



CoM newsletter

CONGREGATION OF MOSES • Kalamazoo, Michigan

Volume 14 Issue 4
April 2021 19 Nissan - 18 Iyar 5781

CONGRATULATIONS ROD!

It will be hard for most of our members to recall a time when Rod Anderson wasn't our Building Manager! But after 45½ years, he is handing over the torch—and his tools—to his friend Rich Wojtas (pictured right). Next month's newsletter will contain more information about Rich, but here's a bit of Rod's story.

Rod was hired by former member Naomi Marshall on the recommendation of his friend Jeff VanLeuwen, who was the Building Manager and a WMU student. He advised Rod, a fellow WMU student, that this job could be performed around his class schedule.

As you can see, he ended up staying a long time—lasting through three secretaries and three rabbis—as it proved to be a good fit for his skills and lifestyle, and the commute couldn't be beat. He liked interacting with all the members, especially working under Steve Koss and Bruce Stein, and working as a team with Shirley Mengel and Rabbi Spivak. Rod comments that he was touched when Rabbi Spivak attended the visitation after his mother passed away. He has enjoyed seeing our children grow up and come back with their own families. In fact, Josh Minsley was born the year Rod joined us! He misses many longtime members who have moved out of the area or passed away.

Rod became an important part of the extended CoM family and developed a thorough knowledge of Jewish holidays and customs. He is an aficionado of Jewish cuisine, being a particular fan of brisket, fondly remembering the community dinners led by Mim Brot where it was often served. Other favorites include hamen-taschen, latkes, and lox and bagels. He was always ready to do a favor or figure out a way to meet a challenge, and kept the facility and grounds in top shape.

Rod was practically destined to work at CoM! He moved to the Winchell neighborhood in 1956 and grew up with the Davidoff and Schupan families as well as the Rabbi's family (who lived on Aberdeen Drive), and across the street from Dean Thommes. He was a student at Winchell Elementary School the first day it opened.

At that time, Broadway Avenue ended at Winchell Avenue. Beyond that, where there is now a "back entrance" to CoM, there was a two-lane tractor path. Rod and his friends



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

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

Synagogue Staff

Rabbi Harvey Spivak

avocet68@aol.com

Program Director Sharon Kaufman

programdirector@congregationofmoses.org

Religious School Director Nora Chaus

comprincipal@congregationofmoses.org

Office Manager Shirley Mengel

comofficemgr@gmail.com

Building Manager Rod Anderson

comblmng@yahoo.com

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 the editor, at

bulletin@congregationofmoses.org.

played in the "jungle," a gully or ditch that ran along Stadium Drive, now in front of CoM. In those days, Stadium Drive was just a two-lane highway with a couple of gas stations and a bar/bowling alley where The Stadium Shoppes strip mall (behind Bigby Coffee) is now located.

Rod recalls his parents telling him that a synagogue was going to be built where the "jungle" was and also that they attended an inaugural dance in the new CoM building, so it must have been open at least to the neighbors.

Originally, CoM was not going to have a Stadium Drive address; the main entrance was intended to be on Broadway. When the city decided not to extend Broadway to Stadium Drive, CoM created a Stadium Drive entrance.

In the mid-1960s, skateboarding was a new craze making its way from California to the east. You could not buy a skateboard in Kalamazoo, so Rod and his friends made their own out of roller skate wheels and wood. He remembers skateboarding with Dean Thommes down the newly paved, extra-smooth road on Broadway from Winchell to the synagogue entrance.

Plans for retirement include more bicycling, especially on the Kal-Haven trail where he has partnered with Al Rosenthal for several trips. He also plans to attend to the landscaping and remodeling of his home. A bucket list item is a trip to the United Kingdom. We are looking forward to getting a postcard soon!

Just before he started his job here in 1975, Rod took a trip sponsored by the WMU history program that included travel to Israel, Egypt, Lebanon, Turkey, Greece, Italy, Switzerland and Germany aboard the Italian cruise ship the Achille Lauro (hijacked by the PLO ten years later). This photo (right) shows Rod riding a camel in Egypt.



We will miss you Rod! Thank you for your devoted service and many kindnesses over the years. You took care of us very well and we appreciate it!

Special note: Please watch for information on a COVID-safe goodbye party for Rod to be held in the coming months.

Shabbat Services Online

Saturday, April 3	9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. online Passover Service
Sunday, April 4	9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. online Passover Service
Friday, April 9	7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. online Joint Service with TBI and TBE
Saturday, April 10	9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. online Torah: Leviticus 9:1-11:32 Haftarah: II Samuel 6:1-7:17
Saturday, April 17	9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. online Torah: Leviticus 12:1-14:32 Haftarah: II Kings 7:3-7:20
Saturday, April 24	9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Elijah Katz Bar Mitzvah Torah: Leviticus 16:1-19:14 Haftarah: Amos 9:7-9:15
Friday, April 30	7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. online
Saturday, May 1	9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. online Torah: Leviticus 21:1-23:22 Haftarah: Ezekiel 44:15-44:31



*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

April 2	7:52 p.m.
April 9	7:59 p.m.
April 16	8:07 p.m.
April 23	8:15 p.m.
April 30	8:23 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.*

SPIRITUAL LEADER SEARCH UPDATE

The Spiritual Leadership Search Committee (SLSC) is pleased to share that we've received three resumes for our interim rabbi position and have interviewed all three individuals. Apparently the prospect of living in Kalamazoo for a year is an attractive one and the candidates have appreciated the extensive background information the SLSC has provided on the many benefits of living here. All the candidates were thoughtful, eloquent and personable, and had many good ideas to facilitate the leadership transition. While coming from different backgrounds, they had good experience in increasing participation in services, expanding the membership base, willingness to lead from where we are, outreach, teaching in congregational schools and leading groups. They responded to questions about successes and failures, creativity vs. tradition in services and how they have met challenges in the past.

We look forward to more interviews in our search to find the very best candidate to serve the Congregation of Moses.

Rain Garden Events

Rain Gardens Protect Groundwater and Feed Pollinators

As part of the CoM Master Plan, we will be planting a rain garden on the Stadium Drive lawn this spring. Join us on **Sunday, April 25 at 2:00 pm** to learn all about the native Michigan plants to be put in our rain garden and how a rain garden benefits the local watershed as well as our property. Then, join us for the planting of the rain garden on **Sunday, May 16 beginning at 9:30 am**. Both of these events will be outdoors. Watch your email for sign up information, coming soon.

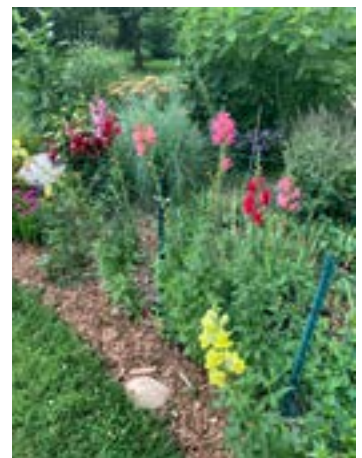


Daisy Dollars Are Back

Daisy Dollars for Schuring's Retail Greenhouse are available in \$10 and \$20 denominations from now until April 20. The Congregation of Moses will get a percentage of your purchase of Daisy Dollars.

Please buy them at the CoM office, Monday through Thursday from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm and on Fridays from 9:00 am to 2:30 pm.

Schuring's is located at 610 Schuring Road in Portage. They will be open from April 26th through June 19.



Joint Shabbat Service

with

Congregation of Moses

Temple B'nai Israel

Temple Beth El

FRIDAY, APRIL 9TH

7:30 PM ON ZOOM

[HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/J/84506836317](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84506836317)

MEETING ID: 845 0683 6317

PASSCODE: ONEG18

+1 312 626 6799 US

MEETING ID: 845 0683 6317

PASSCODE: 422662

Join us on Friday, April 9th at 7:30 pm as we celebrate Shabbat virtually with our friends at Temple B'nai Israel and Temple Beth El in Battle Creek.

To join the service on April 9th, click on the link in the weekly email or open Zoom and enter **845 0683 6317** into the box for the meeting ID. You will then be prompted to enter the **passcode, which is ONEG18**.

We can't wait to celebrate Shabbat with the wider West Michigan Jewish community!



Recently, claims have been made that Israel is withholding COVID-19 vaccines from Palestinians.

I wanted to provide you with an update of the situation as well as talking points for those who may question you about this issue.

The Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations (COP) has released a public statement that says, “Despite the Palestinian Authority, not Israel, being responsible for the healthcare of Palestinians under the terms of the 1993 Oslo Accords, and the fact that the Palestinian Authority has insisted that it would independently source its vaccine supply from Russia and the World Health Organization, the Israeli government has taken numerous steps to improve the health and wellbeing of Palestinians during the pandemic.” In February, the COP reported that “in addition to consistently providing and facilitating the delivery of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) throughout the pandemic, Israel already transferred 2,000 doses to the Palestinian Authority out of 5,000 expected to be sent in the coming days, and 20,000 in the ensuing weeks.”

Recently, we asked the Hadassah Medical Organization (HMO) to provide us with an update of the situation and received this report from Prof. Yoram Weiss and Barbara Sofer:

- All citizens of Israel, Jewish and Arab, are entitled to receive coronavirus vaccines. This includes residents of Jerusalem as well as medics who work in the six Palestinian hospitals from the West Bank and Gaza. All Palestinian employees and contractors at Hadassah’s two hospitals were vaccinated together with all other personnel.
- The 130,000 Palestinians who work in Israel are also eligible to get the vaccines.
- According to the Oslo Accords of 1993 and 1995, the Palestinian Authority (PA) has autonomy over its own health care. The PA did not want to take part in Israel’s vaccination program.
- The Palestinian Authority has announced that it has its own contracts for vaccines from four different companies. However, the PA has had trouble getting these vaccines. Israel has offered logistics help for the vaccines that require deep freezing. The PA is also supposed to get vaccines under the World Health Organization COVAX program for weak nations, and was expecting to receive millions of doses of the Russian Sputnik V vaccine.
- As the situation stands, the PA has not managed to get adequate doses of the vaccines, so they have criticized Israel for not supplying them.
- Until this time, both the Palestinian Authority and Hamas have managed to control morbidity in the pandemic with levels parallel to the level of morbidity in Israel. The allegations vis-à-vis the vaccines are directed mainly externally, as part of the greater conflict.
- With the help of the international community and full cooperation from Israel, medical institutions in Gaza improved their resources and acquired new respirators, oxygen production stations, intensive care units and testing laboratories during the pandemic.
- Palestinian leaders are facing criticism for siphoning off vaccines already delivered to the West Bank to VIPs and to other countries.

I hope that this provides you with the background and facts needed to explain the situation as it exists in Israel to those who might falsely accuse Israel of withholding the vaccine. We pray that the Palestinian people and the world are appropriately treated against COVID-19, so that we can again renew our normal lives as all people free from the pandemic.

**With Pride, Passion and Purpose,
Rhoda Smolow, Hadassah National President**

Mishpacha

MAZEL TOV TO

Joshua Ellison and Christy Howard on their “special birthdays”

Donations have been made to the following funds.

GENERAL FUND

Joshua Ellison and Christy Howard on their “special birthdays”

*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, Diane & Bruce Minsley
Joanne & Mike Simon, Pnina & Judah Ari-Gur, Beth & Stephen Grode*

In loving memory of my sister, Roberta Stein

In loving memory of my brother, Bertram Stein

Bruce Stein

In loving memory of my mother, Pauline Rosenthal

Al Rosenthal

BUILDING FUND

Mazel Tov to Joshua Ellison and Christy Howard on their “special birthdays”

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

In loving memory of my husband, Larry Rose

Sandy Rose & Family

In loving memory of my father, Daniel Rosenberg

Ronald Rosenberg

HERMAN AND ROSE FISHER LIBRARY FUND

Mazel Tov to Joshua Ellison and Christy Howard on their “special birthdays”

Marilyn & Art Feinberg

MARVIN AND ROSALIE OKUN RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

Mazel Tov to Joshua Ellison and Christy Howard on their “special birthdays”

The Fischell Family, Judy & Lowell Seyburn

In loving memory of my mother, Eva Tuchman

Hy Tuchman

JACK LEVENE CANTOR FUND

Mazel Tov to Joshua Ellison and Christy Howard on their “special birthdays”

Rae Lee Howard

KIKAR FUND

In loving memory of my mother, Rose Schanwald

Tamara Norman

Mishpacha

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In loving memory of my aunt, Regina Blum

Alfred Blum

In loving memory of my aunt, Ernastine Ernst

Marjorie Gaynor

In loving memory of my father, Abe Rocklin

Sharon Schwartz

Spring is Officially Here!

At last, the days are getting longer, the weather is getting warmer and April showers will soon bring May flowers! As more and more of you continue to get vaccinated against Covid, I am looking forward to being able to see many of you in person again. I am not-so-patiently waiting for the state to open up vaccinations to my age group so that I too can be vaccinated!

This past month was very busy with preparing for Passover. As the weather has gotten warmer, I have enjoyed being able to get outside and walk again. Last month, I finally gave in and ordered a Peloton bike for myself. I have really been enjoying the rides that I have taken so far, and have become that person who constantly talks about how much she loves and simultaneously hates the bike. We also marked our second Covid Passover celebration and my family once again gathered through our computer screens for our seder. Hopefully next year we will actually be able to gather in person.



Due to the increasing number of people who have been vaccinated, we started our Passover celebrations early, outdoors and in person! On Sunday, March 21st, we enjoyed Exodus, our pre-Passover celebration with Temple B'nai Israel. We sang some Passover songs, burned chametz in a bonfire and made delicious s'mores! The main event of the day was our Afikomen in the Wild hunt, where four teams followed paths through the woods to find their piece of the pegboard Afikomen. Thank you to all the volunteers from both CoM and TBI who helped to plan and set up this event, and a huge thank you to Brad and Carolyn Kennedy for allowing us to use their property to host the event!

Now that April is here, we will kick off the spring season with the **CoM Rain Garden**, which will be planted in front of the building near Stadium Drive. Before planting, you can learn all about what a rain garden is and what it does at an **information session on Sunday, April 25th at 2:00 pm**. We will then **plant the garden on Sunday, May 16th at 9:30 am**. Both of these events will be outdoors. Many hands will make for light work, so please come out for awhile.

Beginning in May, the **Ethical Life Series with Rabbi Spivak** will return. The dates for the next two classes are Thursday, May 6th and Thursday, June 10th. Both classes will be held at 7:00 pm over Zoom. Topics and registration information are now online at congregationofmoses.org.

I hope that you have all been enjoying the warmer weather and have been able to enjoy some time outdoors. It was great seeing so many of you in person at the bonfire and more of you on my computer screen during the Second Night Seder. I'm looking forward to being able to have more events in person outdoors during these warmer months.

*L'Shalom,
Sharon Kaufman, Program Director*

April 2021

Su

M

T

W

Th

F

Sa

				1	2	3 Passover Services Online, 9:30 am
4 Passover Services Online, 9:30 am No Religious School	5 SLSC Meeting, 6:30 pm	6	7 Religious School Online, 4:30 pm; Yom Hashoah Begins	8	9 Joint Shabbat Services Online with TBI and TBE, 7:30-8:30 pm	10 Shabbat Services Online, 9:30 am
11 Religious School Online, 9:30 am Second Cup Study Group, 4:30 pm	12	13 OvB Meeting Online, 7:00 pm; Yom Hazikaron Begins 	14 Religious School Online, 4:30 pm; JRR All- Star Yom Ha'atzmaut Celebration, 7:30 pm	15	16	17 Shabbat Services Online, 9:30 am
18 Religious School Online, 9:30 am; Second Cup Study Group, 4:30 pm Bulletin Deadline, 8:00 pm; JRR All-Star Yom Ha'atzmaut Celebration, 4:00 pm	19 Hadassah Book Club Online, 7:30 pm  Lost Voices Concert, 8:30 pm	20	21 Religious School Online, 4:30 pm Second Cup Study Group, 7:00 pm	22 CoM/TBI Book Club Online, 7:30 pm 	23 Elijah Katz Bar Mitzvah	24 Elijah Katz Bar Mitzvah, 9:30 am
25 Religious School Online, 9:30 am; Rain Garden Info Session Outdoors, 2:00 pm Second Cup Study Group, 4:30 pm	26	27	28 Religious School Online, 4:30 pm Second Cup Study Group, 7:00 pm	29 Lag B'Omer Begins	30 Shabbat Services Online with BH synagogue, 7:30- 8:30 pm	

May 2021

Su

M



T

W

Th

F

Sa

						1 Shabbat Services Online, 9:30 am
2 Religious School Online, 9:30 am	3	4	5 Religious School Online, 4:30 pm	6 Ethical Life Series Online, 7:00 pm	7	8 Shabbat Services Online, 9:30 am
9 Religious School Online, 9:30 am	10	11 OvB Meeting Online, 7:00 pm 	12 Religious School Online, 4:30 pm	13	14 Student-led Shabbat Service on Zoom, 7:00 pm	15 Shabbat Services Online, 9:30 am
16 Religious School Online, 9:30 am; Rain Garden Planting, 9:30 am; Shavuot Begins	17 Shavuot; Hadassah Book Club Online, 7:30 pm 	18 Bulletin Deadline, 8:00 pm	19 Religious School Online, 4:30 pm	20	21 Mazal Haus Bat Mitzvah, 7:30 pm	22 Mazal Haus Bat Mitzvah, 9:30 am
23 Last Day of Religious School Online, 9:30 am	24	25	26	27	28 Shabbat Services Online with BH synagogue, 7:30- 8:30 pm	29 Shabbat Services Online, 9:30 am
30	31					



Nora Chaus, Director



New Student Open House

New students and returning students who did not join us for this year of virtual school are welcome to join us for a Zoom open house in May. Please contact Nora Chaus, **director@okcjs.net** to sign up.

Student-led service on Zoom

May 14 at 7:00 pm. Come join us as our students lead us in song and prayer and we honor last year's Shana Winter Award winner, Abby Strongin. A Zoom link will be sent out via school and congregational emails closer to the date.

Last Day of School Celebration

May 23 at 11:00 am on Zoom. A link will be sent out via school email. If you are not an OKCJS family or teacher but would like to attend, contact Nora Chaus **director@okcjs.net** for the link.

Hebrew Through Movement is Fun!

I started learning Hebrew late in life—a few years after AARP put me on their mailing list. Thanks to Rabbi Spivak and study partner Jon Reck, I learned my aleph-bet and enough grammar and vocabulary to let me experience what I call “goosebump moments” during a prayer service. My ability to understand the overarching meaning of our prayers and to be able to understand the Hebrew terms that fellow Jews drop into English conversations enhances my Jewish life. I want all of our children to achieve at LEAST this basic level of Hebrew literacy that I have achieved and I hope they will surpass my learning long before AARP finds their parents' mailbox!

A few years ago, when we began to think about ways to increase our students' Hebrew vocabularies, we were in good company. Most congregational schools like ours have taught Hebrew the same way for years. Students begin by learning the names, shapes and sounds of the Hebrew letters at about age four. They make the letters with Play-Doh, blocks, coins, Cheerios, dried fruit, candy, etc. They sing songs and learn yoga poses that shape their bodies to look like letters. Lessons generally include one letter a week and a few words that begin with that letter. They learn to write the letters. This goes on for several years and hopefully culminates in the ability to sound out printed Hebrew words and phrases by the end of third grade, after which they begin learning to read prayers.

By their B'nai Mitzvah, most students are proficient reading from the prayer book and many can also chant Torah and/or Haftarah. They make us proud when they are on the Bima, but I don't think they understand Hebrew words well enough to experience those “goosebump moments” that I find so meaningful.

The rabbis and I found this troubling and we set about finding a solution. Every educator I talked to who used Hebrew Through Movement (HTM), a novel program developed by the Jewish Education Center in Cleveland (JECC), told me that their students understood simple grammar and vocabulary. The more I learned about HTM, the more impressed I became.

We implemented Hebrew Through Movement this year. Four of our teachers (Nava Haus, Sam Arnold, Naomi Verne and Cary Mannaberg) and I are in the process of completing a 10-hour online training provided by the JECC. The JECC recommends that we don't introduce new words until two-thirds of our students demonstrate understanding. By the end of the first semester (14 weeks) 75% of our PreK-5 HTM students understood between 30-40 Hebrew words. Wow! We have never had this kind of success. As of last week, we have taught 70 words.

Hebrew through Movement is a language acquisition strategy in which students learn Hebrew by hearing and responding to Hebrew commands. HTM does not teach communicative Hebrew, but students can easily move on to other Hebrew forms later. And HTM is just a lot of fun for students and teachers.

Hebrew Through Movement is based on ways that children learn naturally:

- They learn by moving about and doing.
- They learn in an environment of positive emotional support.
- They learn when they feel safe from the embarrassment of not knowing.
- They learn when they can move forward at their own pace.
- They learn best when learning is joyful and playful.

The best part about HTM is that our children LOVE it! For them it is a game. During break and weekday drop-ins we also play with it. A typical command might be "jump to the door" or "put the challah on your head." Students respond to commands in order to get turns at a Tic Tac Toe game played on a Zoom whiteboard. Some of our more tech-talented students are teaching us how to make characters and objects we draw on the whiteboard move appropriately in response to HTM commands. One student is developing a Minecraft world in which the characters can respond to HTM commands. And everyone loves to play Shimon Omer, a take on HTM-based Simon Says.

In February, the students learned the Hebrew word for ear: Ozen/Oznayiem (ear/ears). On Purim they were astonished to learn that the Hebrew name for Hamantaschen literally means Haman's Ears! Some of the students said, "Ew, I don't want to eat ears." But they all changed their minds when the HTM command was: L'akhol Oz'nay-Haman: Eat Hamantaschen.



As always, thanks for the honor of teaching our wonderful children. L'dor v'dor:

Nora

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

Freedom is Comprised of Both Inward and Outward Aspects

by Alfred Blum

Last week we celebrated the exodus of our ancestors from slavery in Egypt while mourning that slavery is still a way of life in some parts of the world. Since ancient times, the basic humanity of poor individuals was denied and eradicated by the upper classes of power-hungry rulers and landowners. It was not until the French Revolution that some restrictions were lifted pursuant to the slogan “Liberté, Egalité, Fraternité.”

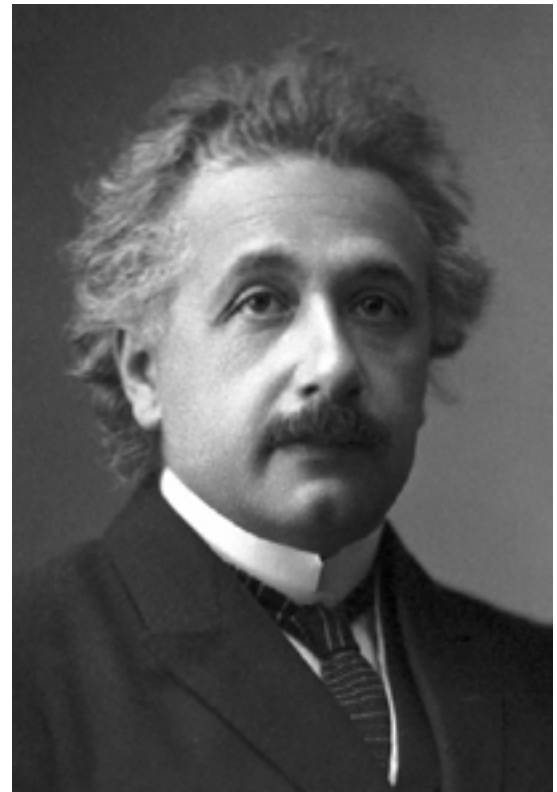
Napoleon Bonaparte was not just a successful military leader, for he also implemented far-reaching democratic principles not to be ignored by his defeated European rulers. By lifting the ghetto barriers, he eliminated the most oppressive isolation of their Jewish inhabitants which led to a positive effect on continental culture and industrialization.

On his way out of Nazi Germany, Albert Einstein gave several speeches at academic institutions. In one of them, he postulated that opposite to outward freedom, there is also a personal inward freedom. He wrote: “The development of science and of the creative activities of the spirit in general requires still another kind of freedom, which may be characterized as inward freedom. It is this freedom of spirit which consists of the independence of thought from the restrictions of authoritarian and social prejudices as well as from unphilosophical routinizing and habit in general. This inward freedom is an infrequent gift of nature and a worthy objective for the individual. ... Only if outward and inner freedom are constantly and consciously pursued is there a possibility of spiritual development and perfection and thus of improving man’s outward and inner life.” (*Albert Einstein, 1940*)

Is there any way that anyone could explain this higher level of inward freedom? Not really. However, under some circumstances, there could be a possibility of achieving a certain level of inward freedom.

Here are some of Einstein’s prerequisites for inward freedom:

- Unrestricted communication of scientific results and judgment;
- Freedom of expression and instruction in all areas of intellectual endeavors;
- Outward freedom secured and guaranteed by law to ensure absence of racial persecution and facilitate spiritual development;
- Reduction in the number of hours spent working to secure daily necessities;
- Higher levels of education.



Some of Einstein's critics claimed that all these conditions are limited and not universal. Others may feel that these concepts from the twentieth century seem outdated in our digital age and current environmental conditions such as disease, isolation, climate disasters, etc.

Today, it is believed that for individuals in tragic circumstances with the mental resilience to survive, prayer definitely provides the means to achieve a certain level of inward freedom.

To summarize, inward freedom cannot be ignored as a potential tool for self-improvement and a more balanced life. I hope that this review of ideas will energize our community in a spiritually uplifting way!

“ . . . prayer definitely provides the means to achieve a certain level of inward freedom.”

LOST VOICES

**Featuring Chamber Music on the Fox Chamber Players
Monday, April 19th, 8:30 pm
Online/Congregation Kneseth Israel**

Even in history's darkest hours, art and beauty have prospered. Featuring works of Erwin Schulhoff, Gideon Klein and André Previn, this program is dedicated to the music and memory of artists who perished in the Terezin Concentration Camp during World War Two. Learn their stories, witness their music and come together to remember these lost — but not forgotten — voices.

Register to Watch this Concert Online

This season, we are providing our concerts without charge, but we urge you to donate generously as you have in the past to keep the music playing! Under “Concert Donation Amount,” enter the amount you would like to donate for this performance.

For tickets: www.chambermusiconthefox.org/upcoming-concerts



Can You Help A Local Jewish Child?

Seeking a person or group of persons (taking turns) willing to donate 20-40 minutes of their time once or twice per month to mentor a very bright and curious young child with “less typical needs” in both Hebrew and Judaism.

This would include writing in Hebrew, Hebrew vocabulary, possibly conversational Hebrew, and basic prayers on top of learning about Jewish principles, holidays, cadence, etc. A little yiddish from time to time would be fun!

I expect that mentoring would be by video chat/meeting, one on one. This is for a local child who has been unable to access locally available formal religious education.

Please contact 269-303-3099.

Do you know of any small pods (no more than 10 kids) during which students can work on school work and enjoy peer interaction? A day camp environment is also appropriate.

Please contact me at 269-303-3099.

Thank you.

Candles Available at CoM

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



Mazal Haus Bat Mitzvah

Mazal Vered Haus will lead services as a Bat Mitzvah on Friday, May 21 and Saturday, May 22.

Services and festivities will be held outdoors under open tents, with livestreaming available through the CoM website. Special COVID precautions will be taken with seating, food, masks, sanitation and use of restrooms in the building.

Mazal is currently an eighth-grader at Hillside Middle School and will be entering ninth grade at Kalamazoo Central in the fall. She is an English student in ATYP (Academically Talented Youth Program), a member of National Junior Honor Society and plays trumpet in the band. She loves reading, writing fiction, Jewish summer camp, hanging out with friends and she cares deeply about endangered species.



We are looking forward to celebrating this wonderful simcha with the entire CoM community! Mazal will receive her tallit promptly at 9:30 am when Saturday morning services begin.

COM/TBI BOOK CLUB

Thursday, April 22nd
7:00 pm on Zoom

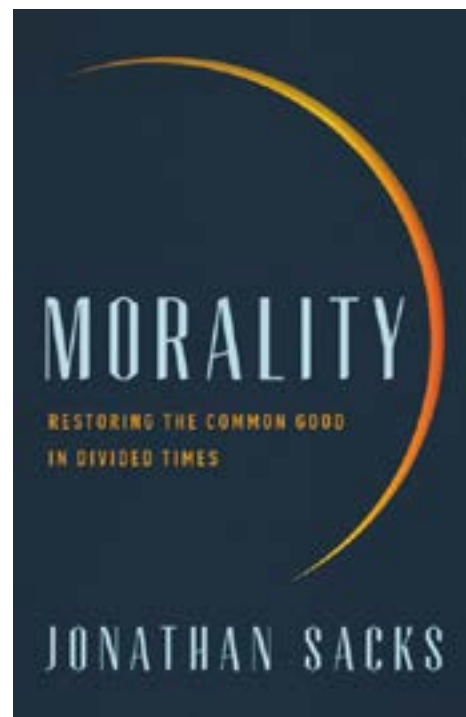
The next selection for the combined TBI and CoM Bookclub will be *Morality: Restoring the Common Good in Divided Times* by Jonathan Sacks.

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. With the book club discount (say, "Cary sent me") the cost will be \$25.50 plus tax.

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.



Exodus

An Outdoor Pre-Passover Community Celebration
March 21, 2021



Burning the chametz



Chametz

Exodus was held on 30 acres of private property just west of Kalamazoo and included members of the whole Jewish community. The event featured singing, a bonfire, a community Chametz burning, a food donation drive and "Afikomen in the Wild."



Earl leads us in song.



"Afikomen In the Wild" awards presentation



Four teams competed to find Afikomen hidden somewhere in the back 30.

Each 1/4 mile trail was laid out with different colored flags. The first team to find their Afikomen was the winner. All flags had to be collected and returned as proof that the team had followed the course without taking any shortcuts.



Confirming the Afikomen flag count.

Exodus Volunteers Paul “One-Call-Does-It-All” Nimz • Cary
 “Matzo Man” Mannaberg • Lee Tregerman • Gerry Tregerman • Bruce
 Patrick • Michelle Angel • Brad Kennedy • Phil Horwich • Ed
 Mullins • Saraphoena Koffron • Lev Koffron • Minna Koffron •
 Earl Norman • Carolyn Kennedy • Patty Conlon • Al Rosenthal



About 50 well-behaved people and one well-behaved dog attended.

“The creative and interactive nature of this event was the perfect reintroduction to the in-person community after such a long time of remote interactions.”

- a comment from the Exodus post-event survey

April 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

4/2 Braydon Snyder
 4/3 Joshua Ellison has a Special Birthday!
 4/4 Sara Amy
 4/8 Melissa Camhi
 4/9 Paul Nimz
 4/13 Christy Howard has a Special Birthday!
 4/13 Raffi Lando
 4/15 Leonard Poger
 4/16 Genia Angel
 4/18 Gary Kushner
 4/20 Susan Katz Scheinker
 4/22 Rachel Haus
 4/23 Mike Tenenbaum has a special birthday!
 4/25 Lucy Langerveld
 4/26 Al Rosenthal
 4/27 Hy Tuchman
 4/30 Talya Spivak



ANNIVERSARIES

4/1 Wendy & Mel Hyman
 4/2 Renay & Marvin Berkowitz
 4/4 Judith & Leonard Poger
 4/18 Sandra and Brett Snyder
 4/28 Alice & Steve Koss



N Onkelus Translations
 We bring your document to life!

K English->Hebrew and Hebrew->English
 High quality, professional translations & editing
 Able to meet tight deadlines
 Proficient in technical jargon in several industries
 Discounts for repeat business/large jobs

L Our service is used by both business and personal users who need quality, fast-turnaround translations but don't want to pay high premiums and can't risk inaccurate computer translations.

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

Yahrzeits

April 2-3 (21 Nissan – 27 Nissan)

Dr. Bert Bez	Nathan Boris*	Bella Camhi
Alan Cohen	Harrison Goldstein*	Sidney Gubin*
Alfred Hadesman*	Sam Halpert*	Hannah C. Hoffman*
Doris Ofsa Kohn	Jack Kushner*	Nathalie Morrison*
Pauline Rosenthal*	Margot Salomon*	Esther Slavin*

April 9-10 (28 Nissan – 4 Iyar)

Ann Boudrie Baslie	Ann Block	Celia Davidoff*
Abraham Epstein*	Martin Fisher	Rose G. Fisher*
Trina Reingold*	Joseph Schensul*	Jacob Seeder*
Kate Stein*	Dana Wardlaw	

April 16-17 (5 Iyar - 11 Iyar)

Samuel Boris*	Robert Cheron	Harriet Edwards
Barbara Stein Fisher*	Morton Fisher*	Guttie Gerber
Daniel Goodman	Ethel Haffenberg*	Rose Holstein
William Kaplan*	Rebecca Krefman	David Lando*
Max LaVene*	Jack Perse	Grant Schwartz
Dorothy Serlin Gerber	Ruth Spivak	

April 23-24 (12 Iyar – 18 Iyar)

Stanley Besbris*	Bessie Boris*	Jeanette Brown*
Marian Fischell	Hyman Gottlieb*	George Hyman*
Allen Katz*	Doris S. Kirschner*	Samuel Lando*
Werner Liepman*	Ceil Rabinovitz	Benjamin Rose*
Fannie Rose*	Ramon Ruiz	Bella Schensul*
Ida Zimmerman*		

April 30 – May 1 (19 Iyar – 25 Iyar)

Norman Besbris*	Robert Forman*	Peggy Friedman Frank*
Jean Grossman*	Sol Heytow	Carrie Kanofsky*
Dorothea Knapp*	Samuel Konigsberg*	Dora Leiberman*
Dorothy Pollens	Irving Rappaport*	Rosalia Ruiz
Ronn Sofen*	Julius Stulberg*	

**Denotes a memorial plaque in the synagogue*

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@ihdsdist.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



PAUL F. DAVIDOFF

ATTORNEY AT LAW

PAUL F. DAVIDOFF, P.C.

The Cornerstone Building

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

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

cfps Child & Family Psychological Services

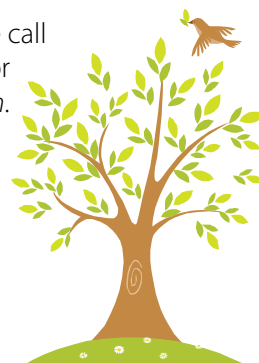
We offer professional counseling services for adults, teens, children, couples and families in a caring, comfortable setting.

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

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



Director: Larry Beer, Ed.D.



JEWISH ROCK RADIO PRESENTS

ALL-STAR **YOM** **HA'ATZMAUT** **CELEBRATION!**



NEFESH MOUNTAIN

RABBI LISA SILVERSTEIN

RICK RECHT

CHAVA MIREL

DAVID BROZA

SHIMON SMITH

RABBI JOSH WARSHAWSKY

LAURIE AKERS

JOSH NELSON

Jewish Federation of Kalamazoo and SW Michigan is excited to invite you to our ZOOM presentation of JRR All-Star Yom Ha'atzmaut Celebration!

Wednesday, April 14 at 7:30 pm or Sunday, April 18 at 4:00 pm.

The concert will feature Jewish music superstars David Broza, Josh Nelson, Chava Mirel, Rick Recht, Rabbi Lisa Silverstein, Laurie Akers, Nefesh Mountain, Rabbi Josh Warshawsky, Hevruta Gap Year Students in Israel and VERY special guest speakers.

Watch for registration information soon!



The Jewish Federation®
OF KALAMAZOO AND SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN

DIRECT YOUR DOLLARS –GETTING CLOSE!

Great news! We are very close to our goal of \$150,000 in receipts collected. 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.

