



# TIDINGS OF ZION



Adar II/Nisan 5773

MT. ZION CONGREGATION, Sioux Falls, South Dakota

April 2014

*from Student Rabbi Herman...*



Last month I had the honor of attending the AIPAC Policy Conference in Washington, DC. The conference was full of 14,000 pro-Israel supporters who descended upon Washington to lobby members of Congress and learn more about the challenges facing Israel. Speakers included Senators McCain and Menendez, Secretary of State John Kerry, several members of the Knesset, and even

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. I had the pleasure of lobbying alongside Stephen Rosenthal and my colleague Rachael Klein, the student rabbi at the Synagogue of the Hills in Rapid City. Together, along with other dedicated Israel supporters from around South Dakota, we met with aids from the offices of Senators Johnson and Thune as well as Congresswoman Noem. It was heartwarming to see that South Dakota has a vibrant pro-Israel community comprised of both Jews and Christians and members of Congress dedicated to Israel's security and prosperity.

The focus of the conference was the ongoing negotiations regarding Iran's nuclear program, as well as the peace talks that are underway between Israel and the Palestinian Authority. The conference included a general feeling of hope for a diplomatic solution to the Iranian nuclear program and for a framework peace deal with the Palestinians, coupled with skepticism of Iran and the PA's intentions and sincerity.

Regardless of my personal views on the ongoing negotiations, the situation reminds me of a teaching offered by the columnist Yossi Klein Halevi (who recently published a new book, *Like Dreamers*, which has gotten excellent reviews). I once heard Halevi speak at exactly the current time in the Jewish calendar, between Purim and Passover. Halevi noted that we must think of Israel in between Purim and Passover, keeping in mind the lessons of each holiday. From Passover, we learn that we must make peace with our Palestinian neighbors for we were once strangers in the land of Egypt. From Purim, we learn that we can never let our guard down, for our people constantly faces the threat of violence, persecution, and genocide. We must approach the current negotiations with the Iranians and Palestinians in the same way. We cannot forget either lesson. We must remain hopeful and strive for peace, but we must not sacrifice Israel's security to do so. We pray that in the months and years to come, with the support of communities like this, Israel can live in security, peace, and harmony.

*B'shalom, Student Rabbi Josh Herman*

*from the Congregation President...*



This month we will be celebrating Pesach – Passover - with our annual Mt Zion Jewish Community Seder, Monday, April 14 at 6:00PM. Deb Hicks has graciously agreed once again to chair the event and she has included in this bulletin all of the details as well as an RSVP form for your use. (Please make your reservations as

soon as possible for planning purposes.) Thank you, Deb. Our community is indebted to your conscientious service.

We Jews are commanded in Exodus 12:14-17 as follows:

*And this day shall become a memorial for you, and you shall observe it as a festival for the Lord, for your generations, as an eternal decree shall you observe it. For seven days you shall eat unleavened bread, but on the first day you shall remove the leaven from your homes ... you shall guard the unleavened bread, because on this very day I will take you out of the land of Egypt; you shall observe this day for your generations as an eternal decree.*

Every year, on the 15th day of Nissan, we recount at our annual Seder how with a strong hand and an outstretched arm, God liberated us from bondage in Egypt. In modern times, some people may be tempted to say or think that such a ritualistic meal is antiquated or that it has little relevance to the lives that we lead today. From my point of view, I would ask that such a belief be re-evaluated. The Passover Seder gives all of us an opportunity to put ourselves in the shoes (sandals?) of our ancestors who struggled mightily under oppression until God's messengers, Moses and Aaron, came to Egypt to insist upon freedom for the Jews from slavery. The Seder gives each of us the opportunity to re-affirm our gratitude to God for that liberation as well as for the Torah and mitzvot that guide our lives. We also have an opportunity to realize how much we may take for granted the blessings and privileges of freedom. May our voices join together in the recounting of the story of the Exodus from Egypt and to the one God to whom we owe much.

*B'shalom,  
Bernice*

**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING IS SET FOR WEDNESDAY JUNE 11 AT 7:00 PM**



## DONATIONS

(February 10 - March 9, 2014)

Please send all Temple contributions to:  
PO Box 756, Sioux Falls, SD 57101

### GENERAL FUND

In honor of the birth of Jakob Ferris Dreiske, with congratulations to Jen Wagner and Chris Dreiske from Shelly & Jay Rosenberg

In honor of Carol and Stephen Rosenthal with congratulations on the birth of their newest grandson Bennett Micah Peterson from Mark & Matilda Oppenheimer

With sympathy to Sheila Taitelman for the loss of her husband from Harlene Lewin

With sympathy to Sherry Kopel Kane for the loss of her husband from Harlene Lewin

**Remember birthdays,  
anniversaries,  
yahrzeits, memorials.**

**Please send your  
donations to:  
Mt. Zion Temple  
PO Box 756  
Sioux Falls, SD 57101**

## TIDINGS DEADLINE IS APRIL 10th

Remember to submit articles appropriate for the MAY *Tidings*. To submit articles, you may email them to:

carol@theprintersinc.com  
OR mail them to:  
510 S. 1st Ave.  
Sioux Falls, SD 57104



Reforest Israel by planting trees in Israel through JNF, the Jewish National Fund. The price of one tree is \$18.

**To purchase a tree, contact  
MARGO OLSON  
at 371-2020 or email her  
at molson1226@hotmail.com**

## Visiting Groups to the Temple

Our congregation is served by a Student Rabbi who is available a limited number of weekends from September through May. We encourage your scheduling your Friday evening worship services visit only when the Student Rabbi is in residence. For Friday evening visits and/or in cases where other scheduling arrangements are needed, please call or e-mail the President of the congregation who will assist you with scheduling.

## STUDENT RABBI'S 2014 SCHEDULE

Apr. 4-6

Apr. 11-15 (Passover)

**JNN News Update  
March 31, 2014**

**WORLD'S FIRST  
SELF-CLEANING SOLAR  
PARK IS IN ISRAEL**

Last week the Kibbutz Ketura solar park, jointly owned by Siemens AG and Israel's Arava Power, became the world's first self-cleaning solar energy production facility. Each night, the 20-acre facility is cleaned by 100 Israeli-made robots, which brush and clean the hundreds of solar panels. Besides sun, deserts have lots of dust, and that dust can reduce a solar panel's efficiency by as much as 35%. The robots use microfibers and air to push the accumulated dirt off the panels without using scarce water. (Times of Israel)



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# PASSOVER SOCIAL JUSTICE GUIDE

Passover is rich in social justice themes. It is impossible to study the Jewish story of redemption and not feel compelled to eradicate injustice in the world today. Among the primary social justice themes found in the Exodus story and in the Passover observance are hunger, homelessness, oppression, and redemption.

At Passover, we are reminded of a time when Jews were once restricted to eating only matzah, considered the “bread of affliction,” due to the hasty retreat from Egypt. This experience with hardship following the exodus from Egypt is an inspiration to consider those who eat the metaphorical “bread of affliction” in present times.

In the Babylonian Talmud, we are taught, “Even the poorest person in Israel may not eat until he reclines, and they must not give him less than four cups of wine.” This is a reminder that it is imperative to take care of everyone in the community, even the poorest person. The requirement that even poor Jews be provided with ample wine – and presumably with all of the holiday’s ritual foods and practices – leads to the expectation that Jews should help the poor and the hungry not just during Passover but throughout the year.

Passover also serves as a painful reminder that the Jewish people were seen as strangers in the land of Egypt and spent 40 long years of wandering in the wilderness without a home. These elements of the Passover story remind us of current issues of immigration and refugee concerns, and the memory of being displaced instills in us a desire to eradicate homelessness in the modern era.

At Passover, we read, “This year we are slaves. Next year, may we all be free.” Jews are commanded to be directly present in the Passover story, remembering what it was like for the Children of Israel to be slaves in the land of Egypt. This personal experience is a motivation to examine the current international situation and wrestle with cases of injustice, oppression, and modern-day slavery. Thus, Passover provides us an opportunity to raise awareness of contemporary examples of slavery and oppression throughout the world, such as human trafficking, the sex trade, and even domestic violence, which traps victims within their homes, limiting their freedom as surely as if they were enslaved.

You can incorporate social action themes into your Passover observance in the following ways.

## **DONATE YOUR CHAMETZ**

The pre-Passover ritual of cleaning our homes of chametz, or leavening, is the Jewish equivalent of “spring cleaning.” This act requires the thorough cleaning of the entire house in a search for leavened products, down to the smallest crumb. The process reminds us of those who search daily for a nutritional meal to sustain themselves and their families. This Passover, donate your chametz to food pantries or soup kitchens in order to help those who are hungry to come and eat.

## **HELP OTHERS CELEBRATE PASSOVER**

The tradition of contributing kimcha dePischa, or funds for matzah, is an important one. In many communities, special Passover funds are set up to provide kosher holiday meals to Jewish families in need. Assist those in need in your local or international community by providing kosher meals during the holiday of Passover to Jewish senior citizens, families in need, food pantries, or nonprofit organizations in Israel that address issues of hunger.

## **UPDATE YOUR SEDER PLATE**

Alongside the traditional items on the seder plate, try some of these modern additions.

**Orange:** Many families have begun adding an orange to their seder plate as a way of acknowledging the role of women in Jewish life. Professor Susannah Heschel explains that in the 1980s, feminists at Oberlin College placed a crust of bread on the Seder plate, saying, “There’s as much room for a lesbian in Judaism as there is for a crust of bread on the Seder plate.” Heschel adapted this practice, placing an orange on her family’s seder plate and asking each attendee to take a segment of the orange, make the blessing over fruit, and eat it as a gesture of solidarity with gay Jews and others who are marginalized within the Jewish community. They spit out the orange seeds, which were said to represent homophobia.

**Potato:** In 1991, Israel launched Operation Solomon, a covert plan to bring Ethiopian Jews to the Holy Land. When these famished, downtrodden Jews arrived in Israel, many were so hungry and ill that they were unable to digest substantial food. Israeli doctors fed these new immigrants simple boiled potatoes and rice until their systems could take more food. To commemorate this at your seder, eat small red potatoes alongside the karpas. Announce to those present that this addition honors a wondrous exodus in our own time, from Ethiopia to Israel.

**Fair Trade Chocolate or Cocoa Beans:** The fair trade movement promotes economic partnerships based on equality, justice and sustainable environmental practices. We have a role in the process by making consumer choices that promote economic fairness for those who produce our products around the globe. Fair Trade certified chocolate and cocoa beans are grown under standards that prohibit the use of forced labor. They can be included on the seder plate to remind us that although we escaped from slavery in Egypt, forced labor is still very much an issue today.

*continued on page 4*

**ASK THE FOUR QUESTIONS OF MODERN DAY SLAVERY**

This modern social justice take on the Four Questions can be inserted at the reading of the Four Questions during your family's or congregation's seder:

- "Why on this night are some people still enslaved today?"*
- "Why on this night do so many remain hungry in the world?"*
- "Why on this night do we invite the hungry and lonely to share our meal?"*
- "How can we eradicate hunger and homelessness tonight and every night?"*

A fifth question can be posed: "Why is this night no different from other nights? Because on this night millions of human beings around the world still remain enslaved, just as they do on all other nights. As a celebration of our freedom, we remember those who remain enslaved."

**RECITE A NEW "10 PLAGUES"**

As we recite the 10 plagues God sent upon Egypt, we pour out 10 drops of wine, lessening our joy in memory of these hardships upon the Egyptian people. In today's world, there are many societal cruelties and injustices that can cause us to diminish our joy. Consider adding these 10 plagues to your seder, adapted from the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism's A Common Road to Freedom, A Passover Haggadah for a Seder. Each drop of wine is our hope and prayer that people will cast out the plagues that today threaten everyone, everywhere they are found, beginning in our own hearts:

- The making of war,*
- The teaching of hate and violence,*
- Despoliation of the earth,*
- Perversion of justice and government,*
- Fomenting of vice and crime,*
- Neglect of human needs,*
- Oppression of nations and peoples,*
- Corruption of culture,*
- Subjugation of science, learning, and human discourse,*
- The erosion of freedoms.*



**Mt. Zion Congregation**

www.mtzioncongregation.com  
 14th & Duluth Streets  
 PO Box 756  
 Sioux Falls, SD 57101-0756

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# Mt. Zion Congregation - April 2014

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 5px;">                     A reminder that proper attire should be worn when participating in services at Mt. Zion Temple. Your cooperation with this matter is greatly appreciated.                 </div>		<b>1</b> Rosh Chodesh Nisan	<b>2</b> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 5px;"> <b>BYOL (Bring Your Own Lunch) Following Torah study on Saturday, April 5, Student Rabbi Josh Herman will be conducting a Passover adult ed session. He plans to share a page of Talmud regarding the four questions from the Seder.</b> </div>	<b>3</b>	<b>4 (Nisan 5)</b>  7:38 pm <b>7:30 pm Shabbat Service</b> <b>STUDENT RABBI HERMAN</b> Torah: M'tzora Lev 14:1-15:33 Haftarah: II Kings 7:3-20	<b>5</b> 10 am Torah Study Following Torah Study, Adult Ed (12:15 pm) with St. Rabbi Herman
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Make reservations for Temple Seder by <b>TODAY!</b>	<b>8</b> Mark Oppenheimer Bday	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Tidings deadline	<b>11 (Nisan 12)</b>  7:46 pm <b>7:30 pm Shabbat Service</b> <b>STUDENT RABBI HERMAN</b> Torah: Acharei Mot Lev 16:1-18:30 Haftarah: Malachi 3:4-24	<b>12</b> 10 am Torah Study
<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>  7:50 pm Temple Passover Seder 6 pm	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18 (Nisan 19)</b>  7:55 pm <b>7:30 pm Shabbat Service</b> Torah: Shabbat Chol Hamoad Pesach Exod 33:12-34:26 Haftarah: Ezekiel 37:1-14	<b>19</b> 10 am Torah Study
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25 (Nisan 26)</b>  8:03 pm <b>7:30 pm Shabbat Service</b> Torah: Kedoshim Lev 19:1-20:27 Haftarah: Amos 9:7-15	<b>26</b> 10 am Torah Study
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Yom HaShoah	<b>29</b> Bob Mendelsohn Bday	<b>30</b>	<b>May 1</b> Rosh Chodesh Iyar	<b>2 (Iyar 3)</b>  8:11 pm <b>7:30 pm Shabbat Service</b> Torah: Emor Lev 21:1-24:23 Haftarah: Ezekiel 44:15-31	<b>3</b> 10 am Torah Study



# Yahrzeits

All Yahrzeits that are observed Sunday through Saturday are read the Friday of that same week. If a Yahrzeit is not listed or you need information concerning Yahrzeits, please call Jan Forstein at 332-3354. A Yahrzeit card and envelope will be sent to you to notify you of upcoming Yahrzeits. (If you do not receive your notification, please contact Jan.) Also included with the notification card is a donor envelope if you wish to make a donation to the Temple in memory of your loved one.

## April 4th

Louis Kuh  
Myer Koplou  
Julius Oppenheimer

## April 11th

Dora Rosenstein  
Zalman Eli Epstein

## April 18th

Bernice Pitts  
Henrietta Davis  
Jean Perkins  
Tony Steinbeg  
Aaron Glazer  
Clara Greenstein Kuh

## April 25th

Dorothy Mosow Hurwitz  
Frank Winner

## May 2nd

Elsa Oppenheimer  
Etta Margulies  
Nathan Koplou

# Mt. Zion Temple Passover Seder



Please join us on

## Monday, April 14, 2014 6:00 p.m. • Mt. Zion Temple



Cost: \$15.00 (Adult Temple members and their families); \$25.00 (Non-Temple members); \$10.00 per youth (6-18 years old and college students); 5 and under free

Payment should be sent to: **Mt. Zion Passover Seder,**  
c/o Deb Hicks, 6200 W. 58th Street, Sioux Falls, SD 57106.

**Reservations and payment by Monday, April 7, 2014 please.**  
**Contact Deb at 362-9360 or djph@midco.net with questions.**

## 2014 Mt. Zion Passover Seder Reservation Form

**Reservations and pre-payment are requested.**

Include form WITH YOUR CHECK and send to  
Mt. Zion Passover Seder, c/o Deb Hicks, 6200 W. 58th St., Sioux Falls, SD 57106.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# of Adult Members and their families @\$15: \_\_\_\_\_

# of Non-members @\$25: \_\_\_\_\_

# 6-18 years old and college students @\$10: \_\_\_\_\_

# 5 and under (free): \_\_\_\_\_

DONATIONS GLADLY ACCEPTED AND APPRECIATED: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_