



ITON TZIYON

עיתון ציון

Mount Zion Temple Bulletin

Spring | March - April 2025 | Adar - Iyar 5785

Vol. 169, No. 3



This year, our bulletins feature members of our community and their connections to Mount Zion. To get to know our featured members better, read their bios on page 10.

Photo by Sydnee Bickett Photography

Panim el Panim

Connecting Face to Face
פנים אל פנים

L'Dor VaDor

From Generation to Generation

Mazel Tov To...

Heather and Oliver Henning on the birth of their son *Theo James* on November 23.

Michael Kuhne and Mandy Roll-Kuhne on the birth of their granddaughter *Adira* on December 13. *Adira is the daughter of Hannah Kuhne and Joe Kelzenberg.*

Edith and Gary Pang on the birth of their granddaughter *Enya* on October 31. *Enya is the daughter of Helen Pang and JJ Swain.*

Sheila and Marty (z'l) Schuman on the marriage of their grandson *Jonah Resnick* to *Jenna Behnken* on November 23.

Steve and Carrie Siegel on the marriage of their daughter *Hannah Siegel* to *Reed Langton-Yanowitz* on November 3.

Stephanie Wolkin who joined Mount Zion members *Carol Weisberg, Jean King Appelbaum, Eric Levinson, and PJ Pofahl* as an honorary life-long, board member of Neighborhood House.

ZICHRONAM LIVRACHA...

May their memories be a blessing

We note with sorrow the passing of our members:

Rosita Albert

Our condolences to her family, including her husband Stuart Albert.

Lou Michaels

Our condolences to his family, including his wife Tamara Michaels.

Douglas Mogelson

Our condolences to his family, including his wife Megan Mogelson, children Abraham, Maxwell, and Solomon Mogelson, and his mother Kay Mogelson.

Marilyn Salmon

Our condolences to her family.

We Extend Condolences to...

Karen (Andrew) Kaplan on the death of her mother, *Joan Eaton*, on January 2.

Michael (Julie) Kogan-White on the death of his mother, *Anna Baslee*, on November 28.

Heidi (Dan) Ries on the death of her mother, *Verla Jean Nelson*, on February 7.

Andy (Jennifer) Schneider on the death of his father, *Byron Schneider*, on December 27.

Jennifer (Michael) Wall on the death of her father, *Fred Bartl*, on December 8.

May God grant peace to all who mourn and comfort to all who are bereaved.

Letter from the Rabbi

"No more than my place, no less than my space."

– Mussar teaching by Alan Morinis on Humility



I am feeling a bit stymied these days. So much change is happening in our country. It's not easy to discern where we have enough power to make a difference.

I believe it begins by creating a mental map of where our spheres of influence lie. In our relationships, how do we double down on kindness, give each other the benefit of doubt, and not hold family and friends to the first thing said? How can we be more

humble and curious as I spoke about on [Rosh Hashanah](#), and less certain of our views as Rabbi Adler spoke about on [Yom Kippur](#)? And in what ways, more generous and loving? Can we take a breath to recognize what is good before us?

It continues by not stopping there. Our voices matter; our actions collectively have power. Write letters to the editor, speak up in school boards, city councils, and beyond. And do so with others if you can. Do so with the goal of bridging differences that do not have to divide. Listen for multiple truths and honor them. It is possible to do this and still hold onto your values.

At Mount Zion, we are moving forward with our strategic plan which includes, for the first time in our 169 years, a stated strategy for justice. Please join us on Tuesday, March 11, 7pm for the Kehillah (Community) Council (see page 9) where we will look at a draft congregational statement about protecting the planet. All our voices, with the full diversity of "perspectives and experiences" as stated in our [Derech/Path](#), are needed for this to be grounded in reality and bold in its possibilities.

There is one other area where many of us can have agency. It may be small, but it is important. Every five years, there is an election that relates to Israel and allows Jews around the world to have a voice in the direction it is heading. In Mount Zion's mission, we include: "Support world Jewry and our historic and spiritual bond to Israel; promote in the Jewish state the values of democracy, justice, and pluralism."

This election matters because the voices working against these values of democracy, justice, and pluralism are stronger than ever.

The election is for a congress founded in 1897. It convenes every five years with slates of candidates akin to a parliament.

I have purposely not yet named the congress because it includes the word "Zionism" that is so misunderstood and can be triggering and might dissuade participation. I recall my first time in Israel in 1988 where most Israelis told me I couldn't be a Zionist because I didn't live in Israel. Definitions change. This is not a moment to get caught up in what Zionism means today. I will share that I am proud to call myself a liberal Zionist and honored to be on the "Vote Reform" slate for this World Zionist Congress election. All Jews over the age of 18 can vote. Learn more and please vote online or at Mount Zion with a printed ballot between March 10 and May 4. See page 15 for more information.

As we support each other in community, grateful for our congregation, I pray we find our voices to speak our values and act in a time when we are needed.

Bivricha/With blessing,

Adam Stock Spilker, Rabbi

The power to influence
Peace, Security & Democracy
for Israel is in our hands.



Make Shabbat Your Sanctuary

Join for Engaging, Musical, Inspiring Shabbat Services Friday Night

Kabbalat Shabbat Service: 6:30 pm – Join in person or online ([Livestream](#); [Facebook](#))

Saturday Morning

Torah Study: 9:00 am – In person or online via [Zoom](#)

Shabbat Shacharit (Morning) Service: 10:00 am – In person or [Livestream](#)

Tot Shabbat: 10:30 am – In person (second Saturday of every month) *Designed for families with children from birth through 6 years old.*

Please see our updated description of Shabbat services at Mount Zion at mzion.org/pray/shabbat.

Shabbat for the Soul

Friday, April 25, 6:30 pm

Live from Margolis Hall and livestreaming



We move from the formality of the sanctuary to our social hall to create a more intimate service. Our singing is accompanied by violin, guitar, keyboard, and percussion. **The evocative music opens our hearts and awakens our spirits.**

Shabbat is always for the soul, but there is a particularly soulful atmosphere at “Shabbat for the Soul” services. It is a more contemplative worship style with the congregation sitting in the round. We use a single page handout for the prayers. A slower pace enables us to focus on the meditative effect of the music, the potential for deeper awareness and prayer, and the feeling of community.

Hiddur Tefillah

Friday, March 21, 6:30 pm

[Hiddur Mitzvah](#) is the enhancement of a Mitzvah by making it visually beautiful. In our Hiddur Tefillah services, instead of seeing the service in black and white on the pages of a book, our words of prayer are enhanced by beautiful images projected on the wall in Margolis Hall. We take time with the prayers and the music, engaging our senses more fully than usual. We sit in rounded rows, to more fully appreciate the community around us. Our singing is accompanied by violin, guitar, keyboard, and percussion.



Passover Services

1st Day Festival Service

Sunday, April 13, 10:00 am

Shabbat Morning / 7th Day Festival Service

(includes Yizkor prayers)

Saturday, April 19, 10:00 am

More on p. 16.



Fixing the 10 Commandments! – Our rabbis fixed a dangling letter in one of the commandments, something that finally could happen while the sanctuary was being painted. Alisha and Abby also enjoy the view! *Learn more in the Executive Director article on page 4.*

Daily Services - on Zoom!

Sunday through Thursday at 5:45 pm

The tradition of Daily Services at Mount Zion goes back to the 1950s and has been uninterrupted ever since. Since the pandemic began, a rotation of lay leaders and Rabbis Adler and Spilker lead the brief and meaningful connection. You are welcome to join once or more! An important mitzvah is to participate on the day of a loved one's yahrzeit.

Sunday through Thursday: [Join via Zoom](#) or call 929-205-6099 and then enter the meeting ID 727 277 057.



"For, lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone; the flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land."

—Song of Songs, 2:11-12

As I write this, it is mid-February, and whether you're thinking literally or metaphorically, these words feel quite aspirational. But just as we celebrate Tu B'Shvat long before it feels seasonally appropriate here in Minnesota, so too *Shir HaShirim*, the Song of Songs, can help ease us into a Passover-springtime mood, even if may not be reflected in our surroundings or our state of mind.

Shir HaShirim, the Song of Songs, is one of the five megillot (scrolls), and just as Ecclesiastes, Esther, Ruth, and Lamentations are associated with Sukkot, Purim, Shavuot, and Tisha B'Av, *Shir HaShirim* is associated with Pesach. That *Shir HaShirim* is chanted at the Shabbat morning service during the seven days of Pesach is typically explained by citing the verse above—essentially, that the link between *Shir HaShirim* and Pesach is springtime. But, as Rabbi Benjamin Edidin Scolnic points out, there are plenty of texts about spring, the Exodus, and Pesach. Why choose *Shir HaShirim* to link the three?

One interpretation Rabbi Scolnic cites references the act of singing itself. *Shir HaShirim*, the song of songs, the song above all songs, is itself the ultimate song: "a song about singing." Why *Shir HaShirim* at Pesach? Because the act of singing is a natural response to the act of redemption that Pesach celebrates: one that we reenact every time we sing *Mi Chamocha*, the Song of the Sea that the Israelites sang after they crossed the Sea of Reeds. Song, and singing, are expressions of radical amazement and wonder at such a miracle—ones that we can bring into our daily lives. He writes: "We sing because we are thrilled that we can sing. We're so busy running around with our intense schedules that we need to remember that we have the ability to sing, to wonder, to appreciate... We should be amazed that we were given this gift."

I invite you to join us at Passover Festival services (see page 13) to hear these beautiful words of the Song of the Sea and *Shir HaShirim* chanted and to lift up your voices in radical amazement!

Jennifer Strauss-Klein, Cantor

Trope Troupe

... the more Torah, the more life. -Hillel

Todah Rabah to our December-February Ba'alei Korei (chanting Torah): Sue Benfield; Siana Goodwin; Rebekah Jacob; Abbey Kanzer; John Mast; Dan Paley; Kathleen Riley; Shelley Robbins; Cantor Deb Winston

Todah Rabah to our December-February Haftarah chanters: Netta Hardin

To sign up to chant Torah or Haftarah on Shabbat, e-mail Cantor Jennifer Strauss-Klein at jstraussklein@mzion.org.

B'nei Mitzvah

Elan Levine

April 26, 2025

Picture removed online

Elan Levine (Elan Rimon) (he/they) is the child of Charlie Levine and Marjorie Dana-Levine, and the grandchild of Howard (z"l) and Roslyn (z"l) Levine and Richard and Nancy Dana. He is the youngest sibling of Howie, Rachel, and Sam. Elan is a 7th grader at Woodbury Leadership Academy. He would

like to attend Macalester College, in part, because of its Scottish heritage. For now, he spends an inordinate amount of time on Roblox, Minecraft, and Fortnite while magically keeping his grades up. Elan is very empathetic, caring, and justice-focused. He is concerned for the safety of all in a country where racism, sexism, hatred, and white privilege are increasing and increasingly open. Elan loves people and animals and will be donating a portion of his gift money to the Animal Humane Society.

First Friday Family Shabbat Dinners

March 7, April 4, May 2

Food, Friends, Family: Shabbat!

- Arrival and Meet and Greet at 5:15 pm
- Blessings and Dinner at 5:30 pm
- Services at 6:30 pm

Members: \$25 for a household; individuals are \$10 each.

Non-members: \$36 for a household; individuals are \$12 each.

Registration is required by the Monday before to know how much food to prepare.

All are welcome!

Bring your family, friends, or come by yourself!

Come as you are! Get the kids in the car and we'll take care of the rest. An informal Shabbat dinner with kid-friendly food, Shabbat blessings, and friends new and old, followed by a spirited, family-friendly Shabbat service featuring our children's choirs.

Drop-in childcare available on a first-come, first-served basis, dependent on capacity and staffing!

First Friday Dinners are sponsored by the Brotherhood and Women of Mount Zion Temple.



From the President



Shortly after I became president of Mount Zion's board of directors, I received some advice that I have done my best to follow through on – which is to show up. I have tried to be in, out, and around, present for events and occasions, and to be at Shabbat services as much as possible. As such I have accumulated a few observations I would like to share.

Our First Friday Family Shabbat Dinners are extraordinary. They are a tour-de-force of delicious food, volunteer engagement, and community. Hats off to Cantor Strauss-Klein, Shai Avny and Robert Garfinkle for bringing this from an idea to an institution. Many have volunteered over the years as cooks, servers, runners and more. Now, in its third year, new leaders are helping to steward this model of congregational engagement. I've volunteered in a number of First Friday roles, and have found my groove as sommelier (focused on the pouring rather than tasting). It's great to be part of this tremendous initiative and to see our community living the "vibrant Jewish spiritual home" piece of our mission statement.

An additional joy of First Friday Shabbat is the energy that our youth choirs, Shir Tzion and Shir Chants, bring to services. This year the combined groups have 40 members and literally spill off the bimah. I love watching the kids manage themselves and each other, and the services have a special kind of chaos and energy that is hard to describe. In addition to leading us in song it is worth noting that the ways our kids participate in Shabbat are an important developmental step in the Jewish- and life-journeys of these youngsters.

Not long ago I watched a young singer, anxiously holding the microphone in anticipation of her solo. She looked alternately nervous and then distracted by whispers from her friends. She sang her part with confidence and then sat back down, handing the microphone to the next soloist. Mission accomplished. To close the service the rabbi invited the choir back to the bimah for kiddush. This same child turned to her parents, flipped her ponytail with teen-aged confidence and assertion of her own independence, and waltzed back to the bimah. I saw a transformation in front of my own eyes.

For the children who are too young for the organized choirs, there are other moments. At a recent Shabbat service, I watched the kids rush the bimah for the motzi. The end result (after the blessing) was a triumphant four-year-old with about one third of a challah in her hand. She was quite pleased with herself, and those of us who witnessed the huge grab were charmed beyond measure.

In a discussion about this outcome for our challah-centric participant, a long-time member remarked, "you know, the kids think it's for them, but really, it's for us."

I think it's both.

Amy Schwartz Moore, President

Executive Director Corner



If you have been around lately and caught a glimpse of the sanctuary during its refresh, I'm pleased to announce that the project is now complete! We have freshly painted walls, new lights installed, and a repaired dangling letter in one of the commandments. I am very grateful for the hard work from Elias and his team of volunteers, including John Mast, Larry Solomon,

Michael Kuhne, Todd Marshall, Rob Lebowitz, Jen Bernstein-Hanlon, Art Klebanov, Sam Farber, Renae Goldman, Shel Finver, Henry Neitz, Harvey Arbit, Dan Shapiro, Sean McPherson, Trevor McSpadden, and Bruce Matza.

Planning is underway for another fundraiser for Mount Zion on Saturday, May 3, 2025. We are currently seeking sponsors and hosts for MZ Meetups to help make the event a success. If you or your employer is willing to help underwrite the costs of the fundraiser, please reach out! If you are interested in hosting an MZ Meetup, please let me know. These are events or experiences organized and hosted by members, and tickets sold at the benefit will support Mount Zion.

As always, please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions. It's always a pleasure to connect with Mount Zion members. The best way to reach me is via email at ktucker@mzion.org.

Kate Tucker Sicher, Executive Director

L'Chaim Mount Zion's 5785 Annual Campaign!

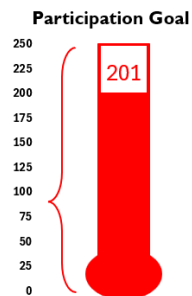


Thank you to everyone who has contributed to our Mount Zion L'Chaim 5785 Annual Campaign. Your support has enhanced our face-to-face (*panim el panim*) in-person and online opportunities, helping to create a stronger community. We are proud to report that over 201 households have participated, raising more than \$150,000 so far!

Let's build on this momentum and reach our participation goal of 250 households in this year's campaign.

As a friendly reminder, all participants who contribute by May 1 will be included in this year's Annual Report. Please visit our website at mzion.org/donate to participate today. Every contribution matters and helps support our community. All gifts are welcome. [Give now](#)

Thank you, Robert Mast, Chair, Giving Committee



MOUNT ZION'S 170TH ANNUAL MEETING

Friday, May 9, 5:30 pm

5:00 pm **Kabbalat Panim** (Greeting Time) - Hors d'oeuvres

5:30 pm Mount Zion's **Annual Meeting**

6:30 pm **Shabbat Service** - Includes installation of new Board including Jon Strauss, President

PURIM at Mount Zion:

The Best Jewish Holiday for All Ages!

Purim commemorates the story of Esther, who rescued the Jews of ancient Persia (now Iran) from persecution. Traditions include dressing in costume and eating hamantaschen (triangular stuffed pastries). It is our springtime chance for some fun!



Thursday, March 13

A Purim Evening Extravaganza: Schmooze, Boos, and Amuse!

This event is for ages 13+. Childcare will be available for PreK-6th Grade (\$10/child).

[Livestreaming](#) will begin at 7pm.

6:00 - 7:00 pm A 13+ Purim Evening Dinner

Cost: \$25/person - [Register](#)

Join us for a lively Purim gathering featuring custom-crafted mocktails and cocktails, dinner catered by Shish, and a good time! Learn a little Torah (text sheets provided), try your hand at a festive craft (DIY masks), or just enjoy fun company and great laughs.

7:00 pm Brief Service, Megillah Reading, and a Dramatic Rendition of the Book of Esther

This year's Megillah reading will feature the talent of our members as an interpretation of each chapter will be written and performed by various Mount Zionites! Costumes are encouraged!

Sunday, March 16

9:30 - 10:30 am Purim Service, Spiel, and Megillah Reading!

Adults and children, please join us at 9:30 am in the Sanctuary for a brief silly Purim service and *A Wicked Wicked Spiel*, the Wicked-themed Purim shpiel performed by our very own Mount Zion clergy, educators, and executive director, and featuring your favorite songs from the musical *Wicked* (with a Megillah twist)! Come in costume and stay for our super fun Purim Carnival! Please note there are not regular Religious School classes this morning and students must attend with an adult!

10:30 am - 12:30 pm Purim Carnival

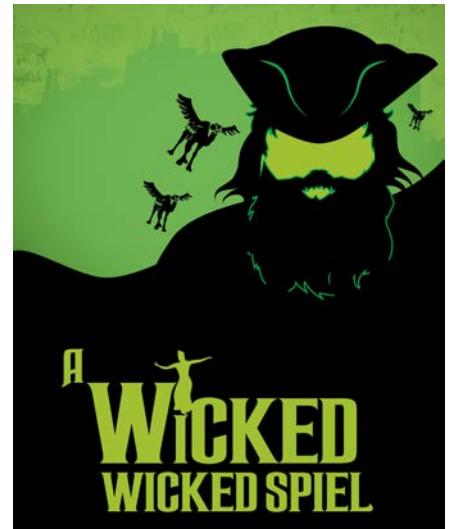
Open to everyone! Invite your friends!

Avoid the line and purchase wristbands for kids in advance!

Cost: Members: \$15/one child; \$25/two children; \$35/three or more children

Public: \$20/one child; \$30/two children; \$40/three or more children

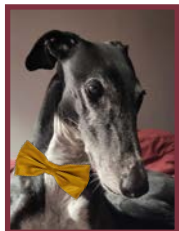
This cost includes all activities but does not include food or drink, which will be available for purchase with cash or card. Food tickets are \$5 for 3 tickets.



Purim at Mount Zion: Mews and News

Meet Mount Zion's New Assistant Director of Torah and Treats!

To my Two-Legged Friends and Tail-Wagging Pals:



When my human, Teresa Matzek, adopted me three years ago, I was fortunate to become a member of the Mount Zion community. Mount Zion is really a diamond in the ruff: from the kibble and kibbitzing (chatting) at First Friday Family Shabbats to finding a bone to pick with Rashi in Torah study, we've got something for every pawdy!

I am thrilled to be in my new role as Assistant Director of Torah and Treats, lending a paw to Rabbi Renetzky in welcoming everyone. In accordance with Shammai's teaching in Pirkei Pawvot (1:15), I greet everyone with a cheer-fur-I face. My ultimutt goal is to make sure no one feels left in the doghouse and to help folks see that anything is pawsible at Mount Zion. So far, my favorite part of the job is sharing puppuccinos with all of you. Collar me impressed at our robust community; your energy is enough to raise the ruff!

If you ever have an idea of how to unleash Mount Zion's full potential, please give a howl. Watevfur you need, I am just a bark away!

Wishing you all a pawsome week ahead—full of blessings, belly rubs, and wagging tails.

Sincerely,

E210



It is we, Rabban Hobeshai ha-Mashkif and Rabbi Chisda ben Tzarfat, also known as Hobbes and Chester, devoted cats of Cantor Strauss-Klein and lovers of wisdom and catnip mice. As Purim approaches, we find ourselves contemplating the Talmudic significance of this

most joyous holiday. We proceed, as our Sages do, through dialogue—though our reflections may be interrupted by matters of utmost urgency, such as the undeniable need to knock that pen off the counter.

Rabban Hobeshai: The Sages teach: *“One is obligated to become intoxicated on Purim until he knows not the difference between ‘cursed is Haman’ and ‘blessed is Mordechai’”* (Megillah 7b). But dear brother, is this not a state I experience multiple times a day? Just today, I could not distinguish between the sound of a treat bag opening and the rustling of a plastic sack, and yet, do I not embrace my fate, treat or no? Indeed, perhaps the true message of Purim is the surrender to the unpredictability of divine providence—oh, my tail! Let me lick that...

Rabbi Chisda: But is not Purim a celebration of hidden miracles as well? The Talmud asks, *“Where in the Torah is Esther? ‘And I will surely hide My face’”* (Chullin 139b). Just as the Divine is sometimes obscured, so too the red dot from the laser pointer—profoundly shaping our lives, yet just beyond our grasp.

Rabban Hobeshai: And might I add: just as the filling of the hamantaschen is concealed, the fate of our people is often hidden, only later to be revealed as sweet redemption. Except for poppyseed. A mistake, both theologically and gastronomically.

Rabbi Chisda: A courageous observation. Wait...was that a moth? No? Just a shadow. Proceed.

Rabban Hobeshai: Ah, but perhaps that is the point! Purim reminds us that not all is as it seems! Is the thing before us a moth or shadow? Treat or bitter pill? Innocent hand reaching to pet, or sudden, unasked-for belly rub that ends in claws?

Rabbi Chisda: To be sure. And so, dear congregants, as you celebrate this Purim, may you embrace both chaos and order, wisdom and folly, feasting and fasting (though we recommend feasting).

Chag Purr-im Sameach!

Enjoy one of our upcoming classes!

Kabbalah and Kringles

Explore the profound mysteries of Jewish mystical texts while enjoying southeastern Wisconsin's signature pastry. The Kringle's traditional “ring” shape recalls the Ein Sof, the infinite oneness of the universe and its Creator. Gluten-free alternatives will be available.



Learning the Liturgy From Avo-DUH to Avo-dAH

Do you feel like an Ami-dummy during services? Well, say ma'arivaderrci to feeling confused! Unlock profound spiritual communion with the Divine by learning the prayer rubrics! For example, did you know the Chatzi Kaddish is like a liturgical semicolon? Don't you feel closer to God now? We'll put the “ah!” in Avodah and you'll leave morning minyan t'feelin' fine!!!

Hapax Legomenon-Phenomenon!

The term “hapax legomenon” refers to a word or an expression that occurs only once throughout Jewish sacred texts. So, we have no idea what it means! Make up your own answer and then create it using Legos.



Yetzer Hurrah!: The Musical

Lovable everyman Shimon Ben Azarya reckons with his evil inclination in this heartwarming musical adaption of the classic Talmudic tale. Will he succumb to his yetzer hara, or will his better intentions prevail? Entirely congregant-acted and directed, *Yetzer Hurrah!: The Musical* will have you laughing, crying, and kvelling!

BENE-MITZVAH BASH

SATURDAY, MAY 3, 2025

6:30 PM

MOUNT ZION TEMPLE

YOU ARE SO INVITED TO MOUNT ZION'S FUNDRAISING EVENT
THAT CELEBRATES THE NOSTALGIA OF BNEI MITZVAH
GATHERINGS FROM A TIME BEFORE CELLPHONES.

GET READY TO DANCE THE HORA, ENJOY YOUR FAVORITE
PARTY FOODS, SIP ON REFRESHING COCKTAILS AND
MOCKTAILS, AND CAPTURE MEMORABLE MOMENTS BENEATH A
FESTIVE BALLOON ARCH.

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND, YOU'LL HAVE FIRST ACCESS TO
SIGN UP FOR A NEW SERIES OF MEETUPS FOR THE UPCOMING
YEAR, LED BY MZ MEMBERS.

TICKETS ARE ON SALE NOW! BE SURE TO SIGN UP BY APRIL
1, 2025, TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF EARLY BIRD PRICING.

[HTTPS://AUCTRIA.EVENTS/MOUNTZIONBENEFIT](https://auctria.events/mountzionbenefit)

MZ BENEFIT COMMITTEE: JULIA STEIN DITTBERNER, DAVID
GOLDSTEIN, ADAM GREENLEAF, LAUREL HOOD, MEREDITH
HICKS, RABBI RENETZKY, AND KATE TUCKER SICHER



Creating a Mount Zion Statement on Protecting the Planet

Mount Zion's Spring Kehillah (Community) Council Meeting

This meeting is for our Board of Directors, Committee Chairs, and all Mount Zion Members

Tuesday, March 11, 7:00 - 9:00 pm

Mount Zion Temple in person and [via Zoom](#)



At the August 2024 Kehillah Council and Board Retreat, we shared our hopes regarding a congregation position statement concerning repair of the planet. Why? Our 2023 [Strategic Plan](#) - based on two years of congregational input - indicated that this was a priority.

We now have a draft of that position statement, and we are excited to hear your feedback.

Participants can expect to view portions of the statement and provide feedback to improve the draft. While this will not be the only opportunity to view and provide feedback on the position statement, the Kehillah Council provides a unique gathering of board members, committee chairs, and interested congregants. We hope to see you there!

Strategy 4 Working Group Members: Michael Kuhne, Chair

Repairing our World - Protect People and the Planet Working Group: Michael Kuhne, Chair, Hella Bloom Cohen, Siana Goodwin, Victoria Lincourt, Rabbi Heather Renetzky, Georgia Ross, Dan Schibel, Jennifer Schneider, Rabbi Adam Stock Spilker, Chad Weinstein

B'ruchim HaBa'im

Welcome to our new members!

Daniel Baker

Jen and Emily Bernstein-Hanlon
and their daughter Tzipi

Seth and Shelly Fine,
and their children Leo, Neva, Ilsa, and Juni

Aaron Goldish and Hillary Aronow,
and their children Oscar, Louie, and Myla

Alexander Gordon-Sandweiss

David Hayes

George Kwok and Stephen Maloney

Sarah Ramos and Anindya Bagchi

Lyra Schneider

Peter and Anna Solomon,
and their daughter Ellen Fay

Mirit Spilker

Joe Kreisman and Allison Wolf,
and their children Cora and Isaac



Photos courtesy of Ethan Roberts.

Defining Antisemitism Event: On Sunday, January 26, Mount Zion hosted along with the JCRC and co-sponsors (St. Paul Jewish Federation, Jewish Community Action, ADL-Midwest, Hineni, Beth Jacob, and Temple of Aaron) around 200 people in person and 200 online for a conversation meant to bring community members across lines of difference on the question of when criticism of Israel crosses the line into antisemitism.

Panim el Panim

Get to know our members!

Meet Trevor and Sarah!



Sarah had known about Mount Zion for almost thirty years before she, Trevor, Pearl, Lilah, and Suzannah moved here from California five years ago. Her older sister had taught first grade in the Religious School while attending Macalester. Moving into the neighborhood and attending

the Purim carnival in March 2020 convinced them they had found the right place.

Sarah and Trevor cite the “people” as the main reason they have continued to engage at Mount Zion – the clergy, the congregation, and the staff. They are especially grateful for their connections to Phil Goldman, and the rest of the Rashi study group, as well as their friends in the Religious School and the Shir Tzion children's choir.

Some of Trevor's favorite memories include raking leaves with Elias and Brotherhood, speaking from the bimah about his 2024 trip to Israel with the St. Paul Jewish Federation, and working in the “cut above” room at the garage sale. Sarah treasures her memories of volunteering with Robert Garfinkle and others in the kitchen for First Friday Shabbat Dinners, listening to Sally Glick, Siana Goodwin, and John Mast sing and chant on Shabbat mornings.

Meet Elizabeth and Joseph!



Elizabeth Martinez-Podolsky and Joseph Podolsky joined Mount Zion three years ago after relocating to the Twin Cities from Iowa. Joseph discovered that he had family connections to Mount Zion, so instead of entering a new community, the Podolskys felt as if they were “coming home.” Additionally, Mount

Zion offered a wide range of educational opportunities for their three children: Ari, Chana, and Avi.

Since becoming members, the Podolsky family has actively participated in various activities, including Religious School, Shir Tzion children's choir, First Friday Shabbat Dinners, adult learning programs, and retreats like “Our Bodies, Our Souls.” Elizabeth is also currently serving on the Board of Directors. The family is especially grateful for the many friends they have made through Mount Zion, who have become their family in the Twin Cities.

When asked for advice for new members, Elizabeth encouraged, “Don't be afraid to talk to others. I've met some really wonderful people just by saying hello. Look for opportunities to serve our community. There are so many ways to give back, and it's also a great way to meet new friends.”

Mount Zion's Legacy Circle

Did you know that Mount Zion has a Legacy Circle for members who have included Mount Zion in their estate plans?

Mount Zion is a community that celebrates the rich tapestry of life—its joys and struggles, triumphs and challenges. We invite you to consider the legacy you wish to create, one that is rooted in Mount Zion's vision and values.

There are several ways to contribute, including: providing a specific dollar amount or asset as a bequest, naming Mount Zion as the beneficiary of a life insurance policy, or designating Mount Zion as the beneficiary of all or part of your qualified retirement plan (such as IRAs or 401(k)s).

To learn more and become a member of the Legacy Circle, please reach out to Kate Tucker Sicher at ktucker@mzion.org or call 651-370-1902.



Yom HaShoah

Minnesota and the Dakotas' Annual Holocaust Remembrance Day Commemoration
Wednesday, April 23, 6:00-8:30 pm at Beth El Synagogue



Yom HaZikaron

Israel's Memorial Day

Tuesday, April 29, 7:00 pm at Beth Jacob Congregation

Yom HaZikaron is the day of national remembrance in Israel to commemorate all the soldiers who lost their lives defending the State of Israel, as well as victims of terror in Israel and around the world. This Memorial Day is held immediately preceding Yom HaAtzmaut, Israel's Independence Day.

Organized by the St. Paul Jewish Federation.



YOM HA'ATZMAUT



Save the Date for the Minnesota JCC's

Yom Ha'atzmaut Celebration!

Sunday, May 4, 2:00 - 5:00 pm

at the Sabes Center – Minneapolis.

More information to come!

Women of Mount Zion Temple

The College Student's Guide to Mental Health

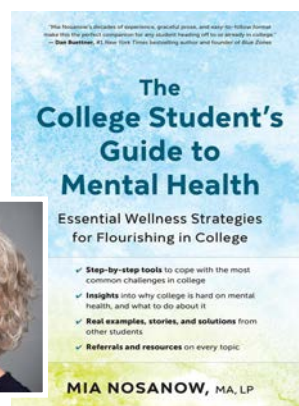
A conversation with author, psychologist, and MZ member Mia Nosanow!

Sunday, March 30, 9:30 - 11:30 am at Mount Zion

Free of charge / light snacks. Copies of Mia's book will be available for purchase.

Contact Liz Stein with inquiries at lizstein@gmail.com or 651-247-6073.

Mia Nosanow, MA, LP, is a licensed psychologist and longtime therapist who specializes in college mental health. For twenty years, she worked at Macalester College in Minnesota, seeing thousands of students for individual and group counseling. Mia and her husband, Seth Levin, have been members at Mount Zion for almost 25 years. *The College Student's Guide to Mental Health* is a finalist for the Minnesota Book Award.



Garage Sale Opening Meeting

Tuesday, May 13, 7:00-8:00pm

Save the dates for the Garage Sale: July 20- Aug. 7.



Blood Drive

Wednesday, April 30, 2:00-7:00 pm

The Women of Mount Zion Temple is partnering with the American Red Cross to host a blood drive. Sign up [online](#), via the Red Cross Blood App (sponsor code: SP Circle of Faith), or call 1-800-733-2767. Help ensure that patients battling their hardest days get another chance at better ones. Bring friends and colleagues!



Religious School News

Religious School Calendar

March 9 - 6th Grade B'nei Mitzvah Family Tzitzit tying workshop
March 16 - Purim Carnival (No Class)
March 21-23 - 7th Grade Sacred Choices Shabbaton
April 6 - PreK and Kindergarten Passover Program
April 13-16 - No RS Passover Break
April 20 - No RS Spring Break
April 25-26 - 8/9th Grade Shabbaton
April 27 - Yom Hashoah School Observance
April 27 - 6th Grade B'nei Mitzvah Family Program:
Putting God on the Guest List
May 4 - 5th Grade B'nei Mitzvah Family Parent Meeting

Save the Date

Religious School Registration for 5785-5786/2025-2026 School Year will be available Sunday April 27. Watch for that email for updates to our Hebrew program and our early bird pricing!

Taste of Mount Zion Religious School

Sunday, March 23, 10:00 - 11:30 am

Come learn more about our Religious School, meet current Religious School families, and see our inclusive and interactive classroom learning! If you have friends who have been looking for an inclusive Jewish educational experience for their kids, bring them along! If you are a member with kids who aren't sure about our education options, come and ask us your questions!

From 10:00 - 11:00 am enjoy snacks, meet current families and get a tour of our synagogue and school. From 11:00 - 11:30 adults and students will be invited to join classes to get a taste of our program! Feel free to stay from 11:45 am - 12:15 pm for our interactive T'filah led by our Rabbis and educators. Come any time during the morning and stay for however long works for your family. Questions? Contact Religious School Director, Alisha Sawyer asawyer@mzion.org.

Youth Engagement News

Youth Groups:

Each of our youth groups have exciting upcoming events!

Noar Tzion (3rd-5th)

Chocolate Seder

Sun., April 6, 12:15-2pm

Join with JYG for a fun and delicious afternoon recounting the Pesach story with chocolate and candy symbols.

Summer Celebration

Sun., May 4, 12:15-2pm

Summer Celebration (celebrate an amazing school year with water play, a picnic, and relay races.

JYG (6th-8th)

Make-Your-Own Pizza Party

Sun., March 2, 12:15-2:00 pm

roll and top your pizza dough and enjoy your pizza with your Mount Zion friends and some art projects.

Chocolate Seder

Sun., April 6, 12:15-2pm

Join with Noar Tzion for a fun and delicious afternoon recounting the Pesach story with chocolate and candy symbols.

Game Day

Sun., April 27, 12:15-2pm

Play board games, card games, and more; you can bring a favorite game to share with your friends.

SPORTY (9th-12th)

Evening at SkyZone

Saturday, March 1, 7:00-9:00 pm

Join us for a fun evening of trampolining, dodgeball, and obstacle courses at SkyZone in Eagan!

Closing Event

Saturday, May 3, 6:00-8:30 pm

Celebrate an amazing year at Mount Zion and honor our outgoing SPORTY Board with dinner and activities!



Mixed Roots

MZ Small Group

Navigating the Interfaith Household Join us for a Social!

Sunday, March 23, 2:00 - 4:00 pm
at John and Julia Dittberner's home

This is a group open to couples, individuals, and grandparents seeking a welcoming and nonjudgmental environment to discuss the issues that face a mixed-roots family. Email Julia Dittberner at jsdittberner22@gmail.com for the address or for details.



Women's Spirituality

Please join us in the Harris Chapel on the following Sunday mornings (unless otherwise noted) for our last few gatherings of the season:

March 9, 9:45-12:15 pm: Facilitated discussion entitled "Finding Meaning in Prayer: Changes/Evolution of Services", followed by our check-in time.

March 29 6:00-8:30 pm: Saturday evening Havdalah gathering when we will join in a delicious potluck meal, games, and Havdalah.

April 6, 9:45-12:30 pm: Facilitated discussion entitled "Strongholds of Jewish spirituality During Difficult Times (antisemitism)," followed by our check-in time.

May 4, 9:45-12:15 pm: Final gathering of the season for our annual outdoor potluck at our member's home (close to Mount Zion).

We are looking forward to sharing time for meaningful learning, connection, fun, and connection!

Co-leaders:

Jen Hakes (jenniferhakespt@gmail.com)

Jenni Schwartz (jennivschwartz@gmail.com)

The Caring Community Team

Every Shabbat, our community sings the MiSheberach prayer, asking for healing and strength for the ill. MiSheberach translates into "who blesses", so we ask that the One who blessed our foremothers and forefathers, bless us as well. We stand for this prayer and say their names aloud.



But there is something else that all of us can do to show compassion and concern for those ailing, either physically or emotionally - we can show up. Our tradition says that if you visit the sick (*bichur cholim*), you remove one-sixtieth of their discomfort. Even if we can't visit, a phone call, text, video chat, or written note can say "I'm thinking of you". And if you want to perform this mitzvah but are unsure or uncomfortable doing so, your Caring Team is ready to coach or guide you anytime.

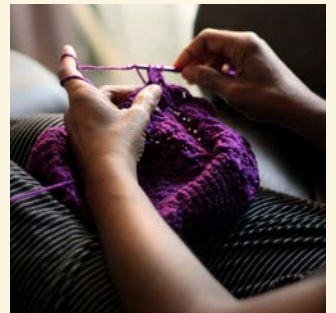
Supporting each other creates a vibrant, connected, and healthy community. That's who we are at Mount Zion!

B'ahava (in love), the Caring Community Team

Questions? Contact Mandy Roll-Kuhne (chair) at mzccaringcommunity.mandy@gmail.com, connect with Rabbi Esther Adler at eadler@mzion.org.

Healing Shawl and baby blanket knitters and crocheters needed!

When visiting congregants who are unwell, recovering, or simply in need of healing, our clergy often give healing shawls made by congregants. We are also beginning a new program of baby blankets given to new parents in the congregation.



Everyone is welcome to participate. No experience is necessary. Don't know how to knit or crochet? That's ok; we can show you how, online or in person. If you've been looking for a new hobby or way to relax, this is it. Studies have found that knitting and crocheting can lower heart rate, blood pressure, harmful blood levels of the stress hormone cortisol, and chronic pain, and can even protect against cognitive decline as we age. This is a great opportunity to combine something that is good for you with doing good for someone else. Already a dedicated knitter or crocheter? What can be better than letting passion meet purpose?

If you would like to volunteer to make shawls and/or baby blankets, contact Susan Raatz (raatz001@umn.edu, 612-385-2567). We will supply patterns and yarn suggestions. When needed, we'll even supply yarn and needles. Weavers: your contributions also are welcome!

THANK YOU...FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS

These donations were received between November 13 and February 11. Donations received after February 11 will be included in the next bulletin.

RABBIS' DISCRETIONARY FUND

In appreciation of:
Rabbi Adler and Rabbi Spilker
 Harvey & Judy Arbit
Rabbi Spilker
 Dick Cohen
 In honor of:
Rita Grossman
 John Mast
Adira Rae Kelzenberg
 Mandy Roll-Kuhne &
 Michael Kuhne
Temple Isaiah in Los Angeles
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BLOOM LIBRARY FUND

In memory of:
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 In yahrzeit memory of:
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In yahrzeit memory of:
Ambrose James Riley
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CEMETERY MAINTENANCE AND BEAUTIFICATION FUND

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Katherine Levin Stenslie
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In yahrzeit memory:
Elynor Edelstein
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IRENE FINBERG CAMP SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In honor of:
The Anniversary of Marc & Mayda Raffé
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 Cynthia Jacobs
 The Maki Family
Cheryl "Candee" Kvasnick
 Devorah Harris Charitable
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Marilyn Trestman
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JULIE LAZOR CONFIRMATION AWARD

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 Toba Lazor
Gladys Rich
 Toba Lazor
Marilyn Sims
 Toba Lazor
Jack Stein
 Sheila Schuman
Shirley Stein
 Sheila Schuman

MALMON-COHEN EDUCATION FUND

In memory of:
Douglas Mogelson
 Elka Abrahamson
 & Misha Zinkow

MELAMED FAMILY LECTURE IN LIBERAL RELIGION FUND

Donations:
 Louis & Nancy Melamed

MITZVAH FOODSHELF

In honor of:
Rabbi Renetzky's Installation
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In memory of:
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MOUNT ZION FUND

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MOUNT ZION RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

In memory of:
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MOUNT ZION YOUTH FUND

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Virg Colich
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THE RALINE AND BILL PAPER EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FUND

In memory of:
Douglas Mogelson
 Raline Paper

TZEDEK FUND - SOCIAL JUSTICE

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Sidney Wolkin
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YAHREZIT FUND

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Leah Warren
 Bonnie Buchbinder &
 Mitzi Kane
Bob Wolfson
 Diane Wolfson

The power to influence Peace, Security & Democracy for Israel is in our hands.

Mount Zion is a part of the US Reform Movement's campaign to support peace, security, and democracy in Israel. We have a once-in-five-years opportunity to make our voices heard in the upcoming World Zionist Congress election. The World Zionist Congress - the "parliament of the Jewish people" - will set policies and allocate almost \$1 billion in funding that impacts Reform Jews and millions of Israelis. There are 20+ slates vying for your vote. The American Reform Movement supports the VOTE REFORM slate.

The VOTE REFORM slate in the World Zionist Congress (WZC) supports:

- Israel's right to exist as a Jewish State and defend its people
- Religious equality where all Jewish traditions and forms of observance are respected
- Full equality under the law for all Israelis (including minorities, women and LGBTQ+ people)
- Regional security for Israel, Palestinians and neighbors

IMPORTANT DETAILS

How to Vote

- Watch for details on how to vote in your weekly Connecting to MZ | This Week at Mount Zion emails coming to your inbox each Monday.

When to Vote

- Starts: Monday, March 10, 2025
- Ends: Sunday, May 4, 2025

Learn More

- Attend an info session at Mount Zion: Sunday March 9 (10am - 11am) or after Shabbat Services on Friday April 25.
- Stop at the info table in the lobby before Shabbat services or during Sunday school (March 10-May 4).
- For a conversation about why voting is crucial, reach out to co-chairs Rabbi Spilker (ASpilker@mzion.org), Michael Wall (wall_michael@hotmail.com) or Jennifer Wall (jwalleditor@hotmail.com).
- To learn more about the WZC and the entire VOTE REFORM slate, visit www.vote4reform.org.
- To learn about other voting slates, visit <https://azm.org/elections/>.

From the Mount Zion Mission:

Acts of Loving Kindness and Justice

Support world Jewry and our historic and spiritual bond to Israel; promote in the Jewish state the values of democracy, justice, and pluralism;. Seek peace and pursue justice, locally and globally, in partnership with others.



Mount Zion Core Work:

We perform acts of loving kindness and justice. We support our historic and spiritual bond to Israel and promote the values of democracy, justice, and pluralism there and everywhere.

Passover

The First Seder of Passover is Saturday night, April 12 / 15 Nisan

Passover ends in the evening on Saturday, April 19 / 21 Nisan

(According to the Torah, in Israel, and in the Reform Movement, Passover is 7 days)

Save the date!

St. Paul Community Women's Seder

Thursday, April 3 at Temple of Aaron

5:45 pm – Shmoozing, mocktails, and art
6:00 pm – Optional Ma'ariv (evening service)
6:30 pm – Seder



More information to come.

Many Voices: Israeli Poetry to Include in Your Passover Seder

Rachel Korazim live from Jaffa, Israel via zoom

Join us in person in Margolis Hall or [via zoom](#)

Sunday, April 6, 10:00 – 11:15 am CST



How are Israelis reflecting on this moment in Jewish history? Master teacher [Rachel Korazim](#), who has collected post-October 7 poetry in a book called, "Shiva", will select poems for our study, reflection, and perhaps inclusion in our own seders.

A Creative Way to Move Into Passover Crossing the Sea: Windows of Light

Saturday, April 5, 12:15-1:45 pm*

Led by Cantor Rachel Stock Spilker



We will explore three short texts related to the Israelites crossing the Red Sea. Then we will break into chevrotah (learning pairs) for a deeper dive, spend time in creative process (could be writing, music, art, dance, or anything else you dream up!), and come back for reflections and sharing. You do not need to be an artist or have a particular artistic skill to participate. This session is about learning and process, not product.

*Time is approximate. Come for any part of Shabbat day: Torah study at 9:00 am, Shabbat service at 10:00 am, the vegetarian potluck lunch afterwards (approximately 11:30 am), and/or this creative text session at approximately 12:15. Hope to see you there!

Festival Morning Services

1st Day Festival Service

Sunday, April 13, 10:00 a.m.

Shabbat Morning

7th Day Festival Service (including Yizkor Prayers)

Saturday, April 19, 10:00 a.m.

The 7th day of Pesach, on Shabbat this year, features two special texts from our tradition: *Shirat Hayam*, the Song of the Sea, the commemoration of crossing the Red Sea which is the Torah text for this festival, and *Shir HaShirim*, the Song of Songs. All are welcome to come hear the chanting of these beautiful texts! Shabbat Passover potluck lunch will follow the service. When considering what to bring for the Passover Potluck, please avoid foods containing Chametz: anything from wheat, barley, rye, oats, and spelt (except for Matzah, of course). If you have any questions, please check with our clergy.

Yizkor prayers are traditionally said four times a year in memory of a deceased parent(s): Yom Kippur, Sh'mini Atzeret (8th day of Sukkot), Passover (7th day), and Shavuot. Even if you have not attended in the past, it is a meaningful opportunity to remember.

Congregational Passover Seder

Saturday, April 12, 6:00 pm

Led by Rabbi Adler and Rabbi Renetzky

More information coming soon!

Join us in a communal celebration of Passover. A sumptuous Passover feast will be served!

Seder plate items for sharing and grape juice will be provided. You are encouraged to bring your own seder plate as well to personalize your experience. If you wish to have wine, please bring your own kosher-for-Passover bottle.



Help us protect those
who struggle with hunger.

Donate today.

Mazon

A Jewish Response
To Hunger

mazon.org | (800) 813-0557



March 1 – April 6, 2025

In Minnesota,

**7.5 million people visit food shelves annually
1 in 6 people struggle with food insecurity**

You Can Help.

**Your contribution will help families
get the food they need.**

**Donate • Host a food drive and fundraiser
Volunteer • Attend events**



**Our donation link will be available on March 1 at mzion.org.
179 Robie Street East | St. Paul, MN 55107**



Brotherhood presents Mount Zion's Men's Retreat

Friday-Sunday, June 6-8

at Dunrovin Retreat Center (near Stillwater)

This will be a weekend of camaraderie, spirituality, and enjoying the great outdoors especially designed for men of all ages from 20s on up!

Some activities and sessions include:

- Celebrate Shabbat with a musical, interactive service and study
- Relax and make new friends from Mount Zion
- Learn about and experience Mussar, Judaism's thousand-year-old practice of character development. (This is the fourth year of including Mussar which past participants have universally appreciated!)
- Fish on the St. Croix River (bring your gear)
- Talk informally about substantive topics in our lives
- Enjoy the quiet and serenity of the retreat grounds
- Bike, yoga, hike, play cards and games, and schmooze!
- Optional bike ride to and from the retreat starting from Mount Zion

[Register](#)

Cost: \$245 per person or a \$195 reduced rate for first time attendees.

Questions? Please contact: Bruce Matza at BruceMatza@InnovationsInManagement.com / 616-901-1823 or Bruce Noyes at BruceNoyes@gmail.com / 651-329-0705.



MaZAL

Mount Zion Germany/France Trip Informational Session

Monday, March 17, 7:00 - 8:30 pm

We will host an informational meeting for all going or considering the Germany / France trip (October 25-November 2, 2025). Rabbi Don Goor and Nimrod Shafran who work for J2 Adventures will be in town to meet with us. They have worked with Mount Zion for years and are friends. We will go over the itinerary, discuss the possibilities for extended personal travel beyond the group travel, and answer your questions. [Sign up here!](#) Any questions, email Rabbi Spilker aspilker@mzion.org.



Learning Liturgy: Unlocking the Mysteries of the Siddur

Monday, March 24, 7-8:30 pm at Mount Zion and [via Zoom](#) - Registration details coming soon.

Led by Rabbi Heather Renetzky

This class will provide a crash course in navigating and using the *Mishkan T'filah*, our Shabbat prayerbook. We'll review the structure of the Friday night and Saturday morning services and will go over some of the high points of the service. If you've ever sat in services thinking, "How am I ever going to find my way around this siddur?!" this class is for you! All are welcome!



Social Action Update

Tzedek = Justice

Justice, Justice!

Tzedek Committee continues its pursuit of justice, focusing on racial justice, climate justice and the work of welcoming refugees and asylum seekers. We are embracing the theme of *Water* this year. We are focused on water as a source of life, as an imperiled global resource, and as both a barrier, and a path to safety for refugees and asylum seekers. In our community of lakes and rivers, we reflect on the beauty of creation and of the many ways we are called upon to repair our world where it has been fractured, weaponized, and misused.

Climate Justice

Save the date for the **Climate Action Resource Fair**

Sunday April 27, 10:30-12:30 pm

Carbon footprint reduction, native plant gardens, international climate issues, Mount Zion Grounds Restoration, and more! If you have ideas for additions to the Fair or would like to volunteer, please contact Siana Goodwin at sgoodwin2@comcast.net.

Opportunities to volunteer with Friends of the Mississippi River will occur periodically throughout the summer.

Immigration Justice

In keeping with our commitment to immigration justice, and Mount Zion's identity as a sanctuary support congregation, Mount Zion continues to support a number of new immigrant families who need basic necessities. Specific needs will be publicized through the weekly, *This Week at Mount Zion*. On an ongoing basis we need Target and Cub gift cards for the families we are assisting. If you can help, please drop off gift cards at the Temple office during normal business hours, designated for the Tzedek Committee.

Tzedek committee members are working to stay up to date on changing policies regarding immigration, refugees, and asylum in the U.S. We are always in need of volunteers to help individuals and families navigate these changing circumstances. Please check our Tzedek webpage for current information. For information, contact Mark Joffe (marksjoffe@gmail.com).

Racial Justice

The *Race, Reparations, and Rondo* MZ Small Group continues to build momentum. We are building relationships with the Rondo Library and Rondo's St. Paul Aquatics program, which is setting a national standard for drowning prevention programs. Updates will be posted on our website.

Please visit our updated website (mzion.org/act/social-justice) for the most current information on Tzedek actions and events.

- Diana Dean and Michael Kuhne, Tzedek Committee Co-Chairs

Neighborhood House Volunteer Opportunities



Neighborhood House currently is looking for volunteers in these areas: Adult Education Outreach Ambassador; Adult Education Intake Assistant; Housing Administrative Assistant, and Youth Mentors. If interested in learning more about the volunteer opportunities, contact volunteer@neighborhoodhousemn.org.

Young Adult Engagement

We have had an amazing past few months of 20s/30s programming! We have had two month-long educational series with Rabbi Renetzky where participants dove into High Holy Day preparation and Shabbat exploration, we decorated the congregational sukkah, we celebrated Chanukah together, and we had a fun Challah braiding workshop with Mount Zion's teens. Our young adults also have a strong presence at intergenerational programming around Mount Zion, attending Shabbat services, educational programs, and social gatherings. If you are interested in learning more about young adult engagement, please reach out to Director of Youth and Young Adult Engagement, Abby Gore (agore@mzion.org).



Young Adult Learning Series More info coming soon!

Join us for an upcoming series to deepen your Jewish knowledge and connect with other young adults. Each learning series consists of 3-4 classes and is open to people of all experiences. Got ideas for our next series topic? Email Rabbi Renetzky at hrenetzky@mzion.org.

Join us for 20s/30s Evening at the Wild Game!

Monday, March 17, 7pm

Join Jewish young adults from around the Twin Cities for the MN Wild Game at the Xcel Energy Center in Downtown Saint Paul. Tickets are \$25 and include your seat and snacks.



[Register](#)

Rabbi Adam Stock Spilker
 Rabbi Esther Adler
 Cantor Jennifer Strauss-Klein
 Cantor Rachel Stock Spilker
 Rabbi Heather Renetzky, Director of Congregational Engagement
 Kate Tucker Sicher, Executive Director
 Alisha Sawyer, Religious School Director
 Abby Gore, Director of Youth and Young Adult Engagement
 Amy Schwartz Moore, President
 Jon Strauss, President-Elect

Teresa Matzek, *Iton Tziyon*, editor
 tmatzek@mzion.org
 Website: www.mzion.org

The power to influence
 Peace, Security & Democracy
 for Israel is in our hands.



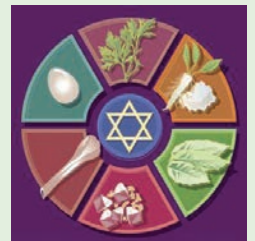
Learn more about the World Zionist Congress
 election on page 15.

Passover

The First Seder of Passover is
Saturday night, April 12 / 15 Nisan

Passover ends in the evening on
Saturday, April 19 / 21 Nisan

For service times and events, see p. 16.



Neighborhood House
MarchFOODDrive
 February 26 – April 6
 See page 17 for details.

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PURIM at Mount Zion: The Best Jewish Holiday for All Ages!

Purim commemorates the story of Esther, who rescued the Jews of ancient Persia (now Iran) from persecution. Traditions include dressing in costume and eating hamantaschen (triangular stuffed pastries). It is our springtime chance for some fun!

A Purim Evening Extravaganza:
Schmooze, Boos, and Amuse!
Thursday, March 13, 6:00 pm

Silly Service, Purim Spiel, and Carnival
Sunday, March 16, 9:30 am - 12:30 pm

See p. 6 for details.

