



# CoM newsletter

CONGREGATION OF MOSES • Kalamazoo, Michigan

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## GREETINGS!

It's the time of year when the days are getting shorter, and the nights are getting both colder and longer, meaning that Hanukkah is almost here! Our Hanukkah celebrations this year will look very different but we are excited to celebrate virtually with you.

November was a bit strange, with both cold weather that brought snow flurries and a second summer for a few days. At the beginning of the month, I once again volunteered with Meals on Wheels. Each time I deliver a meal to a fellow Kalamazoo resident, I am reminded of how incredibly privileged I am and grateful that I have the opportunity to give back to those in need in our community. In between many Zoom meetings and classes, I worked with the Program Team on our Hanukkah programming and also reached out to TBI to see how we can

celebrate together.

In November, CoM member Dr. Larry Beer shared tips and tricks on how to stay resilient during the COVID year. During the session, Dr. Beer shared some easy ways we can reduce stress and stay resilient throughout the quarantine and took us through a guided meditation to help us relieve stress. I want to thank Dr. Beer for taking time out of his busy schedule to lead this session for us, and for leading the question and answer session at the end for our members. I also want to thank everyone who attended and shared the ways that they are trying to stay resilient during this time. If you are interested in viewing the recording of the session, we will be making it available soon.

Hanukkah begins on the evening of Thursday, December 10th, and continues through Friday, December 18th. All programming and events will be taking place virtually this year in order to keep everyone safe. Since the city of Kalamazoo has cancelled its public Christmas tree lighting, we will not be having any in-person events for the lighting of the menorah in Bronson Park, although the lighting WILL take place each evening.

**On Sunday, December 13th at 2:00 pm, CoM and TBI invite you to join us for a fun online Hanukkah event featuring the first-ever Menorah pageant on Zoom.** This is your opportunity to create your own menorah using materials that you have at home. You can make your menorah out of anything, the sky's the limit! Everyone will have a chance to present their menorah to the rest of the group, whether you present it live or show a picture. Prizes will be awarded to a group of winners. We'll hear the story of Hanukkah, have a sing-along of Hanukkah songs with Naomi Morse, and end the day with a community candle-lighting. More information about the pageant will be available soon. For families, there will also be a resource page that will feature links to videos, music, crafts and recipes for celebrating Hanukkah at home.

I hope that you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving with your families near and far. We all have so much to be thankful for this year, despite the quarantine. I can't wait to see everyone on Zoom for Hanukkah!

*L'Shalom,  
Sharon Kaufman, Program Director*

**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 congofmosesbulletin@hotmail.com.**

# Menorah Pageant Go Wild and Crazy!

**December 13 at 2:00 pm on Zoom**

Plan now for your entry in the Menorah Pageant. Show your humor and creativity in constructing your menorah from, yes, ANYTHING! Here are a few examples to get your mind going but we know you can think of tons more ideas.

Menorahs do not have to be functional or even three-dimensional. A drawing or painting can be submitted as well. Enter one of these categories: **under 6 years, 7-12 years or 13 and up.**

Prizes (amazon.com gift cards) will be awarded for the most original designs to two people in each category and one "Best" winner will be chosen from all categories.



*Just a few ideas from the web to get your mind going. These artists used legos, old toys, copper tubing, simple wrapped boxes with ordinary votive candles, and felt to make a menorah wall hanging.*

*Anything goes! Let's see whatcha got!*

# SOCIAL ACTION

In November, the Social Action Committee hosted its first Tikkun Olam Talk on the subject of education inequality.

We watched Kandice Sumner's TedTalk entitled, *How America's Public Schools Keep Kids in Poverty* and Steph Haft led an interesting discussion afterwards about how we see education inequities in our own communities. While we did not have time to fully discuss actions you could take, below are a few different resources to continue to learn about this prevalent issue:



## **If you want to read more about education inequities:**

- *Pedagogy of the Oppressed* by Paulo Freire
- *What Does it Mean to be Well Educated?* by Alfie Kohn
- *Teaching Community: A Pedagogy of Hope* by Bell Hooks
- *Other People's Children: Cultural Conflict in the Classroom* by Lisa Delpit

## **If you want to donate time/money:**

- Kalamazoo Communities in Schools
- Read and Write Kalamazoo (RAWK)
- Room to Read
- Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency (KRESA)

## **If you want to listen:**

- "Code Switch" - the entire podcast series
- "Segregated Education," in the podcast "What Makes Us Human?"

## **If you want to act:**

- Talk to family and friends about these issues and what you've learned
- Talk with kids about what they're seeing in school right now (who has access to online school and who doesn't? What can they do about it?)
- Write letters or call your legislators about improving school funding
- Attend school board meetings to influence specific changes in local school resources

★ **Join the Social Action Committee for its next Tikkun Olam talk to discuss homelessness in Kalamazoo, on December 6th from 3:00 - 4:00 pm.**

We will dive into why Kalamazoo has a disproportionate amount of people who are homeless and what we as individuals and as a community can do to help our fellow neighbors.

Until then, I hope you will be kind to yourself and those around you, and stay healthy and safe.

*Naomi Verne, SAC Chair*

# CoM Building Gets a New “Lid”

**A**fter great anticipation, a brand-new roof is now on the CoM building. In November, Hoekstra Roofing installed an approximately 15,000 square foot EPDM roof.

EPDM is an extremely durable synthetic rubber roofing membrane (ethylene propylene diene terpolymer) widely used in low-slope buildings. The new roof has added insulation for greater energy efficiency and contains American-made materials, intended to last more than 30 years.

In the new roof design, the pitch was corrected in order to prevent puddling, which was a common problem on the old roof. The lack of proper drainage resulted in standing water on the entire roof area which would freeze and cause the seams in the material to break.

The roofing project is a major part of the water remediation and drainage improvement effort for the property and is the first step in the Master Plan project.

## Before:



*Pipes installed on the old roof to aid in proper drainage were rusted, cracked and failing.*



## During the installation:



*(Above and right) The roofing crew at work installing the insulation material (white) and the EPDM roofing membrane (black layer), designed to last 30+ years.*

# Shabbat Services Online

Saturday, December 5

**9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. online**

Torah: Genesis 34:1-35:15

Haftarah: Obadiah 1:1-21

Saturday, December 12

**9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. online**

Torah: Genesis 38:1-30; Numbers 7:18-29

Haftarah: Zechariah 2:14-4:7

Friday, December 18

**7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. online**

Shabbat Services with Temple B'nai Shalom in  
Benton Harbor

Saturday, December 19

**9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. online**

Torah: Genesis 41:53-43:15

Haftarah: I Kings 3:15-4:1

Saturday, December 26

**9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. online**

Torah: Genesis 45:28-46:27

Haftarah: Ezekiel 37:15-28



*Shabbat services signup can be found on our website, [congregationofmoses.org](http://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 covers 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](http://congregationofmoses.org)**

### Shabbat candle lighting times

December 4 4:52 p.m.

December 11 4:52 p.m.

December 18 4:54 p.m.

December 25 4:58 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.*

# Mishpacha

## MAZEL TOV TO

Michelle and Alan Angel on the marriage of their daughter Chelsea to Dan Zyndorf

## CONDOLENCES TO

Gary Adelman on the passing of his beloved aunt, Bernice Selcow

— Donations have been made to the following funds. —

## GENERAL FUND

Mazel Tov to Michelle and Alan Angel on the marriage of their daughter, Chelsea to Dan Zyndorf.

*Joanne & Mike Simon, Beth & Stephen Grode, Men's Club,  
Diane & Harvey Fogel, Judy Davis & Al Rosenthal, Pnina & Judah Ari-Gur  
Emily Freed & Brad Hershbein, Wilma Kahn & Phil Horwich, Shirley Wise  
Tamara & Earl Norman, Diane & Bruce Minsley, Carolyn & Brad Kennedy*

Condolences to Gary Adelman on the passing of his beloved aunt, Bernice Selcow.

*Tamara & Earl Norman, Diane & Harvey Fogel, Beth & Stephen Grode  
Shirley Wise, Men's Club, Wilma Kahn & Phil Horwich,  
Emily Freed & Brad Hershbein, Judy Davis & Al Rosenthal  
Joanne & Mike Simon, Pnina & Judah Ari-Gur, Diane & Bruce Minsley*

In loving memory of my father, Irving Lieberman.

*Judy Davis*

In loving memory of my father, Maurice Rosenthal.

*Al Rosenthal*

In loving memory of my daughter, Eva Stein.

*Bruce Stein*

In loving memory of my sister, Sue Levene.

*Joan Levene*

In memory of Miriam Brot.

*Fondly, Professor Frank Friedman*

## BUILDING FUND

Mazel Tov to Michelle and Alan Angel on the marriage of their daughter Chelsea to Dan Zyndorf.

Condolences to Gary Adelman on the passing of his beloved aunt, Bernice Selcow.

*Maxine & Neal Berke, Sallie & Ken Goodman, Valerie & Ken Eisenberg, The Ruterbusch family*

## HERMAN AND ROSE FISHER LIBRARY FUND

Mazel Tov to Michelle and Alan Angel on the marriage of their daughter Chelsea to Dan Zyndorf.

Condolences to Gary Adelman on the passing of his beloved aunt, Bernice Selcow.

*Marilyn & Art Feinberg*

# Mishpacha

## MARVIN AND ROSALIE OKUN RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

Mazel Tov to Michelle and Alan Angel on the marriage of their daughter, Chelsea to Dan Zyndorf.  
Condolences to Gary Adelman on the passing of his beloved aunt, Bernice Selcow.

*The Fischell Family, Judy & Lowell Seyburn*

In loving memory of my father, Rabbi Abraham Tuchman.

*Hy Tuchman*

## JACK LEVENE CANTOR FUND

Mazel Tov to Michelle and Alan Angel on the marriage of their daughter, Chelsea to Dan Zyndorf.  
Condolences to Gary Adelman on the passing of his beloved aunt, Bernice Selcow.  
Condolences to Alan Silverman on the passing of his wife, Judith Silverman.

*Rae Lee Howard*

In loving memory of my mother, Frieda Levene.

*Joan Levene*

## RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In loving memory of my dad, Andrew Levene.

*Joan Levene*

In loving memory of my father, Julian Doggett.

*Julie Northrop*

## TIKKUN OLAM

My sincere thanks to the many members who gave me a "Mazel Tov" in honor of my granddaughter, Zoey Rose, on her marriage September 3rd to Erik Dekker.

*Sandy Rose*

Condolences to Gary Adelman on the passing of his beloved aunt, Bernice Selcow.

*Michelle & Alan Angel*

Mazel Tov to Michelle and Alan Angel on the marriage of their daughter, Chelsea to Dan Zyndorf.

*Tema & Rob Lando*

# Todah Rabah!

**We are grateful for your donations in honor of our newest grandchildren, Charlotte Tregerman Campbell and Daniel Nelson. The babies are thriving and growing. Thank you.**

*~ Lee & Gerry Tregerman*

# Spiritual Leadership Search Committee Update

The committee refined the CoM survey based on feedback and finalized it with Carolyn and Brad Kennedy, who designed the online version and will be collating the results. We wanted to ensure that all questions and choice of responses are relevant and useful.

**The deadline for completing the survey is Friday, December 18.** We need your insights and counsel to make the best decision for CoM, so please take the time to fill it out. It might be helpful to peruse the questions first, think about them and then fill it out a few days later. We are also refining the answers to the Rabbinical Assembly questionnaire that will be sent to rabbinical candidates.

Leslie Bez interviewed the Trustees and gathered their thoughts on how we have faced changes and challenges over the years. One commented about how TBI and CoM had the foresight to collaborate on combining our religious schools into one dynamic organization instead of each congregation continuing with a small school population. Another suggested that chavurot have been a positive force in building community.

We look forward to integrating all of the feedback the committee has gathered, and will gather through the congregational survey, into the rabbi search process.

## Ann Arbor Jewish Book Festival

We hope you will join us for the **all-online 2020 Ann Arbor Jewish Book Festival**, celebrating Jewish authors and the stories they tell.

For this 33rd annual festival, we will bring the community together online instead of in person to protect everyone's safety, guests and authors alike. This is an opportunity to share even more authors with you than in previous years.

Events will begin the evening of November 30, 2020 and continue through December 22, 2020. A complete listing of author events can be found at [book.jccann Arbor.org](http://book.jccann Arbor.org).



The Dorothy Slavin Kalamazoo Chapter of Hadassah presents

# *Let's Talk About Food!*

Join us on Zoom on **Wednesday, January 6 at 7:00 pm** to learn about our meal options in Kalamazoo during the COVID pandemic and beyond. This program is free; you do not have to be a member of Hadassah to join us.



**Kalamazoo Menu** was created by Beth Morrison and Mark Liddle this past March. They will talk about its inception, how it evolved and how it works. You will find out about local restaurants, their menus and specials, and how to order for take-out and delivery. Break out of your routine and add some zest to your meals!







You will also hear from Tamara Norman about her experience with **Hello Fresh**, a delivery service of recipes and ingredients to prepare at home. You can enter a drawing to win a box of three meals, a value of \$60. Participants are encouraged to share with us their experiences with local grocery delivery services.



On January 6 at 7 pm, you can access the event at the following link:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89509362921>

# December 2020

Su      M      T      W      Th      F      Sa

		1	2 Religious School Online, 4:30 pm Second Cup Study Group Online, 7:00-7:30 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, Tikkun Olam Talk, 3:00 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 First night of Hanukkah! 	11 	12 Shabbat Services Online, 9:30 am 
13 Religious School Online, 9:30 am Community Hanukkah event Online, 2:00 	14 	15 	16 Religious School Online, 4:30 pm 	17 Jewish Food for Thought Online, 11:00 am and 7:30 pm 	18 Shabbat Services Online with BH synagogue, 7:30-8:30 pm	19 Shabbat Services Online, 9:30 am
20 No Religious School Bulletin Deadline, 8:00 pm	21 Hadassah Book Club Online, 1:00 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 		

We've got Hanukkah supplies and gifts for you!  
Hanukkah Gift Bag pickup for CoM and TBI members:

Sunday, December 6 from 11:00 am - 1:00 pm at Congregation of Moses **OR**  
Wednesday, December 9 from 4:00 - 6:00 pm at Temple B'nai Israel

Pick up your bag at either location.

# January 2021

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

# 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 up dates 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](mailto:tdnorman@protonmail.com) or call 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



# Better Together

Okun Kalamazoo Community Jewish School (OKCJS) was selected to participate in the **Better Together in a Box** program. **Better Together in a Box** was a special short-term program for summer 2020, which was modeled after the four-year Better Together program and designed to encourage meaningful interaction between young and old. Eleven OKCJS students in grades 6-12, under the direction of our 2020-21 High School teacher, Steph Haft, participated in the program with eleven older adults from the Congregation of Moses and Temple B'nai Israel.

Participating teens and seniors completed an online questionnaire and short application. Participants were matched based on personality, commonalities and interests/hobbies. Teens and seniors received the contact information for their match and were instructed to make contact and schedule a first meeting through Zoom.

## **Week 1 – Teen Learning Session 1: Jewish Leadership and Responsibility**

Teens explored their commitment to community service and the role it can play in their own lives. Teens reflected on how they see themselves as leaders and their work in this program as an act of leadership.

## **Week 2 – Teen Learning Session 2: Empathy and Positive Interactions**

Teens strengthened the ability to listen and to respond thoughtfully and empathetically. Teens learned about the importance Judaism places on active listening.

Activity: Getting to Know You

During this activity, the goal was for teens and seniors to get to know each other and start to build individual relationships. Each teen planned and created an individualized interview with open-ended questions. During this activity, the teens asked the seniors various interview questions ranging from superficial to more personal. The seniors were encouraged to ask the teens questions as well.

## **Week 3 – Teen Learning Session 3: Jewish Wisdom**

Teens learned about wisdom and explored the Jewish understanding of the relationship between wisdom and old age.

Activity: Let's Play

In this activity, teens were instructed to organize three different virtual games or activities. Then, they were asked to give the seniors the choice on how they would like to spend their time together. They also discussed their favorite pastimes. Some of the activities and games that were played included Chess, Two Truths and a Lie, Trivia and Never Have I Ever.

## **Week 4 – Teen Learning Session 4: Jewish Health and Wellness**

Teens began to define and understand health as including mental and physical well-being. Teens explored the importance Judaism places on physical and mental health. Teens were encouraged to call the seniors to wish them Shabbat Shalom.

Activity: Let's Get Moving

During this activity, the goal was for teens and seniors to deepen their newly formed bonds by doing an activity that is both healthy and silly. Most teens had to go outside of their physical comfort zone. Some examples of shared activities that the teens and seniors shared together included yoga, chair yoga, walking and dancing.

### **Week 5 – Teen Learning Session 5: Jewish Food and Culture**

Teens identified ways that food symbolism appears throughout the Jewish experience. Teens explored the importance Judaism places on food and food rituals.

Activity: Let's Get Cooking

The teens were instructed to collaborate with the seniors in creating some dish or food together using their culinary creativity and skills. This was one of the most enjoyable activities for the teens. Some dishes prepared during this activity include Thai green curry, honey cake (for Rosh Hashanah), chocolate chip cookies and brownies. The teens independently planned this activity.

### **Week 6 – Activity: Staying Safe Together**

The teens were instructed to call the seniors and talk to them about how they were feeling with COVID-19, online schooling and the upcoming election (if they were comfortable), which had put a lot of strain on everyone. Teens and seniors learned from one another's resilience and grit.

### **Week 7 – Activity: Let's Get Creative**

During this activity, the goal was for teens and seniors to simply have a good time while allowing their creative sides to shine through. The teens were given a variety of ideas and asked if they wanted help gathering supplies (and paying for supplies). The teens independently planned this activity. Some examples of shared activities that the teens and seniors enjoyed together included painting with watercolors, playing the guitar and drawing.

### **Week 8 – Plan Your Own Activity**

During this activity, teens were instructed to independently plan an activity with their senior. Some examples of activities that the teens and seniors shared together included cooking, painting, playing chess and discussing current events.

Overall, from the perspective of the students, they really enjoyed their time spent in Better Together. Although given the timeline of participation, there were some challenges related to scheduling around virtual schooling and stress related to the amount of schoolwork. The teens who did participate were interested in continuing the program in the future.

Here is an excerpt of feedback from a senior participant:

*"My experiences with [teen], 13 yrs., have been the highlight of my week! [Teen] is a sweetheart! Absolutely darling! She was a bit shy and nervous at first, but I shared that I was too and that broke the ice right off the bat! And we immediately discovered that we both call our pets fur babies! LOL! This last Zoom was cooking and I knew the plan ahead of time. Previously, [teen] had shared that she has barely had any cooking experience and has not experienced Jewish Cuisine. Although hesitant at first, with encouragement, [teen] was able to step out of her comfort zone and [teen] chose the Potato kugel recipe given several choices. Oh my gosh, once again this young lady rose to the occasion! And of course we confirmed our next Zoom for same day, same time!"*

*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

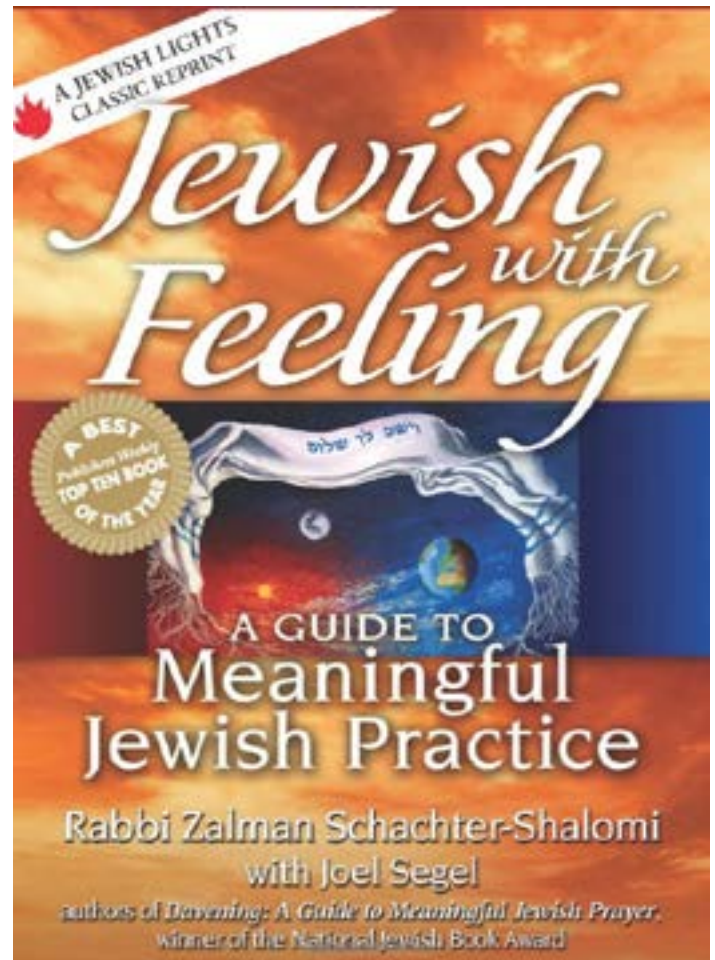
Many of us enjoyed the November discussion based on *The Jew in the Lotus* by Rodger Kamenetz and we have decided to delve further into Kabbalah, Jewish Mysticism, the Jewish Renewal movement and more. Our next book is *Jewish with Feeling* by Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi with Joel Segel.

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.

To register for the book club, please contact Sharon Kaufman at [programdirector@congregationofmoses.org](mailto:programdirector@congregationofmoses.org).



# 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](mailto:jhsimon@charter.net).

## BIRTHDAYS

- 12/1 Lowell Seyburn
- 12/2 Richard Wolf
- 12/2 Moritz Angel
- 12/8 Saraphoena Koffron
- 12/10 Adam Rocklin
- 12/12 Noah Morrison
- 12/13 Ken Eisenberg
- 12/16 Rebecca Strauss
- 12/17 Marian Fisher
- 12/17 Sylvia Blum
- 12/20 Aviva Norman
- 12/21 Susan Levene
- 12/21 Michael Koffron
- 12/21 Lucas Ofstein
- 12/27 Minaleah Koffron
- 12/27 Laurel Ofstein



## ANNIVERSARIES

- 12/21 Naomi & Norman Marshall



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**U**

**S** Contact us for a price quote or sample of our business: [onkelus@gmail.com](mailto:onkelus@gmail.com)

# Yahrzeits

## December 4, 5 (19 Kislev – 25 Kislev)

Jeanette Adelman	Sam Becker*	Carl Brot*
Jeanette Buchman-Harris	Harold Goldsmith*	Raquel Israelson*
Herbert Kaiser*	Irving Lieberman*	Rose Patrick
Herman Pollack*	Joy Rappaport*	Zalmon Roodin*
Jack Rubin	Seth Nelson Schupan*	Joseph Strauss*

## December 11, 12 (26 Kislev – 3 Tevet)

Fred Arkush*	Gertrude Boris*	Zipora Feder
Doris Field*	Edward Finman*	Blanche G. Friedman*
Rose Kleiman*	Helen Levy*	Jackie Strauss
Jean Tregerman	Molly Zimmerman*	Rosalie Zimmerman*

## December 18, 19 (4 Tevet – 10 Tevet)

Reuven Aglanov	Dr. Herbert Barak*	Edward Brody*
Jacob Cohen*	Uzetta Cohen*	Elizabeth Ellison
Max Ernst	Arnold Finn*	Joseph Grekin
Molly King*	Muriel Krefman	Irving Kuklin*
Samuel Rosenbaum*	Louis Schechter	Raleigh Schechter
Sheine Schensul*	Lena Spivak*	Alfred Stenesh
George Tenenbaum		

## December 25, 26 (11 Tevet – 17 Tevet)

Ben Brot*	Bernard Deutsch	Haim Noah Feder
Jacob Gerber*	Samuel Kirsch	Joseph Klingman
Arlene Lando*	Harvey Lipsitt	Nathan Marcus*
Sadye Levy Rubin	Leo Salomon*	Charlette Schupan*
Rebecca Schwartz		

*\*Denotes a memorial plaque in the synagogue*

# Colef Fund Matching Donations

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.

Through December 31, 2020, the Colef Fund will match your donations to the Jewish Federation of Southwest Michigan or a select group of local nonprofits dollar-for-dollar, up to a yearly total of \$250 per family (minimum \$50) to your choice of projects.

[A complete list can be found here](#), as well as information on how to submit your donation receipts. Please contact the Colef Fund with questions by emailing [coleffund@congregationofmoses.org](mailto:coleffund@congregationofmoses.org).



## Fall Colef Fund Grants Announced

Grants to four nonprofit organizations were recently approved by the Colef Tzedakah Committee and the CoM Oversight Board.

The grantees are **Family and Children's Services of Kalamazoo, Community Healing Centers, Meshi Children's Rehabilitation Center and the Alano Club of Kalamazoo**. The grants will support critically important programming needs including treatment for children suffering from abuse and trauma, specialized equipment for severely disabled children in Israel and support for individuals in substance abuse recovery.

Grant applications are accepted by invitation only. If you have suggestions or ideas for worthwhile nonprofit organizations that you would like to see the committee look into for future years, we welcome your thoughts.

Please contact the Colef Fund with questions by emailing [coleffund@congregationofmoses.org](mailto:coleffund@congregationofmoses.org).

# 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



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Director: Larry Beer, Ed.D.

# DIRECT YOUR DOLLARS – WE'RE REALLY CLOSE!

**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.



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## 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!