



CoM newsletter

CONGREGATION OF MOSES • Kalamazoo, Michigan

February 2021

Volume 14 Issue 2
19 Shevat - 16 Adar 5781

It's Finally February!

We may only be one month into 2021, but with everything that is happening in the world, it has felt much longer! Despite the craziness at the beginning of the month, things have slowly returned back to normal. I am so thankful that I got to see many of you over Zoom and I cannot wait for the vaccine rollout to ramp up so that we can maybe begin to have programs in person.

This month marked my grandfather's 91st birthday. Last year, my entire family, along with a group of my grandparents' friends, were able to gather together to celebrate his 90th birthday. I am so glad that I decided to travel to New York last year to attend his party; fast-forward to a year later, we celebrated over Zoom from our own homes. I even got to meet some of my mom's cousins for the very first time! We also continued our weekly, Sunday afternoon Zoom meetings as a way to check in with each other every week. Meals on Wheels has quickly become a part of my monthly routine, and each time I deliver meals I am reminded of how privileged I am and how this service is so needed by so many in our community.



I hope that you all enjoyed learning about Tu B'Shevat at our online celebration this year. To celebrate the original Earth Day, we learned about the festival from ancient times to modern times, Israeli technological prowess today and finally, initiatives taken by CoM to make our building green and how we will further that mission in the future. We heard about green initiatives around the Kalamazoo area and voted on actions that we would take over the course of the next year to help make the Kalamazoo community greener. Thank you to everyone who attended, and a special thank you to everyone who volunteered to read during the event!

This month, we will be continuing our virtual programming, starting with Rabbi Spivak's Jewish Food for Thought Sessions. **Jewish Food for Thought** takes place every other Thursday at both 11:00 am and 7:30 pm and will continue through March 18th. Shabbat morning services will also continue every Saturday morning at 9:30 am on Zoom.

Our **Tikkun Olam Talk series will continue on Sunday, February 7th** at 3:00 pm with a discussion about climate change and environmental action. Purim begins on Thursday, February 25th. **We'll be starting our Purim celebrations early on Sunday, February 21st for an online celebration with Temple B'nai Israel.** Join us as we celebrate this silly holiday with a make-your-own-mask competition, costume parade and songs! Make sure you save the date for this fun event and more details about it will follow soon. We will also be **celebrating Purim with a shpiel on Thursday night, February 25th.**

Looking forward towards the spring, we have both new and returning programs and events that we are excited about. We will once again be **holding a Second Night Seder on Zoom to celebrate Passover on Sunday, March 28th.**



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.**

Also returning in the spring will be Rabbi Spivak's online classes, *The Ethical Life: Jewish Values in an Age of Choice*. Dates, times and subject matter will follow soon. This spring will also see the planting of our CoM Rain Garden, which will be located in the front of the building by Stadium Drive. Prior to the planting, there will be an online inservice to learn all about this type of gardening.

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 our Tu B'Shevat event possible:

- The CoM Program Team: Carolyn Kennedy, Michelle Angel, Mike Tenenbaum, Gerry Tregerman, Rabbi Spivak and Allison Weiner
- Neal Berke
- Pat Kirschner
- Tamara Norman
- And huge thanks to everyone who participated. You made it worthwhile!



Shabbat Services Online

Saturday, February 6

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

Torah: Exodus 18:1-20:23

Haftarah: Isaiah 6:1-7:6; 9:5-6

Saturday, February 13

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

Torah: Exodus 21:1-23:19; 30:11-16; Numbers
28:9-15

Haftarah: II Kings 12:1-17

Friday, February 19

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

Saturday, February 20

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

Torah: Exodus 25:1-26:30

Haftarah: Deuteronomy 25:17-19

Saturday, February 27

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

Torah: Exodus 27:20-29:18

Haftarah: Ezekiel 43:10-27



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

February 5 5:44 p.m.

February 12 5:53 p.m.

February 19 6:02 p.m.

February 26 6:11 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.*

Tu B'Shevat - the Original Earth Day

On Sunday, January 24th, we celebrated the original Earth Day with an afternoon dedicated to Tu B'Shevat, the birthday of the trees! Tu B'Shevat, which is celebrated on the 15th of the Hebrew month of Shevat, originated as the date for calculating the beginning of the growing season in biblical times. It became known as Rosh Hashanah La'llanot, literally meaning the New Year of the Trees. Today, the day is celebrated in Israel as an ecological awareness day and trees are planted in celebration

We began the afternoon by exploring the history of the holiday, from biblical times up to the modern day. We blessed and sampled some of the seven fruits and grains found in the Torah that have become associated with Tu B'Shevat: wheat, barley, grapes, figs, pomegranates, olives and dates. We also learned about some of the trees that grow in Israel, and their importance and symbolism in Israel today.

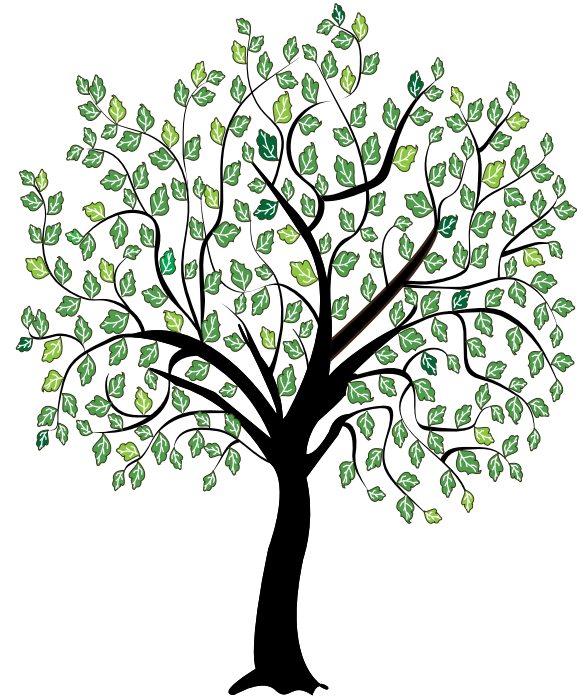
When we arrived at modern day Israel, we explored how Israel's technological innovations in both agriculture and water have improved not only Israel, but the world at large. Further on in this newsletter, you will find links to just a few of the many online videos demonstrating Israeli tech advances in the field of agriculture.

In the last part of the event, we discussed actions already in process or completed at the Congregation of Moses to reduce our environmental footprint, future plans and what is being done in our local community. At CoM, we have made our building more energy efficient by replacing the roof with improved insulation and removing leaky skylights. We will also be planting a rain garden with native Michigan plants in the front of the building along Stadium Drive, to help absorb runoff from our roof and driveway and protect the local watershed. Lastly, a Green Team is in formation at CoM – a group of volunteers who will come together to implement environmental change.

Locally, we heard about existing rain gardens in Kalamazoo protecting the Kalamazoo River; community gardens planted in abandoned or distressed lots around the city, the Imagine Kalamazoo Master Plan with extensive sustainability actions and the Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy's free public areas for enjoyment of nature.

We ended the day by making a commitment to action over the next year in order make our Kalamazoo and CoM communities greener and reduce our carbon footprint. The action items are: **composting food scraps and yard waste, growing some of your own fruits and vegetables, keeping the thermostat set to no less than 76 degrees for cooling and no more than 68 degrees for heating, using reusable shopping bags during shopping trips, helping to create the CoM Green Team, participating in the CoM Rain Garden project, limiting meat consumption, purchasing environmentally friendly soaps and cleaning products, turning off the water when washing dishes, shaving and brushing teeth, replacing burned out light bulbs with LED bulbs at work and home, buying locally sourced fruits, vegetables and meats whenever possible, and attempting to limit driving or at least being more efficient in driving habits.**

Thank you to everyone who joined our Tu B'Shevat celebration and special thanks to everyone who volunteered to read during the event. If you are interested in learning more about the planting of the CoM rain garden, or want to help us start our Green Team, please contact Sharon Kaufman at programdirector@congregationofmoses.org.



Israel's sophisticated agricultural and water recycling technologies

Here are just a few of many YouTube videos demonstrating Israel's technological prowess in helping feed the planet.

7 Israeli Agriculture Technologies

<https://youtu.be/v1DT4yvxpMw>

Water Recycling Technologies in Israel

<https://youtu.be/twtTe6J3IT4>

2,000 Year-Old Seed Brought Back to Life

<https://youtu.be/tKOUmPX2Z1w>



So Many Good Reasons to Plant Trees

In honor of Tu B'Shevat, in memory of a loved one, to celebrate a special occasion or for any other reason, please consider planting a tree. Trees cool the planet and clean the air by helping absorb carbon. Be a tree planter!

Go to: jnf.org/trees to plant a tree in Israel

To plant trees in US forests, go to: nationalforests.org or arborday.org

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.

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



SOCIAL ACTION

This past month, the Social Action Committee hosted its Tikkun Olam Talk about racism in the United States. We reviewed the brief history of Jewish activism and race relations (specifically of white Jews as that is my positionality) and then discussed questions, current events, and personal stories of racism and anti-semitism. I am so appreciative of those who came to the talk as it marks another step in the road of anti-racism. While we went over this concept at our talk, I would like to share the definition again:



“Anti-racism refers to a form of action against racial hatred, bias, systemic racism and the oppression of marginalized groups. Anti-racism is usually structured around conscious efforts and deliberate actions to provide equitable opportunities for all people on an individual and systemic level. As a philosophy, it can be engaged with by acknowledging personal privileges, confronting acts and systems of racial discrimination, and/or working to change personal racial biases.”

As Jews, we are well aware of Hillel’s saying, “If I am not for myself, who will be for me? And being only for myself, what am I? And if not now, when?” Now is the time to stand up for our community members who deal with racism on a daily basis.

As per usual, I have recommended readings, activities and podcasts below. This is by no means an exhaustive list. Please continue to share, discuss and act after participating! In this way, we can participate in praxis and begin to make concrete changes together.

If you want to read more about racism:

- *Between The World And Me* by Ta-Nehisi Coates
- *Hood Feminism* by Mikki Kendall
- *How to Be an Antiracist* by Ibram X. Kendi
- *Me and White Supremacy* by Layla F. Saad
- *They Can’t Kill Us All* by Wesley Lowery
- *Sister Outsider* by Audre Lorde
- *Why I’m No Longer Talking to White People About Race* by Reni Eddo-Lodge
- *White Fragility* by Robin DiAngelo
- *Black Power, Jewish Politics: Reinventing the Alliance in the 1960s* by Marc Dollinger
- *The Next American Revolution: Sustainable Activism for the Twenty-First Century* by Grace Lee Boggs
- *Why Are All The Black Kids Sitting Together In The Cafeteria? And Other Conversations About Race* by Beverly Daniel Tatum
- *A Terrible Thing To Waste: Environmental Racism And Its Assault On The American Mind* by Harriet A. Washington
- *Medical Apartheid* by Harriet A. Washington
- *From the War on Poverty to the War on Crime: The Making of Mass Incarceration in America* by Elizabeth Hinton

If you want to read more about racism:

- *Automating Inequality: How High-Tech Tools Profile, Police and Punish the Poor* by Virginia Eubanks
- *Dog Whistle Politics: How Coded Racial Appeals Have Reinvented Racism and Wrecked the Middle Class* by Ian Haney López

If you want to participate in community events:

- Take the 21-Day Equity Challenge! at changethestory.org/leading-with-equity
- Attend events hosted by ARCUS Center at Kalamazoo College
- Attend ERAC/CE – Eliminating Racism Claiming/Celebrating Equality training
- Volunteer with the YWCA of Kalamazoo

If you want to listen:

- “Floodlines” from The Atlantic
- “1619” from The New York Times
- “Intersectionality Matters!” from The African American Policy Forum
- “Throughline” from NPR

If you want to act:

- Talk to family and friends about these issues and what you’ve learned
- Become an anti-racist and continue working at it every day
- Write letters or call your legislators about passing more legislation to end institutional racism

Join the Social Action Committee for its next Tikkun Olam talk, where we will be inspired by Tu B’Shevat, on February 7th from 3:00 to 4:00 pm!

We will be talking about how Judaism intertwines with environmental justice and how we can work together through the synagogue to enact environmental change!

L’Shalom,

Naomi Verne, SAC Chair

Hadassah Applauds US Commitment To Combating Global Antisemitism

Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, Inc. (HWZOA) National President Rhoda Smolow and CEO/Executive Director Janice Weinman released the following joint statement following the Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism Act being signed into law by President Donald J. Trump.

“Hadassah applauds Members of Congress and President Trump for recognizing the importance of continued American leadership in combating the global rise in antisemitism. In passing the Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism Act, and by signing it into law, the United States has laid a marker in history and sent the unequivocal message that antisemitism will not be tolerated.

“Future ambassadors will surely benefit from today's action, which affords the Office of the Special Envoy the tools, resources and gravitas necessary to apply much needed pressure around the world for foreign governments to address antisemitism as part of their relationships with the United States.

“Hadassah members played an active role in the very creation of the Special Envoy position in 2004 and have consistently advocated for elevating the officeholder's rank to ambassador in the intervening years.

“America's outstanding commitment to combating antisemitism is greatly enhanced today. To witness this legislation reach the President's desk for his signature is a momentous victory, and we look forward to working with both parties to advance policies that make additional progress in the effort to build a safer world.”

Hadassah Statement On Inauguration Day

Hadassah, The Women's Zionist Organization of America, Inc. (HWZOA) National President Rhoda Smolow and CEO/Executive Director Janice Weinman released the following joint statement after the inauguration of Joseph R. Biden, Jr., as President of the United States and Kamala Harris as Vice President of the United States.

“Hadassah congratulates President Biden and Vice President Harris on this historic day. It is with great pride and full hearts that today America has a woman in the White House, serving the American people in the second highest office in the land.

“We look forward to working with the Biden Administration on a wide range of issues of importance to Hadassah's nearly 300,000 members, including enhancing the US-Israel relationship, combating antisemitism at home and abroad, and strengthening women's rights and women's health.

“The President and Vice President have taken office at a time when mounting challenges — and opportunities — face our nation. Moving forward will require civility, cooperation and tolerance. We are eager to partner with the Biden Administration in the coming years to advance policies that speak to our concerns. We wish them wisdom, health and success in guiding the nation.”

Mishpacha

MAZEL TOV TO

Diane and Bruce Minsley on their 50th Wedding Anniversary!

— Donations have been made to the following funds. —

GENERAL FUND

Diane and Bruce Minsley on their 50th Wedding Anniversary

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

In loving memory of my mother, Miriam Epstein Lieberman

Judy Davis Rosenthal

Condolences to Earl Norman and family on the passing of his mother, Ruth Norman

Alan Halpern

BUILDING FUND

Diane and Bruce Minsley on their 50th Wedding Anniversary

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

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

In honor of Rod Anderson's birthday

In honor of Maxine Berke

Carolyn & Brad Kennedy

HERMAN AND ROSE FISHER LIBRARY FUND

Diane and Bruce Minsley on their 50th Wedding Anniversary

Marilyn & Art Feinberg

MARVIN AND ROSALIE OKUN RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

Diane and Bruce Minsley on their 50th Wedding Anniversary

The Fischell Family, Judy & Lowell Seyburn

JACK LEVENE CANTOR FUND

Diane and Bruce Minsley on their 50th Wedding Anniversary

In loving memory of my mother, Betty Levene and sister, Caryn Levene

Rae Lee Howard

In loving memory of my mother, Betty Levene and sister, Caryn Levene

Lori Putman

Mishpacha

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In loving memory of Dr. Morris Berkson

Elinor Star

JOYCE AND MORTON FISHER KITCHEN/ONEG KIDDUSH FUND

In loving memory of my father, Sidney Schwartz

Sharon & Paul Schwartz

Todah Rabah!

Thank you for all the donations in honor of our 50th anniversary. We appreciated your thoughtfulness.

~ Thank you, Diane and Bruce Minsley



Add More Light to the World

The Congregation of Moses stocks candles for Jewish rituals. Please call the office or stop by during morning office hours if you wish to purchase any of the following:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------|
| Havdalah candles | \$ 4.25 each |
| Plug-in Yahrzeit candles | \$ 4 each |
| Yahrzeit candles | \$ 2 each |
| Shabbat candles -72 per box | \$12/box |
| Candle holders (aluminum bobeches) | \$ 4/box |



February 2021

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	1	2	3 Religious School Online, 4:30 pm Second Cup Study Group, 7:00 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 Second Cup Study Group, 4:30 pm	8 SLSC Meeting, 6:30 pm	9 OvB Meeting Online, 7:00 pm 	10 Religious School Online, 4:30 pm Second Cup Study Group, 7:00 pm	11	12	13 Shabbat Services Online, 9:30 am
14 Religious School Online, 9:30 am Second Cup Study Group, 4:30 pm	15 Hadassah Book Club Online, 7:30 pm 	16	17 Religious School Online, 4:30 pm Second Cup Study Group, 7:00 pm	18 Jewish Food for Thought Online, 11:00 am and 7:30 pm Bulletin Deadline, 8:00 pm	19 Shabbat Services Online with BH synagogue, 7:30-8:30 pm	20 Healing and Shabbat Services Online, 9:30 am
21 Religious School Online, 9:30 am Purim Celebration Online, 2:00 pm 	22	23	24 Religious School Online, 4:30 pm Second Cup Study Group, 7:00 pm	25	26 	27 Shabbat Services Online, 9:30 am
28 No Religious School Second Cup Study Group, 4:30 pm						

March 2021

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



Nora Chaus, Director



An Honor and a Privilege

I often say that I feel honored to be your School Director. There are lots of privileges that come with this role—getting to watch our children learn, watching them year after year as they grow and develop, being able to laugh and giggle at silly jokes that only a kid would tell. It's fun and I love it. It is sacred work that I do for fun.

Lately I have felt this honor very deep in my soul as I sit and observe our high school class. This has been a very difficult year for all of us in many different ways. We are all surviving in our own ways and I am able to watch our school community support one another as we navigate these uncertain times.

In her own unique way, our high school teacher Steph Haft has guided her students to think deeply and critically about the current events happening around us as they relate to the Jewish history and Jewish values in our high school curriculum. As our country was trying to make sense of what happened in our capitol on January 6, Steph guided her students through a discussion of Jewish life during the American Civil War. After a summer of civil unrest following the murder of George Floyd, the students had discussions about racial justice and policing in America. In late November, they learned about the factual history of the first Thanksgiving. Steph has skillfully timed her lessons so that they coincide with what our students are experiencing and learning about in their everyday lives. This year they have learned about the intersection of Judaism and the following topics: gender/sex/sexual orientation, body image/beauty, love, sexual assault, leadership, immigration, slavery, indigenous and black history, LGBTQ+ rights among others.

I sat down with the high school students recently to ask them to summarize their thoughts about this learning experience. I asked the students what was the biggest takeaway they had from class and they told me that they have become aware that there are many different opinions that people have about the topics they have studied, and they felt encouraged to develop their own personal opinions. They now see things in a different light or from a different point of view because they have more information. Students found learning about how to have a healthy relationship extremely helpful and were surprised to learn that gun rules vary from state to state. Students felt learning about police brutality is important. A central theme stood out as the students talked about their learning. Over and over in history, Jews were bystanders to horrific events (the Holocaust, slavery, etc.). Bystanders play a pivotal role and can make a big difference in a difficult situation. The students recognize that they are bystanders in many of the difficult events happening around them and how they choose to respond is important. They summarized by saying that keeping peace in a world of hate and violence is an important Jewish value.

When I asked the students what they learned in class that was the opposite of what they had learned previously, the most common answers were that Jews owned slaves during the American Civil War and that the Thanksgiving story popular in our culture is not really what the first Thanksgiving was like. They were surprised to learn that Jewish cultures in Africa and other parts of the world are very different, and they were also surprised to learn about Jewish communities of color. Their knowledge of body and body health/eating, body image and gender identity changed as a result of the class discussions.

When I asked what is something that they learned that is not taught in secular school but they think should be, their resounding answer was that their peers in secular school need to know everything they have learned! When asked to choose the ONE topic they thought was important to be taught in secular school, the students all identified issues that involved mistreatment of individuals considered as "others" (e.g., slavery, LGBTQ+ rights, white privilege and white supremacy). They agreed that these topics should be taught in order to prevent these injustices from being repeated but one student said something that shook me to my core, "I cannot fathom having these discussions in a typical school setting." Students agreed that controversial topics were avoided in their secular schools and another student said, "... (it) would not be easy to focus and learn what we learn in these discussions because I just feel this is a safe space here and at school I feel like it'd be very disrespectful."

As I talked with the students, many of them shared that they felt safe in this class so I asked them what makes this space feel safe? They told me that they felt safe because Jewish values were practiced here. People are kind and listen to others. Steph has set these ground rules in her class and teaches her students how to practice them. It makes the space feel safe. One student summarized by saying, "We have all been ... around one another in this tight religious school community and there's a lot of personal respect between us, and that is the basis for the safe nature of this group. We know we are all doing this together and we know each other."

I was impressed. We have taught them well. Parents and teachers over all of the years have done a good job. These students respect one another. They feel a part of their Jewish community. They are thinking critically and examining what is happening around them and relating it to the history and values of their people. There is hope for our future as these young people grow up and take the lead.

As always, 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

FISHER LIBRARY NEWS

In the world of Jewish books, the award season is upon us. I am proud to say that within our collection, we have many of these titles or will have them in the future. Following is a list of awards, the winners and finalists currently available in the Fisher Library. Check them out on the library page at congregationofmoses.org.

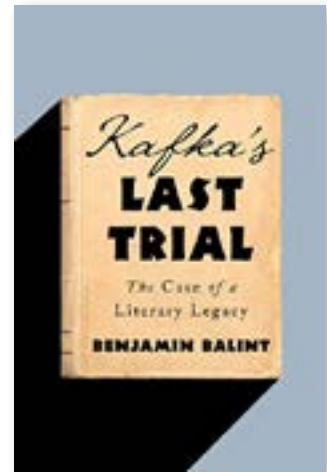
THE SAMI ROHR PRIZE

The annual award recognizes the unique role of contemporary writers in the transmission and examination of the Jewish experience. Each year, the prize of \$100,000 aims to reward an emerging writer whose work has demonstrated a fresh vision and evidence of further growth. For a list of 2020's award winners, see samirohrprize.org

2020 Winner – *Kafka's Last Trial: The Case of a Literary Legacy* by Benjamin Balint

2020 Finalist - *Here All Along: Finding Meaning, Spirituality, and a Deeper Connection to Life--in Judaism (After Finally Choosing to Look There)* by Sara Hurwitz

2020 Finalist - *Shadow Strike: Inside Israel's Secret Mission to Eliminate Syrian Nuclear Power* by Yaakov Katz



THE SYDNEY TAYLOR BOOK AWARD

The Sydney Taylor Book Award honors new books for children and teens that exemplify the highest literary standards while authentically portraying the Jewish experience. For a full list of 2021 awards, please visit [jewishlibraries.org/Sydney Taylor Book Award](http://jewishlibraries.org/Sydney_Taylor_Book_Award)

Gold Medalist - *Welcoming Elijah: a Passover Tale with a Tail* by Lesléa Newman

This warmly illustrated, poetic book parallels the experiences of a young boy at a Passover seder and a small white kitten outdoors. When the boy opens the door to welcome the prophet Elijah, he finds a furry friend instead.

Notable Books – *The Eight Knights of Hanukkah* by Leslie Kimmelman

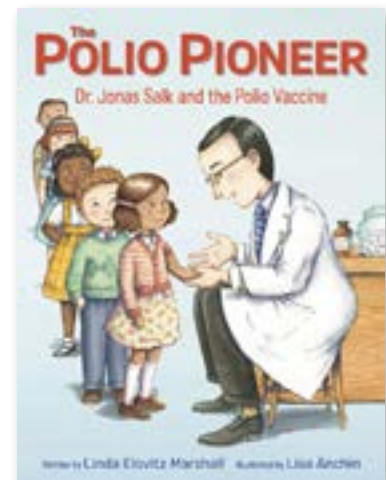
It's the eighth night of Hanukkah in the kingdom and everyone in the village is trying to get ready for the big Hanukkah feast, but a dragon is ruining everything: scorching a poor lad's dreidel, scaring off potato-peelers, baking apples in the orchard and gobbling down jelly donuts from the bakery. Lady Sadie calls upon the "Eight Knights of Hanukkah" to help, which are her eight children (3 girls and 5 boys). But will they be able to save the village from the dragon?

The Polio Pioneer: Dr. Jonas Salk and the Polio Vaccine by Linda Elovitz Marshall

This compelling picture biography sheds light on Dr. Salk's groundbreaking journey and the importance of vaccination.

Beni's War by Tammar Stein

A sequel to *The Six-Day Hero*, this historical novel set during Israel's Yom Kippur War is a coming-of-age story about the importance of love, courage and acceptance.



Toda Raba, *Rachel Haus*, Library Director

February 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

- 2/2 Judy Davis Rosenthal
- 2/2 Steve Camhi
- 2/6 Michelle Zukowski-Serlin
- 2/7 Anne Fischell
- 2/7 Allison Weiner
- 2/11 Brad Kennedy
- 2/13 Jonah Katz
- 2/15 Cathy Cheron
- 2/19 Julia Strauss
- 2/20 Marissa Icabone
- 2/20 Mazal Haus
- 2/20 Gabriel Amy
- 2/24 Gail Brot
- 2/24 Emily Freed
- 2/24 Evan Scheinker
- 2/26 Judah AriGur
- 2/27 Sherran Deems
- 2/29 Cooper Howard



ANNIVERSARIES

There are no anniversaries this month



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Yahrzeits

February 5, 6, (24 Shevat – 30 Shevat)

Elizabeth Cohen	Frieda Friedman*	Max Friedman*
Morris Friedman*	Anna B. Haus	Hyman Kirschner
William Leder*	Miriam Epstein Lieberman*	Wini Meinert
Dorothy Masursky Moyer*	Balfour Peisner*	Lou Sanders*
Rebecca Stulberg*	William Zheutlin*	

February 12, 13, (1 Adar – 7 Adar)

Charles Berman	Adela Blum-Auerbach*	Aaron Columpus*
Sallie L. Cushner*	Anna P. Davidoff*	Jean Rosenblatt Davis
Archie Feinberg	Herman Fisher*	Sarah Forman*
Theodore Forman*	James H. Goldman*	Rachel Goldstein*
William Greiner*	Benjamin Gubin*	Rosalie Halpert*
Marianne Mimi Katz*	Barry W. Kirschner*	Canuto Ruiz
Michele Arkush Schaff*	Isidore Schanwald	Morris Schensul*
Sol W. Schwartz	Harriet Swartz*	Dora Zheutlin

February 19, 20, (8 Adar – 14 Adar)

Helen Rose Aronoff*	Benjamin Bennison*	Nuchim Buchman*
Mary Colef*	Ethel Duchon-Wachtel*	Isaac Escourt*
Gershon (George) Fisher*	Alexander Fried*	Sylvia Taubman Golde
Marion Halpert*	Laura Hoffman	Martin Kalb*
Arthur Katz	Robert Morrison*	Bess L. Peven*
Abraham Schensul*	Mary Schpok*	Minerva Slosberg*
Jack Stein*	George Ulrich	

February 26, 27, (15 Adar – 21 Adar)

Ernest J. Badt*	Ely Behrend*	Edythe E. Berman
Regina Blum	Max Breslow*	Ethel Finn*
Faye Hageman	Rose Harris*	Edythe Palmer Leder*
Selma Price*	Jack Rubel*	Harry Schechter*
Louis Slavin*	Bertram Stein*	Samuel Edgar Stulberg*
Norbet Touitou*	Kate Weisman*	

**Denotes a memorial plaque in the synagogue*

COM/TBI BOOK CLUB

Thursday, April 22nd
7:00 pm on Zoom

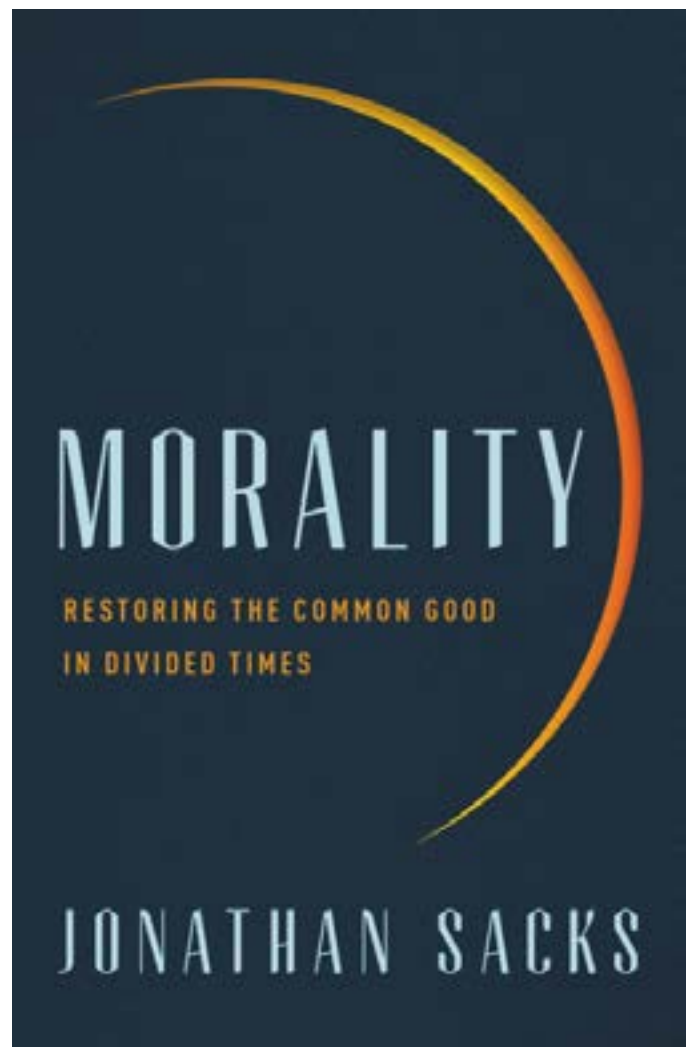
The next selection for the combined TBI and CoM Bookclub will be *Morality: Restoring the Common Good in Divided Times*, by Jonathan Sacks.

The late Rabbi Sacks was the chief Rabbi of Great Britain and also served in the British Parliament for many years. His latest book was written for a general audience and attempts to give the authority of our religious leaders equal standing to our political and business leaders.

The book is available on Amazon as book, e-book and audio book. This is a Bookstore in Oakwood Plaza is ordering ten copies for the book club, and they will be available in early February. With the book club discount (say, "Cary sent me") the cost will be \$25.50 plus tax.

Here is a video recording of the late Rabbi Sacks talking with Abe Socher about his newest book.

We will meet by Zoom on April 22 to discuss this book. To register for the book club, please contact Sharon Kaufman at programdirector@congregationofmoses.org.



Mike Shwartz: Former CoM Member Known as "Cheeseman"

Rabbi Spivak received a link to a news article about the death of Meyer Shwartz, often called Mike, who was a CoM member for several years in the early 1990s before he retired to Israel. Mike was a Holocaust survivor and Israeli citizen who fought in the 1948 war for Israeli independence.

[Read the article from the Mason County Press online here.](#)



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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