



TIDINGS OF ZION

Adar/Nisan 5783

Mt. Zion Congregation • Sioux Falls, SD

March 2023

From the Desk of Rabbi Cathy Nemiroff . . .

I know that Spring is in the wind when I begin planning for Passover. This year Passover begins on the evening of April 5. We will have a Seder during which we ceremoniously retell the story of the Israelite's journey from slavery to freedom. We eat foods that enable us to taste the tears and bitterness of slavery so that we can fully appreciate the sweetness of freedom.

Equally important to our own experience, however, is the experience we give our children. We re-enact the drama of the exodus, slavery and freedom and prompt our children to ask questions. The question of "why is this night different from all other nights?" is an educational one. The religious effect of the maggid, the narration, is to impart the sense of freedom being what God did for me, not for people of a distant or even mythical past. We learn, and we teach our children that a force greater than our individual selves is involved in our lives as we navigate the challenges and hardships of life.

The response to why this night is different from all other nights also imparts an important ethical message. While our Jewish story starts with our history and our personal relationship with God, it must extend to the awareness that not all people are blessed with freedom in our own time. Many who are victims of natural disasters or suffer under oppressive national leaderships, or live in countries ravaged by war hope for a redemption to come in their future, in their lifetime.

Our tradition teaches that because we were once slaves and now are free, we are compelled to act on behalf of those who are still not free to live their lives in peace or to embrace their own stories. This teaching is as important as the religious teachings. Opening our hearts and our minds to the suffering of others is not always easy. Passover reminds us of how important it is.

The Seder is meant to be both challenging and celebratory. And of course, it is a time to enjoy family, friendship and community. As we plan our Sedarim this year, let us think of ways to embrace and elevate the messages of the Passover story while we enjoy this favorite holiday.



Mark Your Calendars for Purim!

Purim is a time for fun and festivity. We will read the Megillah in English at Friday services on March 3rd beginning at 5:45 prior to our potluck. (Please note the 5:45 start time!)

Children and adults are encouraged to come in costume and bring noisemakers. Be prepared to blot out the name of evil Haman and rejoice in the salvation of the Jewish people!

Children in the religious school will be observing the mitzvah of Mishloach Manot, sending Purim gifts, on Sunday, March 5th. When the Jews were spared Haman's wrath

"they made the 14th day of the month of Adar a day of gladness and feasting, a holiday, and of sending portions [of food] to one another (mishloach manot)." Therefore to this day we express our communal unity by sending gifts to each other.

From the Desk of Congregation President Jen Dreiske . .

Why Mt. Zion?

Recently this question was posed: "Why should I be a part of Mt. Zion?" It is a great question as it gives us an opportunity to reflect and remember the joy of the past and envision what we want in the future. But most importantly this question creates an opportunity for us to be grateful for the present moment.

Our Mt. Zion community is resilient: We are emerging from a pandemic that influenced every level of our lives. We evolved and adapted to our community members' needs by utilizing zoom and health safety protocols. As the Jewish landscape around us changes, we continue to discover new opportunities to build relationships, strengthen connection, and help each other find healing.

Our Mt. Zion community is kind: For decades, we welcomed student rabbis into our synagogue and took pride in helping them grow into their roles. We are now learning what it means to have an ordained Rabbi and how to work with a new leader to enhance our spiritual lives. We lean on our core values of patience and kindness to build trust and nurture relationships.

Our Mt. Zion community is inclusive: We support and embrace our community where people are in their religious lives. We have created a safe and creative space for individuals and families with Jewish traditions from every part of the world, Jews by choice, and interfaith families to be involved in Jewish life in Sioux Falls. We hold our arms open to welcome people whether we see them every week, just met, or haven't seen them in years.

Our Mt. Zion community believes in equality: We support women having the same opportunities as men to lead services and read from the Torah. We embrace our LGBTQ+ community members.

Our Mt. Zion community believes in equity: We welcome and value our members no matter their financial contribution.

But my very personal "Why" starts with my first memory of Mt. Zion almost 20 years ago when Bernice welcomed me for the first time with a warm smile and Shabbat Shalom. My "Why" is seeing and experiencing G-d in our communal and individual life events. My "Why" is seeing the excitement, curiosity and delight in our children's eyes during religious school.

I invite others to share their "Why Mt. Zion" story for future Tidings. I believe learning about each other's "Whys" will strengthen our connection to each other so that our Mt. Zion continues to be the light of Jewish life that it has been in Sioux Falls for over 100 years.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who joined our Member Listening Session on Feb 8! We had an important and lively discussion and look forward to bringing your ideas into future programming and planning. Any suggestions you didn't have a chance to share at the session? Email us at mtzionsf@gmail.com.

SEEKING VOLUNTEERS

Mt Zion is looking for volunteers to help fill out the 2023-24 board and committees. There's lots of good work to do to keep strengthening our community! Contact an officer (Jen, Jacob, Matilda, Taly) or chair of the nominating committee (Mark) with questions. Reach out today!

TREES

To celebrate Tu B'shevat, Alef Bet kids kicked off a tzedakah project: We are trying to collect \$18 to plant a tree in Israel. Want to donate some change? Leave it in an envelope labeled "Alef Bef kids" in the rabbi's office before the end of April, and we'll put it in one of the tzedakah boxes that the kids made!

Our Alef Bet kids will continue taking care of the world around us by joining others from across the city for the Sioux River Greenway Cleanup in April. To join us that day, email mtzionsf@gmail.com. We are so proud our mitzvot can reach near and far!

The kids came up with a long list of good things we appreciate about trees, including fruit, paper, oxygen, decorations (schach for sukkot), and houses. Can you come up with more?

MISHLOAH MANOT

Alef Bet kids are getting ready to assemble and deliver Mishloach Manot with hamentashen for Purim. Ready to help? Email mtzionsf@gmail.com for details!

PUBLIC EDUCATION SERIES

Are you wondering about Mt. Zion's relationship with our non Jewish neighbors and Sioux Falls community leaders? Do you wish your teacher or boss knew what Yom Kippur was and why you might not be participating in events that day? Does it feel awkward to explain your dietary choices when presented with ham and cheese sandwiches at a work event?

We are kicking off a "Get to Know Your Jewish Neighbors" public education series on March 15 at 7:00 pm with the goal of helping our neighbors better understand what it's like to be Jewish in Sioux Falls. We invite guests to bring their curiosity and good will, as we try to demystify Jewish vocabulary and share information about traditions we hold dear. Come help us build stronger relationships with those around us.

ONLINE DONATIONS NOW BEING ACCEPTED

To make 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. Or you may make a donation using your credit or debit card. Go to 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." Click there to take you to a page with a blue box labeled "Dues or Donations." Click on this blue box to go to a secure website where you may make a donation online. Please note that Mt. Zion Congregation is debited a convenience fee for these electronic payments. If you have questions about using this portal, please contact Matilda Oppenheimer, Mt Zion Treasurer at 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.

2022-2023 MT. ZION OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Jennifer Dreiske
Vice President: Jacob Forstein
Treasurer: Matilda Oppenheimer
Secretary: Taly Bialostocki
Board of Directors:
Cathy Ezrailson
Charlie Fenster
Tovia Forstein
Toni Hegna
Jay Rosenberg
Bernice Schotten
Past President: DaNiel Wood

BOARD MEETING DATES:

Mon., March 20 at 7:00 pm
Mon., April 17 at 7:00 pm
Mon., May 22 at 7:00 pm

Rabbi Cathy Nemiroff's Schedule of Visits

March 3rd - 5th: Includes:
Shabbat Services &
early "Purim" celebration

March 30th - April 6th: Includes
Shabbat Services on March 31st
& Passover Seder on April 5th

May 19th -21st

Additional visits TBD

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

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

Donations

January 10 - February 9, 2022

GENERAL FUND

Wishing good health to Avram Forstein
from Dave & Marilyn Aronson

To the Congregation from Marilyn &
Dave Aronson; Fredric Janklow (Irene,
SD)

YAHARZEIT

In memory of Lillian Hurwitz from
Robert & Barbara Hurwitz (Ellicott City,
MD)

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



UPCOMING EVENTS

Adar/Nisan 5783

Mt. Zion Congregation • Sioux Falls, SD

March 2023

Friday, March 3rd

5:45 pm Shabbat/Purim Service;
Rabbi Nemiroff

*(starting early for reading of the
Megillah)*

In-person and Zoom

Followed by Family Shabbat Potluck

Zachor: Deuteronomy 25: 17-19

Haftarah: 1 Samuel 15: 2 - 34



Saturday, March 18th

Torah Study at 10:00 am
(via Zoom and in social hall)

Monday, March 20th at 7:00 pm

Temple Board Meeting

Friday, March 24th

NO SHABBAT SERVICE

Vayikra Leviticus 1-5:26

Haftarah: Isaiah 43:21-44:23

Saturday, March 4th

Torah Study at 10:00 am

(via Zoom and in social hall)

Friday, March 10th

NO SHABBAT SERVICE

Tisa: Exodus 30:11-34:35

Haftarah: Ezekiel 36:16-36

Saturday, March 25th

Torah Study at 10:00 am

(via Zoom and in social hall)

Saturday, March 11th

Torah Study at 10:00 am

(via Zoom and in social hall)

Friday, March 31st

7:00 pm Traditional Shabbat Service

Rabbi Nemiroff

Oneg to follow

Tzav: Leviticus 6:1-8:36

Haftarah: Jeremiah 7:21-28; 9:22-23

Wednesday, March 15th at 7:00 pm

“Get to Know Your Jewish Neighbors”
public education series

Friday, March 17th

7:00 pm Traditional Shabbat Service

(in person and zoom)

Oneg/Discussion to follow

Vayakhel-Pekudei: Exodus 35:1-40:38

Haftarah: Ezekiel 45:18-46:15



Wednesday, April 5th

Temple Family Passover Seder

More info to come - Save the Date!

MARCH 3rd

Rose Friedman
William Cohon
Harlene Lewin
Lya Rosenstein
Herman Eirinberg
Etta Cohen
Lawrence "Buddy" Horwitz
Joseph Bleichfeld
Louis Axelbaum

MARCH 10th

Samuel Benshalom
Schotten
Gertrude Barth Ehrlich
Sophia Samorodin
Morris Samorodin
Harry Broder
Sylvia Hurvitz
Minette Koplów
Jean Klein
Solomon Bailin

MARCH 17th

Clara Light
Phillip Friedman
Isaac Levinson
Bernard Koplów
Nellie G Margulies
Loren Rea
Mary Hurvitz
Jake Luskey
David Goodsite
Paul Katz
Goldie Frank

MARCH 24th

Mayme Breslow
Abraham Shapiro
William L. Roth
Myer Koplów

MARCH 31st

Nila Pitts
David L. Rosenstein
Dora Rosenstein
Louis Kuh
Zalman Eli Epstein
David A. McClusky

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. 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.

WHY TWO DAYS FOR SOME HOLIDAYS?

by Jan Forstein, Ritual Chairperson

Orthodox and Conservative Jews celebrate an extra day of Rosh Hashanah and add one extra day to Sukkot, Pesach, and Shavuot. In the Tanakh, we are told to celebrate Rosh Hashanah for one day, Sukkot and Pesach are celebrated for seven days. So why did Jew who lived outside of the Land of Israel, add an extra day to the celebrations.

As was noted in the last months article, there were problems with the accuracy of lighting fires and the arrival of messengers. So those who lived outside the Land of Israel decided to celebrate their holidays for two days. That way, if they were a day late, they would still be observing at the proper time.

In the 4th Century Hillel II, the head of Jews living in Israel, came up with scientific rules for determining the calendar. His works were published and the use of signals and messengers was stopped. However, the celebrations of extra days had become a strong tradition for Jews living outside the land of Israel.

Today, Jew living in Israel celebrate following the biblical tradition. Most Reform Congregations did away with the extra days in the middle of the 19th century.

Possible topics for future Oneg discussions: Is it still valid for Jews, living outside of Israel to observe extra days of festivals. Should there be a difference between Jews who live in Israel and Jews who live outside the land? Compare symbols of the Jewish months and those of the Zodiac. Similarities? Differences?