

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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January 1, 2012

6 Tevet, 5772

ATTENTION TEMPLE OF AARON FAMILIES! WE HAVE A QUESTION....



Please join us for a Shabbat celebration at the synagogue! Dinner begins at 6:30 PM Followed by services at 8:00 PM.

Friday, January 20, 2012

RSVP by January 11th
and Questions?
Susie Haim
Administrative Assistant
susiehaim@templeofaaron.org
651-698-8874 ext. 104

***To help make meals affordable to all members, we have a new pricing plan. We ask that everyone pay at least the minimum amount (\$5) but list the actual cost for each meal (\$12), and encourage all who can to pay that. We also accept donations to help make up the difference. It is our intention that this helps make everyone feel welcome at the Temple of Aaron.

***Actual Cost: \$12
per person
Minimum \$5
Donations welcome

**Friday
January 13
8:00 pm**
Features the Famous
**Metropolitan
Male Choir**
Led By Ben Zachary



From the Rabbi's Desk . . .

Meaningful Judaism: Jewish Values of Leadership

At the root of all Jewish life is a radical assertion: that ancient texts, in a language few can read fluently, can have a daily impact on our modern lives. The basic assumption is that the stories and personalities from ancient times can still speak to us today in a meaningful way. We are used to looking for this kind of guidance at big, transitional moments, like celebrating or mourning together. But for Judaism to be truly meaningful, then these connections need to be more frequent. Over the next year, I would like to explore different ways that the ancient wisdom of Judaism can be applied to our lives today, beginning with Jewish views on leadership.

Jewish leadership is not just about leadership within a Jewish context, it is using Jewish values to improve our leadership at work, school, and during volunteer activities. The following frameworks can provide examples and inspiration for becoming leaders in whatever context we choose to use them. Each of these four Jewish Leadership Values is supported by a text.

Jewish leadership is collaborative. Part of leadership is the recognition that good ideas can come from many directions, and Jewish leadership values remind us to involve others in the decision-making process. Having a variety of divergent views is the best way to create a plan and to solve problems. This idea is based on a phrase from the Talmud (Eruvin 13a) that solves a particularly heated discussion with the phrase *Elu vElu divrei Elohim hayim* "These and these are words of the Living God" indicating that all opinions have truth in them. We as leaders, using Jewish values, should always keep this in mind.

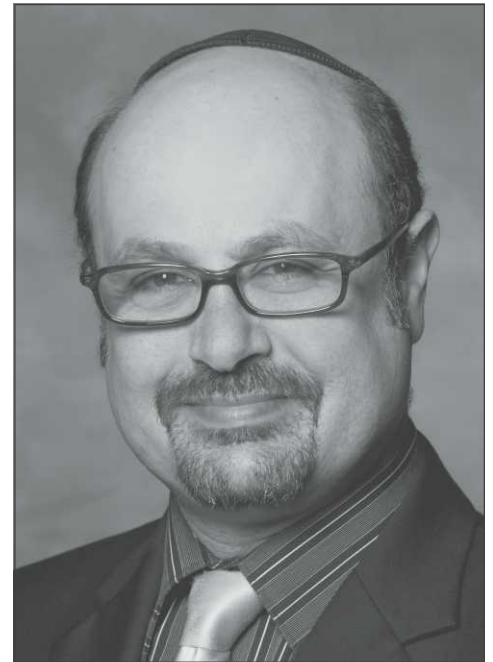
Jewish leadership recognizes a single decision maker. After the collaboration and the seeking of a variety of opinions, there needs to be a decision. The role of the leader is to guide these decisions, always keeping in mind the big picture and the larger vision and goals. We see an example of this in the Creation story.

God creates "the two great luminaries: one to rule the day and one to rule the night, and the stars." (Genesis 1:16) The great medieval commentator Rashi notes that originally both the sun and moon were created the same size, but then the sun was made bigger because "it is impossible for two kings to use the same crown."

Jewish leadership is conducted respectfully. There is conflict in every organization and in every situation where we are engaged as leaders. Jewish tradition does not shy away from such conflicts, as the old joke reminds us: "two Jews, three opinions." Jewish leadership also acknowledges the importance of conflict as long as it is done in a respectful manner. One of the clearest examples that tradition provides is the way that competing religious schools of thought, led by Rabbi Hillel and Rabbi Shammi, got along. These teachers and their students disagreed about many points of Jewish law, and each was a strong advocate for their own positions. Despite this, they were very respectful of each other, speaking kindly to and about one another, often quoting the opposing view before their own, and always able to break bread together. Our government used to work this way. It is said that President Reagan and Speaker of the House Tip O'Neal "broke bread together" in the evening despite their many disagreements during the working day.

Pirki Avot characterizes this relationship as *machlokot leShem Shamyaim*, that is "arguments for the sake of Heaven." Their disagreements were focused on finding the best answer rather than personal, ego driven attacks.

Focus on the overall vision is the fourth Jewish leadership value. Without a strong vision, no group or



Rabbi Alan Shavit-Lonstein
rabbishavitlonstein@templeofaaron.org
651-698-8874 ext. 111

organization can function for very long. Knowing where you are going is necessary to getting there, and is especially necessary to avoid being distracted on the way. We all know how easy it is to lose focus, and one of the roles of a Jewish leader is to keep reminding others of the overall vision. According to the Torah, the overall vision of Judaism is given to Avram very early on: *veHeyeh bracha*, that we should "be a blessing" to the world around us. (Genesis 12:2). This directive from God helps to focus the entire future of Judaism, reminding us to this day that we are here to make the world a better place. One way to fulfill this vision today is to use these Jewish leadership values in every aspect of our lives.

Camp/Israel Scholarships Available

To apply for Summer Camp/Israel Scholarships please refer to the application on the front page of the website:

www.templeofaaron.org

Application due date: January 8, 2012

Questions?

Joshua Fineblum, Director of Education

joshuafineblum@templeofaaron.org

(651)698-8874 ext 103

Cantor's Column

No Column This Month

Temple of Aaron and UJFC will help you save for your child's trip to Israel!

Passport to Israel is a St. Paul Jewish community program that helps families save money to send their teens on educational trips to Israel. It is a partnership between families, participating synagogues and the United Jewish Fund and Council. UJFC matching funds are available to families who make a gift to the UJFC Annual Campaign. Enroll through your synagogue and each spring they will notify you when it is time to make your deposit in your child's Passport account. The synagogue will send your deposit(\$150) and the synagogue's match (\$50) to the UJFC

where the community match will be added. Each year your child will have an additional \$350 added into their account (plus interest if any). For complete details, check out Passport to Israel at www.JewishStPaul.org or contact Sharyn Effress Pesses at 651-695-3186 or SPesses@ujfc.org. The Elliott Belzer family created endowments to provide the synagogue's annual match and we are grateful. In addition, the Donald and Helen Swartz Family Israel Fund at Temple of Aaron provides a grant to bar/bat mitzvah students who select an approved educational program in Israel.



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

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.

Correction: Addition to DECEMBER WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

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

מזל טוב

51 Revekka and Grigoriy Shneur

Judaism is NOT a spectator sport

The future of our minyan will belong to those who have passion and are willing to work hard to make our minyan work on a regular basis.

Sanctuary Monthly Banner

TEVET BANNER: Presented by Manya and Ben Sturrey. Titled "Destruction of Temple" (Anna Andersch-Marcus design). It depicts the destruction of the Temple with falling of pillars during the winter.

Tot Shabbat & Prayers in PJs!

(For Toddler-1st Grade Families)

January 6th and 21st

One and all are welcome to spend Friday Nights and Shabbat mornings with us as we dance, sing, and celebrate Shabbat together. This new dynamic family program will create a way for the entire family to socialize, become acquainted with the synagogue, and learn about Judaism and Jewish holidays in a fun, interactive manner.

Join our Facebook Group: Tot Shabbat!



Times:

Friday Nights 6:00 PM-7:00 PM

Shabbat Mornings 10:30 AM-11:30 AM

Questions?

Joshua Fineblum, Director of Education
joshuafineblum@templeofaaron.org
 Lindsay Berg, Coordinator
lindsayberg@gmail.com

Department of Youth Services



Robby Erlich
Youth Director

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

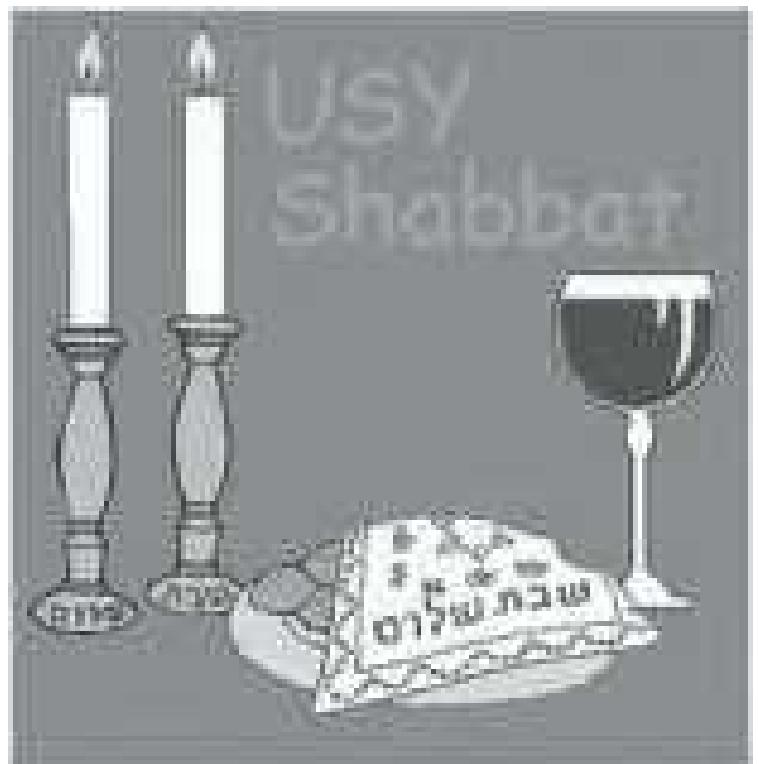
Robby's Rap

The winter months are our busiest months filled with fun and excitement! The start of our play "All Shook Up" is in full swing with rehearsals and working hard! Our Kadima'niks had a meaningful weekend at their Kadima Shabbaton, December 16-17 at Temple of Aaron. Meanwhile our younger youth members enjoyed some summer activities in the winter!

The winter months are upon us and you may find yourself craving some sun, beaches and warmer weather. Many of these same cravings can be fulfilled with our Youth Department. Attend one of our youth-lead programs, develop events and marketing materials. Help with our Youth Department play! Hang out with your friends in a Jewish atmosphere. The energy and passion of our youth group members is what drives our programs. Belong with us... there are many opportunities to contribute. If you are unsure of what is available, chat with me! I am always available!



Cast and Crew members take a break from
"All Shook Up" Rehearsals!



Temple of Aaron Congregation is cordially invited to
USY Shabbat
Saturday, January 21, 2012
Experience the ruach and excitement as TUSY leads us
during Shabbat service and education session.

January Youth Department Programs!

- Comedy Sports for 7-8 graders! January 7
- Bowling for 5-6 graders! January 8
- USY Shabbat for 9-12 graders! January 21
- Snow tubing with Beth Jacob! January 28

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

הידור מצוה

Midat Hachodesh:

Hiddur Mitzvah

Beautifying the commandment Jewish Art, a mezuzah case, Seder plate, or challah cover are all ways in which we can uphold this value of *Hiddur Mitzvah*. The word *Hiddur* actually means splendor or glorify but today we use this term as meaning to beautify. In our own art classes here over the years students and parents have had the opportunity to do this act of *Hiddur mitzvah* with almost every project they have done. During this past month our 5th-graders received their *siddurim* with their own personalized covers made by family members, an act of *Hiddur mitzvah*. There are other things we can do to beautify the mitzvah including song. Each time we pray and join in song together during services we are beautifying the liturgy of the *siddur* as community. Now it's your turn to do this act of *Hiddur Mitzvah*.

As we begin the new secular calendar year, we always think about the things we wish to change about ourselves for this New Year. It is now when we look at the past year and decide what we can do to make ourselves better, and how we can change. In the Jewish calendar, have we not already done so?

Just a few months ago we sat in the sanctuary and asked for forgiveness of the things we had done in the past year. While we ask for that forgiveness we also use it as a wake-up call for how we should act and what we should do to make ourselves better. The High Holydays also wake us to the idea that it is not all about the individual but the community.

I want to urge you to not just think about how you can change yourself but how can you can make one simple change which will benefit us all. Make this year's resolution to become more active in your community and help others to be a part of the amazing things we have going on at Temple of Aaron. We have had so many great successes to start off this year and there is something for everyone here.

Join us for:

Got Shabbat Community Dinner — January 20

Family Education Programming for 6th or 7th Grades — January 8 or 22

Prayers in PJs or Tot Shabbat — January 6 or 21

2nd-6th Grade Community Educational Program — January 18

Grand Person's Day — January 29

Jr./Sr. Seminar — January 21 with USY Shabbat Lunch and Learn

Adult Education Programming — Each Thursday Night

Coffee with Rashi and Friends — Shabbat Mornings

Sisterhood and Men's Club Programming — Monthly

Services — Twice Daily

All of these programs and more are here for you. Please think about how you can become more of a part of the programming we have for you here at Temple of Aaron.

I look forward to seeing you at our next event!

Temple of Aaron Rabbi Bernard S. Raskas Religious School Presents...

Grand Person's Day

Sunday, January 29, 2012

For Toddler-4th Grade Students

Bring along a family member or important person in your life to be a part of this special program including Challah Baking and other surprises.

Questions? Susie Haim, Administrative Assistant

susiehaim@templeofaaron.org

(651)698-8874 ext 104

6th Grade Family Education

Tzitzit; Ties that Bind Us

Sunday, January 8th, 2012

9 AM — 12 PM

This program will be held on a Sunday for 6th grade students and parents. They learn the *vayomer* section of the *Shema* and the about the mitzvah of wearing *Tzitzit* and *tallit*.



Questions?

Joshua Fineblum, Director of Education

651-698-8874 ext 103

joshuafineblum@templeofaaron.org

Attention 2nd—6th graders

Special Educational Field Trip

The Power of Freedom: Part 2

Wednesday, January 18, 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.

7th Grade Family Education

Tefillin: Build a Pair

Sunday, January 22, 2012

9 AM-12 PM

This program is for 7th grade students and their parents. In this program, families will learn about *tefillin* through text study and discussion. Our families will learn all about the sections of the *tefillin* and build a set of mock tefillin. We will follow this program up by



inviting you back to join us for the World Wide Wrap on February 5, 2012.

Questions?

Joshua Fineblum, Director of Education

651-698-8874 ext 103

joshuafineblum@templeofaaron.org

Getting Ready for 2012-2013



Dear Temple of Aaron Congregants,

I wanted to take a moment to reflect and thank you for allowing me to be in your lives and a member of the Temple of Aaron family. That being said, at the conclusion of this programming year, I will be moving on in my professional life. I will be using my newly earned Master's Degree working as a Professional School Counselor beginning in late 2012 or early 2013.

As I am writing this letter, many meaningful moments and memories are streaming through my mind, all of which are valuable to me. From the rousing success of our programs, increased participation level, the many teachable moments that I have experienced, to the late hours of hearing the buildings' pipes pop and fizzle, I will never forget my time being your Youth Director at Temple of Aaron.

Being a part of this community and an active and engaged Jew is a vital piece of my life and I have no intention of ever putting that behind me. This means that I will continue to be a part of the Temple of Aaron community. I wish to return and work in another capacity for the congregation in the years to come.

I want to thank such a great group of dedicated kids, adolescents, parents and colleagues during my time here. Thank you so much to all of you for all that you do in making the lives of our youth a priority for the congregation. Thank you and I'm looking forward to an amazing last few months.

B'Shalom,

Robby Erlich
Youth Director

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

Lillie Rosen
Morris Katz
Khaya Bast
Herb Sloane

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 Stuart Shwiff for purchasing a sukkah panel to support the Men's Club Sukkah project.

... to Alice Gurstelle for donating a sukkah panel to honor the birth of five great-grandchildren in 2011: Henry Andrew Fuerstneau, Elise Gurstelle McMillan, Asher Leo Gurstelle, Evan Ronald Kralick, and Willa Charlotte Grandin.

... to Rabbi Steven N. Fineblum who successfully led a session for our Jr. Sr. Seminar in November 2011.

... to Burt Katz, Betty Agranoff and Toni Bernabei for helping label over 1,000 December *Aaronions* to help everyone keep track of our news and programs.

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

Agranoff, Betty & family
Appelbaum,
Murray & Arlene
Axelrod, Linda & Lenny
Barenbaum, Bettie
Baskina, Ella
Berde, Doris
Besner, Rae
Blumstein, Sterling
Marvy, Bob, Florie & sons
Bubar, Sana & Dmitry
Calmenson, Beverly
Daniels, Marjorie
Dietz, Al
Edelstein, Rebecca
Farsht, Steve
Flynn, John & Susan
Freeman, Gretta
Garellick, Molly & Kenny
Geller, Rosie & Loren
Gilman, Rose
Gleeman, Harriet
Gochberg, Peter
Goldberg, Judy
Goldetsky, Celia
Goldman, Arnold

Goldman, Irene
Grobovsky, Shirley
Gurstelle, Alice
Hirschhorn, Gerry
Hirsekor, Fred & Barbara
Kaminsky, Beverly
Kanivetsky, Rozita
Kaplan, Esther
Kaplan, Louis
Katz, Leon & Chelle
Khaskin, Isif
Klein, E. Gary & Marion
Kloner, Louise
Kopilenko,
Alexander & Bella
Lane, Stephen & Nancy
Levine, Allen & Nancy
Leyderman,
Anna & Mikhoul
Mack, Ellen & Bates, Tom
Makhlin, Yuliya
Meltzer, Rose & William
Munic, Doris
Phillips, Jan & Janet
Pilko, Agnes
Raskin, Maria

Ringer, Jan
Rosen, Fran
Rosen, Revelle
Rubenstein, Ada
Rubenstein, Bob
Sanders, Fern & David
Sanderson, Anne Rae
Savage, Edith
Schneider, Margie & Bart
Schraber, Paula & David
Segal, Jerry & Louise
Shneur, Grigoriy
Shumilovsky, Serafima
Simes, Hy & Josephine
Simon, Toby
Skadron, Nancy
Soroka, Tatyana
Sponitsky, Alexander
Toushin, Sally & David
Tragar, C.A.
Vinitzky, Shirley
Webb, Jerry & Doris
Weinberg, Idele
Wolkowicz, Joe

Let's Rebuild Our Torah Repair Fund

We recently repaired two Torahs used for High Holydays. It is now time to replenish and build our fund so we can repair additional Torahs. Gifts from \$18 to \$18,000 are welcomed and needed. Contact Ken Agranoff, email / 651-698-8874.

Help Your Friends & Family Become Members of Temple of Aaron

Questions to Membership Committee Members (MCM) wearing the "Green Shalom Buttons" or for more information contact Renee Kvasnik, MCM Chairperson, 651-690-2327 or Ken Agranoff, Executive Director, 651-698-8874 ext. 106.

Temple of Aaron Searches for Assistant Rabbi

The Board of Directors unanimously approved to search for an Assistant Rabbi. The Officers were pleased to announce the Committee Chairs: Nancy Lane, Steve Kafitz and Gary Portnoy. The Officers recruited the following well balanced committee representing numerous constituencies within our large proud synagogue: Jason Divine, Gerry Hirschhorn, Phil Kibort, Paula Schraber, 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. Rabbi Shavit-Lonstein has been working closely with the Search Committee.

The next step in the process was completion of the formal application to the Rabbinical Assembly and receipt of their valued guidance. The Committee will utilize a formal job description to assist our pursuit for the right person for our membership mix.

Connect with Israel Through P2G

The Partnership2Gether platform (P2G 2000) is successfully partnering 550 global Jewish communities directly with Israeli communities in 45 partnerships. More than 300,000 participants from Israel and the overseas communities take part in some 500 programs each year. When it was established in 1994, Partnership focused on building community and leadership.

Every year more than 10,000 volunteers work together to examine issues and responses, to determine projects and budgets and are effecting change in education and fostering economic development.

Volunteers from abroad that come to Israel to be involved in this process

return to strengthen their own communities. Transforming P2G into a volunteer-driven leadership process in Israel will provide an extraordinary foundation for Israel's emerging volunteer sector.

St. Paul, Milwaukee and Tulsa partner with the Sovev Kinneret region in Israel. If you are interested in participating in the St. Paul P2G Committee, please contact Dan Mogelson (dmogelson@ujfc.org or 695-3189). The following Temple of Aaron members serve on the committee and would also be happy to talk with you: Becky Shavit-Lonstein, Josh Fineblum and Andrea Golden, Rosalyn and Yoav Segal, Jean and Yale Kanter, and Karen Schanfield.

Sovev Kinneret Region

B2B

Throughout the month of September 2011, visits were made to six northern district partnership communities in the US. (Milwaukee, St Paul, Detroit, Dayton, Broward County and Pittsburgh) as part of the Business people survey in the U.S.

A wide range of opinions, ideas were shared as seen by the different entities that were met and conclusions were made regarding the main aspects of this survey.

At present, the strategies alternatives for the Business to Business project — based on the findings and conclusions — are shared with the various partners.

Our next step is to decide which is the appropriate business alternative for the B2B project.

On November 23, the Israeli forum discussed the alternatives (and gave its recommendations). During the next two weeks we will set conference calls with representatives from each community in order to get everyone's opinion and point of view.



After a decision will take place regarding the focus of this project, we will be able to pursue the chosen direction and build a business plan that would be presented by January 15, 2012.

Social Justice - A Volunteer Committee

TZEDEK INSTITUTE: A CHANCE TO BECOME INVOLVED!

What is our responsibility to our community? As members of the Temple of Aaron, the only Conservative Judaism congregation in the central cities, we need to consider our role as a Twin Cities institution. How do we put our Jewish faith and values into practice, how can we bring about the better world we pray for? Is this something the Temple of Aaron should do alone, or can we join our voices and our energy with those of other Jewish congregations?

The financial, social and demographic conditions we are facing provide many opportunities and challenges. In response, Jewish Community Action instituted the Tzedek Institute to help bring many Twin Cities congregations together to address these challenges, to strengthen our community and our relationships with different communities. The Temple of Aaron is well-represented among the cohort of participants learning how to organize our own congregations. We are learning that we need to organize as a Jewish community to become an effective voice in the larger Twin Cities community and to address issues at the state government level.

This is an effort we all can participate in. If you are interested in participating — in becoming involved as members of the Jewish community in addressing the problems facing our lives today — please contact Brian Zaidman, Chairman of our Social Justice Committee, at clubzed@earthlink.net.

College Keshet Connects with College Ages

Becca Kvasnik, Margie Schneider and Layne Rosen are leading the effort to stay connected with our college age children while they attend school. Temple of Aaron is trying to collect email addresses and mailing addresses from your children and grandchildren attending colleges in town or out of town. Please send the info to the synagogue office (kathyberg@templeofaaron.org). We will stay connected so they know we remember them at important holiday times.

Sisterhood News



Sisterhood Shabbat – Jan. 27/28 – Friday, Jan. 27 events: dinner, 6:00 pm, followed by services; **Saturday, Jan. 28 events:** morning services at 9:00 am, followed by Lunch & Learn at 11:45 am. **Judy Goldstein**, IntraContinental Region President of Women's League, will be our Friday night speaker. She was a group President and held several Vice Presidencies within the Minneapolis Chapter of Hadassah and also was a Hadassah Region Vice President. Ms. Goldstein has been a member of the Adath Jeshurun Congregation for over 50 years and served as its

President from 1985-1987. In addition, she has been active in the Adath Jeshurun Women's League, was President from 1989-1991, and is very proud of co-founding the Women's League Catering service which provided the food service for many synagogue functions. Ms. Goldstein has served on the WL Region Board in a variety of capacities including Torah Fund Vice President and conference chair. To reserve your spot for dinner, send your check, payable to Temple of Aaron Sisterhood (\$18 for adults; \$8 for children 12 and under) to Gail Rosenberg, 1286 E. Balsam Trail, Eagan, MN 55123 by Jan. 19. Your check is your reservation. If interested in participating in services or to RSVP for the Sat. Lunch & Learn, call Sue Schwartz (651-451-2188); to help with baking for the oneg and Kiddush, call Etta Lambright (651-690-5729). In need of a vegetarian meal or a ride, call Marcia Taple (651-688-3030). In order to participate in this event, you must be a paid-up member; for membership questions, call Linda Eisenstadt (651-454-6042).

* * * *

Warm-Up America: community service project – We are creating 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, call 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 – Knitters needed to keep this club going – with the cold weather on its way, this will be a great way to warm up your fingers on a frigid evening. This 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).

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

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). The Gift Shop is now open one Thursday evening per month – Thursday, Jan. 19, 6 – 9 pm. 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.

* * * *

Upcoming Event – Save the Date – Israeli Schlichah (Emissary), Wed., Feb. 15, time TBD – Roni Levin, the Israeli Schlichah 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.

Creation of the State

By Dr. Steven Derfler

“The Final Solution”—three words that, during World War II, would become the most horrific phrase in any language. The worst fears of humankind, that genocidal tendencies not only could be found within the human experience *but acted upon*, finally came to an end in 1945. With its demise, a glimmer of hope could be seen in the eyes of the surviving remnant of European Jewry. However, this hope of survival was predicated on the fact that a national safe-haven needed to be created. It was one thing to “promise” a homeland—another to deliver on that promise. Once again, the British would be pivotal in this drive to statehood. England had already made what it considered a magnanimous gesture in 1903, by offering British East Africa as a Jewish national home. Yet as Weizmann would so elegantly put it, the British offered nothing more than “earth for our graves.” If there is no emotional or spiritual connection to a land, then it truly is nothing more than a parcel of earth and rock.

Eventually came global recognition that the land nestled between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea, the Biblical Land, would be the only satisfactory locale for a Jewish national home. In addition, to many, the suffering of Europe’s Jews would give them greater sympathy in their quest. Intense lobbying efforts would take place in the newly created step-child of the League of Nations, the United Nations. However, this fledgling agency would not consider this to be an urgent priority at first.

But on the ground, in British Mandated Palestine, the situation continued to deteriorate. A three-way civil war was intensifying — Jew vs. Arab vs. Brit vs. Arab vs. Jew vs. Brit.

To make matters worse, the distinct bias that had been seen coming from the British from the outset, tilted toward the Arab world, increased. Many newly retired British officers now took on roles as military advisors to Arab regimes, further putting the Jewish side in a position of disadvantage. Perhaps the

most famous was Sir John Glubb Pasha, who would shape the Jordanian Arab Legion. The only alternative many saw was to wage a war of terror aimed at British and Arab military targets with the intent of getting them to back down and ultimately withdraw — allowing for the creation of a Jewish state.

The goal may have seemed to be an honorable one — but one needs to remember that there was no umbrella para-military organization within the Jewish Palestinian community designed to coordinate and ensure the synchronization of theory and practice. At least a dozen para-military groups acted fairly independently one from another; each with their own leaders, tactics and philosophies. In other words, chaos reigned supreme in 1946-47. Military and civilian targets were struck.



On the other side, the newly arising Arab states sought to dominate and control the region of Palestine, and the Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and even Iraq all had a vested interest. They feigned sympathetic support for the Palestinians, all the while expecting that, after the dust settled, Palestine would be subsumed by the Arab states with no political Jewish presence at all.

At first, the British would develop a partition plan designed to give autonomy to the two sides. The Jewish Agency would endorse it; the Arab League would reject it out of hand. Eventually, the British would throw their hands up in surrender, and request that



the United Nations step in to find a way to relieve Britain of its rebellious mandate.

This would take the shape of UNSCOP — The UN Special Commission on Palestine. Its members were Australia, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Guatemala, India, Iran, Netherlands, Peru, Sweden, Uruguay and Yugoslavia. Their recommendation was to terminate the Mandate as soon as possible, to partition the area into a Jewish and Arab entities aiming toward independence. The end result was Resolution 181 that created the partition on Nov. 29, 1947.

<http://preview.tinyurl.com/DerflerJan1>
<http://tinyurl.com/DerflerJan2>

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

TEMPLE MEMBERS ENGAGE IN DOOR KNOCKING TO STOP FORECLOSURES

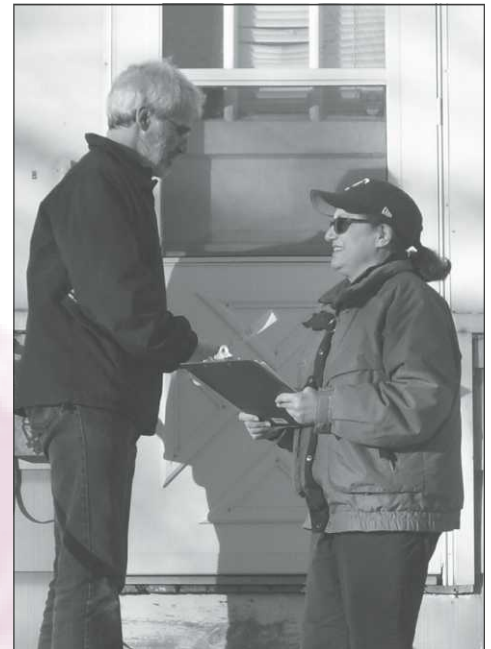
Members of the Temple of Aaron are working with Jewish Community Action and other organizations that are members of the St. Paul Fair Lending Coalition to reduce the number of foreclosures in the community, especially in Frogtown and Summit University neighborhoods. Other members of the coalition include Frogtown Neighborhood Association, Summit University Planning Council, Community Stabilization Project and Aurora St. Anthony Neighborhood Development Center.

In the past few weeks, Brian Zaidman, Alexandria Ganzel, Doris Rubenstein and Vic Rosenthal have participated in knocking on doors along with other Jewish Community Action and other organizational volunteers. Other Temple of Aaron members have also participated in additional meetings as part of the St. Paul Fair Lending Coalition. The goal of the door knocking is to inform members of the community regarding foreclosure counseling services available in the community, ask them questions about their concerns regarding vacant properties

and other housing issues and recruiting community residents to be part of the coalition work. St. Paul Fair Lending Coalition members, including Temple of Aaron congregants, have now knocked on hundreds of doors and met with many families, some of whom are very interested in participating in the coalition.

The broader goal of the door knocking and coalition activities is to prevent as many foreclosures as possible, develop a policy regarding vacant properties to minimize damage to communities and begin to hold banks and lenders more accountable. In addition to the door knocking, members of the coalition will also be speaking in congregations and in the community to educate residents about the issue of foreclosures and what the community can do about them.

The St. Paul Fair Lending Coalition will be having regular meetings to build the coalition on the third Thursday of each month at 5:30 pm. If you are interested in this work, please contact Vic Rosenthal at vic@jewishcommunityaction.org or call 651-632-2184.



Vic Rosenthal and Doris Rubenstein braved a freezing November morning to doorknock in the University-Dale neighborhood of St. Paul to educate and organize residents against unethical foreclosure practices.

POSSIBLE BREAKTHROUGH IN AFFORDABLE HOUSING!



PPL W. 7th & Snelling proposed family housing

The shortage of affordable housing in the Highland Park area has long been a concern of the Social Action Committee (SAC). In 2009 the SAC was contacted by the non profit housing developer, Project for Pride in Living (PPL), seeking support for their proposal to build a 44 unit affordable housing development on West 7th and Springfield. Ten of the 44 units are to be set aside to house formerly homeless families. Construction of affordable housing has been a controversial subject in many communities. The Highland Park Development Committee scheduled two public meetings to discuss the development.

At these very contentious meetings, Howard Goldman, member of the Social Justice Committee at the Temple of Aaron and representing the SAC, spoke

in support of affordable housing. He outlined PPL's very successful record of developing high quality housing across the metro area and the great need for this housing in Highland Park. Howard also spoke before the St. Paul Zoning Board and wrote letters to the Department of Inspections and Councilmember Harris. Earlier this year a last minute lawsuit prevented the PPL from going ahead with the project. In September of this year the St. Paul City Council amended the site requirements to facilitate housing development in the Shepard-Davern neighborhood. Only two projects have been developed in the past DECADE, neither affordable. Howard was at the Council Meeting and met with Councilmember Harris. The ground breaking for this property should finally take place over the next few months. Our hats go off to Howard for his untiring work to help bring this about.

Temple of Aaron Calendar of Events

January 2012
Tevet - Shevat 5772

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 9 am Minyan, Men's Club Breakfast No Sunday School 6 pm Minyan	2 9am Minyan Office Closed 6pm Minyan 7 pm Bldg. Closes	3 7:30 am Minyan 6 pm Minyan 7 pm Bldg. Closes	4 7:30 am Minyan 4:00 pm Hebrew School 6 pm 7th & Honors 6 pm Minyan	5 7:30 am Minyan 6 pm Minyan 6:30 pm Talmud Class 7:30 pm Bible Class	6 7:30 am Minyan 6 pm Prayers in PJ's 8 pm Service Candlelighting 4:29 pm	7 8 am Coffee w/Rashi & friends 9 am Service 9 am ESP School 4:30 pm Minyan
8 9 am Minyan, Men's Club Breakfast 9am Sunday School 6 pm Minyan	9 7:30 am Minyan 6pm Minyan 7 pm Bldg. Closes	10 7:30 am Minyan 6 pm Minyan 7 pm Bldg. Closes	11 7:30 am Minyan 4:00 pm Hebrew School 6 pm 7th & Honors 6 pm Minyan 6:30pm Fundamentals of Judaism	12 7:30 am Minyan 6 pm Minyan 6:30 pm Talmud Class 7:30 pm Bible Class	13 7:30 am Minyan 6 pm Prayers in PJ's 8 pm Service Metropolitan Male Choir Candlelighting 4:36 pm	14 8 am Coffee w/Rashi & friends 9 am Service No ESP School 4:30 pm Minyan
15 9 am Minyan, Men's Club Breakfast No Sunday School 10 am Book Club - Sisterhood 6 pm Minyan	16 7:30 am Minyan 6pm Minyan 7 pm Bldg. Closes	17 7:30 am Minyan 6 pm Minyan 6:30 pm Book Club 8 pm Bldg. Closes	18 7:30 am Minyan 4:00 pm Hebrew School 6 pm 7th & Honors 6 pm Minyan 6:30pm Fundamentals of Judaism	19 7:30 am Minyan 6 pm Minyan 6:30 pm Talmud Class 7:30 pm Bible Class	20 7:30 am Minyan 6 pm Prayers in PJ's 6:30pm School Dinner 8 pm Service Candlelighting 4:45 pm	21 8 am Coffee w/Rashi & friends 9 am Service Lunch n Learn 9 am ESP School 10:30 am Tot Shabbat 4:30 pm Minyan
22 9 am Minyan, Men's Club Breakfast 9 am Sunday School 6 pm Minyan	23 7:30 am Minyan 6pm Minyan 7 pm Bldg. Closes	24 7:30 am Minyan 6 pm Minyan 7 pm Bldg. Closes	25 7:30 am Minyan 4:00 pm Hebrew School 6 pm 7th & Honors 6 pm Minyan 6:30pm Fundamentals	26 7:30 am Minyan 6 pm Minyan 6:30 pm Talmud Class 7:30 pm Bible Class	27 7:30 am Minyan 6 pm Prayers in PJ's 8 pm Service Sisterhood Shabbat	28 8 am Coffee w/Rashi & friends 9 am Service Sisterhood Shabbat 9 am ESP School 4:30 pm Minyan
29 9 am Minyan, Men's Club Breakfast 9 am Sunday School "Grand" Person's Day 6 pm Minyan	30 7:30 am Minyan 6pm Minyan 7 pm Bldg. Closes	31 7:30 am Minyan 6 pm Minyan 7 pm Bldg. Closes				

For more information on these and other events and programs, please visit our website at
www.templeofaaron.org

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Questions? Robby Erlich, Youth Director, 651-698-8874 ext. 115 or robbyerlich@templeofaaron.org

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