

# THE AARONION



TEMPLE OF AARON'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

616 S. Mississippi River Blvd. • St. Paul, MN 55116-1099

(651) 698-8874 • www.templeofaaron.org

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February 1, 2012

8 Shevat, 5772

*Temple of Aaron Youth Department Proudly Presents...*



*Thursday, March 1, 2012*

*7:00 PM*

*Saturday, March 3, 2012*

*8:00 PM*

*Sunday, March 4, 2012*

*12:30 PM*

Featuring 2012 Seniors...



Susan Balto



Andrew Bernick



Matthew Bernick



Melissa Marks



Sami Saltzman



Isaac Spektor



Ezra Strohm



Morgan Werthausen



William Zien

**Ticket prices**

Pre Sale: \$7 for adults  
\$5 for seniors / students  
Door: \$10 for adults  
\$7 for seniors / students  
Children under 3 are free

**Pre-Sale Tickets Are Available!**

-Sisterhood Gift Shop  
-Temple of Aaron Office  
-Youth Department Office



For Tickets/Questions?  
Robby Erlich, Youth Director  
651.698.8874 ext. 115  
robbyerlich@templeofaaron.org



# From the Rabbi's Desk . . .

## The Path of 21st Century Rabbis

At a recent dinner, my nephew, Matthew told me about a character in a book he was reading who said God spoke to him and that was why he became a Minister. Matthew asked if God had spoken to me and was that why I became a Rabbi. His question made me think about what a Rabbi is and how the role has changed.

Through the centuries the Rabbi's job was to take the Torah and teach it to the Jews by interpreting, arguing and creating according to the times they lived in. The role of the rabbi in the modern world has changed. We are still blessed to be a part of people's lives at major transitional moments. We still bring to bear the wisdom of thousands of years of Jewish tradition in order to give context and meaning to these moments, in the role of the rabbi as teacher.

As part of my daily study of Jewish texts, traditions and current events, I came across an article written by a local colleague, Rabbi Hayim Herring, that proposes a clear, redefinition of the role of the modern rabbi. It answers the question of what today's congregant can expect of their rabbi by suggesting that our role is as a *Moreh Derech Chayim*. I would like to define each of these words, explaining how they can capture the work of rabbis and propose how you should be able to see the impact in your life.

The word *moreh* means teacher and guide, and as I said above, the fundamental role of the rabbi is as a teacher of Jews. We are charged with reaching out to each Jew, at every age, stage and level of interest, as a teacher of Jewish values and behaviors. At times, we are reactive, answering questions as they are brought to us and probing for more. Other times, we actively reach out, pushing and challenging Jews to live up to Judaism's highest values. We have two primary tools as teachers and guides: our rich text-based tradition, and ourselves. The first allows us to remain grounded in eternal values, while also actively wrestling with the ideas contained in the texts, as we struggle to apply them to our modern world. The second gives us the ability to demonstrate—through our behavior—that the words are alive and can positively impact our daily lives.

A rabbi should challenge you with ideas, while also providing you with the comfort and direction that our tradition offers. Certainly we should answer some questions, but we should always leave you with new questions and directions for exploration. We should have reasons for what we do, but never be absolutely sure of them, and we should listen far more than we speak.

A *derech* is a path, and in this case, it refers to the active path of exploring Judaism. If rabbis are guides, then we need a path to guide along. Living a Jewish life means being able to access a Jewish path through the joys and pains of life. The Jewish *derech* is much like a hidden layer to a map, which gives you enhanced experiences and deeper understanding along the way. The rabbi can help show this path, and demonstrate its relevance to each individual. There are lifecycle events where the rabbi is regularly called upon to participate, but there are far more ways a rabbi can be involved. While it is certainly possible to live a moral and fulfilled life without this path, Judaism provides a tried and tested way of traveling this life.

The last part of the phrase, *Moreh Derech Chayim*, is one we are very familiar with, "life," as in *L'Chaim*, To Life! Judaism has always been a religion that celebrates life, especially with its focus on behavior in this world and for the sake of this world. We are not motivated by a desire for reward or a fear of punishment in the next life. The reward is how we live this life now.

For the rabbi, *chayim* also means involving and engaging each and every Jew in a community of support, celebration and learning. Historically, this has meant that Torah was read and explained in public. To ensure that the maximum number of Jews could participate, it was read in the public square when it was full, on the market days of Monday and Thursday. This is one of the reasons we still read Torah on those days, in addition to the other day of gathering as a community, Shabbat. Rabbinic tradition evolved to accommodate realities back then, and rabbis



Rabbi Alan Shavit-Lonstein  
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must continue to do so today. So how do we engage every Jew in community like the rabbis of old? We must continue to promote and expand full equality for women. We must allow every Jew participation in all rituals. We must actively find ways to involve non-Jewish family members in rituals and synagogue life.

Congregants must be the modern rabbi's partners as *Moreh Derech Chayim*. Their presence, participation and persistence are essential to making the necessary connections. We must be open and willing to hear the words of learning and challenge, to be guided and engaged in the path. Prayer is a good example. If we enter prayer services, and are not open to being changed by the experience, then we are, at least in part, wasting our time. If we only do it rarely and expect results, then we are fooling ourselves, and if we don't come at all, or we have not come in years, we have largely closed off an opportunity to grow and experiment. Put simply, we need to be present and be open for Judaism to work. If we do this, then our rabbis can practice *Moreh Derech Chayim*: as teachers and guides along the path of a Jewishly involved life.

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Rabbi Herring's article, *The Rabbi as Moreh Derech Chayim: Reconceptualizing Today's Rabbinate*, appeared in the CCAR Journal. Please email me for a copy.

# Cantor's Column

No Column This Month

## Get Ready for Purim 2012...



**ADAR AUCTION 2012**

SILENT AUCTION  
PRIZES WILL BE READY TO BID ON BEGINNING  
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2011

SPORTS PACKAGES  
KIDS PACKAGES  
NIGHT OUT PACKAGES  
...MUCH MORE!

IF YOU WISH TO DONATE ITEMS TOWARD THE AUCTION,  
PLEASE CONTACT  
JOSHUA.FINEBLUM@TEMPLEOFAARON.ORG

## Purim Carnival

**FUN** **מאכא**

Date: Sunday, March 11, 2012

Time: 11:30 AM-1:00 PM

Where: Stein Hall and Beyond!

\*\*Carnival Endowment by David A. Berg Family

### Prices:

\$10 Per person for all game access wrist band or \$1 for 4 tickets

Minimal charge for food.



To Support the Program or Questions?

Joshua Fineblum,

Director of Education

joshuafineblum@tempelofaaron.org

651-698-8874 ext. 103

## Wednesday March 7th

Hebrew School  
Followed by Annual  
Congregation Purim  
Celebration with special  
youth programming and  
FREE dinner for all!

7th Grade & Honors  
Special Purim Program  
including...interactive  
trivia, music, and  
Hamentashen Baking  
extravaganza!

## Religious School Purim Assembly

March 11, 2012

10:30 AM

All families are welcome to join  
for this Pre-Purim Celebration with:

Post-Megillah Reading, Songs,  
Costume Parade, and much more...

Followed By Our Annual  
Purim Carnival



Hazzan Mitchell D. Kowitz  
hazzanmitch@templeofaaron.org  
651-698-8874 ext. 113

## FEBRUARY WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

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

## מזל טוב

- 15 Beth & Edwin Brody
- 20 Susie & Ron Haim
- 30 Myndal & Dan Silver
- 30 Beth & Barry Karon
- 51 Marge & Lew Blustin
- 51 Ronna & Thomas Sherman
- 53 Ruth Ann & Richard Schumeister
- 56 Shirley & Harold Schenker
- 59 Harriet & Miles Lane

**SHEVAT BANNER:** In memory of Joseph Rutman by his family. Entitled "Shir," it honors Jewish Music Month and depicts various shades that make up the Jewish people. A David Neeman design.

## New Fund Created To Fuel the Future!

A Tot Shabbat and Prayers in PJs fund has been created to enhance our Shabbat new family programming. We have had an enormous success with the program and hope that it will continue to grow with the continued support of our families. This bi-monthly program, geared toward toddler-first grade families, creates a comfortable environment for all families to participate in this Shabbat experience with their children. It's a

wonderful way to supplement your Shabbat experience at home by coming and celebrating Shabbat in this unique way.

This exciting new fund will provide great programs for our parents with very young children. Please support this new fund with your donations small, medium and large. Invest in our Jewish future! Contact Director of Education Joshua Fineblum to advance this project.

# Department of Youth Services



**Robby Erlich**  
Youth Director

robbyerlich@templeofaaron.org  
651-698-8874 ext. 115

## Robby's Rap

For many, this time of year is filled with sporting excitement (Predicting Super Bowl scores and completing NCAA Basketball Tournament brackets) and planning for summer activities, jobs, camps, Israel trips, post high school plans, etc.



TEMPLE OF AARON YOUTH<sup>BLVD</sup>

These months are the perfect opportunity for us to be proactive, rather than reactive, in how we conduct ourselves in and out of Temple of Aaron. Predicting sports scores is just one easy way to be proactive to shape your lives. Come chat with me if you need some direction or resources on how to be better playful; so you are less stressed and more at ease.

I want to thank everyone who helped in planning and running the MN-wide teen dance that was held on January 7. We had an excellent turnout. This event reinforces our strong commitment to community building and community programming.



Cast and crew members take a break from "All Shook Up" rehearsals!



Temple of Aaron USY was given two international awards this year!

## February Youth Department Programs!

- USY Date Night! February 25
- B'reshet Program - TBD. February 12
- USY Winter Shabbaton! February 3-5
- St. Paul 4th Grade Shabbaton! February 10-11
- St. Paul 3rd Grade Shabbaton! February 24-25

## January Review

TUSY helped the T-Wolves win!

The MN-wide Teen Dance was a hit!

7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade Nechama and ice skating field trip was memorable!

# Lilmod U'lilamed — “To Teach and to Learn”- Pirkei Avot

## ללמד וללמד



**Joshua Fineblum**  
Director of Education

joshuafineblum@templeofaaron.org  
651-698-8874 ext. 103

### **Midat Hachodesh: Ba'al Tashchit**

#### **Do Not Destroy**

This law in Judaism stems from Deuteronomy 20:19; “When you besiege a city a long time, to make war against it in order to capture it, you shall not destroy its trees by swinging an axe against them; for you may eat from them, and you shall not cut them down, for is the tree of the field a man, that it should be besieged by you?” While this law is biblical in nature the Rabbis and contemporary scholars use it today to talk about not destroying things in nature and understood it as environmentalism. Today we use this term in Hebrew as the equivalent to recycling. During this month is the holiday of *Tu B'shevat*, the birthday of the trees, and this value speaks to this holiday. We take many things for granted in our lives including nature and the beauty around us. Shouldn't each of us help preserve and treasure that in the year ahead?

In the Summer of 1993 I had the opportunity to go to Israel on Ramah Seminar. As I drove with my parents to JFK in New York City I spoke to my parents about the experience I was about to have. We spoke about all of things I would see that I had learned about for so many years in a day school and at my summers at Camp Ramah in the Poconos. When we arrived at the airport I said goodbye to my parents and met up with some old friends and met some new ones as well. We loaded onto the ELAL flight and headed out. Just a few hours into the flight, I began asking myself if we were there yet, as the anticipation of being in Israel for the first time was overwhelming.

As we made our descent, I kept thinking of the amazing things I would see and be a part of for the next several weeks. As we touched down and I heard the music welcome us to Eretz Yisrael chills ran through me like never before. Finally I was here!

This feeling would quickly subside as we frantically got our luggage and headed to the Egged bus parked outside for our group. I helped put the bags under the bus with some of my new friends and quickly we were off toward Jerusalem, “The City Of Gold.”

We arrived in Jerusalem and went straight to the tayelet, a lookout over the city. As I gazed out toward the city my jubilation turned to sadness. I had learned so much about the land and this city but when I looked out I did not see any of those things. All that I saw was rock and rubble. At that moment it was not a city of gold but a pile of rock.

Over the course of the next several days I walked through the narrow corridors continuing to learn the history of the place and began to realize more and more each day how beautiful it truly was. By the end of my trip I had a new appreciation for the place and the city and when I looked at Jerusalem this time I now saw “The City Of Gold.”

Since that first trip I have been to Israel many times and gain a different perspective each time. I have been there as a student, as an educator, as a guide, and with family. I have had some amazing experiences in Israel and am looking forward to being there again this month as a part of the Jewish Educators Assembly 60th convention this month. I hope to gain more knowledge about Israel to bring back to our community, to our teachers, our youth, and the congregation in general.

If you are interested in getting to Israel there are many way in which to do so and I can help find the right trip for you. Connecting to Israel and the people there influenced me so many years ago and each time I return I gain new perspective about the land and what it means to me and the Jewish people.

L'shana Hazeh B'Yerushalyim — This year in Jerusalem!

**Tot Shabbat & Prayers in Pjs!**

(For Toddler-1st Grade Families)

February 10th and 25th

**Temple of Aaron Men's Club and  
7<sup>th</sup> Grade invite you to wrap yourself  
at this year's  
World Wide Wrap**

**Sunday, February 5, 2012 at 9:00am**

Wrap yourself in Judaism by wearing Tefillin with the Men's Club, our 7th graders, and their families. Come join Education Director Joshua Fineblum, as we all learn and pray together as a community.

Brunch to follow; sponsored by Men's Club and Education Department.

Information/questions, contact Men's Club President, Hugh Gitlin at 651-470-1694 or hughsterg@aol.com

**3rd grade Family Education  
*The Lights of Shabbat and Havdalah*  
Sunday, February 5, 2012  
9 AM- 12 PM**

**This program, for the entire family, gives families the opportunity to learn the *Mitzvot* and customs associated with *Havdalah*. They discover the reasons for the different components of the ceremony, learn the *brachot* and create their own *Havdalah* set. A *Havdalah* ceremony will be held on February 25<sup>th</sup> with other 3rd graders from around the community.**



**Questions?**

**Joshua Fineblum, Director of Education**

**651-698-8874 ext 103**

**joshuafineblum@templeofaaron.org**

Attention 2<sup>nd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> graders  
Special Educational Field Trip  
**The Power of Freedom: Part 3**  
Wednesday, February 22, 2012  
4:00PM-6:30PM

This is part of our regular curriculum and is a joint program of Temple of Aaron, Mount Zion, Beth Jacob, and Talmud Torah.

**Historical Reminder**

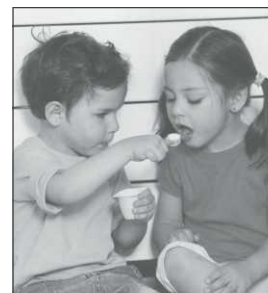
The Memorial Alcove was dedicated in 1956 in loving memory of Shirley Schleiff Greenberg by her parents Herman and Rose Schleiff.

**Key to Making a Minyan: You**

Many of us take for granted we will always have a minyan for the Mourner's Kaddish. Please set aside some time at least once per month to attend a service. Your presence will help someone perform the mitzvah of saying Kaddish for a loved one.

**Food Shelf Mission Impossible? Not if you help.**

Help us make progress in the statewide fight against hunger. Support our food shelf!



You can leave food at the synagogue.

You can use our website and make an online donation. You can mail a check to chair person Harriet Levy and she will mail a card for a celebration, get well or condolence.

**Making Progress On Search For Full Time Assistant Rabbi**

Search Committee Chairs Nancy Lane, Gary Portnoy and Steve Kafitz have formally contacted the Rabbinical Assembly. We submitted our detailed application in late December, immediately received three applications, hope to receive additional inquiries, conducted a full committee meeting in January, designed subcommittees, defined process for detailed telephone interviews followed by Rabbi visits, and reinforced duty of confidentiality. The broad-based committee members are: Marilyn Smith, Jason Divine, Gerry Hirschhorn, Phil Kibort, Paula Schrabner, Ron Less, Sally Lorberbaum, Stuart Bloom, Lisa Lerman, Sue Rosner, Jon Kvasnik, David Baldinger, USY President Joe Lane, Cheryl Bier, Bill Gotlieb, Deborah Getsug and Julie Sander.

# Thank You Todah Rabah

# תודה רבה



## נחמו נחמו עמי

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

**Yale Rutzick  
Sara Lev  
Joyce Smith  
Nellie Zamansky**

### Save Pressure, Plan Ahead

Select your cemetery graves by scheduling a 15-minute meeting with Executive Director Ken Agranoff, 651-698-8874 x106, to review options, locations and financial information.

## תודה רבה

. . . to Clara Watchman and Betty Agranoff for labeling nearly 1,100 January *Aaronions* to make sure all members receive our newsletter.  
. . . to Barbara Kaster for sponsoring the Metropolitan Male Choir in memory of her husband, Cy Kaster.  
. . . to David Baldinger, Tom Bartsch, George Bier, Robby Erlich, Lindsay Berg and Joshua Fineblum for providing special assistance with services and tutoring in November, December and January.

Thank you (*todah rabah*) to those listed below who supported our Yahrzeit Fund in memory of loved ones with donations of \$10 or more  
December 2011 Kislev-Tevet 5772

Abelovitz, Martin & Karole	Horowitz, Leonard & Marilyn	Rafowitz, Sam
Barenbaum, Bettie	Kagan, Galina	Rein, Mildred
Berde, Doris	Kaitz, Peggie	Rosenbloom, David
Besner, Rae	Kanivetskaya, Rozita	Rubenstein, Ada
Binkin, Vladimir & Bella	Kaplan, Fred	Rubenstein, Bob
Blumenfeld, Milton & Geri	Kaster, Barbara	Savage, Ronald
Braufman, Harvey	Katz, Chelle & Leon	Saxon Family
Daniels, Marjorie	Katzovitz, Carole & Leon	Schneider, Margie & Bart
Devitt, Ed & Elaine	Klein, France	Shear, Gerald & Isabelle
Drucker, Harold	Klein, Robin	Simes, Hy & Josephine
Eisenstadt, Linda & Larry	Knox, Marian & Naphtal	Simon, Phyllis
Farsht, Steven & Stephanie	Kopilenko, Alexander & Bella	Smith, Ethel & Norman
Feldman, Kayleen	Krawetz, Leah	Smookler, Richard & Diane
Feldman, Nancy	Krinsky, Renee	Stacker, Howard
Fleyshman, Yefraym	Krugman, Faina	Stein, Lawrence
Flynn, John & Susan	Lane, Harriet & Miles	Suponitsky, Yekaterina
Gak, Feliks & Vysotsky, Alla	Leibman, Jack	Tilsen, Sandra
Garelick, Eileen	Levine, Allen & Nancy	Tilsner, William
Geller, Craig & Char	Mary, Florie, Bob & family	Toomasson, Judy
Geller, Rosie & Loren	Mesnik, Rosaline	Uchenik, Esfir
Geller-Wollstein, Judith	Miller, Barbara	Vigdorovich, Leopold
Gerr, Murray & Karen	Miller, Diane	Waldman, Jerry & family
Gerr, Teddy & family	Netzman, Steve	Ward, Allen
Glassman, Samuel	Peilen, Shelley, Bree & Luke	Ward, Hillard & Helene
Gleeman, Harriet	Pieser, Ben	Watchman, Clara
Goldman, Lynn & Howard	Prawer, Ken & Bonnie	Weil, Barb
Gordon, Frank & Cookie		Weisberg, Ruth
Graham, Esther		Zaretsky, Karolina
Hirse Korn, Fred & Barbara		Zats, Betty

### Outdoor Fitness Club

Maimonides wrote in the Mishneh Torah that one is to “exercise and exert oneself greatly.” He also writes in the Guide to the Perplexed:

“For there are many things that are necessary or very useful according to some people, whereas according to others they are not at all needed; as is the case with regards to the different kinds of bodily exercise, which are necessary for the preservation of health according to the prescription of those who know the art of medicine . . .

Thus those who accomplish acts of exercising their body in the wish to be healthy, engaging in ball games, wrestling, boxing and suspension of breathing. . . are in the opinion of the ignorant engaged in frivolous actions, whereas they are not frivolous according to the Sages.”

In the spirit of Maimonides, a few members of the Temple have proposed to come together for an outdoor fitness club. We will have an informational meeting on February 26 after minyan to plan our running, biking and other outdoor activities.

Please join us for fun and fitness. For further information, Call Hugh Gitlin at 651-470-1694 or email him at [hughsterg@aol.com](mailto:hughsterg@aol.com).

# Sisterhood News

Israeli Shlichah (Emissary) – Wednesday, Feb. 15, 7:00 p.m. at Temple of Aaron, Roni Levin, the Israeli Shlichah for St. Paul will be giving a presentation on growing up and cooking in Israel. She will be sharing a recipe for Shakshuka, a recipe for one of the most popular egg dishes in Israel. There is no charge for this event and it is open to all. RSVP to Etta Lambright (651-690-5729) by Feb. 8.

\* \* \* \*

Hamantashen - \$12/doz., fruit, chocolate, poppyseed and apricot (no nuts) are available in the Sisterhood Gift Shop and the Temple kitchen. Bakers still needed; if interested, call Marcia Taple (651-688-3030). Baking is in the Temple kitchen on Mondays and Thursdays from 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

\* \* \* \*

Warm-Up America: community service project – Help create afghans to distribute to those who need them – homeless shelters, women's shelters, children's hospitals, nursing homes. Needed: Yarn and knitters/crocheters to make 9" by 9" squares. Please drop off yarn or your 9" x 9" creations in the Gift Shop and they will be transformed into beautiful, warm afghans. Questions: Roxanne Portnoy, 612-334-2725.

\* \* \* \*

Book Club – The Book Club meets on the third Sunday of the month at The Highland Café and Bakery in Highland Park at 10 am. Call Teddy Gerr with questions about the titles that are being discussed or for more info (651-405-6658).

\* \* \* \*

Knitting Club – This hobby is a great way to warm up your fingers on a frigid evening. The group meets the fourth Thursday of the month at 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. in the Temple Library. All levels are encouraged to come and knit, crochet, needlepoint and chat. Bring your own needles and yarn. Questions, call Roxanne Portnoy at 612-334-2725.

\* \* \* \*

Women's Shelter Donations – Drop off new, unopened toiletries to be donated to local women's shelters. All items are requested and they can be dropped off in the Temple Gift Shop. Needed now are twin-size sheets. New, unopened cosmetics also will be distributed to the homeless. Help out our local community and give someone a lift with these easy donations. Questions, call Alexandria Ganzel at 651-490-7684 or Susan Flynn at 651-683-0706.

\* \* \* \*

Building Fund Cards – Cards for every occasion are only a phone call away. Pick up that phone and show someone you care by sending one of these lovely cards. All funds raised by the use of these cards go directly to benefit our beautiful building. Questions, call Sis Goren (651-686-0425) or Susan Kushner (651-454-8336). For billing questions, call Betty Agranoff at 651-698-8275.

\* \* \* \*

Food Shelf – This ongoing project serves our community year round. Donate food items at any time by dropping them off in the cart located in our coat room. Monetary donations will also be accepted by sending a check, payable to Temple of Aaron Food Shelf, to Harriet Levy, 1826 Merlot Curve, Eagan, MN 55122. For more info, call Harriet Levy (651-454-6829).

\* \* \* \*

Gift Shop – Find all of your Judaica needs at The Temple of Aaron Sisterhood Gift Shop. There are items for Bar/Bat Mitzvahs, weddings, graduations, confirmations and any other special occasion. Inventory is constantly changing and if you can't get to the Gift Shop during regular hours, arrangements can be made for you at other times (call Marcia Taple at 651-688-3030). Not sure what to purchase for that special someone? Gift Shop gift cards are always available. We also have a Bar/Bat Mitzvah & Bridal Registry to make your shopping easy. For more info, call 651-699-9192.

\* \* \* \*

Women's Fashion Show – May 17 – SAVE THE DATE. Looking for Sisterhood members to model for this end-of-the-year program; all ages needed. Call Marcia Taple.

## SISTERHOOD GIFT SHOP

651-699-9192

New Tallitot

Yads

Giftware & Judaica

Shop Early - Shop Often!

We Gift Wrap!

*Bar/Bat Mitzvah  
& Bridal Registry*

We carry

**Michael Aram**

Can't Think of What to Buy?

We Offer Gift Cards!

Support Your Sisterhood Gift Shop

Support Your Synagogue

Open Hours:

Sunday 9:00 - Noon

Tuesday 10:00 - 2:00

Wednesday 10:00 - 1:00

Wednesday 6:00 - 8:00

Thurs. Jan. 19 — 6:00 - 9:00

By Appointment Call:

Marcia Taple / 651-688-3030

## June 24 Features Giant Arts and Crafts Fair

An arts and crafts fair will be held at Temple of Aaron on June 24, 2012. This event will be inside in our wonderful, air-conditioned facility, from 10:00 to 5:00. We are currently looking for a variety of vendors to join us in our show with their handmade, creative products. The entry fee will be \$50 for a 10x10 ft. space. Tables and chairs are available upon request.

If you are interested in participating, or if you know of someone who might be interested in participating, please contact Margie Schneider at 7381jbs@comcast.net or (651)698-4358. Sisterhood is sponsoring this event to financially help the synagogue.

# Exaggerations Deepen Mistrust Between British, Arabs, Israelis

By Dr. Steven Derfler

In spite of the fact that the international community recognized the need to create three states in the British Mandate territories, and voted favorably upon it, not all were pleased with the end result. Beginning almost immediately, the Arab League would back an all-out civil war aimed at consolidating what was supposed to become a Palestinian Arab state, and at the same time pressure and try to deny the decided-upon territory to the Jewish Palestinians. The military action would begin as early as December 1947, a full half-year before the formal declaration of the State of Israel.



Armies from Iraq, Egypt, Transjordan, Saudi Arabia, Syria and Lebanon began to amass just outside of the proposed partition boundaries. To make matters worse, the decidedly pro-Arab English military did

everything in its power to tip the military scales on the side of the Arab League forces. During the decades of the British Mandate, with the unrest fomenting, the British military designed blockhouse style police stations that could withstand all but a full firepower military assault. These were called Taggart Forts (named after the officer who designed them). Strategically placed throughout Palestine, a majority of these positions



would eventually be turned over to the Arab forces, trained by the British military.

One of the fiercest battles fought in this timeframe would be the battle for Jerusalem's roads (April-May 1948). The focal point would be in the Bab el-Wad, by the Latrun Police Station. Today, it serves as a museum for the armored corps; with dozens of memorials along the road nearby.

Many "miracles" took place in this period of time; but perhaps the major feat of note was the building of what would become known as "The Burma Road." With the Tel Aviv-Jerusalem Road under constant siege and blockade by the Arab forces, the Jewish military would actually construct a bypass road, primarily by hand, through the mountains to avoid the Arab troops and supply the beleaguered city of Jerusalem.

However, the victories need be tempered by the violence of war and collateral damage. We need to remember that, prior to the creation of Israel, many paramilitary groups comprised the Jewish defence forces of Palestine. They all vied for control, and actually fought (both figuratively and literally) each other for finances, arms, and controlling strategies. As a result, actions taken by these groups had no responsibility to a central command. So at times uncontrollable military action did occur; sometimes with a violence that allowed collateral damage.

A major case in point was the episode in the Bab el Wad village of Deir Yassin. On April 9, 1948, in the heat of battle, the village was destroyed and there was, according to the story, a massacre of civilians. The cry went out to avenge

over 200 civilian deaths at the hands of the paramilitary Irgun and Lehi — radical Jewish elements. If we take into account the nature of the "Arab Mind" ( an excellent treatise by Israeli scholar Raphael Patai), then we understand the hyperbole found in both Arab language and culture — a kind of paranoia of sorts. If the Arab propaganda called for the destruction of the Jews, Israel, etc., and used flowery, eloquent language to make believers of themselves and the opposition, then why shouldn't they believe that the Israelis could be bent on similar destruction. So the call went out to "Remember Deir Yassin" and avenge Arab civilian blood with Jewish civilian blood. This would add fuel to the fire by creating a mass hysteria among the civilian population to abandon their homes in soon-to-be controlled Jewishly allotted territory — adding to the myth of a completely, forcibly displaced



Palestinian Arab population.

However, Deir Yassin's tale would take a new turn in 1998. The BBC would research and document that the initial reports by Hazzem Nusseibeh and Hussein Khalidi in 1948 would be proven to be lies — admitted by the two men, as propaganda and a means of exhorting the Arab world to rally against the Jewish community.

Was there uncontrolled violence on both sides here? Yes. Were some civilians killed? Absolutely. Was the village of Deir Yassin totally destroyed and its civilian population massacred? No.

However, the episode would be one of a handful of key events that would galvanize the Jewish military into creating an umbrella national organization that would become known as the IDF by June 1948.

*An international educational consultant, public speaker, archaeologist, historian, researcher, teacher and writer, Dr. Derfler has been uncovering the histories of Ancient Civilizations for 35 years. Tracing the development of western religions from their roots in the Middle East and Eastern Mediterranean countries, Dr. Derfler brings insight to current political and social events, bridging the past with the future to promote greater understanding between people from different faiths and walks of life.*





# Social Justice - A Volunteer Committee

## COMMITTEE MEMBER SPEAKS OUT REGARDING THE MARRIAGE AMENDMENT

The Temple of Aaron has made it abundantly clear that all are welcome within our community when the Board approved a proposal allowing commitment ceremonies between Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender couples to be conducted on the Bimah. This is consistent with the ruling of the Jewish Theological Seminary which allows each Conservative congregation to decide for itself whether or not to conduct commitment ceremonies for its GLBT members. I recall reading Rabbi Joel Roth's commentary on this decision in the Conservative Jewish magazine KOLOT. He made it clear that the prohibition on homosexual relationships found in Leviticus places them firmly in a category of sins equivalent to ignoring the laws of kashruth, but below the level of not observing Shabbat: that was a really, really major sin! We are humane and human enough not to exclude eaters of treif from participating fully in the joys of Torah, chuppah and Ma'asim tovim.

Using this as a basis, I was reminded that marriage is a civil state – marriages cannot be recognized for civil legal purposes without a marriage license issued by the state where the marriage is to be performed. Religious institutions are not obliged to conduct marriage ceremonies, even if the state issues a marriage license. Religious institutions across America (including synagogues) have and still do refuse to conduct marriage ceremonies between members of their faith whose partners are from other traditions. Those who wish to be married under such circumstances still have an option: judges and other justices of the peace.

Currently, under Minnesota statutory law, a marriage between any combination other than one man and one woman is not permitted or recognized by the state, including commitment ceremonies conducted at the Temple of Aaron. This statute can be changed without too much difficulty, but the law is what it is and has not changed for many years. Having a constitutional amendment passed, as is being proposed on the November, 2012 ballot, will accomplish 3 things: It will institutionalize bias against otherwise law-abiding citizens who only are doing the secular version of "eating treif," it will duplicate legislation that already is part of our legal code, and it prevents such citizens from enjoying some 515 rights and benefits afforded to those in current legal marriages.

This is unfair and biased. This amendment cannot be allowed to pass for the reasons outlined above. Intelligent, rational adults know that "gay marriage" is no threat to traditional marriages. It is up to us to start the thousand small, one-on-one conversations with others who do not understand the basis or implications of this proposed constitutional amendment to see what it is in reality: forcing a religious attitude onto civil society. You can do it. You can just vote no in November. — *Doris Rubenstein*

## MAKING OUR VOICES STRONGER

The learning phase of the Tzedek Institute, a social action and organizing program created and organized by Jewish Community Action, was completed in December. The Temple of Aaron Tzedek Institute participants, Bill Lerman, Gary Portnoy, and Brian Zaidman, along with Vic Rosenthal, Executive Director of Jewish Community Action and a Temple of Aaron member, have created a core team to organize and sustain our synagogue members' participation in the program. The Tzedek Institute will bring together Jews from across the Twin Cities to become a powerful voice for the Jewish values of justice and compassion. The core team will be a subcommittee of the Social Justice committee. — *Brian Zaidman*

## JUST VOTE NO

Make History - Defeat The Marriage Amendment

DATE: Sunday, March 4, 2012

TIME: 2:00 – 5:00 pm

LOCATION: Adath Jeshurun Synagogue  
10500 Hillside Lane W, Minnetonka 55305

Please join us in a community program organized by Jewish Community Action (JCA) and co-sponsored by local synagogues and Jewish communal organizations to learn more about the proposed Marriage Amendment on the November 6th, 2012 Minnesota ballot.

This event will focus on how the proposed amendment conflicts with Jewish values and what we can do as a community to educate and mobilize others. Event highlights:

- Guest speakers will share personal stories about why "we care" about this proposed amendment, both as Jews and as Minnesotans.
- A text study with local rabbis on why taking a stand on this issue is important to us as a Jewish community.
- Learn what can be done individually and collectively to make sure this discriminatory measure is not enshrined in the Minnesota Constitution.

More information: Adele Brown 651-632-2184, or [adele@jewishcommunityaction.org](mailto:adele@jewishcommunityaction.org)

## SAVE THE DATE!!!!

10th Annual Immigrant Freedom Seder

Sunday, March 11th

Doors open at 1:30 PM

Seder begins promptly at 2:00 PM

Mount Zion Temple

1300 Summit Avenue, St. Paul

Admission \$10-\$18 sliding scale,  
no one turned away for lack of funds.

A sampling of seder food will be served.

Child care available.

RSVP by Monday, March 5:

[lauren@jewishcommunityaction.org](mailto:lauren@jewishcommunityaction.org) or  
[vic@jewishcommunityaction.org](mailto:vic@jewishcommunityaction.org)

To volunteer at the Seder, please contact:  
[lauren@jewishcommunityaction.org](mailto:lauren@jewishcommunityaction.org) or  
[vic@jewishcommunityaction.org](mailto:vic@jewishcommunityaction.org)

## Men's Club Musings

### Men's Club Super Bowl Party

On February 5 at 4:30 pm, come to the Fink Youth Lounge for our annual Super Bowl party. Let us do the cooking, supply all your beverages, and all you have to do is relax and enjoy the game. The cost is only \$10 for adults and teens, \$5 for kids 5-12, and free for under 5.

### Men's Club Shabbat

Men's Club Shabbat will be March 9-10. We will be leading services both Friday night and Saturday morning. There will also be a Friday night dinner, and a Lunch-and-Learn on Saturday. There are roles for any Men's Club member who wants one. Call Hugh Gitlin at 651-470-1694 or email at [hughsterg@aol.com](mailto:hughsterg@aol.com) for information.

### March Dinner with the Rabbi and Business Meeting

On March 22, the Men's Club will be meeting at Granite City in Eagan for "Dinner with the Rabbi." We will also be electing our new leadership for the next two years that night. Please join us for an evening of learning and conversation. For information, contact Hugh at 651-470-1694, or [hughsterg@aol.com](mailto:hughsterg@aol.com).

## Mi Sheberakh / Prayer for Healing

May the One who blessed our ancestors, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel, and Leah, bless and heal the one who is ill: \_\_\_\_\_ son/daughter of \_\_\_\_\_. May the Holy Blessed One overflow with compassion upon him/her, to restore him/her, to heal him/her, to strengthen him/her, to enliven him/her. The One will send him/her, speedily, a complete healing — healing of the soul and healing of the body — along with all the ill, among the people of Israel and all humankind, soon, speedily, without delay, and let us all say: Amen!

Helping people



help themselves

December 21, 2011

Howard Goldman  
Temple of Aaron  
616 South Mississippi River Boulevard  
Saint Paul MN 55116

Dear Mr. Goldman,

Even for an affordable rental housing project it has been a long and winding road to construction start for PPL's "West 7<sup>th</sup> Street" building. But with your help we have arrived. Construction is underway, which means next year at this time 44 families – 10 of them qualified as long-term homeless – will have a great new place to live.

Given the time of year and the importance of getting underway as soon as possible, we opted not to have a formal groundbreaking ceremony. Look for a grand opening next fall where we can properly thank and recognize all the key partners who made this project possible. **But know now how grateful we are for your support and encouragement along the way!**

A special note of thanks is due to Council Member Pat Harris. He was a stalwart champion of creating these affordable housing opportunities in the District he represents from day one, never wavering and instead offering support at every twist and turn. Thank you, Pat, for your commitment to affordable housing.

We are confident all involved in making the West 7<sup>th</sup> Street project a reality will be proud of the results. Thanks again for your help, and we'll look forward to seeing you at the grand opening next year.

Happy Holidays

Steve Cramer

Chris Wilson

Barbara McCormick

Barbara McCormick

Matt Soucek

Matt Soucek

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## Johnson Hospice Care Agency Ready to Help at Sholom Community Alliance

It is fully licensed to help patients throughout the Twin Cities with specialized resources available to Jewish patients and their families.

Hospice empowers individuals to live with dignity and to live life to its fullest. It offers terminally ill individuals an alternative to aggressive curative treatments. Care is focused on the person, not the disease.

The Johnson Center on the Rossy and Richard Shaller Family Sholom East Campus offers private suites designed specifically for hospice patients. The patient's primary care physician directs the hospice care which is provided by specially-trained professionals, clergy and volunteers through a unique interdisciplinary team approach with the patient and family as the center of care. Patients can choose to remain at home - or wherever appropriate care can be provided.

To learn more about the Johnson Hospice Care Agency, call 651-328-2091 or [www.sholom.com/](http://www.sholom.com/)

# Temple of Aaron Calendar of Events

February 2012  
Shevat ~ Adar 5772

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>For more information on these and other events and programs, please visit our website at <a href="http://www.templeofaaron.org">www.templeofaaron.org</a></p>						
<p><b>5</b> 9 am Minyan, Worldwide Tefillin Wrap, Men's Club Breakfast 9am Sunday School 4:30 pm Men's Club Super Bowl Party 6 pm Minyan</p>	<p><b>6</b> 7:30 am Minyan 6pm Minyan 7 pm Bldg. Closes</p>	<p><b>7</b> 7:30 am Minyan 6pm Minyan 7 pm Bldg. Closes</p>	<p><b>1</b> 7:30 am Minyan 4:00 pm Hebrew School 6 pm 7th &amp; Honors 6 pm Minyan 7:30 pm Fundamentals of Judaism</p>	<p><b>2</b> 7:30 am Minyan 6 pm Minyan 6:30 pm Talmud Class 7:30 pm Bible Class</p>	<p><b>3</b> 7:30 am Minyan 8 pm Service Candlelighting 5:05 pm</p>	<p><b>4</b> 8 am Coffee w/Rashi &amp; friends 9 am Service 9 am ESP School 5 pm Minyan</p>
<p><b>12</b> 9 am Minyan, Men's Club Breakfast 9am Sunday School 6 pm Minyan</p>	<p><b>13</b> 7:30 am Minyan 6pm Minyan 7 pm Bldg. Closes</p>	<p><b>14</b> 7:30 am Minyan 6pm Minyan 7 pm Bldg. Closes</p>	<p><b>8</b> 7:30 am Minyan 4:00 pm Hebrew School 6 pm 7th &amp; Honors 6 pm Minyan 7:30 pm Fundamentals of Judaism <i>Tu B'Shevat</i></p>	<p><b>9</b> 7:30 am Minyan 6 pm Minyan 6:30 pm Talmud Class 7:30 pm Bible Class</p>	<p><b>10</b> 7:30 am Minyan 6 pm Prayers in PJ's 8 pm Service Candlelighting 5:15 pm 4th grade Community Shabbaton</p>	<p><b>11</b> 8 am Coffee w/Rashi &amp; friends 9 am Service 9 am ESP School 11:30 am Junior-Senior Seminar 5:15 pm Minyan</p>
<p><b>19</b> 9 am Minyan, Men's Club Breakfast 10am Book Club-Sisterhood No Sunday School 6 pm Minyan</p>	<p><b>20</b> 7:30 am Minyan 6pm Minyan 7 pm Bldg. Closes</p>	<p><b>21</b> 7:30 am Minyan 6pm Minyan 6:30pm Book Club 8 pm Bldg. Closes</p>	<p><b>22</b> 7:30 am Minyan 4:00 pm Hebrew School 6 pm 7th &amp; Honors 6 pm Minyan 7:30 pm Fundamentals of Judaism</p>	<p><b>23</b> 7:30 am Minyan 6 pm Minyan 6:30 pm Talmud Class 7:30 pm Bible Class</p>	<p><b>24</b> 7:30 am Minyan 8 pm Service Candlelighting 5:25 pm</p>	<p><b>25</b> 8 am Coffee w/Rashi &amp; friends 9 am Service 9 am ESP School Lunch n' Learn /Adult Ed. 10:30 am Tot Shabbat 5:30 pm Minyan</p>
<p><b>26</b> 9 am Minyan, Men's Club Breakfast 9am Sunday School 10:30am Adult Ed 6 pm Minyan</p>	<p><b>27</b> 7:30 am Minyan 6pm Minyan 7 pm Bldg. Closes</p>	<p><b>28</b> 7:30 am Minyan 6pm Minyan 7 pm Bldg. Closes</p>	<p><b>29</b> 7:30 am Minyan 4:00 pm Hebrew School 6 pm 7th &amp; Honors 6 pm Minyan 6:30 pm Adult Ed Mini Series 7:30 pm Fundamentals of Judaism</p>	<p><b>16</b> 7:30 am Minyan 6 pm Minyan 6:30 pm Talmud Class 7:30 pm Bible Class</p>	<p><b>17</b> 7:30 am Minyan 8 pm Service-Isaiah Clark's Bar Mitzvah No ESP School 5:30 pm Minyan</p>	<p><b>18</b> 8 am Coffee w/Rashi &amp; friends 9 am Service-Isaiah Clark's Bar Mitzvah No ESP School 5:30 pm Minyan</p>

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# B'nai Mitzvah



Isaiah Joseph Clark

Isaiah Joseph Clark, son of Stephanie and Matthew Clark, will celebrate his Bar Mitzvah on February 17 and 18, 2012.

Isaiah is in 7th grade at Highland Middle School, where he enjoys baseball, music, reading, drawing, and being with friends and family.

Isaiah has designated American Jewish World Service for his tzedaka contribution.

Oneg Shabbat and Kiddush refreshments will be sponsored by his parents and the hard work of many, many friends.

## **Dedicated Sanctuary Seat Plate: Affordable and Respectful**

We have a beautiful wall design of our sanctuary in the Capp Lounge. Over the years many members have purchased a \$500 permanent seat plate to honor a special occasion or honor the memory of a family member. Every time someone in the family attends a service or program, the plate provides a wonderfully enticing opportunity to look at the wall design and enjoy visual memories. You can select the specific seat the person sat in during the High Holydays or during Shabbat services. Call Executive Director Ken Agranoff to get all of the details and share the desired wording for ordering a special dedicated sanctuary seat plate.

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