

CoM newsletter

CONGREGATION OF MOSES • Kalamazoo, Michigan

Volume I4 Issue I January 2021 17 Tevet 578 I



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

While this past year was a mixed bag of highs and lows, I am looking forward to a 2021 with multiple vaccine options that will allow for us to be together in person again. It is lovely seeing everyone's faces on Zoom, but there is something about seeing someone in person, even masked and six feet apart! I hope that you all have been enjoying this holiday season and time with your families.

This past month, I spent a lot of time on Zoom with my family on the East Coast. Outside of our weekly Sunday afternoon chats, we also got together for a few nights of Hanukkah to light candles. Since we were not able to get together for our large family Thanksgiving celebration this year, it was nice to see everyone online to celebrate a holiday that we usually don't spend

together. I also continued my volunteer work with Meals on Wheels, and this past month was especially moving as it was so close to the holidays. In addition to the meals we delivered, we were also able to bring gift boxes of holiday cookies to the people on our route, who were so appreciative and pleased to receive them.

I hope that you all had a good time celebrating Hanukkah this year. When we gathered last year for our Hanukkah party downtown, we had no idea that the following year's celebration would be all virtual, but we still had fun! To get in the Hanukkah mood, we partnered with TBI and the Jewish Federation to distribute Hanukkah gift bags that included candles, a decorative kitchen towel and other Hanukkah goodies. We also encouraged members to bring donations for Loaves and Fishes when they came to pick up their bags; between the two synagogues, we collected 150 pounds of food! At our virtual Hanukkah party, we

were treated to our first ever Menorah pageant, where participants of all ages created their own menorahs out of whatever materials they had at home. We saw drawings, menorahs made from various wood pieces, superheroes and an entirely edible menorah made of sufganiyot! You can see what some of the menorahs looked like later in this issue.

Since we were unable to gather downtown each night in Bronson Park for the annual menorah lighting, we decided to make our own at CoM! Each night we went out to the end of the CoM driveway to light our menorah. On the last night, we moved it closer to the building and had a small gathering with donuts and hot cider. We livestreamed it for those who wanted to stay home, but it was great to see everyone who came out for the lighting in person!

This month, we will be continuing our virtual programming, starting with Rabbi Spivak's Jewish Food for Thought Sessions. Starting on Thursday, January 7th



Our outdoor menorah really lit up the night!

at both 11:00 am and 7:30 pm, you can join Rabbi Spivak on Zoom as we examine a piece of midrash, and discuss that week's Torah portion. See the dates and sign up for Jewish Food for Thought, Second Cup and Shabbat morning services on our website.

THE OVERSIGHT BOARD

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

Oversight Board

Co-Chairs Earl Norman, (269) 501-5582 enorman@congregationofmoses.org Stephen Grode (269) 598-1465 treasurer@congregationofmoses.org **Vice-President Operations** Mike Tenenbaum, (269) 929-8384 tenemike1967@gmail.com **Vice-President Religious Activities** Earl Norman, (269) 501-5582 enorman@congregationofmoses.org **Vice-President Programming** Brad Kennedy, (269) 254-3533 bkennedy@congregationofmoses.org Treasurer Stephen Grode (269) 598-1465 treasurer@congregationofmoses.org **Human Resources Administrator** Maxine Berke, (978) 761-8212 mberke@congregationofmoses.org Member-at-Large Michelle Angel (269) 321-9090, mhangel1961@gmail.com Member-at-Large Charlie Ofstein (269) 330-1866, cofstein@congregationofmoses.org **Trustee Representative**

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Our Tikkun Olam Talk series will continue on Sunday, January 10th at 3:00 pm. This month, the discussion will focus on the history of Black and Jewish relations, specifically during the Civil Rights era, and how we can reach that point of praxis again.

January is also the month where we celebrate Tu B'Shevat, the birthday of the trees. It may be too cold to go outside and plant, but this year we will be celebrating Tu B'Shevat by hosting an online seder. A seder for Tu B'Shevat will often contain a festive meal that includes various fruits symbolizing different parts of the holiday.

We hope that you will join us for our **Tu B'Shevat seder on Thursday, January 28th.** Keep an eye on your email for more details.

I hope that you are all staying safe and healthy through these cold winter months. I am looking forward to seeing you all on Zoom over the next few months until it gets warmer and we can begin to have outdoor events again!

L'Shalom, Sharon Kaufman, Program Director

Volunteer Shout Out

Thank you to everyone who helped make all the Hanukkah events possible:

- The CoM Program Team: Carolyn Kennedy, Michelle Angel, Mike Tenenbaum, Gerry Tregerman, Rabbi Spivak and Allison Weiner
- Nora Chaus
- Brad Kennedy
- Naomi Morse
- Earl Norman
- Jenn Odza
- Rabbi Schicker
- Adam Weiner
- And huge thanks to everyone who participated. You made it worthwhile!



Cool and Crazy Menorahs We Made

e had an amazing time at our first-ever community Menorah Pageant! Our afternoon began with a telling of the story of Hanukkah by Rabbi Spivak, followed by a video of the OKJCS students answering questions about Hanukkah.

Our Menorah pageant was presented in three age categories: ages 6 and under, ages 7-12, and ages 13 and up. We had 18 creatively designed menorahs that both wowed and surprised us, made from all kinds of materials including wood, metal, superhero toys, foil, deer antlers, Pez dispensers and homemade sufganiyot! Menorah pageant winners, chosen by participant vote were: Up to age 6: Magnus Riley and Margot Weiner; age 7-12: Cris Juarez and Lucas Ofstein; 13 and up: Liz Seigel and the Saltzman family; overall favorite menorah: Keith Eiser.

Thank you to everyone who came and participated in the Menorah Pageant, and thanks to everyone who helped in the planning of this fun event! Special thanks to Adam Weiner for an outstanding job as emcee and Naomi Morse for leading the community in some spirited Hanukkah songs.

Check out some of the menorahs below.



Ellie Whitsett made this hand-painted menorah.



Liz Seigel created her menorah from mouthwatering stacks of homemade sufganiyot and chocolate gelt.



Margot Weiner (above) and brother Jonah Weiner (right) display their homemade menorahs, made of clay and Legos.



Earl and Tamara Norman created the Pez menorah, featuring Mickey Mouse in the role of shamash.



Menorah creation by Lucas Ofstein.



Stephen and Beth Grode fashioned their menorah from logs and deer antlers, gathered near their Montana home.



Magnus Riley (and friend) show his menorah made from aluminum foil and popsicle sticks.

More Hanukkah Stories

For the eighth consecutive year, Mel and Ellenbett Kline of Phoenix celebrated the eight days of Hanukkah by lighting the saguaro cactus menorah in front of their home.

The 35-foot saguaro is more than 100 years old and has eight arms.

An average of 35 people attend the lighting each night, according to Mel Kline and last year more than 100 participated on the last night.

"I think this is one of a kind," Kline says. He sees the cactus as a symbol of peace and dubs the "natural living Hanukkah menorah" as "a lasting symbol of freedom in today's world."

Thank you to Mike Tenenbaum for sharing this story.



Pfizer CEO joins Israeli embassy in Hanukkah lighting

Son of Holocaust survivors, Bourla said that Hanukkah is "the story of the impossible becoming possible," and this year proved him right.

What if the modern transposition of Hanukkah's miracle was the development of the vaccine against the coronavirus? Pfizer CEO Albert Bourla agrees with that, saying that Hanukkah is not only "the story of great determination in the face of adversity," but also "the story of the impossible becoming possible."

Bourla was invited to light the 7th night of Hanukkah candles during a virtual ceremony hosted by the Israeli embassy in Washington - only a few days after his company's vaccine received, for the first time ever, the final go-ahead to be distributed across the US.

Just before lighting the candles, he explained that Hanukkah of course reminds us of the Maccabees' story and the miracle of the last tiny cruse of oil that lasted eight days, but that today, we can also testify of the miracle development of the first vaccine against the coronavirus pandemic that ravaged the world for the last year.

Introducing Bourla at the beginning of the virtual ceremony, Israeli Ambassador to the US Ron Dermer pointed out that the business executive is also the son of Holocaust survivors, as his parents were among the few Jews from Thessaloniki, Greece to survive the horrors perpetrated by the Nazis.

"Seventy-five years after the Nazis murdered millions, Dr. Bourla is today leading the race to save millions," Dermer said, lauding Pfizer for being the first corporation to develop a COVID-19 vaccine, which will be distributed to countries around the world, including Israel.

"This Hanukkah, as this extremely difficult year comes to a close and we look to a new beginning, we are celebrating both the incredible human spirit and determination it took to create the COVID-19 vaccine and how these efforts made the impossible, developing a vaccine so quickly, possible," he added.

SOCIAL ACTION

The Social Action Committee hosted its second Tikkun Olam talk in December.

We watched Marisa A. Zapata's TedTalk *So You Think You Understand Homelessness* and viewed a presentation of possible resources in our local community.

If you want to read more about homelessness:

- Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City (2016) by Matthew Desmond
- Give People Money: How a Universal Basic Income Would End Poverty, Revolutionize Work, and Remake the World (2018) by Anne Lowrey
- Tell Them Who I Am: The Lives Of Homeless Women (1993) by Elliot Liebow
- Housing First: Ending Homelessness, Transforming Systems, and Changing Lives (2015) by Deborah Padgett, Benjamin Henwood, and Sam Tsemberis

If you want to donate time/money, these are local organizations working on the problem of homelessness:

- Kalamazoo Gospel Mission
- Ministry with Community
- Open Doors

If you want to listen:

- "Unsheltered" the entire podcast series on NPR
- "Outsiders" on NPR

If you want to act:

- -Talk to family and friends about these issues and what you've learned
- -Create kits of needed goods to go in your car and hand out to people who are experiencing homelessness
- -Write letters or call your legislators about passing more legislation to help homeless communities
- -Donate time to a local shelter

★ Join the Social Action Committee for its next Tikkun Olam talk to discuss the history of Black and Jewish relations on Sunday, January 10th from 3:00 - 4:00 pm.

We will discuss the history of Black and Jewish relations, specifically during the Civil Rights era, and how we can reach that point of praxis again. Topics will include the religious philosophy behind rabbis who participated in marches, why we stopped showing solidarity with black rights groups and how we can become better allies again.

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



Shabbat Services Online

Saturday, January 2 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. online

Torah: Genesis 47:28-49:26 Haftarah: I Kings 2:1-2:12

Saturday, January 9 **9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. online**

Torah: Exodus 1:1-4:17

Haftarah: Isaiah 27:6-28:13; 29: 22-23

Saturday, January 16 **9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. online**

Torah: Exodus 6:2-8:15 Haftarah: Ezekiel 28:25-29:21

Friday, January 22 7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. online

Saturday, January 23 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. online

Torah: Exodus 10:1-12:28 Haftarah: Jeremiah 46:13-46:28

Saturday, January 30 **9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. online**

Torah: Exodus 13:17-16:10 Haftarah: Judges 4:4-5:31



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 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

Shabbat candle lighting times

January 1 5:03 p.m. January 8 5:10 p.m. Janaury 15 5:18 p.m. Janaury 22 5:26 p.m. Janaury 29 5:35 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.



MAZEL TOV TO

Beth and Stephen Grode on the engagement of their son Ari to Lauren Smith Cindy and Larry Beer on the engagement of their daughter Danielle to Dan Cohen

Donations have been made to the following funds.

GENERAL FUND

Mazel Tov to Beth and Stephen Grode on the engagement of their son Ari to Lauren Smith

Tamara & Earl Norman, Diane & Harvey Fogel, Cindy & Larry Beer

Shirley Wise, Men's Club, Wilma Kahn & Phil Horwich,

Emily Freed & Brad Hershbein, Judy Davis & Al Rosenthal

Joanne & Mike Simon, Pnina & Judah Ari-Gur

Mazel Tov to Cindy and Larry Beer on the engagement of their daughter Danielle to Dan Cohen

Shirley Wise, Men's Club, Wilma Kahn & Phil Horwich,

Emily Freed & Brad Hershbein, Judy Davis & Al Rosenthal

Joanne & Mike Simon, Pnina & Judah Ari-Gur

Tamara & Earl Norman, Diane & Harvey Fogel, Beth & Stephen Grode

To Wilma Kahn - thank you for your kindness, creativity and talent

To the Marcus family with deepest sympathy on the death of David Marcus (Shimon David ben Sarah)

Judy Davis & Al Rosenthal

In loving memory of my mother, Zipora Feder and father, Haim Noah Feder

Pnina Ari-Gur

In loving memory of my father, Reuven Aglanov and my sister, Naomi Yehudit

Judah Ari-Gur

BUILDING FUND

Mazel Tov to Beth and Stephen Grode on the engagement of their son Ari to Lauren Smith

Mazel Toy to Cindy and Larry Beer on the engagement of their daughter Danielle to Dan Cohen

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

In loving memory of my mother, Rose Patrick

Bruce Patrick

In loving memory of my father, Fred S. Arkush

Carolyn Kennedy

HERMAN AND ROSE FISHER LIBRARY FUND

Mazel Tov to Beth and Stephen Grode on the engagement of their son Ari to Lauren Smith

Mazel Tov to Cindy and Larry Beer on the engagement of their daughter Danielle to Dan Cohen

Marilyn & Art Feinberg



MARVIN AND ROSALIE OKUN RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

Mazel Tov to Beth and Stephen Grode on the engagement of their son Ari to Lauren Smith Mazel Tov to Cindy and Larry Beer on the engagement of their daughter Danielle to Dan Cohen

The Fischell family, Judy & Lowell Seyburn

To Rosalie Okun in celebration of Hanukkah

Barb Brown & Iane Greischar

In loving memory of my son, Victor Paul Tuchman

Hy Tuchman

JACK LEVENE CANTOR FUND

Mazel Tov to Beth and Stephen Grode on the engagement of their son Ari to Lauren Smith.

Mazel Tov to Cindy and Larry Beer on the engagement of their daughter Danielle to Dan Cohen

Rae Lee Howard

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In loving memory of my uncle, Max Ernst

Marjorie Gaynor

TIKKUN OLAM

Mazel Tov to Beth and Stephen Grode on the engagement of their son Ari to Lauren Smith.

Mazel Tov to Cindy and Larry Beer on the engagement of their daughter Danielle to Dan Cohen

Michelle & Alan Angel

KIKAR FUND

In honor of Oversight Board to thank them for the Hanukkah bag surprise

Joanne & Mike Simon

IOYCE AND MORTON FISHER KITCHEN/ONEG KIDDUSH FUND

In loving memory of Beatrice Rocklin, mother of Sharon Schwartz and Bonnie Striker

Sharon & Paul Schwartz

Jodah Rabah!

I would like to express my sincerest gratitude to those who chose to honor my dear Aunt Bernice. I was overwhelmed with the outpouring of true love and respect.

~ Thank you, Gary Adelman

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 CoM member 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

Please email Nan Goldenthal (engold@charter.net) by Monday, January 4 if you plan to attend.

January 2021

Su M T W Th F Sa

					HAPPY NEWYEAR	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
Religious School Online, 9:30 am Second Cup Study Group Online, 4:30 pm, Tikkun Olam Talk, 3:00 pm	11	OvB Meeting online, 7:00 pm	Religious School Online, 4:30 pm Second Cup Study Group Online, 7:00 pm	14 SLSC Meeting, 6:30 pm CoM/TBI Book Club, 7:00 pm	15	16 Shabbat Services Online, 9:30 am
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	Jewish Food for Thought Online, 11:00 am and 7:30 pm	Shabat Services Online with BH synagogue, 7:30- 8:30 pm	23 Shabbat Services Online, 9:30 am
24 Religious School Online, 9:30 am Second Cup Study Group Online, 4:30 pm	25	26	27 Religious School Online, 4:30 pm	28	29	30 Shabbat Services Online, 9:30 am
31 Religious School Online, 9:30 am Second Cup Study Group Online, 4:30 pm						

February 2021

Su M T W Th F Sa

	1	2	Religious School Online, 4:30 pm	4 Jewish Food for Thought Online, 11:00 am and 7:30 pm	5	6 Shabbat Services Online, 9:30 am
7 Religious School Online, 9:30 am Tikkun Olam Talk, 3:00 pm	8	9 OvB Meeting Online, 7:00 pm	10 Religious School Online, 4:30 pm	11	12	13 Shabbat Services Online, 9:30 am
14 Religious School Online, 9:30 am	15 Hadassah Book Club Online, 7:30 pm	16	17 Religious School Online, 4:30 pm	Jewish Food for Thought Online, 11:00 am and 7:30 pm Bulletin Deadline, 8:00 pm	Shabat Services Online with BH synagogue, 7:30- 8:30 pm	20 Shabbat Services Online, 9:30 am
21 Religious School Online, 9:30 am	22	23	24 Religious School Online, 4:30 pm	25	26	27 Shabbat Services Online, 9:30 am
28 No Religious School						

Annual Campaign Update

The CoM Annual Campaign is still underway and we are very grateful to the many members and friends who have made donations to help support the synagogue's programs and infrastructure improvements. We have raised more than \$20,000 so far, a significant amount toward our goal. **Thank you for your help!**

If you have not been able to contribute to the Annual Campaign, it's not too late. We invite you to either send your contribution to the synagogue office or **donate online at congregationofmoses.org**.

Again, many many thanks to all those who have helped in this undertaking. We truly appreciate you!

Colef Fund Matching Donations

You can still submit receipts for your donations made in 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.



Independence. Dignity. Self-determination.

Please contact the Colef Fund with questions by emailing coleffund@congregationofmoses.org.

A NOTE ABOUT KITCHEN USE

We recently had several items placed at the dishwasher station in the Mitbach. No one knows when they were used, who placed them there, if they were clean or dirty or which side they belonged to. Time was spent to find answers to these questions to no avail.

Please, think of the CoM kitchen as if it were yours. If you use small quantities of dishes, utensils, silverware and the like, in either the Mitbach or Mitbachon, please wash, dry and put them away properly.

Please address any questions to either Gail Brot (gbbr0t@hotmail.com) or Wilma Kahn (wjk1234@gmail.com).

Thank you.





A NEW WAY TO LEARN

Nora Chaus, Director

This time last year, the term "asynchronous learning" was not a part of our vocabulary. Thanks to the changes the pandemic has brought to learning, it is now a term that even our youngest learners are familiar with. Our asynchronous learning is not "homework" or review, it is new material that is not covered in person and is an essential part of our curriculum.

In order to reduce the amount of time our children spent on Zoom, we moved the pieces of our lessons that can be accomplished with individual work to our home learning platform. Most of our asynchronous assignments are analog in order to provide a respite from digital learning.

Every five weeks, our youngest learners receive a bag of supplies that they will use for their asynchronous learning. We thought you might like to see what they've been doing with the contents of those bags during the first two modules of our Judaism curriculum, *To Our Health and Wellness*, a curriculum designed by the Jewish Education Center in Cleveland specifically for this pandemic year.

Sukkat Shalom

Over the course of the first five weeks, learners considered questions of safety, protection and wholeness leading to the development of a creative personal conception of Sukkat Shalom.

Sukkat Shalom Week I: The children decorated a large piece of fabric in the spirit of Sukkat Shalom. Then, throughout the week, they experimented with ways to utilize it as a protective and safe Sukkat Shalom (create a fort, wear as a cape, use as a comfort blanket, etc.).



Sukkat Shalom Week 2: The children considered specific examples of others' personal ideas of Sukkat Shalom — what is safe and protective? They interviewed three familiar people about what Sukkat Shalom means/looks like to them.



Sukkat Shalom Week 3: The children created a collage of what Sukkat Shalom personally means to them.





Sukkat Shalom Week 4: The children created a gift for those whom they interviewed in week 2 to remind their interviewees (and themselves) of the characteristics of Sukkat Shalom.



Learners identified key elements of Sukkat Shalom in their lives, wi



of Sukkat Shalom in their lives, with thought given to the vulnerability of a sukkah and the resilience of those who pay attention to strengthening it. They used dish soap, glycerin, straws and cotton gloves. The task: Mix the ingredients to make bubbles, noting their fragility but also experimenting with ways to increase their strength using the glycerin. Children reflected with an adult on the innate fragility of a bubble and the possibility of strengthening it. They considered how the bubbles are like Sukkat Shalom - by paying attention to ways of attaining safety and protection, we can strengthen it and ourselves.

Ometz Lev

Our PreK-7 students are currently exploring the concept of Ometz Lev and learning about Big Feelings. They are beginning to consider their ability to use Ometz Lev tools to control their behavioral reactions to their Big Feelings. Learners are introduced to a Jack-in-the-Box as an illustration of our reactions to Big Feeling moments – we can

Sukkat Shalom Week 5:

explode outwards, we can choose not to do anything, or we can be intentional and careful about our next steps.

Ometz Lev Week I: The children decorated a paper bag with different Big Feelings on the outside. Throughout the week, they observed and identified Big Feelings to write on pieces of paper and put inside their bag to pull out in different ways whenever it is opened.



Ometz Lev Week 2: Students created a sign decorated with emojis demonstrating Big Feelings. They then identified a time in the past week where they had Big Feelings. and created a short video. At the point in the story when Big Feelings are getting ready to boil over, they froze and held up the sign to illustrate stopping to tap into their Ometz Lev tools and also to consider the Big Feeling that has been engaged.



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Ometz Lev Week 3: Learners created an Ometz Lev tool in the form of an origami fortune teller and used the fortune teller to help pick an Ometz Lev tool for various Big Feelings moments.

Ometz Lev Week 4: Students identified a personal Big Feelings moment and illustrated it comic-book-style, including the moment and the choosing of an Ometz Lev tool.



Ometz Lev Week 5: In the final week of the Ometz Lev module, students will create and decorate an "Ometz Lev Jar" (a.k.a., a glitter jar). They will explore different ways to use the jar throughout the week to help identify Big Feelings moments and then pick appropriate Ometz Lev tools.

Nora

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

Add More 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

Havdalah candles

Plug-in Yahrzeit candles

Decorative Yahrzeit candle- only 1 left

Yahrzeit candles in Glass

Shabbat candles -72 per box

Candle holders (aluminum bobeches)

\$10 each; replacement bulbs, \$2 each

\$ 4.25 each

\$ 4 each

\$ 4 each (pictured in lower right)

\$ 2 each

\$12 each

\$ 4/box



January 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

- 1/2 Steve Koss
- 1/2 Benjamin Barry
- 1/2 Rachel Inselberg
- 1/3 Rod Anderson has a Special Birthday! Mazel Tov!
- 1/4 Gloria Besbris
- 1/5 Madeline Strauss
- 1/6 Emily Hoffman
- 1/7 Sandra (Sandy) Rose
- 1/7 Davi Lando
- 1/8 Leslie Bez
- 1/11 Richard Kirschner
- 1/15 Beth Morrison
- 1/16 Fran Raffel
- 1/19 Gary Adelman
- 1/22 Avery Howard
- 1/22 Nan Goldenthal
- 1/23 Elana Spivak
- 1/24 Danielle Beer has a Special Birthday! Mazel Tov!
- 1/30 RaeLee Howard
- 1/30 Susan Welbourne

ANNIVERSARIES

1/9 Diane & Bruce Minsley Celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary! Mazel Tov!











Yahrzeits

	January 1, 2 (18 Tevet – 24 Tevet)						
Leah Budin*	Barbara Gross Finestone*	Bessie Ellias London*					
Rose Paull*	Vivian Pollack*	Dr. Sam I. Stein*					
Ben Zimmerman*							
January 8, 9 (25 Tevet – 2 Shevat)							
Dr. Morris Berkson	Samuel Colef*	Nesha Gerber*					
Sussman Gerber*	Isadore Halpert*	Chester Holstein					
Joseph Kahn	Ethel Kotzer*	Annelise Loeser*					
Louis Miller*	Bernice Roodin*	Sidney Schwartz*					
Bertha Shinberg*	Dr. Morris Sofen*	Jesse S. Zimmerman*					
January 15, 16 (3 Shevat – 9 Shevat)							
Gordon Bennison*	Barry Berke	Sophie Blasky*					
Esther Buchsbaum	Arvin Davis*	Frances M. Fisher					
Bella Kaiser*	Sydney Konigsberg	David Leder*					
Marcel Munsch	Renee Munsch	Sylvia Nierman*					
Nathan Oshinsky	Zachary Price*	Nathan J. Rosenbaum*					
Julius Schensul*	Marilyn Silverman*	Samuel Slosberg*					
Louis William Wachtel*	Myer Winick*						
January 22, 23 (10 Shevat – 16 Shevat)							
Louis Brown*	Viola Doggett	Rebecca Gubin*					
Evelyn Hyman	Abraham Kaiser*	Johanna Kroon*					
Lambert Kroon*	Arny Lamm	Betty Levene*					
Caryn Levene*	Anna Levinson*	Dorothy Miller					
Martin Morrison*	Sophie Oberstein	Birdie C. Sanders*					
Leo Simon	-						
January 29, 30 (17 Shevat – 23 Shevat)							
Sidney Eisenberg	Eugene Field*	Ann Fine					
Waller J. Finn*	Ralph David Golden*	Minnie Graff*					
Brina Hadesman*	Evelyn Krasnick*	Robert Levy*					
Tito Marzan	Eli Mindel*	Manuel Newlander*					
Susan Samalin	Charlotte Stulberg*	Esther Stulberg*					
Michael Stulberg*	Donna Taylor	Hyman Tregerman					
Mary Zuravel*	·						

^{*}Denotes a memorial plaque in the synagogue

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 Schacter-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 Buddaism, 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 A GUIDE TO
Meaningful
Jewish Practice
Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi
with Joel Segel
sulters of travering A Guide to Meaningful Jewish Prayer.
Winner of the Newtonal Soush Book Award

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.

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@ihsdist.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, rjkirschner 99@gmail.com

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



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Director: Larry Beer, Ed.D.



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