



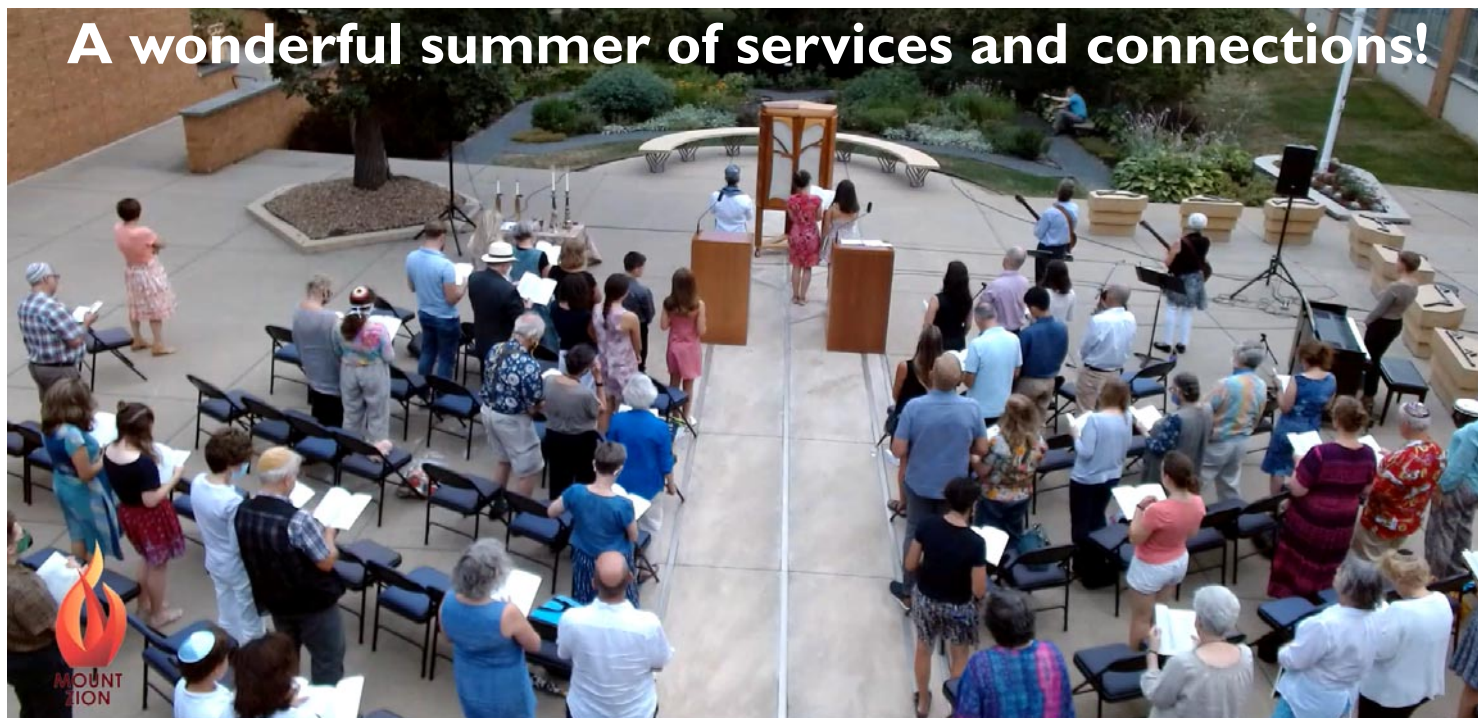
ITON TZIYON

עיתון ציון

Mount Zion Temple Bulletin

September/October/November 2021 (Fall) | Elul/Tishrei/Cheshvan/Kislev 5781/5782
Vol. 166, No. 1

A wonderful summer of services and connections!



HERE ALL ALONG



FINDING MEANING,
SPIRITUALITY, AND A
DEEPER CONNECTION
TO LIFE — IN JUDAISM

(After Finally Choosing to Look There)

Sarah Hurwitz

Fall Community Book Read



Getting ready for learning
for young and old!

Mount Zion High Holy Days 5782

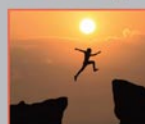


שיבנו ה'ה' אלהינו חיים חיים חיים
Hashivenu Adonai eilecha v'nashuva, chodesh yameinu k'kedem.

Return us, Adonai, to You and we will return.
Renew our days as in the past we have always renewed our days.

— Lamentations 5:21 and from the Torah Service Liturgy (returning the Torah scrolls to the Ark)

Courage Faith Compassion



Shanah Tovah!

L'Dor VaDor

From Generation to Generation

Mazel Tov To...

Nate and Cara Hoch on the birth of their daughter, *Leona*, on March 20.

Nancy and Paul Lewis on the marriage of their daughter *Allison* to *Joe Neuworth* on August 21.

Carrie and Steve Siegel on the marriage of their son *David* to *Allie Diracles* on August 7.

Samantha Frances Schauvane,

ordained as a rabbi by Provost Andrea Weiss at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati on Shabbat, May 8, 2021. Rabbi Schauvane grew up at Mount Zion and has been our rabbinic intern for two summers. We are so proud!



ZICHRONAM LIVRACHA...

May their memories be a blessing

We note with sorrow the passing of our members:

Constance "Connie" Ross

Our condolences to her family.

Robert Rubenstein

Our condolences to his family, including his stepdaughter Wendy (Steve) Rubin.

Barbara Sarapas

Our condolences to her family.

Martin "Marty" Schuman

Our condolences to his family, including his wife Sheila Schuman.

Lawrence "Larry" Zelle

Our condolences to his family, including his wife Hannalee "Honey" Zelle, his sons Daniel (Laura) and Peter (Jessica).

We Extend Condolences to...

Robert (Jeni) Alcakovic on the death of his mother *Elizabeth Alcakovic* on May 29.

Gail (Steve) Brand on the death of her brother *Jeffrey Greenspoon* on May 19.

Nancy (Paul) Lewis on the death of her mother *Helaine Ribner Shackman* on July 26.

Nate (Kate Dietrick) Ordansky on the death of his mother *Margaret Ordansky* on August 13.

Howard (Paula) Roston, on the death of his father *David Roston* on August 14.

Kurt (Anne) Schaeffer on the death of his mother *Sheila Parker* August 20.

Richard Weil (Lindsay Nauen) on the death of his brother *Robert Weil* on May 10.

Melissa (Todd) Wickard, on the death of her brother *Michael Powers* on August 16.

Letter from the Rabbi

Question: What do Michelle Obama, Mount Zion Temple, and a well-placed banana have in common?

Answer: Sarah Hurwitz



Sarah Hurwitz was head speech writer for First Lady Michelle Obama, and she is going to be Mount Zion's guest in conversation with Rabbi Spilker and the rest of us on October 7. And the banana? You'll have to read the book for that one. It is in chapter 8.

In her book *Here All Along*, Sarah Hurwitz shares her long journey from Hebrew school drop-out to living a deeply meaningful Jewish life, from writing speeches in others' voices to putting her own voice into a book on Judaism.

Hurwitz vividly describes her early Jewish experiences: Her family attended services twice a year "where we squirmed through the endless droning melodies, [and] halfheartedly recited [sic] incomprehensible Hebrew and stilted English." Hebrew school amounted to "years of accumulated boredom." At her first and last Shabbat dinner at Hillel in college "everyone seemed to know each other from Jewish summer camp and be in on some inside joke to which I was not privy." She had no use for any of that and put all it behind her. All this may sound painfully familiar to many of us.

Visits to Holocaust memorials in Europe after college were profoundly moving, and she realized that she was unable any longer to disown her Judaism, but still, she had no real interest in owning it either, so she chose a middle path of ignoring it. So, why are we reading this book?!!

Because in her mid-30s, Hurwitz accidentally discovered that Judaism *can* and *does* offer "meaning, spirituality, and a deeper connection to life." Her book explores the many ways that Judaism responds to the very real questions and challenges life puts before us. Sharing her own journey of discovery in an engaging and accessible way (she was Michelle Obama's head speechwriter after all) she opens new pathways of discovery for us as readers, wherever we might be in our own spiritual journeys. The book is described not as a "how-to guide" to Judaism, but a "why-to guide."

I would hope that many of us at Mount Zion already experience Judaism as positive, meaning-laden, and uplifting, but I also know that everyone feels at times that something is missing, that our searching is unproductive, or that we haven't been let in on some eternal secret. Everyone wonders at times why we are doing all of this. It is to those parts of us that this book speaks so powerfully. I feel confident that each of us will find new insights, as well as recognize familiar ones, as we follow the book's path of discovery about Torah, theology, spirituality, Mitzvot, prayer, practices, ethics, and more. Although as Hurwitz notes, Judaism provides more questions than answers, *Here all Along* and our conversation with Sarah Hurwitz on October 7 will assuredly deepen and enrich our questioning.

For details about buying the book and the event on October 7, see pages 8 and 9.

Esther Adler, Rabbi

Yesher koach to the B'nei Mitzvah Class of 2020-21

In honor of their B'nei Mitzvah, families contributed to a fund instead of giving individual gifts to classmates. They raised \$4,430; half of this will be saved for them to give as their Confirmation Class gift in 10th grade. The other half (\$2215) will be divided between organizations the students have chosen, Equal Justice Initiative and KAVOD. Well done/kol hakavod!

Make Shabbat Your Sanctuary

New Shabbat Evening Service Time: 6:30 pm

As you may know, we have been thinking about the start time for Friday night Shabbat services. Over the years, we have tried many approaches. Since 1997 we held services at 6:30 pm on the first Fridays and 7:30 pm the rest of the month. For a period, we added an 8:00 pm worship time. Over the past decade, we have held summer services at 6:00 pm. During the eighteen months of the pandemic, we have held services at 6:00 pm. This consistency has resonated with many. For years we have heard feedback desiring a consistent time for Shabbat evening services similar to our consistent 10 am as we have on Shabbat morning.

We asked for your input in a recent survey and 230 responded. In our diverse community, people had preferences for everything from 5:30 to 8:00 pm. A little under half said that they would attend regardless of timing. While the preference for online worship was 6:00 pm and then 6:30 pm (31%/27%) a plurality preferred 7:00 pm and then 6:30 pm for in person worship (30%/22%).

While there is no one time that will perfectly meet everyone's needs, we determined that a 6:30 start time honors the feedback and could best accommodate commute time, young families' schedules, Shabbat dinners before or after services, and our wonderful culture of community building through Oneg time together.

During the summers, we will continue our tradition of 6:00 pm Shabbat services. As always, we will see how this works for our congregation and will be in touch if changes need to be made.

So please mark your calendars: **Beginning September 10, we will hold all Friday night Shabbat services at 6:30 pm.**

Join for Engaging, Musical, Inspiring Shabbat Services

Friday Night

Kabbalat Shabbat Service, beginning September 10: 6:30 pm — Join in person or online ([Zoom](#), [Livestream](#) [Facebook](#))
September 3 will be at 6pm

Saturday Morning

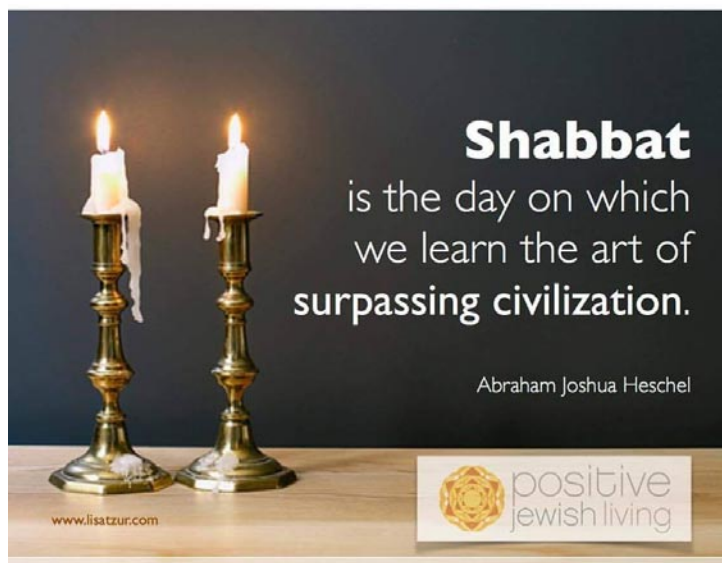
Torah Study: 9:00 am - Join in person or online ([Zoom](#))

Shabbat Shacharit (Morning) Service: 10:00 am — Join in person for B'nei Mitzvah services or online ([Zoom](#) [Livestream](#) [Facebook](#))

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

Are you calling into Zoom?

Call (929) 205-6099 and enter meeting ID: Friday Nights (147 120 944), Torah Study (949 308 718), Saturday Mornings (905 418 669) .



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.

“Becoming someone else means reimagining who we are.”

—from *Preparing Your Heart for the High Holy Days*, by Kerry Olitzky and Rachel Sabath



Before Covid, I never saw myself as a guitarist or a glasses wearer. Both of those things changed during the pandemic—the former by choice, the latter by necessity. Admittedly, the glasses-wearing thing was more inertia than anything else—I’ve had a prescription for over 15 years, but until recently, I didn’t need them badly enough to go through the hassle of choosing frames. That’s right: I put up with not-

so-great vision for 15 years because I was too indecisive.

The guitar-playing was more of a sore spot, and coincidentally, also a 15-year-old issue. Guitar lessons are required as part of the cantorial curriculum at Hebrew Union College, but I neither took them seriously nor practiced enough. At the time it was clear to me that I would never be good enough to play in front of people, and therefore it wasn’t worth the effort. So my guitar more or less sat around and collected dust.

Cue the pandemic and Zoom services, where technology prevents two or more people from playing instruments or singing with accurate timing from different locations. So any chance of me having accompaniment that wasn’t karaoke was dependent on either me or the members of my household (and Nick and the kids weren’t biting). So sometime in the fall I got my guitar out and tried to figure out how many songs I could decently play with my quite limited abilities. I think it turned out to be three. My fingers hurt, I was more nervous than at High Holy Days, and I probably missed about 40% of the chords. But I did it, and nobody seemed to be offended (or at least didn’t share it with me). Telling myself this was still value-added, I learned a few more songs in the weeks to come, and in a couple of months felt confident enough to be able to play an entire service.

Admittedly, both of these developments in my life were forced upon me, but each compelled me to reckon with my own self-image, and how thinking of myself a certain way actually prevented me from changing, be it growing, improving myself, or developing a skill. This is one of the things Sarah Hurwitz writes about so beautifully in her book, *Here All Along: Finding Meaning, Spirituality, and a Deeper Connection to Life—in Judaism (After Finally Choosing to Look There)*. She will be speaking via Zoom at Mount Zion on Thursday, October 7th. Her book is excellent, and I encourage everyone to read it and attend the conversation. As I read it now, the message that’s resonating with me is about identity. If I want to change, I need to see myself differently. And that might mean opening up to an idea of myself that doesn’t conform to my self-image. *Teshuvah*, often translated as “repentance” but literally meaning “return,” can imply going *back* to our best selves. But I think it can also mean turning to a new self, or a

new image of our selves that we couldn’t previously imagine.

For what it’s worth, it’s still hard for me to see myself as a guitarist. The word implies a level of mastery I’m not sure I will ever achieve. But I am very happy to have acquired enough competence to be able to play an entire service. And in the end, because I choose to see it as a skill I can work on, rather than an unattainable identity, I can be both pleased with the progress I’ve made *and* inspired to continue working and practicing. Similarly, *teshuvah* is not a static state, but an ongoing process.

Lawrence Kushner writes: “Entrances to holiness are everywhere. The possibility of ascent is all the time. Even at unlikely times and through unlikely places.” I invite you this High Holy Day season to open your eyes to the possibilities within you, as unlikely as they may seem to you. The entrances are everywhere.

Jennifer Strauss-Klein, Cantor

Mount Zion is delighted to welcome Dr. Tami Morse as our new accompanist!

Tami is active as a harpsichord soloist and chamber musician in the Midwest and East Coast. With the baroque ensemble Flying Forms, she is in residence at Lawrence University, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, and with Minnesota Youth Symphonies. She also performs regularly with the Minnesota Bach Ensemble, the Big Apple Baroque Band, the Lyra Baroque Orchestra, the Bach Society of Minnesota and Glorious Revolution Baroque. Tami has a Master of Music degree from the University of Michigan and a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from Stony Brook University. She is the Artistic Director and co-founder of the performance space The Baroque Room in the Lowertown area of downtown Saint Paul, and teaches harpsichord at Augsburg University. She and her husband violinist Marc Levine have two children, Nadia and Sophie. Tami and her family also recently became members at Mount Zion! Please say “hi” and give them a warm welcome when you see them!



From the President



As I entered the Presidency, I was told that I was fortunate to have no crisis. That is true, as we are financially very healthy (while I don't have to, I will yet-again trumpet our successes in the Make Firm Our Steps endowment campaign, dues, and annual campaign participation), and despite the challenges of the Covid Pandemic, we are largely engaged with our congregational fellows, our faith, and our concern for those in need, each

congregant in their own way. Perhaps contrary to what you might expect, the 'no crisis' condition has found your Board of Directors and other lay leadership as busy as ever. Why? I'm glad you asked.

A congregation has its cycles, and it has its surprises. The clergy, the staff, and lay leadership are always talking worship, and learning, and budgets and building maintenance. And just as with the yearly calendar, there comes a time to look ahead. During Elul the shofar is blown every morning, not only as a High Holidays alarm clock and to encourage our soul's accounting, but because we need reminding that there is always work to do to be better, and that there are always questions that need to be discovered, to be asked, and to be answered.

Mount Zion has begun *Kivvun La'Atid*, a study of what work there may be to do in order to be a successful synagogue in 2040. You will hear more in the weeks and months ahead about some of the questions being discovered, and the processes we will use to not only ask them, but also to dig deep for answers.

The Opening Task Force has continued to meet as of this writing, with their eyes not only on how well safety measures and planning have worked, but at the changes in conditions and the recommendations and mandates locally, from the state, and from the CDC. Our whole congregation has experienced apprehension and anxiety, impatience and at times an overwhelming desire for it all to be over and to just get back to normal. Through it all we had and will continue to have each other to turn to and lean on.

And as I am thankful for this congregation, and the work of all those who make an effort on our behalf, I am also thankful for the cycles continuing: from one Shabbat to another; from Elul to Rosh Hashanah to Yom Kippur to Sukkot and Simchat Torah; from month to month and year to year; from the first chanted words of Bereishit to the final phrase in *V'Zot HaBerachah*. And I am thankful to be living these cycles with you.

Michael Wall, President

Mount Zion Iton Tziyon Schedule for 2021-22

We are now publishing a print bulletin quarterly. This is our Fall bulletin. The remaining issues are

- Winter Bulletin - Covering December through February
- Spring Bulletin - Covering March and April
- Summer Bulletin - Covering May through August

L'Chaim 5782 Annual Campaign

We are excited to launch the Mount Zion L'Chaim 5782 Annual Campaign this fall. Thank you to all who have sustained the annual campaign effort last year despite the many challenges we faced. We were thrilled with the response and are grateful for your support.



L'Chaim 5782 celebrates the 165th anniversary of the founding of Mount Zion Temple. Mount Zion's long history traces the story of the founding of the state of Minnesota – through peace and prosperity, protests and pandemics. One thing has remained constant over 165 years: Mount Zion is a supportive community taking care of each other in hard times and celebrating together in good times.

We understand giving is a very personal decision, and we are grateful for each member's consideration. You will hear more about the campaign when it launches after Sukkot.

Thank you,

Lija Greenseid, Giving Committee Chair

If you have questions, please contact Janelle Norlien in the Mount Zion office (jnorlien@mzion.org, 651-698-3881, ext. 113).

L'Chaim 5782 celebrates the 165th anniversary of the founding of Mount Zion Temple!



Stay Connected!

To stay up to date you can find us online:

- Facebook page (search Mount Zion Temple) or our private Facebook group (search Mount Zion Conversations).
- Website at mzion.org.
- Twice weekly emails: Mondays (This Week at MZ) and Fridays (Shabbat card).

High Holy Days

Rosh Hashanah

September 6 and 7 - 1 Tishrei 5782

Yom Kippur

September 15 and 16 - 10 Tishrei 5782

To see a detailed schedule with times and Zoom links, go to mzion.org.
Please **RSVP** for all services you are attending in person.

Teshuvah... Return to the Sanctuary (literally): Individual and Family Moments

Weds, September 1 and 8, 8:30 am - 8:00 pm
in 30 minute increments

Reserve private time at the ark in the sanctuary for personal reflection or prayer. Contact office@mzion.org / 651-698-3881 to sign up.



Sounding the Shofar from the Rooftop! Sunday, September 5, 5:00 pm



On the Sunday before Rosh Hashanah, the clergy, in white robes, along with Ba'alei Tekiyah (shofar blowers) will be on Mount Zion's roof! Our cantors and rabbis will conduct a brief, uplifting ceremony with prayer, song, and the sounding of the shofar to prepare us for the Days of Awe. [RSVP by September 3.](#)

Even though we are outside, we are asking everyone over age 5 to wear a mask for this event as we hope to have lots of kids and want to be extra cautious.

High Holy Days Q and A

Thursday, September 2, 7-8:00 pm via [Zoom](#)

We will address your questions about

- Covid protocols for in person services.
- On-call shammashim who are here to help.
- Live streaming and Zoom tips.
- Ideas for setting up your home sanctuary.

High Holy Day Service of Healing and Reflection

Saturday, September 11, 4:30 pm



After the many challenges and losses of the past year, it is fair to say we are all in need of healing. This hour-long service is for everyone, not just those dealing with illness. Based on High Holy day themes, and enhanced with the soothing sounds of harp and flute, this service offers a sacred space for reflection about what we need to feel more whole in the coming year.

Tashlich

Rosh Hashanah Day, September 7, 4:30-5:00 pm

Location: Hidden Falls Park (enter north gate on the corner of Magoffin Ave. and Mississippi River Blvd.) [Map](#)

Turn Your Pockets Inside Out - We complement our words of prayer with the symbolic action of emptying our pockets of dust and crumbs: a sign of our intention to rid ourselves of wrongdoing. For years, our members have come to the edge of the Mississippi to act out the prophet Micah's vision, "And you will cast all their sins into the depths of the sea." Please join us or feel free to use this [downloadable ceremony](#) on mzion.org wherever you would like!

Guests are welcome!

As in years past, guests are welcome to be part of our High Holy Day services and programs. **Guests, please sign up at mzion.org to receive emails with all the details and updates.** We invite you to consider offering a free-will donation to Mount Zion. Members' and guests' contributions are what enable us to be the vibrant and welcoming Jewish spiritual home we strive to provide for our community.

High Holy Day Cemetery Service

Sunday, September 12, 11:00 am

We will gather at the Mount Zion Cemetery to remember loved ones. Those who prefer can view the live streaming on our website. The cemetery is at the corner of Payne and Larpenteur Avenues in St. Paul.



High Holy Day Highlights

High Holy Day Study

Rosh Hashanah Morning, September 7, 10-10:45 am

Teshuvah Insights for Everyone in Person

Led by Adam Garen and Dan Rybeck

Teshuvah Insights for Everyone [on Zoom](#)

Led by Rabbi Amy Ariel

Rabbi Amy Ariel, Mount Zion's first Youth Engagement Director (2005-10), Dan Rybeck, a past president of Mount Zion, and Adam Garen, current vice-president, have been studying the central theme of the High Holy Days: Teshuvah (repentance/turning) over the past month through Mount Zion's partnership with Hadar Institute. They will share an accessible, medieval text that makes the process of becoming-our-best-selves relevant. Rabbi Ariel will facilitate for those online and Dan and Adam with those at Mount Zion (Johnson Social Hall.)

Messages from our Tradition: Torah and Haftarah

In addition to hearing the chanting of our sacred texts in the midst of services, we will hear selections chanted in the context of study and teachings that highlight the messages from our tradition.

Rosh Hashanah, September 7, 3:00 - 3:30 pm

Online only ([Zoom](#) and Live Streaming) - Led by Rabbi Spilker
Hagar and Ishmael – The Pathos of Genesis 21

Yom Kippur, September 16, 2:15 - 2:45 pm

"I have set before you blessing and curse" (morning Torah Reading), or "Be holy for I Adonai am holy" (afternoon Torah reading): What animates your Judaism?

In Person – Led by Rabbi Adler

Online ([Zoom](#) and Live Streaming) - Led by Rabbi Spilker

Yoga for the New Year (Rosh Hashanah Day)

Tuesday, September 7, 3:30 pm at Hidden Falls

Led by Chris Gordon of Big River Yoga and Cantor Spilker

Chair Yoga (Yom Kippur Day)

Thursday, September 16, 1:45-2:15 pm at Mount Zion

Outside, under a tent, on the Mount Zion terrace or on [Zoom](#).

Led by Mount Zion member and yoga teacher, Anna Schorer, and Cantor Spilker.

All movements will be done in a chair, will be accessible, and can be done in dress clothes.



Yom Kippur Poetry

Michael Kuhne, Ph.D.

Yom Kippur Morning, 10-10:45 am



Michael has assembled a cast of Mount Zion congregants who will lead an inspiring exploration of the poetry and prose in the new prayer book, *Mishkan HaNefesh*.

Michael Kuhne, President of Mount Zion, is a Professor of English at the Minneapolis Community and Technical College.

Reflections on Forgiveness:

A Yom Kippur Musical Meditation

Yom Kippur Afternoon, 2:15 pm



Distinguished musicians and new members Marc Levine, violin, and Mount Zion pianist, Tami Morse, present contemplative musical reflections on the themes of the High Holy Day season.

Sukkot Across the Cities with Mount Zion



Connect with fellow MZ members at one of three **Sukkot** Open Houses!

Sunday, September 26

Including drinks, light nosh, and conversation.

Locations:

2-4 pm Strauss-Klein Home in Eagan

3-5 pm Spilker Home in Mendota Heights

4-6 pm Avny Home in Minnetonka

At each Sukkah we will say blessings and shake the lulav. [RSVP required](#) to receive the addresses. If you have questions, contact Shai Avny at savny@mzion.org / 651-698-3881. Covid restrictions will be announced closer to the event.

Simchat Torah

is a Joyful Holy Day for All Ages!

Monday, September 27 - Outside on the Patio

- 6 pm **Service! Dancing! Unrolling the Torah!**
- 7 pm **Israeli Dance and Sundae bar!**

This service is a congregational favorite, for kids and adults, so



invite your friends and family to join us as we renew our Torah cycle, reading the end of the Torah and then the beginning with the entire scroll unrolled. Dance into the night with the Torah scrolls!

Celebrate the Season of Joy!



Sukkot

Tuesday, September 21 - Tishrei 15

Festival Service

10:00 a.m.

Shmini Atzeret/Simchat Torah

Monday, September 27 - Tishrei 22

Simchat Torah Service

6:00 p.m.

Tuesday, September 28 - Tishrei 22

Festival Service (including Yizkor)

10:00 a.m.

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, 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.

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, or any of the rabbis or cantors.

Learning: We have open study opportunities (see right) 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!

Torah at the Center...

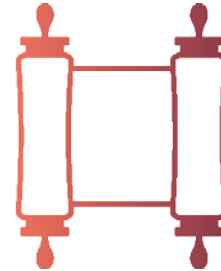
Every week, three times to study Torah.

Stop by anytime.

No experience/background necessary.

All study sessions are currently online.

Go to mzion.org for the links.



Torah Mondays

Rabbi Esther Adler

Mondays, 12:00-1:00 p.m. (ongoing)

Take a lunch break from your busy life and join this Torah discussion. We read through the text and commentaries, and respond with our own experiences, ideas, and events of the day to illuminate the intricate relationships that evolved among our ancestors. We are currently studying the weekly Haftarah portions.



Thursday: Genesis with Rashi

Rabbi Adam Stock Spilker

Thursdays, 12:00-1:00 p.m. (ongoing)

Study the book of Genesis the way it has been studied for centuries, with the great commentator Rashi as our guide. Come once or regularly and enjoy the camaraderie of a chevruta, the Talmudic way of learning with one's friends and colleagues.



Shabbat - Open Torah Study

Studying the weekly Torah portions with our Rabbis.

Saturdays, 9:00 - 10:00 a.m. (ongoing)

This weekly study group is open to regular attendees and those who are able to drop in once or periodically – people of all ages, knowledge, and background. Through reading and discussion of the weekly parashah/Torah portion, participants will learn the stories of Torah and make them come alive in their own lives.

What does Judaism offer you in a time of challenge?

Sarah Hurwitz, Michelle Obama's Speechwriter

in conversation with Rabbi Adam Stock Spilker

with Q and A from the audience

Thursday, October 7, 7:30 pm, via Zoom

Sarah Hurwitz was a White House speechwriter from 2009 to 2017, starting out as a senior speechwriter for President Barack Obama and then serving as chief speechwriter for First Lady Michelle Obama. A graduate of Harvard College and Harvard Law School, Sarah wrote this book, "Here all along," about her journey into Judaism.



Curious?

[RSVP for October 7](https://mzion.org) at mzion.org. (You can hide in the background of Zoom 😊).

Intrigued?

Read the book in advance! See next page.

Ok, ready to dip my toe in a bit more....

Join a book club! See next page.

Finding Meaning, Spirituality, and a Deeper Connection to Life – in Judaism (After Finally Choosing to Look There)

Hurwitz was the quintessential lapsed Jew—until, at age thirty-six, after a tough breakup, she happened upon an advertisement for an introductory class on Judaism. She attended on a whim, but was blown away by what she found: beautiful rituals, helpful guidance on living an ethical life, conceptions of God beyond the judgy bearded man in the sky—none of which she had learned in Hebrew school or during the two synagogue services she grudgingly attended each year. That class led to a years-long journey during which Hurwitz visited the offices of rabbis, attended Jewish meditation retreats, sat at the Shabbat tables of Orthodox families, and read hundreds of books about Judaism—all in dogged pursuit of answers to her biggest questions. What she found transformed her life, and she wondered: How could there be such a gap between the richness of what Judaism offers and the way so many Jews like her understand and experience it?

If you want to read the book in advance of the conversation.

[Audio books available.](#)

Want a discounted hardback copy?

We have copies for sale at Mount Zion. Purchase for \$18 and pick up at the office.

[Details at this link or on mzion.org.](#)

HERE ALL ALONG



FINDING MEANING,
SPIRITUALITY, AND A
DEEPER CONNECTION
TO LIFE – IN JUDAISM

(After Finally Choosing to Look There)

Sarah Hurwitz

Book Discussions

Join us for a one-time book club discussion about **Here All Along** led by MZ clergy and staff. Mark your calendars! Pick your demographic!

November 15 at 8:00 pm

Group: Families with kids 0-7

November 16, 7:00 pm

Three Groups: Those who have participated in MZ travels, College students, Teens

November 17 at 7:00 pm

Group: Empty Nesters

November 18, 7:00 pm

Two Groups: Young Adults, Families with kids in elementary school

Questions? Contact Shai Avny at savny@mzion.org or 651-698-3881, ext. 112.

It is happening! Based on anticipated travel understandings. Join those already signed up!

Best of Israel 2.0

An Eclectic, Active, Insider Tour crafted by Rabbi Spilker
A Rare Opportunity Mount Zion Trip **November 1-10, 2021**

Includes meeting with Israelis and Palestinians in the West Bank, nature hikes, a jeep ride at the Rimon Crater, a focus on exploring Israeli Cuisine including a home hospitality dinner with the Yerucham Cooks, a day-long bike ride from Jerusalem to Modiin, and time to reflect on history and the future while meeting a diverse array of people.

This trip requires vaccination. Purchase trip insurance within 15 days of signing up for peace of mind.

Registration details at rebrand.ly/israel-trip. Questions? Be in touch with Rabbi Spilker aspilker@mzion.org.



Please Invite Your Friends and Acquaintances to

Meet Mount Zion!

An Open House for Unaffiliated Jews in Our Community

Sunday, September 19, 10:30 am - 12:15 pm - Outside on the Patio



Mount Zion's annual Open House has been extremely successful in introducing our Temple to those seeking a welcoming and vibrant Jewish spiritual home. Please invite those you know who are unaffiliated so they can:

- ✧ Discover 165 years of Mount Zion's rich history.
- ✧ Learn about Mount Zion's dedication to worship, learning, music, and social justice.

- ✧ Meet our clergy, lay leaders, and members.
- ✧ Tour our building and religious school.
- ✧ Get a taste of our organizations and activities.

Attendees can [RSVP at mzion.org](https://mzion.org) or contact Shai Avny at savny@mzion.org or 651-698-3881, ext 112.

Covid restrictions will be announced closer to the event.

THANK YOU...FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS

RABBIS' DISCRETIONARY FUND

In appreciation of:
Rabbi Adam Stock Spilker
 David Brandis & Whitney Bey

In memory of:
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 William & Anubhuti Rubenstein
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Larry Zelle
 DeeDee Harris

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Julie Dean
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Martin Schuman
 Judi Levin Marshall & Todd Marshall

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 David & Mary Ann Wark
Robert Rubenstein
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In appreciation of:
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Gloria Chadima
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In honor of:
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Alan Weinblatt
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Cantor Rachel Stock Spilker
 Daniel Greenberg

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Leo Fox
 Jane, Anna & Sarah Fox

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Rosalyn Borg
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Ida Zylber
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 Donation:
 Glenn Hardin

Religious School News



It has been delightful to see so many of you in person over the summer whether it be a quick conversation at my curbside pickup station, before or after Shabbat Services or longer conversations at committee meetings or during this past Sunday's Community Picnic! I'm also grateful for the technology that has enabled the rest of us to stay in touch via Zoom, social media,

telephone, and email. 😊

As the number of COVID cases continues to rise and variants increase the risk to our community, we have worked diligently to mitigate the risks to our Mount Zion Temple families. As you all know, the situation continues to be a moving target.

At this time, based on the guidance provided by the Opening Task Force, Religious School Committee, Clergy, and the rest of the Mount Zion professional staff, we have come to a decision regarding the first semester of the school year. Because our religious school draws students from approximately 90 different schools, and the community spread of COVID is rising, we have decided to limit our in-person classes to those students who have been vaccinated.

Lower School (PreK-Grade 6) begins Sunday, September 19th and will meet via Zoom until students under age 12 are able to be fully vaccinated. Please refer to the schedule on this page.

Chai School 7th-10th classes begin Wednesday, September 22nd and will meet in person with multi-access and Zoom options. 8th & 9th grade elective details will be emailed soon. Please refer to the schedule on this page.

The 11th & 12th Grade Chai School class will meet twice monthly at a regular day, time and place agreed upon by Rabbi Sam Schauaney and the enrolled students. Rabbi Schauaney will contact the registered students soon.

In-person classes will be in well-ventilated rooms. **Faculty will be vaccinated, and we are expecting the same of the students.** Everyone will wear masks and remain distanced the entire time we are together.

We are confident that this decision respects the valuable work we do and honors the health and safety of each member of our community. We realize that we may need to switch from one model to another throughout the year.

Throughout the decision-making process, we have been guided by our Jewish values: **Pikuach Nefesh** (safeguarding life), **Al Tifrosh Min Ha Tzibbur** (do not separate oneself from the community), **Chesed** (profound love and kindness). We each have different comfort levels regarding in-person and online gatherings, and we are facing grief and anxiety associated with dashed plans and ongoing uncertainty. Now more than ever, we must act with tremendous love and kindness toward one another and remain socially connected whether we can be physically close or not.

If you haven't yet registered, please do so now! Refer to the website for detailed Lower School and Chai School calendars. Watch your email for detailed information about each grade and exciting in-person outdoor opportunities.

Please feel free to reach out to me with questions, concerns, and suggestions: ssummit@mzion.org.

With much excitement for the upcoming school year and opportunities to connect throughout the High Holy Days,

Susan Summit, Religious School Director

Lower School Class Schedule & Faculty

Sunday		
9:30-10:15 AM	10:15-10:45 AM	10:45-11:30 AM
PreK/Kindergarten Jorie Bernhardt	All-School T'filah PreK-6th Grade	2nd Grade Class Anna Fox
1st Grade Class Rabbi Sam Schauaney		4th Grade Class Rabbi Amy Ariel
3rd Grade Class Lily Eisenthal & Gabby Helf		6th Grade Class Maya Weiss
5th Grade Class Rebecca Margolis		

Wednesday		
4:30-5:15 PM	5:15-5:30 PM	5:30-6:15 PM
2nd Grade Anna Fox		2nd Grade Anna Fox
3rd Grade Lily Eisenthal		3rd Grade Lily Eisenthal
4th Grade Rabbi Amy Ariel		4th Grade Rabbi Amy Ariel
5th Grade Rebecca Margolis		5th Grade Rebecca Margolis
6th Grade Maya Weiss	6 th Grade Trope All 6th Grade Students	6th Grade Maya Weiss

Chai School Class Schedule & Faculty

Class	Day/Time	Teacher
7 th Grade	Wednesday 6:30-7:45 @MZ	Abby Gore
8 th /9 th Grade Elective	Wednesday 6:30-7:45 @ MZ	Ben Levy
8th/9th Grade Elective	Wednesday 6:30-7:45 @ MZ	Hadar Pe'er
8th/9th Grade Elective	Wednesday 6:30-7:45 @ MZ	Maya Weiss
10 th Grade	Wednesday 6:30-7:45 @MZ	Rabbi Adam Stock Spilker
11 th /12 th Grade	TBD – Twice/Month	Rabbi Sam Schauaney

Register for Religious School 2021-22

If you need help with registration, please reach out to Kelly at office@mzion.org. Please feel free to reach out with school questions, concerns and suggestions (ssummit@mzion.org).

Women of Mount Zion Temple

Blood Drive

Wednesday, November 17

Donation times are between 2:00 and 7:00 p.m

Our blood drives are recognized for our warm and welcoming approach. Appreciation to donors is expressed through the volunteer efforts of congregants while working the blood drive. Donors can also register at redcrossblood.org and enter SP Circle of Faith to schedule an appointment with us at Mount Zion. Or call 1-800 RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767). Our goal is 38 units per drive; double red cell donations count as two units. If we have 38 units collected, we will be able to save 114 lives!



The Women of Mount Zion Temple are pleased to announce **we have awarded post high school scholarships to four of Mount Zion's graduating seniors.** The scholarships were established to help on their next steps after high school. The scholarship review committee was very impressed with the quality of the applicants.

Brotherhood

Brotherhood Officers elected for 2021-2022:

President: **Adam Garen**

Secretary: **Gary Sankary**

Treasurer: **Ralph Figueroa**

Vice President: **David Epstein**

VP – New Membership: **Shel Finver**

VP – Intergroup Engagement: **Phil Goldman**

Vice President: **Ira Kipp**

VP – Finance Chair: **Richard Newmark**

VP – Bagel Bar: **Bruce Noyes**

VP – Annual Events: **Jeff Summit**

Immediate Past President: **Bruce Matza**

Brunch (Covid-permitting) and Speaker Series

Sunday, October 10, 10:00 am

Join us from 10:30 to 12:00 pm for an interesting presentation, along with bagel, lox, cream cheese, and coffee.

Welcome... B'ruchim Ha'Baim...
New members since May 2021!

Nancy Adler

Susie Davis

Julia and John Dittberner and their kids Micah and Theo

Alexa and Steve Fang and their daughter Ellia

Chase Kennedy and David Podrid

and their daughter Iris Podrid

Anne Lifton and Heather Knapp and their daughter Sophia

Allen & Nancy Levine

Brionna Munford and Matthew Munford

and their daughter Avalon

Adele Porter

Mandy and Mark Tempel and their daughter Rinah

Rachel and Brett Severson and their daughter Cassidy

Steve and Barbara Wolf

Revel
for a Cause

An annual benefit for Neighborhood House

Join us for an event supporting and celebrating our work as together, we continue to help individuals and families achieve their social, educational, and financial goals.

October 7, 2021

In-person or virtual event

Register for in-person or virtual tickets
and bid on auction items at

www.neighb.org/Revel2021

Auction opens October 1



B'nei Mitzvah

These young men and women were called to the Torah as B'nei Mitzvah in August.

Mira Kaufman

August 7, 2021

Picture removed online

Mira (Masha) is the daughter of Amy and Jason Kaufman. She is the granddaughter of Barabara and Steve Wolf and Glenda and Harvey Kaufman. Mira has an older sister, Dina. Mira will be in 8th grade at Highland Park Middle School. Her favorite subjects

are Art, Writing, and Science. Outside of school, she attends Circus Juventas and enjoys camping, creating art, and spending time with friends and family. Mira will be donating a portion of her gift money to Period: The Menstrual Movement. She is looking forward to becoming a Bat Mitzvah.

Georgia Ross

August 21, 2021

Picture removed online

Georgia Ross (Miriam) is the daughter of Jason Ross and Julie Duckstad and the granddaughter of Diane Field, Steve Ross, Jon Duckstad, and Joan Duckstad. She is a ninth-grader at Saint Paul Academy and Summit School and has an older sister named Sonia. Georgia plays catcher for her

school softball team and is on the tennis and Nordic teams. She is excited to take debate and art classes, and loves playing ukulele and singing in her free time. She played music at the Willows of Ramsey Hill and is donating a portion of her gift money to Project for Pride and Living.

Isabel Rosenberg

August 21, 2021

Picture removed online

Isabel Rosenberg is the daughter of Amy Rosenberg and the granddaughter of Marice Rosenberg. Isabel has a twin brother named Noah. She is going into 8th grade at Falcon Ridge Middle School in Apple Valley. Isabel's favorite subjects in school are Gym, English and Science. She loves to swim, socialize and hangout with

her friends. Isabel has aspirations of being an attorney or engineer. She plans on volunteering at a swim school and teaching swim lessons to children with disabilities. Throughout the process of becoming Bat Mitzvah, Isabel cites her biggest learning as studying pays off. This helps her be more prepared for whatever she does. She is donating a portion of her gift money to Jump Rope for Heart.

Noah Rosenberg

August 21, 2021

Picture removed online

Noah Rosenberg is the son of Amy Rosenberg and the granddaughter of Marice Rosenberg. Noah has a twin sister named Isabel. He is going into 8th grade at Falcon Ridge Middle School in Apple Valley. Noah's favorite subjects in school are Gym and Art. He loves to mountain

bike, scooter and play video games. He also knows everything about cars. Noah has aspirations of being an engineer or mechanic. Throughout the process of becoming Bar Mitzvah, Noah learned about the hard work it takes to prepare. He is donating a portion of his gift money to the Animal Humane Society.

Morgan Johnson

August 28, 2021

Picture removed online

Morgan is the daughter of Hart and Raleigh Johnson and sister of Cooper. She is the granddaughter of Marvin and Carol Johnson (both of blessed memory) and Howard (of blessed memory) and Marilyn Fischbein. Morgan is entering 9th grade at Highland Park Senior High School. She

enjoys science, reading, participating in other school activities and spending time with family and friends. Morgan has a wide variety of interests including sports such as softball, swimming and basketball. She also enjoys theater and singing, both as a participant and member of the audience. For her Mitzvah Project, Morgan volunteered with the JCC's Inclusion Program.

B'nei Mitzvah

These young men and women will be called to the Torah as B'nei Mitzvah in October.

Allison Parker

October 2, 2021

Picture removed online

Allison Parker (Hebrew name Adina) is the daughter of Matthew and Kim Parker and she has an older sister Sarah. Her grandparents are Gene and Linda Parker, Pat, Richard and Pam Ross. She currently attends Murray Middle school in the eighth grade. One of her favorite classes

is English Language Arts, and she likes taking part in musical theater. Alli enjoys reading, watching movies and comedy. She has decided to donate a portion of her Bat Mitzvah gift money to the American Cancer Society and GLAAD.

Eli Damro

October 9, 2021

Picture removed online

Eli Damro is the son of Melissa and Nate Damro. He is the grandson of Diane and Peter Stahl and Linda and Dave Damro. Eli has two older brothers, Jacob and Noah Damro and a younger sister Samantha Damro. Eli is in the 7th grade

at Falcon Ridge Middle School. Eli's favorite subjects in school are math and science. Eli's favorite sports are basketball and flag football. Eli really enjoys hanging with his family and friends and watching the Bucks, Badgers, Brewers and Packers play!!! He will be donating a portion of his gift money to Good Sports for kids needing youth equipment and help.

Alli Grams

October 16, 2021

Picture removed online

Alli Grams is the daughter of James and Heather Grams. She is the granddaughter of Jeffrey and Lori Marks and Tim and Michael Ann Grams. Alli has two younger brothers, Charlie and Benny and one younger sister, Julie. Alli is in the 7th grade at Black Hawk Middle School. She plays

the clarinet and is in the dance club. Alli enjoys art, anime, and hanging out with friends. One thing Alli has learned about becoming a Bat Mitzvah is, "it is hard work." Alli will be donating a portion of her Bat Mitzvah earnings to the Animal Humane Society.

Youth Engagement News



As Mount Zion's new Youth Engagement Associate, there is so much that I am excited for this coming school year! Some of this includes: guiding the Gesher Mentors as they prepare for and teach lessons to the 7th grade students, planning with and supporting the SPORTY Board as they lead awesome events for their peers, watching Madrichim creatively engage with Lower School students, and facilitating the development of friendships during Noar Tzion and JYG events. In addition to deep formal education in their Lower School and Chai School classrooms, engaging programming in Youth Groups, and innovative leadership opportunities, I appreciate the time and space built into and in-between formal programs and activities as a key opportunity for youth to develop meaningful connections with their peers and community. I am excited to see students engaged in thoughtful conversations following a thought-provoking class session, to hear laughter as students tell stories from their day or jokes, and to feel the passion of our teens as they gather together and lead us to pursue justice and make our community and world a better place. As the school year begins, I am eager to connect with and deepen my relationships with our youth. I look forward to supporting our students as they grow as leaders, discover their passions, and engage in Mount Zion's youth community!

Abby Gore, Youth Engagement Associate

Youth Group Calendars Save the dates!

Noar Tzion (4th-6th Grade)

- September 26, 2021 (12:30-2 pm)
- November 21, 2021 (1-3 pm)
- January 23, 2022 (12:30-2 pm)
- February 27, 2022 (12:30-2 pm)
- April 3, 2022 (12:30-2:30 pm) *Chocolate Seder with JYG*
- May 15, 2022 (12:30-2 pm)

JYG (7th-8th Grade)

- October 10, 2021 (1-3 pm)
- December 5, 2021 (12:30-2 pm)
- February 13, 2022 (12:30-2 pm)
- April 3, 2022 (12:30-2:30 pm) *Chocolate Seder with Noar Tzion*
- May 1, 2022 (12:30-2 pm)

SPORTY (9th-12th Grade)

The SPORTY Board will determine events once they regroup in Sept.

- October 17, 2021 (12:30-2:30 pm)
- December 12, 2021 (4-6 pm)
- January 29, 2022 (7-9 pm)
- March 12-13, 2022 *Purim Lock-In*
- April 8-10, 2022 *NFTY Spring Kallah at OSRUI*
- May 14, 2022 (7-9 pm)

Some of our students at OSRUI (first session) 2021!



Social Action Update

A Four-Part Conversation on Racial Justice

Mondays, October 4, 11, 18, 25, 6:30- 8:30 pm via Zoom

Led by EDOT, a regional Jewish diversity and racial justice collaborative, in partnership with Mount Zion's Tzedek Committee.

Blessed are they who observe justice, who do righteousness at all times! – Psalm 106:3

Judaism commands us to pursue justice for our communities, all peoples, and our world. Mount Zion's Tzedek Committee believes it is important for us to address racism, to build a more inclusive congregation, and to become strong allies to BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) communities.

With these goals in mind, the Tzedek Committee invites you to participate in a series of conversations, facilitated by Edot of the Midwest. The four sessions will be provided on Zoom and will include small groups, education, and planning for future actions. These sessions follow our Tzedek Summer 2020 conversations, our congregational discussions of the book *Caste*, and our December racial justice meeting with Jewish Community Action. You have been invited because you participated in one or more of these events.

The four sessions will address the following areas:

- Become active anti-racists through examining inequities, biases, and barriers to inclusivity, including our own actions and those of our congregation;
- Engage more Jews of Color in Tzedek Committee work;
- Prepare participants to become meaningful active allies with BIPOC communities in the Twin Cities.

If you would like to be part of this initiative, we ask that you attend all four meetings. We hope that you will use the skills and knowledge you gain by becoming more active in Tzedek and community activism. (Session materials and recordings will be available after each session so if you have an emergency and miss one, you will be able to catch up between sessions.)

Please email Vic Rosenthal (vic.rosenthal@gmail.com) by September 13 to reserve your spot.

We look forward to combining intellectual knowledge (head) and emotional knowledge (heart) to move into the important actions (hands) that, as allies, we are commanded to do.



Justice, justice you shall pursue!

Tzedek Committee Co-Chairs: Diana Dean and Vic Rosenthal

The Tzedek Committee looks forward to the New Year, resolved to deepen our community connections and our commitment to anti-racism work.

Throughout the month of October, we will be engaged in a four-part conversation on racial justice led by EDOT, a regional Jewish diversity and racial justice collaborative. We have invited congregants who participated in Tzedek conversations and activities during the past year to join in these discussions. If you did not receive an invitation and are eager to participate, please contact Vic Rosenthal (vic.rosenthal@gmail.com) or Diana Dean (dianamdean@msn.com).

Tzedek committee members are also continuing to pursue immigrant justice and climate justice. Our hot, dry summer, hazy at times with the smoke of numerous wildfires, has been a reminder of the urgency of climate change. We are partnering with MNIPL (Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light) as we assess the many ways that we can act to address climate justice. While we can change our individual behaviors to reduce our carbon footprint, we realize that it will require collective action to address the impact of multinational corporations and government policies.

Finally, immigration courts are back in session. Refugees and asylees continue to seek safety at our borders. Adequate housing for asylees in Minnesota continues to be scarce. Working with local interfaith partners, we can help subsidize housing and donate needed household goods. Given the shortage of affordable housing, Mount Zion members also worked with Jewish Community Action to collect signatures to put Rent Stabilization on the ballot in St. Paul for this November. We will report more on this in the fall.

Join us in our efforts to repair the world! Check the Mount Zion calendar for our monthly meetings.

Tzedek = Justice

New Building Hours, Work Schedules, and Updates on Answering Phones

Dear Friends,

As we have responded to the pandemic over the past eighteen months, we have changed the way we use our building, how we connect, and how staff work. Some of the changes born of necessity have turned out to be value added. Preparing to return more fully to working and gathering in person, we reflected on what we have learned. Below are some updates about what you can expect in the coming months. Our goal is to be responsive to your needs while also respecting the needs of our staff and finding ways to maximize efficiency and productivity. As always, we are open to feedback as we experiment with the following:

- **Building Hours:** For years, some synagogues have closed their buildings one workday each week to save resources. With the ability to work remotely, we will have a hybrid approach.



On Mondays:

- o The building will be closed until 5 pm after which meetings and programs may take place in the building. Our maintenance staff will be onsite during the day and evening for deliveries and other needs.
- o Staff and clergy will work remotely. Occasionally they may need to work partial days in the building.
- o For the rest of the week, our office will be open as it has been in the past: 8:30-5:00 Tuesday-Thursday; 8:30-4:30 Friday, and 9:00-12:15 on Sundays when Religious School is in session.

- **Phones:** More and more when congregants reach out with questions it is via email and most questions are answered in our weekly e-newsletters and on the website. During the pandemic, all phone calls went directly to the individual voicemails, which also were forwarded automatically to our emails. This enabled all of us to respond in a timely manner, and for the office staff to focus on other aspects of their work. **We will continue to have all phone calls go directly to the voicemail of the clergy or staff person desired, except during Religious School, when calls will be answered.** We will be adding the direct extensions of all staff to our email signatures and on the website.



- **Staff and Clergy Hours:** We have learned that we can work effectively as a team while being remote. We have thus created a schedule that balances work at the synagogue with work from home. On Wednesdays, we will have full staffing in the building. Other weekdays except Mondays, there will be at least two office staff and one maintenance team member in the building. Clergy and the rest of the team will be in the building as normal.

We trust that these changes will serve our congregation well and we will reevaluate as needed. If you have any questions, please let us know.

L'shalom,
Larry Solomon, Executive Director
Michael Wall, President
Adam Stock Spilker, Rabbi

An Update on Mount Zion's Israel Sign

Dear Friends,

Over the summer, about 100 congregants engaged in one or more classes and conversations facilitated by Resetting the Table to consider the Israel sign on our Mount Zion lawn.



The sign was put up in 2006. Following the 2nd Lebanon War and in the shadow of the 2nd intifada, many synagogues

were putting up signs that said, "We Stand with Israel." After a process of congregational input, we decided to post a sign with the additional message: "We Pray for Peace in the Middle East."

After our 2018-19 year-long focus on "Wrestling with Our Relationship with Israel" and especially considering the increasingly challenging complexities in the region, we wanted to create a thoughtful process about whether to change the message of the sign or to take it down. The sign was intended to communicate a public message to the wider community, thus was placed on Summit Avenue and not inside our building. Now the question is what message, if any, is needed today?

The classes and discussions over the past few weeks have been neither easy nor clear cut, and participants took up the challenge of learning in the face of complexity. Our sessions were a model for respectful

listening across great differences of opinion. There was no unanimity of thought. There were strong passions, grounded in different Jewish values, that led to different emphases. It was a hard and beautiful experience.

The Board of Directors will make a final decision this Fall after fully examining the input from this summer's conversations.

The Board of Directors will make a final decision this Fall after fully examining the input from this summer's conversations. The options are to have no sign, to keep the current one, to have a new message related to Israel, or to have other messages, such as, "Welcome to Mount Zion Temple." Some have suggested a digital sign. There are many possibilities.

For now, the Board decided on August 10 to take down the text portion of the current sign. The posts will remain. This signals for our congregation that we are wrestling once again with Israel and with this decision. The Board didn't want to put up a public message to that effect because this is an internal conversation.

If you have any questions, feel free to be in touch.

L'shalom,
Michael Wall, President
Adam Stock Spilker, Rabbi

Mindful Torah:

Engaging the Better Angels of Our Nature

A Mussar Vaad for those with previous Mussar experience

Facilitated by Margie Abrahamson, Co-sponsored by Hineni

Wednesdays, 11:00 am-12:30 pm, October 13, 27;

November 10, 24; December 8, 22 - [via Zoom](#)

Cost: \$54 plus any free will offering.

Financial support is available from our clergy.

We will be using materials prepared by Rabbi Mark Margolius.

Margie has been practicing and studying Mussar for the past eight years. She looks forward to bringing her learning and joy to the members of this va'ad!

What is Mussar?

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. This is the seventh year that Mussar has been offered at Mount Zion. Come join in small group study as we explore Jewish teachings on humility, patience, honor, and trust and discover how we can improve these qualities in our own life. Conversations will be in a safe, supportive, exciting, and collaborative environment. We believe that these sessions will work for those familiar with Mussar and those just starting. There are no pre-requisites nor is Hebrew required.

We will plan entry level Mussar classes in the future. If you are interested, please contact Rabbi Spilker, aspilker@mzion.org.



Visit our website: www.ttsp.org/hineni/current-offerings for details and registration for these and other courses as they are added.

At present, all courses will be available on Zoom. As it becomes safe to do so, we will move to in-person as appropriate.

There are no financial barriers to participation.

How can a good and powerful God allow suffering in our world? The Problem of Theodicy

with Rabbi David Thomas

Five Wednesdays, Nov. 3-Dec. 8, 7:00-8:30 pm

\$100 for the series

Co-sponsored with Bet Shalom, Mount Zion, Shir Tikvah

Text, Language and Context:

Reading Biblical Narratives – Elijah Stories

with Dr. David Rischall

Wednesdays, Oct. 6-27, 7:00-8:15 pm

Cost for the series: \$60

This course requires a basic ability to read Hebrew. Some knowledge of Hebrew vocabulary is a plus.

Modern Hebrew for Adults - Two Levels Available

with Susie Chalom (On Zoom - link provided upon registration).

To find out which level is right for you, visit our website and use our short placement tool.

Beyond Beginners

Thursdays, Oct 5-Jan 18, 7:00 – 9:00 pm (14 sessions)

Tuition: \$350+ plus the purchase of the textbook (\$80-\$90), if you do not already own it.

Beginning Intermediate

Tuesdays, Oct 5-Jan 20, 7:00 – 9:00 pm (13 sessions)

Tuition: \$325+ plus the purchase of the textbook (\$80-\$90), if you do not already own it.

Torah and Mindfulness through the Lens of Hasidic Masters

with Sara Lynn Newberger

Tuesdays, 8:30 – 9:45 am

Access the depth and richness of Hasidic spirituality presented in contemporary terms. Drop-in; no experience necessary. No cost; donations welcome.

Pirke Avot: Ancient Rabbinic Wisdom for Today's World

with Sara Lynn Newberger

Fridays, 11:00 am – 12:00 pm.

Come study this ancient work with much to say to our lives today. Drop-in; no experience necessary. No cost; donations welcome.

ENGAGE! An Evening of Jewish Learning

Jan. 29, 7:00 PM

First-rate teachers, wonder learning, wide-ranging topics – from cerebral to hands on.

Retracing Jewish Roots on the North Dakota Prairie

Stories and Lessons about Life, Family, and Faith with Rebecca Bender

Thursday, September 23, 12:00 - 1:00 pm

Online video program with Rebecca Bender

Free and open to the public



Rebecca Bender and her son visited the remote North Dakota Jewish cemetery where her great-grandfather is buried. Her son asked about the Jewish immigrants who escaped Russian pogroms to become North Dakota farmers in 1905. With few answers, Bender retraced this history of Jewish pioneers on the Dakota prairies, ultimately leading to the publication of the book *Still* (North Dakota State University Press, 2019), co-authored with her father, Kenneth Bender. In this

program, Rebecca Bender will share inspiring stories she learned in the process of writing this book, which combines research with her father's memories. Not only is Bender's project remarkable, but it may inspire listeners to retrace their own family histories and find future guidance from stories of their past.



Rebecca Bender practiced law as a securities litigator in Minnesota for 18 years, after graduating from the University of Minnesota Law School. Her prose and poetry have appeared in the *Journal of the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia*, *Paper*

Brigade Daily (Jewish Book Council), and *The Forward*, and her poetry will be published in a forthcoming issue of *North Dakota Quarterly*.

Full details about this event available at link.stthomas.edu/Still. For questions, please email jpc@stthomas.edu. To make an accessibility request, please call Disability Resources at 651-962-6315 at least one week prior to the event.

Sponsored and organized by Jay Phillips Center for Interreligious Studies in collaboration with Campus Ministry and Mount Zion Temple.

Mount Zion is partnering with Hadar's Project Zug

Study in the traditional model, with a *chavruta*/partner. Choose your own partner or ask to be paired up with someone from Mount Zion or someone from around the country.



Pick one of many class options. New class this Fall: Four-part class on the Holocaust taught by Rabbi Yitz Greenberg.

Registration opens after Yom Kippur. Deadline October 31. Courses begin November 7. As a Mount Zion member, pay only \$18/course.

From Pulpit to Stage: Liturgical Song (Piyyut) as Pop Song

Edwin Seroussi, *The Hebrew University of Jerusalem*

Wednesday, March 30, 7:30 pm at Mount Zion

Presented by the University of MN Center for Jewish Studies

Mount Zion is a co-sponsor of this event.



Jews engage in enthusiastic communal singing of Hebrew poems (*piyyut*) such as *Adon 'olam* (Lord of the Universe) during their synagogue services. What are the origins of these liturgical songs and their melodies? *Piyyut* is one of the most ancient poetical traditions of any present-day religion.

Born in the Land of Israel during the Byzantine period (5th to 6th century CE) as an extension of the statutory prayers sanctioned by rabbinical authorities after the destruction of the Temple of Jerusalem, *piyyut* became a backbone of Jewish prayer as well as a bone of contention regarding its status in modern worship. It also spread beyond formal synagogue rituals, to special religious events, family celebrations and now, to the entertainment stage in Israel. This presentation will trace the literary and musical journey of *piyyut* from its origins in Talmudic-times to its contemporary Israeli pop transmutations.

Edwin Seroussi is the Emanuel Alexandre Professor of Musicology at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem and Director of the Jewish Music Research Centre.

World Without Genocide Webinars

Open to the public: \$10 general public, \$5 students and seniors
Mount Zion is a co-sponsor of both events.

The Genocide of the American Indians: From 1492 to Today

Tuesday, October 12, 7:00-9:00 pm

Sen. Mary Kunesch, member of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, will speak about the report of the task force on causes of the crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, which identified historical trauma and colonization, racism, and sexual objectification of Indigenous women and girls. **Christine Stark**, author, advocate, and researcher, will talk about the physical and cultural genocide of the American Indian peoples.

Register by Sept. 21 at worldwithoutgenocide.org/1492

Birth, Sex, and Abuse:

Women and Children under Nazi Rule

Wednesday, December 15, 7:00-9:00 pm

Dr. Beverly Chalmers is an award-winning author and scholar. She will speak about the sexual assault of children, who were abused by the Nazis, by their rescuers, and by their peers, and the many forms of sexual abuse of Jewish women in concentration camps.

Register by Dec. 14 at worldwithoutgenocide.org/women

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.



Beginning Adult Hebrew

Taught by Siana Goodwin - [Register online at mzion.org](http://mzion.org).

This class focuses on learning the aleph-bet, the building blocks of written Hebrew. Students will learn to recognize letters, and begin basic reading, including parts of the Shabbat prayer book.

Wednesdays, 7:00-8:00 pm – Zoom
September 29 – December 15 (no class November 24)

Sundays, 10:00-11:00 am – in person at Mount Zion
October 3 – December 19 (no class November 28)

Steps to Hebrew Literacy

Sundays, Sept 26 - Dec 19, 7-8:00 pm via Zoom

This class is for those who are familiar with the letters and sounds of Hebrew and have some practice with reading Hebrew. The class will focus on developing more facility with reading texts from the Tanakh, understanding the language, and developing skills for continued study.

For more information, contact Siana Goodwin at sgoodwin2@comcast.net.

Beginning Adult Hebrew, Part II

Taught by Siana Goodwin - [Register online at mzion.org](http://mzion.org).

This class is a continuation of the fall Beginning Hebrew class, and is also appropriate for those who would like to review and polish their basic Hebrew. The focus is on building reading facility, primarily using the prayer book.

Wednesdays, 7:00-8:00 pm – Zoom
January 5 - March 9

Sundays, 10:00-11:00 am – in person at Mount Zion
January 9 - March 20 (no class February 20)

*“The golden key to
Jewish education is the
Hebrew Language.”*

-- Hayyim Nahman Bialik,
Things Known by Heart, 1935.

A Taste of Honey: An Introduction to Judaism

Mondays, October 4 - December 20, 7-8:30 pm

Member: \$36, Public: \$75

Rabbi Esther Adler - [Register online](http://mzion.org).

This course provides students with a basic understanding of Jewish practice and belief. Topics include Jewish history, life cycle, Shabbat, theology, home observance and more! For anyone interested in learning more about Judaism and/or thinking about conversion.



Building a Jewish Home, Creating a Jewish Family

Mondays, January 10, 17, 31 7-8:30 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?

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**
June 19-24, 2022

For adults and serious learners of all ages!

in partnership with **ROAD SCHOLAR**

Experience the best of the Southwest through in-depth presentations with local experts about New Mexico's Conversos and Crypto-Jews and about Santa Fe history and culture. Enjoy field trips to an array of significant historical and cultural sites. Learn about Georgia O'Keeffe, explore world-renowned Museum Hill, and observe a traditional Native American ceremonial dance.



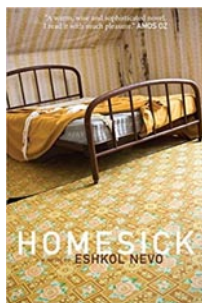
Pricing and enrollment information is available at mzion.org. Priority will go to those who registered for the past trip and for Mount Zion members. Questions? Please contact Cantor Spilker at rspilker@mzion.org or 651-698-3881, ext. 111.

Israel Book Club

The Mount Zion Israel Book Club meets every other month to discuss books by Israeli authors, set in Israel. We read fiction by Amos Oz, David Grossman, etc, and non-fiction: biographies, memoirs of kibbutz life, life in the military; high-tech, water. The group seeks to understand the life and the land of Israel through its own literature. All are welcome. Questions, call/text Jonathan Eisenthal at 651-260-6263, or email at johnnyirondale@gmail.com

Monday, September 12, 7:00 pm
Homesick by Eshkol Nevo

Moving from character to character, perspective to perspective, *Homesick* is a complex and moving portrait of parallel lives and failing love in a time of permanent war. Eshkol Nevo is one of the finest novelists working in Israel today.



Join Our Year of Firsts!



If you're engaged or part of a newly-married, interfaith couple (intercultural, dual faith, Jew-ish, etc.), 18Doors is offering Our Year of Firsts—a great program that offers you the opportunity to

explore all things Jewish in an intimate space with your partner and connect with unique couples just like you. In this year-long program, you'll meet once a month with other interfaith couples to discuss celebrating Jewish holidays, sharing cultural traditions and your future Jew-ish lives together. They're offering a \$50 discount (with the code 50OFF) to the next 10 couples who sign up. Read more at: 18doors.org/our-year-of-firsts



Our Bodies, Our Souls

25th Annual Jewish Retreat for Women

Friday Evening to Saturday Evening
Save the Date: January 21-22, 2022

11th Annual

Men's Retreat

Save the Date: Friday-Sunday, June 10-12, 2021



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 Wall, President
 Amy Schwartz Moore, President-Elect

Teresa Matzek, *Iton Tziyon*, editor
 tmatzek@mzion.org
 Phone: 651-698-3881
 Website: www.mzion.org

Best of Israel 2.0

An Eclectic, Active, Insider Tour
 crafted by Rabbi Spilker
 A Rare Opportunity Mount Zion Trip
November 1-10, 2021



See page 12.

A Four-Part Conversation on Racial Justice

Mondays, October 4, 11, 18, 25, 6:30-8:30 pm
via Zoom

*Led by EDOT, a regional Jewish diversity and racial justice collaborative,
 in partnership with Mount Zion's Tzedek Committee.*



See page 18.

INSIDE

Rabbi's Letter	2
Service Schedule	3
Cantor's Letter	4
From the President	5
High Holy Days	6
Contributions	13
Religious School	14
Women of MZT	15
Brotherhood	15
B'nei Mitzvah	16-17
Social Action Update	18
MaZAL	20-23

What does Judaism offer you in a time of challenge?

Sarah Hurwitz, Michelle Obama's Speechwriter

in conversation with Rabbi Adam Stock Spilker
 with Q and A from the audience

Thursday, October 7, 7:30 pm, via Zoom



See page 10 & 11.