



CoM newsletter

CONGREGATION OF MOSES • Kalamazoo, Michigan

November 2020

Volume 13 Issue 11
14 Cheshvan - 14 Kislev 5781

Covid Didn't Stop our Sukkot and Simchat Torah Celebrations!

This year, our Sukkot and Simchat Torah celebrations looked different than they have in past years and not just because we were all wearing masks!

Both celebrations were intended to be held outdoors in the Sukkah, but the weather conspired against us for Sukkot. Despite the move indoors for Sukkot, both holidays were safely celebrated by the CoM community this year.

Members of the Men's Club and Religious Affairs Committee came out to build our Sukkah in September.

Thank you to everyone who came out to build the Sukkah this year! Our Sukkot celebrations kicked off with a Zoom Friday night service, and culminated with our celebration at CoM on Sunday, October 4th. We began the morning with services in the sanctuary, six feet apart and masked, sang Hallel, and everyone got to shake the lulav and etrog. After services, some Sukkot crafting ensued followed by pizza lunch al fresco!

On Sunday, October 11th, we gathered outside in the parking lot for Simchat Torah services. A series of canopy tents set up in the driveway enabled us to bring all three of the Torahs outside so that everyone who attended the service was able to read from the Torah if they chose to!

We sang and danced with Torahs during the Hakafot. As the service concluded, we enjoyed an ice cream kiddush and invited everyone to create their own Torah stories.

If you were unable to attend the service and still want to participate in our Torah Story project, see page 16 for details.



THE OVERSIGHT BOARD

always welcomes comments from CoM congregants and invites you to attend its regular meetings, held 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 congomosesbulletin@hotmail.com.

Simchat Torah 2020



Shabbat Services Online

Saturday, November 7

9:30 a.m. online

Torah: Genesis 18:1-20:18

Haftarah: II Kings 4:1-4:37

Saturday, November 14

9:30 a.m. online

Torah: Genesis 23:1

Haftarah: I Kings 1:1-1:31

Saturday, November 21

9:30 a.m. online

Torah: Genesis 25:19-27:27

Haftarah: Malachi 1:1-2:7

Saturday, November 28

9:30 a.m. online

Torah: Genesis 28:10-31:16

Haftarah: Hosea 12:13-14:10



Shabbat services signup can be found on our website, congregationofmoses.org.

When you sign up to attend, you will receive the Zoom link and passcode in your confirmation.

SECOND CUP STUDY GROUP

Join Judah Ari-Gur as he leads a discussion group that will cover different topics from the Torah.

Second Cup meets every Sunday at 4:30 pm, and every Wednesday at 7:00 pm.

Sign up to attend and see the full list of dates at congregationofmoses.org

Shabbat candle lighting times

November 6 5:11 pm

November 13 5:04 pm

November 20 4:58 pm

November 27 4:54 pm



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.*

Resiliency and the Covid Year, with Dr. Larry Beer

Wednesday, November 18th at 7:00 pm on Zoom

Fear and anxiety about a new disease can be overwhelming and cause strong emotions in adults and children. Many people are experiencing anxiety and depression over Covid worries and stress caused by political, economic and social justice issues. According to the American Psychological Association, stress levels are at record highs.

You or someone you care about may be experiencing symptoms such as these:

- Fear and worry about your own health, the health of your loved ones, your financial situation or job, or loss of support services.
- Changes in sleep or eating patterns.
- Difficulty sleeping or concentrating.
- Worsening of chronic health problems.
- Worsening of mental health conditions.
- Increased use of tobacco, alcohol or other substances.

Psychologist and CoM member Larry Beer will talk with us about how to be resilient during this time of Covid and other national crises and offer some coping strategies.

Dr. Beer will draw upon his expertise and experience to help us find strength and resiliency during this time of crisis. The conversation will be open to all ages. There will be a question and answer session at the end of the presentation.

Dr. Larry Beer is a licensed psychologist and licensed professional counselor at Child and Family Psychological Services, PC, a private mental health clinic which he founded in 1989. He specializes in treating anxiety and mood disorders in addition to relationship problems. He has been deployed by the American Red Cross to six national disaster sites, including Hurricane Andrew and the World Trade Center in 2001. He and his family have been members of CoM since 1985.

In order to receive the Zoom link and passcode for this event, **[you must register online at congregationofmoses.org](https://www.congregationofmoses.org)**. After you register, you will receive a confirmation email with both the Zoom link for the meeting room, and the passcode for the meeting. If you have any questions or problems with registration, **[please contact Sharon Kaufman](#)**.



Mishpacha

MAZEL TOV TO

Gerry and Lee Tregerman on the birth of their two latest grandchildren, Daniel and Charlotte Hazel
Rebecca Strauss on becoming the new president of the Western Michigan Chapter of the Federal Bar Association
Sandy Rose on the marriage of her granddaughter, Zoey Rose to Erik Dekker
Brad Hershbein on his “special birthday”
Carolyn and Brad Kennedy on their 20th wedding anniversary

GET WELL WISHES TO

Dean Thommes

———— Donations have been made to the following funds. ————

GENERAL FUND

In appreciation of the outstanding High Holiday services. The virtual service was masterfully done. The visuals were powerful, especially during the Amidah and the shofar blowing

Judy & Leonard Poger

Mazel tov to Brad Hershbein on his “special birthday”

Emily Freed, Men's Club, Judy Davis & Al Rosenthal

Joanne & Mike Simon, Beth & Stephen Grode, Cindy & Larry Beer

Shirley Wise, Pnina & Judah Ari-Gur, Diane & Bruce Minsley

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

Mazel Tov to Gerry and Lee Tregerman on the birth of their two latest grandchildren, Daniel and Charlotte Hazel

Mazel Tov to Sandy Rose on the marriage of her granddaughter, Zoey Rose to Erik Dekker

Mazel Tov to Carolyn and Brad Kennedy on their 20th wedding anniversary

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

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

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

Joanne & Mike Simon, Diane & Bruce Minsley

In honor of Rebecca Strauss, new president of the Western Michigan Chapter of the Federal Bar Association

Judy & Leonard Poger, Shirley Wise, Pnina & Judah Ari-Gur, Cindy & Larry Beer

Emily Freed & Brad Hershbein, Judy Davis & Al Rosenthal, Diane & Harvey Fogel

Beth & Stephen Grode, Joanne & Mike Simon, Men's Club, Diane & Bruce Minsley

Wilma Kahn & Phil Horwich, Tamara & Earl Norman

Wishing Dean Thommes a speedy recovery

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

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

Emily Freed & Brad Hershbein, Judy Davis & Al Rosenthal, , Diane & Bruce Minsley

Joanne & Mike Simon, Men's Club, Carolyn & Brad Kennedy

In honor of Brad and Carolyn Kennedy for all their time and energy this High Holiday Season

Susan & Jeff Scheinker

Mishpacha

GENERAL FUND (continued)

In memory of our relatives and friends, who we remembered at Yizkor

Pnina & Judah Ari-Gur

In loving memory of my father, James Strauss

Adam & Rebecca Strauss

In memory of our friend, Natan Schneider

The Butners Family

BUILDING FUND

Mazel Tov to Sandy Rose on the marriage of her granddaughter, Zoey Rose to Erik Dekker

Mazel Tov to Rebecca Strauss on becoming the new president of the Western Michigan Chapter of the Federal Bar Association

Mazel tov to Brad Hershbein on his “special birthday”

Mazel Tov to Carolyn and Brad Kennedy on their 20th wedding anniversary

Wishing Dean Thommes a speedy recovery

Maxine & Neal Berke, Sallie & Ken Goodman

Valerie & Ken Eisenberg, The Ruterbusch Family

Mazel Tov to Gerry and Lee Tregerman on the birth of their two latest grandchildren, Daniel and Charlotte Hazel

Valerie & Ken Eisenberg, The Ruterbusch Family, Sallie & Ken Goodman

Maxine & Neal Berke, Carolyn & Brad Kennedy

MARVIN AND ROSALIE OKUN RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

Mazel Tov to Gerry and Lee Tregerman on the birth of their two latest grandchildren, Daniel and Charlotte Hazel

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Wishing Dean Thommes a speedy recovery

The Fischell Family, Judy & Lowell Seyburn

HERMAN AND ROSE FISHER LIBRARY FUND

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Wishing Dean Thommes a speedy recovery

Marilyn & Art Feinberg

Mishpacha

JACK LEVENE CANTOR FUND

Mazel Tov to Gerry and Lee Tregerman on the birth of their two latest grandchildren, Daniel and Charlotte Hazel

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Wishing Dean Thommes a speedy recovery

Rae Lee Howard

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In recognition of our Rabbi's dedicated work during the High Holy Days

Pnina & Judah Ari-Gur

In memory of Rabbi Spivak's parents Ruth and Aaron Spivak

Temple Beth El

In loving memory of my father, Wilhelm Blum for his guidance for a productive life

Alfred Blum

In loving memory of my parents, Eva and Ben Halpert

Diane R. Field

TIKKUN OLAM

Mazel Tov to Gerry and Lee Tregerman on the birth of their two latest grandchildren, Daniel and Charlotte Hazel

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Wishing Dean Thommes a speedy recovery

Michelle & Alan Angel

Todah Rabah

We are so grateful for all of the donations in honor of our anniversary. Thanks to all of you for your thoughtfulness and generosity!

~ Carolyn and Brad Kennedy

Update from the Spiritual Leadership Search Committee

Your Spiritual Leadership Search Committee (SLSC) is continuing its hard work and putting the finishing touches on two important documents:

- 1) The synagogue membership questionnaire
- 2) The application form for our prospective interim rabbi

You can expect to receive your questionnaire in November, and we need your insight and thoughts on the most critical qualities you feel our new interim and permanent rabbis should have. We need you to prioritize what you feel is most important to you and to our congregation. Please fill out the questionnaire and return it promptly so that we can continue to pursue the person most appropriate to lead us. You will find the deadline date with the instructions. This survey will be available online for you to take. For congregants who would prefer a paper version, it will be available upon request.

The long application form for our prospective rabbi must respond to a host of questions about our congregation and the area to attract potential candidates. Committee members have been hard at work describing our religious practices, the congregation's demographics, the overall Jewish community and the benefits of the greater Kalamazoo area in great detail. It has been quite an intensive endeavor and the results will be beneficial in getting the right match for CoM.

Earlier this month, Andrea Johnson and Laurel Ofstein interviewed Rabbi Spivak to see what surprised him about our congregation and the area when he first arrived, what he feels our strengths and weaknesses are, and what he wishes he had known before he came here.

Lastly, our consultant, Judy Beck, related that the Academy for Jewish Religion in Yonkers, New York can possibly help us find an interim rabbi candidate, as their focus is on career changers who bring more depth of life experience to the rabbinate. Its graduates and students serve both movement-affiliated and non-affiliated congregations. We will only pursue this option if no suitable opportunities are found through the Rabbinical Assembly formal search process.

Keep an eye on your email for the congregational survey, that will be coming out soon. Thank you in advance for taking the time to thoughtfully answer the questions, and helping the SLSC with our work in finding both an interim and permanent rabbi.

Hadassah Hospital Heart Institute ranked as top global cardiology hospital

For nine decades, Newsweek has covered all aspects of healthcare – medical specialties, scientific breakthroughs, challenges, technology, patient care and, most importantly, the impact these have on the world today.

In their current issue, “World’s Best Specialized Hospitals – Cardiology 2021” Newsweek includes Hadassah Hospital Heart Institute at Ein Kerem in Jerusalem in a ranking of top-tier global medical centers “where you will have access to the best diagnosticians, the highest level of patient care and the most effective medical treatments.” Our



congratulations to the management, medical staff and support team at Hadassah Hospital Ein Kerem’s Heart Institute for their outstanding contributions to cardiology care worldwide.

Hadassah and Sheikh Khalifa Host Conference on Pediatric Cardiac Care

Within two weeks of the signing of a normalization agreement between Israel and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), the Hadassah Medical Organization and Sheikh Khalifa Medical City in Abu Dhabi jointly organized a virtual international conference on pediatric cardiac critical care for their colleagues.

Dr. Uri Pollak, director of Hadassah’s Pediatric Cardiac Critical Care Unit, reached out to his counterpart at Sheikh Khalifa, Dr. Kesava Ramakrishnan, asking him to co-chair the online meeting. He received an immediate affirmative reply. “Very soon I look forward to meeting and working with Dr. Ramakrishna in Abu Dhabi,” Dr. Pollak said.



Over 200 physicians, nurses, nursing assistants and researchers signed up for the October conference. The attendees hailed from the two host countries as well as Indonesia, Malaysia, the Palestinian Authority, Saudi Arabia, Vietnam, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Dr. Paul Checchia, professor of pediatrics at Texas Children’s Hospital in Houston and one of the presenters, noted that the specialty of pediatric cardiac critical care is a “true community of medical professionals.” He explained, “The joy of working with children breaks down barriers among our group.”

Dr. Ramakrishnan commented that the gathering was “a reason to celebrate. It brings so much benefit to our center and for the UAE’s children.”

For Dr. Pollak, the conference marked a bright future. “This is an opening for knowledge-sharing between hospitals and countries,” he stated. “I believe in the future. As a pediatric physician, I must.”

HANUKKAH POP UP

There will be some seriously miraculous prices during this year's Hanukkah Pop Up sale! Hanukkah begins on Thursday, December 10th, so now is the perfect time to start getting your home ready.

Pop in date and times are:

Monday, November 30th from 4:00 - 6:00 pm

Thursday, December 3rd from 3:00 - 5:00 pm

Sunday, December 6th from 10:30 am - 12:30 pm

Tuesday, December 8th from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Items for sale include tablewear, Hanukkah menorahs (including electric ones), games, puzzles, dreidels, Hanukkah candles, cards, gift wrap, and much more, all at amazing prices! All proceeds from this pop up sale will go towards a brand new playground at CoM.

If none of the above dates and times work for you, please contact Tamara Norman at tdnorman@protonmail.com or 269-290-1366 to arrange a mutually convenient time.



Add Light to the World

The Congregation of Moses stocks candles for Jewish rituals. Please call the office if you wish to purchase any of the following:

Electric yahrzeit lamps-only 2 left	\$10 each; replacement bulbs, \$2 each
Havdalah candles	\$ 4.25 each
Plug-in Yahrzeit candles	\$ 4 each
Decorative Yahrzeit candle- only 1 left	\$ 4 each (pictured in lower right)
Yahrzeit candles in Glass	\$ 2 each
Shabbat candles -72 per box	\$12 each
Candle holders (aluminum bobeches)	\$ 4/box





Nora Chaus, Director



New Curriculum

In the summer of 2020, the Jewish Education Center of Cleveland (JECC) assembled a very talented team of educators to create a one-year curriculum for children in Jewish congregational schools. Our school is one of more than 200 schools that have chosen to use this unique curriculum this year.

The learning approach to La-bri'ut: To Our Health and Wellness was developed based on the challenges that emerged in the spring of 2020 as COVID-19 pandemic stay-at-home orders were put in place across the country. The JECC curriculum development team used research about interventions that foster healing after community trauma as the basis for the curriculum. The curriculum is built on Jewish values that stand on their own, but also complement the five caregiving principles that support recovery and resiliency for communities that experience trauma, such as the world-wide COVID-19 pandemic.

Five Modules of Learning

Five modules each align with one Jewish value and one caregiving principle:

- Sukkat Shalom (shelter of peace) - A sense of safety
- Ometz Lev (inner strength) - A sense of calm
- G'vurah (courage) - Self- and communal-efficacy
- K'hillah (community) - Social connectedness
- Hesed (lovingkindness) - Hope attained by reaching out to assist others

The year's learning is also framed by a text attributed to the sage, Hillel, and recorded in Pirke Avot. It serves as the curriculum's Enduring Understanding (big idea).

If I am not for myself, who will be for me? If I am only for myself, what am I? If not now, when?

Each module helps learners gain an understanding of these values and principles for themselves, their families and their communities through stories, activities and exploration, all while strengthening their wellness and resilience. We are hopeful that our partnership with the JECC and the use of this curriculum will provide our children, teachers and parents with skills that will help them be more resilient in these very difficult times.

Thank you for the honor of teaching our children.

Nora

Nora Chaus, Director
Marvin and Rosalie Okun Kalamazoo Community Jewish School
okcjs.net, director@okcjs.net

COM/TBI BOOK CLUB

Thursday, January 14th
7:00 pm on Zoom

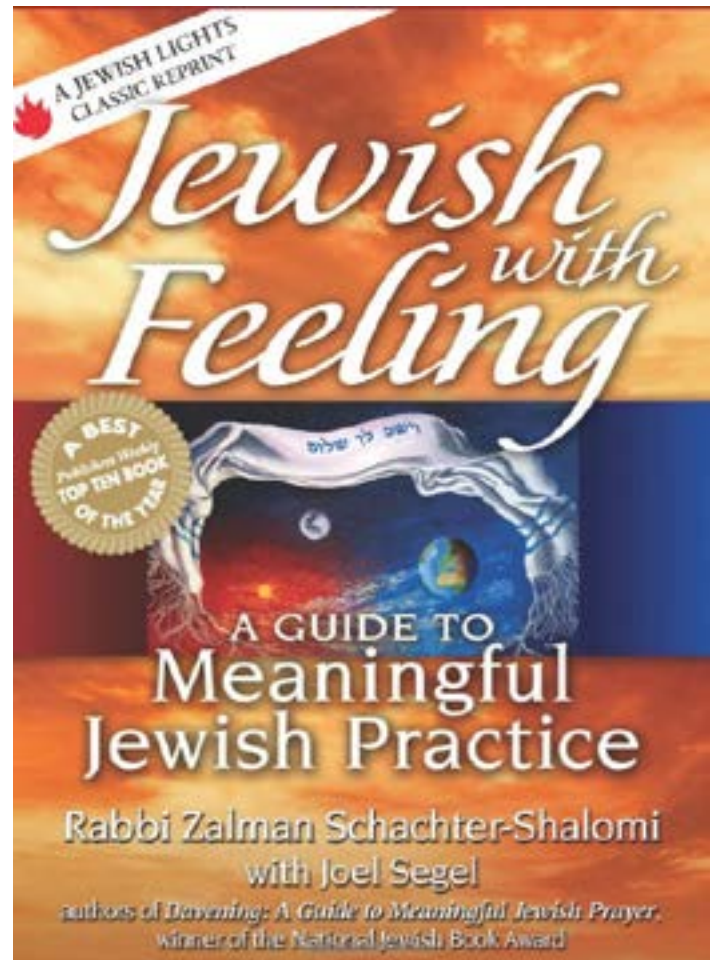
Many of us enjoyed the November discussion based on *The Jew in the Lotus* by Rodger Kamenetz, and we have decided to delve further into Kabbalah, Jewish Mysticism, the Jewish Renewal movement and more. Our next book is *Jewish with Feeling* by Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi with Joel Segel.

Rabbi Schachter-Shalomi (1924-2014) packed a lot into the dash between his birth and death. He and his family sought to leave Austria in 1938 and arrived in America in 1941 after a circuitous route. Ordained in New York as a Hasidic rabbi, he became a colorful albeit controversial figure as his journey led him to explore Buddhism, LSD in the early 1960s, the Havurah movement, the Gaia hypothesis, and finally becoming the founder of ALEPH: Alliance for Jewish Renewal, a trans-denominational approach to revitalizing Judaism. He was an early champion of interfaith dialogue, feminism, LGBT rights, and the full inclusion of LGBT people within Judaism.

Rabbi Schachter-Shalomi wrote 150 books and articles so it is hard to choose just one for this discussion. The CoM Fisher Library owns a copy of *Jewish with Feeling* and *Davening: A Guide to Meaningful Jewish Prayer* as well as *The December Project* by Sara Davidson, which captures a discussion with the Rabbi in the December of his life (think *Tuesdays with Morrie* except these chats were on Fridays!), and *The First Step: A Guide for the New Jewish Spirit*.

If you borrow them from the Fisher Library, please return them promptly so others may read them by January. Please feel free to read any of these books or other related books and be prepared to add depth to our next discussion.

In order to register for the next book club, please contact Sharon Kaufman at programdirector@congregationofmoses.org.



November 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

- 11/5 Michael Rocklin
- 11/8 Margaret Israelson
- 11/8 Rudy Ruterbusch
- 11/9 Arthur Feinberg has a Special Birthday!
Mazel Tov!
- 11/11 Candy Levene
- 11/11 Naomi Verne
- 11/14 Nava Haus
- 11/15 Mara Bernard
- 11/18 Darlene Wolf
- 11/18 Tema Lando
- 11/20 Jenna Verne
- 11/27 Ari Solomon
- 11/29 Rebecca Gourwitz
- 11/29 Paul Solomon

ANNIVERSARIES

- 11/6 Christy and Tim Howard
- 11/9 Jenna and Richard Verne
- 11/23 Judy and Lowell Seyburn
- 11/24 Tamis and Gary Kushner
- 11/27 Saraphoena and Mike Koffron
- 11/28 Stacey and Michael Rocklin




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 Contact us for a price quote or sample of our business: onkelus@gmail.com

Yahrzeits

November 6, 7 (20 Heshvan – 26 Heshvan)

Miriam Brot*	Lucy Anna Feinberg	Dr. William Haus
Nathan Heckman*		

November 13, 14 (27 Heshvan – 4 Kislev)

Israel Blasky*	J. Carol Fisher Eyges	Isadore Goldstein*
Agnes Halpert*	Ruth LaVene*	Susan Levene*
Arthur Levi*	Meyer Reingold*	Beatrice Lee Rocklin*
Francis Rosenbaum*	Abraham Schwartz	The Jews of Milevsko
Rabbi Abraham Tuchman*	Abigail Verne	Sophia Willage*

November 20, 21 (5 Kislev-11 Kislev)

Arthur Cohen*	Leslie Davis	Rebecca Epstein*
Jennie Fisher*	Max Fisher*	Dorothy Fratus
Sheldon Green*	Seymour D. Greenwald	Lilly Greiner*
Sam Harris*	Melvin J. Kirschner*	Alfred Nadelman*
Naomi Yehudit Polatof	Lottie Raap	Sherman Rose
Maurice Rosenthal*	Victor Seyburn	Beatrice Sichel*
Lillian Sofen*	Samuel Willage*	

November 29, 28 (12 Kislev – 18 Kislev)

David Davidoff*	Florence Escourt	Louis Fogel
Jacob Goldstein*	David Graff*	Sheldon Hoenig
Eta Kercman*	Max Konigsberg	Naomi Kuperberg*
Andrew H. Levene*	Schirley Scheinker	Rae Sklansky*
Greg Tapfar	Victor Paul Tuchman*	Ely Zuravel*

**Denotes a memorial plaque in the synagogue*



PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

Welcome to the Hebrew month of Cheshvan!

Cheshvan is often the favorite month for members of the clergy and the rest of the Jewish community because it is the only month in the Hebrew calendar where there are no holidays outside of Shabbat. Now that the marathon of the High Holidays, Sukkot and Simchat Torah are over, we can relax just a little bit before the buildup to Hanukkah begins.

This past month, I once again joined the CoM contingency of Meals on Wheels. Every Friday, a small group of volunteers comes together to help deliver meals to homebound seniors in the greater Kalamazoo community who are in need. This was my second time participating and I was again struck by how fulfilling participating in this mitzvah is. If you have never done it, I highly encourage you to do so. Senior Services, the organization in charge of Meals on Wheels in Kalamazoo, makes sure that every safety precaution is taken, from a temperature check when you first arrive, to providing masks and gloves for all volunteers. For more information or to sign up, contact Valerie Eisenberg at vgeisenberg@gmail.com.

“This past month, I once again joined the CoM contingency of Meals on Wheels. This was my second time participating, and I was struck by how fulfilling participating in this mitzvah is. If you have never done it, I highly encourage you to do so.”

After the celebration of Rosh Hashanah and the reflection of Yom Kippur, we got ready to celebrate Sukkot, Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah. Despite plans to celebrate both Sukkot and Simchat Torah outdoors in the CoM Sukkah, inclement weather Sukkot weekend caused us to change our plans. Despite the move indoors for Sukkot, we were still able to celebrate the holiday safely in our sanctuary with the Hallel and shaking of the lulav and etrog during the service. Everyone made decorations to hang in the Sukkah and we shared a pizza lunch, distanced but together. Some even ate outdoors in the Sukkah since the sun had come out by the time we were ready to eat!

Luckily, the weather cooperated for Simchat Torah, and we were able to celebrate outdoors under the open canopies that were set up.

New Learning Opportunities

There may be no Jewish holidays in November, but that does not mean that there is nothing going on at CoM. **Jewish Food for Thought with Rabbi Spivak** has returned and will continue every second Thursday through December. In this new edition of Jewish Food for Thought, we'll see how Midrash expands the meaning of Torah and speaks to matters of Jewish life and history. We will also look at interesting commentaries that read the Torah portion of the week in a way that is spiritual but not literal. The November dates for Jewish Food for Thought are November 5th and 19th, and you can sign up at congregationofmoses.org.

November Event

This past year has been tough on everyone and for many in our community it has been hard to be resilient. We hope that you will join us on Wednesday, November 18th at 7:00 pm for **Resiliency and the Covid Year, with Dr. Larry Beer**. Many people are experiencing anxiety and depression over Covid worries and stress caused by political, economic and social justice issues. Dr. Beer will draw upon his expertise and experience to help us find strength and resiliency now during this time of crisis.

You can register for this and other events at congregationofmoses.org.

Looking forward, we are working on how to celebrate Hanukkah virtually and bring back Havdalah Happy Hours. Lastly, no matter who you vote for, please go out and vote on November 3rd, whether in person or by mail. You deserve to have your voice heard this election year.

*L'Shalom,
Sharon Kaufman, Program Director*

Create Your Own Torah Story

On Simchat Torah, we celebrated the ending of the annual Torah-reading cycle and the start of a new cycle, beginning with Genesis.

Here's a fun idea! Write or draw your own personal interpretation of the beginning or ending of the Torah.

Your stories and art will be included in a Simchat Torah time capsule, to which new stories will be added each year. This is your opportunity to be a part of something sacred and meaningful.

Think about some of these questions to give you some ideas for your Torah story:

- How would you re-interpret Moses direction to the people?
- Would you write the story so that Moses sees the Promised Land?
- How would you interpret the Genesis creation story differently?
- Or what Torah story would you write about your experiences at this time and place in history? For example, your story could be about plague, climate change, dissent, social media or something else.

Make your story in any size or shape. Use any colors, medium or materials you like—be as creative as you want to be. When you finish with your Torah story, drop it off at CoM Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:00 am and 2:00 pm.



Here is a terrific example of an artistic interpretation of Torah by artist Nathan Hillu.

November 2020

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<p>1 Religious School Online, 9:30 am Michigan Festival of Sacred Music Event, 3:00 pm Second Cup Study Group Online, 4:30 pm</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3 </p>	<p>4 Religious School Online, 4:30 pm Second Cup Study Group Online, 7:00 pm</p>	<p>5 Jewish Food for Thought Online, 11:00 am and 7:30 pm</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7 Shabbat Services online, 9:30 am</p>
<p>8 Religious School Online, 9:30 am Second Cup Study Group Online, 4:30 pm</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10 OvB Meeting online, 7:00 pm </p>	<p>11 Religious School Online, 4:30 pm Second Cup Study Group Online, 7:00 pm</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14 Shabbat Services online, 9:30 am</p>
<p>15 Religious School Online, 9:30 am Second Cup Study Group Online, 4:30 pm</p>	<p>16 SLSC Meeting Online, 6:30 pm Hadassah Book Club online, 7:30 pm</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18 Religious School Online, 4:30 pm Resiliency and the Covid Year Online, 7:00 pm</p>	<p>19 Jewish Food for Thought Online, 11:00 am and 7:30 pm</p>	<p>20 Brenna Siskind Bat Mitzvah @ TBI Shabbat Services w/ Benton Harbor online, 7:30 pm</p>	<p>21 Shabbat Services online, 9:30 am Brenna Siskind Bat Mitzvah @ TBI</p>
<p>22 Religious School Online, 9:30 am Second Cup Study Group Online, 4:30 pm</p>	<p>23 Bulletin Deadline, 8:00 pm</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 No Religious School</p>	<p>26 CoM Office Closed </p>	<p>27 CoM Office Closed</p>	<p>28 Shabbat Services online, 9:30 am</p>
<p>29 No Religious School</p>	<p>30</p>					

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		1	2 Religious School Online, 4:30 pm Second Cup Study Group Online, 7:00 pm	3 Jewish Food for Thought Online, 11:00 am and 7:30 pm	4	5 Shabbat Services online, 9:30 am
6 Religious School Online, 9:30 am Second Cup Study Group Online, 4:30 pm	7	8 OvB Meeting online, 7:00 pm 	9 Religious School Online, 4:30 pm Second Cup Study Group Online, 7:00 pm	10 	11 	12 Shabbat Services online, 9:30 am 
13 Religious School Online, 9:30 am 	14 	15 	16 Religious School Online, 4:30 pm 	17 Jewish Food for Thought Online, 11:00 am and 7:30 pm 	18	19 Shabbat Services online, 9:30 am
20 No Religious School	21 Hadassah Book Club online, 7:30 pm Bulletin Deadline, 8:00 pm	22	23 No Religious School	24 CoM Office Closed	25 CoM Office Closed	26 Shabbat Services online, 9:30 am
27 No Religious School	28	29	30 No Religious School	31 		

FISHER LIBRARY IS ONLINE FOR CURBSIDE CHECKOUT

Go to fisherlibrary.rmwebopac.com and you'll be able to:

- Search for any item by title, author, keyword, subject and more
- View new and most popular items at a glance
- Click on links to other sites of interest, such as PJ Library.org
- Select items to print out, share to social media, or add to a book bin



Members:

- Sign in (first and last name, no spaces) to view circulation history
- Reserve items to be checked out – instructions are on the catalog home page

“Can I check the catalog on my phone?”

Google “Fisher Library Kalamazoo” and the link will pop right up!

Questions? Email library@congregationofmoses.org

And there's more!

For information such as library hours and circulation policy, [check out the Fisher Library website](#)

For the most up-to-date news about Fisher Library and virtual programs around the world, [find us on Facebook and Twitter](#)

COVID-19 Special Message:

We are a small but devoted community – and your library is here for you.

From the moment congregants closed their doors in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, we at Fisher Library were searching for ways to make our time a little more enjoyable...and here it is!

CURBSIDE CHECKOUT

Search the catalog for books, DVDs, and CDs and email add'l selections to a book bin for further reference. (Contact library@congregationofmoses.org to become a library member.)

Library members: Click on “Sign in” at the top right corner. Use first and last name (no spaces) and a pin # if you have created one. Now you may check circulation status, reserve items, or reserve them for curbside checkout. (Contact library@congregationofmoses.org to create a pin #.)

Reserve items: Click on “Reserve” under the item (you may reserve up to 10 items at a time), indicate the instruction date range if desired, and click “Reserve”. The Library Director will process the request and send an email notification that the item is ready for pick up. (THIS MAY TAKE A FEW DAYS TO PROCESS)

Pick up and drop off items at a table inside the synagogue's outer door Monday-Friday, 9am-12pm, 1:30pm-4:30pm, and 6:30pm-9:00pm. Contact the [Library](#) for other arrangements.

Questions? Read Step 2! Contact library@congregationofmoses.org

Stay safe and healthy.

Links to other helpful websites:

- [Fisher Library Facebook](#)
- [Fisher Library Twitter](#)

Thank You and Welcome to the new year! [@congregationofmoses](#)

Other library resources, events, and programs:

- [Kalamazoo Public Library](#)
- [Kalamazoo College - Jewish Studies](#)
- [Jewish Book Council](#)
- [Association of Jewish Libraries](#)
- [Jewish Study World](#)
- [Bible of Life Blog](#)
- [National Center for Jewish Film](#)

A photograph showing a group of children in a library. They are wearing costumes: one is a butterfly, one is purple, one is blue, and one is pink. They are standing in an aisle between bookshelves. A sign above them says "KIDS CORNER".



Independence. Dignity. Self-determination.

Colef
The Samuel J. and Mary E. Colef Fund

The Colef Fund of the Congregation of Moses supports programs locally, nationally and globally that address hunger, poverty, homelessness, literacy, joblessness, health, education and building safe communities.

Now, the Colef Fund will match your donations

dollar-for-dollar, up to a yearly total of \$250 per family (minimum \$50) to any of these nonprofits.

Gifts made anytime from January 1 – December 31, 2020 will be matched!

- Big Brothers Big Sisters, bbbsmi.org
- Boys Town Jerusalem, boystownjerusalem.org
- Community Healing Centers, chcmi.org
- Constance Brown Hearing Centers, cbrown.org
- Disability Network, dnswm.org
- Ecumenical Senior Center, ecumenicalsc.com
- First Day Shoe Fund, firstdayshoefund.org
- Gryphon Place, gryphon.org
- HIAS, hias.org
- Jewish Federation, jewishfederations.org
- Kalamazoo County Ready 4s, kcready4s.org
- Kalamazoo Covenant Academy, kcovenantacademy.org
- Kalamazoo Literacy Council, kalamazooliteracy.org
- Kalamazoo Loaves and Fishes, kzoolf.org
- Open Doors, odkzoo.com
- Planned Parenthood of Kalamazoo, ppmi.org
- Prevention Works, prevention-works.org
- Read and Write Kalamazoo (RAWK), readandwritekzoo.org
- Ready to Read/Kalamazoo Public Library, kpl.gov/children/ready-to-read
- Senior Services of SW Michigan, seniorservices1.org
- United Way of Kalamazoo and Battle Creek, uwbckr.org
- Urban Alliance, uainc.org

The Colef Fund has previously supported each of the programs listed.

How to get your donation matched by the Colef Fund

Send the following information **along with a copy of your donation receipt from 2020** to:

Congregation of Moses, Attn: Colef Fund, 2501 Stadium Dr, Kalamazoo, MI 49008

Or email: coleffund@congregationofmoses.org.

Please make your gifts **by December 31, 2020 to have them matched. The maximum to be matched by the Colef Fund is \$250 per family per year, regardless of which projects or agencies you choose to support.**

Include this information please:

- Your name, address, email address and phone number
- Amount to be matched
- Organization name, and a receipt or acknowledgement of your donation

Find us online at coleffund.org or on Facebook

The Colef Fund will also match your Jewish Federation of Southwest Michigan donations dollar-for-dollar, up to a yearly total of \$250 per family (minimum \$50) to your choice of the following projects.

• ENP SPACE

ENP's SPACE (Ethiopian National Project School Performance and Community Empowerment) Scholastic Assistance Program promotes academic growth and improvement by providing supplementary tutoring to students in small groups. The program works to strengthen students' self-esteem and leadership skills by addressing obstacles to social integration and personal development. The program helps students to connect to their heritage and to incorporate this ethnic culture into their everyday lives. Students enrolled in the Program also receive preparation for army service, which enables them to choose from a broader base of positions once enlisted. Lastly, the SPACE Program provides all of its participants with a lunchtime meal, which helps ensure that students attend tutoring sessions engaged and ready to learn.

• Lunch and Learn

Nearly 500 at-risk elementary students in 13 schools across the Negev city of Dimona receive extra academic help and a hot meal each school day, along with subsidized schoolbooks and the opportunity to participate in class trips. Lunch and Learn participants show significant improvement in educational achievement, behavior and self-confidence, and continue to excel as they transition to middle school.

• JDC's Active Jewish Teens

Active Jewish Teens, a JDC program in partnership with BBYO and Genesis Philanthropy Group, brings together thousands of Jewish teenagers in 60 cities across the former Soviet Union to proudly embrace Jewish values and care for their communities. In a region where being Jewish was once a detriment and suppressed by countless people in the face of discrimination, this new generation is building lasting connections with Jewish life and each other.

• JDC's Supportive Housing for Israelis with Disabilities

Many people with disabilities rely on their parents or an institution to help them with daily tasks. Independent living means taking on all those responsibilities, possibly for the first time. JDC created Supportive Housing to help people with disabilities experience independent living when they are ready.

• JDC's Families First

In Israel, 31% of children live below the poverty line. JDC, in partnership with the Israeli government, launched Families First, a groundbreaking initiative that addresses the wide-ranging needs of poor families by giving them the tools to enable them to create real change and break the bonds of poverty. Families First works with over 3,000 families from 90 communities across Israel representing all sectors of Israeli society. The Families First Initiative is equipping families across Israel to become independent and ensure a better future for their children.

• JDC's Aid to Impoverished Seniors in the Former Soviet Union

Across Eastern Europe and Asia—in countries like Ukraine, Moldova, Russia and Belarus—over eighty thousand Jews live in desperate conditions. Victims of both circumstance and oppression, they have faced the unimaginable: Many are Holocaust survivors; all of them endured the worst days of the Soviet regime. Now, with pensions as low as \$2 a day, little (if any) family to rely on, and no personal savings or government safety net, these elderly Jews are left to face cruel hunger, debilitating medical issues and freezing winters alone. JDC has been on the ground in the former Soviet Union for decades, caring for the region's elderly Jews when the majority of the world didn't even know they existed. Through a network of Hesed Social Welfare Centers, they ensure that the former Soviet Union's Jews in need are able to not only to survive, but age with dignity and the support of a caring Jewish community.

• JDC's Children's Initiative in the Former Soviet Union

This JDC program provides basic food, medicine, shelter and clothing for children in former Soviet countries, many of whom are impoverished and/or from homes suffering from hunger, unemployment, alcoholism, drug abuse and family strife. Such support ensures basic nutrition and care that is lacking among tens of thousands of Jewish children at risk across the former Soviet Union.

Programs described above are administered by Jewish Federation partner organizations, JDC and the Jewish Agency for Israel. The Colef Fund has previously supported each of the programs listed.

Renter Sought for Member's Home

CoM member Paul Solomon has asked us to help publicize the short-term rental of his home.

"I am renting my home on Cherry Street for six months, so that I can live near my mother who is 93 and in an assisted living facility in New Jersey. With all my courses being taught online this year, I have this pandemic silver lining, to be able to be near my mother.

"The rental charge includes heat and electricity, 5G WiFi, water, salt for water softening, professional cleaning once a month, trash pickup and snow removal from sidewalks and driveway.

"The house is fully furnished and available for a six-month period beginning on November 15 or December 1. A one month security deposit is due on signing, and will be returned within 10 days of the end of the lease period. Sorry, no pets are permitted.



"The house sits on almost one-half acre, planted with trees and native grasses that are beautiful year-round. Across the street is the 50-acre Kleinstuck Preserve, with trails for walking and running.

"The floors are hardwood, upstairs and downstairs. The kitchen is equipped with an excellent gas range/oven and a French door stainless steel refrigerator. A 1950s table is in the kitchen for breakfast and other meals. From the table you can watch the great variety of birds that come to the feeder.

"There is a half-bathroom off the kitchen. There is a back porch that opens up to a brick patio. The dining room has a teak Danish table that expands with two leaves. The wood burning stove provides warmth, both actual and visual. Used properly it assists the regular (gas) heat. There is an extensive library of books. Upstairs there are two bedrooms. The upstairs bathroom has a tub and a 1930s style black and white tile floor.

"The basement has a washer and dryer, open stainless steel shelving that serves as a pantry, and space for storage.

"The location is a short ride (by car or bicycle) to downtown Kalamazoo and to the campuses of Western Michigan University, the Homer Stryker MD School of Medicine and Kalamazoo College. It is on the same street as the Kazoo School and a block from the Maple Street Middle School and the YMCA. The street is exceptionally quiet and friendly!"

For details and a photo gallery, please see [Paul's listing on Facebook Marketplace](#). You can also send Paul a message through his [Facebook listing](#).

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

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

Alan Cohen 269-365-5545, tanach18@gmail.com



PAUL F. DAVIDOFF

ATTORNEY AT LAW

PAUL F. DAVIDOFF, P.C.

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KALAMAZOO, MI 49007

Telephone: (269) 388-2100 Fax: (269) 388-5454
e-mail: pdavidoff@ameritech.net

cfps
Child & Family Psychological Services

We offer professional counseling services for adults, teens, children, couples and families in a caring, comfortable setting.

- individual, family, couples and group counseling
- psychological testing
- substance abuse evaluations
- more than 40 licensed psychologists and social workers in Kalamazoo and Portage offices
- most insurances accepted

For more information, please call our office at (269)372-4140 or visit childandfamilypsych.com.



Director: Larry Beer, Ed.D.

DIRECT YOUR DOLLARS -ALMOST THERE!

Great news! Our Direct Your Dollars receipt collection now totals \$130,000, reaching **87% of our target** of \$150,000! Please continue to drop off your D&W or Family Fare receipts at CoM.

Thank you to all of our diligent shoppers!

Please note that you need to present your YES card to be eligible for Direct Your Dollars. If you do not have a YES card, please stop by the D&W or Family Fare service desk to get one.



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!

