



TIDINGS OF ZION



Adar I/Adar II 5776

MT. ZION CONGREGATION, Sioux Falls, South Dakota

March 2016



from Student Rabbi Kaye...

It's March which means that Purim is right around the corner.

Purim holds a special place in my heart, one of my first memories is of my father standing on the Bimah reading from the Megillah, dressed as a bright pink Pig with a sandwich board sign on his chest which read "Traif". (Unkosher). I was overjoyed a few years ago when going through old family photos to find physical proof of this outfit: though my father refuses to tell me what he ever did with the costume.

Purim is a time for frivolity and joy when we remember the bravery of Esther and Mordecai. Their story is quite well known, even for those who don't hear the Megillah read every year. And truthfully i've always assumed that one day Disney would get around to animating it, giving it some lively songs, and some kind of small animal companion. Hamans hat might talk and he would probably be voiced by Zach Galifanakas or something like that.

But for all the joy of the Purim story, its central conceit remains a story of hatred, government sponsored persecution and homicidal intent. And while we were victorious in this contest, against the forces a hateful politician and his intolerant views, there were many others throughout history where innocent lives were lost.

So what to do with this? Do we embrace the joyous disney like euphoria of Purim? Holding it up as the eternal "They tried to kill us, we won, lets eat!" Or do we examine it for the lessons applicable to our lives today, knowing that delving into the story of Purim means encountering violence and hatred that stems from the eternal conflict of the people Israel and Amalek?

The answer, as it is with many things in Judaism, is that we do both. We honor our heritage, our tradition, and our custom by celebrating Purim with lively joy: spitting in the face of death and destruction. But it is equally important this year to look at our world through the lens of Purim's other lesson. That there is hatred in the world which seeks to destroy others for no reason other than their faith, their coloring, or their gender. And while today the target of that hatred might not be the Jews, it is still Amalek which spreads that hate. And it remains the role of the Jew to combat Amalek in every generation and in every guise.



from the Congregation President...

Mankind Could Have Known That The World is Round, If ONLY They Read The Bible

As is well known, many ancient peoples believed the Earth to be a broad, flat surface supported by immense, mythical creatures – such as four giant elephants standing on the back of an immense turtle, itself swimming in an infinitely large ocean.

Regardless of which animals were doing the work, ancient peoples believed that earthquakes occurred when one of these ungainly creatures moved. The idea that the world was round was considered not only highly unlikely but ridiculously illogical.



It was only in a much later period that some Greek philosophers began to claim that the world was round. Even so, for many hundreds of years, the majority of humankind believed that the Earth was flat, or at best, dome-shaped.

After Christopher Columbus discovered America in 1492, while traveling west in search of a shortcut to India, many individuals became motivated to set out on similar voyages of discovery. More and more of these travelers came to the conclusion that the Earth was indeed round, in opposition the firmly held opinion of the masses.

Slowly but surely, though, increasing numbers of people began to understand that the Earth is indeed round. Today, every schoolboy knows the truth, and has seen photographs from space of the spherical globe upon which we all live. Nowadays, the flat Earth theory, complete with supporting whales or elephants, evokes in us only a smile. But we must remember that the only relevant evidence available to the ancient civilizations was what they saw in their immediate surroundings – the fields, the valleys, the endless ocean stretching out before them. They had no good reason to take the leap of the imagination required to think that the Earth was round.

In addition, before Sir Isaac Newton (1642-1727) discovered the laws of gravity, there was no logical reason to suggest that the world populated by humans, animals and myriad objects was round. How could creatures standing on the opposite side of the world, head down, not fall off the planet?!

Once again, the Zohar,(1) written over 2,000 years ago has something to tell us on this subject. In this instance, it quotes a book written even earlier, by Rabbi Hamnuna Saba in Second Temple times:

"The entire world and those upon it, spin round in a circle like a ball,(2) both those at the bottom of the ball and those at the top. All God's creatures, wherever they live on the different parts of the ball, look different (in color, in their features) because the air is different in each place, but they stand erect as all other human beings.

Therefore there are places in the world where, when some have light, others have darkness; when some have day, others have night.

(continued on page 4)

Save the Date



Passover Seder

Friday, April 22nd

6:00 pm

More information will be shared
in the April *Tidings*

Logan Hansman Selected for Birthright's Israel Free Spirit Trip June 14 -27, 2016

"The content of the trip focuses on three main areas: the Narratives of the Jewish People, Contemporary Israel, and the Formative Values of Judaism.

A key component of the trip is meeting and living with Israelis of the same age, many of whom are serving in the Israel Defense Forces, for several days as part of the Mifgash, or encounter program. This is an opportunity to get to know Israel through its people. Together, Israelis and their peers in the Diaspora explore their views about personal, religious, and political identities and ideologies. They also discuss what it means to serve the country and to defend the Jewish people.

By engaging in creative, recreational and educational activities with Israeli peers, members of the group develop a personal connection to Israel. These aren't random or token Israelis dropped into the trip. These are the participant's peers who are fully joining the trip to gain the same understanding of Israel, Judaism, Jewish identity and the larger Jewish community." - birthrightisrael.com

Mazel Tov, Logan!!

Condolences to congregant Fred Bryner and family. Roz was a wonderful example to all of us to live life to the fullest. She will be missed by all. May her memory be for a blessing - a Woman of Valor.



SISTERHOOD GIFT SHOP

Remember to shop at the Sistrhood Gift Shop! Passover is coming - do you have everything you need??

*Matilda Oppenheimer (332-8404)
and Judy Lampert (339-3170)*



DONATIONS

(January 10 - February 9, 2016)

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

GENERAL FUND:

Wishing recovery to Roz and Fred Bryner from Shelly & Jay Rosenberg; Harlene Lewin & Family

In honor of the birth of their newest great-grandchild Clara Natalina Zabel from Dave & Marilyn Aronson

Wishing a complete recovery to Sandy Radin from Marilyn & Dave Aronson

Wishing a complete recovery to Marty Davidsohn from Marilyn & Dave Aronson

With sympathy to Jan Forstein and Family on the passing of Jan's father, Paul Wendte from Rosie & Mike Mace; Marilyn & Dave Aronson; Shelly & Jay Rosenberg; Matilda & Mark Oppenheimer

In memory of Roz Bryner with sympathy to Fred and the Bryner Family from Shelly & Jay Rosenberg; Mark & Matilda Oppenheimer; Frances, Ann & Sara Horwitz; Bernice & Peter Schotten; Freda & Richard Hosen; Marilyn & Dave Aronson; Karen & David Bangasser; Judy Lampert; Joyce & Leon Maggied

Yahrzeits:

In memory of Lillian Hurwitz from Bob & Barbara Hurwitz

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

Please send your donations to:

Mt. Zion Temple

PO Box 756 • Sioux Falls, SD 57101

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 March 31, 2016. Thank you!

Matilda Oppenheimer

Join Us at the Table!

Our potluck dinners have been a HUGE success. Everyone who comes says they are great and it's really wonderful to get together and share a Shabbat meal. **The next Shabbat potluck dinner is March 4th at 6:00 pm. Save April 1st for the one after this month's.** 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.

TIDINGS DEADLINE IS MARCH 10th

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

To submit articles, you may email them to:

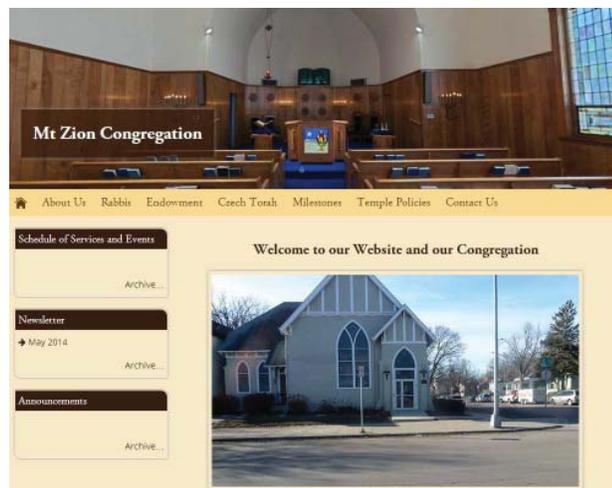
carol@theprintersinc.com

OR mail them to:

510 S. 1st Ave.

Sioux Falls, SD 57104

The Temple is on Facebook and has a website!



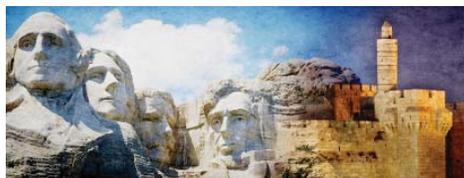
*Check it out and
"Like" us today!!*



PLANT A TREE IN ISRAEL!

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

To purchase a tree, contact **SHELLY ROSENBERG** at 513-226-8651 or email her at shellyrosenbergjpa@gmail.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!!

(continued from page 1)

There is a place in the world where the day is long and night is but a short time.

It is written: 'I acknowledge You, for I am awesomely, wondrously fashioned, wondrous are Your works and my soul knows it well' (Psalms 139:14).

And this secret has been passed on to men of wisdom – the wisdom of the Torah.”

This short, incisive segment in the Zohar contains some very important pieces of information. Its author knew that:

- A. The world is shaped like a ball, and is not flat, as was then understood by humankind.
- B. The Earth is not fixed permanently in one place, but spins and turns on its own axis.
- C. Human beings live on both sides of the planet, top and bottom.
- D. Humans live on one side of the globe, with their feet on the ground, in exactly the same way as they do on the other side. This points to an understanding of the force of gravity (even though gravity was discovered by Newton a mere 300 years ago).
- E. When it is daytime in one half of the earth, it is night in the other and vice versa.
- F. There is a place where it is almost constantly light, and nighttime is very short (such as the arctic regions, due to the angle of the Earth to the Sun).

Torah sages realized that the information at their disposal was not known to the scientists of their times and would seem strange to them, if not bizarre. Thus, the Zohar concludes that this information is a secret. It also tells us that this information was not gathered through research, but had been handed down to Torah sages over the generations, who declare: “And this secret has been passed on to men of wisdom – the wisdom of the Torah.”

The source of this knowledge is not natural, it is in the Torah.

As mentioned earlier, in the past people believed that the world was a flat surface supported by immense creatures, floating on an endless sea. They imaged that the sky was the roof over the world and the stars were hanging in the space above the Earth like lamps in a vast hall. The floor of that hall was the world in which we live. But what supports that roof? The conclusion they reached was that there were four columns supporting it, one at each corner of the great “hall.”

This theory might seem strange to us today, but was perfectly logical from the viewpoint of those ancient civilizations. So far as they were concerned, the roof of such a vast hall had to be supported by something and one column at each corner was an excellent solution.

What did the Torah say at the time?

In Jewish tradition, the following verse is considered to have been made with prophetic inspiration (as is true for all the other verses in the Bible):

“He suspends the Earth on nothingness.” (Job 26:7)

This means exactly what it says – there were no supports. Rabbis David and Yechiel Altshuler, father and son authors of the 18th century Scriptural commentary, Metzudat Zion, explain that the Hebrew word for nothingness – blimah – is comprised of two syllables – bli and mah, which in this form mean, “without anything.”

Rashi similarly writes: “Blimah means without any foundation, because they stand in the air” (referring in this context to empty space).

How must the words of the Torah have sounded to people thousands of years ago, and how do they sound to us today?

<http://jewfacts.com/mankind-could-have-known-that-the-world-is-round-if-only-they-read-the-bible/>

U of Minnesota Center for Jewish Studies Presents *The Liberating Lens: American Jewish Photographers Picture the Modern World*

Tuesday, March 22, 7:30 PM

Weisman Art Museum, University of Minnesota
333 E. River Parkway, Minneapolis, MN



In the middle decades of the 20th century, Jews turned to photography in large numbers as a way to earn a living, a means of self-expression, a form of political activism, and a mode of artistic creativity. Photography occupied a kind of middle ground, located somewhere between a pragmatic technical skill and an expressive form of vision. This lecture looks at the liberating power of the camera.

What did Jewish Americans see when they pictured the modern world? And how did taking photographs liberate them? Through selected examples drawn from famous and not-so-famous photographs, the lecture will visualize the camera’s appeal for so many Jews.

The liberating lens refers to the capability of photography to transform vision and concomitantly people’s ability to act upon the world. These capabilities apply to photographers and their audiences. Jewish photographers have sometimes attributed to their photographs a kind of transcendence embedded in the moment captured. Images can change people who see them. The liberating lens also refers to the camera’s instrumental ability to free photographers from constraints of life’s circumstances. For some Jews, becoming photographers provided a path into modernity and identities less circumscribed by ethnic or religious boundaries. The camera liberated them to picture their own world. Their photographs gave them personal and collective experience and authority otherwise beyond their reach. Through the lens they developed their perceptions of others and expressed their self-perceptions.

Understanding Muslim-Jewish Conflict in France: A Historical Overview

Thursday, March 31, 7:30 PM

Adath Jeshurun Congregation, 10500 Hillside Lane W,
Minnetonka, MN

Maud S. Mandel is Dean of the College and Professor of Judaic Studies at Brown University.



The conflict that has long shadowed Muslim-Jewish relations in France captured international attention in 2000 with antisemitic violence. Professor Maud Mandel will present the many historical actors behind this drama, which include anti-Zionist Algerian nationalists, French police, and Jewish and Muslim student activists. She will also place the conflict in a global context, focusing especially on the decolonization of French North Africa in the 1960s and the failure of multiculturalism in the 1980s.

STUDENT RABBI SAM KAYE'S SCHEDULE 2016

March 4 - 6

March 25 - 27 (Purim March 25th)

April 8 - 10

April 22 - 24 (Passover Seder April 22nd)

May 13 - 15 (Last visit of the year)

Hosts for Student Rabbi Sam Kaye's Friday and Saturday meals are needed.

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

RITUAL NOTES

*Following are members of the Ritual Committee who
will be responsible for the Friday night services in the
following months:*

March – David Aronson

April – Margo Olson

May – David Aronson

2016 CALENDAR - Mark Your Calendars!

FEBRUARY 26

SERVICE AT 7:30 PM

Led by Matilda Oppenheimer

MARCH 4

SERVICE AT 7:30 PM

Led by St. Rabbi Sam Kaye

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.



IT'S TIME TO START MAKING HAMENTASCHEN

<http://www.tabletmag.com/jewish-life-and-religion/124570/the-ultimate-hamantaschen>



Potluck Dinner

Friday, March 4, 2016 at 6:00 pm

Mt. Zion Congregation - March 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 10px auto; width: 80%;"> 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>		1	2	3	4 (Adar I 25) 6:02 pm 6:00 Shabbat Potluck Dinner 7:30 pm Shabbat Service Student Rabbi Sam Kaye Torah: Vayak'heil Exod 35:1-38:20 Haftarah: II Kings 12:5-16	5
6	7	8	9	10	11 (Adar II 2) 6:11 pm 7:30 pm Rosh Chodesh/ Shabbat Service Torah: P'kudei Exod 38:21-40:38 Haftarah: I Kings 7:51-8:21	12
13	14	15	16	17	18 (Adar II 9) 7:19 pm 7:30 pm Shabbat Zachor Service Torah: Vayikra Lev 1:1-5:26 Haftarah: Esther 7:1-10, 8:15-17 or I Samuel 15:2-34	19
20	21	22	23	24	25 (Adar II 16) 7:28 pm 7:30 pm PURIM/ Shabbat Service Student Rabbi Sam Kaye Torah: Tzav Lev 6:1-8:36 Haftarah: Jeremiah 7:21-8:3, 9:22-23 Deb Hicks Bday	26
27	28	29	30	31	Apr 1 (Adar II 23) 7:36 pm 6:00 Shabbat Potluck Dinner 7:30 pm Shabbat Service Torah: Sh'mini Lev 9:1-11:47 Haftarah: Ezekiel 36:22-36	2
		Josh Oppenheimer Bday				

The Jewish "leap year", which occurs seven times in a 19-year cycle, has 13 months instead of the regular year's 12. This is so that the lunar-based Jewish year should remain aligned with the solar seasons (12 lunar months make up a total of 354 days -- slightly more than 11 days short of the 365.25 day solar cycle). The added month is called "Adar I" and is inserted before the month of Adar (termed "Adar II" in leap years).



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 4th

J. Emmett Zerfas
Clara Light
Isaac Levinson
Phillip Friedman
Loren Rea
Morris Samorodin
Mary Hurwitz
Lawrence "Buddy" Horwitz
David Goodsite
Jake Luskey
Paul Katz
Goldie Frank

March 25th

Nila Pitts
David L. Rosenstein

April 1st

Solomon Bailin
Louis Kuh
Bernard Koplou
Nellie G. Margulies
Ella-Keen "Keenie" Goldsmith

March 11th

Gertrude Barth Ehrlich
Abe Shafton
Mayme Breslow
Abraham Shapiro
William L. Roth
Rose Kantor
Sam Eder
Benjamin Katz

March 18th

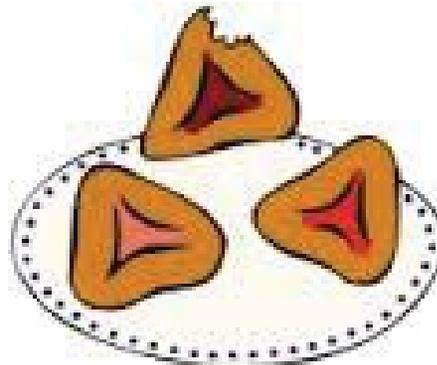
Henry Levinson
Rose Friedman
Ida Ginsberg
Etta Cohen



Please come to the
Congregational Celebration
of Purim!

Friday, March 25th

Service and Megillah reading begins at 7:30 pm
Oneg to follow



Come in costume—
Young and old!!