



CoM newsletter

CONGREGATION OF MOSES • Kalamazoo, Michigan

Volume 15 Issue 3
March 2022 28 Adar I - 28 Adar II 5782



PURIM CARNIVAL AND PICNIC

MARCH 13, 2022 12:30- 2:30 PM

TEMPLE B'NAI ISRAEL



\$10 PER FAMILY
HOT DOG LUNCH
GAMES & PRIZES
HAMENTASCHEN
ENTERTAINMENT



Mishloach manot
משלוח מנות
Create baskets to pass out to
community members

This will be an outdoor
event, bring a blanket to
picnic with friends. Tents
will be set up in case of
rain

Sponsored By:
TEMPLE B'NAI ISRAEL
CONGREGATION OF MOSES
CHABAD HOUSE OF KALAMAZOO



Matanot L'evyonim - Gifts to the
Poor. It is traditional on Purim that
we take care of those among us
who struggle to make ends meet.
Please bring food items to donate
to Loaves & Fishes.

JEWISH FEDERATION OF KALAMAZOO &
SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN

THE OVERSIGHT BOARD

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

Oversight Board

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The CoM newsletter is published monthly by the Congregation of Moses for the benefit of its members. **The deadline for submitting articles, photos and ads is the 18th of each month, for publication the following month. Please send submissions to the editor, at bulletin@congregationofmoses.org.**



Independence. Dignity. Self-determination.

Matching Funds Campaign

The Colef Fund of Congregation of Moses is happy to report the results of our matching funds program for 2021. As in years past, the fund matched up to \$250 per family for donations to Jewish Federation or other organizations from an approved list of local and international charities.

Members of Congregation of Moses, Temple B'nai Israel and Temple Beth El participated. A total of 58 families submitted their receipts in our third year of matching donations.

Jewish Federation received the largest match of \$9,667, while additional matches of \$2,210 went to eight other charities: Loaves & Fishes, Gryphon Place, Planned Parenthood and Meshi being the most often requested.

The total amount matched by the Colef Fund for 2021 was \$11,877. Many thanks to all who participated!

New Committee Members

Beginning in April, the Colef Tzedakah Committee will be joined by **Brad Hershbein**, as an ex-officio member of the OvB.

Brad will take the place of Stephen Grode who formerly served as the OvB representative. Stephen is now the ex-officio representative of the Etz Chaim Committee, a position formerly held by Art Feinberg.

Emily Freed will also be joining the Colef Tzedakah Committee as the newest member, replacing Laurel Ofstein who has served for the past few years.

Huge thanks to both Laurel and Art for their dedication and service to the Colef Fund these past years!

And welcome to both Brad and Emily! The members of the Colef Tzedakah Committee are looking forward to working with them.



Shabbat Services

Saturday, March 5

9:30 a.m. Saturday Shacharit Service
Torah: Exodus 39:22-40:38
Haftarah: I Kings 7:51-8:21
Haftara for Sephardim: I Kings 7:40-50

Friday, March 11

6:30 p.m. Kabbalat Shabbat Services

Saturday, March 12

9:30 a.m. Shacharit Service
Torah: Leviticus 4:27-5:26 Maf: Deuteronomy 25:17-25:19
Haftarah: I Samuel 15:2-34

Saturday, March 19

9:30 a.m. Shacharit Service
Torah: Leviticus 8:1-36
Haftarah: Jeremiah 7:21-8:3; 9:22-23

Friday, March 25

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

Saturday, March 26

9:30 a.m. Shacharit Service
Torah: Leviticus 11:1-47 Maf: Numbers 19:1-19:22
Haftarah: Ezekiel 36:16-38



Shabbat candle lighting times

March 4	6:18pm
March 11	6:26pm
March 18	7:34pm
March 25	7:42pm



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.*

The Purim Party of the Year!

Wednesday, March 16th, 5:30 pm at CoM
Costumes, Megillah Reading, Hamentaschen Bake-Off
and More!

Come in costumes for parades and prizes. Bring your best homemade hamentaschen for our annual bake-off.

Regular OKCJS COVID procedures apply.

5:30 pm - Hamen-Pizza dinner (It's a triangle!), immediately following school

6:00 pm - dueling Megillah readings (Full traditional reading and a separate kid-oriented reading with costume parades, noise and laughs)
CoM's vaccination requirement will apply for those attending the traditional Megillah reading in the Sofen Room.

6:45 pm - vote for your favorite hamentaschen!

All home-prepared food MUST follow the guidelines in our Home Prepared Food Guidelines, which you can find here: https://congregationofmoses.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/HPF_guidelines.pdf

Please bring food items to donate to Loaves & Fishes.

It is traditional on Purim that we take care of those among us who struggle to make ends meet.



Purim Eve On (and Off!) Broadway!

Wednesday, March 16, 7:00-9:00 pm

JTS's famous grown-up Megillah reading and multimedia shpiel is back—with your choice of how to participate! Enjoy irreverent, witty satire set to familiar Broadway tunes. Ma'ariv, too.

Watch Party in the Sofen Room or register to watch at home!

<https://inspired.jtsa.edu/event/livestream-of-purim-on-broadway-2022/e392114>

Purim Day Megillah Reading at Chabad House

Thursday, March 17, 8:30 am, 504 Sprague Ave in Kalamazoo

FREE STORE FOR CLOTHING AND TOYS

Afghan and other refugee families are able to obtain free clothing and toys for their families at the Congregation of Moses. This has been a cooperative project of CoM, TBI and People's Church. Volunteers who are working with the families have been bringing them to the free store to choose the items they need.

While the free store has quite a bit of inventory, some specific things are still needed:

- Small size men's clothing
- Teen boys clothing
- Boys clothing - sizes 7-12
- Belts
- Women's leggings
- Feminine hygiene pads
- Toys in good condition

If you have any of these items to donate, please take them to the Congregation of Moses between 9:00 am-3:00 pm, Monday through Friday. **Please note that furniture and household items are being collected and distributed at other locations, not at CoM.**



At least one volunteer is needed at the store weekdays from noon-3:30 to sort donations and be present if individuals and families come to shop.

Things are well organized and the work is not difficult or demanding. If you are interested in volunteering during any of these times and/or providing some transportation to individuals and families, that would be very helpful.

Please contact the coordinator, Colleen VanSlambrouck, at 269-341-0573.

Member Needs Furniture for Classroom

Marla Fisher, a member of CoM and a middle school science teacher at Paramount Charter Academy, is in need of a couch or loveseat for her classroom. Comfortable chairs would also be a wonderful addition, allowing students to sit and learn in a more relaxing area of the classroom.

Please contact her at mfisher19@gmail.com if you can help.

Tradition and Change

The phrase “tradition and change” is one of the cornerstones of Conservative Judaism. Tradition, halakha and history all hold importance to Judaism. Yet, we must balance tradition with the world we live in, which is why for 3000 years Judaism has continued to evolve and change.

This year at the Congregation of Moses we are taking some deep dives into this concept and the values behind the practices and traditions we hold dear while we concurrently try out a variety of new ideas (some of which are loved and some less so).

We continue to try out new models of learning in both the OKCJS and through continuing education offerings. We are taking more activities off-site (despite the best efforts of Covid and winter to keep us all home) and expanding our social activities in new and exciting ways.

We are continuing to partner with TBI, and occasionally Chabad, to provide programs that bring our larger Jewish community together: Pizza in the Hut, Purim Carnival and community Megillah reading, shared adult education classes and a Women in Judaism series culminating with Rabbi Priesand as a guest speaker.

More recently, the ritual committees at both synagogues discussed the values and ideas behind B'nai Mitzvah services. It was decided that the synagogue not hosting the B'nai Mitzvah service will cancel that Shabbat's service. This practice will encourage everyone to join together to surround each student as one community and to experience additional formats for Shabbat services.

It's a beautiful thing to watch the members of CoM as we continue to discuss, debate, experiment and sometimes change our traditions based on our communal and Jewish values. I have been and continue to be grateful for everyone's openness and willingness to try new things as we continue to walk that path together.

l'Shalom,
Rabbi Estrin
(she/her)



Rabbi Hannah Estrin

One of the four mitzvot (commandments) of Purim is מִתְּנוּת לְאֲבוֹנִים (matanot l'evyonim) - giving food to those in need.

PURIM FOOD DRIVE

Please consider a monetary donation to Loaves & Fishes at
<https://kzoolf.org/donate-online>

or bring donations to CoM or TBI during the month of March from
KLF's greatest needs list: Canned Fruit, Ramen Noodles, Snacks for Children,
Spaghetti Sauce & Noodles, Soup, Canned Vegetables, Peanut Butter,
Lactose-Free, Shelf-Stable Milk, Boost/Ensure, Spices



Congregation
of Moses



THINK SUMMER, THINK CAMP!

The CoM Camp Endowment Committee believes that Jewish summer camp participation is an important and influential part of a well-rounded Jewish education. Therefore, the committee is proud to support our youth by continuing to provide scholarship opportunities for attending Jewish camps and activities during the summer months.

Participation by the student and family in congregation life and community, as well as financial need, are all considered as factors when determining scholarship awards.



If you have questions or would like an application, please contact Joyce Camhi at (269)267-4253 or joyce.camhi@gmail.com. The deadline to apply is March 15, 2022

Joyce Camhi, Camp Scholarship Committee

More 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, 269-808-8765

The deadline for applications is April 1.

Jacob Weintraub



The Jewish Federation[®]
OF KALAMAZOO AND SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN

HYBRID LEARNING IS BACK

We are back to hybrid learning on Sundays at Congregation of Moses. This means families can choose to come in person or to join their class on Zoom. Reminder: if you have tech/Zoom related questions on Sundays or Wednesdays, please call or text Rob at 269-270-2825.

STUDENT-LED SERVICE ON MARCH 12TH

We look forward to seeing all our students at the Congregation of Moses on March 12th. The service begins at 9:30 AM and we ask that all families arrive no later than 9:45 AM. Our younger students will lead prayers and sing songs throughout the service, while our older students will be leading the Torah service. All members of CoM and TBI are invited to join us for this service!

PURIM!

Plans for Purim celebrations are detailed in this newsletter. We are celebrating on both Sunday, March 13th as well as Erev Purim, Wednesday, March 16th.

LIBRARY

Library is planned for our Lower El grades and starts every Sunday at 9:15 AM! We love seeing the faces of our students as they learn about Judaism through a wide selection of stories. Questions are always encouraged!

LOWER EL UPDATE

The students continue to amaze us with their progress in their Hebrew studies! They spent time in the sanctuary learning about all the different parts of the sanctuary in Hebrew! They continue to work hard at learning how important gemilut chasadim - acts of loving kindness - are to our tradition. Their teachers have also decorated Tzedakah boxes for each group in order to encourage our students to think about the impact each one of them can have.

UPPER EL UPDATE

In Judaism, the students are splitting their time between the Better Together curriculum (which includes meeting with their partner—their Sage—outside of school hours) and a deep dive into how we act upon our Jewish values. Questions can be directed to Sam Arnold at supersam1266@gmail.com or Rabbi Estrin at rabbi@congregationofmoses.org

We are thrilled at the progress our students are making in their Hebrew studies. We have completed the bulk of the Torah service and have moved into a study of Kaddish in its multiple forms.

Reminder: If your student needs more practice, please have them login to the Hebrew in Harmony app (available online and on both iOS and Android). If you need your login information, please email Rabbi Schicker at rabbi@templebnaiisrael.com.

HIGH SCHOOL UPDATE

Our high school students continue their discussions of values, history, Israel and living as Jews each week. With lessons that meet our students where they are, we are appreciative for the different voices they are learning from. We are happy to note that some of our students are participating in Better Together, and some are also reading Torah for our student service on March 12th!

SEARCH STARTED FOR A NEW DIRECTOR!

The Joint Religious School Committee (JRSC) is currently interviewing candidates to be our new OKCJS Director. If you have questions please reach out to our co-chairs: Beth Grode and Ellen Winter.



Tefillin wrapping with the Upper Elementary students



School Tu B'Shvat program in February

March 2022

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		1	2	3	4	5 Shabbat Services In Person, 9:30 am
6 OKCJS, 10:00 am at CoM	7	8 Boker Tov Club, online, 8:30 am; OvB Meeting Online, 7:00 pm 	9 OKCJS online, 4:30 pm	10	11	12 School-led Shabbat Services In Person, 9:30 am
13 OKCJS, 10:00 am at CoM; Purim Carnival, 12:30-2:30 pm, TBI 	14	15 Boker Tov Club, online, 8:30 am	16 OKCJS online, 4:30 pm; Purim Celebration, 5:30 pm at CoM 	17	18 Bulletin deadline	19 Rise Up Shabbat Services In Person, 9:30 am
20 OKCJS, 10:00 am at CoM; Community Conversation on Kashrut, 4:00 pm at CoM	21	22 Boker Tov Club, online, 8:30 am	23 OKCJS online, 4:30 pm	24 CoM and TBI Book Club, 7:00 pm 	25	26 Shabbat Services In Person, 9:30 am
27 No school - spring break	28	29 Boker Tov Club, online, 8:30 am; Shacharit 101 class, 6:30 pm	30 No school - spring break	31		

April 2022

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					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	7	8 OKCJS Kabbalat Shabbat at TBI, 6:00 pm	9 Shabbat Services In Person, 9:30 am
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	14 Search for Chametz at your home!	15	16 Shabbat/Pesach Services In Person, 9:30 am
17 OKCJS, 10:00 am; Pesach 2nd day services, 9:30 am	18 Bulletin deadline	19 Boker Tov Club, online, 8:30 am	20 OKCJS online, 4:30 pm; RAC meeting, 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	25	26 Boker Tov Club, online, 8:30 am; Shabbat 101+ Class, 6:30 pm	27 OKCJS online, 4:30 pm; Talmud Study with Judah, 7:00 pm	28	29	30 Yom HaShoah Shabbat

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

March 29 - Shacharit 101+

April 26 - Preliminary Service 101+

May 17 - Gabbi/Torah Service 101+

Shacharit 101+

March 29, 6:30 pm at CoM

Often seen as the central part of the morning davening (prayers) Shacharit looks a bit different on Shabbat than the remainder of the week. Join together to learn the structure and contents, the theology and the dance of davening. If you have a favorite siddur (prayerbook) bring it along with your favorite pencil. If you want to learn how to lead Shacharit you will also walk away with the tools to begin practicing the chanting.

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.

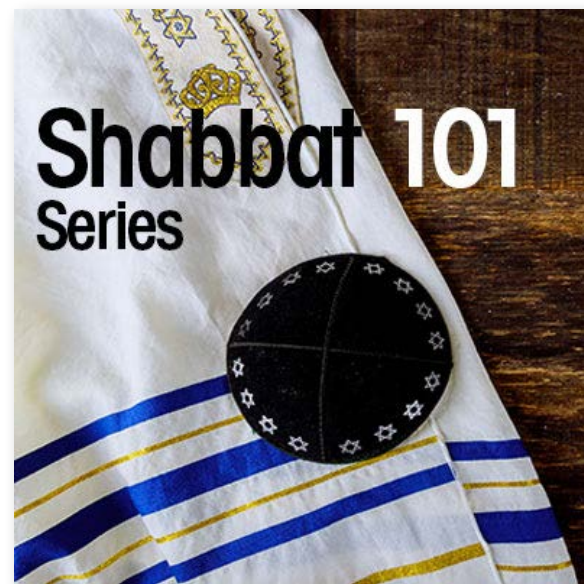
Torah Service and How to Gabbi 101+

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



STUDENT-LED SHABBAT SERVICES

Please come out and support our youngest members by attending our **school-led Shabbat on Saturday, March 12 at 9:30 am at Congregation of Moses.**

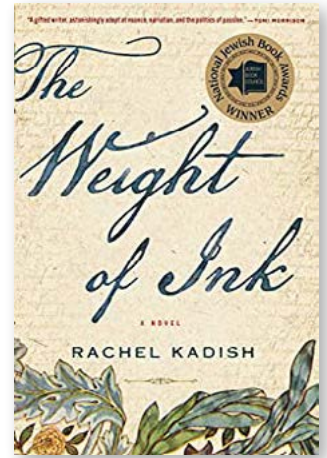
CoM and TBI Book Club

Thursday, March 24 at 7:00 pm

Please join the Joint CoM/TBI Book Club on Thursday, March 24 at 7:00 pm as it discusses National Jewish Book Award winner *The Weight of Ink* by Rachel Kadish.

You can find the book at the Fisher Library,
fisherlibrary.rmwebopac.com

For more information and to RSVP, please contact Cary Mannaberg,
cmannaberg@gmail.com.



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 amassed over \$7,200 toward our goal. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at **rjkirschner99@gmail.com**. Thanks for helping!

~ Pat Kirschner



COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

MARCH 20, 4:00 PM AT COM

In this series, we ask and discuss difficult questions about CoM's attitudes and interactions with the larger community.

This month, the discussion will center on Kashrut. We'll discuss questions such as:

- What are the reasons, both traditional and modern, to keep kosher?
- Is it really something of value today?
- What does it mean to "keep kosher?"

Please make your voice heard and join in the conversation.

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.



Mishpacha

CONDOLENCES TO

Judah & Pnina Ari-Gur on the passing of their beloved grandson, Eliyahu Shor

MAZEL TOV TO

Valerie Eisenberg on her special birthday

Ken Satir on his special birthday

Elizabeth & Mike Siegel on their special anniversary

— Donations have been made to the following funds. —

Condolences to Judah & Pnina Ari-Gur on the passing of their beloved grandson, Eliyahu Shor

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, Alan Cohen, Carolyn & Brad Kennedy*

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*

Mazel Tov to Valerie Eisenberg on her special birthday

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, 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*

Mazel Tov to Ken Satir on his special birthday

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*

Mishpacha

Mazel Tov to Liz and Mike Siegel on their special anniversary

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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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 General Fund:

In memory of my mother Faye Hageman, *Nan Goldenthal*

In memory of my mother Sallie Cushner, *Cindy Beer*

In memory of my sister Michele Arkush Schaff, *Carolyn Kennedy*

In memory of my brother Bertram Stein, *Bruce Stein*

In memory of my sister Roberta Stein, *Bruce Stein*

Donations made to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund:

In memory of my mother Eva Tuchman, *Hy Tuchman*

Donations made to the Levene Cantor Fund:

In memory of my mother Betty Levene, *Lori Putman*

In memory of my sister Caryn Levene, *Lori Putman*

Donations made to the Herman & Rose Fisher Library Fund:

In memory of my dear mother Adela Blum, *Alfred Blum*

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!

Tell Us Your Bat Mitzvah Story!

On Shabbat March 19th, celebrate 100 years of B'not Mitzvah!

Join us for Shabbat services on March 19 when congregations everywhere will celebrate jointly. If you would like to take an active role, please email rabbi@congregationofmoses.org.

Ladies, send us your Bat Mitzvah story and/or photograph (comofficemgr@congregationofmoses.org). We would love for you to also post it online here: jwa.org/stories/batmitzvah-at-100

We hope to be able to have kiddush following services (COVID permitting). If you would like to help (physically, financially or otherwise) please let Rabbi Estrin know (email rabbi@congregationofmoses.org).

We look forward to celebrating together!



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.

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

Crying for Ukraine

by RJKirschner

We weep for the tragedy of lives lost. Our world, and specifically the free nation of Ukraine, is being visited by the scourge of a psychopathic despot named Putin - the Hitler/Stalin/PolPot of our time. I feel connected to Ukraine, the homeland of my maternal grandparents, because of family history as well as personal experience.

In August, 1971, Pat and I drove and camped through the Soviet Union leaving just a month after our wedding. Accompanied by our friend Marshall and driving a long wheel-base LandRover, we entered the USSR from Finland, making our way to Leningrad, Novgorod, Moscow, Orel, Kiev, and many other places before we exited over the Carpathians into Hungary. Along the way, we visited many reminders of past glory and tragedy - palaces, fortresses, churches, synagogues and museums. We saw buildings crumbled, scarred by the war that had ended 26 years earlier after 30 million Soviet deaths. We observed that the emotional scars were deeper than the shattered buildings.

We met many nice and helpful people, including refuseniks, and observed the harshness and drabness of their urban and rural lives. Rural villages, including Zhitomir from which Marshall's parents had emigrated, with their proudly painted, wood-trimmed, lace-curtained small family homes, were a testament to the humanity that lived there.

Kiev was very different from Leningrad, Moscow, and other non-Ukrainian cities that we visited. Even 50 years ago, in those Cold War Soviet times, it was noticeably much more oriented towards Europe. Among other signs, the bright colors and relative stylishness of women's clothes in Ukrainian Kiev was in startling contrast to the Russian "Republic" and a reminder that Kiev was oriented to the West.

In 1971, my Baubi and Zaidi Schechter, who had fled Tiraspol and the Odessa area in 1913 and 1922, along with my two uncles, had been dead five and two years. They died believing, with good reason, that all of their families had been murdered by the vicious Communist, anti-Communist and Nazi plagues between 1919 and 1945.

Some years ago, I began assembling my family's history from the meager records I had and the sources that suddenly became available as the USSR disappeared and the internet exploded with novel information. I have learned more about my ancestors' world in Ukraine from at least 1793. They suffered greatly at various times, as did so many Jews and others, at the hands of the regional Empires, marauding cossacks, intolerant, "envious" neighbors, and others.

I now know for certain that many of their family were murdered in the genocide or died as combatants. However, a few siblings and their descendants of my Zaidi had escaped from Tiraspol/Bender and of my Baubi from Baranov/Odessa. They made their way to Israel between the wars or escaped as refugees to Eastern Ukraine and Central Asia before Hitler's acolytes could destroy them. I do not know their stories in much detail, but their survival is a miracle that I wish my Baubi and Zaidi could have known.

Today, I think of my Shkadron cousins who have been living in Donetsk/Luhansk, the Eastern anvil that the Russians have been hammering since 2014. They have survived bouts of COVID, and I pray they will outlast the horrendous onslaught they and other Ukrainians are suffering today and through the coming days and weeks. I am grateful that some relatives have found homes beyond the reach of the brutal invasion. We see the senseless actions in real time on our screens, as never before have been so visualized to people far removed. Hopefully, the combined efforts of democratic nations and concerned individuals will bring this insanity to a close so rebuilding and a sense of safety can commence.



How You Can Help Ukraine

Jewish Federations of North America

The Jewish Federations and their partner agencies have been on the ground in Ukraine for decades. For generations, Federations have and continue to be the foremost partners to Jews around the world.

Through the **Jewish Agency for Israel**, we bring Shlichim to Ukraine, run Sunday programs, bring Ukrainian youth to Israel for immersive programs and support the aliyah of Jews.



Through our partners at the **JDC**, we support multiple Hesed centers across 1000 locations, supporting the most vulnerable people of Ukraine. We run JCCs and Jewish youth programs to help younger generations reimagine Jewish life where it once was all but decimated.

And through **World ORT**, we've played an important role in the renewal of Jewish life through Jewish day schools, vocational training, and more.

Here's a link to donate funds for Ukraine through JFNA, [jewishfederations.org/crisis-in-ukraine2022](https://www.jewishfederations.org/crisis-in-ukraine2022)

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://www.masortiolami.org/one-time-donation/)

MARCH Celebrations



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

BIRTHDAYS

- 3/2 Jason Ruterbusch
- 3/3 Valerie Eisenberg has a special birthday! Mazel Tov!
- 3/6 Alice Koss
- 3/9 Carolyn Kennedy
- 3/12 Diane Fogel
- 3/16 Adam Weiner
- 3/18 Ken Satir has a special birthday! Mazel Tov!
- 3/19 Julia Serlin
- 3/20 Matthew Ruterbusch
- 3/24 Josh Weiner
- 3/25 Tim Howard
- 3/26 Rachel Richman
- 3/27 Lee Klingman
- 3/28 Wendy Hyman



ANNIVERSARIES

- 3/2 Liz and Mike Siegel have a special anniversary!
Mazel Tov!
- 3/20 Natalie and Rabbi Harvey Spivak
- 3/21 Susan and Patrick Welbourne



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Yahrzeits

March 5-11 (2 - 8 Adar II)

Anna P. Davidoff*

Benjamin Gubin*

Barry W. Kirschner*

Herman Fisher*

Marion Halpert*

Morris Schensul*

William Greiner*

March 12-18 (9 - 15 Adar II)

Benjamin Bennison*

Abraham Schensul*

Minerva Slosberg*

Bess L. Peven*

March 19 -25 (16 - 22 Adar II)

Rebekka Buchman*

Blanch Friedman*

Norbet Touitou*

Ethel Finn*

Jack Getz*

March 26 - April 1 (23 - 29 Adar II)

Hattie Gerber*

Richard Hoffman*

Francine Klingman

Alex Halpert*

*Denotes a memorial plaque in the synagogue

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Weekly Talmud Study Group Starts Soon

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

The group will meet on Wednesday evenings, beginning March 23, 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.



Shop Now for Passover Foods

Meijer on South Westnedge has some Passover items in stock and on display.

The variety is something not seen in Kalamazoo in years. Other stores in the area are beginning to stock items as well.

We encourage you to shop early and shop locally for your Passover foods!



Vaccination and Masking Policy

The Congregation of Moses takes the health and wellbeing of our members very seriously, and in the spirit of *pikuach nefesh* - the preserving of life - we continue to require all individuals in our building to remain masked in public areas or when others are present.

Even as the latest wave of COVID-19 seems to be lessening in severity, with cases, hospitalizations and mortality all declining both nationally and in Kalamazoo, they all remain elevated. The pandemic continues to be a serious threat to the health of our kehilah, our congregation.

In consideration of these facts, the CoM Oversight Board (OvB) believes we should take all reasonable measures to safeguard our members' physical and mental health while striving for as much inclusivity as possible.

The OvB has put in place a policy requiring all individuals attending services to be fully vaccinated, including a booster shot if eligible under CDC guidelines.

Signage stating this new policy will be posted at the main entrance and in the lobby. It is expected that members wishing to attend services will abide by this policy, and we ask guests and other non-members to bring their vaccine cards and present them to the usher at the door.

As with the mask policy, the vaccination requirement will be reevaluated as conditions continue to change.

Everyone, whether vaccinated or unvaccinated, is to continue to be masked when inside the Congregation of Moses.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.



VACCINATION



A Comment Spotted in the NY Times

"There are four kinds of bones in every volunteer organization. There are the Wishbones who spend their time wishing someone else would do the work. There are the Jawbones, who do all the talking but very little else. Next, there are the Knucklebones, who knock everything anyone ever tries to do. And finally, there are the Backbones, who get under the load and do the work."