

April/May 2015
5775

B'nai Israel Synagogue

Upcoming Services and Events

April 24
Shabbat Services
(Geoff Mitelman)

April 25
Children's Ed 9:00am
Torah Study 9:30am
Adult Ed 10:30am

May 8
Shabbat Services
(Ari Naveh)

*Shabbat Services
are at 7:00pm on
noted Friday
evenings

*On rabbi weekends,
we also offer
Torah Study, Adult
Education and
Children's
Education

President's Message, by Victor Lieberman

Hello Everyone!

It's been a very busy couple of months for us here at the synagogue, with lots of planning for spring activities, events, services, as well as all the general planning for future needs. There is much to report, and the synagogue board has been quite active in keeping things humming along.

Interfaith Event & Protest Very Successful

As many of you are already aware via e-mail messages, announcements, personal participation, and very quick action required by all, the synagogue lent it's support to the UND Muslim Students Organization earlier this month. The evangelical Christian speaker, Usama K. Dakdok, was sponsored to speak against Islam by a local Christian radio station, Q-FM. A silent protest gathered before the start of this event in front of the Empire Theater, and participants left after the talk started.

I know from speaking with

event organizer and UND student Bailey Bubach, that our support individually and organizationally was truly and gratefully appreciated. B'nai Israel Synagogue joined its fellow "CATCH" allies ("Congregations Acting Together for Change and Hope") out on the sidewalk and other times, and it was another opportunity for us to work alongside our friends at the United Church of Christ (Pastor Keith Mills), Grand Forks Islamic Center (President Nabil Suleiman), and St. Paul's Episcopal Church (Father Jim Shannon). We were all able to demonstrate, if nothing else, that this speaker did not represent the views of every resident in our community.

Passover & Community Seder

Thanks so very much to all who helped out and contributed to another very successful community seder this year. Our student rabbi, Ari Naveh, conducted the seder on the second (Saturday) night at the synagogue. A beautiful and delicious meal was

prepared by Linda and Jen that day, with gefilte fish contributions from Donna (and others?). If you enjoyed one, four, or more of your (required!) cups of wine during the seder, we can all thank our generous congregation member Hal Gershman for once again contributing essential fluids toward this cause! And if your name did not make my alzheimers addled list, apologies for leaving you off!

Thanks also to those who were able to help clean after the seder concluded. Judy, Barry, Bert, and Richard rose to the occasion, ... sponges and towels in hand, ... braving the steamy exhaust of our mighty dishwashing machine ... a hearty bunch that made the job go quicker than it might.



*Shabbat Services begin
at 7:00pm on select
Fridays*



Old Friends Back to Visit

Because Ari was unable to make one of our scheduled services this month, we sent out the plea for help, and were delighted with the response! As you can read elsewhere in this bulletin, former student rabbi (now rabbi who was a former student) Geoff Mitelman, visits Grand Forks again after a few years hiatus at other synagogues which no doubt struggle to compare to the little shul on the prairie. We're delighted to have him back for the April 24th weekend (Friday and Saturday) and only wish it could be for a longer visit. Stop by to not only interrogate (I mean catch up with) Geoff that weekend, but also to celebrate with Jen and Jay their upcoming wedding. Please join us that Friday evening as we join with them during the service and Aufruf in honor of the occasion.

Looking Ahead to Next Board Meeting and Annual (Summer) Meeting

The next synagogue board meeting will be Friday, May 22, at 5 PM at the synagogue. We shall be planning

events for the summer, our annual meeting, and looking at scheduling (at least preliminary) for the fall and the holidays. This year we will elect a synagogue President and Vice President. The current inmates for these offices are myself (President) and Bert (Vice President). If you wish to run for office, or otherwise take the blame for some aspect of synagogue operation, please let me or another board member know and we shall put you on the ballot.

Although maybe it would be easier as an "opt-out" approach. Unless we hear otherwise, you will all be elected to some official position of synagogue responsibility. We'll let you know what you volunteered for. It'll be like democracy. We'll all vote.

New Student Rabbi for Fall 2015 & Spring

On Monday of this week (April 13) I received an e-mail from Max Miller of the HUC Student Ministerial Committee. He was pleased to inform us that we will have a new student rabbi for the

upcoming 2015-2016 academic year. The student's name is Isaama Stoll, which is all I currently know about these details. I was told I would be contacted by Isaama soon about plans for the upcoming year, and look forward to our year ahead. We once again will participate in the program on a "tri-weekly" basis, with visits during the High-Holidays, and 12-14 additional visits throughout the year. Stay tuned!

Dear B'nai Israel Community
Who says you can't go home
again?

In 2006-2007, I was blessed
to the student rabbi at B'nai
Israel during my last year of
rabbinical school. So it is truly
special for me to be able to
come back here at the end of
April to be with you all for
Shabbat!

My time in Grand Forks was
instrumental in my becoming
a rabbi, and I have such fond
memories of my year with
you all. I was struck by your
dedication to lifelong learning,
by your commitment to the
Jewish community at large,
and by your deep sense of
community. It will be so
meaningful to be able to
reconnect with old friends

and to make new ones during
this upcoming weekend.

For those of you I haven't met
(or haven't seen in a long
time), here's a little bit of a
bio. After my time in Grand
Forks, I spent seven years as
Assistant and then Associate
Rabbi at Temple Beth El of
Northern Westchester, where
I focused on adult education,
social justice and teen
engagement. I'm now the
Founding Director of an
organization called Sinai and
Synapses
(sinaiandsynapses.org) that
examines the relationship
between Judaism and
science, and so I spend most
of my time teaching, writing
and running programs
throughout the country. It has
been enormously rewarding,

and you'll hear a little more
about it when I see you in a
few weeks. Most importantly,
I'm the husband of Heather
Stoltz, who is a fiber artist,
and the father of Caroline
(who is 19 months old) and a
baby-to-be, expected in
September.

Thank you so much for the
opportunity to come back to
this wonderful community. I'm
looking forward to seeing so
many of you (either again or
for the first time), and kol tuv,
all good things,

Geoff

*Rabbi Geoff Mitelman returns to
B'nai Israel for a special visit on
April 24.
Geoff was student rabbi here in
2006.*

A bit of Synagogue History...

Rabbi Papermaster (1859 - 1934) served
as first Rabbi in Grand Forks
for more than forty years. A native of
Lithuania and a graduate of a
very prestigious Orthodox Theological
Seminary in Kovno, Lithuania,
he was called to Grand Forks in 1891
to serve a rapidly growing and
diverse Jewish community.

About sixty Jewish families
representing several religious,
cultural,
and educational traditions had taken
up residence in the city and
many lived in the same near southside

neighborhood. The task for
Rabbi Papermaster was to knit this
diverse group into a common
worshiping/serving community.

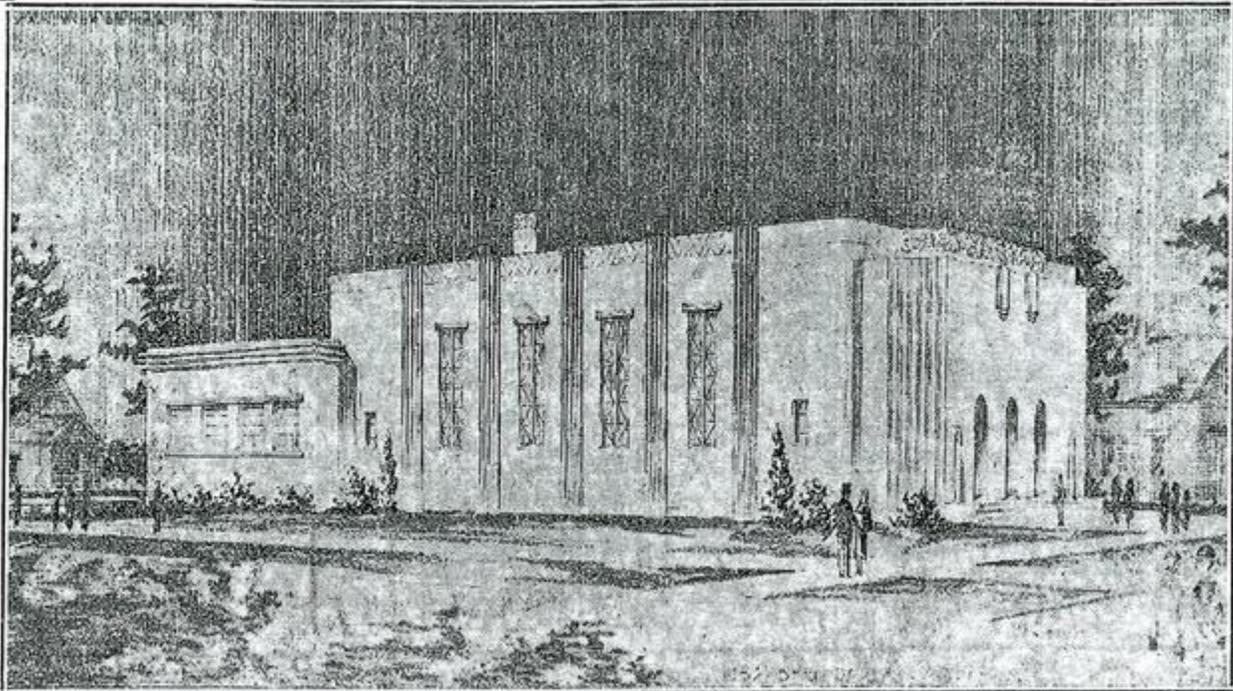
Throughout his long service as Rabbi
of the Grand Forks congregation
he also served Jewish families living
in other parts of the
state. He was active in civic affairs
and was an effective
spokesperson for the Jewish community
even teaching Hebrew to Lutheran
Pastors.



More Synagogue History:

MAY 14, 1937.

GRAND FOR.



NEW SYNAGOGUE—Here is the architect's drawing of the proposed new synagogue to be constructed by the Congregation of the Children of Israel at 603 Cottonwood street.

**Candle Lighting Times for Grand Forks, ND
Hebrew Year 5775 (2014 - 2015)**

www.hebcal.com

Sep 24	Rosh Hashana	7:03	Mar 20	Vayikra	7:23
Sep 26	Ha'Azinu	6:58	Mar 27	Tzav	7:33
Oct 3	Yom Kippur	6:44	Apr 3	Pesach	7:43
Oct 8	Sukkot	6:34	Apr 9	Pesach	7:52
Oct 10	Sukkot	6:30	Apr 10	Pesach	7:53
Oct 15	Shmini Atzeret	6:21	Apr 17	Shmini	8:03
Oct 17	Bereshit	6:17	Apr 24	Tazria-Metzora	8:13
Oct 24	Noach	6:04	May 1	Achrei Mot-Kedoshim	8:23
Oct 31	Lech-Lecha	5:53	May 8	Emor	8:33
Nov 7	Vayera	4:42	May 15	Behar-Bechukotai	8:42
Nov 14	Chayei Sara	4:33	May 22	Bamidbar	8:51
Nov 21	Toldot	4:26	May 29	Nasso	8:58
Nov 28	Vayetzei	4:21	Jun 5	Beha'alotcha	9:05
Dec 5	Vayishlach	4:18	Jun 12	Sh'lach	9:09
Dec 12	Vayeshev	4:17	Jun 19	Korach	9:12
Dec 19	Miketz	4:19	Jun 26	Chukat	9:13
Dec 26	Vayigash	4:23	Jul 3	Balak	9:12

Yahrtzeits



Leah	Ceronsky	Nisan 3	Leah	Adler	Iyar 19
Michael	Panovitz	Nisan 5	Harry	Frankel	Iyar 20
Sophia	Schneider	Nisan 7	Samuel	Frankel	Iyar 20
Marian	Blackmore	Nisan 9	Isaac	Hoffman	Iyar 23
Nathan	Dinner	Nisan 12	Bert	Lowenthal	Iyar 27
Leah	Rubin	Nisan 13	Anna	Silverman	Iyar 29
Rae	Dickel	Nisan 14	Leah	Freidland	Sivan 3
Ervin Byron	Giller	Nisan 14	Eric	Stern	Sivan 4
George	Schwam	Nisan 19	Charles Louis	Rothkopf	Sivan 5
Samuel	Paletz	Nisan 23	Harry Ber	Rothkopf	Sivan 7
Rose	Blumenthal	Nisan 25	Sam	Rosenberg	Sivan 8
Herman	Seeger	Nisan 25	Dora	Greenberg	Sivan 10
Sadie	Skadron	Nisan 25	Philip	Ossman	Sivan 13
Harry	Dickel	Nisan 28	Herman	Silverman	Sivan 13
Sam	Pearlman	Nisan 28	Isaac (Ivan) Hai	Meyer	Sivan 15
John Isaac	Hoffman	Iyar 4	Harriet	Rothkopf	Sivan 15
Martin	Osnowitz	Iyar 6	Barney	Rubin	Sivan 15
Frieda	Heller	Iyar 7	Louis	Micklin	Sivan 16
Rissa Gitel	Freeman	Iyar 8	Bertha	Palay	Sivan 16
Israel	Paletz	Iyar 8	Sophie	Gershman	Sivan 19
Morris	Bannack	Iyar 10	Julia	Kaufman	Sivan 23
Samuel	Marck	Iyar 12	Pearl	Berkowitz	Sivan 24
Sarah	Stern	Iyar 12	Libba	Meretsky	Sivan 24
Sophie	Stern	Iyar 12	Dorothy	Palay	Sivan 28
Hershel	Ginsberg	Iyar 14	Anne Banick	Lee	Sivan 30
Samuel	Panovitz	Iyar 16			
Louis	Silverman	Iyar 18			



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Wishing the "Class of 5770" a happy 5 years!