Truth and Reparations.
- Veena Iyer, Executive Director of Immigrant Law Center of MN, to discuss their policy focus on immigrant rights issues.

6:00 pm **Shabbat Service** with speaker, State Senator Erin Murphy (who represents Mount Zion's district). Sen. Murphy will reflect on what she heard from our Food for Thought as priorities for Minnesota.

### Mount Zion Winter Book Read:



*Discussion Group Dates  
To Be Determined.*

*We encourage you to purchase or  
borrow the book from your library.  
We will also have some copies to  
loan out and will share that  
process in January.*



# We Confess

The ways we have harmed You...  
and the harm we have caused in Your world...

In the year of George Floyd's death, Mount Zion congregants wrote these confessions during a Yom Kippur Afternoon Session led by Rabbi Spilker.

We first read an [Unetaneh Token For Black Lives](#) by Imani Romney-Rosa Chapman and [An Al Cheit for This Moment In Time](#) by Rabbi Susan Talve. Then the above prompt was given (The ways we have harmed You by/through...) and participants thought/wrote and then shared the following confessions.

“

The ways we have harmed you by seeing attributes and utility instead of humanity, and the harm we have caused in your world by fearing without understanding. – Eric Lund

The ways we have wronged you by/through not listening to one another; and believing 'we' alone are right; that others are 'wrong' & that we therefore don't have to listen to them, care for them or include them. And the harm we have caused in Your world by believing that we are separate and disconnected from You, the Earth, and one another; and that the Earth's resources are infinitely renewable WITHOUT putting thought and action into responsible stewardship. And by assuming the harm we have created doesn't matter. - Sarah Schaleger

The ways we have wronged You through apathy, and the harm we have caused in your world by pretending serious problems do not exist. - Gregory Bard

The harm we have caused in Your world by protecting our own comfort and ignoring the pain of others. – Yvonne Lerew

The ways we have wronged You by standing closer than six feet apart and the harm we have caused in your world by putting our selfishness above safety. - Madeline Bagdade

The ways we have wronged You by standing idly by amid suffering, and the harm we have caused in Your World by silently conceding to wrongful use of power and privilege. - David Knapp

For the harm I have caused by not intervening and speaking out when I see harm being done. - Kathleen Riley

The harm we have caused in Your world by becoming paralyzed by despair and therefore not acting. - Rick Linsk

The ways we have wronged You by confusing segregation for shelter, and the harm we have caused by seeking comfort rather than connection. The ways we have harmed you by nursing wounds, instead of sharing healing and the harm we have caused by resting, even when we need it. The ways we have wronged you by allowing racism to contribute to our Jewish identities, and the harm we have caused by accepting our world as it is. The ways we have wronged you by accepting Jewishness on white supremacists' terms, and the harm we have caused by perceiving each other through racist narratives. - Demetrios Vital

For the ways we have harmed You in our self-absorption, and the harm we have caused You by not truly listening. – Tara Fly

The ways we have wronged You by being passive. The harm we have caused in Your world by not working harder to build a just world for all. - Seth Levin & Mia Nosanow

For the ways we have wronged You for taking the easy/non-confrontational way out and not speaking up because I don't feel it will make a difference. - Neil Segal

The ways we have harmed You and the world for using and tolerating the use of the derogatory word “schvartze” and abandoning the cities because we did not want to live next door to Black people. ...by denying that racism exists and refusing to acknowledge that Black people suffer today, every day, from the legacy of slavery. – Leslie Martin

The harm we have caused by not recognizing that our intentions can be different than the impact on others. – Sharon DeMark

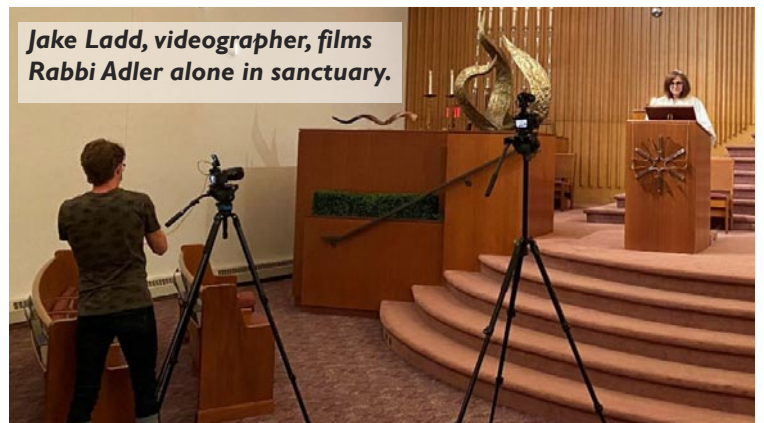
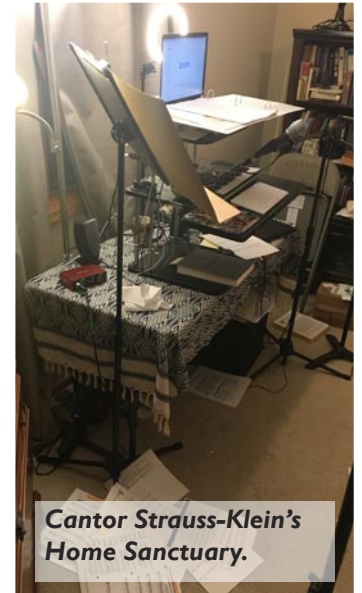
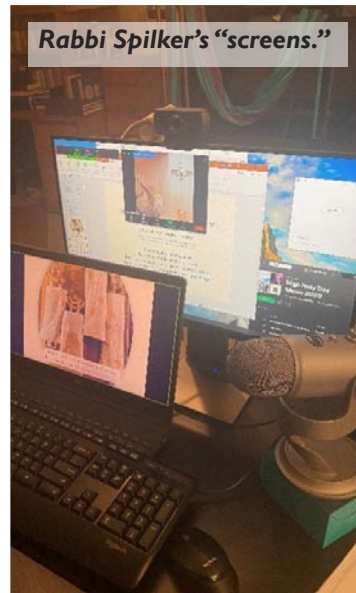
Ways I have harmed You by not giving enough time, by using bad language, using more resources than I might have, by not being truly charitable. – David Epstein

”

# Behind-the-Scenes of the High Holy Days

As you could imagine, “producing” the High Holy Days this year expanded all our skill sets. It began with your input in June through our congregational survey and Sally Glick’s masterful leadership of the Worship Committee. After sifting through the hopes and possibilities, we created a schedule with input from congregants and in dialogue with colleagues from across the country. Starting in late August, we began recording each prayer and song separately for the fourteen pre-recorded services that would be edited up to the day of the Holy Days. We purposefully planned live services, teachings, or connection moments every evening and day of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Those were broadcast from our home sanctuaries via Zoom to live-streaming and Facebook. Michael Kuhne and all who read poetry did so live from their homes. Shai Avny and Robert Garfinkle led a cadre of volunteers to manage the technical support and production. When the pre-recorded services came on, we clergy could relax a bit and worship with our families – a completely new and welcome experience! Here are a few pictures “behind-the-scenes”.

– Adam Stock Spilker, Rabbi



Rabbi Adam Stock Spilker  
 Rabbi Esther Adler  
 Cantor Jennifer Strauss-Klein  
 Cantor Rachel Stock Spilker  
 Larry Solomon, Executive Director  
 Susan Amram Summit, Religious School Director  
 Shai Avny, Congregational Engagement Director  
 Michael Kuhne, President  
 Michael Wall, President-Elect

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## Mount Zion Winter “Travel” for all!

with expert Tour Educator Mike Hollander

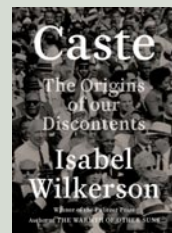
All from your own living room!

See page 8 and 9 for more details!



## Mount Zion Winter Book Read

See page 17.



### Behind-the-Scenes of the High Holy Days!

See page 19

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First Night of Chanukah: Thursday, December 10 / 25 Kislev

## Fire, Freedom, and Fun!

**A Chanukah Parade Publicizing the Miracle of Chanukah**

**Sunday, December 13, 4:30-5:15 p.m.**

- Decoarte your car for a car Parade!
- Governor Tim and Gwen Walz will join us on Zoom for the candle lighting and then wave to us as we drive by the Governor's mansion.
- This will be a contact-free event.

*We are grateful for Mount Zion's Brotherhood for their generous support of this event.*

See p. 4 for details.