



CoM newsletter

CONGREGATION OF MOSES • Kalamazoo, Michigan

Volume 12 Issue 12
December 2019 3 Kislev - 3 Tevet 5780

HANUKKAH!

Annual Kalamazoo Jewish Community Hanukkah Party

Cityscape 125 S. Kalamazoo Mall *Live music • Dancing • Latke bar • Games for Kids • Cash Bar*

Advance reservations - \$5/single • \$10/Families
At the door - \$10 single • \$15/Families

December 15
3:00PM - 5:00PM

Advance Reservations/Info @ congregationofmoses.org/tix

THE OVERSIGHT BOARD

always welcomes comments from CoM congregants and invites you to attend its regular meetings, held twice monthly.

Oversight Board

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The CoM newsletter is published monthly by the Congregation of Moses for the benefit of its members. **The deadline for submitting articles, photos and ads is the 18th of each month, for publication the following month. Please send submissions to both the editor, at bulletin@congregationofmoses.org and assistant editor, at congofmosesbulletin@hotmail.com.**

Combined Shabbat Services

Friday, December 6, 7:30 pm
No services at CoM

Welcome Shabbat with our friends from Temple B'nai Israel and Temple Beth El Friday, December 6, 7:30 pm at Temple Beth El, 306 Capital Avenue NE, Battle Creek.



Bagelicious!

Every Sunday 8:30 am - noon
at the Congregation of Moses

Get a coffee and a Bagel Beanery bagel with schmear!



Sponsored by the CoM Coffee and Bagel Group



Buy Your Candles at the CoM Office

We all need light in our lives. The CoM office has been stocked with yahrzeit, Shabbat and Hanukkah candles for your convenience.

\$11 for a box of 72 Shabbat candles, \$7 for a box of 50 foil candle holders, \$2 for a yahrzeit (memorial) candle, and \$4 for a box of 44 Hanukkah candles.

Please call the office before stopping in and kindly bring exact change. Thank you!

Shabbat schedule

FRIDAY December 6

7:30 p.m. **Joint Shabbat Services with TBI and TBE at Temple Beth El in BC**
No services at CoM

SATURDAY December 7

9:30 a.m.
Torah: Genesis 28:10-32:3 *Rabbi Spivak*
Haftarah: Hosea 12:13-14:10 *Judah Ari-Gur*

FRIDAY December 13

7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY December 14

9:30 a.m.
Torah: Genesis 32:4-36:43 *Al Rosenthal*
Haftarah: Obadiah 1:1-1:21 *Phil Horwich*

FRIDAY December 20

7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY December 21

9:30 a.m.
Torah: Genesis 37:1-40:23 *Earl Norman*
Haftarah: Amos 2:6-3:8 *Earl Norman*

FRIDAY December 27

7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY December 28

9:30 a.m.
Torah: Genesis 41:1-44:17, Numbers 28:9-15; 7:42-47 *Rabbi Spivak, Michelle Angel*
Haftarah: I Kings 3:15-4:1 *Michelle Angel*



VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO CHANT TORAH AND HAFTARAH.
Help and coaching are available if you would like to learn.
Please contact Rabbi Spivak.

Shabbat candle lighting times

December 6 4:52 p.m.
December 13 4:52 p.m.
December 20 4:55 p.m.
December 27 4:59 p.m.



Bracha for candle lighting

*Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai Elo-hei-nu me-lech
ha-o-lam a-sher kid-shan-u be-mits-vo-tav
vi-tzi-van-u l'had-lik-ner shel Shabbat.*



#1 holiday hack:

When you buy your gifts at smile.amazon.com, Amazon donates.

amazonsmile

Holiday Shopping with AmazonSmile

Help support the Congregation of Moses while you shop for holiday gifts!

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support your synagogue every time you shop, at no cost to you.

When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the same prices, selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization.

To help support the Congregation of Moses on AmazonSmile, make sure you search for "Congregation of Moses" in the charity list, if you have not already signed up.

My Trip to My Family's Past

by Prina Ari-Gur (as related on a recent Shabbat, printed by request)

I was born in Israel barely two years after Israel's independence from the British Mandate. It was also five years after the end of WWII. Although these events in history are strongly related, being citizens of the independent Jewish state dominated the self-image of Israelis. Europe was a place Jews left with no intention of ever coming back.

My parents were members of the Zionist movement and spoke exclusively in Hebrew. The Holocaust was present in the air. The butcher had a number tattooed on his arm, so did so many others in my daily life. But life was incredibly normal, too normal. We went to school, played ball and the piano, read books and designed pranks. In short, we were the generation called "Sabra."

In our home, as in most Ashkenazi families, family history wasn't discussed. My parents were married in 1944 and the connection to their well-founded fears about their relatives who stayed behind was never mentioned. Only many years later I came to realize that during the years following the war, my mother was tirelessly looking for relatives whom she hoped had made it, and found some.

A relative told me several years ago, when she was already in her 90s, that she will never forget how grateful she was to be discovered by my mother and receive the care package my mother had sent to the detention camp in Cyprus. Her search for her beloved brother reached a much less positive outcome.

Over the years, some fascinating stories trickled down and caught our attention, like my uncle's two jumps from the infamous cattle train to Auschwitz. This happened twice because the first time, my uncle was turned in by a peasant and put back on a train. The Nazis had many "helpers." The second time he was more careful, which is why he lived to tell us his story.

My parents were both from Kolomyja and belonged to the Zionist youth movement, but they reconnected, dated and married in Israel. It was in the mid-1990s when we learned of my mother's civil "marriage" to a man who was a Mandate citizen that enabled her to immigrate to Palestine (you might call that "illegal immigration").

It was almost at the end of the 20th century before my brother and I finally learned that my father and one of his brothers crossed the frozen Prut River under the dark cover of one winter night in December 1939. On the other side of the river was then-Romania and it was safer there than under Soviet-occupied Poland. The two of them, after a stay with relatives there, continued their journey to the Black Sea and onto the Sakaria clandestine immigration boat to Palestine. They were detained by the British Mandate authorities in Atlit Camp for nine months. My brother and I owe our very existence to that illegal immigration as well.

Fascinating stories as they were, they barely started unfolding our family history. When that generation had gradually passed away and there was barely anyone we could ask, we suddenly realized how little we knew. It was already the



My brother and I in Lviv

21st century when we frantically started to interview relatives who had some information, read letters and everything else we could put our hands on.

Then several years ago, my brother and I decided that we must go visit our parents' birthplace and where they grew up, and yes, where so many relatives died at the hands of anti-Semites. Watching the movie *Everything Is Illuminated* in 2005 in Kalamazoo gave me an extra boost in making the ultimate decision to go to what is now Ukraine, but it remained a little abstract like an engagement without a date. Then three years ago, I set up the time frame and invited others to join me.

Preparing for the trip was an adventure in itself. Those who know me well know that I have been to so many places on earth (mostly on professional trips), but this was a trip like no other and I realized that first I have to know so much more to be able to plan it. It is commonly said, "The more you know, the more you know that you don't know." This is exactly how I felt.

I read several books written by Jews from Kolomyja, including a memorial book written by my relatives and their friends. In the book they described the history of the place, geopolitics, culture, and heroic stories of those who survived and memorials dedicated to those who didn't. Reading these books was hard. I read a little, cried a little, continued to read, and took many breaks. But there were some entertaining parts as well.

When my mother was born, Kolomyja was part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. At the time, Franz Joseph I was Emperor of Austria, King of Hungary, King of Bohemia and monarch of many other states of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. He loved the Jews and openly showed his respect to them. Jews in that region prayed for the well-being of the Emperor they called "Ephraim Yoseph." Jews always held key positions and possessed political power.

Surprisingly though, the Jews were not always united in one party. The city of Kolomyja had a representative in the Austrian Parliament in Vienna. One time, the non-Jews made an agreement with an ultra-Orthodox man that he would vote with them in exchange for benefits for his cause. This agreement worked especially well because the man knew no language other than Yiddish and had no idea what the vote in the Parliament was about.

Equipped with some historical and geographical background, I began planning the practical aspects of the trip. At this stage I was entirely immersed in trip planning. Many friends, and not the least of them CoM member Joe Hirschfield, provided me with internet links, reading material and advice (thank you Joe!). At last, we were a group of ten relatives, ranging in age from 34 to 78. We all agreed on my choice of professional guide and driver, trip route, hotel and other details.

At last, the big day had come. Four of us flew together to Lviv, Ukraine where we met with Alex, our guide, and with the rest of the group. Lviv is modern, with impressive Austrian architecture. It has some Jewish significance, and it also houses the University where many Jews from Kolomyja studied medicine or law. Our touristic focus was on the Scottish Café. Other than its name, there is nothing Scottish about it. Its significance comes from its history: in the 1930s and 1940s, great mathematicians congregated there to discuss mathematical problems. This is the time to mention that my brother has a Ph.D. in mathematics. Early on in this trip, I learnt that saying "Russian" must be followed by an immediate swear, preferably while expressing deep hatred.



The Prut River. My father crossed it on his clandestine trip to Romania in December 1939. My grandfather owned a flour mill powered by the river's water.

And then the trip to trace my family roots had started! In a modern, air-conditioned 16-passenger van, we traveled into the unknown. We passed through many small towns that all once had a sizeable Jewish population. In that region, there is also a minority of Karaim. Members of this small and little-known ethnic group observe the Torah commandments but not the Talmud, and are often considered as ethnically Jewish. The Nazis had determined though, that they are not Jewish and that protected them from extermination. The Karaim helped the Nazis in their atrocities.

Along road H39 from Lviv to Kolomyja stands the city of Nadvirna. One of my great-grandmothers and her brother are buried in the cemetery there. That cemetery was one of our planned stops. The place is not well taken care of and tall weeds with thorns made it impossible to trace our relatives' graves. Even so, it was exciting to be there.

Our next stop was in Yaramche, a resort town on the Prut River. The Prut River played an important role in my family history. In addition to being the international border my father and uncle crossed while escaping Russian-occupied Poland, the flowing water in the river provided power to the flour mill that was my grandfather's livelihood. I felt compelled to dip my feet in its water, which was not frozen.

We next encountered the Szeparowce Forest. In this place, the Nazis would bring Jews from the city, order them to dig their own grave, then strip naked and stand by the grave, waiting for the bullet. At the location of this mass grave, my cousin erected a memorial in 1993. I stood there, reading *Ei Maleh Rahamim* and could not stop crying. The same text that I have read so many times before suddenly sounded so different.

Next we arrived in Kolomyja, our families' hometown. Some in our group were able to locate their parents' and grandparents' homes. My brother, children and I aimed to find my mother's high school. My mother was the only Jew in the (Ukrainian) school and according to her report card, she excelled in her studies. This school still stands in Kolomyja and the staff was very friendly. They showed us a video detailing the history of the school and I imagined seeing my mother, looking like her picture on the report card, being a student here. How I wish I could have shared stories from this trip with her and listened to her stories from her school days!



The memorial to Kolomyja Jews murdered in Szeparowce Forest

As hard as we searched, we were unable to locate either the flour mill or the lumber business of my other grandfather. In the quest to find the lumber business, we were directed to the home of a 105-year-old woman, who worked there in her youth. She was born just a couple of years after my mother, and we were expecting some pertinent information. We were impressed with her memory, but when pressed to remember the name of the owner (or manager), she mused and said "had I known I was going to live that long, I would have kept a diary." Overall we met and heard about other elderly women who did not appear to suffer from dementia.

Kolomyja was an important city and famous people visited it. One of them was a very famous rabbi, the Ba'al Shem Tov, founder of the Hasidic Movement.

Another important destination in our West Ukraine trip was Chernivtsi, a somewhat bigger city with more economic opportunities. Some of Kolomyja's Jews moved there. So did some members of our family, including the parents of some travelers in our group. But in 1939, Chernivtsi was also a safer place for the Jews. For a relatively brief period, it was a Romanian territory, while Kolomyja was Polish and had just surrendered to Communist Russia. Polish

government officials and soldiers escaped through Kolomyja to Chernivtsi.

The house of our relatives in Chernivtsi was also the place where my father and uncle stayed for over a month after crossing this international border and while waiting to travel to the Black Sea to take a boat to Palestine.

This trip was incredible in so many ways. Members of our diverse group found their roots. I fulfilled my obligation to those who died and I educated my children in their Jewish heritage and our own family history.



The Ari-Gurs under the lion (Arie) in Chernivtsi

Meals on Wheels Volunteers Needed

Let's do lunch - and make a difference!

Lunch is something most of us take for granted. Dinner too. But for many Kalamazoo-area home-bound seniors, access to nutritious meals is never a given. At least 1,500 older adults in our community lack consistent access to nutritious food.

The program relies almost entirely on volunteers to deliver the meals and is currently in need of a small group of volunteers for Friday deliveries along one of its routes. The Colef Tzedakah Committee is organizing a Congregation of Moses group to fulfill this need.

The commitment is minimal - just a few hours on Friday each month (approximately 10:30 am to 12:30 pm). Volunteers work in teams of two to pick up and deliver meals and offer a friendly greeting or brief conversation - especially meaningful to seniors living alone and feeling socially isolated.



The need is great, the time is now. **To volunteer or for more information, please contact Valerie Eisenberg, vgeisenberg@gmail.com.**

December 2019

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1 No R.S.- Thanksgiving Break	2	3 OvB meeting, 7:00 pm	4 R.S. @ TBI	5	6 Joint Services w/ TBI & TBE @ TBE in Battle Creek, 7:30 pm	7
8 R.S. @ TBI	9	10	11 R.S. @ TBI	12 Coffee with Rabbi, 11:00 - noon 	13	14 Second Cup study group following services 
15 R.S. @ CoM; K-Wings Fundraiser; Community Hannukah program	16 Hadassah Book Club, 1:00 pm 	17	18 R.S. @ TBI; Bulletin deadline, 8:00 pm	19	20 Rabbi in Benton Harbor	21 Rabbi in Benton Harbor
22 R.S. winter break through 1-7-20; Menorah lighting in Bronson Park, 6:00 pm 	23 Menorah lighting in Bronson Park, 6:00 pm 	24 Synagogue office closed; Menorah lighting in Bronson Park, 6:00 pm 	25 No R.S. Synagogue office closed; Menorah lighting in Bronson Park, 6:00 pm	26 Menorah lighting in Bronson Park, 6:00 pm 	27 Menorah lighting in Bronson Park, 6:00 pm 	28 Menorah lighting in Bronson Park, 4:30 pm 
29 R.S. winter break through 1-7-20; Menorah lighting in Bronson Park, 6:00 pm 	30	31 Synagogue office closed; Happy New Year! 				

January 2020

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			1 No R.S. - winter break; Synagogue office closed	2	3	4
5 No R.S. - winter break;	6	7 OvB Meeting, 7:00 pm	8 R.S. @ TBI	9 Coffee with Rabbi, 11:00 - noon 	10	11
12 R.S. @ CoM	13 Hadassah Book Club, 1:00 pm 	14	15 R.S. @ TBI	16	17	18
19 R.S. @ CoM; Bulletin Deadline, 8:00 pm	20	21	22 R.S. @ TBI	23	24 Rabbi in Benton Harbor	25 Rabbi in Benton Harbor
26 R.S. @ CoM; Miss Chocolate Fundraiser Kickoff	27	28	29 R.S. @ TBI	30	31	

Yahrzeits

December 6, 7 (9 Kislev – 15 Kislev)

Rebecca Epstein*	Florence Escourt	Jennie Fisher*
Louis Fogel	Jacob Goldstein*	Sheldon Green
Sheldon Hoenig	Eta Kercman*	Andrew H. Levene*
Shirley Scheinker	Victor Seyburn	Samuel Willage*
Ely Zuravel*		

December 13, 14 (16 Kislev – 22 Kislev)

Jeanette Adelman	Carl Brot*	David Davidoff*
Harold Goldsmith*	David Graff*	Herbert Kaiser*
Max Konigsberg	Naomi Kuperberg*	Rose Patrick
Herman Pollack*	Joy Rappaport*	Seth Nelson Schupan*
Rae Sklansky*	Victor Paul Tuchman*	

December 20, 21 (23 Kislev – 29 Kislev)

Sam Becker*	Gertrude Boris*	Zipora Feder
Doris Field*	Blanche G. Friedman*	Raquel Israelson*
Rose Kleiman*	Yehezkel Kluger	Helen Levy*
Irving Lieberman*	Zalmon Roodin*	Jack Rubin
Jackie Strauss	Joseph Strauss*	Jean Tregerman
Rosalie Zimmerman*		

December 27, 28 (30 Kislev – 6 Tevet)

Reuven Aglanov	Fred Arkush*	Max Ernst
Edward Finman*	Irving Kuklin*	Samuel Rosenbaum*
Sheine Schensul*	Lena Spivak*	Alfred Stenesh
George Tenenbaum	Molly Zimmerman*	

* Denotes a memorial plaque in the synagogue

Mishpacha

MAZEL TOV TO

Judy and Lowell Seyburn on their 50th wedding anniversary
Moritz Angel on his “very special 90th birthday”
Saraphoena Koffron on a “special birthday”

CONDOLENCES TO

Allison Weiner and family on the passing of her grandmother, Ethyl Mae Green

— Donations have been made to the following funds. —

GENERAL FUND

Mazel Tov to Judy and Lowell Seyburn on their 50th wedding anniversary.

Mazel Tov to Moritz Angel on his “very special 90th birthday.”

Mazel Tov to Saraphoena Koffron on a “special birthday.”

Condolences to Allison Weiner and family on the passing of her grandmother, Ethyl Mae Green.

Wilma Kahn & Phil Horwich, Tamara & Earl Norman, Diane & Harvey Fogel, Liz Thall

Beth & Stephen Grode, Shirley Wise, Pnina & Judah Ari-Gur, Cindy & Larry Beer

Emily Freed & Brad Hershbein, Joanne & Mike Simon, Men's Club, Judy Davis & Al Rosenthal

In loving memory of my father, Maurice Rosenthal.

Al Rosenthal

In memory of our grandson, Elijah Verne.

Ralph & Micki Verne

BUILDING FUND

Mazel Tov to Judy and Lowell Seyburn on their 50th wedding anniversary.

Mazel Tov to Moritz Angel on his “very special 90th birthday.”

Mazel Tov to Saraphoena Koffron on a “special birthday.”

Maxine & Neal Berke, Sallie & Ken Goodman, Rae Lee Howard, Valerie & Ken Eisenberg

Condolences to Allison Weiner and family on the passing of her grandmother, Ethyl Mae Green.

Valerie & Ken Eisenberg, Rae Lee Howard, Maxine & Neal Berke

Sallie & Ken Goodman, Joshua & Pamela Weiner

In honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Micah Ofstein.

Joshua & Pamela Weiner

In loving memory of my daughter, Eva Stein.

Bruce Stein

MARVIN AND ROSALIE OKUN RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

Mazel Tov to Judy and Lowell Seyburn on their 50th wedding anniversary.

The Fischell Family

Mazel Tov to Moritz Angel on his “very special 90th birthday.”

Mazel Tov to Saraphoena Koffron on a “special birthday.”

Condolences to Allison Weiner and family on the passing of her grandmother, Ethyl Mae Green.

The Fischell Family, Judy & Lowell Seyburn

Mishpacha

HERMAN AND ROSE FISHER LIBRARY FUND

Mazel Tov to Judy and Lowell Seyburn on their 50th wedding anniversary.

Mazel Tov to Moritz Angel on his “very special 90th birthday.”

Mazel Tov to Saraphoena Koffron on a “special birthday.”

Condolences to Allison Weiner and family on the passing of her grandmother, Ethyl Mae Green.

Marilyn & Art Feinberg

In honor of the naming of our daughter, Amelia.

Lauren & Karl Schook

In memory of the Yahrzeit of the Tree of Life Eleven.

Marlene Haus

JOYCE AND MORTON FISHER KITCHEN/KIDDUSH/ONEG FUND

Mazel Tov to Judy and Lowell Seyburn on their 50th wedding anniversary.

Mazel Tov to Moritz Angel on his “very special 90th birthday.”

Mazel Tov to Saraphoena Koffron on a “special birthday.”

Condolences to Allison Weiner and family on the passing of her grandmother, Ethyl Mae Green.

Michelle & Alan Angel

Todah Rabah!

Thank you to everyone who made donations in memory of my grandmother Ethyl Green's recent passing. Your kindness is appreciated.

~ Allison Weiner and family

To everyone at the Congregation of Moses,

Rabbi Spivak, Tamara Norman, Maxine Berke and Beth Grode, please accept our gratitude and appreciation for the wonderful Bris ceremony for our grandson, Ellis Koshiro Frank. Not only our pleasure and honor to meet all of you, but your kindness and warmth made the day all the more memorable. The words of wisdom, precision and overall compassion truly added to this lifetime event and will never be forgotten. It was a beautiful simcha and you all made it so special.

Thank you once again,

Fran and Steve Daubenspeck



Todah rabah!

We appreciate the thoughtful contributions to Congregation of Moses welcoming our granddaughter Libi into our community. It is meaningful to share our happiness with such a supportive circle of friends.

~ Maxine and Neal Berke

Thank you to our friends who made donations to the Congregation of Moses in honor of our 50th wedding anniversary.

Sincerely,

Kim and Arlen Rubin



PAUL F. DAVIDOFF

ATTORNEY AT LAW

PAUL F. DAVIDOFF, P.C.

The Cornerstone Building

405 W. MICHIGAN AVE., SUITE 130
KALAMAZOO, MI 49007

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Director: Larry Beer, Ed.D.





Religious School is Fun!

One Wednesday afternoon in November, I sat in the lobby at TBI documenting our students' attendance. I could hear the sounds of fun coming from all corners of the building. I sat there taking it all in. There were sounds of children jumping up and down with joy. There were giggles and belly laughs. There was excitement everywhere. I could hear children singing prayers when prompted by a game they were playing. I heard Hebrew words pronounced and translated. The children thought they were playing, but they were all learning. Only a few of them were sitting in chairs and those who were got up often in order to complete the task their teachers had given them. I thought to myself, "This is why I love this job!"

The children in Naomi Verne's class were creating their own Hebrew comic books. In one comic, the hero, "Chet Man" had a beautiful braided challah. The author asked Rabbi Schicker if she could help him translate the entire story into Hebrew. It seemed as if he thought she could do that in just a matter of minutes. The students were collaborating to see how many Chet words they could include in their books. There were smiles on every face.

The children in Mr. Mannaberg's class were playing a modified version of Jeopardy. Abe Wasser, one of the students in his class, had come up with the idea for the game. Mr. Mannaberg had prepared index cards with questions and placed the cards in columns just like on the famous TV show. The children had decided to work in teams and aligned themselves as "The Girls against The Boys." *Prayer for \$200*: Sing the brachot for lighting the Hanukkah candles. *Prophets for \$300*: Who was the prophet who was thrown into the lion's den? At one point The Boys seemed to be stumped. The Girls squealed in anticipation and jumped up and down trying hard not to blurt out the answer. They knew they had this one! *Holidays for \$400*: What is the ceremony during the High Holidays when we throw our sins into the water? "Tashlich!" The Girls shouted at the top of their lungs. Nobody complained about the noise they made.

In the sanctuary, while a few of the students were working in small groups with Rabbi Spivak or Rabbi Schicker, volunteer Ben Pilnick was overseeing students playing Pictionary. One team chose a card for their stack of vocabulary flash cards and drew pictures depicting the word they had chosen. The other team then had to guess what the word was and then translate it and write it in Hebrew. Another group of students in the rabbis' classes were playing a game called Over and Under. They were standing in rows, passing their flashcards over their heads to the person next to them who then passed it between their legs on down the line, each one reading the word as it made its way from child to child. The excitement was contagious.

The following Sunday, as the kindergarteners playing with Hebrew letter blocks started spontaneously talking about the letters, each of Rabbi Schicker's students had flashcards attached to the back of



their shirts with clothespins. They were tasked with reading the words on other students' backs while trying to keep the card on their back from being read. The second-graders were making letters with Play Doh or Cheerios. At the same time, Mr. Mannaberg's class sang Shalom Aleichem so sweetly that they attracted adults from the lobby who came to record them.

The seventh-graders joined the high school class to see what is in store for them next year. There are eight seventh-graders and eight high schoolers. We are anticipating a high school class of 16 next year! When it came time for the text study that was a part of their Ethics & Values lesson, teacher Steph Haft led them in their text study discussion while they were peeling and grating potatoes for the latkes they were preparing.

I learned from one of the parents that her son didn't want to get out of bed when she woke him on Sunday morning. He rolled over but then suddenly sat straight up in bed and said, "We're making latkes today. I HAVE to go to Jewish School!" Steph's recipe is particularly good and she is also very skilled at making learning both challenging and fun. That teen didn't sit up in bed saying, "We're studying Torah today and I HAVE to go to Jewish School." Nevertheless, he studied Torah AND made latkes at the same time.



Our teachers try to teach their lessons using various techniques to meet each student's learning style. While some parts of our lessons involve more the traditional reading and writing that reach students with one type of learning style, we also include activities that encourage students to use their bodies to learn. Teachers use games and activities to reinforce and review what students have learned.

Our goal every class day is to create happy memories of our students' time in Jewish School. When I visit the classrooms, I look to see if students are looking toward the teacher or perhaps another speaker. Hands are raised with students eagerly waiting to contribute to the class discussion. Students are working in small groups cooperatively or with the guidance of a teacher.

Most importantly, I look to see if students have smiles on their faces and are connecting with their Jewish friends. What I see and hear in our classrooms pleases me. It always makes me want to come back for more.

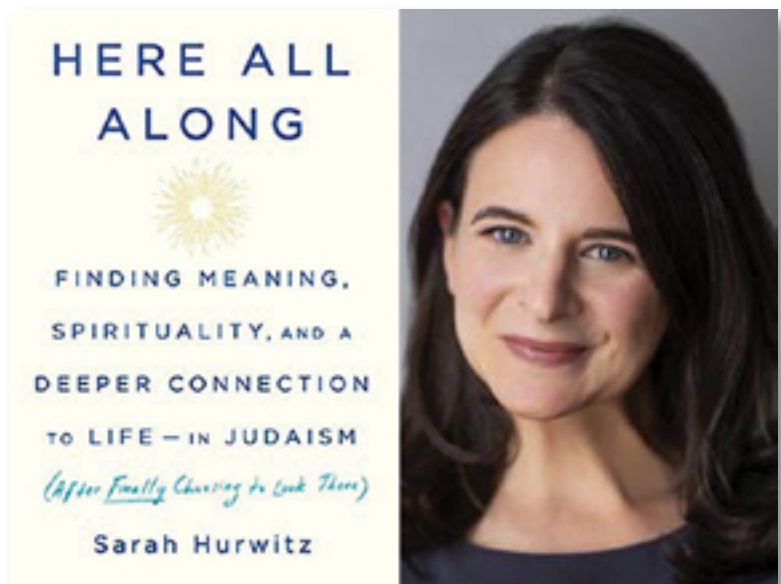
As always, thank you for the honor of teaching our children.

Nora Chaus, Director
Marvin & Rosalie Okun Kalamazoo Community Jewish School

Let's Read Together

Join other members of the Jewish community on February 20 when we meet to discuss Sarah Hurwitz's new book, *Here All Along: Finding Meaning, Spirituality, and a Deeper Connection to Life—in Judaism (After Finally Choosing to Look There)*.

After a decade of serving as a political speechwriter, Hurwitz needed to decompress from her demanding and stressful job. At 36, she was a lapsed Jew with time on her hands. By happenstance, she saw a notice for an introductory course on Judaism and embarked on a years-long journey to discover layers upon layers of Jewish knowledge and practice. Judaism provided her with spiritual nourishment and challenged her intellectually. Her path shows it is never too late to reconnect with your Jewish heritage.



This book is for you if you never went to Hebrew School, dropped out after your bar or bat mitzvah, have a high Jewish literacy or haven't given any thought to diving in. Hurwitz gives the reader a front row seat to her journey.

Both the Kalamazoo Public Library and Portage District Library have copies. Look for a copy in CoM's Fisher Library in January.

Lost and Found

See anything that belongs to you? These items have been left in our building and will be donated at the end of the year if not claimed.

You can find these items in a basket in the CoM coat room.



DECEMBER CELEBRATIONS



The Congregation of Moses wishes **mazel tov and yom huledet sameach** to our members who are celebrating anniversaries and birthdays this month. If you would like to be included in our monthly recognition of birthdays and anniversaries, please contact Joanne Simon at 324-6054 or jhsimon@charter.net.

BIRTHDAYS

- 12/1 Lowell Seyburn
- 12/2 Moritz Angel celebrates a special 90th Birthday! Mazel Tov!
- 12/3 Rachel Snyder
- 12/5 Scott Levene
- 12/8 Saraphoena Koffron celebrates a special Birthday! Mazel Tov!
- 12/10 Adam Rocklin
- 12/12 Noah Morrison
- 12/13 Ken Eisenberg
- 12/14 Elijah Katz
- 12/16 Rebecca Strauss
- 12/17 Sylvia Blum
- 12/17 Laurel Ofstein
- 12/20 Aviva Norman
- 12/21 Michael Koffron
- 12/21 Lucas Ofstein hits Double Digits today! Mazel Tov!
- 12/27 Minaleah Koffron
- 12/28 Brett Snyder



ANNIVERSARIES

- 12/21 Naomi & Norman Marshall



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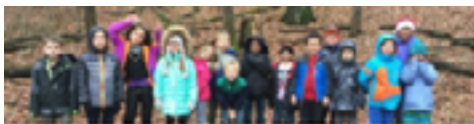
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Temple B'nai Israel Annual Hanukkah Bazaar

Sunday, December 8 from 9:00 am - 12:45 pm

Whether you're looking for unique gift items or just running low on basic Hanukkah supplies, take advantage of this one-stop shopping opportunity at TBI.

Local vendors will be selling handmade craft items including wooden Judaica, ceramic mugs, hooked rugs, colorful jewelry, homemade tamales and more! Basic Hanukkah supplies (candles, gelt, dreidels) will also be available for purchase.

If you would like to participate, the table fee is a \$15 donation to TBI. The seller keeps all earnings from sales.

Any handmade/homemade goods including foods are welcome. If you are interested in a table or have questions, please contact Rebecca Pollens, srpollens@yahoo.com.

We hope you'll come by Temple B'nai Israel on Sunday morning and check out the handmade goods and homemade goodies we have available. Shop local! Thanks for your support!



Caring Connection

Caring Connection—compassionate volunteers for the Congregation of Moses family. **Caring Connection** is a network of volunteers who would like to support our CoM members in times of need, whether during an acute crisis or a need for ongoing support.

The people on the list below, all part of **Caring Connection**, welcome your call. They have agreed to make their names and contact information available so that you can choose to connect with the person you feel most comfortable talking to.

Call, email or text (all numbers are cell phones unless otherwise indicated)

Rabbi Harvey Spivak 269-342-5463 office, 269-998-0659, avocet68@aol.com

Judah Ari-Gur 269-598-9609, jarigur@gmail.com

Rae Lee Howard 269-217-2833, 269-544-2894 home, rhoward@ihdist.com

Maxine Berke 978-761-8212, maxineberke@gmail.com

Jill Ruterbusch 269-779-5455, the4rudys@att.net

Cindy Beer 269-341-1033, cinbeer@gmail.com

Shirley Wise 269-330-3103, goldensmw@sbcglobal.net

Charlie Ofstein 269-330-1866, ofsteinc@gmail.com

Larry Beer 269-324-0777 home, lbbkzoo@aol.com

Sherry Deems 912-220-4873, sedeems@gmail.com

Joyce Camhi 269-267-4253 home, joyce.camhi@gmail.com

Pat Kirschner 269-385-8999 home, rjkirschner99@gmail.com





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FISHER LIBRARY



Book Sale

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 9:30AM-1:00PM

PRE-SALE BEGINS DECEMBER 6

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iEngage: Jewish Values and the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

iEngage: Jewish Values and the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

A Shalom Hartman Institute Lecture and Study Series
Led by Rabbi Simone Schicker

Through video lectures, text study, and lively group discussion, we are pleased to bring the world-renowned faculty of the Shalom Hartman Institute into the Temple B'nai Israel community in January.

iEngage: Jewish Values and the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict explores one of the most divisive issues affecting the Jewish people today: the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Through the study of Jewish narratives about Israel and the unpacking of the complex meanings of peace in Jewish tradition, participants are invited to explore the ideas and values that animate different attitudes toward the conflict and how these values shape their own political understandings. Though a shared political platform may not be attainable, this course strives to achieve a shared respect for our differences.

Together we will engage in a new values-based discourse about Israel, including topics such as: Living with Difference, the Israel We Imagine, Jewish Narratives of Peace, Attitudes Towards the Land, Justice, Self-Preservation, Compromise, and the Idea of Jewish Exceptionalism.

Each session includes text study and discussion led by Rabbi Simone Schicker, and video lecture and interviews with leading Hartman scholars.

**Dates (Sundays): January 12, 19, 26; February 2, 16, 23
March 15, 22, 29; April 5, 19, 26**

**Time: 3:00PM-5:00PM
Location: Temple B'nai Israel**

Cost including materials: \$20 for members, \$36 general public
RSVP by January 3rd to Julie Lewandowski at 269.342.9170 or
admin@templebnaiisrael.com

Mazal's Bat Mitzvah Project

The Animals Need You!

Did you know that the SPCA (Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) relies entirely on donations?

Items needed include:

- Dog/cat toys (sturdy)
- Leashes (new or gently used)
- Dog treats (soft)
- Used blankets (washable)

For a more complete list, please visit

<https://www.spcaswmich.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Basic-Needs.pdf>

You may leave your donations in a box in the lobby of CoM. Whatever you donate will be delivered to the local SPCA office.

If you have any questions, please contact Mazal at mazalhaus@gmail.com or (269) 382-0989



Box Tops for Education

Look for these on products from Reynolds, Green Giant, Annie's, General Mills cereals, Nature Valley, Mott's, Land O'Lakes, Go-Gurt, Yoplait, Ziploc, Hefty, Betty Crocker, Cascadian Farms, Kleenex, Scott's, Old El Paso, Progresso, Lysol, Fiber One and Larabar.

The Marvin and Rosalie Okun Kalamazoo Community Jewish School earns money by collecting these. Please watch for them and bring them to the office. Thank you!



DIRECT YOUR DOLLARS



The temperatures are falling outside but the meter for our D&W Direct Your Dollars collection is still rising. We just reached 66.6%!

Yes, we have collected \$100,000 worth of receipts, and our goal of \$150,000 is in sight. Thank you to all who have made this possible and please continue to drop off your receipts in the envelope located outside the CoM office.

Please do not cut off the any part of the receipt. The total in the "Direct Your Dollars" portion of the receipt must be present. Notice that there is no "Direct Your Dollars" amount when you purchase prescriptions only or an item under \$1, like bananas.

You can help even more by buying D&W gift cards and other scrip for our continuing fundraiser. Thanks!



Use and Give Gift Cards

Buy gift cards in the office from 7:30 am to 11:30 am or call and we can mail them to you. The Congregation of Moses can earn from 2-15% of your total purchase price. Many more brands are available.



Thinking of booking a trip with Delta, Southwest or their partners?

Please ask Shirley Mengel to order Delta or Southwest gift cards through the ShopWithScrip program. It only takes a few days for the cards to arrive and they are easy to use.

When you check out online, there is a prompt to use gift cards. Simply enter the gift card number. You can use up to three cards per purchase.

Thank you!

