



TIDINGS OF ZION



Adar/Nisan 5775

MT. ZION CONGREGATION, Sioux Falls, South Dakota

March 2015



from Student Rabbi Cohen...

Sh'ma! Listen! Take a moment to stop what you are doing and listen. Take a moment to truly hear every noise. This includes not only the sounds surrounding you but also the sound of your voice within. Our senses play an important role in Judaism. Our services and festivals are filled with sound, sight, smell, taste and touch, all allowing us to fully connect.

We begin the year with the blasts of the shofar, allowing it to stir our souls, to awaken our best selves and to prompt us to act upon Judaism's ways. We continue to Sukkot where we take time to shake the *lulav*, listening to the rustle of the branches and smelling the *etrog*. During Simchat Torah, we hold the Torah, drawing it close as we physically connect to our chain of tradition. Channukah brings light to the eyes, illuminating the gloom of winter. Tu b'Shevat reminds us of how grateful we should be for each bite we are blessed to take. Now, what about Purim? Purim is a holiday of NOISE! Think of the loud, maybe obnoxious sound of the grogger.

"Grogger" is the Yiddish word for noisemaker. We swing our groggers to drown out the name of Haman when our Purim *megillah* (story) is read out loud. We attempt to drown out the villain of the holiday. The noise of the grogger is a symbol of tension and conflict. However, on Purim, there is one noise more important than the grogger, even more important than the chanting of the *megillah*—it is laughter!

During the Hebrew month when Purim occurs, the Talmud tells us, "When the month of Adar enters, we increase in joy (*Taanit 29a*). Still, there are many times in our life when we wish we could make our fears, trials and tribulations go away. We wish we could block them out of our lives. Although in reality the solution isn't as simple as a grogger, Purim reminds us that sounds of tension are soon replaced with shouts of joy and laughter. So, this Purim, find time to add some laughter into your life. Purim is not just for kids. Laughter is not just for kids. Find some time to listen to the clear, still voice within, and remember that whatever test may come your way, the noise of joy and victory will be right around the corner. As with silent prayer, take some time to listen; you may just hear God's guiding voice in return.

To leave you with a joke:

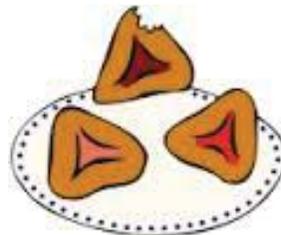
Knock knock!

(Who's there?)

Haman.

(Haman who?)

Hey-man, whatcha doing on March 6th? It's Purim!



Mt. Zion Book Group

Anyone interested in joining us in reading and discussing our next book selection is more than welcome!

We will be reading The Promise of a Pencil: How an Ordinary Person Can Create Extraordinary Change by Adam Braun. "Adam Braun began working summers at hedge funds when he was just sixteen years old, sprinting down the path to a successful Wall Street career." (As a young 20-something...) "while traveling he met a young boy begging on the streets of India, who after being asked what he wanted most in the world, simply answered, 'A pencil.' This small request led to a staggering series of events that took Braun backpacking through dozens of countries before eventually leaving a prestigious job to found *Pencils of Promise*, the organization he started with just \$25 that has since built more than 200 schools around the world."

In explaining his underlying motivation for his philanthropy, Adam clearly credits his Jewish roots, tikkun olam, his Grandmother's surviving the Holocaust and the overall encouragement of his family and the philanthropic example set by his parents. This is a quick, enjoyable, and inspirational read.

Available now in paperback and Kindle versions!

Plan to join us at 12 noon on Saturday, May 9th for a brown-bag-bring-your-own-lunch and discussion. Also, please bring your suggestions for our next book choice, with discussion to take place late next fall.

Questions or comments? Be in touch!

David Aronson (605-957-4371)

davidaronson@iw.net

Matilda Oppenheimer (605-332-8404)

mejoppen@sio.midco.net

HaHa!: Hamentashen and Havdallah

Saturday, March 7th • 7 pm • SocialHall

We will bake hamentashen together to take home and share with friends!

Game Night!

We will hold an informal “game night” on the evening of Saturday, March 21st at 7 pm in the Temple Social Hall.

Please bring a dessert or appetizer/snack to share.

Mah Jongg will DEFINITELY be one option. Novices welcome to play. Guys and gals, all ages invited to participate. If you happen to have some experience with the game and have your Mahj cards, please bring them...even if they are out of date. Hopefully, we can put together some sets of 4 like cards so that multiple tables can be equipped to play.

For those with no interest in Mahj, feel free to bring other board games and decks of cards.

We will open the evening with Havdalah, then divide up for fun and games!

Please let me know if you are available to help with setting-up and/or cleaning-up.

Thanks!
Matilda

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



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

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

**Please send your
donations to:**

**Mt. Zion Temple
PO Box 756**

Sioux Falls, SD 57101

Sympathy wishes

*to Royce Hansman and the
entire Hansman family on the
passing of Royce’s mother,
Myra Davis. Our thoughts and
prayers are with you. May her
memory be for a blessing.*

Join Us at the Table!

February's potluck dinner was a success. Everyone there said it was great to get together and share a Shabbat meal. Next month's dinner is March 6th at 6:00 pm. We hope to see even more of our community there. Just bring a dish and join us.



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. Please put this on your calendar and join us.

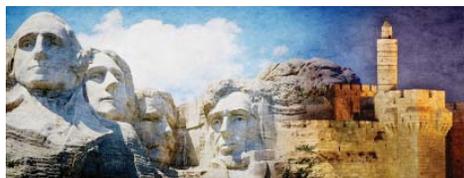
For more information, contact Stephen Rosenthal at rosenthal.stephen@gmail.com or call 376-5189. Save the dates - April 3rd (Passover Seder) and May 1st!!



PLANT A TREE FOR TU B'SHEVAT!

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



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!!



(January 10 - February 9, 2015)

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

GENERAL FUND

To the Congregation from Susan and Joel Rosenthal

MEMORIAL PLATES

In memory of Herman Paul Kopel from The Kopel Family

In memory of Henrietta Pauline Kopel from The Kopel Family

Dear Mt. Zion Temple Sisterhood Members and Friends,

Our Sisterhood has received a letter from the WRJ Midwest District Camp Co-Chairs, Lorri Fishman and Lorraine Edelstein, asking for donations for support of a newly-constructed greenhouse at Olin-Sang-Ruby Union Institute, a Union of Reform Judaism campground/retreat center in Wisconsin. The greenhouse was built with funds from Sisterhoods based in the WRJ/Midwest District Region.



If anyone would like more information on this project, I am happy to share the solicitation letter with you or put you in touch with the Camp Co-chairs.

If you would like to make an individual donation, you have two options. For smaller (under \$20?) please issue your check to Mt Zion Temple Sisterhood and give it directly to me or mail it to me (Sisterhood, c/o Mt Zion Temple, PO Box 756, SF SD 57101). I will combine these smaller gifts and send a single check to Lorri.

If you wish to make a larger gift, please issue your check to WRJ Midwest District and mail it to: Lorri Fishman, WRJ Midwest District Camp Co-Chair, 8927 Moody Avenue, Morton Grove, IL 60053. Please include a note directing the check to the OSRUI Greenhouse and identifying yourself as a “Member” or “Friend” of Mt. Zion Temple Sisterhood, SIOUX FALLS SD!!!! (Yes, there are other “Mt Zion Temples/Congregations in the Midwest District!!!)

It is requested that any donations be mailed to be received by Lorri by May 31, 2015. Thank you for your support!!!

Matilda (605-332-8404)



Mt. Zion Temple Passover Seder

Seder will be led by Student Rabbi Allison Cohen

Friday, April 3, 2015

6:00 p.m. • Mt. Zion Temple

Cost: \$15.00 (Adult Temple members); \$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, March 23, 2015 please.

Contact Deb (362-9360 or djph@midco.net) or
Matilda (332-8404 or mejoppen@sio.midco.net) with questions.

2015 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 @\$15 each: _____

of Non-members @\$25 each: _____

6-18 years old and college students @\$10 each: _____

5 and under (free): _____

DONATIONS GLADLY ACCEPTED AND APPRECIATED: _____

Amount enclosed: _____

RSVP BY MONDAY, MARCH 23, 2015. Call 362-9360 or 332-8404 with any questions.

STUDENT RABBI ALLI COHEN'S

2015 SCHEDULE

MAR 6-8

(PURIM - MARCH 6)

MAR 20-22

APR 3-5

(PESACH SEDER - APRIL 3)

APR 17-19

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

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.



Potluck Dinner

Friday, March 6, 2015
6:00 pm

Bring a dish to share!

Join us for Shabbat Services at 7:30 pm if you'd like!

Mark Your Calendar: First Friday of every month

Questions? mtzioncongregation@gmail.com

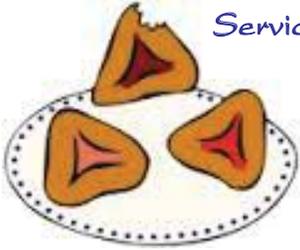
Save these dates: April 3rd (Passover Seder) & May 1st



Please come to the
Congregational Celebration of Purim!

Friday, March 6th

Shabbat Potluck Dinner at 6:00 pm
Service and Megillah reading begins at 7:30 pm
Oneg to follow



Come in costume—
Young and old!!

**NEW Temple
Facebook
page!
“Like” Us!**



Mt. Zion Congregation

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

President: Bernice Schotten
Vice President: Royce Hansman
Treasurer: Matilda Oppenheimer
Secretary: Judy Lampert
Board of Directors: Carin Rosinsky
Cathy Ezrailson
Judy Lampert
Marc Feinstein
Margo Olson
Stephen Rosenthal
Past President: Murray Haar

Mt. Zion Congregation - March 2015

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5 Purim	6 (Adar 16)  5:27 pm 6:00 pm POTLUCK DINNER 7:30 pm PURIM & Shabbat Service STUDENT RABBI COHEN Torah: Ki Tisa Exod 30:11-34:35 Haftarah: I Kings 18:1-39	7 10 am Torah Study 7 pm Ha-Ha: Hamentashen and Havdallah
RSVP NOW!! Mt. Zion Family Seder Friday, April 3rd						
8 Daylight Savings Time begins	9	10 TIDINGS DEADLINE	11	12	13 (Adar 23)  7:12 pm 7:30 pm Shabbat Service Torah: Vayak'heil-P'kudei Exod 35:1-40:38 Haftarah: Ezekiel 36:22-36	14 10 am Torah Study
15 Temple Board Meeting 10 am - Social Hall	16	17	18	19	20 (Nisan 1)  7:21 pm 7:30 pm Shabbat/Rosh Chodesh Nisan Service STUDENT RABBI COHEN Torah: Vayikra Lev 1:1-5:26 Haftarah: Ezekiel 45:16-25	21 10 am Torah Study 7 pm: GAME NIGHT!! 
22	23 RSVP for Passover Seder!!	24	25	26	27 (Nisan 8)  7:29 pm 7:30 pm Shabbat HaGadol Service Torah: Tzav Lev 6:1-8:36 Haftarah: Malachi 3:4-24	28 10 am Torah Study
29	30	31	April 1	2	3 (Nisan 15)  7:38 pm 6:00 pm PASSOVER SEDER STUDENT RABBI COHEN Torah: Exod 12:37-42, 13:3-10 Haftarah: Isaiah 43:1-15	4 1st Day of PASSOVER 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.						



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 6th

Joseph Bleichfeld
Louis Axelbaum
Lawrence "Buddy" Horwitz
Sophia Samorodin
Harry Broder

March 27th

Myer Koplow
Nila Pitts
Dora Rosenstein
David L. Rosenstein
Zalman Eli Epstein
David A Mcclusky

March 13th

Gertrude Barth Ehrlich
Sylvia Hurwitz
Jean Klein
Minette Koplow
Solomon Bailin
Clara Light
Rose Kantor
Isaac Levinson
Phillip Friedman
Bernard Koplow
Nellie G. Margulies
Morris Samorodin
Mary Hurwitz
David Goodsite
Jake Luskey

April 3rd

Louis Kuh
Bernice Pitts

March 20th

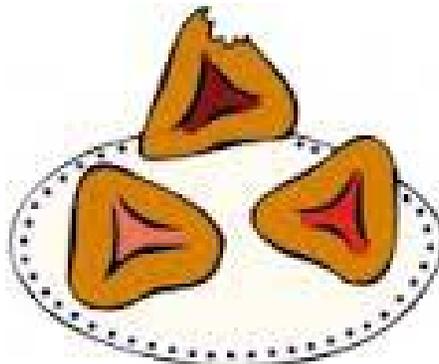
Paul Katz
Goldie Frank
Ida Ginsberg
Abe Shafton
Mayme Breslow
Abraham Shapiro



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