



# TIDINGS OF ZION

Iyar/Sivan 5783

Mt. Zion Congregation • Sioux Falls, SD

May 2023

## From the Desk of Rabbi Cathy Nemiroff. . .

It was really a pleasure to spend extra time in Sioux Falls between the Shabbat service on March 31 and the Seder on April 5. I enjoyed spending relaxed time with a number of you, getting to know you over meals and informally. I also enjoyed spending the Seder with you. Thank you to Deb Hicks and all who participated in organizing and preparing it! Mt. Zion is truly a wonderful community. I am pleased that I will be continuing as your rabbi in the coming year.

I look forward to getting to know those of you who I haven't yet spent with as well as spending more time with all of you. Please know that I always have time for either in-person visits when I am town, or remote Zoom visits when I am home in St. Paul. Feel free to reach out to me via email at [rabbicnemiroff@gmail.com](mailto:rabbicnemiroff@gmail.com) to schedule a time to get together. I am available for counseling, discussing life cycle matters or informal chats.

Preparing for the coming year, I am interested in knowing what you would like to learn and discuss in adult education sessions. I welcome your feedback by phone or email. Start thinking about it and let me know.

## "GET TO KNOW YOUR JEWISH NEIGHBOR"

Parts I and II of our "Get to Know Your Jewish Neighbor" series were a great chance to open our doors and build relationships with the broader Sioux Falls community. Thanks to everyone who helped make it a success!! If you have thoughts or feedback, please contact [mtzionsf@gmail.com](mailto:mtzionsf@gmail.com).

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Part III of our "Get to Know Your Jewish Neighbor" series is coming up at 7pm on May 10th. Together let's take a deeper dive into Jewish ethics by examining a traditional Jewish text that gives rise to universal ethical values. Individuals can consider for themselves how the topic connects with their own intentions, practices and personal stories. This session is intended to expose participants to the Jewish tradition of learning ethical principles from traditional Biblical and other sacred texts. Facilitated by Rabbi Cathy Nemiroff of Mt. Zion Congregation. Register at the following link, so we know who's coming:

<https://www.minndakjrc.org/event/sioux-falls-get-to-know-your-jewish-neighbor/2023-03-15/>

# Get to Know Your Jewish Neighbors at Mt. Zion Congregation

- Wondering what "kosher" means?
- Curious about Jewish ethics?
- Want to learn more about Israel?
- Interested in finding out about the holidays and practices your Sioux Falls Jewish neighbors hold dear?

Join your neighbors at Mt. Zion Congregation for a

## COMMUNITY EDUCATION SERIES

### Part 1. Introduction to Judaism

March 15 at 7pm

### Part 2. Amazing Israel


April 26 at 7pm

### Part 3. Jewish Ethics

May 10 at 7pm

Events will take place at Mt. Zion Congregation of Sioux Falls: 523 W. 14th St.

Made possible thanks to generous support from the Jewish Community Relations Council of Minnesota and the Dakotas.



Mt. Zion Congregation, founded in 1919, has been at the heart of Sioux Falls Jewish life for over 100 years. This "get to know your Jewish neighbors" educational series is designed to build and strengthen the Sioux Falls community. Come learn about Jewish life and meet your friendly neighbors at one or more of these events.

Register at:

<https://www.minndakjcrc.org/event/sioux-falls-get-to-know-your-jewish-neighbor/2023-03-15/>

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## WHY MT. ZION?

In March's TIDINGS, Jen picked up the question "Why Mt. Zion?" and asked us to share our responses. Why invest in this community? Why become a member? Why show up at this time and this place when we have so many other things to do and places to be? We are wanting to hear from you about your "why" for being a part of our Mt. Zion community. Please submit your "why" to us by the 10th of month to ensure your submission is included in the next Tidings. The statements submitted are the personal opinions of the congregant. Email your comments to [mtzionsf@gmail.com](mailto:mtzionsf@gmail.com)

From Josh West:

Community plays a significant role in Judaism. It is more than just a religion, it is a peoplehood and a tribe with a history that dates back to Judea. When one becomes Jewish, they enter into a family where they are part of a whole. Being a Jew means putting the community and the traditions passed down from generation to generation first. The importance of community is at the center of Judaism and everything revolves around it.

Kabbalah teaches that each Jewish soul is a part of a larger soul, and when one is born, they are given a portion of that larger soul. The purpose of that soul is to perfect itself and to help perfect the larger soul to which it belongs. When Jews come together in community, they connect with one another on a spiritual level, creating a stronger connection between themselves and their larger soul. This connection is what makes the Jewish community so special and why it is so important to be a part of it.

One cannot be Jewish and live a gentile life. Jewish life requires one to live according to a specific set of rules and principles that have been passed down through the generations. These rules include upholding the mitzvot, dressing modestly, and identifying oneself as a Jew. Jewish people are expected to incorporate Hashem in their thoughts with every action they take and make every action as a Jew. It is essential to remember that Hashem is watching, so one should be truthful, modest, and above all else, humble.

When it comes to the Jewish homeland, Israel, it is important to ally oneself with the Jewish people and not go against their choices. While one may disagree with Israel's decisions, they should always pray for peace in Eretz Yisrael and her people. This is because the Jewish people are one, and the actions of one affect the entire community.

In conclusion, the importance of community in Judaism cannot be overstated. It is the foundation upon which everything else is built. The Jewish community is a place where one can connect with their larger soul and perfect themselves. It is where traditions are passed down and where one can find a sense of belonging. As such, it is essential to be an active member of the Jewish community and to contribute to its growth and well-being.

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS:

## 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!

## ALEF BET KIDS

To celebrate Tu B'shevat, Alef Bet kids kicked off a tzedakah project: They collected \$18 to plant a tree in Israel. Our Alef Bet kids continued taking care of the world around us by joining others from across the city for the Sioux River Greenway Cleanup in April. 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?

## 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](http://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](mailto: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.

## NEEDED

Empty egg cartons to use at the food giveaways. You may leave them in the library or kitchen. Thank you!

## MAZEL TOV

Mazel Tov on the Jewish Wedding of Joshua and Kristina West

Happy 90th Birthday to Dick Hosen! Hope you had a very happy birthday!

## 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 DATE:**  
**Mon., May 22 at 7:00 pm**

## TEMPLE ANNUAL MEETING

**June 7 at 7:00 pm**

Agenda to include annual nominations, nomination of permanent board member (proposed in 2022), mission statement adoption, policy review update and initial recommendations, as well as updates about programming and committees of Mt Zion Congregation. An update about Mt Zion cemetery will also be given.

### Rabbi Cathy Nemiroff's Schedule of Visits

**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*

*March 10 - April 2, 2023*

### **GENERAL FUND**

To the Congregation from Fredric Janklow (Irene, SD)

To the Congregation for the Community Passover Seder from Dave & Marilyn Aronson, Lee Moench, Laura Ingebretson & Zach Van Harris, Jen & Chris Dreiske, Mark & Matilda Oppenheimer

In honor of Richard Hosen with best wishes on his special birthday from Matilda & Mark Oppenheimer

### **Yahrzeit**

In memory of Harry Marsh from Sandy Radin

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



# UPCOMING EVENTS

Iyar/Sivan 5783

Mt. Zion Congregation • Sioux Falls, SD

May 2023

**Friday, May 5**

**6:00 pm Traditional Shabbat Service  
(in-person and zoom)**

**Followed by Family Shabbat Potluck**

Emor: Leviticus: 21 - 24:23 (speak)

Haftarah: Ezekiel 44:15 - 31

**Saturday, May 6**

Torah Study 10 am

**Friday, May 12**

**NO SHABBAT SERVICE**

Behar-Bechukosai Leviticus: 1-27:34

Mount (Sanai) - My Status

Haftarah: Jeremiah 16:19-17:14

**Saturday, May 13**

Torah Study 10 am

**Friday, May 19**

**7:00 Traditional Shabbat Service  
(in-person and zoom)**

**Rabbi Nemiroff**

**Oneg to follow**

Bamidbar: Numbers 1:1-4:20

In The Desert

Haftarah: Samuel I 20:18-42

**Saturday, May 20**

Torah Study 10 am

**Monday, May 22**

Temple Board Meeting 7:00 pm

**Friday, May 26**

**Shavuot Service**

**7:00 pm (in-person and zoom)**

**Oneg to follow**

Shavuot: Exodus 19:1- 20:23 (Festival of Weeks)

Haftarah: Ezeikiel 1:1-28 & 3:12

**Saturday, May 27**

Torah Study 10 am

**Friday, June 2nd**

**6:00 Traditional Shabbat Service  
(in-person and zoom)**

**Followed by Family Shabbat Potluck**

Naso Numbers: 4:21 - 7:89

Count

Haftarah: Judges 13:2-25

## **MAY 5th**

Elsa Oppenheimer  
Max Swedelson  
Arthur Greenbaum  
Carter Engbarth  
Barney Kopel  
Henry Bailin

## **MAY 12th**

Huldah Bailin  
Margaret Harris  
Bernie Eirenberg  
Harry Sigelman  
Marvin Davis  
Marvin Bailin  
Louis Luskey  
Louis Cohen  
Robert David Mendelsohn

## **MAY 19th**

John Agrant  
Richard L. Storm  
Hans Jacoby  
Martha "Marty" Davidsohn  
William Shapiro  
Albert Haney  
Rachel Light

## **MAY 26th**

Mark David Kohn  
Carolyn Bochnik  
Mollie Aaronson  
Erna Broder  
Lauren Forstein  
Mamye Light  
Billie Lewis  
Elsie Shapiro  
Lloyd Steichen  
Bernice Stern  
Arthur Goldstein

## **JUNE 2nd**

Maurice Magidson  
David L. Aronson Jr  
Ethel Kaufman  
Edwin Livingston  
Sam Gellman  
Morris Hudson

# YAHRZEITS

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*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.*

## **HOW WE ARE WITNESSES WHEN WE SAY SHEMA**

by Jan Forstein, Ritual Chairperson

When saying the Shema, the last letters of the first and last word are Ayin and Dalet. You will see these letters enlarged in the Torah and in some prayerbooks. When the letters are put together, they form the word "ayd". The word means witness. We are taught that when we say the Shema, we remind ourselves that we are supposed to be witnesses for G-d.

So, what does it mean to be a witness? A witness in court giving testimony will tell a judge and jury what they have seen. A witness who holds a very important part for his testimony may determine what will happen to a person or a matter on trial.

How can a person be a witness for G-d? In Jewish tradition, when we act according to Mitzvot we are witnesses for G-d. When we are helpful to a person in need, because we are following the mitzvah of "love our neighbor as ourselves, we are actually showing others the influence of G-d and the mitzvah in our lives.

So, each time we say the Shema or we see the Ayin and Dalet, we are reminded of our ethical responsibilities and the sacred task we have as witnesses to G-d.