



# CoM newsletter

CONGREGATION OF MOSES • Kalamazoo, Michigan

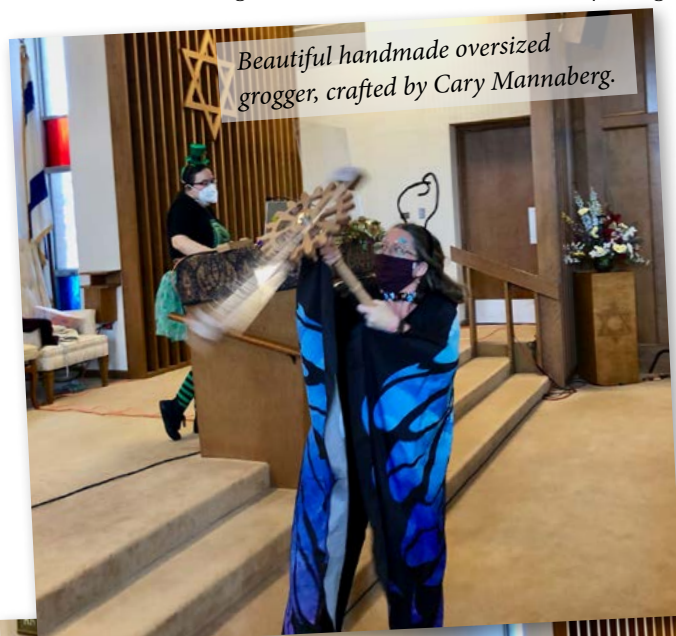
Volume 15 Issue 4  
April 2022 29 Adar II - 29 Nissan 5782

## Purim Fun, Fun, Fun!

Historically, Purim is a time when we celebrate being saved from death, standing up to that which we believe is wrong in the world, and being true to who we are. These days Purim is about carnivals, megillah readings and noise makers, HUGE groggers, silly string and hamentaschen.

Our first post-COVID Purim Carnival had so many people that we had to ask the magician to do two shows. It is thanks to the many volunteers from CoM, TBI and Chabad that we were able to have so many wonderful events.

Not to be outdone, TBI and CoM came together for a second time on Purim evening for dinner, dueling megillah readings, costume parades and more. It was so wonderful to see our youngest generation running and playing, answering questions and of course "blotting out" the name of Haman. See you again next year!



**THE OVERSIGHT BOARD**

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

*Oversight Board*

**Chair**

**Vice-President Operations**

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

**Vice-President Programming**

Brad Kennedy, (269) 254-3533  
bkennedy@congregationofmoses.org

**Vice-President Religious Activities**

Al Rosenthal, (269) 290-5565  
alvin.rosenthal@wmich.edu

**Treasurer** Brad Hershbein

(617) 967-3093  
bhershbein@congregationofmoses.org

**Secretary** Rachel Haus (412) 719-4293

library@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** Hannah Estrin

rabbi@congregationofmoses.org

**Office Manager** Erica Sloan

comofficemgr@congregationofmoses.org

**Building Manager** Rich Wojtas

buildingmanager@congregationofmoses.org

*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](mailto:bulletin@congregationofmoses.org).

Thanks to the following volunteers: Beth Grode, Becky Hanson, Mike Tenenbaum, Michelle Angel, Carolyn and Brad Kennedy.

We appreciate the efforts of ALL of our bakers and both of our rabbis for these fun events.

*The Great Hamentaschen Debate: Which are better - latkes or hamentaschen? The debate continues!*



*Participants cast their votes for their favorite homemade hamentaschen. The winner was Rachel Haus, who treated the crowd to four different and unusual flavors of hamentaschen, each one delicious!*





# Purim Carnival and Megillah Reading



# Shabbat Services

Friday, April 1

6:30 p.m. In Person - Kabbalat Shabbat Services

Saturday, April 2

9:30 a.m. Saturday Shacharit Service

Torah: Vayikra/Leviticus 13:29-59, B'midbar/Numbers 28:9-15 Maf: Shmot/Exodus 12:1-20

Haftarah: Ezekiel 45:16-46:18

Friday, April 8

6:00 p.m. OKCJS Student-led Shabbat Services at TBI

Saturday, April 9

9:30 a.m. Shacharit Service

Torah: Vayikra/Leviticus 14:33-15:33

Haftarah: Malachi 3:4-24

Saturday, April 16

9:30 a.m. Shacharit Service

Torah: Shmot/Exodus 12:21-51 Maf: B'midbar/Numbers 28:16-25

Haftarah: Joshua 5:2-6:1

Saturday, April 23

9:30 a.m. Shacharit Service

Torah: D'varim/Deuteronomy 14:22-16:17 Maf: B'midbar/Numbers 28:19-25

Haftarah: Isaiah 10:32-12:6

Saturday, April 30

9:30 a.m. Shacharit Service

Torah: Vayikra/Leviticus 17:1-18:30

Haftarah: I Samuel 20:18-42



## Shabbat candle lighting times

April 1	7:50 pm
April 8	7:58 pm
April 15	8:06 pm
April 22	8:13 pm
April 29	8:21 pm



## 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.*

# Planning Your Pesach: Rabbi Estrin Offers the Basics

Now that Passover is in our sights, the planning begins. What will we eat, who will we invite, who will sing Mah Nishtana for us? It's a time when we restrict our diet even further to remember the time when we were in Egypt and recall our rescue from slavery to freedom.

At home in Jerusalem, Purim marks the beginning of cleaning our household cupboards of all unwanted food items before Passover. By the time we hit that last week, our meals are often a disjointed mess. It also means that I start cleaning, working my way from the back of the house to the front and kitchen. Everything comes off the shelves, is cleaned, thinned and returned. This is not the required type of cleaning for Passover, but I am unnecessarily compulsive in my cleaning. My family knows it's just easier to stay out of the way.

Below, you will find a synopsis of the high points. For those who would like a much more detailed list with sources and such please feel free to drop me an email and I will send you a PDF. We all do the best we can, so always remember to be kind to yourself and others.

## Cleaning the House

Cleaning every nook and cranny in your house is not Passover Cleaning. If you do not bring food into a room, then it is not technically necessary to clean it.

## Cleaning the Kitchen

I start from the top and move down (because I am a messy cleaner and stuff always falls). If you have Passover-specific dishes and tools, then you should either move out or "lock up" (tape the cabinet closed and put a note on it to remind everyone) any dishes, pots, silver, etc, not being used for Passover. Remember, most glass and stainless steel items with no seams can be kashered for Passover use.

Clean all the nooks and crannies, bring all the hametz food to one place. Don't forget to clean and kasher the oven, the stove, the fridge and the microwave. The kitchen is the most difficult and detailed. If you have questions, I am always happy to answer them.

What is hametz? The short answer is anything made of, or derived from, the five forbidden grains: wheat, barley, spelt, oats and rye. While it is common in the traditional Ashkenazi world to add rice, corn, lentils and beans to this list, the Conservative Movement has accepted the return to eating these items. Regardless of whether you eat them or not, they do not un-kasher anything.

Ideally, we rid our homes by donation or burning of all hametz. Due to the financial



impact of doing this in today's world, a legal workaround has been established where we lock our hametz up and sell it for the duration of the holiday, often making a financial donation in lieu of the food. There is a form on page 7 which you can fill out and return to the office and I will take care of this for you.

## What to Cook and Eat

If it is made from the five grains of hametz, it is off the table (ha ha) unless it is specifically marked Kosher for Passover (like matza, matza meal or other items). If an item is made without hametz and is kosher all year round it does not need a specific marking. Unflavored coffees are the biggest item in this category for us morning people. Eggs, fresh fruits and veggies, plain teas, olive oil, and whole spices are kosher for Passover – as long as they are fresh, new packages. If you have never tried to keep kosher on Passover before, think of it this way – if it is 'pure' (no flavorings, mixes, etc.) then you are pretty safe with it. Stay away from prepackaged foods, mixes, cakes, breads or decaf products. You have made the first step and that is wonderful! Again, if this brings up more questions, let me know.

And as a reminder, taking necessary medications or anything else medically required whether it contains hametz or not, overrides every other rule in Judaism.

This is a great opportunity to clean out cabinets and rid ourselves of anything we don't really need. Check out a local farmer's market. Anything coming out of the ground and into the market should be ok (unless it is baked or prepared, of course). Don't stress yourself out. Just like everything else in life there are a variety of ways to "do Passover," so choose the one that works best. If you learn something new each year, then you are a success!

## Searching for and Burning the Hametz

Here's how we carry out a favorite tradition in our household. On the evening before Pesach begins, when the house is clean and ready, we use a candle and feather to look in all the corners for any hametz we may have missed. We get one slice of bread and break it into ten small pieces, which are hidden in advance. Warning: don't forget where they are! Gather them all up in a paper bag using the feather.

There is a blessing of nullification found in haggadot that it is traditional to recite. On the morning of the first Seder (Friday, April 15 this year,) we burn our small bag of hametz and nullify it. At home in Israel, there are special 5'x14' "trash cans" all over Jerusalem and we often will meet up with friends to do this activity. A BBQ or fireplace will also work. It's great fun for all ages and helps us to really make the distinction between regular food and Pass-over food.

Remember, you can host your own Seder meal and join us on Zoom, Friday, April 15th for the Seder. You do the cooking and we will lead the Seder while you relax and enjoy your company!

*B'Tayavon!* (good appetite)

# Sale of Hametz 5782

Since ownership of hametz (bread and other leavened products) is not allowed during Pesach, ideally all hametz in one's possession would be given away or destroyed before the holiday begins. Since this often represents a financial hardship, the practice arose for people to store away their hametz before Pesach and arrange to sell it for the duration of the holiday. By filling out the form below, you are appointing Rabbi Hannah Estrin to arrange the sale on your behalf.



Please note that this form should only be used by for the hametz in your home located in southwestern Michigan.

*By filling out the form below, I/we hereby authorize Rabbi Hannah Estrin to act as my/our agent in the sale of all hametz that may be in my/our possession wherever it may be - whether at home, at a place of business, or elsewhere - in accordance with the requirements of Jewish law. All hametz in my/our possession that will not be consumed by the latest time for eating hametz on Friday, April 15 will be stored and sealed by the latest time for burning hametz on Friday, April 15 and will remain stored away for the duration of Pesach.*

If you would like to make a donation as part of selling your hametz, please include it with this form. Thank you!

If you have **unopened** food items which you would like to **remove from your home** please bring them to the synagogue BEFORE April 15. Items will be donated to Loaves and Fishes.

---

Email:

First Name:

Last Name:

Names of the members of your household:

Address:

Address 2 (if applicable):

City, State, ZIP:

Actual location of hametz at address listed above (porch, garage, basement, etc):

Other locations: (include any additional locations for hametz besides the address above, such as your place of work, a car, etc.)



## April 24-28th, from your living room

All five films curated by the festival committee will be accessible using the premier streaming platform JWatch which is run by The Berman Center/ Detroit JCC.

To allow plenty of time and minimize technical issues, tickets and passes will be available for purchase **starting April 17th** (a week prior to the actual festival) through the links in the Tickets and Viewing Options section.

List of films and more information on this page:

[jewishgrandrapids.org/programs-service/2022-jewish-film-festival](http://jewishgrandrapids.org/programs-service/2022-jewish-film-festival)

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## Help Recreate and Enhance the Synagogue Archive For Congregation of Moses

Synagogues are rich repositories of Jewish history on a local and national level, comprising legal, business and financial records, board minutes, marriage, birth and burial records, event programs and photos, audio recordings, videos, sermons, rabbinic responsa and so on.

The success of sites such as Ancestry.com and 23andMe prove that history is not just for historians, though of course historians gain tremendous insight into Jewish cultural history by perusing even the most mundane artifacts and records. **See what the Jewish Historical Society of Michigan offers!**

We can help make CoM part of the national American Jewish story as well as provide our descendants with clues into our personal Jewish history! This would be a virtual and physical archive, with photos, documents, oral histories and artifacts available to historians and the casual visitor.

If you are interested in working with the CoM Archives or simply have something to contribute to the archive, **please contact Rachel Haus, [library@congregationofmoses.org](mailto:library@congregationofmoses.org)**. We will set up a time for our first meeting and parameters to get started.

# When Values Collide

**In life we often have to balance between our values.**

Do I take care of myself and sleep or volunteer helping others for a couple more hours? If I have a limited amount of money to help others, where should I give it? My freedom of choice means limiting the freedom of others. The question is always, how do we balance these different and equally valid values?

In our CoM community, similar conversations also come into play. Should I concentrate on the Kalamazoo Jewish community or the CoM community? How much "innovation" works alongside valuing and maintaining tradition? Do we err towards the strict or towards the lenient? It's an ongoing conversation and there are times when the same situation may lend itself to a different answer.

But there is a second question at play here as well. Once we have made a decision, how do we share that decision and the reasons behind it? How do we validate the fact that not everyone will be on the same page and that's okay?

In fact, I believe differing opinions are good. It is a vibrant community that can share and argue about ideas, values and visions and then go eat together. The more we are different, the more ability we have to see beyond our own walls, to understand a wider breadth of choices and to value all opinions.

The rabbis have given us this model throughout history. When change has been proposed, discussed, studied and then a decision made, the discussion and dissenting decision is also recorded. The rabbis are clear - just because this is the decision we think is right for now, it does not mean it has absolute rightness nor does it mean that it will always be right.

As we move into the Passover season we can look to our ancestors, the ones who spoke up when they saw things they disagreed with, who argued incessantly over the correct path, and then came together to make our history happen.

The Seder is a night of telling and retelling. We tell of our history then we retell it in the context of today. We debate and argue and learn from each other. And then, we eat.

May our Seder tables have the voices of many opinions, of conversation and learning surrounded by family and friends and filled with good food.

Pesach Kasher v'Sameach,

*Rabbi Hannah Estrin*

(she/her)



*Rabbi Hannah Estrin*

# Summer Camp Scholarships

The Jewish Federation of Kalamazoo and Southwest Michigan is again offering scholarships to Jewish summer camps. Some camps have their own assistance programs and we will work with them too.

We are pleased to be able to help our children experience the unique environment of the Jewish summer camp.

For more details and a scholarship form, please contact Jacob Weintraub, [jmw003@aol.com](mailto:jmw003@aol.com), 269-808-8765

The deadline for applications is April 1.

**Jacob Weintraub**



**The Jewish Federation**<sup>®</sup>  
OF KALAMAZOO AND SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN

## Thank You to All Meals on Wheels Volunteers! More Help Still Needed

Valerie Eisenberg has been coordinating Meals on Wheels volunteers for the past few years. She tells us, "We really appreciate all of our wonderful volunteers from both TBI and CoM who are helping with deliveries every Friday morning."

"We are still in need of more volunteers but primarily people who wish to do this on an ongoing basis, meaning one Friday each month for about 2 - 2-1/2 hours. Each shift 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](mailto:vgeisenberg@gmail.com)) if you can help just one time per month.



### **Current Volunteers:**

- Valerie Eisenberg
- Ralph Verne
- David Lushin
- Lee Klingman
- Shirley Wise
- Cindy Beer
- Carolyn Kennedy
- Lee Tregerman (new volunteer)
- Rob Lando (new volunteer)
- Pat Kirschner

### **Inactive Volunteers:**

- Patty Conlon
- Nan Goldenthal
- Judy Davis
- Shannon Dion
- Laurel Ofstein
- Andrea Johnson
- Allison Weiner

## It's been a terrific but crazy busy month!

We had a wonderful school-led Shabbat service at CoM on March 12th, followed by a rousing Purim Carnival on the 13th and Purim Celebration with Megillah on the 15th. Have you ever seen a grogger that big?

We are also excited that with the warming of weather we are able to take the students outside once again for snacks, exercise and learning. The school is running smoothly and our teachers are stepping up to prepare for our final two months of this year. How did that happen so quickly?

April is a bit of a crazy month between spring break and Passover, so please make sure to pay attention to your calendar and our weekly emails so you know when school is in session and is not. Mark your calendar for **April 8th for OKCJS-led Friday Night services at TBI at 6:00 pm**. Our kids have already started deciding which prayers they want to lead.

On April 10th, let's get ready for Passover! Our Better Together crew will be learning how to make charoset (otherwise known as Egyptian cement) with their Sages and all families are invited to bring a picnic lunch and blanket or chairs to watch the animated classic "Prince of Egypt." It's a great way to get into the spirit of Passover that doesn't require cleaning or cooking!

And of course there is Passover itself. Join CoM on Zoom for the first Seder and TBI for the second Seder. Perhaps at the end of Seder, when we all say "Next Year in Jerusalem," we can add "without COVID" and sign up for the Israel trip all at the same time!

For now, know that all the teachers and directors are having a great time learning with your kids and look forward to continuing to do so.

Pesach Sameach!  
The Rabbis/Directors



# April 2022

Su

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T

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F

Sa

					1 Kabbalat Shabbat at CoM, 7:00 pm	2 Shabbat Services In Person, 9:30 am
3 No school	4	5 Boker Tov Club, online, 8:30 am	6 OKCJS online, 4:30 pm; Talmud Class with Judah Ari-Gur, 7:00 pm	7	8 OKCJS Kabbalat Shabbat at TBI, 6:00 pm	9 Shabbat Services In Person, 9:30 am; <b>Second Cup following services</b>
10 OKCJS, 10:00 am	11	12 Boker Tov Club, online, 8:30 am; OvB Meeting Online, 7:00 pm 	13 OKCJS online, 4:30 pm; Talmud Class with Judah Ari-Gur, 7:00 pm	14 Search for Chametz at your home!	15 First Seder - join your community on Zoom, 7:00 pm	16 Shabbat/Pesach Services In Person, 9:30 am; Second Seder on Zoom
17 OKCJS, 10:00 am; Pesach 2nd day services, 9:30 am	18 Bulletin deadline; Hadassah Book Club, 7:00 pm 	19 Boker Tov Club, online, 8:30 am	20 OKCJS online, 4:30 pm; RAC meeting, 7:00 pm; Talmud Class with Judah Ari- Gur, 7:00 pm	21	22 Office closed - Pesach	23 Shabbat/Pesach Services In Person, 9:30 am; (Yizkor follows Torah service)
24 OKCJS, 10:00 am; Jewish Film Festival of GR	25 Jewish Film Festival of GR	26 Boker Tov Club, online, 8:30 am; Shabbat 101+ Class, 6:30 pm; Jewish Film Festival of GR	27 OKCJS online, 4:30 pm; Talmud Study with Judah, 7:00 pm; Yom HaShoah program, 7:00 pm; Jewish Film Festival of GR	28 Jewish Film Festival of GR; Winchell Neighborhood Meeting at CoM, 6:30 pm	29	30 Yom HaShoah Shabbat

# May 2022

Su      M      T      W      Th      F      Sa

1	2	3	4 OKCJS online, 4:30 pm; Israeli Memorial/ Independence Day program, 7:00pm	5 100 years of Israel class, 7:00 pm	6 Joint Shabbat with TBI and TBE at CoM, 7:00 pm	7 Prayer Through the Body Yoga Shabbat Services In Person, 9:30 am
8 OKCJS, 10:00 am at CoM	9	10 Boker Tov Club, online, 8:30 am; OvB Meeting Online, 7:00 pm  	11 OKCJS online, 4:30 pm	12	13 Alice's Bat Mitzvah at TBI	14 Shabbat Services In Person, 9:30 am; Second Cup following services; Alice's Bat Mitzvah at TBI
15 OKCJS, 10:00 am at CoM; Community meeting, Picnic and Geniza (burial of religious books and objects), time TBD	16	17 Boker Tov Club, online, 8:30 am; Torah 101 series, 6:30 pm	18 OKCJS online, 4:30 pm; Bulletin deadline	19 Lag B'Omer bonfire at TBI	20	21 Shabbat Services In Person, 9:30 am
22 OKCJS, 10:00 am at CoM - Last day!	23	24 Boker Tov Club, online, 8:30 am	25	26	27	28 Shabbat Services In Person, 9:30 am
29	30	31 Boker Tov Club, online, 8:30 am				

# Shabbat 101+ Series

This series examining the different parts of Shabbat services will continue with Musaf 101.

Continuing through May, Tuesdays at 6:30 pm

**April 26** - Preliminary Service 101+

**May 17** - Gabbi/Torah Service 101+

## Preliminary Service 101+

**April 26, 6:30 pm**

Not originally a part of the public service, Birchot HaShachar and Psudkey HaZimra are later additions to our synagogue davening and as such have a purpose in our preparation with a lot of flexibility in implementation. Let's talk about both of those. Examine the minimum "matbeach" (contents) according to the Conservative Movement and learn how to make decisions when leading.

Once we have the theory and theology, we will scan the services 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 Preliminary Service, you will also walk away with the tools to begin practicing the chanting.

## Torah Service and How to Gabbi 101+

**May 17, 6:30 pm**

Welcome to the pinnacle of Shabbat Morning prayers. We'll look at the Torah service as a replication of the Israelites and Mt. Sinai; what it means and how it's led; do hagba (raising the Torah) and gelila (dressing the Torah).

We'll also talk about the responsibilities of the gabbaim (two assistants) and how everyone makes a team. Time permitting, we will take out the Torah and practice the dance of the service. If you have a favorite siddur (prayerbook), bring it along with your favorite pencil. If you want to learn how to lead Torah Service, you will also walk away with the tools to begin practicing the chanting.

**Sign up online at [congregationofmoses.org/events](http://congregationofmoses.org/events)**



# In remembrance of the Holocaust

and in memory of Moshe Kirsch and Bronia Bergman

## Little Cerka in the Night

My small young body lies huddled in my bed  
The echoes of their sad quiet sobbing, throughout the night,  
Remembering suffering losses  
As I gaze to the window, bright stars appear  
Into the early dawn, the sun greets the new day



My mind and body weary, eyes never shut, day breaks  
Feelings of helplessness overcome me,  
Wishing the echoes of pain would lift to the heavens, never to return  
Knowing the quiet sobbing would always be part of the night  
But knowing god is near

## Moshe

He was strong, proud to be a Jew  
Strong in the midst of his unjustified painful losses, but moving forward  
Praying his sacrifices would never be forgotten, would live on in  
The minds, souls and hearts of future generations, so they too  
Would become strong proud Jews.

### 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



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# Mishpacha

## CONDOLENCES TO

Mabel Stenesh on the passing of her sister, Louise Robertson

## SPEEDY RECOVERY TO

Judy Davis Rosenthal

Judah Ari-Gur

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

### Condolences to Mabel Stenesh on the passing of her sister, Louise Robertson

**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*

**Donations made to Joyce and Mort Fisher Kitchen/Kiddush/Oneg Fund:** *Rae Lee Howard*

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

### Speedy Recovery to Judah Ari-Gur

**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, Beth & Stephen Grode, and of course Pnina Ari-Gur*

**Donations made to the Building Fund:** *Maxine & Neal Berke, Sallie & Ken Goodman, The Ruterbusch Family, Ken Eisenberg*

**Donation made to the Joyce and Mort Fisher Kitchen/Kiddush/Oneg Fund:** *Rae Lee Howard*

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

### Speedy Recovery to Judy Davis Rosenthal

**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, Diane & Bruce Minsley, Joanne & Mike Simon, Pnina & Judah Ari-Gur, Beth & Stephen Grode, and of course Al Rosenthal*

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**Donation made to the Joyce and Mort Fisher Kitchen/Kiddush/Oneg Fund:** *Rae Lee Howard*

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

### In Loving Memory

**Donations made to the Herman & Rose Fisher Library Fund:**

In memory of my mother, Viola Doggett and my sister, Donna Taylor, *Julie Northrop*

# Rise Up 100

Commemorating 100 years since the very first Bat Mitzvah in the United States by Judith Kaplan z'l, on Shabbat morning of March 19, we celebrated all the amazing women in our community and the many ways they have helped CoM grow, develop and remain the beautiful, vibrant community it is.

Each of us has an essential part in our community and it is lovely to be able to recognize those gifts and celebrate together.

Bat Mitzvah stories and photos were shared and displayed by Judith Kaplan Eisenstein (z"l - 1910-1996), Rachel Haus, Shira Haus, Nava Haus, Mazal Haus and Betty Hirschfield. Betty had an adult Bat Mitzvah with a group of women at CoM as recently as 2010. She composed a poem for the occasion and has graciously agreed to share it here.

*"I want to acknowledge that a couple of the 2010 B'not Mitzvah class members have lost significant others since we met at the November 6 worship service for our honors, and two class members - Marcia Kalb and Celia Besbris are gone. All their memories are a blessing."*

Marcia Kalb was a disappointed gal.  
She had worked hard to prepare -  
In advance.  
She was unable to be there,  
Due to circumstance.

Celia and Gloria Besbris-  
(Sisters-in-law, by the way)  
Both gave short speeches that day.  
Celia had already moved away.  
Back home she flew to Kalamazoo  
To be part of B'not Mitzvah too.

Each participant participated at least somewhat.  
Several sisters stepped up and did a lot.  
Either way, our occasion that day  
Was not to be soon forgot.

In becoming basic B'not Mitzvah, we were all succeeding  
With the blessings preceding and succeeding the Torah reading.  
Seven Aliyot were shared among the B'not.

The gabbaim would tell us when to approach,  
And occasionally act as coach.  
In case you do not remember or know,  
There was Valerie and there was Joe.



The blessings before Haftorah were said by more than a few.  
Some read the after-Haftorah blessings too.  
These took them still longer to learn and to do.

The chanting of Haftorah was divided among four  
Adults we adore--  
All over age 21.  
Some had a daughter or son  
Who had their Bar or Bat Mitzvah in the past.  
Now it was Mom's turn at last.

Ceila and Marian and Emily  
And Shirley Wise  
All felt like one big family  
And that is not a surprise.

D'var Haftorah was done by me.  
Who sat rapt? It was Brad KenneDEE,  
As I could easily see.  
And who gave me feedback  
In addition to he?  
It was NataLIE and Nan G.

Sylvia helped lead the Torah service.  
She did not seem nervous,  
Just glad  
About the role which she had had  
In helping the B'not Mitzvah to happen.  
It was not chance nor happenstance.

A musaf prayer was led and read by Gerry T.  
Gerry can be the name of a man.  
The name Lee is often fem.  
It was just the opposite for them.  
Gerry is the she and Lee is the he.

Lee was proud of her on that date.  
She had put a lot upon her plate.  
How validated we all were on that date!  
There was a lot to validate.

If you ask us the wherefore  
We undertook this deed,  
We could do it and we knew it,  
And therefore,  
We stepped up to proceed  
To meet an as-yet-unmet need.

# How To Become A Mishpacha Donor

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 funds and programs.

We can make it **easy and convenient** for you to participate. Here's how.

Just call (269-342-5463) 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! Thank you!

**Thank you to each of you who sent my family a card or donated to the Red Cross in honor of my mother-in-law, who passed in February.**

**It is a true joy to work with and be loved by this wonderful Jewish community.**

*– Erica Sloan and family (CoM Office Manager)*

## Boker Tov Club

Looking for a quick boost to your day?

Join with our group from around the globe on Tuesday mornings at 8:30 am (EST) for a 10-minute re-examination of our liturgy. Everyone is welcome—come when you can.

Having shared prayer, we are also happy to join together at the end for Kaddish if you are observing a yahrzeit.

**Register online for the ZOOM link:**  
<https://congregationofmoses.org/boker-tov/>

**BRING MEANING AND SOUL INTO YOUR DAY IN JUST TEN MINUTES**

CoM Boker Tov Club

Tuesday Mornings  
8:30-8:40am  
on ZOOM

register: <https://congregationofmoses.org>

Each week we will look at a single line from morning liturgy and connect it to ourselves. Finding the "I" in Siddur.

**in the wilderness**

An exciting part of the "In the Wilderness" Series.

# MAIMONIDES

Rabbi Moses ben Maimon, also known as Rambam and Maimonides, was born on March 30, 1138 CE in Cordova, Spain.

A change in the Muslim regime forced the family to flee to another city (Almera) along with many other Jewish families. Encouraged by the constant pedagogical supervision of his father, Moses developed a unique ability to absorb large quantities of information and remember it without notes. As a result, he became a prominent Jewish leader and teacher in the Medieval period. He became a physician as well. Here is a summary of his major accomplishments:



## Commentary on the Mishna

This outstanding work, requiring 10 years of concentrated effort, explained not only the Jewish law of human conduct but provided Maimonides an opportunity to present his philosophy of Judaism. His philosophy focused as much on social and moral responsibilities as on observance and ritual. It was written in Arabic and was accessible to Jews of every educational background living in the Arabic speaking world.

## The Thirteen Principles of Faith

This is a follow-up work in which Maimonides describes Jewish belief as a kind of contract which should not be violated (for details, see your prayer book). Some Jews criticized the unforgiving nature of these principles. The criticism was not important to Maimonides because his major objective was to prevent assimilation in the setting of a hostile medieval world.

As part of his far-reaching and original thinking, Moses wrote that the soul as well as the body is capable of being healthy or sick. Deviations from the health of the soul are not inborn but acquired from outside influences and become ingrained with long practice of irrational behavior. He taught that a teacher or sage should be consulted to cure a sick soul. Even if you develop a predilection for a certain vice, you can overcome it by determination to do otherwise! Here is a choice between weakness and pursuing a life of morality.

He also taught that whenever Jewish people could not pursue their religious beliefs due to the hostility of political regimes, the only choice was to move to another country. That is why his family decided to move to Morocco, Israel, then Egypt.

## The Guide of The Perplexed

The purpose of this effort was to enlighten people about the conflict between faith and human reason. He went so far as to state that when a fact is demonstrated to be erroneous, one should no longer accept it. An example is astronomical calculations. When the writings of sages were contradicted by demonstrable facts, they should be

regarded as personal opinions and may be rejected. Interestingly, the faith/reason issue was on the minds of Muslim and Christian philosophers at that time and for many centuries beyond. Although The Guide was acclaimed as a major achievement, Jewish sages who did not like his approach to the issue rejected his work.

Maimonides was aware of the knowledge of his predecessors, including Galen, the Greek physician who codified medicine based on the teachings of Hippocrates. However, based on his worldview and experience with many patients, he embraced not only the clinical treatments of disease but the psychological and spiritual aspects as well. His treatments took into consideration the ethical concerns related to his uniquely Jewish perspective and compassionate nature. He stressed that the soul can be healthy or diseased just like the human body. He was also the first to denounce Galen's teachings, calling him incorrect and ignorant of medical fundamentals. This assessment was confirmed in 1541 by A. Vesalius of Brussels, and yet it took centuries longer for Galen's hegemony over the medical world to be completely dismissed.

Moses' numerous writings and commentaries stressed simplicity of presentation so that any student in the 12th and 13th centuries could learn how to proceed in the healing of patients. By combining medical information and religious thought he achieved his moral purpose, teaching that "medical practice is not just a labor of hands but must be inspired with soul and understanding."

As time went by, Maimonides' reputation as a trusted philosophical healer grew among the ruling Muslim families in Egypt. He was appointed chief rabbi at the court of Saladin and his son Afdal named Maimonides chief physician to the Sultan. As a result of increasing demands of his medical practice to the Sultan and foreign dignitaries, Moses' health deteriorated due to exhaustion. This situation, combined with his labors as a teacher and writer, hastened his death at the rather early age of 56, in December of 1204.

This essay is an attempt to provide the reader with the essentials of a broad topic which hopefully can have a positive moral and spiritual impact on our community. We should cherish the legacy of Maimonides, the great Jewish philosophical scholar, a beacon of pride now and for future generations.

The encouragement of Rabbi Harvey Spivak, and assistance of our librarian, Rachel Haus, are hereby gratefully acknowledged.

*Alfred Blum*

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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, 2022.



# 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](mailto:jhsimon@charter.net).

## BIRTHDAYS

- 4/2 Braydon Snyder
- 4/3 Joshua Ellison
- 4/4 Sara Amy
- 4/8 Melissa Camhi
- 4/9 Paul Nimz
- 4/13 Christy Howard
- 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
- 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 & Brett Snyder
- 4/28 Alice & Steve Koss



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# Yahrzeits

## April 2-8 (1-7 Nissan)

Celia H. Besbris*	Richard Harris*	Abraham A. Rocklin*
Shirley Cane	Morris Kirsch*	Libby Rose*
Daniel Eisenberg	Harry Leiberman*	Rachel Seyburn
Edward Ellis*	Max Lerman	Norman Slavin*
Ernastine Ernst	Evelyne Munsch	Aaron Spivak
Lily Felberg	Belle Rifkin	Ina Thall*
Marion Frank		

## April 9-15 (8-14 Nissan)

Berl Kanofsky*	Larry Rose*	Max Stulberg*
Ruth Anne Lando*	Aaron S. Schwartz*	Frank Szopo III*
Nathan Minsley	Rose Sternfield*	Abe Zimmerman*

## April 16-22 (15-21 Nissan)

Cy Beer*	Hannah C. Hoffman*	Regina Brot Ruta*
Hannah Beilis	Joseph Marks*	Schanwald, Rose
Nathan Boris*	Belle Minsley	Schechter*, Esther
Isadore Friedman*	Molly Olinik Okun*	Sternfield*, Mildred

## April 23-29 (22-28 Nissan)

Dr. Bert Bez	Alfred Hadesman*	Nathalie Morrison*
Bella Camhi	Sam Halpert*	Pauline Rosenthal*
Alan Cohen	Doris Ofsa Kohn	Margot Salomon*
Martin Fisher	Jack Kushner*	Esther Slavin*
Harrison Goldstein*	Ruth Marcus	Kate Stein*
Sidney Gubin*		

*\*Denotes a memorial plaque in the synagogue*

# Weekly Talmud Study Group Continues

Led by Judah Ari-Gur, the group will focus on civil laws, studying from tractate Bava Metzia.

**The group will meet on Wednesday evenings, from 7:00 - 8:00 pm on Zoom.**

If you want to join, **please contact Judah Ari-Gur.** Judah will provide the participants with copies (in English) of the study materials.



## Play Chess As A Mitzvah

An elderly congregant is looking for a chess partner to play in his home. Can you help?

This would be a wonderful opportunity to do an important mitzvah and have a good time. Please contact Rabbi Estrin if you can help, **[rabbi@congregationofmoses.org](mailto:rabbi@congregationofmoses.org)**





# If You Want to Help Ukraine . . .

## Jewish Federations of North America

The Jewish Federations of North America have worked for decades providing aid to the Jewish communities of the former Soviet republics. As the Russian terror advances, the needs of our communities there continue to grow. Federation is actively involved in:

- Helping people make Aliyah to Israel
- Securing the local community and its institutions
- Maintaining critical welfare services
- Assisting internally displaced people in multiple locations
- Launching an emergency hotline
- Securing temporary housing for people in transit
- Purchasing satellite phones to maintain communications across the region
- Securing five Jewish schools and training staff to manage crisis needs



Please support this effort. Make checks payable to Jewish Federation and send to Jewish Federation, 2733 Broadway Ave., Kalamazoo, MI, 49008. Put Ukraine aid in the subject line.

## USCJ

The USCJ represents Conservative Judaism across North America and Israel. As the central organization honoring the balance between tradition and contemporary life, we stand as one with the Masorti Olami.

On behalf of our movement worldwide, we are asking our friends and supporters to give to our emergency campaign for Conservative Communities in Ukraine.

The local communities report that they are currently safe and at home, but are worried about the future and are in a state of uncertainty. They have conveyed fears and needs and this campaign is our hope to help them.



### About Masorti

Masorti is a growing movement around the world and our fastest expansion today is in Ukraine. Less than thirty years after the fall of Communism, Jewish life in Ukraine is flourishing once more, in what had previously been one of the greatest centers of world Jewish life. Masorti offers Ukrainian Jews a vast array of services and needs for Jewish life including synagogues, camps, youth groups, schools, ulpan, lectures, kashrut certification and much more.

Visit this link to donate now to communities in Ukraine: [masortiolami.org/one-time-donation/](https://masortiolami.org/one-time-donation/)

## Remaining ScripCents gift cards available for purchase

**D&W:** \$25 and \$100  
**Meijer:** \$100  
**Walgreens:** \$100

A total of 25 gift cards are all that is still available. Congregation of Moses will receive a small percentage on your purchase of these cards.

Please contact the CoM office with your requests, while supplies last. Call 342-5463 or email Erica, [comofficemgr@congregationofmoses.org](mailto:comofficemgr@congregationofmoses.org)



# DIRECT YOUR DOLLARS FUNDRAISER IS BACK

Our Direct Your Dollars Fundraiser is up and running again. Please continue to turn in your receipts from D&W and other Family Fare Supermarkets (e.g., Valuland, VG's, Family Fare) so that we can earn another \$1,000. We must show proof of purchase of \$150,000 worth of goods, not including wine, spirits, tobacco, prescriptions, taxes and deposits.

We did it before, and we can do it again! Just place your complete receipt(s) in the manila envelope by the CoM office door. The receipt should show the name of the store, that it is operated by SpartanNash, and the amount credited to Direct Your Dollars. **The sales slips do not have to be from the current year.**



To date, we have a very good start toward our goal. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at [rjkirschner99@gmail.com](mailto:rjkirschner99@gmail.com). Thanks for helping!

~ Pat Kirschner