Endings and New Beginnings

How did it happen that it’s January 1st? We have already passed the shortest day of the year and here at CoM we are talking about Tu B’Shvat, Purim and believe it or not, Pesach. AND we are talking about our Israel trip! Rosh Hashanah may be the beginning of the Jewish Year but we think January is also good for beginnings.

We talk a lot about the number seven in Judaism and its significance of completion. Seven days of creation, seven days of the year, seven years in the agricultural cycle. But there is another number, eight, which takes us to an even higher realm. It is on the eighth day, in the eighth month, the eighth year, that we both finish something and begin again in a higher place.

Think of the musical scale: do, re, mi, fa, so, la, ti. Seven notes, a complete scale. But I suspect you may have sung it to yourself and noticed there is an additional note after ti – do. "And that brings us back to do-do-do-do." The same note, yet it is an octave higher - we completed and we began all at the same time.

Perhaps the most famous "8" in Judaism is the day of circumcision. At this point, the newborn boy has completed his first week and with the circumcision enters the second more connected to God. Aaron prepared for the priesthood for seven days and on the eighth was called forth to serve. And on the eighth day, after seven days of Sukkot, we celebrate Shemini Atzeret when according to the rabbis the judgment of the High Holidays ends and "a new beginning is made." (Zohar, Tzav 31b)

Sampson Raphael Hirsch suggests that eight is a number indicating that "the condition of the previous period is entirely closed, and with the eighth, a new beginning is made."

So, as we close out the secular year of 2021, let this be a time of closure and a time of new beginnings. Let us continue to keep our homes and hearts warm while we open our doors to all who would come in.

Happy New Year
I’Shalom,
Rabbi Estrin
(she/her)
**Unlimited Cards for All Occasions**

With just one yearly donation to CoM, your congratulations, well wishes or condolences can be sent to our congregants for every occasion. Congregation of Moses relies on all donations made by our members and friends to help support our operations and programs.

We can make it easy and convenient for you to participate. Here’s how:

Just call or email Erica in the office and let her know you’d like to participate. Then choose a fund and drop off or mail your check for $400 for the entire year. That’s all it takes!

If you’ve been participating in the Unlimited Cards program already, thank you! Erica will contact you to confirm your continued participation.

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

**Oversight Board**

Chair
Mike Tenenbaum, (269) 929-8384
tenemike1967@gmail.com

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Brad Kennedy, (269) 254-3533
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Vice-President Religious Activities
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Building Manager
Rich Wojtas
buildingmanager@congregationofmoses.org

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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 the editor, at bulletin@congregationofmoses.org.

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**Boker Tov Club**

Join Rabbi Estrin every Tuesday morning from 8:30 – 8:40 am on Zoom for the opportunity to find your “self” through the words of prayer.

Bring some meaning and soul into your day in just ten minutes. Sign up on the Events page at our website.
# Shabbat Services

**Saturday, January 1**  
9:30 a.m. Saturday Shacharit Service  
Torah: Exodus 8:16-9:35  
Haftarah: Ezekiel 28:25-29:21

**Friday, January 7**  
6:30 p.m. Kabbalat Shabbat Services

**Saturday, January 8**  
9:30 a.m. Shacharit Service  
Torah: Exodus 12:29-13:16  
Haftarah: Jeremiah 46:13-28

**Saturday, January 15**  
9:30 a.m. Shacharit Service  
Torah: Exodus 14:26-17:16  
Haftarah: Judges 4:4-5:31

**Friday, January 21**  
7:00 p.m. Community Kabbalat Shabbat Services at TBE in Battle Creek

**Saturday, January 22**  
9:30 a.m. Shacharit Service  
Torah: Exodus 18:1-20:23  
Haftarah: Isaiah 6:1-7:6; 9:5-6

**Saturday, January 29**  
9:30 a.m. Shacharit Service  
Torah: Exodus 23:20-24:18  
Haftarah: Jeremiah 34:8-22; 33:25-26

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**Shabbat candle lighting times**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 7</td>
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<td>January 14</td>
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<td>January 21</td>
<td>5:24 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 28</td>
<td>5:33 pm</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**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.*
A History of Women Rabbis Series

The next session will be held on **Tuesday, January 11 at 7:00 pm at TBI or on Zoom**, led by Rabbi Schicker.

**Sign up online here.**

2022 marks the 50th anniversary of the ordination of Sally J. Priesand, the first woman publicly ordained as a rabbi. Yet, her groundbreaking ordination, which opened the door for subsequent generations of women, was preceded by the impactful lives of other, lesser-known female scholars and community leaders.

**SAVE THE DATE!**
Zoom conversation with Rabbi Sally Priesand on
**Thursday, February 24, 2022 at 7:00 PM**

**Sponsored by:**

![Congregation of Moses](image1)

![With support from:](image2)
"Reflections On My Life As A Rabbi"
A Zoom Conversation with Rabbi Sally J. Priesand

2022 marks the 50th anniversary of the ordination of Sally J. Priesand, the first woman publicly ordained as a rabbi.

February 24, 7:00 pm
with Q&A to follow

Meeting ID: 883 1674 3971
Passcode: 114074

Rabbi Schicker will be hosting the Zoom from TBI and you are welcome to come "view the Zoom" in the sanctuary.

Sponsorship and support from:

Rabbi Sally J. Priesand
As we close out this year, I am grateful for our CoM community. You have welcomed Rabbi Estrin with open arms, taking risks in trying new ways of doing things under her leadership, finding comfort in traditions that remain, and embracing the chaos and energy that comes with change and renewal.

The Spiritual Leadership Search Committee (SLSC) has been working hard to find the next long-term spiritual leader for CoM. This task is a challenging one this year because of a skewed job market. According to the Rabbinical Assembly (RA), several dozen rabbis are retiring this year and fewer students in the graduating classes are seeking traditional pulpits.

The SLSC has posted the RA Questionnaire (the online application) and has not received any applications at this point. Recently the RA granted all A-sized congregations (which includes CoM) a waiver to post their positions outside of the RA process. The SLSC will move forward with posting our position with the Academy of Jewish Religion (AJR), a trans-denominational institution. We have also requested permission to post in the Reconstructionist placement center. This will help us to expand our candidate pool, while still looking for a rabbi who fulfills our needs.

The SLSC will continue to work on creative alternatives for next year and we remain optimistic about our ability to problem solve, in partnership with the entire CoM community. If you know of rabbinical candidates from any denomination who would respect and honor our traditions as a conservative Jewish congregation, please let someone on the committee know.

**SLSC Committee Members:** Laurel Ofstein (Chair), Maxine Berke, Leslie Bez, Jeff Haus, Andrea Johnson, Wilma Khan, Robyn Levene, Allison Weiner

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Valerie Eisenberg has been coordinating Meals on Wheels volunteers for the past two years. She writes, "Folks from both TBI and CoM are helping with deliveries every Friday morning."

"We are currently in need of more volunteers but I'm most interested in signing up people who wish to do this on an ongoing basis, meaning one Friday each month for about 2 - 2-1/2 hours."

"Each Friday requires two people - one who drives and one who delivers the food to the client."

Most clients would not be able to provide food for themselves without Meals on Wheels. It's very simple to do and is an essential service to the community.

Please ask a friend to join you and consider this very needed service. **Contact Valerie Eisenberg (vgeisenberg@gmail.com)** if you can help just one time per month.
Israel Trip Informational Meeting
Sponsored by CoM & TBI
January 18th, 6:30pm
at TBI

Interested in taking a trip to Israel with the community? Join us in person or on ZOOM to hear about our proposed April 2023 Community Trip. See a sample itinerary, hear and share ideas, and ask questions.

Please RSVP to Rabbi Estrin or Rabbi Schicker to hold your space on January 18th (limited due to Covid) or receive the Zoom link.

We look forward to seeing you!
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<td>No school</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>SLSC meeting, 6:30 pm</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Boker Tov Club, online, 8:30 am</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>OKCJS online, 4:30 pm</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>The Haredim and Israel, 7:00 pm on Zoom</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Kabbalat Shabbat Services at CoM, 6:30 pm</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Shabbat Services In Person, 9:30 am</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>OKCJS, 10:00 am at CoM; Cross-country skiing, 1:00 pm, meet at the Ski Shop at Milham Park</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Boker Tov Club, online, 8:30 am; OvB Meeting Online, 7:00 pm; Women Rabbis Series, 7:00 pm on Zoom or at TBI</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>OKCJS online, 4:30 pm</td>
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<td>The Haredim and Israel, 7:00 pm on Zoom</td>
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<td>Shabbat Services In Person, 9:30 am; Havdalah Program, 6:30 pm at CoM</td>
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<td>OKCJS, 10:00 am at CoM</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>Boker Tov Club, online, 8:30 am; Israel Trip Info Session, 6:30 pm at TBI or on Zoom</td>
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<td>Community Kabbalat Shabbat at TBE in BC, 7:00 pm</td>
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<td>OKCJS, 10:00 am at CoM</td>
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Open to all families in the Jewish community whether members, students or not!

If your child is not currently a student in the Jewish School, please plan to come anyway! Register in advance with Rabbi Estrin by emailing rabbi@congregationofmoses.org.

Shabbat 101+ Series
February through May, Tuesdays at 6:30 pm

February 15 - Musaf 101+
March 22 - Shacharit 101+
April 26 - Preliminary Service 101+
May 17 - Gabbi/Torah Service 101+

Musaf 101+
February 15, 6:30 pm at CoM
Let’s start our conversation with the questions: What is musaf? Where did it come from? and Why do we need an additional service on Shabbat?

Once we have the theory and theology, we will walk through the service looking at the contents, the dance of davening (prayer), and the possible variations when leading. If you have a favorite siddur (prayerbook) bring it along with your favorite pencil. If you want to learn how to lead Musaf, you will also walk away with the tools to begin practicing the chanting. Sign up online at congregationofmoses.org/events
Stacey Fisher, a Kalamazoo native who now lives in Seattle, stopped by recently with her son so she could show him how the Fisher family and the history of CoM are inextricably connected.

Stacey's son is a volunteer with the Israel Defense Forces. Her parents were Morton (a Kalamazoo native) and Joyce (a Benton Harbor native) Fisher and her sisters are Jennifer Fisher (now living in Evanston, IL), Molly Fisher Goodman (now living in the Boston area) and Beth Fisher (now living in Madison, WI). Stacey and her three sisters became B’nai Mitzvah at Congregation of Moses and were all married here too.

Her great-grandparents, Max and Jennie Fisher, were founding members of the synagogue. Their youngest children were Herman (wife Rose) and Herbert (wife Barbara) who took over the Fisher-Graffiti Steel corporation (essentially a scrap yard) from their father and Mr. Graff.

Herman's son Jack was a lawyer in Kalamazoo who was instrumental in making Kalamazoo the first place that had ramps in sidewalks so that people with disabilities/in wheelchairs could have access and safety while downtown.

Herbert’s two children were
Morton (wife Joyce) and Marcia (husband Martin Kalb), names well known at CoM for their enthusiastic participation. The Kalb’s two daughters, Susan Kalb Weinberg (now living in Ann Arbor) and Nancy Kalb Yaffe (now living in Madison, WI) both became B’nai Mitzvah at CoM and were also married in our sanctuary.

Morton and Joyce, whose photos adorn our wall of former leaders, were very active in synagogue operations. Joyce, a longtime sisterhood member and president, was regarded as the queen of the kitchen and considered it her second home. In fact, we have Joyce to thank for hiring Shirley Mengel!

Morton, long active in the Men's Club, also served as CoM president in the early 1980s. The Fisher Library honors Stacey’s great uncle and aunt, Herman and Rose Fisher, and the Joyce and Morton Fisher Kitchen Oneg/Kiddush Fund honors the hospitable couple.

Many fondly remember the Fisher and Kalb families and would be pleased to know that their lineage has continued to be active in Jewish life and maintain a commitment to Israel.
Cross-country skiing in January

Snow permitting, Sunday, January 9, 1:00 pm at Milham Park.

Meet in the parking lot of the Ski Shop at Milham Park, 4200 Lovers Lane. Check in advance if you need to rent skis, as the shop may have some available.

Please RSVP or direct your questions to Patty Conlon, at 269-352-6324 or conlonpn@yahoo.com.

If there is insufficient snow for cross-country skiing, Patty is planning a hike/walk with everyone gathering in the parking lot at KVCC.

Join us for Adult Hebrew
Sundays from 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM
in person and on Zoom

Group 1 with Rabbi Schicker
will begin Aleph Isn't Enough* on January 23rd
perfect if you know your Aleph Bet but want to know more!

Group 2 with Shannon Dion
will continue with prayer translation

Register by emailing Rabbi Schicker at rabbi@templebnaiisrael.com which group you would like to join

*some copies available, cost is $30 for the book
Better Together is back for the 2022 year!

With the success we had the first time, OKCJS is going to run this program again and we hope that you will participate.

Who can participate?

TBI and CoM teens (they do not need to be registered at OKCJS) in 5th-12th grade.

What is it?

An opportunity to create and nurture special intergenerational relationships. Make a positive impact in the world. Our teens will have the opportunity to learn life lessons, hear unique stories, and practice g’milut hasadim (a proper path). They have the opportunity to broaden their understanding of how their partners live day in and day out with Jewish values, culture, ritual and more.

At the same time, our Kalamazoo Jewish seniors have the opportunity to feel a spark of vitality brought back into their lives through meaningful connections, conversations and activities with today’s teenagers.

When is it?

Teens will meet for eight weeks, beginning on January 9th after regular OKCJS classes from 12:15-1:15 pm. Yes, we will give your kids a snack. Yes, as long as we are hybrid on Sundays, then this too will be offered hybrid. Sam Arnold will be spearheading this program with the support of Rabbi Estrin and Steph Haft.

But there is more!

In addition to the fun and participatory learning experience for the kids, they will spend time with their senior partner. COVID, interests and specific programming will impact how this happens but last year some of our pairs played chess online, cooked together and even did homework. And if your student needs “mitzvah hours” for school, it’s a “two in one.”

And last but not least

It’s a Mitzvah. It’s free. It is a gift to both student and senior alike.

Register today! Contact: OKCJSdirector@gmail.com
Questions? Contact: supersam1266@gmail.com

This is an opportunity to make a difference in our teens, our seniors and the world.
CONDOLENCES TO
Julie Northrop on the passing of her dear mother-in-law Josephine Bovin

MAZEL TOV TO
Joyce and Steve Camhi on the marriage of their daughter Allie to Joe Biggins
Cindy and Larry Beer on the marriage of their daughter Danielle to Dan Cohen
Al Rosenthal on his recent retirement

---
Donations have been made to the following funds.
---

Mazel Tov to Allie Camhi and Joe Biggins on their recent wedding

Donations made to the General Fund: 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

Donations made to the Building Fund: Maxine & Neal Berke, Sallie & Ken Goodman, The Ruterbusch Family, Valerie & Ken Eisenberg, Carolyn & Brad Kennedy

Donations made to the Jack Levene Cantor Fund: Rae Lee Howard

Donations made to the Marvin & Rosalie Okun Religious School: The Fischell Family, Judy & Lowell Seyburn

Mazel Tov to Danielle Beer and Dan Cohen on their recent wedding

Donations made to the General Fund: Proud parents-Cindy & Larry Beer, Diane & Harvey Fogel, 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

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Donations made to the Jack Levene Cantor Fund: Rae Lee Howard

Donations made to the Marvin & Rosalie Okun Religious School: The Fischell Family, Judy & Lowell Seyburn

Mazel Tov to Al Rosenthal on his recent retirement

Donations made to the General Fund: 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

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Donations made to the Marvin & Rosalie Okun Religious School: The Fischell Family, Judy & Lowell Seyburn
Condolences to Julie Northrop on the passing of her mother-in-law, Josephine Bovin

Donations made to the General Fund: 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

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Donations made to the Jack Levene Cantor Fund: Rae Lee Howard

Donations made to the Marvin & Rosalie Okun Religious School: The Fischell Family, Judy & Lowell Seyburn

In Loving Memory

Donation made to the Building Fund
In loving memory of my father, Fred Arkush. Carolyn Kennedy

CORRECTION FROM DECEMBER NEWSLETTER
Donation made to the Joyce & Morton Fisher Kitchen Oneg/Kiddush Fund
In loving memory of Lillian Rose: Gail Brot

In Honor

Donation made to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund
Dear Friends at CoM. We are thankful for our new Rabbi. B'Shalom. Wilma Kahn & Phil Horwich

Donation made to the Marvin & Rosalie Okun Religious School: In honor of Rosalie Okun and in celebration of Hanukkah Barb Brown & Jane Greischar

HAVDALAH PROGRAM

Saturday, January 15, 6:30 pm at CoM

Making meaning of our texts through art: Looking at narrow places and using art as a way to tap into and transform our relationship with the text.
Sign up online for this and other exciting events: congregationofmoses.org/events

TORAH READERS WANTED!

Congregation of Moses wants to grow our roster of Torah and Haftorah readers! It's easy to start small and there are many online resources and phone apps available to help with pronunciation. Not ready to tackle an entire portion? No problem, there are many opportunities to share with other readers.

Please reach out to me, Andrea Johnson (redhead5318@gmail.com or 269-615-8749), to be added to the roster of readers and grab your spot in the schedule.
Social Action in Action at CoM

Here are some projects that our members are working on in our local community and in other parts of the world. If you want to know more or get involved with an existing project, please contact the coordinator listed below.

Helping those in transition at THE YELLOW HOUSE
Cathy Cheron, mambette@aol.com

Providing food security for vulnerable seniors with MEALS ON WHEELS
For two years, CoM and TBI members have been delivering meals on behalf of Meals on Wheels. Join them one Friday per month at 10:00 am to bring sustenance and a smile to these families in need.
Valerie Eisenberg, vgeisenberg@gmail.com

Welcoming refugees with AFGHAN REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT
Rachel Haus, rachel@congregationofmoses.org

Practicing environmental responsibility with the CoM RAIN GARDEN
Carolyn Kennedy, carolyn@luckydogmedia.com

Helping people in need around the world through the Colef Fund
Carolyn Kennedy, carolyn@luckydogmedia.com

CoM Social Action Committee
To get involved, contact Rabbi Estrin, rabbi@congregationofmoses.org

One of the goals of Congregation of Moses is to “Be more involved and visible in the Kalamazoo community.”

Are you involved in a project that you would like us to know about or could use additional help? Please tell us about it at comofficemgr@congregationofmoses.org
The Congregation of Moses wishes **mazel tov and yom huledet sameach** to our members who are celebrating anniversaries and birthdays this month. If you would like to be included in our monthly recognition of birthdays and anniversaries, please contact Joanne Simon at 324-6054 or jhsimon@charter.net.

**BIRTHDAYS**

1/2 Steve Koss  
1/2 Benjamin Barry  
1/3 Rod Anderson  
1/4 Gloria Besbris  
1/5 Madeline Strauss  
1/6 Emily Hoffman  
1/7 Sandra (Sandy) Rose  
1/7 Davi Lando  
1/8 Leslie Bez  
1/11 Richard Kirschner has a special birthday! Mazel Tov!  
1/15 Beth Morrison  
1/16 Fran Raffle  
1/19 Gary Adelman  
1/20 Rabbi Hannah Estrin  
1/22 Avery Howard  
1/22 Nan Goldenthal  
1/23 Elana Spivak  
1/24 Danielle Beer  
1/30 RaeLee Howard has a special birthday! Mazel Tov!  
1/30 Susan Welbourne

**ANNIVERSARIES**

1/9 Diane and Bruce Minsley
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yahrzeits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>January 1-7 (28 Tevet - 5 Shevat)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gordon Bennison*</td>
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<td>Barry Berke</td>
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<td>Samuel Colef*</td>
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<td>Frances M. Fisher</td>
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<td>Sussman Gerber*</td>
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<td>Chester Holstein</td>
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<td>Joseph Kahn</td>
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<td>Bella Kaiser*</td>
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<td><strong>January 8-14 (6 - 12 Shevat)</strong></td>
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<td>Sophie Blasky*</td>
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<td>Louis Brown*</td>
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<td>Esther Buchsbaum</td>
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<td><strong>January 15-21 (13 - 19 Shevat)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Viola Doggett</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sidney Eisenberg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eugene Field*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Waller J. Finn*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>January 22-28 (20 - 26 Shevat)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elizabeth Cohen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ann Fine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Max Friedman*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ralph David Golden*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Minnie Graff*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brina Hadesman*</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>January 29-February 4 (27 Shevat - 3 Adar)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Adela Blum-Auerbach*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jean Rosenblatt Davis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frieda Friedman*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Morris Friedman*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rachel Goldstein*</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Denotes a memorial plaque in the synagogue
Calling All Women!

On March 19th, we will celebrate our commitment to egalitarianism on the 100th anniversary of the first Bat Mitzvah.

Inspire our community and future generations by helping us lead, read or otherwise participate in our Shabbat morning celebration.

Please let Rabbi Estrin know if you would like to:
- Lead part of the service (even one prayer)
- Read Torah or Haftara
- Have an Aliyah
- Help to sponsor a beautiful kiddush

Mark your calendars, save the date and bring friends and family alike!