



# CoM newsletter

CONGREGATION OF MOSES • Kalamazoo, Michigan

Volume 14 Issue 5  
May 2021 19 Iyar - 20 Sivan 5781

## Welcome Rich!

Our new Building Manager, Rich Wojtas (pronounced WOY-tas), brings a varied background to this new position. As a longtime friend of Rod Anderson, he is familiar with CoM's operations, having helped with rummage sales and the repair of the faucets at our cemetery. When he learned Rod was retiring, he expressed interest in the position because it combined his talents in mechanical operations and technical aptitude. He is becoming familiar with Jewish holidays and Yiddish expressions.

He was born in Deckerville, MI, on the Canadian border, on a small family farm which produced wheat, soybeans, corn, navy beans, cows and beef cattle. Actually, he was born in Sarnia, Ontario, because that town had better medical facilities than the hospital near the farm. Rich and his father were the sole farm workers, as his three sisters were exempted from those duties. As a teenager, the family transitioned from farm life and his father pursued a bachelor's in Agricultural Science that led to the family moving to Marshall after his father accepted a position with the Department of Agriculture.

Rich attended Ferris State and Western Michigan, studying printing technology. While at WMU, he competed in windsurfing for ten years in B Fleet in Michigan and won first place in a state championship, joining a college friend in the sport. Maybe he'll help us develop a CoM windsurfing team if there is interest!

A part-time job in printing while in high school led to this career path, as he always had an affinity for electronics and, as printing became more digital and computerized, it was a natural fit. He worked for EPI Printers in Battle Creek for 36 years until Covid-19 layoffs last year ended his career there.

Rich has always had ties to the CoM community, traveling in the same circles as Gillian Thommes



*Top left: Rich Wojtas Bottom right: Rod Anderson. Photo courtesy of Rod Anderson.*

**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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**Office Manager** Shirley Mengel  
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**Building Manager** Rod Anderson  
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where he developed friendships through activities such as attending the Wheatland Music Festival in Remus, MI. He met Rod Anderson that way and they shared additional interests such as bike riding.

Along the way, he met Sarah Kirsch and became friendly with her father, Morris, meeting often (Tuesdays with Morris?) to chat about life, play dominoes and go to local restaurants such as Martini's.

The owner of Martini's thought Rich was hanging out with his grandfather and was very distressed when he found out that Morris had passed away!

Rich actually attended services at CoM for several years with Morris and facilitated a Buddhist meditation group at WMU for 12 years. Through Morris, he also got to know Ken and Marian Fisher, Candy Levene, Joe and Betty Hershfield, Shannon and Jim Dion, and Betty and Milt Ruden.

Rich is very proud of his son Ethan, 14, a deeply contemplative soul who is a good student, loves swimming at Sutton's Bay and is particularly interested in the sciences.

He enjoys following folk musicians in Kalamazoo and attending their performances, so much so that he created a local venue for music in the woods adjacent to his house last year and welcomes different local musicians to play each week. With the help of a temporary tenant, he cleared the area, and built a stage and a fire pit.

**Welcome Rich! We are happy you're an official member of the CoM community!**

Please introduce yourself the next time you see Rich.

*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.**

# APRIL SHOWERS BRING MAY FLOWERS!



**A**s we turn the calendar from April to May, what once was barren has begun to turn green and bloom again! Spring is now in full swing, and we have so much to look forward to as the weather gets warmer and we can begin to gather outdoors for in-person events.

This past month was very exciting for me. After waiting for what felt like forever, I was able to get both vaccine shots and am now fully protected! It was truly a Shehecheyanu moment when getting my shots, even though I felt terrible the next day after both of them. I cannot wait to be able to do things in person again and to be able to see people without a computer screen. The computer screen does come in handy when Zooming with my family residing in the New York area. We have continued our weekly family Zooms, and despite the distance, I have felt closer to them this past year through our increased communication.

Also this past month, we commemorated the darkest part of our shared Jewish history and also celebrated one of the most joyous ones. On Wednesday, April 7th, we commemorated Yom HaShoah with a moving service that was led by Rabbi Spivak. After the ma'ariv service, CoM members read passages about the Holocaust and then lit candles to commemorate the six million Jews that were killed. Thank you to everyone who volunteered to read or light candles and to everyone who attended this service. One week later, we celebrated the founding of the State of Israel with Jewish music superstars Rick Recht, Nefesh Mountain, David Broza and many others in a concert put on by Jewish Rock Radio. Thank you so much to the Jewish Federation of Kalamazoo and Southwest Michigan for bringing this concert to our community!

Looking ahead, this month we will begin our Rain Garden project on the Stadium Drive lawn. Find more information on this project on page 6.

May will also see the return of our Adult Education series, *The Ethical Life: Jewish Values in an Age of Choice*. On Thursday, May 6th and Thursday, June 10th at 7:00 pm, join Rabbi Spivak as we discuss the complex issues of modern society that, at their core, are issues of ethical and moral concern. In May, the topic of discussion will be **"The Ethics of Torture and Just War."** In June, we will discuss **"Disabilities and the Ethics of Inclusion."** You can sign up for both classes on our website.

As the weather turns warmer, we will have more opportunities to gather together in person for events. We are planning on partnering with TBI for a garden tour in June; more information will follow soon.

We have also added outdoor Friday night Shabbat services, and Saturday evening Havdalas to the calendar over the course of the summer. An outdoor celebration for Rabbi Spivak, Rod Anderson and Shirley Mengel, who are all retiring this year, will take place in July. More planning help is needed! If you'd like to help plan this special celebration, please let me know at [programdirector@congregationofmoses.org](mailto:programdirector@congregationofmoses.org).

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone again in person over the next few months. I hope that you have all been able to stay healthy and happy. L'Shalom!

*Sharon Kaufman*, Program Director



Thank you to everyone who volunteered to read and light candles during Yom HaShoah:

Rachel Haus  
Pat Kirschner  
Patty Conlon  
Neal Berke  
Gail Brot  
Michelle Angel

Micah Ofstein  
The Poger Family  
Gary Adelman  
Al Rosenthal  
Judy Davis-Rosenthal  
Shirley Wise

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# Colef Fund News



The Colef Fund is pleased and proud to award grants for the Spring 2021 cycle to the following local and international organizations. We encourage you to explore the websites of these organizations to understand the excellent and important work that they are doing in their respective communities. Congratulations to all!

Yad Lakashish/Lifeline for the Old, Israel - [www.lifeline.org.il](http://www.lifeline.org.il)

Trauma Recovery Associates, Kalamazoo - [www.traumarecoveryassociates.com](http://www.traumarecoveryassociates.com)

Tzevet Mikey, Israel - [tzevetmikey.com](http://tzevetmikey.com)

Portage Community Center, Portage - [www.portagecommunitycenter.org](http://www.portagecommunitycenter.org)

JDC's Humanitarian Assistance for Elderly in Former Soviet Union Countries - [www.jdc.org](http://www.jdc.org)

St. Luke's Diaper Bank, Kalamazoo - [www.stlukesdiaperbank.org](http://www.stlukesdiaperbank.org)

Veteran's Memorial Ramp Project, Kalamazoo - [www.kalamazooveterans.org](http://www.kalamazooveterans.org)

SW Michigan Miracle League, Schoolcraft - [www.swmimiracle.org](http://www.swmimiracle.org)

The Colef Tzedakah Committee was established in the spring of 2017 to determine goals, processes, and procedures for disbursing income from the Etz Chaim bequest of Eugene Colef. The Colef Trust, established by Gene and his uncle Irving Schensul in 1997, specified that the income was to be used to benefit needy people. Monies are available to be distributed only to 501(c)3 nonprofit organizations.

The committee seeks to achieve objectives consistent with Jewish values of Tzedakah, works to meet the Congregation of Moses' goals, and is inclusive of Congregation of Moses' member input and feedback.

We invite you to **contact the Colef Tzedakah Committee** ([coleffund@congregationofmoses.org](mailto:coleffund@congregationofmoses.org)) at any time with comments, questions or feedback. Thank you!



# Shabbat Services Online

Saturday, May 1	<b>9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. online</b> Torah: Leviticus 21:1-23:22 Haftarah: Ezekiel 44:15-44:31
Saturday, May 8	<b>9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. online</b> Torah: Leviticus 25:39-26:46 Haftarah: Jeremiah 16:19-17:14
Friday, May 14	<b>7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. online</b> Student Led Shabbat Service with MROKCJS
Saturday, May 15	<b>9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. online</b> Torah: Numbers 2:1-3:13 Haftarah: Hosea 2:1-22
Saturday, May 22	<b>9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Mazal Haus Bat Mitzvah</b> Torah: Numbers 5:11-6:27 Haftarah: Judges 13:2-25
Friday, May 28	<b>7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. online</b> Shabbat Service with Benton Harbor
Saturday, May 29	<b>9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. online</b> Torah: Numbers 9:15-10:34 Haftarah: Zechariah 2:14-4:7



*Shabbat services signup can be found on our website, [congregationofmoses.org](http://congregationofmoses.org).  
When you sign up to attend, you will receive the Zoom link and passcode in your confirmation.*

## Second Cup Study Group

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

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

**Sign up to attend and see the full list of dates at [congregationofmoses.org](http://congregationofmoses.org)**

## Shabbat candle lighting times

May 7	8:31 p.m.
May 14	8:38 p.m.
May 21	8:45 p.m.
May 28	8:51 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.*

# ETHICAL LIFE CLASSES RESUME

From political and financial scandals to rapid progress in biomedical science and technology, the complex issues of modern society are, at their core, issues of ethical and moral concern.

Now more than ever, we require a solid understanding of how Jewish ethics can inform our discussions and decisions about the critical questions of the day. Judaism has a long history of wrestling with moral questions, responding to them in a way that considers all sides of an issue.

*The Ethical Life: Jewish Values in an Age of Choice* from the Jewish Theological Seminary will be presented by Rabbi Spivak online, returning again on **May 6 and June 10 at 7:00 pm** with new topics including "The Ethics of Torture and Just War" and "Disabilities and the Ethics of Inclusion."

To sign up for the sessions, go to [congregationofmoses.org/ethical-life](https://congregationofmoses.org/ethical-life)

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## RAIN GARDEN EVENTS

### Rain Gardens Protect Groundwater and Feed Pollinators

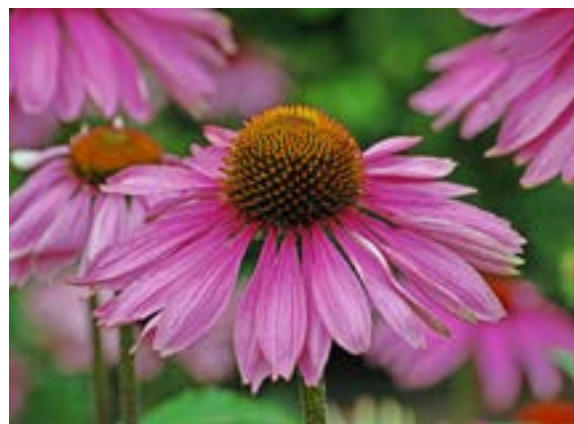
This spring, CoM will be planting the first of several rain gardens, designed to protect the local watershed and improve the environment for pollinators.

Rain gardens are a simple but effective means of absorbing and filtering the toxins from roofs, driveways and roads that pollute local bodies of water. Planting native Michigan shrubs and perennials in the garden will help feed birds, bees and butterflies yet require minimal care. The garden will also reduce the amount of lawn to be maintained, an important step in reducing our carbon footprint.

Come join a brief information session on **Wednesday, May 5 at 7:00 pm on Zoom** where you will learn about how rain gardens are protecting the environment in Kalamazoo and around the country. You'll get familiar with the native Michigan perennials to be planted in our rain garden and why using native Michigan plants is so important in protecting the ecosystem. Cheryl Vosburg from the Kalamazoo River Watershed Council will join us.

Then on **Sunday, May 16**, we'll put the plants in the garden! There will be tasks both large and small, so come on out with the family even for a short while. Help make something beautiful and useful!

You can sign up for both sessions at [congregationofmoses.org/raingarden](https://congregationofmoses.org/raingarden)



# 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.



## 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



# Mishpacha

## MAZEL TOV TO

Mike Tenenbaum and Carrie Richman on their “special birthdays”  
Elijah Katz on his Bar Mitzvah

## CONDOLENCES TO

Judy Davis-Rosenthal on the passing of her cousin Ruth Marcus  
Ken Goodman on the passing of his cousin William Miller  
Louise Jesse and her family on the passing of her mother, Rachel Inselberg

— Donations have been made to the following funds. —

## GENERAL FUND

Mazel Tov to Mike Tenenbaum and Carrie Richman on their “special birthdays”

Mazel Tov to Elijah Katz on his Bar Mitzvah

Condolences to Ken Goodman on the passing of his cousin William Miller

Condolences to Louise Jesse and her family on the passing of her mother, Rachel Inselberg

*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*

Condolences to Judy-Davis Rosenthal on the passing of her cousin Ruth Marcus

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

In memory of our parents Celia and Norman Besbris and our uncle Stanley Besbris

*Randie Levin, Teny Paule, David Besbris, Debra Strichartz and their families*

In loving memory of my mother, Marian Fischell

*Tim Fischell*

## BUILDING FUND

Mazel Tov to Mike Tenenbaum and Carrie Richman on their “special birthdays”

Mazel Tov to Elijah Katz on his Bar Mitzvah

Condolences to Judy-Davis Rosenthal on the passing of her cousin Ruth Marcus

Condolences to Louise Jesse and her family on the passing of her mother, Rachel Inselberg

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

Condolences to Ken Goodman on the passing of his cousin William Miller

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



# Mishpacha

## HERMAN AND ROSE FISHER LIBRARY FUND

Mazel Tov to Mike Tenenbaum and Carrie Richman on their “special birthdays”

Mazel Tov to Elijah Katz on his Bar Mitzvah

Condolences to Judy-Davis Rosenthal on the passing of her cousin Ruth Marcus

Condolences to Ken Goodman on the passing of his cousin William Miller

Condolences to Louise Jesse and her family on the passing of her mother, Rachel Inselberg

*Marilyn & Art Feinberg*

## MARVIN AND ROSALIE OKUN RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

Mazel Tov to Mike Tenenbaum and Carrie Richman on their “special birthdays”

Mazel Tov to Elijah Katz on his Bar Mitzvah

Condolences to Judy-Davis Rosenthal on the passing of her cousin Ruth Marcus

Condolences to Ken Goodman on the passing of his cousin William Miller

Condolences to Louise Jesse and her family on the passing of her mother, Rachel Inselberg

*The Fischell Family, Judy & Lowell Seyburn*

## JACK LEVENE CANTOR FUND

Mazel Tov to Mike Tenenbaum and Carrie Richman on their “special birthdays”

Mazel Tov to Elijah Katz on his Bar Mitzvah

Condolences to Judy-Davis Rosenthal on the passing of her cousin Ruth Marcus

Condolences to Ken Goodman on the passing of his cousin William Miller

Condolences to Louise Jesse and her family on the passing of her mother, Rachel Inselberg

*Rae Lee Howard*

## RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In loving memory of Jean Grossman

*Leonard Leibowitz*

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# Calling all High School Juniors!

Heads up High School Juniors! If your parents are members of the Congregation of Moses, we invite you to apply for the **Andrew Levene Scholarship**.

If you would like an application, please call the synagogue office at 342-5463. Applications must be turned into the synagogue office by July 15, 2021.



# Spiritual Leader Search Update

**The SLSC hopes that you were able to meet Rabbi Hannah Estrin, interim rabbi candidate, during her virtual visit to CoM.**

In the past week, Rabbi Estrin taught in the Sunday School, met with the Oversight Board, conducted an adult education session, and answered questions in an open meeting. As she is in Israel at the present time, it wasn't realistic to schedule a live service due to the time difference, but a recorded one was made available.

Thank you to everyone who participated in these sessions - your opinion is very important to our committee and we will soon be sending out a feedback form to collect your comments about the event(s) that you attended.

Some have asked, why are we hiring an interim rabbi? After more than 30 years with the same rabbi, it's safe to say that we may be set in our ways! We look at this next year as a time of transition and self-discovery. The SLSC will be working to conduct several focus groups with congregants to follow up on topics covered in the survey that you completed earlier this year. We will use that information, along with the guidance of the interim rabbi, to help us determine what characteristics will be most important for our long-term rabbi.



*Rabbi Hannah Estrin*

We appreciate your patience and input as we work very hard to find the individual who is the best fit for the Congregation of Moses.

Please email Laurel Ofstein, Chair of the SLSC with questions at: [rabbisearchteam@congregationofmoses.org](mailto:rabbisearchteam@congregationofmoses.org)

# May 2021

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						1 Shabbat Services Online, 9:30 am
2 Religious School Online, 9:30 am Second Cup Study Group, 4:30 pm	3	4	5 Religious School Online, 4:30 pm Rain Garden Info Session, 7:00 pm	6 Ethical Life Series Online, 7:00 pm	7	8 Shabbat Services Online, 9:30 am
9 Religious School Online, 9:30 am Second Cup Study Group, 4:30 pm	10 SLSC Meeting, 6:30 pm	11 OvB Meeting Online, 7:00 pm 	12 Religious School Online, 4:30 pm Second Cup Study Group, 7:00 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 This Evening	17 Shavuot and Yizkor Service, 9:30 am; Hadassah Book Club Online, 7:30 pm	18 Bulletin Deadline, 8:00 pm	19 Religious School Online, 4:30 pm Second Cup Study Group, 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 Second Cup Study Group, 4:30 pm	24	25	26 Second Cup Study Group, 4:30 pm	27	28 Shabbat Services Online with BH synagogue, 7:30- 8:30 pm	29 Shabbat Services Online, 9:30 am
30	31					

# June 2021

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		1	2	3	4	5 Shabbat Services Online, 9:30 am
6	7	8 OvB Meeting Online, 7:00 pm 	9	10 Ethical Life Series Online, 7:00 pm	11	12 Shabbat Services Online, 9:30 am
13	14	15	16	17	18 Asher Saltzman Bar Mitzvah @ TBI	19 Asher Saltzman Bar Mitzvah @ TBI Shabbat Services Online, 9:30 am
20	21 Hadassah Book Club Online, 7:30 pm 	22	23	24	25 Elijah Thompson Bar Mitzvah @ TBI Shabbat Services Online with BH synagogue, 7:30-8:30 pm	26 Elijah Thompson Bar Mitzvah @ TBI
27	28	29	30			





*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\*\*](mailto: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\*\*](mailto:director@okcjs.net) for the link.

## **A Measure of Progress and a Lot of Hesed**

All of us need a lot of Hesed (lovingkindness) right now. Luckily our PreK-7 students are ending the year with a five-week module on Hesed. Perhaps you heard Rabbi Spivak talk about it in his sermon at our joint Shabbat service?

This has been a difficult year for all of us and some parents chose to limit their child's participation in school as a way to lessen their family's stress. Others chose to focus their child in other activities that the child needed this year. Some students dove into their religious school studies as a way to deal with the boredom of being home all day every day. We have all had to focus on self-care and none of us, parents included, should feel guilty about the choices we made. We all did the best we could.

Some children thrived with online learning, while others not so much. Every single child in our school grew in amazing ways and the teachers and I are proud of all of them. We are also proud of our parents for making the difficult decisions about what was best for their children when the world around them became full of danger and risk for their family. We are impressed by all that they did to help their children succeed this year as everything changed about the way we did school.

## **Measuring What Our Students Learn**

We've been working hard to develop better ways to measure, report and analyze our students' progress. When I began my tenure as director three years ago, we had very little data about what our students strengths and weaknesses were or how they were performing. Coming from a lifelong career in healthcare with much of it involving performance improvement, I set about gathering data. We now collect data in three areas of Hebrew learning:

1. Reading Skills
2. Prayer Skills
3. Vocabulary

**Reading Skills.** Three years ago we began measuring Hebrew Reading Skills. We identified a benchmark (ability to recognize and sound out Hebrew consonants, vowels and words) and tested our students using a standardised test. Using the data from the test, we developed a plan to bring all of our students up to our benchmark in one year. We have been able to maintain that level of performance ever since.

**Prayer Skills.** For the last two years we have been working on a method to measure student's prayer skills. We again identified our benchmarks (students can read the text, recite from memory, sing their congregation's melody, understand the overarching meaning of the prayer and understand key vocabulary words from the prayer). We documented our students' progress on the prayers they learned during the fall semester and have a plan to complete the documentation for each prayer the student has studied. We expect to be able to provide this information to our parents at the end of the school year. Next year we will develop a plan to ensure that every student meets our benchmark for each prayer in our curriculum.

**Vocabulary.** This year as a part of our Hebrew Through Movement curriculum, we began measuring our students' understanding of Hebrew vocabulary. Once again we identified a benchmark (students demonstrate an understanding of 75% of the vocabulary words taught) and documented our students' progress.

We are proud of the objective data we have been able to collect. Each year we set targets to improve our data collection and our students' performance. Each year we improve in both the way we measure and how our students perform. If we did not have benchmarks or if we did not measure, we would not know how this pandemic year affected our students' learning. Because of the data collection process we have been developing, we know our students reached the targets we set for them. I have the data to back up what I said earlier in this article, "every single child in our school grew in amazing ways."

As always, thank you for sharing your wonderful children with us. It is a special honor to teach them and watch them learn and grow. L'dor v'dor.

*Nora*

Nora Chaus, Director  
Marvin and Rosalie Okun Kalamazoo Community Jewish School  
**[okcjs.net](http://okcjs.net), [director@okcjs.net](mailto:director@okcjs.net)**

**YOU ARE INVITED**  
to the  
**OKCJS**  
**STUDENT LED SERVICE**

**Friday – May 14**  
**7:00 PM**

**Live on Zoom**



Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89982683773>



Meeting ID: 899 8268 3773  
Passcode: OKCJS18

# We'll Miss You, Rod!

Thank you to everyone who came out to wish Rod Anderson well on his last day as the Congregation of Moses' Building Manager! About 30-35 people dropped by to wish Rod a happy retirement.

Plans are in the works for a joint celebration for Rod, Rabbi Spivak and Shirley Mengel who will also be retiring in July. Keep an eye on this space and your email as more information becomes available.





# MAY CELEBRATIONS



The Congregation of Moses wishes **mazel tov and yom huledet sameach** to our members who are celebrating anniversaries and birthdays this month. If you would like to be included in our monthly recognition of birthdays and anniversaries, please contact Joanne Simon at 324-6054 or [jhsimon@charter.net](mailto:jhsimon@charter.net).

## BIRTHDAYS

- 5/1 P'nina AriGur
- 5/2 Carrie Richman has a special birthday!
- 5/3 Andrea Katz
- 5/5 Steve Richman
- 5/6 Alan Cohen
- 5/8 Adam Strauss
- 5/9 Michael Simon
- 5/9 Bruce Minsley
- 5/9 Emma Fischell
- 5/10 Jeffrey Scheinker
- 5/14 Blake Bernard
- 5/23 Isaac Green
- 5/24 Stella Amy
- 5/25 Rich Wojtas
- 5/29 Tamara Norman
- 5/30 Earl Norman



## ANNIVERSARIES

- 5/5 Michelle & Alan Angel
- 5/8 Sylvia & Alfred Blum
- 5/26 Rebecca & Adam Strauss have a special anniversary!



THE GRETA BERMAN ARBITTER  
**KAZOO SCHOOL**  
Nurturing curiosity,  
creativity &  
confidence.  
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# Yahrzeits

## 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*	

## May 7-8 (26 Iyar – 3 Sivan)

Samuel Berman*	Morris Cohen	Morris Louis Friedman*
Michael Goldberg*	Bryna Graff*	Samuel Graff*
Edgar Inselberg	Ida Levene*	Lisa Resnick
Nathan Silverman*	Celia Slosberg*	Morris Spivak*
Irvin Wise*		

## May 14-15 (4 Sivan – 10 Sivan)

Joyce Fisher*	Goldie Fogel	Myron Freed
Jean H. Morrison*	Sara Oshinsky	Mitchell Peven*
Sol Raffel	David Rose*	Aaron Rosenberg*
Avraham Rosenberg*	Dov Bernard Rosenberg*	Hannah Rachel Marmel Rosenberg*
Janet Rosenberg*	Shalom Friedman Roseberg*	Yitzhok Rosenberg*
Zipporah Seeder*	Mina Blum Seidler*	

## May 21-22 (11 Sivan – 17 Sivan)

David Berkowitz	Ida Kazanovitz	Rose Lando King*
Dora Kirschner*	Irving Lando*	Jack Levene*
Harry Okun*	Gerald Pryweller*	Meyer Turndorf
Diana Zheutlin*	Aron Ziv*	

## May 28-29 (18 Sivan – 24 Sivan)

Ida Becker*	Norman D. Bowman*	Sylvia Goldman*
Moses J. Graff*	Murray S. Gubin*	Zelda Handelsman*
David Hyman*	Norman Kirschner	Hilde M. Nadelman*
Samuel Schensul*	Morris Stulberg	Marilyn Zheutlin

*\*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@ihdist.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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Director: Larry Beer, Ed.D.

A stylized illustration of a tree with a brown trunk and green leaves. A small bird is perched on one of the upper branches. The tree is set on a small patch of green grass.

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