"Temple Israel is a welcoming and vibrant center of Jewish life for our region, l’dor v’adar... from generation to generation"

The **CALENDAR** has relocated to near the end of this issue OR Use the button it view it anytime on the website.

**NEW ** NEW ** NEW**
There is a GOOGLE calendar for Temple Israel on our website. Complete with all of the conveniences a GOGGLE calendar brings - Including the ability to look at a week, or month, get additional details of an event AND PRINT yourself a copy!

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**Take the Survey HERE**
Your input is needed! Please take a SHORT survey to help improve the Bulletin!

**Weekly Schedule of Virtual Meetups**
Please join us for Torah study, Fridays at noon; and for Shabbat services on

**Fridays at 6:00 pm & Saturdays at 10:00 am**
e-mail the Temple office to obtain Zoom links if you do not already have them.

**FROM THE PRESIDENT**
This month, I’m doing a combined President’s Letter and Notes From the Board. For the rest of the year, the Notes From the Board will be done by a revolving cast of Board members.

Should I be looking back over 2020 or forward into 2021? A little of both, I guess.

As we all know, 2020 was a strange year and many Temple activities were cancelled or moved to Zoom. Speaking only for myself, I was surprised to realize how comfortable I have gotten with Zoom Services. That is not to say that I don’t want us to get back to in-person Services and events; it’s only a reflection that we do learn to adapt.

Financially speaking, 2020 was at first glance a good year. The Board reviewed the numbers for the last twelve months and saw that we had income of $294,000 (round numbers) and expenses of $272,000, for a surplus of $22,000. Very nice. However, the overall numbers mask a potential underlying problem. We were $28,000 short on membership dues and $10,000 short on Hebrew and Religious School tuition. What saved us was a

$32,500 grant (technically a forgiveable – and forgiven – loan) under the Federal Government’s Paycheck Protection Program (PPP). Without that, we would have finished with a deficit for the year.

Looking forward, we have applied for another PPP forgiveable loan, so we will have the benefit of that this year as well. But as the year goes on, I will be asking the Board to think about the longer term implications of the dues and tuition shortfalls.

On a brighter note, there are many positive things which have gone on already in 2021 and many great things to come.

We welcomed some new members this month: Ari, Jamie, Akiva and Maya Alexander, who moved to Duluth from the West Coast. Ari and Jamie’s children are 5 and 3. If you have children in the same age groups (or close to those), please introduce yourselves to Ari and Jamie. We have a few other potential new members in the pipeline as well.

The Learners’ Lunch program is restarting (over Zoom, of course, so BYOL), and one will have already been held by the time you read this. Alexis
Pogorelskin, as head of our Programming Committee, is doing a great job organizing these and other events (which you’ll be hearing more about in due time).

Our Hebrew School and Religious School are functioning on Zoom as well. Last Saturday, the RS and B’nai Mitzvah kids had an on-line Tu B’shvat seder. Kudos to Andrea Buck for organizing and producing a wonderful experience. Danny Frank contributed music, including an original composition. We have quite a talent pool. Danny is in the process of putting together an album (showing my age by the use of that term) of original works that I’m sure will be fantastic.

Jack Seiler is head of our Fundraising Committee, and he is planning an event for later in the Summer at Wade Stadium (thanks to Mike Rosenzweig). Bands, a comic, food and drink. This will be the fundraising extravaganza of the year for Temple Israel.

As many of you are aware, we received a $99,000 grant from the Department of Homeland Security to be used for security upgrades. Janet Rosen was the primary author of the grant application and will be chairing a committee to oversee how we spend those funds. And the Overman Trust gave us a grant of $35,000, which will be used for a variety of purposes.

Our Tikkun Olam Committee, headed by Debbie Freedman and Hannah Lieberman, has been active; Mike Baddin handles building issues and oversaw the installation of two new boilers; Deb Carroll chairs the Caring Committee and reaches out to members who need assistance; and Mike Baddin (again) and Dan Wallerstein have been keeping our walkways clear of snow, while Josh Widdes keeps the parking lot plowed. My thanks to all of them.

All of this speaks to the fact that at the end of the day we are in large measure a volunteer organization and it falls to all of us to ensure our viability.

But let me end with thanks to our Staff: Nicole Widdes as Administrator; Mona Cheslak as Bookkeeper; Marko Jukic as Building Supervisor; Jeanne Kogl, who helps out in many ways; and Andrea Buck as Youth Education Director. All of these folks on a regular basis go above and beyond what’s expected of them. We are profoundly grateful.

More to come next month. Be safe and be well. L’shalom,
Mark Weitz

FROM THE RABBI’S STUDY: February 2021 (Shevat-Adar 5781)

Chag Ha-Purim (which translates more or less literally as the “Lottery Festival”) happens on the 14th day of the Jewish month of Adar. It is somewhat of a Jewish anthropological equivalent to Mardi Gras – a time for merrymaking, joking, and generally doing our best to accentuate the positive. Indeed, according to Jewish tradition, this mood begins to prevail a full two weeks before Purim with the start of the month of Adar. As is taught in the Talmud (Ta’anit 29a):

משנכנס אדר מרבין בשמחה

“When Adar begins, one increases rejoicing”

On the secular calendar, the 14th of Adar this year corresponds to the twenty-four-hour period beginning at sundown on Thursday, February 25th. I hope that many of you will be able to join us on Zoom (using the regular “Temple Israel Worship Services” link) on Thursday, February 25th at 7:00 p.m. for the raucous reading of Megillat Esther, arguably the bawdiest and most profane book of the entire Bible. Costumes are encouraged and heckling is required. [PLEASE DO UNMUTE TO MAKE YOUR HECKLING MORE EFFECTIVE! 😃]

As we’ve done in previous years, we’ll do the “Gantze Megillah” (the “whole megillah”) but alternate between English and Hebrew. If you would like to do some of the English or (to learn how) to chant some of the Hebrew, please contact me to let me know of your interest.

Purim last year was the last holiday that we celebrated in person before Covid-related distancing measures went into effect. What a strange year this has been since then but thankfully vaccines are slowly being distributed.
The past year has surely given new meaning to the Megillah’s description — וְנַהֲפַּוּוּ — that our expectations of the status quo were “overturned” (Esther 9:1). It has been and continues to be a “bumpy ride” as we try to keep our bearings through these many months of life being askew. But our support of one another and the moorings of our tradition are helping us to stay the course.

Chag Purim Same’ach/ Happy Purim,
Rabbi David Steinberg
rabbidavid@jewishduluth.org

NOTES FROM THE BOARD
See this Month’s President’s Message!

NEWS FROM RELIGIOUS & HEBREW SCHOOLS
“How do we do -- INSERT JEWISH HOLIDAY HERE -- online?”

Just after answering that question for Tu B’Shevat and beginning to ponder it for Purim, I came to a huge realization. We have almost completed an entire Jewish year since we closed the Religious and Hebrew School to in-person classes and holiday celebrations. With the exception of a few of us who gathered outdoors in Chester Park for a family Rosh Hashanah service in September, the last Jewish holiday we celebrated together fully in-person was Purim 5780.

So, what will Purim look like this year? Will our Hebrew and B’nai Mitzvah students put on a Purim play? Will we hold the annual costume parade and children’s carnival? As I write this, my questions are becoming answers.

The easy answer: Yes, we will celebrate Purim. The harder answer: Yes, we will celebrate Purim -- in some way, in some sort of scaled-back fashion that can be done online and in the home. Recipes for hamantaschen, paper and sequins for Queen Esther crowns and puppets, beans and popcorn for graggers, are ready to be sent home in our youngest students’ February lesson packets, along with the Purim story and descriptions of traditional ways we celebrate.

I and some teachers are debating: Are we ambitious enough and do we have enough time to not only make hamantaschen, but deliver it to students’ front porches in time for the holiday? (Schools are on mid-winter break the full week before Purim.)

It’s likely that both our older students and younger students will gather in separate groups on-line to show off their Purim costumes, and to read – if not enact – the Purim story and boo the villainous Haman.

Will it be the same? The easy answer: No. The harder answer: No, but it will be fun because our children will join together as Jews, will learn about our Jewish traditions, and will celebrate Jewishly.

Andrea Novel Buck
Youth Education Director

PLEASE NOTE THESE DATES:
• There are no online classes Saturdays, Feb. 13 and 20, and Wednesday, Feb. 17, due to the public schools’ mid-winter break.
• Online Purim celebrations will take place the week of Feb. 21. Students in online classes (Religious Studies for grades 3-6 and B’nai Mitzvah) will celebrate at 10 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 27. A time and event for younger students (preschool through 1st grade) is still to be determined.
• Confirmation students will be assigned some readings for the congregational online megillah reading, which begins at 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 25.
• Preschool, kindergarten and 1st grade students’ next home packet pickups will be 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 23.

THANK YOU

Dear Temple Members -
Thank you for the card and remembering us on our 65th Wedding Anniversary.
Sincerely,
Brian & Francine Gunderson
**Temple Israel Little Free Library – Coming Soon!**

Donations Needed

In honor of I Love to Read Month, we will be installing a Temple Israel Little Free Library. We plan to erect it outside of Temple this spring when the ground thaws.

To purchase a Little Free Library weather resistant kit, post and topper, and customized charter sign saying, “Temple Israel Little Free Library” plus shipping will cost approximately $750.

If you would like to help support this endeavor, please send a check to the Temple office with memo line: Little Free Library. Thank you!

Any questions? Contact Linda Glaser.

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AmazonSmile is a simple way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. AmazonSmile is available at smile.amazon.com on your web browser and can be activated in the Amazon Shopping app for iOS and Android phones. When you shop at AmazonSmile, you’ll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added benefit that AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to the charitable organization of your choice.

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**Temple Israel Film Festival for Black History Month via zoom.**

On Monday, February 15 and Monday, February 22 at 7:00 p.m. both nights, Temple Israel will screen the following films in honor of Black History Month.

- **Feb. 15. Shared Legacies.** The crucial historical lessons of Black-Jewish cooperation in the 1960s Civil Rights Movement are revisited and revived in this fascinating account and call to action.

- **Feb. 22. They Ain’t Ready for Me.** The story of Tamar Manesseh, the African American rabbinical student who is leading the fight against senseless killings on the south side of Chicago and across the country.

Please call the Temple office for the zoom link to connect you to these events.

We will screen a third film in the series via zoom. It is titled *Joachim Prinz*, and will figure as part of our Yom Hashoah commemoration. Set in Berlin in the 1930s, the film concerns the heroic actions of a young rabbi who stood up to the Nazis and subsequently joined Martin Luther King, Jr. to fight for the cause of civil rights in our country. More information regarding the screening of this film in the second week of April will be forthcoming. Alexis Pogorelskin

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**CALLING ALL MINNESOTA TEEN JEWISH WRITERS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS**

Keren Or (Ray of Light) announces its 17th annual creative arts contest for Jewish youth. Minnesota Jewish students in grades 7-12 are invited to submit original poetry, creative prose, and photographs. The deadline for submissions is Friday, February 19, 2021, 5 p.m. All submissions must be submitted using the online forms provided at www.kerenorcontest.org.

Prizes in each category are awarded to two separate groups: students in grades 7-9 and grades 10-12. The prizes are $100 for first place, $50 for second and third places, and $36 for Honorable Mention. Over 150 teens have won prizes since the contest began.

Winning entries will be published at the Keren Or website and in a special supplement to The American Jewish World in May, 2021.
Keren Or was founded in 2004 by Jerry and Eileen Siegel (z”l) to honor the memory of their daughter, Karen Siegel-Jacobs. Siegel-Jacobs grew up in Minneapolis and attended the Minneapolis Talmud Torah. She was an active member of Adath Jeshurun Congregation and USY and as a teenager wrote poems and short stories.

Keren Or is managed by Rimon: The Minnesota Jewish Arts Council (an initiative of the Minneapolis Jewish Federation) and is funded by the Karen Siegel-Jacobs Fund at the Adath Jeshurun Foundation.

For additional information and contest rules, visit www.kerenorcontest.org or call 952-381-3449.

**Book Group**

The next meeting of the Temple Israel Book Group will occur via Zoom on Sunday, February 21 at 1:00. The book is a free choice-each person can read what he or she wants as long as the book has a Jewish theme or connection. We will then report back on our individual choices. We may subsequently read the engaging ones as a group. You do not need to read a book to participate. All are welcome. Please contact Betsy Rosenzweig for the Zoom address: bjdlth@yahoo.com

**J Street National Conference**

2021 will bring many blessings: the COVID-19 vaccine, the Biden Presidency, and maybe even a change in Israel. As we at J Street think about how to plan our work for the next year and continue strengthening our movement, we are excited to invite you to attend J Street’s National Conference, which will take place virtually from February 21-22nd.

We are also once again offering discounts for synagogue delegations! If 5 or more members of the same congregation sign up, all registrants will receive 20% off the price of admission!

Ben Margeson, CHUM’s Congregational Outreach and Advocacy Coordinator, will be leading a book club starting in March on the book, "Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City" which details stories, statistics and insights about the devastating effect evictions have on families across the country. This book will build your understanding and desire to advocate for creating more opportunities for housing. It won the Pulitzer Prize for general non-fiction in 2017. There will be two separate alternative weekly meeting times, Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. and Wednesdays at noon starting on March 2nd and 3rd. The club will meet on Zoom. To sign up and get the link to the meeting or for more information, please contact Ben Margeson at bmargeson@chumduluth.org or call 605-690-7619.

**ADULT BEGINING HEBREW**

URJ is now offering an online Adult Beginning Hebrew class! For a full class description, click HERE. Familiarity with Hebrew can be a key to feeling at home in the Jewish community. Learn the shapes and sounds of the Hebrew alphabet, with a warm and supportive educator to guide you and a group of classmates for practicing together. Recognize and understand common Hebrew words and phrases that are often heard in Reform congregations and in Jewish prayer. Perfect for Introduction to Judaism alumni and other adults, this course assumes no prior Hebrew experience.

The March Class filled up before this bulletin was even published! HOWEVER, you can now add your name to the WAIT LIST, people on the wait list will be notified when registration opens for the next session. The next session is anticipated to begin in June. Scholarship assistance upon request is available to Temple Israel members and to parents.
or guardians of students in Temple Israel’s Religious and Hebrew School.

**LEARNER’S LUNCHEONS RETURN**

Please contact the Temple office at admin@jewishduluth.org for the zoom link.

**PLEASE SAVE THE FOLLOWING DATES**

- On **Wednesday, February 10** from noon to 1:00 p.m. via zoom, Dave Snyder, Organizing Director of Jewish Community Action, will speak on "Climbing Maimonides Ladder: Stories and Lessons from 20 years of Labor, Campus, and Faith Based Organizing."
- On **Wednesday, March 17**, from noon to 1:00 p.m. via zoom, Rabbi Roy Mittelman, Director, Michael and Irene Ross Program in Jewish Studies, The City College of New York, will speak on "Jewish Life in Morocco with Special Attention to Muslim-Jewish Relations."

Thank you to the Temple Israel Community for your generosity towards those in our community who need warmth this winter!

Last month, December, you participated in a two-part “Warm Things” Drive. We asked you to donate used warm clothing and sleeping bags, and you came through. In the first part of the month, Sam Kays collected and delivered 12 large lawn bags to Northland AIM, full of warm coats, shirts, sleeping bags, and more. During Chanukah, Mike Grossman collected and delivered to CHUM 54 warming items, including 16 jackets, 11 pair of gloves, 9 hats, 6 shirts, 4 socks and 4 sleeping bags.

AIM and CHUM work closely together, both supporting the work of homeless outreach worker Deb Holman, so we can be assured that each item donated will contribute to the mitzvah of pikuah nefesh - the saving of a life.

Good work!

**Remember those in care facilities**
- Carol Cohen, The Pines Three
- Paul King, St Ann’s
- Rochelle Rubin, Benedictine Health Center
- Barbara Segal, BeeHive Homes

**February Birthdays**

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<td>1</td>
<td>Marsha Eisenberg</td>
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<td>Peter Grundt</td>
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<td>Barb Russ</td>
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<td>Dee Dee Widdes</td>
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<td>Gayle Held</td>
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<td>Rochelle Rubin</td>
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<td>Terri Seiler</td>
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<td>Francine Gunderson</td>
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<td>Holly Church</td>
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<td>John Sillanpa</td>
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<td>Lenore Bear</td>
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<td>Josh Sonnino</td>
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<td>Carol Weitz</td>
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<td>Benjamin Wallerstein</td>
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<td>Hanna Widdes</td>
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<td>Josh Yokel</td>
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<td>Sam Gurovitsch</td>
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<td>Freida Hall</td>
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<td>Angie Frank</td>
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**February Anniversaries**

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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Neil Glazman and Barbara Russ</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>Roger and Lydia Pellett</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>Olga and Alexander Chernyshev</td>
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<td>Don &amp; Emma Ross</td>
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<td>Bob &amp; Carrie Greenberg</td>
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<td>28</td>
<td>Robin Washington and Julia Cheng</td>
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If we are missing your Birthday or Anniversary, please contact the office at admin@jewishduluth.org

**November Donations**

Donations listed were received 11/29/2020 - 01/22/2021

**Benton/Goldfine Library Fund**

Holly Church & Mike Grossman  In Honor of Linda Eason
Mike Grossman                  In Memory of Abraham Barnett
Dear Temple members,

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, our congregation is working on ways to connect those of us who might be homebound and in need of assistance due to being in a high risk category with those of us who might be able to provide that assistance. To that end, we invite you to fill out the following survey and e-mail it back to the office at admin@jewishduluth.org or call the Temple office at 218-724-8857.

We advise everyone to consider you and your own family’s health and safety first and do not volunteer if you are not comfortable or if it would be inadvisable to do so.

***************************************************
NAME: _______________________________    E-MAIL AND PHONE: ______________

“I WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER”:
___ grocery or medicine pickup and delivery ___ meal preparation and delivery
___ check-in/support calls - daily or with some regularity ___ pet sitting
___ other:

“I COULD USE SOME ASSISTANCE”:
___ groceries and/or pharmacy runs ___ meals delivered
___ pet sitting ___ support phone calls
___ other:

Please also note that people who are in self-isolation (coronavirus infected) and quarantine (close contact with an infected individual) should contact St. Louis County Public Health and Human Services Department 218-625-3600. They can also provide supportive services for people who are self-isolating or in quarantine at this time.
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