



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. 97 • No. 7

March 1, 2022

28 Adar I 5782

Circus Purim Carnival

March 13th
10:30am-1pm

\$25.00 per family

Purim Night

March 16th
5:30pm-9:30pm

Join the Excitement

- Trampoline
- Photo Booth
- Carnival Games
- Juggling Classes
- Face Painting
- Contortionist Class
- Circus Art
- Aerialist
- Contortionist
- Stilt Walker
- Unicyclist
- Balloon Artist
- Fun Mirrors and more..



Kosher food will be available for purchase at minimal cost.



The Circus Continues Purim Night...

For a Night of Purim, Magic,
and fun for all ages!

5:30pm
Young Family
Programming:
Shushan
Magician

7:00pm
Megillah
Reading & Live
Music

8:00pm
Adult/Teen
Programming

RSVP to SusieHaim@TempleofAaron.org

The Rabbi's Desk



**Rabbi
Rachel Rubenstein**

651-252-6412

Email:

rabbirachelrubenstein@templeofaaron.org

Living in Contradiction: Shmita & Purim

If you were to ask me which Jewish law was most closely associated with the land of Israel, I would have to say Shmita. Shmita — the laws of the seven-year agricultural cycle that we have been learning together over the course of this year — only apply within the physical land of Israel. If you are a Jewish farmer in Minnesota, you have no obligation to let your land rest on the seventh year (a relief, I'm sure, for all of the Jewish Minnesotan farmers reading this article today).

Now, if you were to ask me which Jewish holiday is least associated with the land of Israel, the answer is even more clear: the holiday



of Purim. Purim is the quintessential holiday of the diaspora. The story of Purim takes place in exile, in Persia. When we are first introduced to the character of Mordechai, we are told, "In the fortress Shushan lived a Jew by the name of Mordecai, son of Jair son of Shimei son of Kish, a Benjaminite. [Kish] had been exiled from Jerusalem in the group that was carried into exile along with King Jeconiah of Judah, which had been driven into exile by King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon" (Esther 2:5-6). So not only does this story take place in Persia, it takes place multiple generations removed from Israel — Mordechai lived in exile, his father lived in exile, his grandfather lived in exile — only his great-grandfather had ever lived in Israel and he was sent into exile during the great Babylonian destruction of Jerusalem.

Shmita and Purim seem opposite in other ways too. Shmita is all about returning our consciousness to the land and the seasons, taking note of where we are in relation to the world around us. Purim, on the other hand, is one of our only holidays that has little connection to the time of year it happens to fall. Whereas Hanukkah always comes at the darkest time and Passover always comes in the Spring, the fact that Purim happens to fall in March seems to have little connection to the themes or celebration of the holiday itself.

Finally, if we think about how these two rituals feel, when I think about Shmita I feel myself taking a deep breath. Shmita is about letting go, living simply, living at rest. Purim, on the other hand, feels frenzied — it is a carnival, raucous merriment, and living in excess.

So what we can learn from living out these two opposing realities simultaneously this year? What does it mean to celebrate Purim during this year of Shmita?

The answer, I think, reveals an astounding wisdom of the Jewish tradition. Our Jewish tradition presents us with opposing extremes and asks us to hold both at the same time. Think about the most well-known part of a Jewish wedding ceremony — here we are at the brink of experiencing the highest joy, right as the bride and groom are about to kiss and what do we do? We break a glass. We remember destruction, we invite sorrow and brokenness into our happiest occasion.

So too with Purim and Shmita. We are asked to hold both rest and celebration, living simply and living joyously. Because while it may be simpler to live a life of alignment, we know that that will never be reality. Our lives are filled with contradictions — we sometimes find ourselves mourning in the sunshine and finding moments of joy in the darkness. And I think that is what we can learn from celebrating Purim during this Shmita year — Judaism always invites us to bring our whole selves and that includes that parts of ourselves that need to rest and the parts of ourselves that need to rejoice.

Shmita — A Year of Learning with Rabbi Rachel

Many of us are familiar with the concept of Shabbat, the Seventh Day, a Day of Rest. Fewer of us are familiar with the concept of *Shmita*, the Seventh Year, a Year of Rest. Since the time of the Torah, the Jewish people have been counting years, marking the seventh year as a *Shmita*, a year of rest for the land. As it turns out, this year, the year 5782, is a Seventh Year, a *Shmita* Year.

I invite you to join me this year as we delve into the teachings around *Shmita* to see what lessons we can learn and apply to our own lives. We will explore concepts of identity, community, what it means to claim ownership, our obligations to the poor and needy, and more. Each month, I will provide a short teaching about *Shmita* in the *Aaronion* along with a question or questions for reflection. I invite you to read along and send me your thoughts, questions, or insights to RabbiRachelRubenstein@TempleofAaron.org — I may even feature your questions and insights in next month's *Aaronion*!

Question for Reflection:

In what ways have you found yourself living in contradiction this year? Have you found moments of joy even in dark times?

What We've Learned So Far:

- 1) October: **Shmita teaches us to let go of our desire for control.**
- 2) November: **Shmita teaches us to choose faith.**
- 3) December: **Shmita teaches us to give freely to those around us.**
- 4) January: **Shmita teaches us to appreciate what is.**
- 5) February: **Shmita teaches us to take the time to rest in order for us to grow.**
- 6) March: **Shmita & Purim teach us to bring our whole selves — even the contradictory parts.**

Security is an Ongoing Process

Temple of Aaron has followed the security experts since 2001 when we hired off-duty trained officers every Shabbat morning and every Sunday when school is in session. The FBI and Department of Homeland Security have regularly reviewed our varied plans for two decades. We have also worked with St Paul Police, Gang Unit, K-9 Unit, SWAT Unit and JCRC.

Each building has its own challenges, and our plans are customized to our facility with input and approval from security experts. Locked doors, two-way radios, exterior security cameras, internal monitors, exit plans for students/teachers, off-site areas to gather, cyber safety, drills for key staff practicing, physical security, developed relationships with local law enforcement, daily/weekly threat updates, hostile threat training and situational awareness are just some of the steps/trainings we have taken multiple times and updated since 2001. The trained off-duty police offer three very important things for everyone to understand: experience under pressure, gun for protection, radio to immediately obtain quick response from entire St Paul Police Department.

We appreciate the security experts from the varied agencies serving the Twin Cities. The annual reviews by security experts reinforce we have implemented the highest priority needed steps. We are reminded how crucial it is to take refresher classes, practice your existing plan and refresh our written policy when merited. Thank you for being concerned and if you see something, say something.

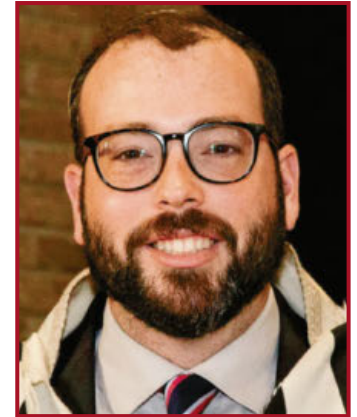
The Rabbi's Notes

Joy that Spills Over

We must pump-up the volume on our joy.

Religion is best when it pushes us to spread our love farther, prods us to be in more dedicated relationship, and persuades us to dig deeper into what truly matters. It is easy and attractive to remain at-ease and stagnant in our private observances, rituals, traditions, and histories but God demands more. Judaism demands of us to live out our Judaism even beyond the walls of the synagogue. Even though we are a small minority in this country (roughly 2.4% of the population) God challenges us to live out our spiritual joy in a way that impacts beyond our tribe. Our tradition of joy on Purim is a great window into what God expects of us.

During the whole month of Adar but especially on the major holiday that falls in it, Purim, we are told to multiply our joy. (B. Talmud *Taanit* 29a) Many of us are used to pursuing that joy in our synagogues with wacky costumes, ecstatic carnivals, and plentiful libations. God demands more. The joy of Purim comes from the feeling of exultation and relief after Haman and his henchmen were finally overthrown, the immediate danger averted. We are told in the book of Esther:



**Rabbi
Marcus Rubenstein**

651-252 6411

Email:

rabbimarcusrubenstein@templeofaaron.org



"That is why village Jews, who live in unwallied towns, observe the fourteenth day of the month of Adar and make it a day of merrymaking and feasting, and as a holiday and an occasion for sending gifts to one another." (Esther 9:19)

We see from this above verse that Jews responded to the relief by feasting and giving gifts to each other. In just a couple of verses more, we see that Mordechai, pushed the Jewish people one step more:

"They were to observe them as days of feasting and merrymaking, and as an occasion for sending gifts to one another **and presents to the poor.**" (Esther 9:22)

The passages are very similar, but we see that Mordechai's instructions, as opposed to his observations, is that Jews should not only spread joy to each other, but that their joy should spill over to lifting up the least among us. If we don't bring in and help the stranger in our Purim celebrations, the joy is not enough.

It has always been hard and scary to help and bring joy to those we don't know, but Judaism, our rabbis, the Torah and God challenge us to make our joy spill over.

How will you make your joy spill over this year?

There are multiple opportunities in our ToA Purim celebrations to ensure that your joy spills over.

There are multiple opportunities in our ToA Purim celebrations to ensure that your joy spills over. At our Purim carnival, as part of our celebration, we will be making bags to give to those in need, to fulfill the special *mitzvah* of *matanot l'evyonim* (gifts to the poor) on Purim. We are also looking to completely staff (30 volunteer positions!) the Neighborhood House Fresh Produce Distribution on March 18 from 11:30am-3pm. Please email or call if you would like to volunteer!

I challenge you to achieve Mordechai's dream this year. Let your joy spill over!

SAVE THE DATE

**2022
WOMEN'S
SEDER**

April 7th, 2022 at 6:15 pm*

*We hope to bring back our beloved women's seder this year, led by Rabbi Rachel. We will continue to monitor the COVID situation and our ability to have communal meals and will send additional information as we know more.

Cantor's Corner



Joshua Fineblum, CJE

Cantor/Educator

651-252-5403

Email:

JoshuaFineblum@TempleofAaron.org

To begin the fun month of Adar I, I had the opportunity and privilege to do some of the most fun, inspiring, and meaningful work of my time here at Temple of Aaron. Thanks to my Clergy partners and the support of the board, I joined the Edmonson and Davis families in doing the wedding of their children, our members Jeremy and Stephanie Davis. It was a unique experience doing their wedding in Costa Rica on the beach and making their dream become a reality by being in that magical place and watching their love continue to blossom on the beach under the chuppah with the stars up above.

I continued my trip by heading to Florida and visiting our congregants there. It was so wonderful to spend time with these longtime members, talk to them about the synagogue, and how we are moving forward together. It was so nice to connect and hear stories from them and enjoy our time together.

A special thank you to Sue Rosner for her

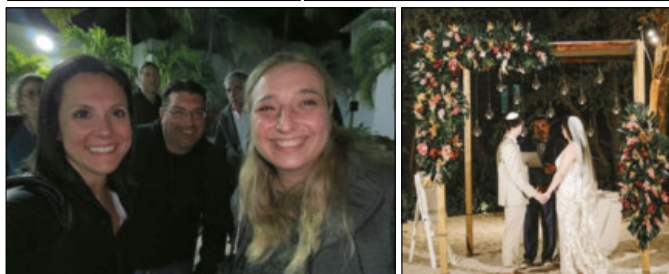
hospitality and to Susan Gonzales, Bob and Florie Marvy, David and Betty Sue Lipschultz, Brian Kamin, Eileen Bream, Barry and Linda Gersick for sharing stories and time together. It was also nice to see former members Sue and John Flynn and bump into Steve Rutzick in the airport on my way home.

During the week I also had a chance to see Cantor colleagues Hazzan Magda Fishman, Hazzan Abbie Strauss, and Rabbi Feivel Strauss. It was eye opening to talk to them about how they and the synagogues are moving forward after the past two years of uncertainty. I then attended the Jewish Educators Assembly 70th annual conference. After two years of not seeing colleagues, I was able to learn in large sessions, small groups, and one-on-one with colleagues about various topics throughout the week. We heard from leaders of the Conservative movement about the future of the movement, Rabbis and teachers about thinking differently as we move our schools forward, How to raise A-Plus Human Beings, and much more. Getting new ideas thinking outside the box with my colleagues is always exhilarating and reinvigorating heading into the homestretch for our last few months of school here at ToA.

Upon my return to ToA we then honored our Sisterhood members during Sisterhood Shabbat, watched Evie Sanders Gardner become a Bat Mitzvah, and held a very special Tzedakah day.

Students and parents gave charity and learned about five important organizations in our Twin Cities community that are making an impact. I hope you take time during the rest of this month as we inch toward Purim and celebrate and do something to make life enjoyable for yourself, your family, and our great community!

Chag Purim Sameach!



Why Do We Dress Up in Costumes on Purim?

Dressing up, costumes, and masks aren't mentioned in the Book of Esther. There is no indication that anyone ever dressed up for Purim in the Mishnah or Talmud. Nor is the practice so much as mentioned in the writings of the Rabbis of the High Middle Ages. So where did it come from? Since Jews were already holding banquets on Purim, banquets that included heavy drinking, it isn't surprising that some of the carnival atmosphere got infused into the merrymaking of Purim. And with time, the tradition of dressing up on Purim spread from Italy to other Jewish communities around the world. Another explanation is that God's work is "hidden" in the actions of men throughout the Book of Esther (which makes no mention of God) — once again a kind of dressing up — and Esther's name even means to hide?

So what disguise will you dress in this Purim?



**Join Guest Musician
Coleen Dieker
For Purim Fun!
March 6, 2022 • 10:30am**



**Birth-2 year old class with
parents and children
learning together!**

Youth & Education News

March Education & Youth Calendar

**** Reminder: Classes will stay on Sundays for the remainder of this school year.**

- 6 "Spring Ahead" ECFE – Purim with Coleen Dieker
- 12 USY/Kadima Event & Set-up!
- 13 Purim Carnival
- 16 Purim Night programming for all!
- 17 Purim Day
- 27 thru April 2 Spring Break



Students from 1st-4th grade had a fun day learning Hebrew with Shaliach Hadar, learned about the desert tabernacle with Teacher Reenie Gitlin, and Teacher Elliott Wegner about Food and Holidays. Our 5th & 6th graders had a learning session with Cantor Fineblum about the Siddur and then families began making their Siddur covers! What a great Sunday at ToA!

פסח

SAVE THE DATE

April 10th, 2022

@ 11:30 AM

5TH-7TH GRADE CHOCOLATE SEDER

RSVP & Questions
lily.smith@templeofaaron.org

PURIM CARNIVAL PREP

5th-12th Grade

March 12 @ 7 PM

JOIN US FOR:
Hamantashen Baking, Carnival Games
Preview & More...

Congregational Update

L'Dor V'Dor (From Generation to Generation)

A monthly Aaronion column dedicated to teaching and interpreting
the Torah of Rabbi Bernard Raskas z"l

Rabbi of Temple of Aaron for 38 years from 1951 to 1989

'Is it the Wrong Time to Laugh?'

by R. Marcus Rubenstein

Is it possible to laugh through the darkness?

In my article this month, I spoke about the need for our joy to spill over its boundaries and lift up even those who we don't normally interact with. It is a *mitzvah* to be joyful on Purim. One question you might be asking is, what is there to be joyful about? Is it truly possible or even right to laugh and smile with a pandemic that has been going on for this long? So many events were cancelled, special occasions indefinitely postponed and venerable businesses shuttered. Why should we laugh? Might it actually be a transgression (or at least in bad taste) to laugh, when so many are in pain? Rabbi Bernard Raskas z"l once wrote:

"...Joy, humor, and laughter are indispensable to emotional and spiritual well-being. To make others laugh is a talent, but to be able to laugh ourselves is about as necessary to healthy living as air is to normal breathing. We must never underestimate the importance of humor in keeping us human." (The Mitzvah of Mirth, Sept. 1960, Over the Years pg. 81)

In Rabbi Raskas' insightful sermon, *The Mitzvah of Mirth*, he details many reasons why laughter is helpful for living as a human-being in an often-challenging world. The reasons he details are:

1. Laughter can lessen hostility and dispel hate
2. Laughter can help us to love ourselves
3. Laughter can sometimes express the truth in a unique way
4. Laughter can also be an "ultimate mark of belief"

Rabbi Raskas invites us to live our Jewish lives with joy and laughter for all of these reasons. Looking at the present situation



we find ourselves in, we could probably all admit that we need the above four things more than ever. Are we not angrier with each other than ever before? Do we not have more trouble than ever in being overly sensitive about our own personal inadequacies? Do we not live in a world where the truth can sometimes be hard to express? Do we not live in a world where it is often difficult to believe and have faith?

Many seem to believe that if we laugh at something, we cease to take it seriously or respect it. I believe this a grave mistake that will only build the walls between us even higher. We must, specifically, laugh at times like these: when hostility is hardening us, when truth is becoming more and more inconspicuous by the moment and worst of all, when we find ourselves in jeopardy of losing both hope in ourselves and God. Although it may seem that now is not the time, Purim beckons us to laugh.

For these very reasons, I thank God with sincerity that the Purim holiday is upon us. Purim is a time where we dig down deep to find the strength to laugh even in the times of great confusion and darkness.

"Humor is the great thing, the saving thing after all. The minute it crops up, all our hardnesses yield, all our irritations, and resentments flit away, and a sunny spirit takes their place." — Mark Twain

Marvin & Sharon Bookin Make a Gift

Temple of Aaron is grateful to receive a recent gift from the family. They wanted 75 percent of the gift to be placed in our endowment fund and 25 percent placed in a critical needs restricted account. The Bookins are trying to help us with long-term needs, yet fully recognize unexpected short-term things arise that require cash.

Marvin Bookin has a lifetime pattern of making gifts to help others. Temple of Aaron is the fortunate recipient for this pattern of trying to make the world a better place for people who are facing problem areas. Over 270 families have stepped forward since Temple of Aaron was founded in 1910 to create endowments of various sizes that help us assist members and the community into perpetuity.

Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Bookin have strategically taken one more step by providing flexibility with immediate cash while also strengthening the endowment fund for the long term. Thank you.

A Letter of Support

Shalom! Dear Rabbi Marcus Rubenstein and Rabbi Rachel Rubenstein and the Community of Temple of Aaron Congregation.

On behalf of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, St. Paul Province, and the Consociates, please know that our thoughts and hearts are with you and the members of the Jewish Community at this most challenging time. We are deeply distressed by the most recent hostage situation at the Colleyville, Texas Synagogue. We will continue to hold in our prayers, you and all who are impacted by these continued antisemitic acts of violence.

We stand with you as a community of faith as we strive to keep communities safe and working together for the healing of the world. With you, we act and pray anew to promote peace, justice, non-violence, and compassion among all peoples.

In the profound Love of the One who calls us all to healing,

Susan Hames, CSJ
Suzanne Herder, CSJ
Cathy Steffens, CSJ

The Leadership Team of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet

Group & Committee Voices

מתנות לאביונים matanot l'evyonim "Giving to the Poor"



Help Fulfill this Purim Mitzvah
by Donating Supplies to Assemble Homeless Gift Bags

Three Ways to Donate:

1. Purchase requested items through our Target Gift Registry
<https://www.target.com/gift-registry/gift/templeofaaron-1>
2. Purchase items & drop them off at ToA in the barrels outside of the gift shop
Please only purchase the following items that we know are the most needed:
tampons chapstick
sanitary pads deodorant
disposable face masks sanitary wipes
medium size bandaids peanut butter crackers
warm men's socks protein bars (not sticky granola bars)
3. Make a monetary donation to ToA's Social Justice Committee
We will use the funds to purchase requested supplies. Any additional funds we raise will be donated directly to our partner organizations that provide services to our homeless neighbors.

All Donations Needed by Tuesday, March 8th

Gift Bags will be assembled at the Purim Carnival on March 13th
& immediately available for distribution

Target Gift Registry

www.target.com/gift-registry/gift/templeofaaron-1

Social Action: March 18 Option

On Purim, we are obligated to give gifts to the poor living among us, and that includes anyone holding out their hand to receive our gifts.

At the monthly Neighborhood House fresh produce distributions, over a hundred families receive produce in enough quantities to eat for a few weeks. We give the food directly to the families, and we greet them and wish them well. We also bag produce that is distributed at Neighborhood Houses food shelves.

As part of the Temple of Aaron's Purim observance, one of our Matanot L'Evyonim activities (gifts to the poor) will be to fully staff the March 18 Neighborhood House fresh produce distribution! That's 30 volunteer spots! Please join us and ask friends and family to join you.

Sign up to volunteer by emailing Brian Zaidman at TOAsocialjustice@gmail.com

March 18

Volunteer shift time: 11:30am to 3pm
Location: Metro State U Parking Ramp
407 Bates Ave, St Paul, MN 55106

Temple of Aaron Sisterhood

SISTERHOOD GIFT SHOP — Looking for meaningful Judaic merchandise for gifts or for yourself? Come to the Temple of Aaron Sisterhood Gift Shop, where we not only have some lovely new merchandise, but all of our merchandise will be discounted 20% beginning March 13 and will continue through May 1. All merchandise will be discounted 20%, except books are reduced 10%, and there is no discount on mezuzah parchment. We will have lovely Passover merchandise. Our Gift Registry is available for anyone to register for Life Cycle Events. Hours are Sun., 9am-12pm; Wed., 5pm-7pm; and by appointment with Marcia Taple (651-688-3030 or 651-402-6891), or Etta Lambright (612-229-4340).

BUILDING FUND CARDS — For a minimum donation of \$10, a card will be mailed for a happy (or sorrowful) occasion. All funds raised will be presented to the Temple for a targeted donation to enhance the building. Contact Susan Kushner at suzikush@yahoo.com or 651-454-8336 with the pertinent recipient and donor information. Mail your check, payable to Temple of Aaron Sisterhood, to Sue Schwartz, 1474 Wachtler Avenue, Mendota Heights, 55118.

TORAH FUND CARDS — Torah Fund financially supports conservative/Masorti rabbinical and cantorial seminary students. Contact Torah Fund Chair Amy Miller Stern at 651-235-6758 or at amymys@comcast.net for donation and acknowledgment card information. Donation checks should be made payable to Torah Fund and along with honorary or memorial information, mail checks to Amy at 1480 Woodview Ave. East, Eagan, MN 55122. Donations can also be made online at inspired.jtsa.edu/torahfund/ and an e-card can be sent as an honorarium or memorial. Be sure to note "Temple of Aaron" on the Sisterhood line.

FOOD SHELF — The need continues. Sisterhood supports the Temple of Aaron Food Shelf program with donations to Francis Basket Food Shelf through the St. Paul Neighborhood House. You can donate by check or through the Temple website (templeofaaron.org). To donate by check, mail your check, payable to Temple of Aaron Sisterhood, along with honorarium or memorial information to Susan Gonzalez, 5015 42nd Ave. S., Minneapolis, 55417. To donate online through the Temple website: click on the yellow "Support" button in the upper right-hand corner of the homepage. Type in "Sisterhood Food Shelf" in the "Desired Category" section. You can also enter information in the "Comments" section. You have the option to pay by credit card or through PayPal. If you have questions, call Susan at 612-701-5606.

JOIN US FOR MAHJONG — Sunday, March 6. All are welcome from beginners to experts. We are happy to teach you how to play! Contact Margie Schneider at 651-698-4358 or 7381jbs@comcast.net if you have questions and to reserve a spot at the table. The game starts at 1:00pm in the Temple library.



Sisterhood is Making and Selling Hamantaschen!

We are offering mixed fruit, poppyseed,
apricot and chocolate.

We will make gluten-free upon request.

Pre-orders are encouraged!

Contact Etta (612-229-4340 or ettalambright@gmail.com)
or Margie (651-698-4358 or 7381jbs@comcast.net) to place your order.

For your convenience in picking up your hamantaschen,
the Gift Shop is open on Wednesdays from 5:00-7:00pm through Purim, in addition
to Wednesdays from 11:00am-1:00pm and Sundays from 9:30-11:30am.

Thank you תודה רבה

Donations in memory of loved ones (\$10 or more)
January/February 2022 Shevat/Adar I 5782

Agranoff, Ken & Tracey	Goldman, Barry & Darlene	Nusbaum, Steve
Appelbaum, Arlene	Goldman, Howard & Lynn	& Karen Engelbretson
Baldinger, Steve & Wendy	Graham, Esther	Pistner, John & Kim
Barenbaum, Bettie, Jane & Sally	Kahn, Jim & Marcella	Rein, Myndel
Bergeron, Barbara	Kamin, Evie	Rosenberg, Gail
Bordeaux, John & Virginia	Kanivetsky, Rosita	Sanderson, Anne Rae
Caloff, Mary	Kantor, Errol & Gretchen	Schneider, Bart & Margie
Chudnoff, Leslie	Karon, Robert	Schwartz, Jerry & Sue
Daniels, Rick & Barb	Katz, Irving	Soroka, Tanya
Freed, Loretta	Kaufman, Stuart	Tabert, David & Deborah
Ganz, Isaac & Esther	Kurland, Sandra	Tragar, C.A.
Ginzburg, Alex & Riva	Kushner, Barry & Susan	Uchenik, Esfer
Gokhberg, Raisa	Lee, Lynne	Unowsky, David
Goldberg, Judy	Levine, Marvin & Harriet	Wolkoff, Patricia and Adam
	Lifson, Helen	& Dina
	Marz, Betty	Wolkowicz, Joe & Sandra

Todah Rabah . . .

. . . to David Baldinger for serving as Cantor one Shabbat morning in January.
. . . to Erin Baldinger for serving as Cantor one Shabbat morning in January and February.
. . . to Alisha Simon, Carter Pederson, Eli Perr, Erin Baldinger, Michael Levin, Howard Goldman, and Irene Goldman for reading Torah in January.
. . . to Alan Divine and Erin Baldinger for reading Haftarah in January.
. . . to Chaya and Terry Zien for donating challah covers to our new-member welcome bags. Building community relies on the details and member generosity.
. . . to Mark Divine for serving as January 29 Cantorial Soloist.
. . . to Michael Levin for reading Haftarah.
. . . to Alisha Simon, Michael Levin, Eli Perr, and Chaya Zien for reading Torah in February.

Blessings

MARCH WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

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

מזל טוב

- 63 Iosif & Masha Shimelfarb
- 58 Vladimir & Bella Binkin
- 55 Feliks Gak & Alla Vysotsky
- 54 Barry & Susan Kushner
- 53 Tom & Sue Stillman
- 50 Fred & Karen Gordon
- 45 Richard & Nancy Grobovsky
- 10 Joseph & Gena Kantor

נחמו נחמו עמי

Memorial Plaques
Have Been Displayed
For

Marion Cass
Hazel Chase
Paula Lerman

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 Susan Gonzalez. Susan will mail a card for get well, celebration or condolence. Help us help others!



The Joint Religious Legislative Coalition invites you to be part of the online, evening 'Day on the Hill' Tues., March 15 beginning at 6:30pm. Keynote: Maharat Rori Picker Neiss, an Orthodox religious leader and Executive Director of JCRC, St. Louis. Learn about the 2022 legislative priorities, and be equipped to meet with your state legislators. Trainings available prior to Day on the Hill. Register at <https://jrlc.org/2022-day-on-the-hill>. Questions: contact Statewide Organizer Joan Miltenberger, jmiltenberger@jrlc.org or 612-230-3232.

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.

Save the Date* 2nd Night Community Seder

SATUDAY APRIL 16TH

LIMITED NUMBERS

*THE CLERGY ARE VERY EXCITED TO BRING BACK OUR BELOVED COMMUNAL SEDER. WE WILL CONTINUE TO MONITOR THE COVID SITUATION AND OUR ABILITY TO HAVE COMMUNAL MEALS. WE WILL SEND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AS WE KNOW MORE.

Welcome to Temple of Aaron!

New Member Spotlight: The Feintech Family

Our membership committee is sitting down with new members with a Q&A and introducing you to them here in the *Aaronion!* This month we want to welcome Brian, Laura, Sadie and Stella! Make sure to say “Hi” next time you see them!

Q: Where did the people in your family grow up?

Feintechs: Brian was born and raised in Des Moines, Iowa where his family were members of Tifereth Israel Synagogue. Laura was born in Massachusetts, attended elementary school and college in Oregon, but landed in Des Moines for junior high and high school where she and Brian had many classes together, and briefly “dated” when they were 12. Sadie and Stella were both born in the Washington, D.C. area, but have lived most of their lives outside the United States

Q: So neither of you are from Minnesota – what ultimately brought you here stay?

Feintechs: Even prior to COVID, we were planning to return to the United States and change up our international lifestyle. Once the pandemic hit Asia in January 2020, we started planning our off-ramp in earnest, and thought about where in the U.S. we wanted to settle down. Laura finally left her Federal Government job in October 2020, and we started looking for a landing spot. We wanted to move to the Midwest to be near family in Iowa, and also wanted a city with a large Jewish community and good schools. The Twin Cities won out over a few other contenders. We also remember spending summers in Ely and on Minnesota’s lakes, so the abundant outdoor adventures in Minnesota was also a draw.

Q: What do the two of you do for work? Hobbies? What keeps the girls busy during the day?

Feintechs: Laura recently joined Morgan Stanley as a Financial Advisor Associate. Brian is looking to parlay his long career in public policy, media, and public relations into a job in the Twin Cities. Both Sadie and Stella attend Jie Ming Mandarin Immersion Academy at the Homecroft School campus in Highland Park, as they and Laura all speak Mandarin Chinese. As a family we love all outdoor sports. Brian’s favorites are golf and cycling, Laura focuses on long-distance running since she has aged out of rugby and ultimate frisbee, Sadie plays soccer with the Blackhawks, and while Stella loves dancing inside a studio, she is also a playground connoisseur, and can give you a critique of almost every playground in St. Paul. We also enjoy downhill skiing, but are going to try cross-country, snow-shoeing, and maybe fat tire cycling since they are all so popular in Minnesota. We are also a musical family and sometimes jam out with our piano, ukulele, tambourine, and ocarina.

Q: Why did you choose the Temple of Aaron?

Feintechs: Brian grew up in the Conservative movement and when Laura converted to Judaism, she did so with a Conservative Rabbi. We’ve also been members of Town and Village Synagogue in New York City, and Kol Shalom in Rockville, Maryland, so when we were looking for a shul, we wanted a community that was familiar. We’re also hoping to eventually move to the Highland Park neighborhood where our daughters attend school, so Temple of Aaron was a natural choice. We’ve loved meeting the families at Temple of Aaron and learning the stories of the members who have been here



for years, generations, or like us just a few months. Our daughters also haven’t had any formal Jewish education as we’ve mostly been part of smaller, lay-led Jewish communities when living overseas, so the youth education program at Temple of Aaron was another reason we joined!

Q: Favorite Jewish Food?

Feintechs: Hands-down, latkes. Laura also makes and excellent matzo ball soup, which she learned in a cooking class at Town and Village Synagogue in New York taught by a professional kosher chef.

Q: Favorite Jewish Holiday?

Feintechs: We have been fortunate to host many Passover seders around the world with guests of countless nationalities and backgrounds, so Passover is one of our favorites. Of course, with two elementary schoolers in the house, Hanukkah also ranks pretty high.

Temple of Aaron Calendar

March 2022
Adar I - Adar II 5782

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 7:15am Joint Morning Minyan 6:00pm In-Person/Zoom Multi-Access Minyan Maariv	2 7:15am Joint Morning Minyan 4:00pm Hebrew School via Zoom 6:00pm In-Person/Zoom Multi-Access Minyan Maariv 6:30pm Tikone USY	3 7:15am Joint Morning Minyan 6:00pm In-Person/Zoom Multi-Access Minyan Maariv 6:30pm Talmud Class Zoom 7:30pm Bible Class Zoom	4 7:15am Joint Morning Minyan 6:00pm Kehillat Shabbat Musical Services: In-Person & Virtual Livestream Multi-Access w/ Coleen Dieker, Musician-in-Residence	5 8:30am Digging into the Parsha 9:30am Shabbat In-Person & Livestream Service with Guest Coleen Dieker 7:00pm Community Federation Havdalah Zoom
6 9:00am Zoom Shacharit Minyan 9:30am Religious School Tikone USY 10:30am ECFE Purim Event w/ Coleen Dieker, Musician-in-Residence	7 7:15am Joint Morning Minyan 6:00pm In-Person/Zoom Multi-Access Minyan Maariv	8 7:15am Joint Morning Minyan 6:00pm In-Person/Zoom Multi-Access Minyan Maariv	9 7:15am Joint Morning Minyan 4:00pm Hebrew School via Zoom 6:00pm In-Person/Zoom Multi-Access Minyan Maariv 6:30pm NO Tikone USY	10 7:15am Joint Morning Minyan 6:00pm In-Person/Zoom Multi-Access Minyan Maariv 6:30pm Talmud Class Zoom 7:30pm Bible Class Zoom	11 7:15am Joint Morning Minyan 6:00pm Shabbat Services In-Person/Zoom Multi-Access	12 8:30am Digging into the Parsha 9:30am Shabbat In-Person & Livestream Service 7:00pm Kadima/USY Pre-Purim Party
13 9:00am Zoom Shacharit Minyan 10:30am to 1:00pm Purim Carnival	14 7:15am Joint Morning Minyan 6:00pm In-Person/Zoom Multi-Access Minyan Maariv	15 7:15am Joint Morning Minyan 6:00pm In-Person/Zoom Multi-Access Minyan Maariv	16 7:15am Joint Morning Minyan 5:30pm Children's Program 7:00pm Megillah Reading 8:00pm Adult Purim Program	17 7:00am Joint Morning Minyan 6:00pm In-Person/Zoom Multi-Access Minyan Maariv 6:30pm Talmud Class Zoom 7:30pm Bible Class Zoom	18 7:15am Joint Morning Minyan 11:30am Purim Volunteering 6:00pm Shabbat Services In-Person/Zoom Multi-Access	19 8:30am Digging into the Parsha 9:30am Shabbat In-Person & Livestream Service
20 9:00am Zoom Shacharit Minyan 9:30am Religious School Tikone USY	21 7:15am Joint Morning Minyan 6:00pm In-Person/Zoom Multi-Access Minyan Maariv	22 7:15am Joint Morning Minyan 6:00pm In-Person/Zoom Multi-Access Minyan Maariv	23 7:15am Joint Morning Minyan 4:00pm Hebrew School via Zoom 6:00pm In-Person/Zoom Multi-Access Minyan Maariv 6:30pm Tikone USY	24 7:15am Joint Morning Minyan 6:00pm In-Person/Zoom Multi-Access Minyan Maariv 6:30pm Talmud Class Zoom 7:30pm Bible Class Zoom PURIM DAY	25 7:15am Joint Morning Minyan 6:00pm Shabbat Services In-Person/Zoom Multi-Access	26 8:30am Digging into the Parsha 9:30am Shabbat In-Person & Livestream Service
27 9:00am Zoom Shacharit Minyan NO School/Tikone USY Spring School Break	28 7:15am Joint Morning Minyan 6:00pm In-Person/Zoom Multi-Access Minyan Maariv	29 7:15am Joint Morning Minyan 6:00pm In-Person/Zoom Multi-Access Minyan Maariv	30 7:15am Joint Morning Minyan NO Hebrew School/Tikone USY 6:00pm In-Person/Zoom Multi-Access Minyan Maariv	31 7:15am Joint Morning Minyan 6:00pm In-Person/Zoom Multi-Access Minyan Maariv 6:30pm Talmud Class Zoom 7:30pm Bible Class Zoom	Check Facebook & Weekly Email Blast for Updates. Schedule Subject to Change.	

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