



TIDINGS OF ZION



Adar I/Adar II 5773

MT. ZION CONGREGATION, Sioux Falls, South Dakota

March 2014

from Student Rabbi Herman...



The old joke claims that the common theme of every Jewish holiday can be summarized by the statement, “They tried to kill us; we won; let’s eat.” Purim, which falls on March 16 this year, is exemplary of this statement except that drinking and merriment takes the place of eating. Yet while we eat festival meals and enjoy the company of family on every holiday, the stark contrast between the story of Purim

and its observance is striking. We mark our survival of an attempted genocide, the near total destruction of our people, by drinking, dressing up in costumes, and making fun of ourselves. To many, this seems strange.

I would like to think that the idea of Purim is the understanding that there is only so much suffering and devastation that one person or one people can take. Jewish history is filled with tragedy and violence, yet if we focus too much on these negatives we succumb to what the Jewish historian Salo Baron called the “lachrymose” conception of Jewish history. Similarly, life has plenty of pain and suffering, yet focus on these negatives leads to hopelessness and misery.

One of my favorite movies of all time is the film Harold and Maude, in which the elder Maude teaches young Harold that one must accept death as part of life, but not without appreciating the joys of life as well. Purim teaches us a similar message. We ought to commemorate the sufferings that we have endured in the past, the violence and persecution that have been wrought against our people. Yet if we focus only on the pain in our history we are left with no positive reason to practice our Judaism. As painful as it can be at times, we must learn to laugh at ourselves and our history. We must find joy amidst the pain.

Purim is Judaism’s attempt to teach us that there is a danger in taking life too seriously. We can commemorate painful memories of our past and take care of the needy among us (through the tradition of giving gifts to the poor), yet what is the point of doing these things if we cannot enjoy life at the same time? It is a powerful lesson that I invite everyone to share together as we commemorate Purim as a community on March 14. Come to remember and to commemorate, but also laugh and to enjoy. Join us, and remember not to take life too seriously.

*B’shalom,
Student Rabbi Josh Herman*

from the Congregation President...



What is a mitzvah? (Plural is mitzvot.) Very often, a mitzvah is translated as “a good deed”. While that is true, it is incomplete when one looks at the root of the word mitzvah. The root is “tsav”, which translates as command. So, a mitzvah is a good deed AND in its strictest sense, refers to those commanded to us

in the Torah. (We know that the word is also often used in a more generic sense to include laws, practices and customs that indicate any good deed.)

We commonly accept that there is a list of 613 mitzvot although there are some disagreements on the precise list. The disagreements are due to some slight discrepancies in the way some lists interpret related or overlapping mitzvot. The most accepted list is that of Maimonides who, in his introduction to his book Mishneh Torah, lists all of the positive mitzvot and all of the negative mitzvot, and then divides them into subject matter categories. Of the 613 commandments, there are 248 positive commandments (do) and 365 negative commandments (do not do).

Maimonides begins the list of 613 with these:

- 1) To know that there is a god. Exodus 20:2: God spoke all these words, saying: I am the Lord your God who took you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage
- 2) Not to entertain thoughts of other gods besides Him. Exodus 20:3: You shall not have the gods of others in My Presence.
- 3) To know that He is one. Deuteronomy 6:4 Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God; the Lord is one.

In our modern world, we often feel societal pressure to reject notions of God and/or God’s commandments. While we all likely have questions about our faith and about God, and perhaps disagree with many of the 613 mitzvot, I believe that as Jews, we have an obligation to try to understand and act according to the laws and precepts—the mitzvot—of our Torah.

*B’shalom,
Bernice*

PASSOVER SEDER, WILL BE MONDAY, APRIL 14TH. Save the date - more info to come.



DONATIONS

(January 10 - February 9, 2014)

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

GENERAL FUND

To the Congregation from Susan & Joel Rosenthal; Marvin Bailin

YAHREZIT MEMORIALS

In memory of Hy and Lil Hurwitz from Barb & Bob Hurwitz

A Note from the Treasurer....

I have tried to issue receipts for dues and donations as the funds were received throughout the year. If you need any additional receipts for tax filing purposes, please send me your written request via US mail or email.

I appreciate receiving these requests by February 28, 2014.

Thank you! *Matilda*

mejoppen@sio.midco.net
ATTN: Treasurer
Mt. Zion Congregation
PO Box 756
Sioux Falls SD 57101

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

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



SISTERHOOD GIFT SHOP...

Through the generosity of Bernice Schotten and her brother, Rabbi Marc Angel, Rabbi Angel's book, "Losing the Rat Race—Winning at Life" (a \$20 value) is available in the Gift Shop for only \$10 per copy.

Please join us for a group discussion of the book on Saturday, March 29th. We will meet in the Temple's Social Hall at 12:15 pm, following Torah Study. Bring your favorite dish to share, and we will have a light lunch while we exchange thoughts on Rabbi Angel's writing.

And, remember the Sisterhood Gift Shop for all of your Judaica needs...we are happy to sell you our in-stock merchandise or work with you on special orders. Please call us for any questions or suggestions for the Gift Shop.

Judy Lampert (605-339-3170) • 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**

Two Trees were sold to Despina (Debbie) Brandwein in memory of her husband, Bernard Brandwein, Ph.D., who died in 1996.

Two Trees were sold to Jen Wagner to be presented to the physician (Dr. Kurt) and the nurse (Janice Bolcerik) for the bris of her son, Jakob.

**Hosts for Student Rabbi
Josh Herman's
Friday and Saturday
meals are needed.**

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

**TIDINGS
DEADLINE IS
MARCH 10th**

Remember to submit articles appropriate for the APRIL *Tidings*.

To submit articles, you may email them to:

carol@theprintersinc.com

OR mail them to:

510 S. 1st Ave.

Sioux Falls, SD 57104



I'm writing to remind you that the deadline for the Yiddish Book Center's Great Jewish Books Summer Program for teens is **March 15**, and to urge you to tell the young people you know about this program.

Great Jewish Books—our **week-long program of Jewish literature and culture** for rising high school juniors and seniors—has exceeded all of our expectations in its impact. Students spend a week at the Center engaging with classics of modern Jewish literature, and all of the ideas and questions that lie therein. They leave here utterly transformed.

One alumnus of the program wrote his college essay about Great Jewish Books, and has given us permission to share an excerpt with you:

“My week at the Yiddish Book Center’s Great Jewish Books Summer Program was exhilarating. It was my first opportunity to sit with college professors around a table and experience academic discourse and learning that was thoughtful, impassioned, far-reaching, collaborative, and fully engaging. It was the first time I met other high school students who explored new ideas with the same depth, breadth, and energy that I did....I was struck by the intellectual honesty of the professors and fellow program participants. There was no pretense or posturing, just honest-to-goodness curiosity and passion for learning. I loved that the conversations spilled from classroom to lunch table to dorm.”

To hear what more of our alumni have to say about the program, watch the short video about Great Jewish Books at <http://www.yiddishbookcenter.org/great-jewish-books-summer-program>.

Graduates of the program have gone on to Columbia, Cornell, Wesleyan, Vassar, the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, and other esteemed institutions. They continue to pursue their love of literature and their engagement with Jewish culture.

Great Jewish Books launches students on this journey by giving them opportunities to:

- **Read and discuss** classic works of modern Jewish literature
- **Learn** from professors from top universities and from prominent contemporary writers
- **Develop skills** for literary analysis and self-expression that will prepare them for college
- **Meet other teenagers** from across the country who love to read and who care about Jewish culture
- **Live, eat, and play on the campus** of an excellent liberal arts college
- **Discover** how modern literature connects them to traditions and contemporary ideas

Please tell the bright and curious young people you know to apply now for this unique opportunity!

And don't hesitate to call or email me for more information.

Best wishes,
Lesley Yalen, Education Program Coordinator
Yiddish Book Center
1021 West Street • Amherst, MA 01002
lyalen@bikher.org
413.256.4900 ext. 142

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

March 14-16 (Purim)

Apr. 4-6

Apr. 11-15 (Passover)



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!!



Mt. Zion Congregation

www.mtzioncongregation.com

14th & Duluth Streets

PO Box 756

Sioux Falls, SD 57101-0756

President: Bernice Schotten

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Board of Directors: Carin Rosinsky

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Judy Lampert

Sandy Radin

Jeff Saunders

Past President: Murray Haar

Mt. Zion Congregation - March 2014

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
PASSOVER SEDER, WILL BE MONDAY, APRIL 14TH. Save the date - more info to come.						1 10 am Torah Study
Shabbat times provided by Chabad.org/ShabbatTimes						
2 JoLea Gutnik Bday	3	4	5	6 Lorna Gallanter Bday	7 (II Adar 6) 6:07 pm 7:30 pm Shabbat Service Torah: Vayikra Lev 1:1-5:26 Haftarah: Isaiah 43:21-44:23	8 10 am Torah Study
9	10 Tidings deadline	11	12	13 Celebrate Purim!	14 (II Adar 13) 7:13 pm 7:30 pm Shabbat/ Purim Service STUDENT RABBI HERMAN Torah: Tzav Lev 6:1-8:36 Haftarah: Esther 7:1-10, 8:15-17 or I Samuel 15:2-34	15 10 am Torah Study 3 pm Adult Ed with St. Rabbi Herman Lillian Greenbaum Bday
16	17	18	19 Mel Magidson Bday	20 Steve & Royce Hansman Anniv	21 (II Adar 20) 7:21 pm 7:30 pm Shabbat Service Torah: Sh'mini Lev 9:1-11:47 Haftarah: Ezekiel 36:22-36 Leonard Gutnik Bday	22 10 am Torah Study Tessa Crosby Bday
23	24 Richard Hosen Bday	25	26	27	28 (II Adar 27) 7:30 pm 7:30 pm Shabbat Service Torah: Tazria Lev 12:1-13:59 Haftarah: Ezekiel 45:16-25	29 10 am Torah Study Book discussion (Rabbi Angel's "Losing the Rat Race - Winning at Life") 12:15 pm - light lunch Joshua Oppenheimer Bday
30	31	Deb Hicks Bday	Harry Greenbaum Bday			

A reminder that proper attire should be worn when participating in services at Mt. Zion Temple. Your cooperation with this matter is greatly appreciated.



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.

March 7th

Lawrence "Buddy" Horwitz
Sam Eder
Benjamin Katz
Henry Levinson
Rose Friedman
Gertrude Barth Ehrlich

March 14th

Rose Kantor
Etta Cohen

March 21st

Ida Ginsberg
David L. Rosenstein
Soloman Bailin
Nellie G. Margulies

March 28th

Nila Pitts
David L. Rosenstein

April 4th

Louis Kuh
Myer Koplów
Julius Oppenheimer



Mt. Zion Temple
Passover Seder

Please join us on

Monday, April 14, 2014
Mt. Zion Temple

SAVE THE DATE
MORE INFO TO COME!

