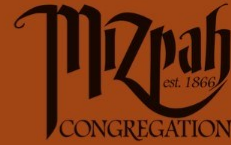




First Friday Family Shabbat



March 1st, 2024



*Services @ 6:00PM
Dinner @ 7:00PM*

Lasagna (Cheese and Spinach), Green Beans, Garlic Bread, Salad Bar

**Chicken Tenders for Kids
Veggie & gluten-free option**

**Adult Members: \$10
Age 13-22: \$7
Under 12: No Charge**

**Adult Non-Members: \$13
Age 13-22 Non-Members: \$9
Under 12: No Charge**

Please RSVP to the office at 423-267-9771

or email: office@mizpahcongregation.org

**PURIM
&
TRIVIA NIGHT**

SUNDAY, MARCH 24
FEINSTEIN HALL

4:00PM - MEGILLAH READING
5:00PM - TRIVIA WITH NERDY TALK

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, March 10, 2024

12:00 noon

The purpose of the meeting is to vote approval for money to be spent upgrading our Temple security. The funds will come from a Federal Grant we have received. Per our Bylaws, we must meet in person to approve the process. If unable to attend, please give your proxy to someone.

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT...

4 Adar 1, 5784
February 13, 2024

Dear Fellow Congregants,



Vicki Lewis

I learned something new this week that I would like to share with all of you. I am an early riser. It is unusual for me to sleep beyond 6 or 6:30. I usually attend Torah study on Saturday mornings and leave. I enjoy the camaraderie. I eat wonderful scrambled eggs usually prepared by Warren Dropkin, plus lox, bagels, tomatoes, and fruit. Onions are an option I don't choose. I truly enjoy trying to become educated on the week's parsha. I enjoy the learning and discussions. As a Jew, I think it's important, and these days knowledge is power.

But, the past two weeks I have gone to the Saturday morning service after and discovered how much I liked it. It's very short compared to all of the other kinds of services I have attended at synagogues in the past. I really enjoyed the service, and I wondered why? Perhaps it was the familiarity of tunes and prayers that I have repeated and recited all my life? Perhaps it was the rabbi's way of involving everyone in the blessings recited before and after the Torah reading? Perhaps it was the very short talk we all had about the reading which happened to be about the Ten Commandments?

I thought to myself, for those congregants who are uncomfortable being called up to the Torah, this was a wonderful way to learn those blessings. Students would become familiar with the words and tunes. Think how much easier studying for B'nai Mitzvot could be. This is one of our Sabbath services of which many of you are not familiar. Or are you?

Feinstein Chapel made the service feel very homey and comfortable. I counted and there were around fifteen people, and I thought to myself, "Where is everybody else?" Personally, I have difficulty coming to services on Friday night. Maybe it's because I'm not used to that particular habit? The Saturday morning service seems to go much more quickly than the evening service, for me, even though the length of both services is the same. The morning service begins at 11:00 am and is over at 12 noon. I challenge all of you to come one Saturday morning. If you enjoy the services as much as I, perhaps you, too, would come again. For those of you who are early risers, come for breakfast and a little bit of study. For those of you who are not early risers, you can sleep late and still come. I hope to see you there soon.

I also hope to see you at our special congregational meeting on March 10th at 12:00 noon. If you can not attend, please send a proxy to any member so we will be able to move forward on the security of our building.

L'dor va dor!

From generation to generation!

Vicki

Mazal Tov to..

our latest leaders for worship services and Torah study: **Trent Center and Tom Bledsoe**. When **Rabbi Lewis** is out of town - as he was this past weekend, chaperoning (with **Marissa Street**) our young Confirmation students to a politics-learning meet up in Washington, DC), we prevail upon congregants to "step up" and facilitate either Torah Study or Friday / Saturday worship services. As **Vicki** suggested, worship services and Torah Study can pique your hidden interest and curiosity in Jewish values and traditions. Trent brings a lifetime of Jewish identity and practice to bear. This past Friday, he brought a guest who shared ten minutes of super-relaxing "singing bowls" as a mindfulness exercise. On Saturday, Tom led a spirited Torah portion discussion dealing with both ancient ritual and contemporary interpretation. Thank you both for your participation.



A MESSAGE FROM YOUR RABBI...

The month of March 2024 spans the ending and the beginning of same Hebrew month, Adar. It is one of those Hebrew calendar leap years in which we have Adar I and Adar II, the latter being the month in which we celebrate Purim. Based on agricultural observations, our ancestors determined the lunar calendar on its own was insufficient to ensure holidays happen in the same season. *Sukkot* has to be a fall holiday, and Passover has to be a Spring holiday. Without the leap year, the holidays would shift seasons over the course of time. The month of Adar was designated for repetition. This invites a question: If you had to repeat any month of your life, which one would it be?



Rabbi Craig Lewis

I have three candidates that I can think of off the top of my head. The first is June 2008. Recently ordained, **Jen** and I were driving across country to begin our new life, me starting my first job as a rabbi, and her with a great job at the JCC. After two days in California, we boarded a plane to Texas where **Eden** was born. We had to stay there for a whole month, jobs on hold for us, just enjoying our new role as parents. People visited. We held a bris. We had family around us. It was a great month. I would do it over again in a heartbeat.

The second candidate is June 2021. Yes, they are all in the Summer. Family members flocked in from all over the country to celebrate Eden's Bar-Mitzvah. Mizpah Congregation supported us in so many ways. Our friends gathered with us. We were just beginning to emerge from COVID quarantines, and the world felt re-newed. Though we could not have as many people present as we would have under "normal" circumstances, the day felt perfect - and filled with love. Then two days later, we left for Orlando to spend a week at Disney World with my brother and his family. There is no question that I would do it all over again and would not change a thing... oh, except for the horrendous flare-up of sciatica that struck two days before the Bar-Mitzvah. Even that part of the memory has faded along with the pain (shoutout for physical therapy).

And my third month that I would do over again is July 2023. I spent ten days studying with other rabbis at the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem, which was a lot more exciting than it sounds. It was high-level programming with incredible scholars and amazing camaraderie with rabbis from multiple movements all around the world who were all experiencing Jerusalem together. Then Jen and Eden joined me for two weeks of exploring Israel. We learned. We ate. We walked the cities. We made new friends. We played on the beaches. It was a month filled with excitement and joy. To think how much the country would be changed less than three months later. So, not only would I do the month over again, I would gladly turn back the clock to that period of relative serenity in the State of Israel.

My choices have a central theme, enjoying family, but they also reflect important turning points in my life as well as in the turning points in history. There are many levels by which we could evaluate and nominate months worthy of repeating. As for the month of Adar, which is so nice, we do it twice, I think it has to do with the celebration of Purim, perhaps the greatest day of pure celebration in the Jewish calendar. We do not exactly get two Purims, but we do get a Purim *Katan* (little Purim) in the first Adar, and we are invited to do something joyous on that day. So, there is a doubling effect on the 14th of each of those months. Beyond those two specific days, we also learn, "Whoever enters the month of Adar increases in happiness," which means the whole month is filled with joy. If you are going to double down on a month, you might as well double down on increasing joy.

So, I ask you, what month in your life would you choose to repeat? Honestly, I want to read about yours. Write it on Facebook, tag me and Mizpah Congregation and use the hashtag #mizpahadar.

Shalom and Happy Adars,

Rabbi Lewis

Rabbi Craig Lewis will be on our show Tuesday, March 19th, from 8-10 AM joining several other clergy in our area. I have learned when we discuss our religious beliefs and the experiences that come with them, people become more understanding of each other's perspectives. Radio is the perfect medium.



MIZPAH CONGREGATION YAHRZEITS - January 28 - April 6

Feb. 25– March 2

Clara Beker
Irving Caminez
Lillian Rechtweg
Marilyn Simonds
Robert E. Haesloop
Ruth Regenbaum
Andy Wear
Bernard Pollack
Florence Burk Milder
Louise Mittenthal
Betty Weill Long
David Weill, Sr.
Elaine Laband
Joan Lodge
Julius Miller

Selma Lencer
Dr. Harold
Birghenthal
Harold Schwartz Jr.
Wallace F. (Wally)
White
Elsie Wertheimer
Weill
Harry Moore
Rebecca B. Schwartz
Carlos Dominguez
Virginia Gram
Al Freiberg
Alvin Shuckman

March 10-16

Bessie Metsky
Kate Robbins
Margaret Levine

March 3-9

Martin J. Cohn

Joyce Levis Goldfarb
Phyllis Niman Metsky
Aaron Michael
Brodsky
Billie Lou Coulter
Dora L'Vovna
Belinskaya
Rose Angel
Henry Maurice
(H.M.) Poss
Frances Brandt
Nina Colbert
Patti Ann Schwartz
Bernice Shalett
Estelle Levine

March 17-23

Edward Shalett
Isabelle Feintuch

Morris Ettkin
Edward Benjamin
Shalett
Max Brener
Ruth Schulson
Gertrude Stoller
Julius Chazen
Theodore Berz
Herman Metsky
David (Duvy)
Richelson

March 24-30

Eva Levine Shenkan
Fannie Center
Anna Cohn
Marie Smith
Pat Mittenthal
Harry Levin

Howard Young
Wolf Witt
Jan Mickler

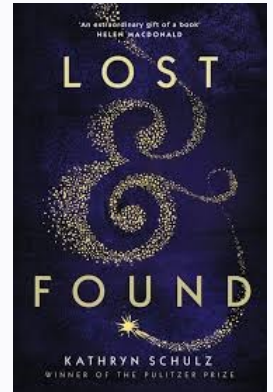
March 31– April 6

Dr. David Merren
Joan Koplan
Donald Gold
Lydia Gold Kaset
Paula Dropkin
Molly Kopkin
Ethel Kopkin
Naomi Lesser Cohn
Ric Chambers
Isadore Kaset

MIZPAH BOOK CLUB

Mizpah Book (and Brunch!) Club will meet next on Sunday, March 31st, 10:30 am at the home of **Hope Flammer and Jay Shaffer**. We will be reading Lost and Found, by Kathryn Schulz, . It is a Pulitzer Prize winner, a National Jewish Book Award finalist, and was longlisted for the National Book Award.

Eighteen months before Kathryn Schulz's father died, she met the woman she would marry. Lost & Found weaves the story of those relationships into a brilliant exploration of the role that loss and discovery play in all of our lives. The resulting book is part memoir, part guidebook to living in a world that is simultaneously full of wonder and joy and wretchedness and suffering-- a world that always demands both our gratitude and our grief. A staff writer at The New Yorker and winner of the Pulitzer Prize, Schulz writes with curiosity, tenderness, erudition, and wit about our finite yet infinitely complicated lives. Lost & Found is an enduring account of love in all its many forms from one of the great writers of our time.



MIZPAH LIBRARY notification: Our library is unable to accept donations at this time. I am working on getting the books in the correct numerical order after cataloguing several large donations. Please do not reshelve books, even if you don't check the book out. I am also continuing to work on putting our donations on an online system. Thanks for your understanding.

Betsy Temple, Library Chair

SOCIAL ACTION UPCOMING EVENT

Please join us on Tuesday, March 12, 2024, from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. as **David Binder** leads us on a tour of **The Siskin Museum of Religious Artifacts**. The Museum contains over 400 religious pieces: 247 Judaic and 140 Christian, ranging from the 16th to the 20th century. Other religions and philosophies represented in the museum include Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, and Confucianism. The Museum is located on the property of Siskin Children's Institute at 1101 Carter Street. Parking is provided beside the Institute.



A MESSAGE FROM YOUR EDUCATION AND YOUTH COORDINATOR...



Dear Mizpah Families,

March is my favorite time of year because it's my birthday month! It was also typically the time of Year when we'd see the sun again "up north." March is the month that says, "in like a lion, out Like a lamb." While that saying has some heavy Christian connotations, it's origin is more deeply rooted in the stars (Leo, the lion moving into Aries, the ram) and the trusty Farmer's Almanac. Let's put a Jewish lens on it. March could be a month that enters loud and chaotic and leaves soft and peacefully - perhaps a bit like Purim (with loud groggers and boisterous wine-drinking, "roaring") and goes out like Passover (though there is joyful singing - at time to reflect on our story, and the blood of the lamb above our doorposts). The imagery of the lion and the lamb is something to contemplate, as it so often appears in our day-to-day lives: the busyness and loudness of our lives and the few



Susan Caminez

moments we can catch in between when we find rest and calmness; when our children are full of deep and loud emotions and then the peace that follows when they've been able to safely express them. And of course, we can find this weekly when we "remember" and "observe" Shabbat. We can come in through the doors like lions and leave peacefully like lambs at the end - week after week.—**Susan**

Upcoming MARCH Mizpah Family Events



**Family Shabbat &
First Friday Dinner
Friday, March 1 at
6:00 pm**



Hamantaschen Making—Friday, March 1 at 5:00 PM

Prior to Family Shabbat, join us in the library for hamantaschen making. These yummy cookies will bake while we'll in services and we'll enjoy them with dinner!

SAVE THE DATE

**Matzah Cover Painting
Sunday, April 1 at 5:00 pm**

Just in time for Passover, **Alex Birghenthal** will lead us in painting over very own matzah covers so our tables will be beautiful for our seders!



MIZPAH FUNDS: YOUR DONATIONS ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED!

Donations received by the 15th of prior month \$18 - "chai" - minimum donation

Archives
Building
Capital Campaign
Cemetery
Educator
Endowment
Flower
Garden of Life
Goldman/Moses
Mary W. and Jacob L. Levine

Leadership Development
Library
Miller/Lefkoff
Marks Memorial
Mazon (Feed the Hungry)
Miller/Schwartz
Music
NFTY (Youth Group)
Operating
Oneg
Prayer Book

Physical Property
Religious Activities
Rabbi's Discretionary Fund
Rabbinic Endowment
Rita Russ Speer
Religious School
Social Action
Staff Support
Kindertransport Chapel

Music

In Memory of Harold Shalett

Clark White and Karen Diamond
Morton and Marilyn Center
Wendy Farber and Family
Robin Sorrow Pearson
Rozzie and John Brink
Lois Kiselik
Robert Kiselik
Bev Coulter
T. Schenberg
Sally D. Rosenberg
Charles and Betty Lebovitz

In Memory of Robin Spitalny

Morton and Marilyn Center

In Honor of Andy Hodes Birthday

Sarah Sundheim Dean

In Memory of Louise (Fuz) Spector

Leslie and Ron Swickow
Martine Zinn

Operating

In Memory of Judith Barshak

Lee and Iris Abelson

In Memory of Gloria Epstein Fershko

Donald and Rachel Weir

In Memory of Harold Shalett

Anita Levine
Michael and Lori Shalett
Warren Dropkin and Donna White-Dropkin
Gerald and Judy Kleinstub

In Memory of Louise (Fuz) Spector

Lee and Iris Abelson
Warren Dropkin and Donna White-Dropkin
Larry and Sandy Zuckerman
Sylvia Zuckerman
Carol Alexander
Michael and Lori Shalett
Sanford and Elaine Winer
Pat Maner
Michael and Deb Royal
Florence Abelson
G. R. Rush and Company
Anita Levine

Rabbi's Discretionary

In Honor of Rabbi Craig Lewis

John and Vicki Steinberg

Endowment

General Donation

Sandra L. Richard

In Memory of Harold Shalett

Jon and Amy Cohen

Education

In Memory of Louise (Fuz) Spector

Raul and Wendy Beker
Leta Berger

Garden of Life

In Memory of Arline Dubow

Debra Dubow and Thomas Lyons

In Memory of Louise (Fuz) Spector

Mike and Linda Spector

MAZAL TOV TO...

...**Valdis Richelson and Natalia Volodina**, on the recent birth of their daughter, **Journey Richelson**. Proud grandparents are **Alan Richelson** and **Lynn Howard**, and **Uliana Mazza**.

...**Ina Longway**, at right, mother/mother-in-law of **Ruth Longway and Richard Zachary**, on her 99th birthday. *Yom huledet sameach!* She celebrated with family on the beach at Gulf Shores.



CONFIRMATION CLASS TRIP TO WASHINGTON

Left to Right: **Tyler Lincove, Ava Kaplan, Violet Taylor, Marissa Street, Rabbi Lewis, Eden Lewis, Jacob Nash, Eli Val, Joey Nash.**

These teens from Mizpah attended the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism *L'Taken* conference. They were joined by teens from all over the country and received training on how to lobby their congressional representatives. Our group presented three social justice issues to staff representatives of Senators Bill Hagerty and Marsha Blackburn and Representative Chuck Fleischmann. These issues are: disability rights, LGBTQ rights, and the increase in antisemitism in America. They asked our representatives to cosponsor the IDEA Full Funding Act, the Equality Act, and the Pray Safe Act.

From the RAC website: Our program is designed to both expose you to a variety of public policy issues and explore the Jewish values that inform the Reform Movement's advocacy around these issues.



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Mizpah is a Reform Jewish Congregation. We offer worship, learning and social action / social justice programs designed to enhance our lives and improve our world. Mizpah is a welcoming congregation as we embrace interfaith couples, those of all faith-traditions and culturally-diverse backgrounds as well as families in all forms.



Find us on:
facebook®

www.MizpahCongregation.org
Office@mizpahcongregation.org
www.urj.org

Email: Office@mizpahcongregation.org
www.mizpahcongregation.org
Monday-Friday: 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
423-267-9771

Craig Lewis, Rabbi
Rabbi@mizpahcongregation.org
Vicki Lewis, President
President@mizpahcongregation.org
Angela Rickert, Administrator
Susan Caminez, Education Coordinator
Richard Zachary, Newsletter

TEMPLE OFFICERS AND BOARD

July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024

Craig Lewis, Rabbi
Susan Caminez, Education Coordinator
Angela Rickert, Temple Administrator

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VP-Administration	David Israel
VP-Programming:	Jed Mescon
VP-Annual Giving	Bev Coulter
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Immed. Past President:	Frank Miller

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Ruth Longway Andy Stone

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Bob Berz, Board Representative
Gary Chazen Sandy Dittus
Jim Levine Flossie Weill

CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

Shabbat Eve Worship: 1st Friday Family Shabbat and Dinner 6:00 pm

Choir 2nd and 4th Friday

Shirei Shalom: Every 3rd Shabbat 6:00 pm

Torah Study: Every Shabbat 9:00 am Feinstein Hall

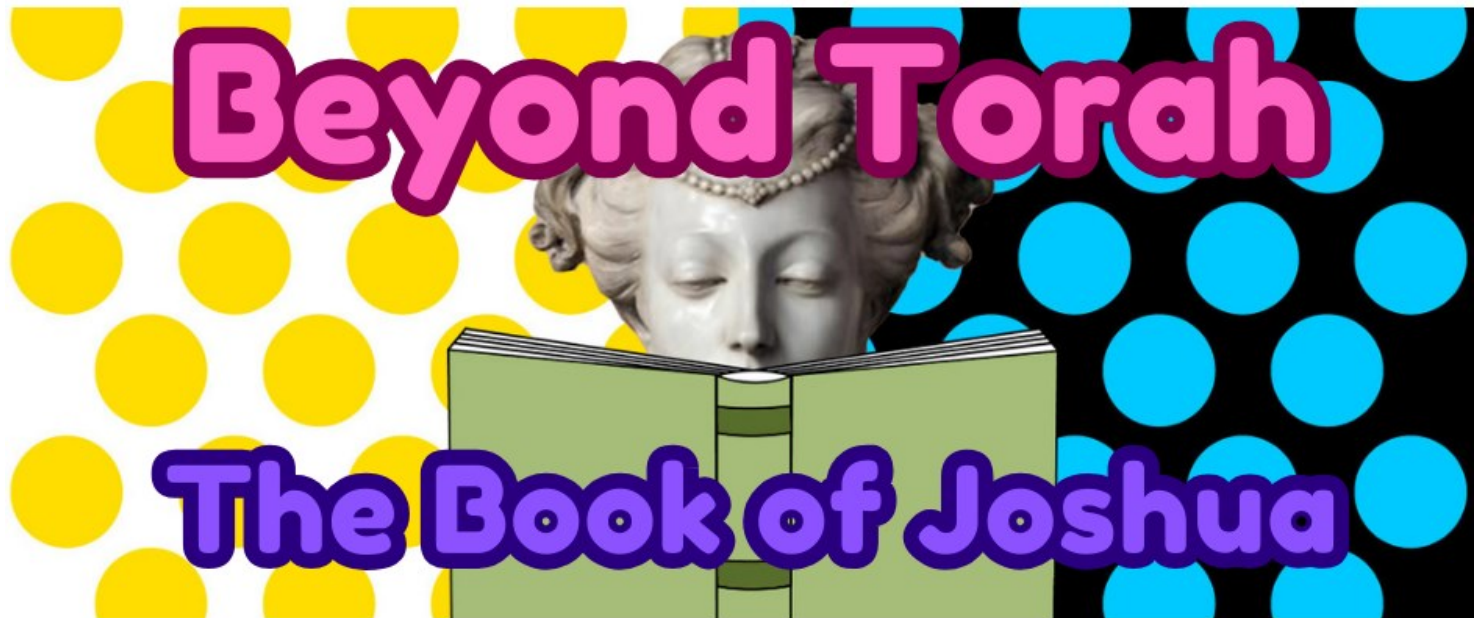
Shabbat Morning Worship: Feinstein Chapel 11:00 am

Mussar: Jewish Ethics, with Rabbi Lewis: Wednesdays 7:30 am (zoom only)

Newish to Jewish: Tuesday sessions begin March 19th 6:00 pm

Purim Megillah Reading and Trivia Fun: March 24, 4:00 pm Megillah Reading, 5:00 pm Trivia with Nerdy Talk

Stories from Jewish North Africa w/ Rabbi Craig Lewis: March 27th 6:00 pm



By popular demand, we are going to study the books that come after Deuteronomy, starting with Joshua. Using the JPS Translation, we will start with Chapter 1 and see where our study takes us.

Thursdays at 6 PM in April and May