



# THE AARONION

TEMPLE OF AARON'S  
MONTHLY  
NEWSLETTER

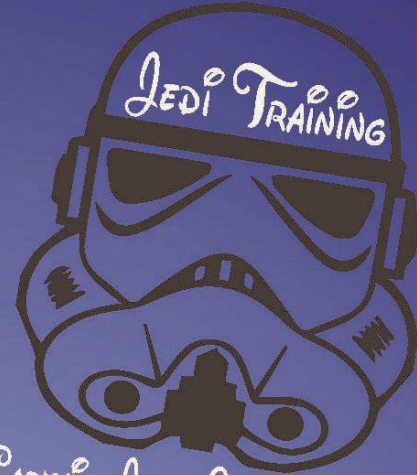
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Vol. 92 • No. 7

March 1, 2017

3 Adar 5777

SAVE THE DATE  
SUNDAY,  
MARCH 12TH



CAPTAIN JACK APPEARANCE

TOA ANNUAL PURIM CARNIVAL  
MICKEY'S MINNIE-SOTA ADVENTURE  
APPEARANCE BY:  
'ORIGINAL PRINCESS JASMINE' LINDA LARKIN



ANNA & ELSA SHOW

CINDERELLA CARRIAGE RIDE

AND MUCH MORE!



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# From the Rabbi



## Rabbi Jeremy Fine

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## Big Steps Going Forward

I arrived in St. Paul on July 2, 2012. On July 5, Temple of Aaron had its annual meeting. I had barely unpacked, Jessie was pregnant with Annie and had yet to arrive, and I was still sleeping on a mattress on the ground. I was asked to deliver a Dvar Torah to a new community, which I knew very few people. I sat next to a congregant, I was probably sweating bullets, she turned to me and said “It’ll be okay, you’ll do great.” This memory will never leave me. Her words got me through that meeting and transformed nerves into trust.

Since that first meeting I have been lucky enough to share happy times and work through difficult times with this incredible Temple of Aaron community. I have been fortunate to work with a supportive board, energetic staff, reflective clergy and four unbelievably dedicated Presidents. Through the support of these important people we have been able to move Temple of Aaron quickly into the 21st century while maintaining who we are and what we stand for. It is an honor and a privilege that my family and I are able to remain in Saint Paul and continue to be a part of the Temple of Aaron family.

But as I quoted from Pirkei Avot in my installation, “Rabbi Tarfon would say: The day is short, the work is much.” These words have guided me and the staff to understand that there is a lot that we’d like to accomplish but we know it is not all possible in a short amount of time. So, over the last few years we have tried to build a framework that can provide complex Torah, compelling spirituality, diverse programming, and an inclusive journey through Jewish life. My goal within my first five years was always to bring about healthy change that supports a strong structure. Without that structure it would be hard for us to move into the immersive Judaism that every synagogue strives to provide its members.

I believe that we are there. Our young families are engaged and strong. Our Adult education is diverse in its offerings, challenging in nature and accessible to all learners. Our staffing model is intact and collaborative. Our board is thoughtful and proactive. Our membership can access creative programming and services to learn and enjoy. And we appropriately wrestle with and support Israel. All of these things allow us to take the next steps with our synagogue.

Becoming the Senior Rabbi is a challenge that I am excited to accept and I want to share some of what I will be working on in the coming year:

### Experience:

- In late February I, alongside President Gary Portnoy and Sisterhood President Roxanne Portnoy, am going to visit a

variety of different synagogues in Miami. We will meet with Rabbis and see prayer spaces as we begin to re-envision prayer experiences for 21st century Temple of Aaron. This research is vital to the vibrancy of services and lifecycle events. Meanwhile, Rabbi Strausberg, Cantor Fineblum and I are always trying to think of ways to tap into the spiritual soul of every congregant. Over the coming months we will be looking closely at offerings on Shabbat.

- This year we attempted to use the Jewish Holidays as platform to experiment. Beginning with Sukkot holding great Men’s Club and Sisterhood events, followed by our day-long Hanukkah celebration, our upcoming Purim parties and in late May our Shavuot Farmers Market and Interfaith panel. We want to spend more time creating around Holidays. This focuses our staff and allows for our entire community to see us at the forefront of innovation and creativity.

### Education:

- Both I and several other congregants have sat on the Federation’s Education panel. I am proud to say we have begun to progress on a communal program for 8th-12th graders. While details are still pending, it is clear to us that a more unified Jewish St. Paul allows for more resources for our students, higher and more diverse learning, and more socialization. We will soon have more on a program aiming for September 2018 but this will be a major statement for our children’s Jewish education. Also, We are taking a close look at our youth education. With a new influx of young vibrant families we need to ensure our children get the best Jewish education. That includes educating the parents on their journey as well. I want to ensure that our youth have the Jewish toolbox they need to stand strong on the bimah, at college campuses and beyond to be a confident, informed Jewish adult.
- In 2017-2018 we have a mission to provide more immersive adult and family educational opportunities. We have seen the power of the Harry Kay program, confirmation, and Donald and Helen Swartz Israel trips and we want to have more of these opportunities. The clergy will be looking into more immersive learning practices that bond us together and enrich our lives.

### Generations:

- *It’s Your Legacy* (formerly Life & Legacy) is a program of investment in Temple of Aaron and St. Paul Jewry. It is imperative that we leave Saint Paul Jewry in better shape than we found it. This incredibly vital program spearheaded by Past Presidents Rosalyn Segal and Nancy Lane, former Board Member Sue Rosner, myself, Rabbi Strausberg and Ken Agranoff is crucial to our future. I encourage you all to take initiative by promising future support to the synagogue (more inside). My hope is that we can provide more opportunities for our 60+ year old members. While education, speakers, and services are always here we could always be doing more. I recently spoke to a colleague in Boca

— continued on page 12 —



# Adult Education

## Women's Seder is Back!

Thursday, March 30 at ToA

Schmooze and get settled at 6:15pm;  
Seder begins promptly at 6:30pm!



Join us for a pre-Pesach seder jointly led by Rabbi Strausberg and lay leaders as we think through the stories of our exodus from Egypt with a feminist lens. This will be a time to come together and look at many different perspectives, share experiences, and maybe even share favorite recipes all in the name of making our own seders and holiday more meaningful and connected. This women's seder is free and includes a great dinner, featuring food items made from community members' family, time-honored recipes! Use this to get ideas for your own seder! Please RSVP by March 23 to Danae at [danaethorpe@templeofaaron.org](mailto:danaethorpe@templeofaaron.org).

## She Plants a Seed for the Future...

Women's League and Torah Fund are proud to support the education of the future rabbis, cantors, educators, and scholars who will serve as the gifted leaders and innovators of the Conservative Movement.

Individual donors to Torah Fund at the Benefactor level (\$180) or higher receive the distinctive Torah Fund pin in recognition of their gift. Please make your donation today and mail to: Torah Fund Chair Mary Maguire Lerman, 2301 Como Ave., Apt. 305, St. Paul, MN 55108.



## Peeling Back the Layers: The Story of a Torah Revealed

Join our Sofer March 8 & 15  
for an Amazing Experience

When I was in preschool, one of my favorite activities involved lots and lots of crayons. First, we'd color layer after layer of different colors one on top of the other, pressing hard to create a nice bold color. Then, after we'd built up a bunch of layers, we'd cover over all of it with black crayon so that all you could see was the black. Finally, using some pointy, sharp tool like a pencil or a paper clip, we'd etch into those perfectly created layers, slicing through the black and revealing the rainbow beneath. Through this process, we could draw animals, write secret messages, or just scribble around.

I loved the layers of color. I loved the shavings, the hard-pressed crayon left on the page. And, I loved that process of scratching into the surface of the black to be surprised by the color underneath.

For me, this is also what I love about getting to be up close and personal with a Torah scroll. Here at Temple of Aaron we're fortunate to have many Torah scrolls, although several of ours are in need of a little love and attention to make sure they're in tip-top reading condition. Over time, the parchment wears, the letters fade, small rips may appear, all of which is fixable but may affect one's ability to clearly read the Torah. For this reason, on a semi-regular basis, synagogues bring in *soferim*, Torah scribes, to check Torahs, to note any spots that need adjustments, and to correct them, so that they're kosher, or fit to be read from a halachic or legal perspective.

The clergy trio recently had a local sofer D. Marcos Vital come by and check out our Torah scrolls with us. It was an incredible couple of hours. He was able to give us a journey back through the life and times of this particular Torah with just a close examination. The rubbing of the parchment, the protective seals that had been used, the rips and tears, the previous repairs, all worked together to tell a story. He could isolate the work of one sofer from another and see the many layers of history that our Torah had been through in its many decades of use. There were some places where the once nearly-white parchment was darkened by gray residue. In these places, it was difficult to make out the letters against this now darkened background. But D. Marcos did something incredible. He took a special eraser and he just ran it over these sections of the Torah. The sharp black of the letters stayed put, but the residue instantly and almost magically disappeared, restoring the clarity of the Torah back to its crisp black letters on white parchment.

We left that meeting feeling like everybody deserved the opportunity to sit with the Torah and our sofer as we was able to. On Wednesday, March 8 and Wednesday, March 15, we'll be bringing in D. Marcos to repair two of our Torahs and we're opening up his work to the community. This is an amazing educational and experiential opportunity for people of all ages. You'll have the opportunity to watch his work, ask questions, and maybe even help try your hand at Torah restoration on our very own Torahs. This is an incredible chance to be intimately involved with such an important, holy part of our tradition. More details on timing to come; this is not something to be missed!



**Rabbi Avi Strausberg**

Director, Congregational Learning  
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# Youth Education



**Joshua Fineblum, CJE**

Cantor/Educator

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JoshuaFineblum@TempleofAaron.org

This year has flown by so fast, and as March approaches we have just a few months left in our school year. We have had so many amazing times celebrating together this year including our Pancake Breakfast kickoff, Annual Latke Bash, Kinyon Tzedakah, and many weeks learning together. This month we have the opportunity to be together for a revamped and amazing Purim Celebration and Carnival, Mickey's Minnesota Adventure, on March 12. This program will be a day not to miss!

We have had great work done by an amazing parent committee and our USYers are ready to help run the day and take us to the wonderful world of Disney for the day. Parents and Students will have the chance to meet **Linda Larkin**, the voice of Jasmin in Disney's Aladdin,

participate in activities including Cinderella's carriage ride, Jack Sparrow's Limo Adventure, a scavenger hunt through the building, do ballroom dancing with Belle and the Beast, learn how to fight with a light saber and much more.

You will also have a chance to take picture with some of your favorite Disney princesses and characters throughout the day. We will have arts and crafts areas with great take home projects, fun games to play, including a racing arcade and other fun things for teens and adults. We will have a Mickey art studio and even a Disney parade to end the day. You don't want to miss out on being a part of this grand day and celebration as we party Disney style!

We have also just ended our annual education and youth department raffle and auction. If you received an email or call saying that you have won a prize, please contact me at the office to pick up your prize. It was great having so many different winners this year for our auction and thank you to those of you who purchased extra raffle tickets. Mazal to all of the winners and thank you for your support of our youth here at Temple of Aaron.

See you at the celebration and carnival!

**save the date**

## Family Kallah

# 2017

**May 12-14, 2017**

Families with children Birth-2nd grade and young couples are invited to join us for an amazing away weekend!

Highlights include:

- ★ Babysitting Activities for Kids
- ★ Evening Adult Only Activities
- ★ All Inclusive Weekend



**\$50 PER PERSON IN ATTENDANCE (Children under 1 are free)**

This Program is highly subsidized by Stephen and Nancy Lane Grandparent Endowment, Temple of Aaron, and Generous Community Donors

**Look for more information coming soon!**

## March Education Calendar

- 10 Prayers in PJs and Got Shabbat
- 11 No Toddler-1st(Moved to 3/12)  
"Spring Ahead" Purim Lock-in(8th-12th grade)  
Purim Adult Programming
- 12 Purim Day Programming/Annual Purim Carnival - "Mickey's Minnie-sota Adventure"
- 26-28 AIPAC Conference in DC
- 26-April 12 - Spring/Passover Break - No School

## Temple of Aaron Education & Youth Departments Present

# MISHLOACH MANIA

What is Mishloach Mano? A Mitzvah of the Holiday of Purim is to give gifts to friends and neighbors. We at ToA are helping you fulfill this mitzvah through this easy and affordable program.

Surprise 3 of your friends with a Purim gift for only \$18.00

Each additional gift for \$5.00.

Sign up from January 29th through March 1st!

Baskets will be available for pick-up at our Purim Day Celebration on March 12th!

**Proceeds support Education and Youth Department  
Scholarship and Programming**

Questions/Sign-up? Joshua Fineblum, Cantor/Educator 651-698-8874  
JoshuaFineblum@TempleofAaron.org

\*Donations welcome to give gifts to congregants in our community





## March Youth Events:

**March 1:** Grease Cast Party

**March 8:** USY Domestic Abuse Awareness

**March 11:** Purim Lock In

**March 12:** ToA Purim Carnival – Mickey's Minnie-Sota

**March 15:** Get to Know Your Rabbi: Ravi Edition (Rabbi Strausberg)

**March 17:** USY In Home Shabbat: Hosted by Kristin & David Gantman



**Daniela Kotovsky**

*Senior USYer Daniela Kotovsky reflects on the Junior/Senior Trip to Duluth:*

Over MLK weekend, my nine best friends and I got to spend our weekend in Duluth, where we explored a new Jewish world. During our sophomore year, my grade went to New York City and Washington D.C. to experience a wonderful weekend being exposed to a very large and diverse Jewish community. This past month, we took the same group of people but instead of seeing a largely Jewish area we all got to experience a very close and small knit Jewish community in Duluth. The trip was an overall amazing experience and I learned so much about a place so close to me but yet that seems so far. It was very interesting to see and hear the perspective of Jews living in the area. I observed many similarities their synagogue had with the Temple of Aaron but also major differences as well. They come from a completely different perspective and view things within their congregation differently than we in the Metro-area. Although we come from two different worlds, we overall share one important thing and that is the passion and love for Judaism.

# Youth Happenings

## It's the season of thankfulness!

*But Adam...Thanksgiving was in November.*

Well... There are a number of people I would like to make a shout-out to who have worked tirelessly over the past couple months to help make everything in the Youth world run so smoothly.

First and foremost, a huge thank you to Lisa Lerman and Debbie Zuckerman, our Play Chairs from this year. Lisa and Debbie have been by my side every step of the way and I honestly could not have done it without them.

Thank you to all my parent volunteers, from crew set-ups to concessions and ticket sales, you all helped to make the show possible.

Thank you to Curtis Reid, Play Director; Alyssa Wiegand, Choreographer; Aaron Hammerman and Lev Gringauz, Music Directors; Elissa Wiener, Stage Director; Eddie Winthrop, Sound/Lighting Director.

The show was an incredible success, looking forward to next year!



**Adam Bender**

Engagement Director

651-698-8874 x115

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## Introducing USY Shabbat In-Home

USY is taking Shabbat to you! Once a month, we will be celebrating Shabbat at a different USYer's home. This month, Friday night March 17, we'll be having Shabbat dinner and services at the Gantman residence in Mendota Heights, MN.

If your family is interested in hosting a USY Shabbat meal, please contact Adam Bender.

## January 25 - Kids Kosherfest!

Nancy Fink, owner and founder of Spoon Optional Sippable Soups, visited Lower School with her chef, Jon! Nancy and Jon helped us make a Tomato Basil Soup and taught us all about the process she is going through to make her soup Kosher!

*Pictured: Nancy Fink, Deb Jopp, Josh Fink, Jon Locke, Max Goldberg, Ari Goldberg, Sam Zien, and Ella Fruchterman*



## February 5—USY vs Parent Basketball Game — Pure Fun!

On a day where the sun was shining and the shots were falling, the Parents squeaked out a victory. With special guest former NBA player Danny Schayes as our celebrity referee, the USYers and Parents battled it out for the annual crown. The parents forced overtime in the last 15 seconds of the game, and eventually came out on top, thanks to a timely three-pointer by Rabbi Fine. A big "thank you" to everyone who came out to watch.



# Destination Shabbat



**Ella Reese Fruchterman**, daughter of **Tara and Todd Fruchterman**, will celebrate her Bat Mitzvah on March 17-18, 2017.

Ella is in the seventh grade at Mounds Park Academy, where she participates in volleyball and basketball. Outside of school, she is an avid horseback rider. She competes and has won numerous awards in dressage. She also enjoys spending time with her friends and family, baking, arts and crafts, and playing outside.

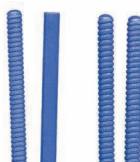
Ella is a member of Temple of Aaron Kadima.

Ella has designated This Old Horse for her tzedaka contribution.

Kiddush refreshments will be sponsored by Ella's parents, **Tara and Todd Fruchterman**.



**Beat Sticks & Beef Sticks!**  
**Men's Club Shabbat March 10 & 11**  
 Friday Guest Speaker Chaplain Randy Wynn  
 Saturday Guest Speaker Barbara Kavadias



### Friday Night

Join us for the 4th annual Men's Club Shabbat with rhythm sticks. 6:30pm—Got Shabbat Dinner; Musical Erev Shabbat services at 8pm with Special Guest Speaker Chaplain Randy Wynn (34ID Command Chaplain). Following services will be one with a special Men's Club gathering in Rabbi Fine's office for new gourmet Kosher beef sticks and craft beer.

RSVP for Got Shabbat Dinner: [SusieHaim@TempleofAaron.org](mailto:SusieHaim@TempleofAaron.org) or 651-698-8874. \$15/adult; \$10/child

### Saturday Morning

Shabbat Morning services with special speaker Barbara Kavadias (Exec. Dir. of the Masorti Synagogues) speaking about progressive Judaism in Israel.



## Shabbat Vision Series: In God's Image: Inclusion in Jewish Tradition

Saturday, March 25th

**Rabbi Dianne Cohler-Esses**,  
 Dir. of Lifelong Learning at Romemu

*"Becoming a Fierce Advocate for the Principle of Human Beings are Created in the Image of God."*



Saturday, April 8th

**Phil Oxman and Harvey Zuckerman**,  
 one of the very first same-sex couples  
 married in Minnesota

*"From Condemnation to Inclusion: The Personal Perspective of Two Jewish Gay Men"*



## Service Schedule

### Friday Night Services

March 3—6:30pm in Leifman Chapel

March 10—8:00pm in Greenberg Room:

Men's Club Shabbat

March 17—6:30pm in Leifman Chapel:

Ella Fruchterman Bat Mitzvah

March 24—6:30pm in Leifman Chapel

March 31—6:30pm in Leifman Chapel

### Saturday Morning Shabbat Services

begin at 9:00am in Main Sanctuary

**Minyan Monday-Thursday** begins at

6:00pm in Leifman Chapel

## Shabbat Morning Features

**Traditional Shabbat—March 4**

*Sermon by Rabbi Jeremy Fine*

**Men's Club Shabbat—March 11**

*Special Speaker Barbara Kavadias*

**Ella Fruchterman Bat Mitzvah—March 18**

**Visions Speaker**

**Rabbi Dianne Cohler-Esses—March 25**

*"Becoming a Fierce Advocate for the Principle of Human Beings are Created in the Image of God."*

### Got Shabbat Dinner

**Friday, March 10th at 6:30pm**

Enjoy a Community BBQ-style Got Shabbat Dinner before a musical 8pm service. RSVP to Susie Haim at 651-698-8874. Cost \$15/adult; \$10/child.

### Successful Shabbat Kiddush Lunch Builds Community

A bonus feature from attending our Shabbat service is staying for lunch each week and chatting with a friend or making a new friend. Numerous members have already made 2017 pledges to sustain this lunch program and we need more as the year continues.

One easy option is to place the pledge on your monthly statement. Also, you can speak with one of our three program leaders at your convenience: President Gary Portnoy, Executive Vice President Steve Kafitz, and Treasurer Ron Less.



## Israel Committee

By Adam Schrabner

Israel's environment is as enlightening as the sun shines bright. I had the pleasure of going to Israel several times since I was a senior in high school, however no experience was as informative and uplifting as the one I am about to share with you.



Adam Schrabner

Our Temple of Aaron group, in December 2016, had the pleasure of visiting Poriya hospital, in Northern Israel, which is very close to the border of Syria. The hospital was beautiful. Their facilities and equipment looked brand new. The beds looked brand new and the technology looked top of the line. Poriya hospital extensively trains their staff for a wide variety of emergency situations, so they can be prepared for anything. After Dr. Tamir spoke about how the hospital operated, he dove into the situation between Israel and Syria. During our trip, the Prime Minister of Israel, B.B. Netanyahu, officially announced to the world that Israel would help and provide aid to those of Aleppo. Israel did not begin providing aid to Syria at that moment. Three years prior to this announcement, Poriya hospital began providing aid to badly wounded Syrian citizens left to die at the Israeli-Syrian border. No one in the world knew. IDF soldiers went into enemy territory, risked their lives, retrieved wounded peoples of an enemy nation, who hated them, and brought them back to an Israeli hospital to be treated. They received the same treatment, same care, and same opportunities as Israeli citizens. The nation of Israel pays for their care through their taxes. Most of the Syrian refugees were women and children. From a very young age, most of the people were taught to hate Jews. This is a very difficult barrier for Israeli doctors to overcome, but they succeed, and they succeed every day. After a one to three-day hospital stay, the treated Syrians were sent back with Israeli goods that had no trace of Israeli markings. Most likely, they would be killed if any goods were found to be from Israel. Israel is like no other nation in the world.

No other nation in the world risks their own lives to heal the wounded of its enemies. No other nation in the world is under as much scrutiny, but still does the right and humane thing. Nothing illustrates my love, admiration, and appreciation of being a Jew and being a part of a nation that does the right thing. We can be criticized, hated, and scrutinized for anything that is not perfect, but we strive to be better than ourselves and we do the right thing. Each day, I strive to be better than my best efforts. I try to lead by example, and I try doing it in as positive and effective manner as possible. Israel is an inspiration. Its example is something this world needs more of. I hope to illustrate this every day of my life. I am humbled and gracious to be called a Jew and to be a part of the Jewish nation of Israel.

Thank you for your time.

# Group & Committee Voices

## Temple of Aaron Sisterhood

**Recipe Sharing Event** – Sunday, March 19, 10am–noon, Fink Youth Lounge. (Please see page 12 for more details.)

**Gift Shop** – New: tallit, items from Rosenthal, Tamara Baskin and Classic Touch by Tervy. Free gift if you spend \$25 or more. Support Sisterhood and Temple of Aaron by purchasing Judaica items for all events from the Temple of Aaron Gift Shop. Now available: Items from Shira, Demdaco, Source 4 Judaica, Aram, Jillbeads and more. A variety of books for children, young adults and adults; Gift cards and registries available. Contact the Gift Shop: 651-699-9192. Hours: Sun., 9am–noon; Tues., 10am–1pm; Wed., 10am–1pm and 6–8pm, or by appointment – call Chair Marcia Taple (651-688-3030).

**Sisterhood Knits** – Thursday, March 16, 6:30pm in Smith Library. All levels welcome – knit or crochet and bring your own needles/yarn. Questions, contact Susan Gonzalez (612-701-5606 or suziemgonzalez@comcast.net) or Susan Tervola (susantervola@templeofaaron.org).

**Building Fund Cards** – Send a beautiful card for any occasion - only a phone call away – no hassles. All funds raised go directly to benefit our beautiful Temple of Aaron building. To purchase, call Sis Goren (651-686-0425) or Susan Kushner (651-454-8336). For billing questions, contact Sue Schwartz (651-451-2188 or jasch924@aol.com).

**Mahjongg** – Sunday March 5, 1pm in Smith Library. All levels welcome. RSVP/Questions, contact Margie Schneider (651-698-4358 or 7381jbs@comcast.net).

**Spring Fling** - IntraContinental Women's League for Conservative Judaism Conference – May 6-9, 2017, Airport Hilton, Bloomington, MN. Hosted by Temple of Aaron Sisterhood – all members encouraged to attend. Registration forms now available – deadline April 15. Theme: "Open Your Eyes...." To register or have questions - contact Marcia Taple (651-688-3030 or mtaple@comcast.net or Etta Lambright (612-229-4340 or ettalambright@gmail.com. Bring your old eye glasses/readers to the Gift Shop or the Conference to donate to Lions Club International. Speaker/Entertainer Highlights: State Senator Sandra Pappas, Secretary of State Steve Simon, genetic counselor Shari Baldinger, Beth El Cantor Audrey Abrams (accompanied by our own Tom Bartsch on piano), Rap with Rabbi Fine, Torah Study with Rabbi Strausberg, services conducted by Cantor Joshua Fineblum and more!

**Kamish Rolls & Mandel Bread** - Available for purchase in the Gift Shop or in the Temple kitchen. Kamish Rolls - \$12 each; Mandel Bread - \$11/bag.

**Hamantashen** – Available for purchase in Gift Shop or kitchen: fruit with or w/o nuts; chocolate with or w/o nuts; poppy seed with nuts; or apricot w/o nuts - \$15/dozen. Questions or to help with baking, contact Sue Schwartz (651-451-2188 or jasch924@aol.com). Celebrate Purim (March 12) with these tasty treats made in our own kitchen.

## Social Justice Committee

### A Conversation About Human Trafficking Modern Day Slavery Alive & Thriving in Minnesota Wednesday, March 8, 6:30pm

Christine Eyal, Minnesota Human Trafficking Taskforce member and NCJW MN SPA will speak addressing demand and primary prevention. Questions and discussion to follow presentation.

This event is co-sponsored by ToA Social Justice Committee, ToA Sisterhood & NCJW MN. The program is free and open to the community.



# HAHARONION

Temple of Aaron's Funniest, Non-Electronic Newsletter

613 Lisa Lane, Torah MN

(651) Jew-dism

[www.ToA.net.gov.com.org.edu](http://www.ToA.net.gov.com.org.edu)

## Spike Lee to Appear on Rosh Hashannah



Feeling horrible about missing his opportunity at ToA. Spike Lee is saying, "No, I Got Game," and will be delivering the 5778 sermons for Rosh Hashannah pro-bono. Rabbi Strausberg stated, "It is clear that the community wanted to hear from him, especially about

his deep Jewish roots. We are excited to hand it over to Spike." Lee told the Ritual Committee that it'd be a combination of paintings with D. Westry, songs with Tom Bartsch, and poetry with Ben Saxon molded into one spiritual bonanza.

## ToA Goes 100% Compostable

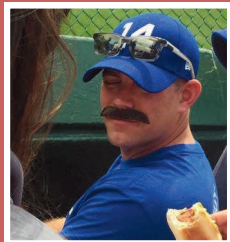
Thanks to the hard work of recycling pioneer Jesse Simon, ALL of Temple of Aaron will be going compostable. Literally everything. Chairs will now be edible. The toilets made from corn. Even the staff itself will be made from compost. Israel roommate of Jesse, Adam Schraber noted "It's a new era and Jesse has worked 24 hours a day, six days a week to ensure our success. I couldn't be prouder of him." Jesse hopes that the Minnesota and Israel communities will take notice. Long-time member Randy Lane said, "You know times are changing when you can literally eat the toilets."



## Reports Say Rabbi Fine Spotted in Cubs Regalia

After the pain and suffering Rabbi Fine has had to endure, he vowed not to congratulate Cub fans on their 2016 World Series.

Engagement Director Adam Bender attempted to raise funds to get him to do it on the bimah. That plot failed. Bender said, "We tried. I really wanted Rabbi to suffer." Recently, the *HaHaRonion*



has gotten word that Rabbi Fine has been seen wearing a Cubs shirt. Ron Less told us, "I believe its true. This way he can go to the grocery store and no one will recognize him. Smart move if you ask me." Rabbi Fine has denied comment but did say that he does not recall anything from 2016 at all. "I am really trying my hardest to black out the entire year," said Rabbi Fine. More on this as it develops.

## President Abraham Forgotten

After the 2016 Fundraiser an irate Abraham family stormed Executive Director Ken Agranoff's meeting. Apparently in 2000 between Past Presidents Steve Baldinger and Gary Swartz, a President by the name of Abe Abraham was sworn in. His time as President lasted only 4 hours as he immediately tried moving a Shtender to the middle of the room. Past President Nancy Lane said, "Oh, I remember old Abe. Not such a good showing for him." Abe and family came to the Fundraiser expecting to be honored. Ken Agranoff felt horrible about the omission: "We just missed it. Looking back I am not sure where the breakdown was. I'll take the blame." The Abrahams have not left the shul but are considering a change.

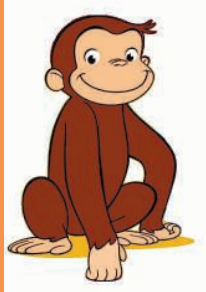


Disclaimer: The *HaHaRonion* is *INTENDED* to be Funny!!



## **BREAKING NEWS: Kosherfest Protest!!!**

On January 29th Curious George Stormed the Lunchroom in protest. After hearing that this year's lunch room was all meat, in solidarity, Curious George left the kids room and began a sit-in during the event. Luckily no one was hurt during the demonstration. The man in the yellow hat fled the scene in embarrassment.



## **Doughnut Scandal Rocks Community: Sisterhood & Men's Club Fight Back with Jam**

The recent boom of Dunkin Donuts in the Twin Cities has thrown everyone for a loop. But now they are going too far. Dunkin CEO Max Bialystack stated in a recent interview with The Onion Bagel, "In 2017 Sufganiyot will no longer contain Jelly. We will encourage the Jewish community to buy sprinkle doughnuts."

Some Jewish community members are outraged. "How could they do this to us? What about tradition?" asked Sisterhood President Roxanne Portnoy.

Men's Club member David Goldman stated, "I do not want to even think about the long-term effects on our Jewish youth. It's a Shanda!"



In an effort to show the community its stance on Sufganiyot, the two entities will combine for a Jam session. Expect to see strawberry, raspberry, and cherry. When asked of Sisterhood member Margie Schneider about Chocolate filling she stated, "What kind of heretics do you think we are?!?!"

## **1st Annual Synagogue Awards Ceremony Date TBD**

Temple of Aaron is excited to announce its first ever synagogue award night. This red carpet event will highlight some of our most prestigious congregants in a night full of seriousness and humiliation. Below are just a few of this year's winners.

**Best Immediate Past President:** Rosalyn Segal

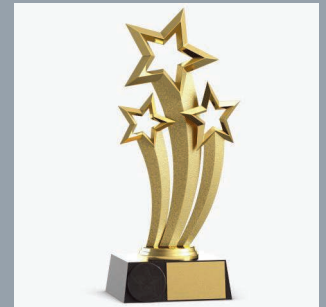
**Best Adon Olamer:** David Baldinger

**Most Likely to Have 10+ Clergy to Officiate Their Wedding:** Allie and Mark Divine

**Favorite Synagogue Exec Director in San Diego:** Mark Gulner

**Most Social from Social Justice:** Richard Strimling

*More fake categories to be announced soon. Voting begins February 30th. Check your real Aaronion every month for updates. No, really, you should really read your Aaronion.*



## **New Synagogue Trip Announced: Cantor Fineblum Visits Snowbirds in Mexico**



After the success of last year's Florida visit by Rabbi Fine, the board has approved Cantor Fineblum's visit to Mexico. Cantor Fineblum admitted he wasn't sure if there were any members there but stated, "Its worth a shot to go and find some, right?"

## **Exciting New Classes Announced for 2017**

Due to changing times, the clergy has decided to up the level of adult education at Temple of Aaron. We hired the marketing firm Sons of Jacob Advertising for their expertise in sexy new titles and classes. Here is a preview:

***"Hot Buns! Sexy Insights into Kosher Bakeries"***

***Teachers: Bob, Steve, & David Baldinger***

***"So I Married a Pun Murderer"***

***Teacher: Linda Eisenstadt***

***"Crappy Situations in the Torah"***

***Teacher: David Smith***

***"Minnesota's Own Gan Eden: Target Headquarters"***

***Teachers: 2/3 of the congregation***

# Thank you תודה רבה

Donations in memory of loved ones (\$10 or more)  
January/February 2017 Tevet/Shevat 5777

Abramson, Buddy & Lynn	Kanivefsky, Rozita	Rutzick, Steven & Barbara
Allen, Jeff & Carol	Kantor, Gretchen & Errol	Sanders, Fern & David
Appelbaum, Arlene	Kaplan, Sue & Harvey	Sanderson, Anne Rae
Baldinger, Bob	Karon, Robert	Schenker, Shirley
Baldinger, David & Christy	Kaster, Barbara	Schneider, Bart & Margie
Baskins, Ella	Katz, Sidney	Schraber, David & Paula
Binkin, Vladimir & Bella	Katzovitz, Leon & Carole	Schwartz, Jerry & Sue
Bomberg, Frank	Khaskina, Sophy	and family
Bubar, Anna	Krugman, Faina	Shimelfarb Iosif & Masha
Bubar, Sana	Kushner, Barry & Susan	Silverman, Artie & Mort
Donnelly-Cohen, Kathi	Lazarus, Janice & family	Simon, Jerome & Yetta
Fishman, Jerry	Leventhal, Seymour	Steinfeldt, Sharron
Flynn, John & Susan	Levine, Marvin & Harriet	Suponitsky, Alexandr
Ganz, Esther & Isaac	Lewine, Rachel & Michael	Swartz, Susie & Stu
Geller, Loren & Rosie	Libman, Cary	Tilsner, Ryvelle & Bill
Gerr, Teddy & family	Marmer, Ellen	Trager, C.A.
Getsug, Ray & Elissa	Marsh, Herbert	Udodovsky, Mira & Vladimir
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Gochberg, Peter & Vera	Marvy, Florie & Bob	Vaynerman, Jane
Goldberg, Richard & Gayle	Miller, Barbara	Vigdorovich, Leopold
Goldenberg, Herb	Miller, Ron	Vinitsky, Shirley
Goldstein, Carol	Paster, Jacki	Ward, H. Hillard & Helene
Grossman, Kay & Jack	Pistner, John & Kim	Watchman, Clara
and family	Pogoler, Barbara & Andrew	Winthrop, Sonie & Steve
Kagan, Galina	Rosenberg, Gail	
Kahn, Jim & Marcella	Rubenstein, Bob	



**Community 2nd Seder**  
Tuesday, April 11, 2017 at 6pm

Rabbi Fine, Rabbi Strausberg, and Cantor/Educator Fineblum will lead a highly engaging 2nd Seder. Make a single or group reservation by contacting Executive Director Ken Agranoff at 651-698-8874 x106. Adults are \$36 and children are \$18. Make sure to request vegetarian option when making your reservation.

## Memorial Plaques Generate Strong Memories

Memorial plaques provide permanent reminders for your loved ones and help assure we will recite memorial prayers every year. You can order a plaque for a tax deductible \$1,000 and multi-month payment plans can be designed. Contact Yahrzeit Specialist Susie Haim at 651-698-8874 ext. 100 or susiehaim@templeofaaron.org.

## Cemetery Planning Reduces Stress



We sell affordable graves to members and non-members with multi-month payment plans. Act now to solidify family plans. We have a mixed faith section for members. Contact Executive Director Ken Agranoff at 651-698-8874 ext. 106 or kenagranoff@templeofaaron.org for an 18 minute meeting or schedule a pizza lunch. Seize the opportunity to avoid a last-minute emotional meeting.

# Blessings

## MARCH WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

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

מזל טוב

- 67 Sherman & Lois Devitt
- 61 Herbert & Marcia Bernick
- 59 Anthony & Brenda Straus
- 58 Iosif & Masha Shimelfarb
- 53 Vladimir & Bella Binkin
- 50 Feliks & Alla Gak
- 40 Richard & Nancy Grobovsky
- 5 Joseph & Gena Kantor

נחמו נחמו עמי

*Our deep and sincere sympathy to the family of the following member who has passed away*

**Margie Scherzer**

*Memorial Plaques Have Been Displayed For*

**Max Kurnow  
Jeanette Kurnow**

**ADAR BANNER:** In honor of Donald & Patricia Wolkoff & children, Adam & Dina. Titled "Purim Megillah" (Renanah Halpern design). It depicts a huge Megillah for the Festival of Purim.



# A Big "Thank You" to This Year's Sponsors!

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Fineblum Family  
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Menchie's  
Minnesota Arboretum  
Minnesota Hillel  
Minnesota Zoo  
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Wooddale Fun Zone

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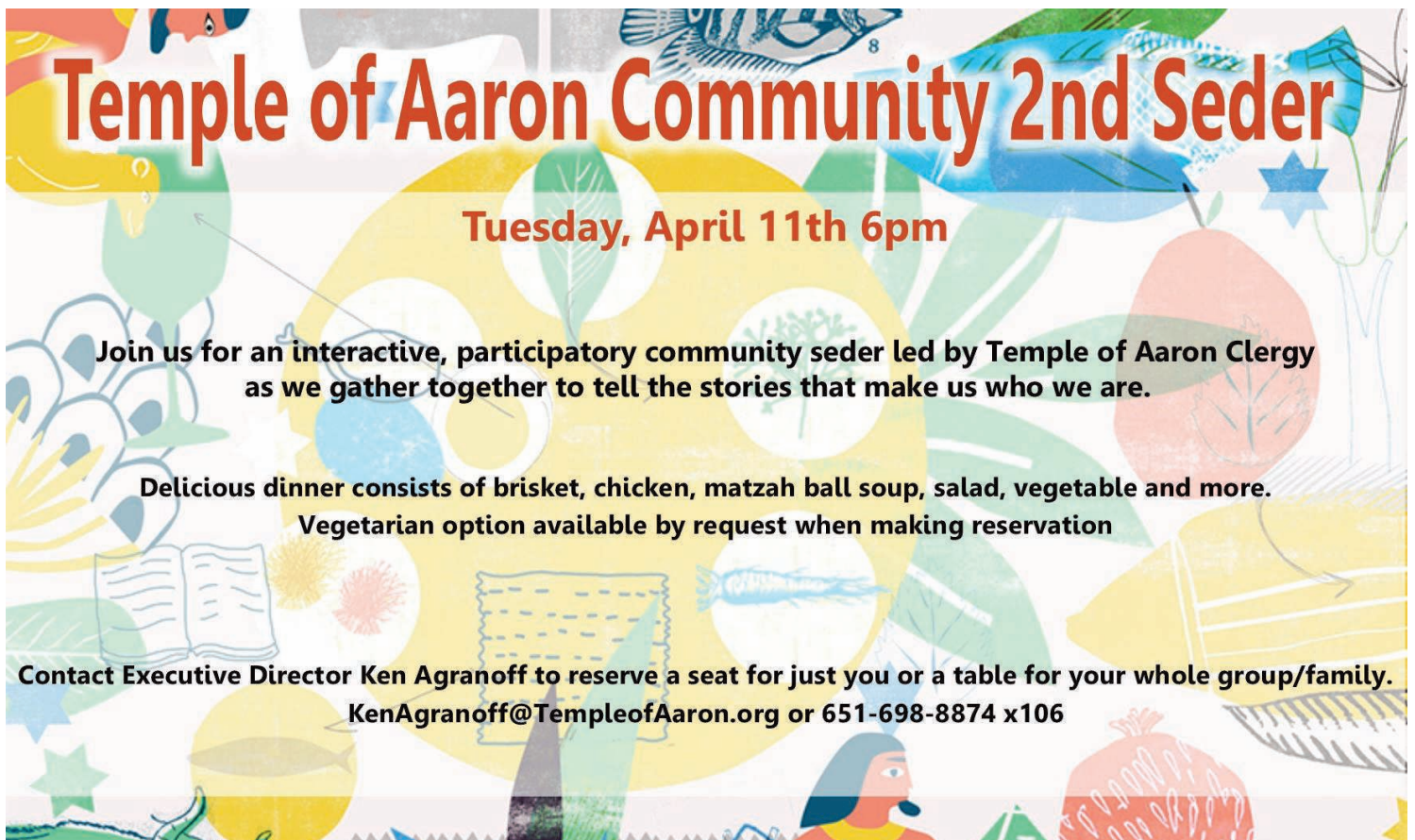
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BT Design- Dustin Truesdell  
Camp Butwin  
Camp Ramah and The Less Family  
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Jason & Mollie Divine and Family  
Alan and Susan Divine  
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Newport Cold Storage  
Howie & Emily Paper and Family  
Joel & Rachael Paper and Family  
PJ Library of St. Paul  
Schneider Insurance Services  
Shofman Family  
Skadron Animal Hospital  
St. Paul Plumbing & Heating  
Tilsner Carton  
Temple of Aaron Sisterhood  
West River Dental Care  
Wholesale Imprints and Promotions  
Wilton Family

"Thank You!"

"Thank You!"

"Thank You!"

"Thank You!"



# Temple of Aaron Community 2nd Seder

**Tuesday, April 11th 6pm**

Join us for an interactive, participatory community seder led by Temple of Aaron Clergy as we gather together to tell the stories that make us who we are.

Delicious dinner consists of brisket, chicken, matzah ball soup, salad, vegetable and more.  
Vegetarian option available by request when making reservation

Contact Executive Director Ken Agranoff to reserve a seat for just you or a table for your whole group/family.  
[KenAgranoff@TempleofAaron.org](mailto:KenAgranoff@TempleofAaron.org) or 651-698-8874 x106

## From the Rabbi

— continued from page 2 —

Raton about providing resources to our snowbirds. It is also, our intention, to host our annual event this year in August to allow for optimal attendance. We want our long term members to feel the strength of Temple of Aaron and we hope that these members come as frequently as possible to see what is going on.

- This May we will host our first Young Family Retreat in the Wisconsin Dells. This has been a goal of mine and Cantor Fineblum for the past five years and we are ecstatic it is finally taking place. This will be a Shabbat away for our newest congregants to intermingle, celebrate Shabbat, introduce their children and socialize. We will need the support of our entire congregation to help encourage young families to attend. We need to continue to empower our younger families. How do you get excited about their passion or interests inside Temple of Aaron? A few nights ago I sat with a few new Men's Club members who will soon be launching an EShuk (more details coming soon) to connect more members through their trades. It is initiatives like this that make us stronger. It is my intention to make funding available for ideas inside the synagogue that help us grow as a community. I hope to announce details in September.

### Future:

- Over the coming months we will begin work internally on improving our systems. Both our email capabilities to allow our staff to be more efficient and our website (which has been stagnate over the past several months) will receive upgrades.
- It is of great importance that we utilize the resources, both internal and through our communities. Like the communal Jewish High School, we will be seeking out partners to better position ourselves for the realities of St. Paul Jewry. What does the Twin Cities Jewish community look like in the next five years? How can we help shape that? It also means working with national organizations to provide resources and celebrate who we are. To begin on April 2nd we will be a part of the Masorti Gala (more information inside). Thank you to Jamie Wynn-Bell for serving as the ToA liaison. I have

# Sisterhood Food For Thought Recipe Sharing Event

Learn About  
& Taste Traditional  
Jewish Recipes Prepared by  
Sisterhood Members. Walk Away  
with All Recipes and Delicious  
Samples. Free Program Open to  
Everyone. RSVP To Amy Miller-Stern,  
651-235-6758 or amyms@comcast.net  
by March 17th.

Sunday  
March 19th  
9-11am  
Fink Youth  
Lounge



### Temple of Aaron Blood Drive

Sunday, March 5th • 9am-3pm  
616 S. Mississippi River Blvd. St Paul

Make an appointment at [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org)  
use sponsor code: TOA

Questions? To Volunteer:

Richard Strimling-[richstrimling@comcast.net](mailto:richstrimling@comcast.net)  
Wendy Oskey- [wendy.oskey@gmail.com](mailto:wendy.oskey@gmail.com)

*Walk-ins Welcome!*



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also joined the Rabbinical Assembly's Continuing Education Committee which I hope will be a positive experience.

- The last five years have flown by. Jessie and I started new jobs, welcomed two children, and I left my safety net of The Jewish Theological Seminary. While the congregation has been of tremendous support, in order to be a more effective rabbi I need to take care of my own learning and professional growth. This summer I

am grateful to have six weeks to explore a topic of learning and accomplish some writing. I have begun joining some national rabbinic committees and possibly programs that enable us to grow together and learn from a wider-network. I hope to share more as details progress.

The last five years have been eye-opening and I cannot wait to see what we do together next!

See you in shul,  
Rabbi Jeremy Fine



## Twin Cities

### National Masorti Gala

From Strength to Strength  
Sunday, April 2

*Honoring: Rabbi Harold Kravitz,  
Rabbi Michael Graetz and Louis  
Newman & Rabbi Amy Eilberg*

Dinner at 5:30 p.m. with Program to  
Follow – Dietary Laws Observed

**Masorti Mission Statement:** The  
purpose and mission of the Masorti  
Foundation for Conservative Judaism  
is to support the work of Israelis in  
building a Judaism that preserves  
observance and tradition while  
recognizing how modern life in Israel  
is lived.

For more information contact Debra  
Krawetz at dkrawetz@mac.com.

*Hosted at Adath Jeshurun Synagogue.*

### Discussing Dementia: Initiating the Tough Conversation

Tuesday, March 7, 11am-1pm

Dementia Friends Minnesota will host  
a one hour session by Amy  
Lieberman, President of Estate  
Matters and Annette Sandler, JFCS  
Aging Services Director to educate you  
on the signs of dementia and how to  
begin the conversation. Hosted at  
SeilerSchindel, PLLC.

Email Syarosh@ft.newyorlife.com by  
March 3 for more information.

### Support USCJ Once Per Year

Temple of Aaron is a proud  
Conservative Synagogue which  
belongs to USCJ, our national  
association. USCJ provides youth  
programming regionally, nationally,  
and a strong Israel focus for teen  
trips. USCJ also provides help when  
we search for clergy, school/youth  
directors and lay leadership training.  
We need your support for this valued  
organization once per year when you  
see it on your monthly statement.

# ...and More

## It's Your Legacy

Temple of Aaron's *Life & Legacy* program will ensure that the flame of Conservative Judaism will burn brightly in St. Paul for years to come. Your *Life & Legacy* gift will guarantee that Temple of Aaron is not just a place of worship but a place where we can come together as a community to study, celebrate, and keep our heritage vibrant. We are grateful to all who have made a commitment to this vital program, and we thank all of them for participating. Join our current list of members who have so generously provided for Temple of Aaron through the *Life & Legacy* program by signing your letter of intent online. For more information, contact Executive Director Ken Agranoff, email: KenAgranoff@TempleofAaron.org.



## Meerovich Family Honors Patriarch

Member Gedaly Meerovich turned 70 last year and his extended family honored him by making a donation to our Shabbat Lunch Fund. Gedaly and Alexandra married in 1970 in Odessa, Russia, and moved here in 1980. They had a religious wedding at



Temple of Aaron in 1982 with 20 other Soviet couples. They have been Shabbat regulars for over 30 years. Gedaly served on Boards of St Paul JCC, Temple of Aaron, Federation and SPNN in addition to serving as St. Paul President of Russian Culture Club for nine years.

The family got together for a multi-generational family shoot at Temple of Aaron. Gedaly and Alexandra's children and families are Betty (daughter), Jason (son-in-law), and Ezra (grandson); Michael (son), Jodi (daughter-in-law), Marisa (granddaughter), and Avery (granddaughter); and Gary (son), Diana (daughter-in-law), and Aaron (grandson).

## JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE OF ST. PAUL THANKS YOU!

Thanks to the staff and members of Twin Cities BOND, JFS of St. Paul could distribute 130 holiday gift bags to individuals and families in need during the 2016 holiday season. Our annual B'yachad Holiday Gift Drive involved over 100 generous community members, each of whom played an important role in the success of the project. In addition to filling the bins that were placed in the lobbies of congregations and Jewish organizations throughout St. Paul, community members shopped for customized-to-need bags, and donated cash and gift cards to support the effort and to make a huge impact on the lives of others.

Special thanks to B'yachad Chairwoman Rhoda Redleaf, Steering Committee member Sandy Aaron, volunteers Walter Kvasnik and Sue Schwartz, and staff members Joshua Fineblum and Adam Bender for their hard work and dedication. These enthusiastic volunteers served on the Steering Committee, created beautifully wrapped packages, and delivered gifts to our many elders in need. Temple of Aaron members were among the many generous people who responded to the call for contributions and helped us make the holiday season happier for everyone!

Today Rabah!

# Temple of Aaron Calendar of Events

March 2017  
Adar - Nisan 5777

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 10px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> <p>For more information on these and other events and programs, please visit our website: <b><a href="http://templeofaaron.org">templeofaaron.org</a></b></p> </div>						
<b>5</b> 9:00am Minyan/Breakfast 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Infinity - Beit Midrash 11:00am Infinity - Rabbi Strausberg	<b>6</b> Business Office Closed 6:00pm Minyan	<b>7</b> 6:00pm Minyan	<b>8</b> 4:00pm Lower School 6:00pm Tikone USY 6:00pm Minyan	<b>9</b> 6:00pm Minyan 6:30pm Social Justice Committee Mtg 6:30pm Talmud Class 7:30pm Bible Class	<b>10</b> 5:45pm Prayers in PIs 6:30pm Got Shabbat Dinner 8:00pm Erev Shabbat Services Men's Club Shabbat Candle Lighting 5:55pm	<b>11</b> 8:15am Learning w/Rabbi Strausberg 9:00am Shabbat Services Men's Club Shabbat 9:00am NO Shabbat School 9:15am Judaism: Back to Basics Class Following Services - King David Class and Mincha 7:00-7:30pm Purim Adult Program at Park Square Theater
<b>12</b> 9:00am Minyan/Megillah Reading 10:00am Purim Disney Extravaganza <b>Purim</b>	<b>13</b> Business Office Closed 6:00pm Minyan	<b>14</b> 6:00pm Minyan	<b>15</b> 4:00pm Lower School 6:00pm Tikone USY - Jewish Food Debate 6:00pm Minyan	<b>16</b> 6:00pm Minyan 6:30pm Sisterhood Knits 6:30pm Talmud Class 7:30pm Bible Class	<b>17</b> 6:30pm Erev Shabbat Services <b>Ella Fruchterman Bat Mitzvah</b> Candle Lighting 7:04pm	<b>18</b> 8:15am Learning w/Rabbi Strausberg 9:00am Shabbat Services 9:00am Shabbat School 9:15am Judaism: Back to Basics Class Following Services - King David Class and Mincha <b>Ella Fruchterman Bat Mitzvah</b>
<b>19</b> 9:00am Minyan/Breakfast 9:00am Sunday School 9:00am Sisterhood Recipe Sharing Program 10:00am Infinity - Beit Midrash 11:00am Infinity - Rabbi Strausberg	<b>20</b> Business Office Closed 6:00pm Minyan	<b>21</b> 6:00pm Minyan	<b>22</b> 4:00pm Lower School 6:00pm Tikone USY 6:00pm Minyan	<b>23</b> 6:00pm Minyan 6:30pm Talmud Class 7:30pm Bible Class	<b>24</b> 6:30pm Erev Shabbat Services Candle Lighting 7:13pm	<b>25</b> 8:15am Learning w/Rabbi Strausberg 9:00am Shabbat Services - Visions Speaker Rabbi Dianne Cohler-Esses 9:00am Shabbat School 9:15am Judaism: Back to Basics Class
<b>26</b> 9:00am Minyan/Breakfast 9:00am NO Sunday School 10:00am Infinity - Beit Midrash 11:00am Infinity - Rabbi Strausberg	<b>27</b> Business Office Closed 6:00pm Minyan	<b>28</b> 6:00pm Minyan 6:30pm ToA Book Club	<b>29</b> 4:00pm NO Lower School 6:00pm NO Tikone USY 6:00pm Minyan	<b>30</b> 6:00pm Minyan 6:30pm Talmud Class 6:30pm Women's Seder 7:30pm Bible Class	<b>31</b> 6:30pm Erev Shabbat Services Candle Lighting 7:22pm	



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Downtown St. Paul sizzles as Temple of Aaron makes Purim come alive for adults at Park Square Theatre.



This event is free. Cash bar.

Chloe Radcliffe



Bart Schneider



Zach Kagan



Our Comedians for the Night:

7:30 pm

Saturday, March 11th  
Park Square Theatre

Join us for a night out on the town as we take this year's Purim Megillah reading to the theatre! This will be a night of drinking, comedy, and of course, a Megillah festivities!

**Megillah Reading  
Meets Stand-Up Comedy!**

