



THE AARONION

TEMPLE OF AARON'S
MONTHLY
NEWSLETTER

616 S. Mississippi River Blvd, St. Paul, MN 55116-1099 • (651) 698-8874 • www.TempleofAaron.org

Vol. 95 • No. 4

December 1, 2019

3 Kislev 5780

Crayola Universe ToAkeover

At Crayola Experience in MoA
December 14th at 6:30pm



- 9 Hanukkah Candle Experiences
- Hanukkah Food
- Holiday Music
- And More!

\$5 Per Person
Children 2 and Under FREE

RSVP and Questions?
DanaeThorpe@templeofaaron.org



Kehillat Shabbat Hanukkah Style Musical Service & Dinner
Welcome Back Coleen Dieker
December 13, 2019



6:00pm *Kehillat Shabbat Musical Service*
7:00 pm *Hanukkah Shabbat Dinner*

Dinner: \$18/adults; \$15/Child RSVP to Susiehaim@templeofaaron.org

The Rabbi's Desk



Rabbi Jeremy Fine

651-252-6412

Email:

RabbiJeremyFine@TempleofAaron.org

Twitter:

@RabbiJeremyFine

Wrestling for a Better World

In Genesis 32 our Patriarch Jacob wrestles with what we call an angel. He fights with him until daybreak. Eventually, this leads to Jacob getting a new name, Israel. This iconic biblical scene is often one of the most precarious ones. Who was the angel and why was he wrestling with Jacob?

When Temple of Aaron brought wrestling into the synagogue, people had similar questions: Who was wrestling and why wrestling? Even the skeptics who poked their heads in saw a tremendous evening filled with Jewish wrestlers, Jewish content, and a packed synagogue singing Shabbat Shalom to end the event. Jewish children were having the time of their lives in the synagogue social hall – certainly an evening they will never forget.

But why wrestling? There are many reasons this idea came to fruition. It began to take shape a few years

ago at the young family Kallah with Ashi Gavzy, Eli Temkin, Jake Glickstein, Mark Divine, and myself (sorry if I missed someone) all brainstorming the idea. After going through many contacts and iterations we were able to partner with F1rst Wrestling, Minnesota's top wrestling company. Then we were off and running and several goals were met.

First, we provided an innovative and unique way to celebrate Judaism. The show had content, the Jewish wrestlers were proud, and our fans were ecstatic. The roar of the crowd and the electricity throughout the building created an experience that only Temple of Aaron could have delivered.

Secondly, this was a revenue driver. The first show helped pay for the entire block party that our community and the Highland Park community were able to enjoy. Our vendors were thrilled with the turnout and the funds will help continue to drive more programs.

Finally, the biggest accomplishment was a subliminal Interfaith Program. When we host Pastors or cross programming with a church, we have the same people over and over again. If you followed the event on social media, you might have learned how many people were in a synagogue for the first time and how many finally met a Rabbi. Through wrestling, we broke down barriers with those who might have never known a Jew or Jewish community before that night. We stood proud to embrace different culture and help others come together to see more than what they read or knew before.

I hope many will join us on December 11, 2019 to give Temple of Wrestling: Hanukkah Havok a try. It will be different and it will be fun. While all the VIP and ringside seats are sold out, come join us for general admission and be a part of the exciting event. Be like Jacob, wrestling with the unknown and just maybe you will be a little different afterwards.

See you in shul (and the ring),
Rabbi Jeremy Fine

Night of Peace and Goodwill

December 4 at 6:00 pm ~ At Highland Park High School Cafeteria

Jews, Christians, and Muslims in St. Paul's Highland Park neighborhood are gathering together for a family friendly Community Engagement event that will include a panel of speakers, representing the three local religious communities. Panel members are: Rabbi Jeremy Fine (Jewish Community, Temple of Aaron), Reverend Paul Feela (Christian Community, Lumen Christi Parish), and Mr. Abdisalam Adam (Muslim Community, Assistant Principal at HPHS).

USCJ Conference



Rabbi Fine attended USCJ Community and Covenant Conference on Interfaith Families. Pictured with Rabbi Rachel Blart and ToA friend Kalman Pila.



Quick Trip to New York City for the
Yeshiva University Book Sale!

February 10-11, 2020

Minimum 5 People to Go

- Learning at the Jewish Theological Seminary
- Attend Largest Judaism Book Sale
- Dine in NYC



Sign-up deadline is January 10, 2020.

Mazel Tov to Susan & Hart Rosenblatt on their wedding. Rabbi Jeremy Fine & Cantor Joshua Fineblum officiated.





TAXY Ugly Sweater Party
December 15 at 3:00-5:30 pm
at Rabbi Miller's Building

“Put on your yarmulke, here comes Hanukkah. So much funukkah, to celebrate Hanukkah!” Come and celebrate Hanukkah early with all of your Temple of Aaron TAXY friends!! The night will be filled with drinks, community, and an ugly sweater contest.



Hacking Hanukkah
December 21 at 9:15 am

Latkes, Dreidels, and Menorahs, oh my!!! These are the things that we commonly associated with the holiday of Hanukkah and this class will take a look at some of our more well-known traditions but will also explore the complexity of the holiday and what we are truly commemorating during this day.

Who Wrote the Torah?
with JTS PhD candidate
Ryan Higgins

December 7 & 14 at 9:15 am



This class introduces students to scholarly methods investigating the composition of the Torah. Why does it look the way

it does and what is the best way to read it? Covers historical background, the development of historical-critical scholarship.

The Rabbi's Notes

Afraid of the Dark

As I sit to write my article for this month, I feel compelled to share a story from putting Aria to bed this evening. We were going through our normal routine of brushing her teeth, reading a story, and then ending with our three nightly songs/prayers; *b'shem HaShem*, the *Shema*, and *twinkle twinkle*.

As I was about to walk out of her room she asked if I could open up her door a little bit more. I asked her why and she responded, “Cause I’m afraid of the dark.” I could relate to my precious daughter because when I was growing up, I too had a fear of the dark and often needed to leave a light on or have my door open ajar. As I went to open her door slightly more, she asked me a question, “Baba, are you afraid of the dark.”

I had to pause in that moment, often times we as parents try to be strong and not show our own fears or weaknesses to our children. However, in that moment I had to be honest. All I said to her was, “Sometimes, it’s OK to be afraid. Sometimes, but we need to find ways to make us unafraid and strong. Like the light. The light from your closet helps you to not be afraid. Light is so amazing at this.”

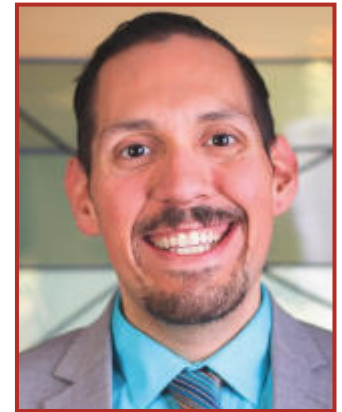
I then kissed her on the head, said “goodnight, lila tov, and sweet dreams and left her room. I know that when Aria asked me, she was talking about the actual physical darkness. The physical darkness can be scary as I am sure Aria and I are not the only two who had this fear. However, I was thinking more of the metaphorical sense of darkness. The darkness that leads others to hate an individual. The darkness that clouds or moral character and ethical viewpoints. The metaphorical darkness that seems to be creeping its way more and more into our everyday lives.

This idea reminds me of a midrash that discuss the creation of the world. When God created light and it entered the world, the light was so bright that it might have almost been blinding. It was said that a person could see it from one end of the earth to another. God soon realized that the light was too bright for his creations, so HaShem diminished the light, creating which in turn created a hidden light. While we do not get to bask in those brilliant rays, currently Kabbalah suggests that we are charged with the task to seek out this hidden light, to find it hidden in the darkened corners of this earth and allow that light to glow once again.

That light can be found in one another. The light that each of us has for the potential to bring good out into the world. The light that is within each of us to show love and compassion to one another. The light that comes shining through in the actions of those responding to a crisis or a difficult situation. Each of us can be that light. Each of us has the ability shine as a beacon of hope for this world.

As we enter into the festival of lights this month, may we each to the opportunity to publicize our internal light to make the darkness that we confront diminish. May we enter a time and place where all of us, whether 4-year-old or adult, can no longer be afraid of the dark.

Kol Tuv,
Rabbi Micah Miller



Rabbi Micah Miller
Assistant Rabbi
651-252-6411
Email:
RabbiMiller@TempleofAaron.org



Join Cantor Joshua & Andrea Fineblum on an amazing, unique Israel trip this June! Trip includes: food & chef experiences, see the new technology Israel has to offer, 2 spiritual Shabbatot & More! Email JoshuaFineblum@templeofaaron.org for questions.

Youth Education



Joshua Fineblum, CJE

Cantor/Educator

651-252-5403

Email:

JoshuaFineblum@TempleofAaron.org

The High Holiday season has come and gone and we are about to conclude the relaxing month of Cheshvan, which had no holidays, other than Shabbat. While this past month was all about giving back to the community with our annual Take Stock in Our Youth Fundraiser, Mitzvah Mission, and Thanksgiving, the month ahead is all about celebration as we look toward the holiday of Hanukkah. The Holiday of Hanukkah is all about beatification and rededication. Pretty much just a clean up by the Maccabees of the Temple in Jerusalem and the beautification of the holiest parts of the Temple, as well. With no Temple today, how do we beautify and rededicate?

Of course, we light the Hanukkiah and eat amazing foods that remind us of the lighting of the Menorah in Temple times. The tradition is not just to light the candles but show others about the miracle of the holiday as we Pirsum HaNes, publicize the

miracle. Many families do this by placing the Hanukkiah in the window of their home.

This year we will have some programs for groups of all ages over Hanukkah including Hanukkah Havok through Crossriver Events, L'Door v'Door, a new Hanukkah Musical program for families with children two and under, Hanukkah Crayola Experience for members of all ages, and more!

Over the past few months we have fully launched our Kehillat Shabbat Musical Service and, luck for us, Musician-in-Residents Coleen Dieker will be back with us on December 13 for this participatory service experience. We are looking forward to having Coleen back with us singing and elevating our service that evening. Coleen along with myself and our service leaders will add some Hanukkah flare to the end of the service to get us in the mood of the upcoming holiday.

Please join us that evening for a festive Shabbat service as we prolong the celebration of Hanukkah throughout the month. May this year continue to be bright and shining like the Hanukkah candles and let us continue to celebrate and be joyous together!

L'Door V'Door: Baby Judaism @ Your Door



December
7th
3:00-4:30pm

Calling all Children from
Birth-2 years of age
to join
Cantor Josh and
Educator
Briana Lavintman
for a fun musical
afternoon on the West Side
of the River!

Email Cantor Josh or contact the ToA office for more details!

*Thank you to everyone
who has continued to
purchase stock to help
support our Youth at
Temple of Aaron.*

Tracey & Ken Agranoff
Amos & Celia Heilicher
Minneapolis Jewish Day School
Wendy & Steve Baldinger
Jaime Wynn-Bell & Michael Bell
Camp Ramah Wisconsin
Allie & Mark Divine
Mollie & Jason Divine
Susan & Alan Divine
Dobkin Family
Melissa Weisman & Rick Epstein
Jessie & Rabbi Jeremy Fine
Fink Families
Andrea & Cantor Joshua Fineblum
Barbara & Rabbi Steven Fineblum
Sandy & Neal Gale
Kristin & David Gantman
Christine Schmidt & Andrew Greene
Gitlin Family
Jay Goldberger
Shelly & Ira Golden
Susan Gonzales
Herzl Camp
Wendy Kane
Kotovsky Family
Nancy & Stephan Lane
Lazarus Family
Adi Leviatan & Eli Muchtar
Lipschultz Family
Betty Meerovich
Lisa & Mark Lerman
Milbern Clothing
April & Rabbi Micah Miller
Miriam & Jon Muscoplat
Newport Cold Storage
Emily & Howie Paper
Stephanie & Dan Perelstein
Roxanne & Gary Portnoy
Jody Cohen Press
Sue Rosner
Jodi & Dan Saltzman
Polly & Michael Saxon
Margie & Bart Schneider
Michelle & Steven Shaller
Sue & Jerry Schwartz
Alisha & Jesse Simon
Irina & Andrei Shofman
Temple of Aaron Sisterhood
Dede & David Smith
Emma & Eli Temkin
Wholesale Imprints and Promotions
Madee & Peter Wilton
Zien Family
Janet Zylberberg

Youth Happenings

December Education & Youth Calendar

- 1 No Tikone USY, No Play Rehearsal**
- 4 Hebrew School/TiKone USY/ Play Rehearsal (7th-12th)**
- 7 Shabbat School (Birth-7th) L'Door V'Door 3pm**
- 8 TiKoneUSY Play Rehearsal (K-12th)**
- 11 Hebrew School/TiKone USY/ Play Rehearsal (7th-12th)**
- 14 Shabbat School (Birth-7th) Crayola Universe Takeover @ MOA**
- 15 TiKoneUSY Play Rehearsal (K-12th)**
- 18 Hebrew School/TiKone USY/ Play Rehearsal (7th-12th)**
- Dec. 21-Jan. 1 Winter Break. No School. No Play Rehearsal**

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR YOUTH MUSICAL WITH A PLAY AD

PLAY SPONSOR	\$800
TICKET SPONSOR	\$300
FULL PAGE COLOR 8.5" X 5.5"	\$200
FULL PAGE 8.5" X 5.5"	\$125
HALF PAGE 4.25" X 5.5"	\$75
QUARTER PAGE 2.125" X 5.5"	\$50
SINGLE LINE UP TO 75 CHARACTERS	\$15

Contact Jorie Bernhardt
 Director of Youth and Family Programming
 JorieBernhardt@templeofaaron.org

The Hebrew word **שָׂמַשׁ** means “helper” in Hebrew. The Shamash is used to light all of the other candles on the Hanukkah menorah. The Shamash lights each candle without diminishing or adding to its own light. I find this to be a beautiful metaphor for how we can help another by sharing our light, helping others shine, and creating a warmth and glow in each of our hearts.

This Hanukkah and holiday season, I want to challenge our families to find ways to be a Shamash and share their light with a person or perhaps even an animal in need. Here are a few suggestions to get you started, but work together as a family and come up with your own projects.

1. Before sitting down to the traditional December 25th meal of Chinese food and a movie, spend your morning or afternoon preparing and/or serving a meal at a soup kitchen or Ronald McDonald House.
2. Choose your favorite animal rescue/shelter and purchase items off their wish-list (or bring your donation of food/supplies to the place of your choosing). You can also recycle old T-shirts and make dog or cat toys to donate to shelters. If you're looking for more of a commitment, some rescues and shelters seek families to short-term foster dogs to give them a break from the stress of shelter life.
3. Make Blessings Bags. Purchase gallon size Ziploc bags, non-perishable ready-to-eat foods (i.e. granola bars, tuna pouches, individual serving crackers, etc.), personal care items, socks, gloves. The options are endless. Assemble these bags and leave them in your car. As you are driving hither and yon, and spot someone with a sign asking for help, ask if they can use one of your bags.
4. Donate non-perishable foods to your local food shelf.

What can you and your family do to be the light in your community?



Jorie Bernhardt

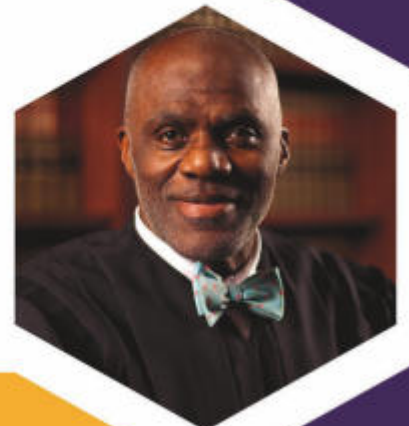
Director of Youth and Family Programming

Email: JorieBernhardt@TempleofAaron.org
 651-252-6415

Save the Date Legendary Viking & Judge Justice Alan Page January 4th



Justice Page will be part of a moderated conversation from the Bimah, read his children's book to our youth, and hold a conversation with parents on the first Shabbat of the New Year.



Sponsored in Cooperation with the Page Education Foundation

Destination Shabbat

Vision Speakers — December



Judy Halper

Join us on December 14 to hear from Judy Halper, CEO of JFCS Minneapolis, and from Ruth Hampton Olkon, CEO of JFS St. Paul. These community leaders will join us that shabbat morning to share all of the work that they and their respective organizations are doing for all of the families of the Twin Cities. Judy will be speaking from the bimah during the sermon time slot that day and Ruth will be holding a dessert and discussion following services. This will be a premier opportunity for us to learn more about what is going on in our cities and how we can potentially make a difference.



Ruth Hampton Olkon



Vision Speaker Series

We research options and try to invite outside speakers once per month to Temple of Aaron. We enjoy regularly hearing from our Rabbis on several different topics, and we also enjoy hearing from others about their stories and visions for the future. Vision Speakers are chosen to deal with current topics that add value to both regular Shabbat attendees as well as attract other members and non-members.

We had two of these speakers during October/November – Sarah Idan (former Miss Iraq) and Hen Mazzig (Israeli LGBTQ Activist).

Both speakers spoke from the Bimah as a warmup for further discussion with questions directed to them in a more intimate setting in the Leifman Chapel. In both cases, those dessert and learn question periods became the more important aspect of their presentations.

It is crucially important for attenders to be prepared to spend more time with these speakers when that opportunity arises. The added time after lunch will be wisely spent since we all hear more insights and more fascinating stories for members and non-members.

I personally found both speakers to be quite informative. Sarah Idan spoke eloquently about both anti-Semitism and Israeli-Palestinian peace. I was amazed at her bravery and her ability to learn English as a second language. Her message has been given at the United Nations Human Rights Council as well as many other venues. For those who were able to stay a little later on Shabbat, the reward was large.

Hen Mazzig is a well-spoken Tunisian emigrant who advocates for the rights of many in Israel and has come to the United States to address, among other issues, the BDS movement being argued for on many of our University Campuses.

I hope that when we bring speakers to the Temple of Aaron in the future, we can both intrigue you and provide enough information to help you schedule time to enjoy, learn, discuss and think.

Barry Divine
Executive Vice-President

Service Schedule

Friday Night Services
begins at 6:00pm in Leifman Chapel

Saturday Morning Shabbat Services
begins at 9:00am

Minyan Monday – Thursday Services
begins at 6:00pm in Leifman Chapel

Sunday Morning Minyan Services
begins at 9:00am in Leifman Chapel

Shabbat Morning Features

Traditional Shabbat – December 7
Sermon by Rabbi Fine
Who Wrote the Torah Class

Visions Speakers – December 14
JFCS CEO Judy Halper &
JFS St. Paul CEO Ruth Hampton Olkon
Who Wrote the Torah Class

Social Justice Shabbat – December 21
Sermon by Rabbi Fine
Hacking the Holidays Hanukkah Class

Traditional Shabbat – December 28
Sermon by Rabbi Miller



**ToA's first Crossriver Event –
The Glass Ceiling Series,
featuring Tennis Legend
Julie Heldman –** was held
at the O'Shaughnessy at
St. Thomas. Heldman shared
her story of empowerment to
an enthusiastic crowd.
Thank you to Marc Shapiro
for the evening's
photography.

Food Drive



The High Holy Days food drive was a big success, with 1,025 pounds of food delivered to Francis Basket. In addition, a check in excess of \$600 was sent to help the food pantry purchase more food. Thanks to the entire ToA community and USY teens who collected cans/dry goods from neighbors to support our food insecure neighbors. A special thanks to Howard Goldman, Irene Goldman, Brian Zaidman, and Sue Flynn for assisting with this food delivery, which filled three large cars with non-perishable items.

Temple of Aaron Blood Drive



Hugh Gitlin



Gary Portnoy

Group & Committee Voices

Temple of Aaron Sisterhood

ART, WINE & CHEESE – Thursday, December 5, 6:30-8:30pm in the Greenberg Room. This program is open to all, so bring your friends and relatives to this fun, relaxing evening! The art is presented by Paint, Paper, Scissors, with the project being alcohol ink on glass. Wine, snacks and non-alcoholic beverages will be provided by Sisterhood. The cost is \$18. RSVP to Linda Eisenstadt at 651-454-6042. Babysitting upon request.

SISTERHOOD SHABBAT – Save the date for our annual Sisterhood Shabbat weekend, Feb. 7 & 8. There will be a congregational musical service and dinner on Friday evening, and Shabbat morning services run by Sisterhood. Our speaker will be Rabbi Ellen Wolintz-Fields, the executive director of Women's League.

MAHJONGG – Sunday, December 8 at 1:00pm in the Smith Library. RSVP to Margie Schneider (651-698-4358 or 7381jbs@comcast.net) to ensure we have enough sets and tables. All levels including total beginners welcome.

SISTERHOOD KNITS – Tuesday, Dec. 10, 9:30am at the Riverview Café, Minneapolis. Contact Susan Gonzalez (12-791-5606 or suziemgonzalez@comcast.net) for more information. All levels of knitters and crocheters welcome, including total beginners.

SISTERHOOD BOOK GROUP – Sunday, December 29, 9:30am at Baker's Square in Highland. The choice this month is *Sarah* by Marek Halter. Contact Barb Pogoler (abpogoler@msn.com or Mary Clark (linpar25777@gmail.com) to make sure there is a place at the table.

BUILDING FUND CARDS – Purchase a card with a \$5 minimum donation for any happy or sad occasion. Just contact Susan Kushner (651-454-8336) and she will send one out. You will be billed for the cards. All monies raised are presented to the Temple for enhancements to the building!

FOOD SHELF – Sisterhood and the Social Justice Committee work together to fill the Francis Basket Food Shelf. Use the bins outside the gift shop for food items or send a check in honor or memory of someone you love to: Harriet Levy, 1826 Merlot Curve, Eagan, MN 55122. Questions? Call Harriet at 651-454-6829.

SISTERHOOD GIFT SHOP – Looking for Hanukkah or any other Judaic merchandise for gifts or for yourself? Look no further, come to the Temple of Aaron Sisterhood Gift Shop, where we not only have some lovely new merchandise, but all of our merchandise is discounted 20%, except books are reduced 10%, and there is no discount on mezuzah parchment. The sale is on now through January 5. You will find beautiful new tallitot, Kiddush cups, Shabbat candle holders, menorahs for children and adults, and other beautiful merchandise from a variety of vendors. Our Gift Registry is available for anyone to register for Life Cycle Events. Hours are Sun. 9am-12pm; Wed. 10am-1pm and 6pm-8pm; and by appointment with Marcia Taple (651-688-3030 or 651-402-6891) or Etta Lambright (612-229-4340).

Social Justice Committee

For the Social Justice Shabbat on Dec. 21, Robert Aronson, a local HIAS representative, will speak about the work being done by HIAS to protect refugees. He will deliver a d'var Torah and will lead a session following services.

Blood Drive: At our Nov. 3 blood drive, we collected 35 units of blood. The Temple of Aaron and the Red Cross are very appreciative of the many donors and volunteers.

Food Drive: The High Holy days food drive was a big success. Social Justice committee members delivered 1,025 pounds of food to Francis Basket and Sisterhood sent a check for over \$600 to help the food pantry purchase more food. Thanks to the entire ToA community and USY teens who collected cans and dry goods from neighbors to support our food insecure neighbors.

Thank you תודה רבה

Donations in memory of loved ones (\$10 or more)
October/November 2019 Tishri/Cheshvan 5780

Bernstein, Paula	Kaufman, Lennie & Jill	Simkhovich, Boris & Raisa
Blyakher, Igor & Sima	Kaufman, Stuart	Simon, Jerome & Yetta
Braginsky, Inna & Gregory	Klein, E. Gary & Marion	Sokol, Mike & Stacy
Burstein, Scott	Kopilenko, Alexander & Bella	Stacker, Howard & Tillie
Calof, Stanley	Levinsohn, Mark	Starr, Irina
Fiedelman, Eileen	Mack, Ellen & Tom Bates	Suponitsky, Aleksandr
Fradkin, Ruta	Marcovitch, Ben & Rollie	Tabert, David & Deborah
Garellick, Ken & Molly	Marvy, Bob & Florie	Taple, Marcia
Geller, Loren & Rosie	Netzman, Steve	Tilsen, Sandy & Bob
Gettinger, Jill	Oskey, Tim & Wendy	Uchenik, Esfir
Gordon, Frank & Cookie	Paster, Jacqueline	Valdman, David & Ida
Grinberg, Roman & Elena	Phillips, Jan & Janet	Vinitsky, Shirley
Guiver, Abby	Savage, Edith	Zaretsky, Karolina
Kaplan, Victoria	Schneider, Bart & Margie	
Karon, Norene	Schwartz, Jerry & Sue	

... to Anita Ernst and Burt Katz for adding address labels to over 800 November Aaronions to keep our community fully informed about upcoming services and programs.
... to Susan Tervola and Hart Rosenblatt who sponsored a Shabbat lunch in November in honor of their Auf Ruf and November 9 wedding.
... to Sue Rosner for repairing the Cantor's pulpit cover.
... to Take Stock Committee members Betty Meerovich, Miriam Muscoplat, Stephanie Perelstein, Emily Paper and Andrei Shofman.
... to Wendy Oskey, Brian Zaidman, and Richard Strimling for organizing the Blood Drive.

Help Those Who Need Food Shelf Every Week

Thousands of Minnesota families rely on food shelf for a simple meal. We can help working families, children and seniors who might go without food.



Bring food to synagogue, go to website and donate, or mail check to chair-person Harriet Levy. Harriet will mail a card for get well, celebration or condolence. Help us help others!

Cemetery Planning Reduces Stress

We sell affordable graves to members and non-members with multi-month payment plans. There will be price increases taking effect Jan. 1, 2020 so make your deposit in 2019.



Ken Agranoff

Act now to solidify family plans. We have a mixed faith section for members. Contact Executive Director Ken Agranoff at 651-252-6406 or kenagranoff@templeofaaron.org for an 18-minute meeting. Seize the opportunity to avoid a last-minute emotional meeting.

Blessings

נחמו נחמו עמי

DECEMBER WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

We display every 5 years and all anniversaries of more than 50 years

מזל טוב

- 66 Melvin & Evelyn Kamin
- 63 Lawrence & Honey Zelle
- 60 Burton & Lucille Garr
- 54 Stuart & Joann Marofsky
- 52 Steven & Barbara Rutzick
- 50 Leopold & Yelena Vigdorovich
- 50 Mark & Elaine Adelman
- 35 Ron & Karen Balto
- 25 David & Kristin Gantman

Our deep and sincere sympathy to the family of the following members who have passed away

Izabella Knurenko
Beverly Edelstein

A Memorial Plaque Has Been Displayed For
Natalie Saxon

KISLEV BANNER: In honor of Dr. Louis E. Epstein's 75th birthday (William Saltzman Design). The banner is a combination of cloth and metal with eight Hanukkah candles burning brightly. The banner was made by Laeh Raskas, Ruth Ann Schumeister and Mary Calof and took 6 months to complete.

News from JWV

Members of Jewish War Veterans of Minnesota Posts 162, 331, 354 and Auxiliary Post 354 will be leading Bingo Sunday Dec. 28, 2019 at Sholom East St. Paul. They will be conducting their monthly visits to the Veterans Hospital Dec. 22 at 10:00 a.m. with the popular notebook gift.

On Saturday, Nov. 9, Peter Nikitas, newly elected National Judge Advocate, Lou Michaels, New Dept. of Mn. Commander and Renee Kvasnik, President of the JWV 354 attended Temple of Aaron for Veterans Day and were joined by numerous members that are JWV Veterans.

The annual Membership Dinner was held at Mancini's Char House Oct. 30. Harvey Weiner, National Commander JWV, Barry Lischinsky, National Chief of Staff, Shawn Krizaj, Fire Chief of City of Duluth, Ben Johnson Firefighter (famous photo with Torah) knighted in ceremony by Winter Carnival Royalty were in attendance.

Temple of Aaron has the largest membership in the posts and the auxiliary and continues to grow in membership. Cantor/Educator Joshua Fineblum, Temple of Aaron, did a presentation at the Auxiliary 354 paid up luncheon prior to the High Holidays. JWV welcomes all to join that support the values of the Jewish War Veterans.

Details Matter



Thank you to Board member Sue Rosner for repairing our Cantor's pulpit cover!

...and More

Welcome to Temple of Aaron! New Member Spotlight: Leslie Chudnoff

Our membership committee is sitting down with new members for a Q&A and introducing you to them here in the *Aaronion*! This month we want to welcome Leslie Chudnoff! Please make sure to say "Hi!" next time you see her!



Q: Where did you grow up and what brought you to Minnesota?

LC: I am originally from the North Shore suburbs of Milwaukee and moved to Los Angeles after I finished graduate school. I have family throughout the Midwest, as well as on the East and West Coasts.

I retired last year and I do not have any immediate living family left in Southern California, and I wanted to be closer to my family. My cousin lives in Eagan and she mentioned that the quality of life, low crime rate, beautiful neighborhoods and natural resources, and the vibrant Jewish community made it a better option than Wisconsin.

Q: What was your profession? Hobbies?

LC: I am a retired librarian. I was a manager for the Los Angeles Public Library system. I worked there for 30 years. I am currently a substitute librarian for Dakota County and a substitute teacher for ISD 196. Hobbies include reading, writing fiction, target shooting, showing dogs, cooking, and gardening. I am a member of the state and local historical societies.

Q: Why did you choose the Temple of Aaron?

LC: My friend Amy Miller Stern is a lifelong member, and the rabbi from my synagogue in Los Angeles has family who are members of Temple of Aaron. I thought that was a good sign! I also feel most at home at a conservative synagogue.

Q: Favorite Jewish Food?

LC: Cabbage borscht and potato blintzes

Q: Favorite Jewish Holiday?

LC: Shavuot. I love the late night Torah studies and the dairy foods.

Goldmans Improve System

Early this year the ongoing separation of families seeking asylum in the United States prompted us to become involved in this human rights issue. For the past eight months we have been working with a Honduran family which is in the process of seeking asylum in the United States. These are not illegal immigrants. They are here legally as they wait for a hearing and a decision on their case.

The family consists of a mother, her young son, and her teenage sister. The mother is now able to work as she has been here more than six months. The boy is in elementary school and the teenager is in high school. The family is being assisted by the Basilica of St. Mary which has an established program supporting asylees. This program coordinates with the Advocates for Human Rights which provides legal support. We are part of a four-person team which provides assistance, advice, friendship and help as needed. We have helped secure safe housing and furniture for the family. We have gone out to eat and socialized with the children. We have provided winter coats for the entire family. We made sure the children were registered for school and the school bus. We are available to answer questions as they arise.

The Basilica has provided extensive training and support to our team and has been very welcoming to us personally as volunteers. It has been a very rewarding experience to support a deserving family seeking a safe life away from an extremely unsafe and violent country.

More teams are needed to work with additional asylees. We would encourage anyone who is interested in helping asylees by joining a team to contact us with any questions at 651-690-4997 or higgoldman@msn.com. We will also be available after Social Justice Shabbat on December 21.

Howard & Irene Goldman

Temple of Aaron Calendar of Events

December 2019
Kislev - Tevet 5780

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 9:00am Minyan/Breakfast NO TiKone USY	2 Business Office Closed 6:00pm Minyan	3 6:00pm Minyan	4 4:00pm Hebrew School 6:00pm TiKone USY/ Play Practice 6:00pm Minyan	5 6:00pm Minyan 6:30pm Talmud Class 6:30pm Sisterhood Art, Wine & Cheese 7:30pm Bible Class	6 6:00pm Erev Shabbat Services 6:45pm Shabbat Potluck Candle Lighting 4:13pm	7 9:00am Shabbat School 9:15am Who Wrote the Torah Class 9:15am Shabbat Services 11:30am Kiddush Lunch 3:00pm L'Door v'Door Hanukkah Program
8 9:00am Minyan/Breakfast 9:00am TiKone USY 10:00am Torah Reading 201 12:00pm Play Practice 1:00pm Sisterhood Mahjongg	9 Business Office Closed 6:00pm Minyan	10 9:30am Sisterhood Knits at Riverview Cafe 6:00pm Minyan	11 4:00pm Hebrew School 6:00pm TiKone USY/ Play Practice 6:00pm Minyan 7:00pm Hanukkah Havok	12 6:00pm Minyan 6:30pm Talmud Class 6:30pm Sisterhood Knits 7:30pm Bible Class	13 6:00pm Kehillat Shabbat with Colsen Dieker 7:00pm Shabbat Dinner Candle Lighting 4:13pm	14 9:00am Shabbat School 9:15am Who Wrote the Torah Class 9:15am Shabbat Services 10:30am Visions Speakers Judy Halper & Ruth Hampton Olkon 11:30am Kiddush Lunch 6:30pm Family Hanukkah at MoA with 5 Senses of Judaism
15 9:00am Minyan/Breakfast 9:00am TiKone USY 10:00am Torah Reading 12:00pm Play Practice 3:00pm TAXY Ugly Sweater Party	16 Business Office Closed 6:00pm Minyan	17 6:00pm Minyan	18 4:00pm Hebrew School 6:00pm TiKone USY/ Play Practice 6:00pm Minyan	19 6:00pm Minyan 6:30pm Talmud Class 7:30pm Bible Class	20 6:00pm Erev Shabbat Candle Lighting 4:13pm	21 Social Justice Shabbat NO Shabbat School 9:15am Shabbat Services 9:15am Hacking Hanukkah 10:45am Social Action Project 11:30am Kiddush Lunch 12:00 pm Dessert & Discussion with Robert Aronson
22 9:00am Minyan/Breakfast NO TiKone USY 10:00am Torah Reading 201 12:00pm Play Practice	23 Business Office Closed 6:00pm Minyan	24 NO Minyan	25 NO School/TiKone USY 6:00pm Minyan	26 6:00pm Minyan 6:30pm Talmud Class 7:30pm Bible Class	27 6:00pm Erev Shabbat Candle Lighting 4:19pm	28 NO Shabbat School 9:15am Shabbat Services 11:30am Kiddush Lunch Hanukkah 6
29 9:00am Minyan/Breakfast NO TiKone USY 9:30am Sisterhood Book Group at Baker's Square in Highland Hanukkah 7	30 Business Office Closed 6:00pm Minyan Hanukkah 1	31 6:00pm Minyan Hanukkah 2	Hanukkah 3	Hanukkah 4	Hanukkah 5	
<p>For more information on these and other events and programs, please visit our website: templeofaaron.org All programs at ToA unless otherwise noted.</p>						

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Open Letter TO THE WORLD

We, the families of the Pittsburgh Synagogue Shooting, want to thank you for your support and love over the past year.

Our families lost 11 irreplaceable, beautiful Jewish souls. The sorrow and agony was deeply personal and unending. Through your unwavering support, you showed us that we are all one in our sorrow. You showed that the mindless hate that stole our loved ones has no place in America.

Thank you for showing us that we are one Community - one Jewish, one interfaith, one Pittsburgh, one country, and one world. We are truly stronger together.

With love from the families of:

Joyce Fienberg
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