



# TIDINGS OF ZION

Tevet/Shevat 5783

Mt. Zion Congregation • Sioux Falls, SD

January 2023

## From the Desk of Rabbi Cathy Nemiroff. . .

I am frequently asked “Why learn Hebrew when we have transliteration and translations?” My response has many layers. To respond briefly, here are a few:

First, transliteration only approximates Hebrew pronunciation and can form bad reading habits in people who want to learn correct Hebrew.

Second, translations are interpretation. Hebrew words often have multiple meanings so the translator has to select an English word that expresses their understanding of the meaning. Hebrew expressions and idioms often don't make sense when translated literally into English, so should the translator try to be literal, or to offer an expression in English that might be used in a similar context?

Third, Hebrew is a beautiful and expressive language, holy to the Jews from ancient times – about 3000 years ago – up through today. Learning Hebrew brings one closer to Jewish texts and, for many, deepens our sense of Jewish spiritual experience. It is awesome to read our Bible, the TaNaKh, in its original language and then to use the same words when shopping or sipping coffee in modern Israel.

Maybe you are interested in learning more about this fascinating language? At some point, I may offer an adult education session on the Hebrew language. And if you want to learn to read Hebrew, I can get you started.

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### Rabbi Cathy Nemiroff's Schedule of Visits to Sioux Falls January thru May 2023

**January:** No in-person visits scheduled. Remote support via phone and Zoom may be scheduled

**February:** No in-person visits scheduled. Remote support via phone and Zoom may be scheduled

**March 3rd thru 5th:** Weekend of Purim celebration

**March 31st thru April 2nd:** tentative (will be confirmed by February 1st)

**April 3rd thru 6th:** Passover 1st Seder on April 5th

**May 19th thru 21st:** Final weekend for Rabbi Nemiroff's visits

Rabbi Nemiroff will hold  
Adult Ed sessions via Zoom  
on the following dates:

**Sunday, January 29th @ 7pm CST**

**Sunday, February 26th @ 7pm CST**

Topics will be announced  
approximately one week prior to  
each session.

I hope by the time this reaches you no-one is shut in by snow and ice. But it is winter. . . So my next visit to Sioux Falls will be March 3-5, hopefully after the worst of the cold weather. In the interim, I will continue to serve Mt. Zion via Zoom, phone and email. If you would like to schedule a Zoom or phone visit, please contact me at [RabbiCNemiroff@gmail.com](mailto:RabbiCNemiroff@gmail.com)

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# Mahjong Gathering

January 15th at 1pm

Mt. Zion Temple  
(corner of 14th and Duluth)



Brings Snacks to Share!



No experience required! This is also an opportunity to learn how to play!

Mark your calendar for Jan. 15th for the next Mahjong Gathering

## Tu B'shevat 2023

In 2023, the "birthday of the trees" begins at sundown on Sunday, Feb. 5 and ends at sundown on Monday, Feb. 6. Contact Gail Klein to plant a tree in Israel for Tu B'Shevat.



## Mazel tov!

Mazel tov to Matthew & Erin Haar on the birth of their daughter Mira Sophia and congratulations to grandparents Murray Haar & Jill Storm! We wish all of them good health and happiness!!!!

## Sympathy Wishes

Our condolences to Marc & Nancy Feinstein and family. Marc's beloved father Manley Feinstein passed away on Sunday December 11th. He was 95 years old. May his memory be a blessing, as we know his life most certainly was.

# ***Donations***

*November 10 - December 9, 2022*

## **GENERAL FUND**

In honor of Carol Rosenthal with best wishes for her return to good health from Dave & Marilyn Aronson

To the Congregation from Larry Hurwitz (Seattle WA); Rabbi Jeff Wildstein (Waltham, MA); Erika Oppenheimer (New York, NY); Elizabeth Cruikshank & Josh Oppenheimer (Gaithersburg, MD); Jen & Chris Dreiske; Toni Hegna; Fredric Janklow (Irene, SD); Rabbi Loren Filson-Lapidus & (The Temple (Atlanta, GA

In loving memory of Richard and Harlene Lewin from William & Debra Lewin ((Glencoe, IL

In loving memory of Henry Pecheny from Diane Pecheny

In loving memory of Cecyle Marsh from Sandy Radin

**Thank you for your generosity and support of Mt. Zion's important community-building work**

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

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

## **Dr. Murray Haar's new book**

Our own Dr. Murray Haar (long-time congregant at Mt Zion Congregation and several-years-retired as a professor of Religion from Augustana University) is pleased to announce the publication of his newest book: "Reflections of an Unconverted Convert: Elie Wiesel, The Problem of God and One Jew's Return Home" Wipf and Stock Press, 2022.

From the publisher's website:

"This is the story of Dr. Murray Haar's odyssey from Jewish tradition to Christianity and back again. As the child of Holocaust survivors, he struggled with questions of God and faith and finally left the religious tradition of his youth behind. He became an ordained Lutheran pastor and professor at a midwestern Lutheran College. Ultimately, through the influence of Elie Wiesel, he found the way back home to the Jewish tradition and community of his birth."

The book is available as an e-book or paperback at a cost of \$19 per copy. You may order it by pasting this link in your browser: <https://wipfandstock.com/9781666722253/reflections-of-an-unconverted-convert/>

Congratulations to Murray and his wife Jill Storm on the book's publication. We am sure that Jill was a source of support to Murray through the process of his recording his journey, its triumphs and its struggles.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. Save the Date: **February 8, 2023: Community Listening Session.** Review our Mission Statement: "Mt. Zion Congregation's mission is (1) to honor our founders by building a strong and inclusive Jewish community through respecting and growing our Jewish traditions, (2) to support our members and new members through their life-cycle events, by welcoming and engaging them fully in our community. (3) to nurture a love of Judaism in our children, those who are new to Jewish practice and in our members In Sioux Falls and elsewhere."
2. There will be **no in-person rabbi visits during the winter.** Please consider contacting the rabbi by email to schedule a call or zoom visit: rabbicnemiroff@gmail.com.
3. **On-Line Donations** now being accepted! Mt Zion Congregation is very grateful to its members and friends for their financial support. When making a donation, you may issue a check to Mt Zion Congregation and mail it to: Mt Zion Congregation ATTN Treasurer; PO Box 756; Sioux Falls SD 57101. Alternatively, you may make a donation using your credit or debit card. To do so, go to our website [www.mtzionsf.com](http://www.mtzionsf.com) On the lower left-hand side of the home page, you will see the "Announcements" tab and listed under this tab is the subheading "Online Dues or Donations." Clicking on this subheading will take you to a page with a blue box labeled "Dues or Donations." Clicking on this blue box will take you to a secure website where you may make a donation using your credit or debit card. Please note that Mt Zion Congregation is debited a convenience fee for these electronic payments (on average this is approx. 3% of the transaction; so, for example, a payment of \$100 will net the congregation \$97.) If you have questions about using this portal, please contact Matilda Oppenheimer, Mt Zion Congregation's treasurer ([mejoppen@sio.midco.net](mailto:mejoppen@sio.midco.net)). All payments of dues and donations to Mt Zion Congregation, a religious institution, are tax deductible. If you have questions related to tax deductions, please consult a tax-professional.

## EVENTS:

1. Our first **Alef-Bet kids** of the spring will be **January 22, 10:00 am to noon.**
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# UPCOMING EVENTS

Tevet/Shevat 5783

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January 2023

## Friday, Jan 6th

Shabbat Kids' Service 5:45 pm

Traditional Service 6:00 pm

Shabbat Shirah

(In-person and Zoom)

Shabbat Family Potluck 6:30 pm

Discussion: "Most Important Verse in the Torah"

Vayechi: Genesis 47:28-50:26

Haftarah: I Kings 2:1-12

**Saturday, Jan 7:** Torah Study at 10:00AM (via Zoom and in social hall)

**Tuesday, Jan 10:** TIDINGS Submission Deadline

**Friday, Jan 13:** NO SHABBAT SERVICE

**Saturday, Jan 14:** Torah Study at 10:00AM via Zoom and in social hall

**Sunday, Jan 15:** Mahjong 1 pm Social Hall

## Friday, January 20th

6:45 pm Children's Service

7:00 pm Traditional Shabbat Service

Oneg and discussion to follow

Va'eira: Exodus: 6:2-9:35

Haftarah: Ezekiel 28:25-29:21

**Saturday, Jan 21:** Torah Study at 10:00AM via Zoom and in social hall

**Sunday, Jan 22:** Alef-Bet Kids at 10:00AM (until noon) in the social hall

**Friday, Jan 27:** NO SHABBAT SERVICE

**Saturday, Jan 28:** Torah Study at 10:00AM via Zoom and in social hall

**Sunday, Jan 29:** Adult Ed Zoom at 7 pm

## Friday, Feb 3rd

6:15 pm Children's Service

6:00 pm Tu B'Shevat Service

6:30 pm Family Potluck

Discussion on Tu b'Shevat

Planting Parsley for Pesach

Beshalach: Exodus 13:17-17:16

Haftarah: Judges 4:4-5:31





# Yahrzeits



## **JANUARY 6th**

Harry Greenstein  
Jack Greene  
Daniel Horwitz  
Jane Hertzman Rosenthal  
Bernard Gallanter  
Wally Mander  
Sarah Agrant Obstfeld  
Paul George Wendte

## **JANUARY 13th**

Irene Bierman  
Harry Ackerman  
Cecyle Marsh  
Sam Light  
David Rosenstein  
Rachel Levinson

## **JANUARY 20th**

Sam Speier  
Rose Luskey  
Harold Roganson  
Louis Ginsberg  
Rebecca Fusfeld  
Martin Aaronson  
Erma Levine  
Sarah Weiner

## **JANUARY 27th**

Emmanuel Schotten  
Lillian Hurwitz  
Roslyn Bryner  
Izadore Rimerman

## **FEBRUARY 3rd**

Mollye Borden  
Megan Feinstein  
Harry Cohen  
Phillip Light  
William Rothman  
Bernard "Bud" Brandwein

*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. If you wish to make a donation to the Temple in memory of your loved one, please send to PO Box 756, SF, SD 57101 or see article in this Tidings about online donations.*

## **OBSERVING A YAHRZEIT** by Jan Forstein, Ritual Chairperson

A Jewish way of life, a Jewish way of death. It is always a difficult experience to lose a relative or friend to death. But does this mean that death is a tragic component of life? Or would we be better off if people never die? Judaism teaches us that if each of us has only a limited amount of time in which to address our responsibilities in life, then we should do so in the most meaningful way possible. This is maybe why King David, when we contemplated the fact of death, burst out in song. He realized that because of death, life itself has enhanced meaning.

So why is observing a Yahrzeit an important Jewish responsibility? The Yahrzeit practice began in Talmudic times, but the word wasn't used before the 16th century. Yahrzeit literally means a year's time from the passing of a loved one. The day is observed yearly, corresponding to the original Hebrew date of death. It is a moment of focused memories of longing, even of pain, though many years may have gone by. It should be a day spent in contemplation marked by saying the Yizkor (memorial) prayer and if possible, attending Temple to recite the Mourner's Kaddish. Lighting a Yahrzeit candle is also a sign of reverence for the deceased. The candle and its flame in Jewish tradition symbolize the body and soul of man. The flame is symbolic of the soul which reaches forever upward. A Yahrzeit candle must burn for a period of 24 hours. The Yahrzeit period begins the nightfall on the day preceding the anniversary of death and concludes with twilight the following day. In observing a Yahrzeit, a firmer appreciation of what was and a renewed insight into what life is all about can be accomplished.

Kaddish is an Aramaic poem (except for the final verse). It is not a prayer for the dead. There is no mention of the deceased or even death in the Mourner's Kaddish. The Kaddish is a glorification of G-d. It is an affirmation of faith. The experience of an agonizing and traumatic loss may weaken one's faith or compromise one's sense of purpose. Reciting the kaddish on a regular basis (over a period of time) is intended to rekindle that faith and sense of purpose. It should help the individual to continue on in life motivated by the memory and example of the departed.

In our service the name of those memorialized each week are read aloud during the Shabbat Service. Attendance makes it possible to recite the Mourners Kaddish as it is one of the prayers that requires a minyan (quorum of ten) and an "Amen" response by the congregation (another Jewish responsibility). Yizkor and Kaddish can always be recited in remembrance of non-Jews also. It is also customary to send a donation to the Temple in honor of the person who has passed. Yahrzeit candles can also be purchased through our Temple Gift Shop.

I hope this helps answer some questions concerning Yahrzeit practices.