FROM THE PRESIDENT:
This is my 14th President's message, and the first in which I make any reference to the weather. I've studiously tried to avoid weather talk, as hard as that is for a Minnesotan, but this time I can't help it. I'm watching the snow come down as I type this on President's day, February 21, expecting anywhere from a foot to 20+ inches, and I've had enough. Winter never bothered me before: roll with the punches, get out and enjoy the sun and snow once the storm passes, put on the snowshoes and commune with nature. So what's different this year?

Is it yet another ramification of Covid? A layering on of yet another trial and tribulation? Is this the straw that break's the mythical camel's back? Yes, yes and yes.

Ah, but there's a ray of light in all this kvetching. Come Friday evening (or Saturday morning), if I still haven't been able to get off my couch and shovel my driveway, or if it's too cold to go out, or if I can't face navigating the ice, I can still join services on zoom. (You knew I was going to get to this eventually, didn’t you?) The Covid-inspired technological solution which allows us to partake online of a bit of Sabbath renewal. So perhaps I’ll see you at services, either in person or on zoom. And circle March 25 on your calendar, when it will be time to MEET THE BEATLES. 

L’shalom,
-- Mark

FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY: March 2022 / Adar 1 – Adar 2 5782
Purim was the last Jewish holiday we all celebrated at Temple in person before the initial closures at the start of the Covid-19 pandemic. Even as we gathered in person in our sanctuary in March of 2020, other congregations were already reverting to online services. A lot of societal and personal challenges have come our way since then. But, thankfully, we now have vaccines for all ages except the very youngest (which hopefully will be coming soon), there are also encouraging developments in effective treatments for those who have come down with Covid, and the Omicron variant wave is rapidly retreating as I write these words in mid-February. And we’re glad to be back in person for most of our services and programs here at Temple Israel.

These positive developments come at a propitious time on the Jewish calendar for, as the Talmud teaches, מ’enיכנש אדר מרבינ בשמחה (“When Adar begins, one increases rejoicing”)[1]

Chag Ha-Purim (which translates more or less literally as the “Lottery Festival”) happens on the 14th day of the Jewish month of Adar. (This year is a “leap year” on the Jewish calendar, with an extra “leap month” of Adar I, while Purim is observed during Adar II.) Purim is somewhat of a Jewish anthropological equivalent to Mardi Gras – a time for merrymaking, joking, and generally doing our best to accentuate the positive. On the secular calendar, Purim (i.e., the 14th day of Adar II) this year corresponds to the twenty-four-hour period from sundown on Wednesday, March 16th to sundown Thursday, March 17th. I hope that many of you will be able to join us on Wednesday, March 16th for our
congregational celebration of Purim. The festivities begin with a Purimshpiel (Purim Play) performed by our youth starting at 5:30 p.m. (Students in the cast should show up at 4:30 for costuming). Then at 6:00 p.m. we’ll have refreshments for the whole congregation to tide us all over for the reading of the Book of Esther (aka “the Megillah”) starting at 6:30 p.m. Costumes are encouraged and heckling is required.

Megillat Esther is arguably the bawdiest and most profane book of the entire Bible. 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. (The entire reading takes about an hour in total.)

Beyond the surface frivolity of Purim, the holiday teaches a profound lesson. The Talmud (Chullin 139b) suggests that the name אסתר / “Esther” is related to God’s statement in Parashat Vayelekh (Deuteronomy 31:18): אסתר את_face_yeyom hahu / ASTIR panay bayom hahu (“I will hide my face on that day”). And, indeed, In Megillat Esther, alone among all the books of the Bible, God is never mentioned even once.

The story of Esther (and Vashti, and Mordechai, and Achashverosh, and Haman and all the rest…) nevertheless invites us to consider the question of God’s presence in our lives. In Megillat Esther we don’t experience the face-to-face dialogues and supernatural miracles that characterize earlier Biblical tales. In this way, the Book of Esther might be seen as the most “modern” of Biblical tales.

Do we take from this the lesson that God doesn’t exist? Or do we take from this the lesson that God’s presence is infused throughout all of existence, in ways that can seem נסתר / NISTAR (“hidden”).

Jewish tradition tends to opt for the latter, as do I. But, as for the former, that’s a valid Jewish stance as well. As one of my favorite Chasidic teachings reminds us: “To what end can the denial of God have been created? It, too, can be uplifted through deeds of charity. For if someone comes to you and asks your help, you shall not turn that person away with pious words, saying, ‘Have faith, and take your troubles to God!’ You shall act as though there were no God, as though there were only one person in all the world who could help this person – only yourself.” (Siddur Hadesh Yameiniu, edited by Rabbi Ron Aigen, p. 322).

May this month of Adar and the festival of Purim inspire us to be joyful and generous amidst all the hidden and subtle miracles we experience each day.

Chag Purim Same’ach! Happy Purim,
Rabbi David Steinberg
rabbidavid@jewishduluth.org
[1] Ta’anit 29a

NOTES FROM THE BOARD

In the spirit of Groundhog Day, the board once again took up the discussion of Covid 19, its impact to our community and our go forward strategy. We take the health and safety of our members, staff and community at large seriously and each one of our debates has been thoughtful, fact filled and with a little bit of déjà vu all over again. We did decide to re-open our building to live services, Hebrew and religious school. We are excited to welcome everyone back and look forward to seeing you soon. That said, our policies on vaccination status and attending live events has not changed and you should anticipate providing proof of your vax status upon entering temple.

We had a very informative presentation by Steve Hunegs and Gil Mann from the Jewish Community Relations Council of Minnesota & The Dakota’s (JCRC). You may or may not know that Robin Washington and John Goldfine sit on the JCRC Board of Directors, thank you for your service gents and keeping Duluth on the radar. It is evident that the advocacy, training, programming and voice the group provides though potentially invisible to us is happening at a local, regional, state and national level non-stop. Certainly much of the conversation centered around temple and community security after the terrorist attack on Congregation Beth Israel in Colleyville, TX. We are saddened by these events and mounting antisemitic activity. Along with the recent grant we received to upgrade security within our facility, we will create a security plan as well as work with all of you to ensure we remain vigilant, it is imperative if you see something, say something! To that end, we envision a more robust ushering practice at services and events. Would ask for your patience and understanding as we are all in this together, if anyone is interested in volunteering for some ushering time slots please let Mark Weitz or myself know.

Regards,
Bart
Warm Welcome Back on a Bitterly Cold Day

It was great to have students return to in-person learning last month. On our first Saturday back, some of Moreh Jeff’s and Morah Susan’s classes gave reports on the assigned Jewish Prophets and places in Israel they had researched during our latest COVID-19 hiatus.

Students in Morah Heather’s and Morah Elizabeth’s classes celebrated a delayed Tu B’Shevat. It isn’t that unusual for us to celebrate Tu B’Shevat in February instead of January and learning about the Jewish value of protecting the environment is critically important. They made bird feeders and sun catchers, ate nuts and fruits, heard a story about planting a garden, and just enjoyed playing together.

Boo Haman, Cheer Esther and Mordechai

Purim is on its way. Last time all of us celebrated together was two years ago, a week before the State of Minnesota closed all schools and non-essential businesses as COVID-19 arrived in our communities. While we may still be a little rusty on our social skills, we plan to celebrate to the max. So, get your costumes ready, graggers made and plan for these upcoming events:

- **Saturday, March 12:** Decorating mishloach manot containers during Religious School classes.
- **Wednesday, March 16:** Purim play put on by our older students and open to all in our Temple Israel community, followed by a light nosh and the adults’ Megillah reading.
- **Saturday, March 19:** The children’s Purim carnival and costume parade, for enrolled students and other children in our Temple community and their families.

If you would like to help with any of these events, call me or send me an e-mail. Additionally, Debbie Freedman will need help baking hamantaschen from our DuSTY teens and older students. And Rabbi David is looking for adults who can help deliver gifts of food to our older members on Purim Day, which is Thursday, March 17.

Suggested Reading

I secured a copy of Noa Tishby’s book Israel: A Simple Guide to the Most Misunderstood Country on Earth through Inter-Library Loan just before the school’s mid-winter break. (Surprisingly, Duluth Public Library didn’t have the book, but Eveleth Public Library did.) I recommend it for any adult, but especially for our college students and high school students soon to be heading off to college.

Morah Andrea Buck
Youth Education Director
anbuck@jewishduluth.org
218-302-3203 (office)
You are invited to faith-based legislative advocacy to help struggling Minnesotans.

JRLC online, evening Day on the Hill Tuesday, March 15: For Such a Time as This

The Joint Religious Legislative Coalition invites you to the online, evening ‘Day on the Hill’ Tuesday, March 15 beginning at 6:30 PM. Be inspired by the keynote Maharat Rori Picker Neiss, an Orthodox religious leader and Executive Director of the Jewish Community Relations Council, St. Louis. Learn about the 2022 legislative priorities, and be equipped to meet with your state legislators. Make a difference – and make connections between charity and justice – for your neighbors! Trainings available prior to Day on the Hill. Flyer here. Questions: contact Joan Miltenberger, Statewide Organizer, jmiltenberger@jrlc.org or 612-230-3232.

You are invited to faith-based legislative advocacy to help struggling Minnesotans.

JRLC Virtual Day on the Hill
For Such a Time as This
March 15 from 6:30 - 8:45 p.m.

“Perhaps you have come to royal dignity for just such a time as this.”

Be Inspired | Gain Knowledge of Issues and Skills
Prepare for virtual legislative visits in March | Additional training jrlc.org/trainings

Keynote Speaker: Maharat Rori Picker Neiss
Maharat Picker Neiss serves as Executive Director of the St. Louis Jewish Community Relations Council. She is one of the first graduates of Yeshivat Maharat, a pioneering institution training Orthodox Jewish women to be spiritual leaders and halakhic (Jewish legal) authorities.

She brings experience and leadership in interreligious work, previously serving with Religious for Peace USA, the Jewish Orthodox Feminist Alliance, Assistant Director of Interreligious Affairs for the American Jewish Committee, and Secretary for the International Jewish Committee on Interreligious Consultation.

Register https://jrlc.org/2022 day on the hill

Remember those in care facilities
Carol Cohen, The Pines Three
Paul King, St Ann’s
Rochelle Rubin, Benedictine Health Center
Barb Russ, BeeHive Homes
Aaron Glazman, Edgewood Vista
Francine Gurovitsch, Chris Jensen Health & Rehab Center

The Power of Storytelling

The 2022 Summit on Equity, Race and Ethnicity at UMD will be March 2, 2022, and registration is now open. The link below will take you to an UMD page on which you will find the registration link as well as additional information about the Summit. This year’s theme is The Power of Storytelling: Building Trust, Celebrating Humanity.

Rabbi David will be a presenter at the Summit. His session is titled, "My Jewish Story," and he will be telling his story in person from 1:00 - 2:00 that day in the Garden Room on the UMD campus.

https://cere.d.umn.edu/summit-news-events
Temple book club is reading "A Guest for the Night" by S.Y. Agnon for its next meeting.

Sunday, March 6, 2022 at 1pm via Zoom.
Please RSVP to Susan Rees at susanrzrees@gmail.com to receive a link to the meeting. Everyone is welcome. Reading the book is not a requirement.

PURIM IS COMING -- VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

- Please contact Rabbi David if you would like to take part in the Megillah reading (Wednesday, March 16th at 6:30 p.m.) Both Hebrew singing parts* and English reading parts are available. (*If you can read Hebrew and carry a tune, Rabbi David can make a recording for you and work with you to develop this skill.)
- Please contact Rabbi David if you would like to take part in the mitzvah of delivering mishloach manot “goody bags” on Purim Day (Thursday, March 17th) to elderly and/or homebound members of our congregation.

The Freezer is Empty! Please bring your Baked Goodies to share!

Come gather from March 23–27, 2022 for B’Yachad: Reconstructing Judaism Together. During Convention, we will be together both in-person (at the Hilton McLean in the Washington, DC suburb of Tysons Corner, Virginia) and virtually to learn from and with experts, scholars and lay leaders. We will engage in conversations, ask questions, and listen. We will pray together, sing together, dance together and celebrate all that we do every day in our communities to reconstruct Judaism.” To Register, click HERE.

Are you the type of person that rounds up at the grocery store for a good cause? Would you be willing to “round up” for Temple Israel? You can choose your cause, whether it's the
Caring Committee or the Endowment Fund to insure the future of TI, there is a great opportunity to “round up” when you pay your Temple 2022 Annual Dues! You choose the amount, you choose the fund. It’s always easier to write a check for an even number! Let’s round up for Temple Israel and put those odd amounts to a good cause!

So, here is how to "round up" for Temple, when submitting your payment, simply write a note on your Dues invoice to read:
"Rounding up $____ for the _______ Fund" with the financial amount and the name of the fund denoted in which you are "rounding up".

Round up to the nearest even number if you like! It’s an optional choice that goes towards making Temple Israel’s 2022 budget and helps fund purposeful causes to maintain Temple Israel! Need a quick reminder of Temple Israel's variety of funds? Click HERE to see the list!

Siddur at home

With the transition back to in-person services, siddurim (prayer books) will no longer be "screen-shared" during the Zoom simulcast of services. Temple members may borrow copies of the siddurim that we use at Temple for your home use. Please contact the Temple office if you wish to do so. If you have any siddurim at home already that you previously borrowed, please let the office know that as well. The Temple Israel office can be reached at 218-724-8857 or office@jewishduluth.org

If you wish to view online versions of the various siddurim on a separate device while “Zooming” into Shabbat services, here are the links that will enable you to do so:

- For Saturday morning services: HERE
- For Friday evening services (other than family shabbat services): HERE and then click on the cover of the first book listed on that page (i.e., the Shabbat only version)
  - For the monthly “Family Service” (first Friday of each month): Click HERE

If you would like to purchase your own copies of the various siddurim, here are the links that will enable you to do so:

- For Saturday morning services: Click HERE
- For Friday evening services (other than family shabbat services): Click HERE

The siddur for the monthly “Family Service” (first Friday of each month) is out of print but some used copies for sale might be available at these links:

- Version with transliteration: HERE
- Version without transliteration: HERE

Get started with the aleph-bet!

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. This course has been developed specifically for online learning, and is taught by experienced educators. Live sessions meet weekly over video conferencing. Participants are given access to online course materials and a link to purchase workbook. Tuition: $180

Scholarship assistance is available for Temple Israel members

Duluth Interfaith Dialogues

The Islamic Center of the Twin Ports (ICTP) invites Duluth congregations to participate in a series of interfaith dialogues (via Zoom) that will aim to find solutions to societal divisions. As Nik Hassan of the ICTP notes, “it pains me to see my children and grandchildren growing up with these problems, and certainly don’t want to be the one burdening them with such problems without at least some guidance.” Each month, 3-4 panelists who represent their faith communities will offer what their traditions say about societal problems we’re facing, and attendees will be invited ask questions and interact with the panelists. These are the first two topics:
Public shaming, Cancel Culture and Handling Disagreements
[Fred Friedman was one of the panelists]
Recording of this Dialogue which took place on 12/4/21 is available HERE

What does God mean to you?
[Rabbi David was one of the panelists]
Recording of this Dialogue which took place on 01/08/22 is available HERE

Between God’s Forgiveness and God’s Justice
[Elyse Carter Vosen was the moderator]
Recording of this Dialogue which took place on 02/12/22 is available HERE

Additional dates and topics:
Saturday, March 12th, 7-8:30pm Duluth Interfaith Dialogue Episode 4 – Nature of Good and Evil
Saturday, April 9th, 7-8:30pm Duluth Interfaith Dialogue Episode 5 – Challenges to organized religion
Saturday, May 14th, 7-8:30pm Duluth Interfaith Dialogue Episode 6 – Role of religion in social justice

TEMPLE ISRAEL COVID-19 PROTOCOLS
(revised January 13, 2022)

- All worship services and other Temple programs will be on Zoom only effective immediately through and including Thursday, February 10th.
- Anyone AGE 5 OR OVER who is not fully vaccinated against Covid-19 may not enter the Temple Israel premises.
- Anyone AGE 12 OR OVER WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR A BOOSTER SHOT BUT HAS NOT YET GOTTEN BOOSTED may not enter the Temple Israel premises.
- Everyone, including school-age children, must wear face masks. (Masks such as N95 are recommended but cloth masks are acceptable.) Once in-person worship services resume (currently expected as of Feb. 11, 2022), the only exceptions will be for vaccinated persons on the Bima who are speaking or singing as part of a Service.
- Once in-person worship services resume (currently expected as of Feb. 11, 2022), six feet of social distancing will be recommended, except for households and “pods” of fully vaccinated persons.
- Once in-person worship services resume (currently expected as of Feb. 11, 2022), Congregational singing will be permitted while masked.
- Services are broadcast on Zoom. Once in-person worship services resume (currently expected as of Feb. 11, 2022), there will be no screen sharing of the prayer book. However, members may borrow or purchase prayer books and links for free downloads on your own personal devices can be found in our weekly “TTW” (“Temple This Week”) email updates or by contacting the Temple office. (During the current period when services are Zoom only, we are screen sharing the prayer book.)
- Once in-person worship services resume (currently expected as of Feb. 11, 2022), please be sure to check the health screening questionnaire posted at the building entrance. All attendees are required to review the questions and, if the answer to any question is “yes,” should leave the building. We rely on attendees to individually review the questions and to be honest in their answers.
- We are maximizing efforts to maintain good air quality and recommend everyone get vaccinated.

Mazel Tov

Todah Rabbah

Please send your submissions to the Mazel Tov or Todah Rabbah sections to admin@jewishduluth.org

Schedule of Shabbat Services and Torah Portions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Service Type</th>
<th>Torah Portion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mar 4 &amp; 5</td>
<td>6:00pm &amp; 10:00am in-person &amp; simulcast via Zoom - Pekude</td>
<td></td>
<td>(Exodus 38:21-40:38)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 11 &amp; 12</td>
<td>6:00pm &amp; 10:00am in-person &amp; simulcast via Zoom - Vayikra</td>
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<td>(Leviticus 1:1-5:26)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 18 &amp; 19</td>
<td>6:00pm &amp; 10:00am in-person &amp; simulcast via Zoom - Tzav</td>
<td></td>
<td>(Leviticus 6:1-8:36)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 25 &amp; 26</td>
<td>6:00pm &amp; 10:00am in-person &amp; simulcast via Zoom - Shemini</td>
<td></td>
<td>(Leviticus 9:1-11:47)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Birthdays

1 Bram Bystrom
2 Thomas Buck
4 Sharon Marcovich
4 Terese Tomanek
5 Jamie Alexander
8 Francine Gurovitsch
8 Ariella Streit
9 Gideon Mailer
11 Zachary Wallerstein
12 David Wallerstein
13 Thomas Griggs
15 Katherine Siegler
16 Jill Cornwell
18 Julia Cheng
18 Fred Friedman
18 Sharyl Gurovitsch
20 Raphael Roazen
21 Betsy Rosenzweig
22 Robin Seiler
22 Mari Trine
23 Richard Levey
28 Steve Christianson
30 Michelle Solomon
31 Janice Cohen

March

Donations
Received 01/26/22 – 02/24/22

Beautification Fund
Mike & Michelle Baddin         In Memory Sarah Segal
Carla Waal Johns  In Memory of Sarah Segal

Benton/Goldfine Library Fund
Christine King           In Memory of Sarah Segal

Building Fund
Gary & Janice Latz In Memory of Boyd Truman Wiseman

Cemetery Fund
Gary & Janice Latz In Memory of Boyd Truman Wiseman
Lyle Bergal             In Memory of Elizabeth Bergal

CHUM/Food Shelf
Francine Gurovitsch  In Memory of David Gershgol
& Rose Gershgol
Sherill Weinberg      In Memory of Archie Weinberg

Endowment Fund
Jack & Cindy Seiler     In Memory of Sarah Segal
Jack & Cindy Seiler

General Fund
Steve Licterman & Terry Wasnick In Memory of
Carol Goman
Steve Licterman & Terry Wasnick In Memory of Sarah
Segal
Carol & Mark Weitz     In Memory of Thomas Rosen
Willy & Ann Stern

Carol Cohen        In Memory of Bernard Cohen
Christine King     In Memory of Carol Goman
Christoph Sell & Chaya Ropers In Honor of Susie
Rosenzweig’s Birthday
Victoria Kaufman
Bruce & Bonnie Lurye In Memory of Edward Lurye

Harry Glazman Kiddush Fund
Don & Judy Schibel   In Memory of Jeanne Schibel
Christine King     In Memory of Tommy Rosen
Chuck & Tracy Goman  In Memory of Sarah Segal
Myrna Orensten     In Memory of Rieva Davis Orensten

Marko Retirement
Gary & Janice Latz In Honor of the Torah Study Group
Jack Shapiro        In Memory of Jeanette Altman

Rabbi’s Development Fund
Gary & Janice Latz In Honor of the Torah Study Group

Rabbi’s Discretionary Fund
Tom & Pam Griggs     In Memory of Sarah Segal
Tom & Pam Griggs     In Memory of Carol Goman
Tom & Pam Griggs     In Memory of Tommy Rosen
Erin Aldridge       In Memory of Saul Love
Tom & Pam Griggs     In Honor of the birth of Meredith Rose
Tina Alcala Sales    In Memory of Jesse B. Alcala

Recording for the Blind
Mike & Michelle Baddin      In Memory of Harry Bear
Ruth & Ed Jacobs Scholarship Fund
Jack Shapiro        In Memory of Irene Polinsky
Silver Lecture Series

Jack Shapiro        In Memory of Sarah Segal
Social Action Fund
Anne Scher        In Memory of Esther Livenstein