



TIDINGS OF ZION

Shevat/Adar 5783

Mt. Zion Congregation • Sioux Falls, SD

February 2023

From the Desk of Rabbi Cathy Nemiroff. . .

Honi and the Carob tree (based on a midrash in the Babylonian Talmud, Tractate Ta'anit 23a, retold over the ages)

A long, in the land of Israel lived Honi the Circle Maker, known to all as a righteous man who knew special prayers that no one else knew. But...despite being so wise Honi was also very impatient and maybe selfish too.

One time, when it was the time of the rainy season no rain fell. The ground was too hard for planting and the crops began to dry out. All of the people began to worry. What will we do? They cried. They went to Honi the Circle Maker and asked him to utter one of his prayers to God to make it rain. "Why should I?" Honi asked. The people answered: "If there is no rain, how will we grow our food?" Honi said, "But I have plenty of food in my cabinet!"

"HONI!" They said, "For once think about someone else!" So Honi the circle maker drew a big circle on the ground with a piece of chalk and stood in the middle of the circle. Honi enjoined God, "I am Honi the Circle Maker. These people need rain—a rain of blessing to soften the earth and bring food to the hungry. I know you, God, are just and compassionate. I'm not moving from this circle until you make it rain!" All of a sudden there was thunder and lightning. And rain fell from the skies in a tremendous downpour. The people cheered: "Hurray for Honi the circle maker." And they all ran off to tend to their crops and to plant their vegetables.

Honi set off down the road looking for something to eat. He came upon an elderly man who was planting a tree. "What kind of a tree are you planting?" "A carob tree, he said." Honi then said to the man, "How long will it take the tree to bear fruit?" "Seventy years," replied the man. "Honi then asked, "How can you be certain that you will live another seventy years to enjoy the fruit of this tree?" The man replied, "I have enjoyed carob trees in this world since I was a child. My fathers planted these for me, so I too plant these for my children and grandchildren so they will always have carob to eat."

It hadn't occurred to Honi that planting trees is not just for our benefit in our personal lifetime, but for the benefit of generations to come. We retell this story around the time of Tu B'Shvat to remind ourselves of the importance of rain and trees to the world, and especially to consider how we should conduct ourselves to preserve our precious natural resources and the balance of nature for future generations. We each have a part in what the future of our planet will look like. Recycling, we know, is important. So is using and washing real dishes instead of single use paper products. And this is only the tip of the proverbial iceberg. Think of additional ways we can act to preserve the beauty of life for the future. Tu B'Shvat is February 6th this year.

Stay warm.
Rabbi Cathy Nemiroff



**Friday, February 3 at 6:00 pm:
Special Shabbat Services for
Tu B'Shevat, followed by our First
Friday Potluck with Tu B'Shevat
Treats and Activities**

**Join services in person in the
sanctuary or by zoom. Dinner and
activities to follow. Come
celebrate the birthday of the trees
by learning; enjoying fruit, nuts,
wine, and birthday cake; and
planting parsley that should
bloom in time for Passover.**

Beshalach: Exodus 13:17-17:16

Haftarah: Judges 4:4-5:31

Rabbi Nemiroff will hold
Adult Ed sessions via Zoom
on the following date:
Sunday, February 26th @ 7pm CST
Topics will be announced
approximately one week prior to
each session.

From the Desk of Congregation President Jen Dreiske . .

Our goal should be to live life in radical amazement get up in the morning and look around at the world in a way that takes nothing for granted. Everything is phenomenal; everything is incredible; never treat life casually. To be spiritual is to be amazed." -- Abraham Joshua Heschel

Rabbi Cathy Nemiroff's Schedule of Visits February - May 2023

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 6th: Passover 1st Seder on April 5th

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

Interested in helping out our Alef Bet Kids?

Interested in helping Alef
Bet kids make or deliver
hamentashen this Purim?

Email
mtzionsf@gmail.com

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.



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 3 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 5. 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.



Donations

December 10, 2022 - January 9, 2022

GENERAL FUND

To the Congregation from Judith & Michael Peterson; Fredric Janklow (Irene, SD); Jodie & Jacob Forstein; Zach Van Harris & Laura Engebretson; Yvonne Lerew (St Paul, MN); Reverend Norlita Kaul (Bridgeton, NJ); Ronald Goldsmith (Albuquerque NM); Peter Lieberman & Carla Fauske (Sioux Falls, SD); Mitchel Bernstein (North Bellmore, NY); (Karen Marshall (Sioux Falls, SD

In honor of the Consecration Students – Jakob Dreiske, Tova Bialostocki, Dvora Bialostocki, – Abigail Peterson and their parents from Matilda & Mark Oppenheimer

With sympathy to Marc Feinstein & family on the passing of Marc's father Manley Feinstein from Dave & Marilyn Aronson; Mark & Matilda Oppenheimer

In memory of Minette & Bernard Koplow from Michael & Ellen (Koplow (Ellicott City, MD

In memory of Joyce & Hans Nauen from Lindsey Nauen (St (Paul, MN

SISTERHOOD

To the Sisterhood from Lee Moench; Eirinberg

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **Wednesday, February 8, 2023: Community Listening Session.** Come to the social hall (or join zoom) to share your thoughts, questions, hopes, and concerns for Mt. Zion Congregation with board and community members.
- **No in-person rabbi visits this month.** Please contact the rabbi to schedule a call or zoom visit: rabbicnemiroff@gmail.com.
- **On-Line 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.

**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**

Mt Zion Temple Sisterhood

Thank you to everyone who supported Sisterhood with your purchases from the Gift Shop during the Chanukah season and your purchase of raffle tickets. Our raffle winners were Marilyn & Dave Aronson and Elizabeth Cruikshank (daughter-in-law of Mark & Matilda; her raffle ticket was a Chanukah gift.) The holder of each winning ticket received a \$50 credit from Sisterhood which may be redeemed for Gift Shop merchandise and/or a 1-yr Sisterhood membership (a \$25 value) and/or a 1-yr subscription to the community Uniongram program (an \$18 value). Everyone who bought a ticket(s) helped support Sisterhood with their purchase and we thank you.

If you are not yet a Sisterhood member and would like more information on joining or if you would like to subscribe to our community Uniongram program, please contact Matilda.

Our Gift Shop carries Judaica for gifts and home use all year and anyone wishing to make a purchase is always welcome to contact Matilda to set up a time to shop or browse.

Sisterhood makes major gift to Mt Zion Congregation

For over 40 years, the ovens in the Mt Zion Temple kitchen served us well through community events such as Chanukah dinners, Passover seders, Deli lunches, and Shabbat potluck dinners. But, alas, they aged-out and were no longer functional. Mt Zion Temple Sisterhood is pleased to announce that we were able to purchase a new stove/range for the Mt Zion Temple kitchen. We were able to do this largely because of the continuing support of this community that has allowed us to build our financial reserves over the years. A large part of our financial base came from the Art Auctions that were held in the 1990's, but we have also generated funds through the Uniongram program, Gift Shop, Deli bake sales and donations. We appreciate everyone who supports us and it is a privilege to give back to Mt Zion Congregation in a meaningful way.

L'Shalom,

Matilda Oppenheimer for Mt Zion Temple Sisterhood (605-332-8404; mejoppen@sio.midco.net)



UPCOMING EVENTS

Shevat/Adar 5783

Mt. Zion Congregation • Sioux Falls, SD

February 2023

FEBRUARY

Friday, Feb 3rd

6:00 pm Shabbat/Tu B'Shevat Service
In-person and Zoom
Followed by Family Shabbat Potluck
Beshalach: Exodus 13:17-17:16
Haftarah: Judges 4:4-5:31



Saturday, Feb 4

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

Wednesday, Feb 8th

Member Meeting - Listening Session at 7:00 pm

Friday, Feb 10

TIDINGS Submission Deadline

Friday, Feb 10

NO SHABBAT SERVICE
Yisro: Exodus 18: 1-20:23
Haftarah: Isaiah 6:1-7:6, 9:5-6

Saturday, Feb 11

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

Friday, February 17th

6:45 pm Children's Service
7:00 pm Traditional Shabbat Service
(In-person and zoom)
Oneg and discussion to follow, please bring your
favorite Torah portion.
Shekalim: Exodus 30: 11-16
Haftarah: 2 Kings 11:17 - 12:17

Saturday, Feb 18th

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

Monday, Feb 20th

Temple Board Meeting at 7:00 pm

Friday, Feb 24

NO SHABBAT SERVICE
Terumah: Exodus 25: 1- 27:19
Haftarah: I Kings 5:26-6:13

Saturday, Feb 25

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

Sunday, Feb 26

Adult Ed Zoom Only with Rabbi
Nemiroff at 7 pm

MARCH

Friday, March 3rd

5:45 pm Shabbat/Purim Service;
Rabbi Nemiroff
(note 5:45 pm Start Time)
In-person and Zoom
Followed by Family Shabbat Potluck
Zachor: Deuteronomy 25: 17-19
Haftarah: 1 Samuel 15: 2 - 34



Saturday, March 4th

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

FEBRUARY 3rd

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

FEBRUARY 10th

Pola Haar
Walter Falk
Ben Borden
Gussie Shulkin
Stanley Goodman
Leon Maggid

FEBRUARY 17th

Sally Mosow
Albert Wolfson
Zishke Marsh
Louis Zabel
Sally Forstein
Harold “Bud” Margulies
Hy Hurwitz

FEBRUARY 24th

Solomon Korb
Myra Davis
Rosalie Lux
Dorothy Roganson
Ruben J. Light
Ben Light
Sam Eder
Benjamin Katz
Erma Sternberg
Henry Levinson

MARCH 3rd

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

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.

ROSH CHODESH by Jan Forstein, Ritual Chairperson

One of the oldest observances, one that was celebrated even before the Temple came into existence was Rosh Chodesh, the New Moon. In Numbers 28 we see that special sacrifices were to be brought to the sanctuary and offered by the priests. The Sanhedrim, or High Court was responsible to determine the time of the new month and then to announce it to the Jewish community.

So what is a Jewish month and how is the new moon determined. A Jewish calendar consists of 12 months with a little more than 29 ½ days. Each month starts with a new moon and an entire year contains about 354 ½ days. The solar year is 365 ¼ days, 11 days less. Because of this, every few years an extra month is added to keep up with the season’s accuracy. The extra month is known as Adar II.

In the Torah, only four names of the months are mentioned, Aviv, Ziv, Etanim, And Bul. The rest of the months are called by numbers. (see Leviticus 23:5) Jews took the names of the Jewish calendar by Jews in Babylonia exile. They used names taken from the Babylonian calendar. When Jews returned to Israel, they continued to use the Babylonian names. The months are Nisan, Iyar, Sivan, Tamuz, Av, Elul, Tishri, Cheshvan, Kislev, Tevet, Shevat, Adar I or Adar II.

A good description of Rosh Chodesh and how it was determined and announced is found in the Talmud. Witnesses would watch for the appearance of a new moon. When they saw it, they would report to the Sanhedrin, which would examine the testimony of the witnesses and then announce Rosh Chodesh. A fire signal would be lit from a mount top and from there to Babylonia. The fire would signal the announcement of Rosh Chodesh to all the Jewish communities. This method didn’t work however when enemies of the Jews started lighting fires early. The Jewish community then developed a system of sending messengers with the news of Rosh Chodesh.

(((Next month, WHY TWO DAYS FOR SOME HOLIDAYS?)))