



TIDINGS OF ZION



Kislev/Tevet 5775

MT. ZION CONGREGATION, Sioux Falls, South Dakota

December 2014



from Student Rabbi Cohen...

My mother used to tell me, “Smile and the world will smile back.” I remember walking through my school’s hallways, waiting to see who would return my smile. Such a simple thing to do that could brighten one’s day: a simple smile. The concept behind the quote was that my positive action would lead to another, and would somehow be returned back to me. The smile was to lead into a ripple effect, a chain reaction, a call and response process

of some sort. Now imagine, if this smile was instead a candle. Everywhere you go, you would have the choice to either share your candle’s flame—your light—with another, or not. You would have the choice whether to lighten up another’s life, or not.

On Channukah, the candle that is used to light all of the others is called the shamash candle, meaning “helper” or “attendant”. This candle is the leader. It has a candleholder separate from the others, but yet, it is the only one that reaches out to light up each candle. The shamash makes an effort to draw itself close to all of the others for the goal of creating a light brighter than itself. The shamash smiles and the whole Channukah menorah smiles back. Our own actions of lighting the Channukah menorah yield similar results. When we take the time to observe this Channukah commandment and light the candles, in return, the menorah will light up any room and bring warmth to those who surround it.

So, as winter rolls in, carrying darkness and cold weather, we must remember to be like the shamash. Pass on a smile during your comings and goings. Invite a friend over for some hot tea or chicken soup. Give a hug where you think it may be needed. Lend a helping hand. Let us all be like the shamash, bringing light into the lives of others—a light so bright that it will shine back upon us. “Smile and the world will smile back.”

Chag Channukah sameach! May you have a happy Festival of Lights!

*B’shalom,
Student Rabbi Alli Cohen*

from the Congregation President...



See if you agree, even partially, with the following statements:

- I am glad that there is a Jewish Temple in Sioux Falls.
- While it might be preferable to have a regular pulpit Rabbi, the HUC Student Rabbi program greatly benefits our

community.

- Most Jewish holidays are observed with appropriate ritual and customary observances.
- Though we are a small community, there are a number of activities/programs that one can participate in; i.e. Schlock Rock, Chanukah dinners, Shabbat family dinners, Tu B’shvat seders, weekly Torah study, etc.
- Temple’s building and grounds are well maintained.
- It’s unfortunate that we do not have children in our community to populate a religious school.
- Temple can be counted on for life events; happy ones such as baby naming, bar/bat mitzvah, etc; or unhappy events such as illness, etc.
- Even though it’s not perfect; overall, I am satisfied with most things at Temple.

Assuming that you mostly agree with the sentiments expressed above, I ask you to consider that in order for these things to happen in Temple, someone needs to do behind the scenes preparations. Right now, there is a small core of folks who have been and continue to be the behind the scenes workers. Frankly, the time has come for those of you who have not participated (or not participated very much) to step up to the plate. Start saying yes when asked to help out with something. Whatever it is you are asked to help with will not be difficult nor take up vast amounts of your time. Even better, why not volunteer to do something; for example, volunteer to host the student Rabbi for a meal, volunteer to host an oneg, volunteer to help out with the Chanukah dinner, etc. You will not be asked to give up your free time and/or your personal life....I guarantee it!! Please, Friends, we are long past waiting for the “other guy” to do it. Show your caring and commitment to your Jewish community. In the words of the famous Rabbi, Hillel: “Im lo achshav, ai-matai?” “If not now, when?”

*All the best,
Bernice*



DONATIONS

(October 10 - November 9, 2014)

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

GENERAL FUND

In memory of Jack Grubbs with condolences to his family from Shelly & Jay Rosenberg

In honor of Marty Davidsohn with best wishes for a happy birthday from Lorna Gallanter

In honor of Jan Forstein with appreciation for the building tour and information session from the United Church of Christ Confirmation Class (Scotland SD)

To the Congregation from the Membership of Mount Zion Temple Sisterhood

A Note from the Treasurer....

Dear Congregants and Friends,

Mount Zion Congregation greatly appreciates your support. Without our dedicated volunteers who give so unselfishly of their time and our generous benefactors who provide our financial sustenance through payment of dues and gifts, we would not be the strong community that we are.

As December opens, please keep in mind that any payments of dues or donations to Mount Zion Congregation that you would like to apply to your charitable donations deductions on your 2014 tax return MUST be received by WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24th to insure that they are processed and deposited before December 31st 2014. You may mail payments to us at: Mt Zion Congregation; PO Box 756; Sioux Falls SD 57101.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Matilda Oppenheimer, Treasurer
605-332-8404

STUDENT RABBI'S 2014-2015 SCHEDULE

DEC 5-7

DEC 19-21

JAN 16-18

JAN 30-FEB 1

FEB 13-15

FEB 27-MAR 1

MAR 6-8 (PURIM)

MAR 20-22

APR 3-5 (PASSOVER SEDER)

APR 17-19

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.

Hosts for Student Rabbi Allison Cohen's Friday and Saturday meals are needed.

Please contact Marty Davidsohn at
martydavidsohn@gmail.com
or 254-8434
and get your favorite date.

Monthly Potluck Dinner to Start in January

On Friday, January 2nd, at 6:00 pm members of the congregation will have the first monthly potluck dinner in the Social Hall. This dinner is open to all families of the congregation. This dinner will occur every first Friday of the month whether the Student Rabbi is in town or not.

The dinner will conclude before services. Attendees are not required to go to services following the dinner but are certainly welcome to do so. More information will be coming out in December. Please put this on your calendar and join us.

For more information, contact Stephen Rosenthal at rosenthal.stephen@gmail.com or call 376-5189.

Remember birthdays, anniversaries, yahrzeits, memorials.

Please send your
donations to:

Mt. Zion Temple, PO Box 756
Sioux Falls, SD 57101

TIDINGS DEADLINE IS DECEMBER 10th

Remember to submit articles appropriate for the January Tidings.

To submit articles, you may email them to:
carol@theprintersinc.com

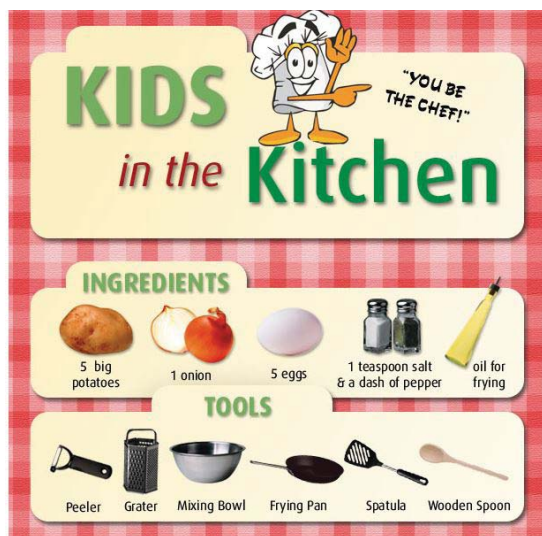
OR mail them to:
510 S. 1st Ave.

Sioux Falls, SD 57104

Attention Mt. Zion Congregation Members,

There are just a few of us who conduct services when there is no Student Rabbi present. This is a wonderful opportunity to keep our community vibrant and active, and we would welcome others to participate in this commitment to our Congregation. If you know of someone who has the ability to conduct services, encourage them. If YOU are able and willing to share the honor of leading services in English or using Hebrew, please contact me at davidaronson@iw.net or 605-957-5223. I would be glad to help anyone who is willing to step up to this responsibility. We take great pride in our ability to provide for our own needs. Please contact me. Thank you all in advance for participating in this way.

David Aronson, Ritual Coordinator



1. Peel potatoes and onion.
2. Grate potatoes and onion into a large bowl.
3. Crack eggs into a glass. Check to make sure there are no blood spots!
4. Add egg, salt and pepper to the potato and onion mixture, and use a wooden spoon to mix it up!
5. Ask your adult assistant to help turn on the stove.
6. Pour enough oil into the frying pan to cover the bottom of the pan.
7. Use a large spoon to carefully place spoonfuls of batter into the pan. Be careful - the oil is hot!
8. Let the latkes fry for about 5 minutes on a medium flame.
9. Ask your adult assistant to help turn the latkes over using a spatula. Let the latkes fry for a few more minutes, till they're nice and brown on both sides.
10. Ask your adult assistant to help take out the latkes and place them on a plate to cool.
11. Serve with applesauce and enjoy! Don't forget to make a blessing! Baruch Atoh Ado-nai Elo-heinu Melech Ha-olam Borei P'ri Ha'adoma.

www.chabad.org

The Origin of the Dreidel, the well-known Hanukkah symbol has European roots by Rabbi David Golinkin

Reprinted with permission of the author from A Different Light: The Hanukkah Book of Celebration published by the Shalom Hartman Institute and Devora Publishing.



Most of the laws of Hanukkah are related to the lighting of the menorah or hanukkiyah; however, in this article we shall describe some of the customs of Hanukkah.

The main difference between laws and customs is that laws stem from rabbinic interpretations of the Torah and Talmud which then filter down to the Jewish people, while customs usually start with the people and filter up to the rabbis. Through customs, the Jewish people have shown their love for God and tradition and immeasurably enriched all aspects of Jewish observance.

The dreidel or sevivon is perhaps the most famous custom associated with Hanukkah. Indeed, various rabbis have tried to find an integral connection between the dreidel and the Hanukkah story; the standard explanation is that the letters nun, gimmel, hey, shin, which appear on the dreidel in the Diaspora, stand for nes gadol haya sham--"a great miracle happened there," while in Israel the dreidel says nun, gimmel, hey, pey, which means "a great miracle happened here."

One 19th century rabbi maintained that Jews played with the dreidel in order to fool the Greeks if they were caught studying Torah, which had been outlawed. Others figured out elaborate gematriot [numerological explanations based on the fact that every Hebrew letter has a numerical equivalent] and word plays for the letters nun, gimmel, hey, shin. For example, nun, gimmel, hey, shin in gematria equals 358, which is also the numerical equivalent of mashiach or Messiah!

Finally, the letters nun, gimmel, hey, shin are supposed to represent the four kingdoms which tried to destroy us [in ancient times]: N = Nebuchadnetzar = Babylon; H = Haman = Persia = Madai; G = Gog = Greece; and S = Seir = Rome.

As a matter of fact, all of these elaborate explanations were invented after the fact.

The dreidel game originally had nothing to do with Hanukkah; it has been played by various people in various languages for many centuries.

In England and Ireland there is a game called totum or teetotum that is especially popular at Christmastime. In English, this game is first mentioned as "totum" ca. 1500-1520. The name comes from the Latin "totum," which means "all." By 1720, the game was called T- totum or teetotum, and by 1801 the four letters already represented four words in English: T = Take all; H = Half; P = Put down; and N = Nothing.

Our Eastern European game of dreidel (including the letters nun, gimmel, hey, shin) is directly based on the German equivalent of the totum game: N = Nichts = nothing; G = Ganz = all; H = Halb = half; and S = Stell ein = put in. In German, the spinning top was called a "torrel" or "trundl," and in Yiddish it was called a "dreidel," a "fargl," a "varfl" [= something thrown], "shtel ein" [= put in], and "gor, gorin" [= all].

When Hebrew was revived as a spoken language, the dreidel was called, among other names, a sevivon, which is the one that caught on.

Thus the dreidel game represents an irony of Jewish history. In order to celebrate the holiday of Hanukkah, which celebrates our victory over cultural assimilation, we play the dreidel game, which is an excellent example of cultural assimilation! Of course, there is a world of difference between imitating non-Jewish games and worshipping idols, but the irony remains nonetheless.

Rabbi David Golinkin, Ph.D., is president and rector of the Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies in Jerusalem, where he teaches Talmud and Jewish law, and he heads the Va'ad Halakhah (committee on Jewish law) of the Masorti, or Conservative, movement's Rabbinical Assembly in Israel.



SISTERHOOD GIFT SHOP

First Chanukah Candle will be lit at sundown on Tuesday, December 16th ...

We have too many WONDERFUL ITEMS to describe them all here, so PLEASE come and see us during the CHANUKAH SALE to share our excitement over this great selection of jewelry (for men and women!), mugs, tableware, menorahs, candles, dreidels, toys, decorations, mezuzahs, chocolate gelt, candles and giftwrap for your family and friends and even for you! Take special note of the mezuzah cases, menorahs, vases, Kiddush cups and jewelry imported from **Israel**. Items are available in limited quantities, so shop early and avoid disappointment.



Also, we have restocked and expanded our collection of the colorful and whimsical “Two Hands Company” jewelry collection. All of this jewelry is made in the USA and the company shares its profits with charities that benefit children with disabilities. By purchasing their brooches, tac pins and earrings, you support their charitable efforts, as well.

Remember, your purchases not only allow you to bring beautiful Judaica into your home, they also support the Sisterhood’s numerous community projects including Shabbat Onegs, maintaining the Temple’s kitchen facilities, and holiday events.

The Gift Shop will be “open” for your shopping convenience on the first two Sundays of December, from 10am until 12noon each day: December 7th and December 14th. If these hours do not work for you, please do not hesitate to call us and we will arrange a mutually agreeable alternative time.

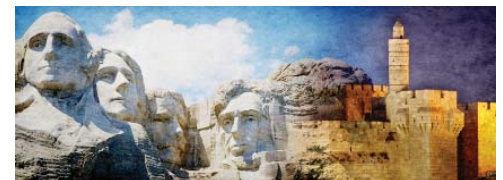
Wishing you and your loved ones a safe and happy holiday season...

*Gift Shop Co-Chairs: Judy Lampert (605-339-3170)
and Matilda Oppenheimer (605-332-8404)*



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



“Like”
**South Dakotans
for Israel on
Facebook:**
www.facebook.com/SD4Israel

RAFFLE

Come to the Gift Shop during December and purchase one or more chances to win a beautiful piece of jewelry. We are still waiting to see what item our supplier sends us, so we cannot announce the specific item, yet. It should be available for viewing at the Gift Shop open house sales and in the display case during December. I will also send out an e-mail when it arrives and that message should include an image.

Raffle tickets cost \$4each or three chances for \$10. Tickets are available for purchase from Judy or Matilda at any time from now through the drawing.

Out-of-towners, mail your check (issued to Mt Zion Temple Sisterhood) to purchase raffle tickets to Matilda (4704 Pasque Circle South, Sioux Falls, SD 57105) and be sure that it is posted to be received by Wednesday, December 17th ... or call me to let me know that payment is on the way so that I can be sure that your name is entered in the drawing. Be sure to include your phone number or e-mail address.

The drawing will take place at the Chanukah dinner on Friday, December 19th. Winner need not be present at the drawing, but we encourage you to join us for the Congregation’s celebration.

**Questions? Call Judy (Home: 605-339-3170; e-mail: jrlsfsd13@sio.midco.net)
or Matilda (Home: 605-332-8404; e-mail: mejoppen@sio.midco.net)**



Hanukkah (alternately spelled Chanukah), meaning “dedication” in Hebrew, refers to the joyous eight-day celebration during which Jews commemorate the victory of the Maccabees over the armies of Syria in 165 B.C.E. and the subsequent liberation and “rededication” of the Temple in Jerusalem. The modern home celebration of Hanukkah centers around the lighting of the chanukiyah, a special menorah for Hanukkah; foods prepared in oil including latkes (potato pancakes) and sufganiyot (jelly donuts); and special songs and games.

Hanukkah Blessings: Candles are added to the Hanukiyah from right to left but are kindled from left to right. The newest candle is lit first. (On the Shabbat of Hanukkah, kindle the Hanukkah lights first and then the Shabbat candles.) Light the Shamash - the helper candle - first using it to kindle the rest of the Hanukkah lights; say or sing:

Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech haolam, asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav v'tsivanu l'hadlik ner shel Hanukkah.

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of all, who hallows us with mitzvot, commanding us to kindle the Hanukkah lights.

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ לְהַדְלִיק נֵר שֶׁל חֲנֻכָּה.

Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech haolam, she-asah nisim laavoteinu v'imoteinu bayamim hahaeim baz'man hazeh.

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of all, who performed wondrous deeds for our ancestors in days of old at this season.

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, שֶׁעָשָׂה נִסִּים
לְאַבוֹתֵינוּ בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם בְּזִמַּן הַזֶּה.

For first night only:

Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech haolam, shehecheyanu v'kiy'manu v'higianu laz'man hazeh.

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of all, for giving us life, for sustaining us, and for enabling us to reach this season.

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, שֶׁהַחַיָּנוּ וְקִיַּמָּנוּ
וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לַזִּמַּן הַזֶּה.

Hanerot Halalu: We kindle these lights because of the wondrous deliverance You performed for our ancestors. During these eight days of Hanukkah, these lights are sacred; we are not to use them but only to behold them, so that their glow may rouse us to give thanks for Your wondrous acts of deliverance.

NEW Temple Facebook page! "Like" Us!



Help support the extraordinary works of Hadassah with a card or certificate! Contact Cards & Certificates Chair Carol Rosenthal if you'd like to make a donation. There's a card or certificate in every price range and for every occasion!!

Did you know that MZ has a Facebook page? Well, we do. If you are a Facebook user, please "like" MZ sometime soon: <http://on.fb.me/1tq31VB>








Mt. Zion Congregation

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

President: Bernice Schotten
 Vice President: Deb Hicks
 Treasurer: Matilda Oppenheimer
 Secretary: Royce Hansman
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 Cathy Ezrailson
 Judy Lampert
 Marc Feinstein
 Margo Olson
 Stephen Rosenthal
 Past President: Murray Haar

Mt. Zion Congregation - December 2014

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5 (Kislev 14)  4:32 pm 7:30 pm Shabbat Service STUDENT RABBI COHEN Torah: Vayishlach gen 32:4-36:43 Haftarah: Hosea 11:7-12:12	6 10 am Torah Study
A reminder that proper attire should be worn when participating in services at Mt. Zion Temple. Your cooperation with this matter is greatly appreciated.	8	9	10 TIDINGS DEADLINE	11	12 (Kislev 21)  4:32 pm 7:30 pm Shabbat Service Torah: Vayeishev Gen 37:1-40:23 Haftarah: Amos 2:6-3:8	13 10 am Torah Study
Gift Shop Open: 10AM-12noon Other times available by appointment	15	16 1st night Hanukkah	17 2nd Night Hanukkah	18 3rd Night Hanukkah	19 (Kislev 28)  4:34 pm 6:00 pm Chanukah/Shabbat Service and Dinner STUDENT RABBI COHEN DRAWING FOR RAFFLE PRIZE!! Torah: Mikeitz Gen 41:1-44:17 Haftarah: Zechariah 4:1-7 4th Night Hanukkah	20 10 am Torah Study 5th Night Hanukkah
21 NO Temple Board Meeting in December 6th Night Hanukkah	22 7th Night Hanukkah	23 8th Night Hanukkah Rosh Chodesh Tevet	24	25	26 (Tevet 5)  4:38 pm 7:30 pm Shabbat Service Torah: Vaigash 44:18-47:27 Haftarah: Ezekiel 37:15-28	27 10 am Torah Study
28	29	30	31	Jan. 1	2 (Tevet 12)  4:44 pm 6:00 pm Potluck Dinner 7:30 pm Shabbat Service Torah: Va-y'chi Gen 47:28-50:26 Haftarah: I Kings 2:1-2:12	3 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.

December 5th

Joel Oppenheimer
Morris Gellman
Sam Levinson
Charles F. Bierman
Julius Kuh
Martin I. Axelbaum

December 12th

Lillian Gellman
Annie Adler
Beatrice Kaminsky
David G. Fusfield
Lillian Koplou
Samuel Margulies
Rabbi Howard Fineberg
Harold F. Klein
Alice Jones

December 19th

Ida Caplan
Edward Gerald Ezrailson
Samuel Greenberg
Luella Melton
R. Lee Ofstein
Benjamin Davis
June Greene
Joseph Sickel
Leah Hymes

December 26th

Charles Snyder
Arthur Breslow
Benjamin Shafton
Felix Livingston
Sara Hirshfield
Sam Fufeld
Hortense Schneeberg
Julia Hibshman
Janet Bailin
Don Margulies.

January 2nd

David Kaufman
Sue Magidson
Rabbi Stephen Forstein
Joseph Deutsch
Sherman W. Lewin
Benjamin Eirinberg
Harry Greenstein
Daniel Horwitz
Jane Hertzman Rosenthal
Wally Mander
Bernard Gallanter

Mt. Zion CHANUKAH SHABBAT FAMILY DINNER

Friday, December 19, 2014

6:00 pm

Chicken will be provided

Latkes (YUMMMM) will be provided

Bring a side dish to share

Bring your Chanukah menorah

Bring your Shabbat candle holders

We will have an abbreviated service in the social hall followed by dinner and a Chanukah celebration. Come and join the remembrance of the Maccabees, the Chanukah miracle, and the joy of Shabbat and community.

