

# THE AARONION

## TEMPLE OF AARON'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

616 S. Mississippi River Blvd. • St. Paul, MN 55116-1099  
(651) 698-8874 • [www.templeofaaron.org](http://www.templeofaaron.org)

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11 Av 5769

### **Entire Membership Welcome Annual Men's Club Picnic Sunday, August 9, 2009**

The time is fast approaching for the Annual Temple of Aaron Summer Family Picnic and BBQ sponsored by the Men's Club. We will once again be serving up freshly grilled hamburgers, hot dogs, Boca Burgers, and all the fixings from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, August 9. We will gather in the north parking lot, rain or shine, with indoor seating available in case of rain.

The cost will be \$10 for adult Men's Club members, \$12 for adult non-members, and \$7.50 for children 12 and under, with a family maximum of \$35. There will be no charge for children under 5 years old.

We look forward to sharing this great day with you and your families!

If you are interested in this event or any other aspect of Men's Club, please feel free to call me at (651) 452-4465 if you have any questions.

B'Shalom,

— Terry R. Zien, *President-Temple of Aaron Men's Club*

### **Monthly Jewish Professionals' Business Networking Group Meeting Hosted by the Temple of Aaron August 13, 2009 at 6:30 p.m.**

Come join the Jewish Professionals' Business Networking Group, open to those between the inclusive ages of 30 to 50. The purpose is to introduce Jewish business people and entrepreneurs to one another with the goal of creating leads and referrals to help grow your business. At each monthly meeting, each attendee will be allowed time to introduce him/herself and his/her business and socialize over light snacks and refreshments. In addition, the group will attract various speakers, who will speak on various business-related topics.

The group will meet the second Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Tem-

ple of Aaron, located at 616 S. Mississippi River Blvd, St. Paul, MN 55116, with the first meeting, August 13, 2009, at 6:30 p.m. The annual fee to be a member of the group is \$50.00. Membership is open to Temple of Aaron members AND non-members. The only requirements are that you are Jewish and employed.

You are encouraged to bring business cards and/or promotional items that you'd like to exchange with fellow attendees. Please RSVP to Norman Taple of Gurstel, Staloch & Chargo, P.A. at 612-710-5804 or Lisa Stein of the Temple of Aaron at [lisastein@templeofaaron.org](mailto:lisastein@templeofaaron.org) or 651-698-8874 extension 104.

— Lisa Stein, *Program Manager*

#### **Centennial Plans:**

**Launch Event:** Sept. 20, 2009

**Community Service Day:** Nov. 15, '09

**Game Night:** Jan. 30, 2010

**Festival:** May 2, 2010

**Time Capsule:** Oct. 10, 2010

*More Excitement Being Planned!*

### **Noshing on Noodles for October 7, 2009**

Noodles and Company on Ford Parkway in Highland Park will be holding a fundraiser for the Rabbi Bernard S. Raskas Religious School/Rosy & Richard Shaller Hebrew School. Noodles will donate 25 percent of total sales between the hours of 4:00 pm and 8:00 pm, on October 7th, 2009. We will use the donation to increase our tuition assistance funds and continue upgrading our instructional materials.

More information, including a necessary coupon, will be available soon, and check our website, [www.templeofaaron.org](http://www.templeofaaron.org)

### **Annual Pancake Breakfast for Entire Membership Featured Sept. 13, 2009! Sunday, 8:30-10:00AM**

Come enjoy a bagel and men's club flipped pancakes, schmooze with friends old and new, meet the teachers, as we kick off the beginning of our 2009-2010 school year!! Watch for more details!



*Previous Confirmation Class visits Ellis Island.*

# From the Rabbi's Desk . . .

## Students at the Center

Each year that I have served at the Temple of Aaron, I have spent numerous hours in the classrooms of our religious school, answering students' questions during an "Ask the Rabbi" session. And each year, I am impressed with the quality of questions and the thirst that our students have for learning about their Judaism.

It is with this in mind that I want to share with you some adjustments to the structure and personnel of the religious school and youth department. Our goal has always been to have a school and youth program that puts our children at the center. We want to graduate our students with a strong, positive Jewish identity, and we want them to have the knowledge they need to be active leaders and participants of a Jewish community as they become Jewish adults.

To achieve these goals, we have taken steps in several directions.

## Resources and Goals

During the summer, we began the second year of improving our school by increasing the resources we offer teachers, and clarifying what we want each student to learn. Last year we focused on the elementary grades (K through 4) and this year we are working on the challenges of grades 5 through confirmation. We have built on the curriculum that has been in place (with some modifications) since the Temple of Aaron religious school began, with the goal of creating explicit, measurable goals for each and every class. We are building on the work of the Education Committee, who spent a lot of time over this past year discussing the curriculum and making classroom observations. In addition, they conducted a focus group with Sunday School teaching assistants, and created, distributed, and evaluated, a detailed parent survey. This is our foundation as we, in the words of one of our master teachers, strive to "Engage, Excite and Educate."

As dedicated members of the congregation, our teachers, with their expertise and energy, are essential to the success of our school. We are proud that so many teachers will be returning again this year. They continue to be integral to this ongoing process, and central to evaluating it this year as we put it into

practice. Every educator knows it is extremely difficult to work with students on a part-time basis because there is little continuity. Our teachers go above and beyond their basic tasks to add continuity to help our students develop a love for Judaism.

To assist them, we are creating a detailed tool kit (in the form of a three ring binder) for every class, laying out the information each student should grasp before they leave their class at the end of the curriculum year. Along with specific goals, the resource book will provide many creative suggestions for the teachers to implement in their classroom. This will allow teachers to match lessons to the individual needs of different classes, while at the same time, maintaining overall consistency for what is being taught. In addition, parents will know precisely what their children are learning each year.

We will introduce and explain these resources and goals, in detail, at an opening assembly on the first day of Sunday School on September 13th. We will also have examples of the resource books available. In addition, the curriculum summary will be available to download from the Temple of Aaron website.

## Staff Changes

This work combines the efforts of a number of people. I have been working closely with our current Directors of Youth Services, Wendy Goodman and Jodi Saltzman. We have a shared vision of the school with students at the center, and a deep commitment to ensuring that the education is authentic, practical and enjoyable.

We have asked Temple member Wendy Hemingway to join our staff as a third Director of Youth Services. She will focus on the detailed work of explaining my goals for the curriculum and creating resource books for the teachers. Wendy Hemingway brings a deep knowledge of Judaism, along with several years of experience building the curriculum for Bet Shalom Congregation in Minneapolis. She is working closely with Wendy Goodman and Jodi Saltzman, and is assisted by the deep knowledge of our Ritual Coordinator, Larry Eisenstadt. I am integrally involved leading this team.



**Rabbi Alan Shavit-Lonstein**

rabbishavitlonstein@templeofaaron.org  
651-698-8874, ext. 111

By having three Directors of Youth Services, each with specific responsibilities, we provide an experienced, flexible team that is able to keep the students at the center of our efforts.

We have also hired Wendy Hemingway to take over the responsibilities of Youth Director as part of her specific responsibilities as one of our Directors of Youth Services. By filling these two positions with one, full time person, we will be able to better integrate the formal and informal education of our youth. Wendy Hemingway will be able to apply what our youth are learning in the classroom and translate that into social and socially significant functions and activities. She will bring energy, creativity and consistency to the position.

Implementing this new model of a fully integrated education and youth department, Aaron Liebo, our part-time Youth Director, will be leaving the staff. I want to thank him publicly for all of his hard work and creativity. His caring about the students was evident from his work, and his willingness to engage and challenge the students was much appreciated. We wish him great success as he continues his primary full-time job as an English Teacher at Minnesota Transitions Charter School, and hope to continue to see him as an active member at the Temple of Aaron.

Taken together, these changes to the staff and structure of the school will help us better meet the social and educational needs of all of our students. They will enable the Rabbi Bernard S. Raskas Religious School, and the Rossy and Richard Shaller Hebrew School to continue putting students at the center.

# Cantor's Column

I wish to share with you a letter I received from one of my students. I am so fortunate to have the ability to teach one-on-one here at Temple of Aaron. My wall is filled of so many thoughts and wishes from students and parents from over the past 20 years. From time to time, there is one that catches my eye. I am so touched by this letter that I wanted to share it with you, my congregation.

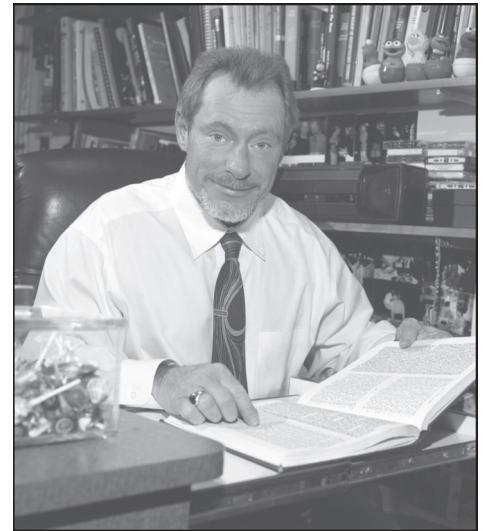
Dear Cantor Kowitz,  
Words cannot describe the helpful and amazing affect you have had on me. My bat-mitzvah experience would not have been the same without you. Coming to your lessons were always fun and something I looked forward to. No, not the learning part that is but the fun part. In your office, you have tons of silly toys that made the lessons much more fun. I would look forward to the end of the lesson too, hoping to get a Jolly Rancher which usually I didn't. I guess that is a good thing because if I had one at every lesson I would have turned into a fatty. But the days I got them I loved the lesson even more. My brother would occasionally come to my lessons which I didn't like. You would be playing catch with him having fun trying to distract me throwing it in front of my face as I would be singing. You are so energetic and lively whenever I see you and having a great sense of humor that makes everything ten times more fun. In particular my bat-mitzvah preparation was challenging, but with you it wasn't as bad because you made it fun and entertaining.

You go girl! Those were the words I heard and saw constantly on my papers as well as sing loud! You set the standards high for me and told me that I had to be better than Jessi (which wasn't hard) and when the time comes for Max, not to let him be better than me. I am competitive and didn't want to lose. But this is a different story. I absolutely hated going to lessons to sing. You encouraged me and gave me confidence. As you know, I was a difficult student and hated to sing and be loud. You know I am loud and a hyper child but when it came to

this, no. I always heard from you that you would be by my side at all times and won't let me down. I would be so nervous but you popped me out of my shell... eventually. In the beginning of my learning, you made me make a promise and agreement which I stuck to and achieved. When the big day came, I was so nervous I can't even explain. I remember you said you would always be by my side to help. Well, you were and I felt pretty confident throughout the service until you went just a few feet away to get your water. Right as you stepped away from me, I did mess up and I turned to you in the middle of my service asking if I could restart that part. So bottom of the line is that you truly helped me and stayed by my side, and as you can see from that little mess up that I couldn't have done it without you. Thank you!

At Temple, you are Cantor Mitchell Kowitz and the one directing everyone and making them laugh. Out of temple you are the coolest dad. I love hanging out with Shelly and having sleepovers at your house with her. But you being there is a plus. I remember one time at your house with Ashley, Emily, Shelly, Linda, and me. Oh my. It was crazy and out of control. By the way, sorry for throwing whip cream in your face. We had a bonfire and were running around with big sticks on fire. It was so much fun and you being there made it even more fun. You always are giving me tips and goals of how to help others. Shelly, Rachel Haim, and I have an adopted grandpa, Phillip, as you know. Several times you have offered to bring us to the Shalom Home to help and do a good deed. I love and thank you for always willing to help others. I honestly don't know what I would have done without you at the time of my bat-mitzvah. Always being by my side gave me more confidence. Thank you for all you have done, and without you I don't know how I would have been able to get through.

Yours truly,  
Rach



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

## AUGUST WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

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

### מזל טוב

- 5 Julie and Steve Sander
- 15 Diane and Martin Greenberger
- 15 Betsy and Barry Birnberg
- 25 Sharon Schwartz & David Polansky
- 30 Anna and Vladimir Kladnitsky
- 30 Lori and Matt Bellin
- 35 Linda and Allen Ward
- 40 Marilyn and Larry Barenbaum
- 45 Susan and Gary Bloom
- 51 Ruta and Mikhail Fradkin
- 53 Nancy and Stan Skadron
- 53 Shirley and Ron Goldman
- 54 Ryv and Bill Tilsner
- 54 Jan and Sherm Ringer
- 54 Sis and Ron Goren
- 54 Georgia and Jerry Fishman
- 57 Annette and Milton Zien
- 58 Malka and Ernie Goodman
- 60 Marilyn and Mel Warren
- 61 Barbara and Fred Hirsekorn
- 62 Roza and Motel Vinokur

# Department of Youth Services



**Wendy Goodman,**  
**Director of Youth Services**  
wendygoodman@templeofaaron.org  
651-698-8874, ext. 112



**Jodi Saltzman,**  
**Director of Youth Services**  
jodisaltzman@templeofaaron.org  
651-698-8874, ext. 103



**Wendy Hemingway,**  
**Director of Youth Services**  
wendyhemingway@templeofaaron.org  
651-698-8874, ext. 115

Let's explore our fun, social programming for our synagogue youth — which group is for which age group as well as the activities for each age group.

1) We begin with the 3rd and 4th graders. Their group is called Chalutzim and gets together a couple times per year, usually includes a Shabbaton in the spring, as a 1-night sleep-over at the synagogue. Occasionally they are included in 5th and 6th grade programming.

This group gives the young children a taste of programming to come. The programs are Sunday afternoon or Saturday night.

2) 5th and 6th graders are “members” of our B'reshet programming. They normally get together once a month for social activities (Just Jump, Corn Maze, Grand Slam, to name a few) and they attend whole synagogue activities when they are scheduled (Valley Fair, Twins Game, Water Park). Programs are Sunday afternoon or Saturday night. B'reshet feeds into our 7th and 8th grade programming, called Kadima.

3) Kadima is the group which provides the programs for the 7th and 8th graders, and it lays the ground work for becoming USY-ers. There is an elected USY vice president to help with their activities (Vice President Membership Kadima). There is an annual fee of \$20, which is sent to the national office to help operate local, regional and national events. Every child who has celebrated their Bar/Bat Mitzvah receives a free

year of Kadima dues beginning with their Bar or Bat Mitzvah. Kadima is part of a national program in which about 750 conservative synagogues across the country participate.

4) USY is the 9th through 12th grade program. This is a well-rounded program, which includes fun social events, social justice, creative arts, leadership skills development and some fundraising. They have an elected board of officers who are deeply involved in the programming for USY and Kadima. There is an annual fee charged of \$40.00, and it also offsets some of the regional and national costs. USY is a national program and each synagogue has local events, regional events, national events and international events. USY provides a wide range of options to keep a large percentage of people engaged.

5) For our successful youth program, the general membership of the congregation provides funds for the foundation of the group while those attending events pay the direct costs. The synagogue pays the transportation for each event, keeping the costs down and therefore, more affordable for families.

6) One key part of making the program work well for the past 50 years and making needed improvements year after year is the active participation of parents on our Youth Committee. Jim Berg and Lisa Lerman are the chair people. They welcome your ideas and willingness to serve on the committee or help with individual programs.

7) We have a person who oversees the entire youth program. We also have program advisors who help staff and mentor active members and join in on various programs. Clergy provide periodic ideas on making programming more meaningful and fun.

As always, please feel free to call one of us with any questions.

— Wendy Goodman, Jodi Saltzman  
& Wendy Hemingway,  
Directors of Youth Services

## Relive The Dream: Herzl Alumni Camp

Herzl Camp in Webster, Wisconsin is welcoming over 60 years of campers and staff back to Herzl August 7-9. Former Herzl campers and staff (and guests) will re-experience Shabbat at Herzl during the first-ever Alumni Camp.

Register to “Relive the Dream” at Alumni Camp online at:  
[www.herzlcamp.org](http://www.herzlcamp.org)  
or request an application by calling 952.927.4002.

**Bunking options:** Attendees can choose to be assigned a cabin, or groups of 10-14 can choose to rent a cabin. Air conditioned bunking options are available. Registration fees start at \$120/person.

For more information contact:  
[alumni@herzlcamp.org](mailto:alumni@herzlcamp.org).

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

Vilyan Krugman
Ruth Bergal
Bella Netzman

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.

Thank you (todah rabah) to those listed below who supported our Yahrzeit Fund in memory of loved ones with donations of \$10 or more
June 2009 Sivan-Tammuz 5769

- Agranoff, Betty & family
Akkerman, Shimon
Antokolskaya, Zinaida
Barenbaum, Stanley
Baum, Maryam
Berkman, Jerry
Binder, Jay
Block, Maxine
Braginsky, Inna & Greg
Brody, Edwin
Denenholz, Peggy & Ira
Dudovitz, Sophie
Eisenstadt, Larry & Linda
Fridman, Alla & Vladimir
Godes, Barb & Steve
Goldberg, Sharleen
Goldberger, Debbie
Goldetsky, Burniece & Bill
Goldman, Irene
Gralnek, Arlene
Grinshtat, Rekhuma
Harris, Ronald
Isaacs, Frances
Joseph, Geri & Burton
Kamin, Evelyn
Kaminsky, Beverly
Kaplan, Louis
Kaplan, Harvey & Sue
Khaskin, Sofiy
Kiges, Gary
Klein, Marion & Gary
Lane, Miles
Lerman, Bill & Mary
Levin, Jeanne & Albert
Levitt, Bea & Arthur
Liebman, Arnold
Lifson, Ron & Helen
Lovich, Recie & Bob
Malmon, Stanley
Marver, John & Jeannie
Mastbaum, Millie
Mersky, Esther
Michaels, Noreen
Mogol, Leo
Mogol, Marc
Nerenberg, Peter
Noun, Joan & Norman
O'Brien, Matthew
Orenstein, Sally & family
Orloff, Arnold
Peker, Busya
Pieser, Ben
Pieser, Sara
Pogoler, Andrew
Portnoy, Roxanne & Gary
Ringer, Sherm
Rosenthal, Sam & Goldie
Rosner, Sue & Dave
Rubenstein, Ada
Savage, Edith
Savage, Ron
Schneider, Marjorie & Bart
Schwartz, Jerry, Sue & Jenni
Sevak, Delia & family
Shaller, Rossy & Richard
Shimelfarb, Masha
Simes, Hy
Sinykin, Bob & Freeman, Marge
Smookler, Richard & Diane
Specktor, Hersh & Ann
Stillman, Tom & Sue
Straus, Stanley
Supornick, Edith
Swartz, Helen & Don
Tragar, C.A.
Udodovsky, Mira
Usem, Arnold & Harriet
Vinnik, Luda & Val
Volodarskaya, Klara
Vysotsky, Alla & Feliks Gak
Warren, Melvin & Marilyn
Watchman, Clara
Weinberg, Idele
Zukerman, Boris

TEMPLE OF AARON CENTENNIAL GEMILUT CHASSADIM DAY

Acts of Loving Kindness

November 15, 2009
11:00am - 1:00pm

Gemilut Chassadim Collection Container is now at the Temple of Aaron.

Please begin to bring items today, which will be given to Jewish people in our community and Israel in need of our acts of loving kindness.

What better way to celebrate than to help those in the Jewish community during Temple of Aaron's centennial.

We will create at least 100 Gemilut Chassadim baskets on November 15, 2009 with items collected at the Temple of Aaron.

All items must be new - No used item donations

- 1. Items for Babies and Children (i.e. Bottles, Diapers, Baby Supplies, etc.)
2. Items for Teenagers (i.e. Sports, Games, etc.)
3. Items for Adults/Seniors (i.e. Personal Hygiene, Cooking Utensils, etc.)

\*The only clothes items that will be collected will be hats, mittens, scarves, jackets, socks.

Contact Jonathan Kvasnik for questions at 651-398-7768 or jkvasnik@hotmail.com

תודה רבה

... to David Baldinger for leading Friday evening services at the Wellington for several years.

Save Time With Our Phone System: 651-698-8874

Save this article so you know how to bypass the voice message system to quickly leave a message or ask a question: Extensions are:

Table listing names and extension numbers: Rabbi Shavit-Lonstein 111, Hazzan Kowitz 113, Wendy Goodman, Dir. Yth Serv. 112, Wendy Hemingway, Dir. Yth Serv. 115, Bill Jorke, Bldg. Superv. 116, Kathy Berg, Ritual Clergy Asst. 107, Kim Thomey, Admin. Asst. 100, Shelley Diamond, Bus. Mgr. 110, Ken Agranoff, Exec. Dir. 106, Svetlana Kazistova, Kitchen Sup. 121, Lisa Stein, Program Mgr. 104, Jodi Saltzman, Dir. Yth Serv. 103

**SISTERHOOD GIFT SHOP**  
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**Open Hours:**

Sunday 9:00 - 11:30  
Tuesday 10:00 - 2:00  
Wednesday 10:00 - 1:00

By Appointment Call:  
Marcia Taple / 651-688-3030

# Sisterhood News

**Come tour the new Rossy and Richard Shaller Family Sholom East Campus** which includes Shirley Chapman Sholom Home East, the Bentson Family Assisted Living Residence and Phillips Memory Care Center, Johnson Center and Hospice Care Agency, David Feinberg Vitality & Aquatics Center and the Roitenberg Family Adult Day Center. Sisterhood will be touring this brand new facility on Thursday, Aug. 13, meeting for dinner in the deli at 5:30 p.m. and experiencing a tour at 6:45 p.m. Please call Marcia Taple to join this tour at 651-688-3030 by Thursday, Aug. 6. Check out the facility at [www.sholom.com](http://www.sholom.com). It is located at 740 Kay Avenue, St. Paul, and can be contacted by calling 651-328-2000.

\* \* \* \*

**Book Club** - The Sisterhood book club meets the third Sunday of the month, 10:00 a.m. at The Highland Café and Bakery in Highland Park. To get info on the upcoming reads, call Teddy Gerr at 651-405-6658 or Anna Spektor at 651-454-4612.

\* \* \* \*

**Rosh Hashanah Fundraiser** - Time is running out to wish your Temple family a Happy and Sweet New Year in this fall's Aaronion. Send your \$10 check, payable to Temple of Aaron Sisterhood, to Shari Lowenthal, 1582 Hollywood Court, Falcon Heights, MN 55108 ASAP!! Indicate how you would like your name to appear in the Aaronion. Start this year out with giving! Questions, call Marcia Taple.

\* \* \* \*

**New Giftshop Merchandise!** Check out the new shipments of Demdaco fused glass, Murano-style glass, new tallitot and much more for all occasions. Get your holiday and summer event shopping done all in one place and support Sisterhood and Temple of Aaron. Call the Giftshop with any questions at 651-699-9192.

## Thank You, Aaron!

Dear Members:

The past year has been an extremely successful one. Our number of programs increased, which led to a much stronger membership. Our USYers grew in commitment and TUSY ruach. I have been honored to be a part of that, and watch our youth group grow to one of the strongest ones in the region. During the past year, economic struggles have affected youth groups as a whole. Even with this strife, EMTZA Region was the only region in the US to grow in the categories of membership and Tikun Olam. As a part of EMTZA, our kids represented our temple with pride and personality. Every other USY in Emtza is well aware of the great USY that is tied to our temple. With this being said, change is among us, and my tenure as Youth Director is ending. I will miss these kids, their parents, and the Temple of Aaron Community as a whole.



I am proud to walk away from these kids, knowing that they are part of a great group. They will move forward even stronger and motivated than when I began, and I am confident that their successes have just begun. I really appreciate the trust and opportunity that you all put in me for this past year, and hope you are equally excited with all the advancements that have taken place. I believe

that the rabbi's new structural staffing decisions are what he believes will be the best for the synagogue and this youth group, and I support both of these entities with all my heart.

Thank you again for the past year. I wish you B'hatzlacha for the future, and may you move forward in B'koach and B'shalom.

Sincerely,  
Aaron Liebo

### Temple of Aaron Hosts Community Grief Group

An Informational and Support Group for the Jewish Community.

Group meetings take place the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month, 6:30 to 8:00 pm at the Temple of Aaron.

The group is open to everyone free of charge. We welcome new participants each time.

Grief Group is offered by Temple of Aaron and co-sponsored and facilitated by Jewish Family Service of St. Paul.

## Membership Committee Spotlight on ...

This month's spotlight goes to Sis Goren. Sis and her husband Ron have been members of the Temple of Aaron for 45 years.

Sis's parents Morris & Rebecca Kieffer raised her brothers & sisters with very strong Jewish values in the home and to have a commitment to the Synagogue. Ron and Sis continue this in their lives and in raising their children, Chelle & Jim, who attended the Temple of Aaron Sunday School, had their Bar and Bat Mitzvah, confirmation, and participated in USY. Chelle & Marc were also married at the Temple of Aaron.

*"We both enjoy our time at the Temple of Aaron attending Minyan services and working on various committees. I've volunteered in the Gift Shop for about 25 years every Wednesday. I also enjoy helping with the baking of the delicious Hamantashen for sale during Purim."*

Sis also participated in other projects including the needle pointing part of several Torah covers, sections of two Sanctuary banners and recently had the honor of needle pointing one of our wipples which bind the Torahs. She has worked closely for decades with Janet Gordon making sure the



**Sis Goren**

Sisterhood Building Fund card project works smoothly for our members.

*"My husband Ron along with my children/family Chelle & Marc, Jim & Tracy, my brothers, sister-in laws, nieces & nephews make up my circle. But of course my sunshine is my three grandchildren, Rob & Andy Miller and Lea Goren."*

## HAZAK: Concert and Picnic at Como Park DATE CHANGED!

Date: Sunday, August 2 at 3:00 P.M.  
**FREE EVENT!**

Location: Como Lakeside Pavilion

We will listen to the Como Pops Ensemble, then picnic afterwards. Bring your own food with a dessert to share.

RSVP: By phone to Margie Schneider, 651-698-4358, by Friday, July 31. Please also indicate if you will need a ride.

## Planning Meeting

Thursday, September 3, Temple of Aaron Smith Library, 7:00 P.M.

## 5769 Passover Shopping Results

This year all the St. Paul synagogues were given the opportunity to participate in a fundraiser with Cooper's Supermarket in Highland Park. We asked our members to shop at Cooper's from March 29 to April 5 and share their receipts with the office. The Temple of Aaron received 5% of all the purchases in a gift certificate. We are happy to announce that we received our gift certificate from Cooper's and appreciate their efforts in building a stronger community. Thank you for participating!

## Building Temple of Aaron Community, One Circle at a Time

Just the other night, I was talking with one of my new neighbors who works as the Christian equivalent of a cantor for a local church. We got into a conversation about religion and what our faiths mean to us. I like these conversations because it allows me the opportunity to explain not only what Jewish religion teaches, but our traditions and what has become known as the Jewish "culture." I explained that Judaism is a religion and culture of familial and community values.

The busier our lives become, however, the more separated our community becomes. One of the responsibilities I have in my role as Program Manager is "community building" with our Temple of Aaron congregation. Every program, event, meeting, service, and basically everything we do here at the Temple of Aaron has to keep the concept of "community building" in the back of our minds. Rabbi Shavit-Lonstein talks

about this with his model of circles of members. We need to constantly be thinking about reaching out to different circles of our membership and thus build our community.

The past couple of months, we have experienced growing attention to reaching these circles and building community. The annual *Israel Festival*, which is traditionally an event for the students at the religious school, incorporated programming for adults. The *Young Mensch Club*, our group for members in their 20's and 30's, has been making connections and bonding through various events. The *Communications Committee* has established new and creative ways to get the word out at the synagogue, and the *Improving Worship Committee* has written a Shabbat Booklet to help our

members learn something new and understand prayer. The *Building Participation Committee* has established a new way to build on our members' strengths to help shape our committees with strong and new thoughts and planning.

Over the course of the next year, please keep your eyes and ears open for what we are calling Community Committee Events (CCE). We will be encouraging each committee to take ownership of and sponsor events and programs for the entire membership community. Through each CCE we will be committing to different circles within our congregation and building community! Find ways to get involved either through joining a committee, planning a program or attending an event. Help us reach all of the circles in our congregation and build a strong community.

— Lisa Stein, Program Manager

## Successful Youth Educational Options at Temple of Aaron

There are many (quality) aspects of our formal education system at the Temple of Aaron, so let's review what is available for our members and prospective members:

**TODDLER/PARENT CLASS:** This is a class for 1-4 year olds with their parents. Students and parents participate nearly each week with our music specialist, art specialist. They also take full advantage of the school's enhancement programs (i.e., challah baking and hamantashen making). The class is designed for both members and non-members with a slightly higher fee for non-members. It is a morning of fun and friendship for all the parents, too! Student aides are assigned to help with the children, forming wonderful bonds with the families.

**PREKINDERGARTEN—4TH GRADE:** The Elementary Grades are a strong component of our Rabbi Bernard S. Raskas Religious School. Their classroom curriculum is mostly holiday-based, with sections in Life Cycle, God, the Synagogue, Bible Stories, History and Hebrew also being addressed. Student assistants (11th and 12th graders) are assigned to each class, providing positive role modeling for those younger. They attend weekly services, music and art, as well as participating in special enhancement activities (including Special Person's Day).

**FIFTH AND SIXTH GRADES:** These grades concentrate on learning the traditional Shabbat services in weekly services held in Leifman Chapel as they begin to study for their Bar or Bat Mitzvah. 5th graders concentrate on learning the Shaharit service and 6th graders on Haftorah trope, blessings and Friday evening Kiddush. They periodically lead services in the main sanctuary as a way of making them comfortable for their special day. Qualified junior high and high school students tutor the students often on a one-on-one basis — again, wonderful role modeling for younger students.

**7TH-9TH GRADES:** We are currently working on developing new curriculum materials for these grades. We recognize that our initial goals of stressing the importance of learning about Jewish culture and socialization were achieved at the elementary grades, and, while those goals will always exist, it is time to learn and experience Jewish History, Life Cycle, Israel, Bible, Pirke Avot, to mention just a few.

**CONFIRMATION:** 10th graders are exposed to adult Jewish Life while studying comparative religions, medical and legal ethics, death and dying, local organizations, tzedakah, and social justice. We have a successful 25 year tradition of the class trip to see Jewish New York in the Fall. Rabbi Shavit-Lonstein plans and leads the trip. Parents continue to be welcome to travel to New York with the students. Master teacher Ernie Gulner leads the Confirmation experience as the classroom comes alive with intense discussion and exploration.

**HEBREW SCHOOL:** Our Rossy and Richard Shaller Hebrew School meets on Wednesday afternoon for grades 2 - 6 and Wednesday evenings for 7th grade, as well as during the weekend days. The curriculum is prayerbook Hebrew as the students learn the meanings of the blessings and prayers found in the siddur. Each level of Hebrew is given a different part of the service to master. Our student aides play an important role in the Hebrew School as they often work on the language one-on-one .

**HONORS:** Is a program held on Wednesday evening designed for those students who have completed 7th grade Hebrew School and who want to continue their learning in a fun, challenging environment. Topics are Rabbinic Values, Life Cycle, Tikkun Olam, Hot Topics and Current Events. It is a requirement for those who are involved in tutoring on Shabbat.

**JUNIOR/SENIOR SEMINAR:** This program is designed for High school juniors and seniors, most of whom are Sunday aides. Topics discussed are relevant to them today, and the students generally choose the monthly topics. We welcome all of our juniors and seniors to stop in and try this exciting seminar.

Again, please call us with any comments or questions.

— Wendy Goodman, Jodi Saltzman and Wendy Hemingway  
Directors of Youth Services

## Informational Meeting for Temple Trip to Israel

The Temple of Aaron is pleased to announce a congregational family trip to Israel June 6 – June 17, 2010. Trip is by ITC Tours. The land-only charges will depend on the number of travelers. The prices range from \$2,375-\$2,695 at four star hotels to \$2,665-\$3,195 at five star hotels. Air fare is estimated to be \$1,300-\$1,500 plus taxes and fees.

We are having a meeting for all those interested in going on August 27 at 6:30 pm at the Temple. Please contact Irene Goldman if you have any questions or cannot attend this meeting. You can reach Irene at 690-4997 or hgiggoldman@msn.com

## COMING SOON — The UJFC Tour of Giving



The Temple of Aaron is proud to announce that we will participate in the United Jewish Fund and Council's Fall Tour of Giving. Keep your eyes open for the GIANT Tzedakah box when it visits Temple of Aaron for two weeks from Sept. 9-22 as a part of a unique program to heighten the overall awareness of the importance of Tzedakah within our community and raise funds for St. Paul's Kosher Meals on Wheels program. The program provides nutritious food to local elderly and disabled residents in need. We encourage everyone to put a Tzedakah into the box — One meal costs just \$5, so anything you give will make a difference. Watch for more details coming soon!



## THE YEAR IN PICTURES



- Habitat For Humanity
- March for Immigration Reform in Postville: Support for Progress by Pesach
- Ronald McDonald House
- Project for Pride in Living (affordable housing)  
Common Bond: Resolution on Homelessness

### WHAT'S AHEAD in the pursuit of Tikkun Olam?

#### **HOUSING OF PPL**

Continued support of affordable housing on W. Seventh in Highland Park via PROJECT FOR PRIDE IN LIVING (PPL)

#### **BRUSH WITH KINDNESS**

Assisting the elderly and physically challenged in maintaining their homes. Habitat for Humanity's focus for 2009 in conjunction with Interfaith Builders

#### **HEKHSHER TZEDEK**

Continued awareness and support for Hekhsher Tzedek – speaking to groups at the Temple

#### **IMMIGRATION REFORM**

Continued support for immigration reform, leading to WE WERE STRANGERS, TOO campaign – big program during Sukkot

#### **PROJECT HOME**

Continued work with churches to assist homeless families in St. Paul

#### **ST. JOHN NEUMANN**

Joint projects with St. John Neumann to provide adult education

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For additional information, contact Vic Rosenthal at 651-632-2184 or vic@jewishcommunityaction.org

# Temple of Aaron Calendar of Events

August 2009  
Av - Elul 5769

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p><b>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></b></p>						
<p><b>2</b> 9 am Service 10:30 am Hebrew Class 3 pm Hazak Concert &amp; Picnic in Como Park 6 pm Minyan</p>	<p><b>3</b> 7:30 am Minyan Office Closed 6 pm Minyan 7 pm Bldg. Closes</p>	<p><b>4</b> 7:30 am Minyan 6 pm Minyan 7 pm Bldg. Closes</p>	<p><b>5</b> 7:30 am Minyan 6 pm Minyan 6:30 pm Grief Group 6:30 pm Meeting of All Committee Chairs</p>	<p><b>6</b> 7:30 am Minyan 6 pm Minyan 6:30 pm Talmud Class 7:30 pm Bible Study</p>	<p><b>7</b> 7:30 am Minyan 8 pm Service Candlelighting 8:14 pm</p>	<p><b>1</b> 8 am Coffee w/Rashi 9 am Service Samantha Donahue's Bat Mitzvah 6 pm Service</p>
<p><b>9</b> 9 am Service 10:30 am Hebrew Class 1-4 pm Men's Club Picnic 6 pm Minyan</p>	<p><b>10</b> 7:30 am Minyan Office Closed 6 pm Minyan 7 pm Bldg. Closes</p>	<p><b>11</b> 7:30 am Minyan 6 pm Minyan 7 pm Bldg. Closes</p>	<p><b>12</b> 7:30 am Minyan 6 pm Minyan</p>	<p><b>13</b> 7:30 am Minyan 6 pm Minyan 6:30 pm Talmud Class 7:30 pm Bible Study</p>	<p><b>14</b> 7:30 am Minyan 8 pm Service-ESL Andrew Gleeman's Bar Mitzvah Candlelighting 8:04 pm</p>	<p><b>15</b> 9 am Service Andrew Gleeman's Bar Mitzvah 6 pm Service</p>
<p><b>16</b> 9 am Service 10:30 am Hebrew Class 6 pm Minyan</p>	<p><b>17</b> 7:30 am Minyan Office Closed 6 pm Minyan 7 pm Bldg. Closes</p>	<p><b>18</b> 7:30 am Minyan 6 pm Minyan 7 pm Bldg. Closes</p>	<p><b>19</b> 7:30 am Minyan 6 pm Minyan 6:30 pm Grief Group</p>	<p><b>20</b> 7:30 am Minyan 6 pm Minyan 6:30 pm Talmud Class 6:30 pm Board Meeting 7:30 pm Bible Study</p>	<p><b>21</b> 7:30 am Minyan 8 pm Service Bevin Waters' Bat Mitzvah Candlelighting 7:52 pm</p>	<p><b>22</b> 8 am Coffee w/Rashi 9 am Service Bevin Water's Bat Mitzvah 6 pm Service</p>
<p><b>23</b> 9 am Service 10:30 am Hebrew Class 6 pm Minyan</p>	<p><b>24</b> 7:30 am Minyan Office Closed 6 pm Minyan 7 pm Bldg. Closes</p>	<p><b>25</b> 7:30 am Minyan 6 pm Minyan 7 pm Bldg. Closes</p>	<p><b>26</b> 7:30 am Minyan 6 pm Minyan</p>	<p><b>27</b> 7:30 am Minyan 6 pm Minyan 6:30 pm Talmud Class 7:30 pm Bible Study</p>	<p><b>28</b> 7:30 am Minyan 6 pm Service-ESL Potluck Dinner Candlelighting 7:40 pm</p>	<p><b>29</b> 8 am Coffee w/Rashi 9 am Service 6 pm Service</p>
<p><b>30</b> 9 am Service 10:30 am Hebrew Class 6 pm Minyan</p>	<p><b>31</b> 7:30 am Minyan Office Closed 6 pm Minyan 7 pm Bldg. Closes</p>					

# B'nai Mitzvah



**Bevin Waters**

**Bevin Waters**, the daughter of **Rick and Sonja Myers**, is having her Bat Mitzvah on August 21 and 22, 2009.

Bevin will be attending Iowa State in the fall, where she will play bass in the orchestra and be a member of the quiz bowl team. She plays bass, guitar, and bass guitar.

She also enjoys singing, dancing, and reading. Her favorite book is *Green Grass Running Water* by Thomas King. You should read it.

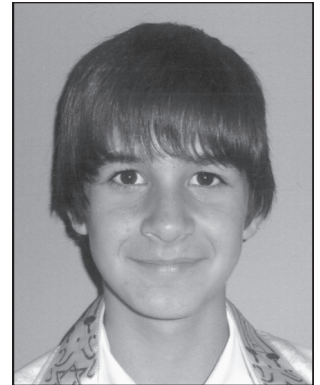
Bevin would like to thank **Linda Kowitz** for helping her make her tallit. She would also like to thank everyone who helped her reach this day, and the anonymous donors for providing a special Oneg and Kiddush.

**Andrew Gleeman**, son of **Mark and Kristi Gleeman**, will celebrate his Bar Mitzvah on August 14 and 15, 2009.

Andy is in 7th grade at St. Paul Academy and Summit School, where he plays basketball. He also enjoys skiing, listening to music, skateboarding and swimming.

Andy has designated Minnesota Multiple Sclerosis Society for his tzedaka contribution.

Oneg Shabbat and Kiddush refreshments will be sponsored by Andrew's grandparents, **Harriet Gleeman, Lyle and Kath Kasprick, and Joe and Peggy Westby.**



**Andrew Gleeman**

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**Temple of Aaron**

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