



CoM newsletter

CONGREGATION OF MOSES • Kalamazoo, Michigan

Volume 15 Issue 7
July 2022 2 Tammuz - 3 Av 5782

HAPPY JULY 4th!



Head out to the ballpark!

On Sunday July 31, join the Kalamazoo Jewish community for an afternoon game when the Growlers hit the field against the Rockford Rivets!

We'll have a ballpark buffet (including vegetarian options) available for the first four innings of the game. Your ticket includes access for all-you-can-eat plus a seat in a reserved area of the third base grandstand.

Everyone is welcome to join in for some all-American fun. Bring friends and family! Sign up and buy your tickets below.

Ballpark and buffet will be available beginning at 1:00 pm, with the game starting at 1:35 pm.

Tickets are \$18 each, but CoM will subsidize kids' tickets for kids 12 and under. Pay just \$5 each for kids 4-12 years old! Kids 3 and under are free.



[Sign up and buy your tickets using the form on our website](https://www.congregationofmoses.org/com-events), or visit [congregationofmoses.org/](https://www.congregationofmoses.org)
[com-events](https://www.congregationofmoses.org/com-events).

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.

DIRECT YOUR DOLLARS

As of mid-June our Direct Your Dollars Fund Raiser through D&W has accumulated over \$21,700 toward our goal of \$150,000. When we reach that requisite total amount, CoM will receive a check for \$1,000. Carts full of thanks to all who have contributed to date and will do so in the future.

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.



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.**

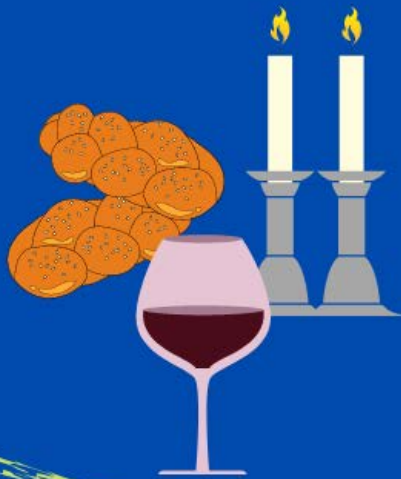
To date, we have a very good start toward our goal. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at rjkirschner99@gmail.com. Thanks for helping!

~ Pat Kirschner



JULY 8, 6:30PM
CRANE PARK

Kabbalat Shabbat **IN THE PARK**



BYO PICNIC DINNER
BLANKET & GAMES

Meet at Crane Park for a casual picnic dinner and a relaxing Kabbalat Shabbat.
Bring your food and drinks, chairs or blanket and games if you choose!

Shabbat Services

July 2	9:30 a.m. Saturday Shacharit Service Torah: Numbers 17:25-18:32 Haftarah I Samuel 11:14-12:22
July 9	9:30 a.m. Saturday Shacharit Service Torah: Numbers 20:22-22:1 Haftarah: Judges 11:1-33
July 16	9:30 a.m. Saturday Shacharit Service Torah: Numbers 22:39-25:9 Haftarah: Micah 5:6-6:8
July 23	9:30 a.m. Saturday Shacharit Service Torah: Numbers 28:16-30:1 Haftarah: Jeremiah 1:1-2:3
July 30	9:30 a.m. Saturday Shacharit Service Torah: Numbers 33:50-36:13



Shabbat candle lighting times

July 1	9:04pm
July 8	9:02pm
July 15	8:59pm
July 22	8:53pm
July 29	8:46pm

Bracha for candle lighting

The candles are lit before the blessing is recited.

*Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-nai Elo-hei-nu me-lech
ha-o-lam a-sheer kid-shan-u be-mits-vo-tav
vi-tzi-van-u l'had-lik-ner shel Shabbat.*

Blessed are you, Adonai our God, Sovereign of the universe, who hallows us with mitzvot, commanding us to kindle the light of Shabbat.



בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה, יי
אֱלֹהֵינוּ, מִלְּדָה הָעוֹלָם,
אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו,
וְצִוָּנוּ לְהַדְלִיק
נֵר שֶׁל שַׁבָּת.



GARDEN TOUR

Sunday, July 10, beginning at 9:30 am

Several members will be hosting a walk-through of their gardens. We'll begin at CoM with a quick look at the rain garden and then carpool to the other four sites.

Please sign up to attend so we can plan accordingly and let our hosts know how many people to expect.

Sign up online at congregationofmoses.org/com-events.



Eat. Pray. Play. **Spring Weekend Getaway Next Year!**

Looking for people to help plan our Community Shabbaton (weekend away) next year over Mother's Day weekend, May 12-14, 2023.

Come and help create a celebration!

For more information and to help direct the plans, please contact either Rabbi Estrin (rabbi@congregationofmoses.org) or Rabbi Schicker (rabbi@templebnaiisrael.com).



From Dust to Dust

We are familiar with these words, they frame our experience of Jewish burial and American funerals in general. They are the words of Kohelet, son of King David, as he grapples with the meaning of life. They are the central point around which Jewish burial customs swirl, with the main concept being that just as we came into this world from nothing and naked, we should return to God in the same way.

I've been thinking about some of the lesser known and observed parts of mourning and this past week had the opportunity to visit Langeland's with some of our bereavement committee. Death and burial has several steps in Judaism for both the deceased and those in mourning. For the deceased, once Michigan requirements are fulfilled, the body is washed and prepared for burial, called *tahara*. It is wrapped in a shroud (simple white unadorned clothing) and placed in a plain wood casket. Between the time of death and burial the body is traditionally never left alone. *Shomrim* (guards) sit with it, often reciting psalms. Those are the basics, but the details of each stage could fill a book.



Rabbi Hannah Estrin

Many of these rituals are common, but *tahara* and *shomrut* are beautiful and meaningful while lesser known. In Judaism all mitzvot are considered to be of equal "worth" but there is a special feeling about taking care of the dead. When we take care of the living, we might expect a benefit to come back to us, but it's tough for the dead to repay the favor so the rabbis considered the practices around death to be particularly kind.

It's important to remember that the laws of burial developed in a society where the dead were buried immediately. Community simply stopped what they were doing to attend to the deceased and their family. In Israel, this is still often true. Family and friends will show up to a funeral in whatever they happen to be wearing—shorts, flip flops and suits all blend together as people stand in memory.

The typically slower process here in America actually makes *tahara* a bit easier as it gives time for people to gather for this powerful ritual of washing, anointing and dressing the body. For me, this ritual is the parallel to giving a newborn baby that first bath and holding their swaddled body in our loving arms. It is an opportunity for friends and family to gently care for and prepare a loved one for their final journey in this body. While traditionally this mitzvah is carried out by the community, and Langeland's has a room designed for this purpose, the funeral home is able to perform a basic form of *tahara*.

When the deceased is buried immediately, the body is guarded for a few hours but today that can be a few days. This makes *Shomrut* a bit more challenging but still very doable. Instead of one person sitting with the body, someone takes on the task of arranging people for blocks of time. There is a concept in Judaism that the soul does not completely detach from the body until burial, so by sitting with the deceased we are keeping their soul company until the next stage in its journey.

Many of you have heard me talk about burial and mourning rituals and about having a community *Chevre Kadisha* (burial society). I believe Judaism's mourning rituals help us walk the path of saying goodbye, mourning and eventually returning to the world. Whatever our decisions around burial and mourning are, may they bring closure, smiles and tears and the strength to continue on.

For more information on end of life, death and burial conversations I recommend either *Jewish Practice* by Rabbi Isaac Klein or *On Death and Dying* by Rabbi Norman Lamb. If you would like to discuss end-of-life issues or burial plans, I believe that planning ahead so that your loved ones know exactly what you want is a beautiful gift, and I would love to sit with you.

If you would like to learn more about *tahara* and *shomrut* and perhaps be on a call list for future needs, please let me know. What's important is that we remember that in our times of need, members of CoM are here to stand with us and provide for our needs. That might be in preparation for burial, a bereavement meal following the funeral service, ensuring you have what you need for sitting shiva, for your first step back into the world after shiva or subsequent steps on shloshim (30 days), the *yahrzeit* and *yizkor*.

I'Shalom,
Rabbi Hannah Estrin
(she/her)

An Invitation to Share and to Teach: No Experience Needed!

Torah (which includes all Jewish texts) is replete with lessons for daily life. Would you share your thoughts with us?

Rabbi Estrin will be away from July 15 to August 31, but our regular Shabbat morning services will continue. Will you bring your talents, perspective and creativity to a Shabbat morning service during these weeks?

You are invited to:

- Study the Torah portion, haftarah portion or any Jewish text that interests you. We are looking for the curious, not for scholars.
- Use our library, our Rabbi, study guides, or other resources to dig as deep as you want into the meanings of what you have read. Bring your unique perspectives to what is written.
- Present a short talk (5-10 minutes) about what you have learned on a Shabbat morning.

We have many resources to help you and we'd be delighted to both help you prepare and have you share your learning with us. Contact **Rabbi Estrin** or **Al Rosenthal** for assistance.



July 2022

Su

M






T

W

Th

F

Sa

					1	2 Shabbat Services In Person, 9:30 am
3	4	5	6 Talmud Class with Judah Ari-Gur, 7:00 pm	7	8 Picnic Kabbalat Shabbat at Crane Park, 6:30 pm 	9 Shabbat Services In Person, 9:30 am
10 Garden Tour of Members' Gardens, 9:30 am at CoM 	11	12 OvB Meeting Online, 7:00 pm 	13 Talmud Class with Judah Ari-Gur, 7:00 pm	14	15	16 Shabbat Services In Person, 9:30 am
17	18 Hadassah Book Club, 11:00 am 	19	20 Talmud Class with Judah Ari- Gur, 7:00 pm; RAC meeting, 7:00 pm	21	22	23 Shabbat Services In Person, 9:30 am
24	25	26	27 Talmud Class with Judah Ari-Gur, 7:00 pm	28	29	30 Shabbat Services In Person, 9:30 am
31 Growlers Game family event, 1:30 pm 						

August 2022

Su

M



T

W

Th

F

Sa

	1	2	3 Talmud Class with Judah Ari-Gur, 7:00 pm	4	5	6 Shabbat Services In Person, 9:30 am
7	8	9	10 Talmud Class with Judah Ari-Gur, 7:00 pm; Zoom event with Maggie Anton	11	12	13 Shabbat Services In Person, 9:30 am; Second Cup following services
14	15 Hadassah Book Club, 11:00 am 	16 OvB Meeting Online, 7:00 pm 	17 Talmud Class with Judah Ari-Gur, 7:00 pm; RAC meeting, 7:00 pm	18 Bulletin deadline	19	20 Shabbat Services In Person, 9:30 am
21	22	23	24 Talmud Class with Judah Ari- Gur, 7:00 pm	25	26	27 Shabbat Services In Person, 9:30 am
28	29	30	31 Talmud Class with Judah Ari-Gur, 7:00 pm			

Mishpacha

SPEEDY RECOVERY TO

Judy Davis
Rae Lee Howard

MAZEL TOV TO

Shirley Wise, on the marriage of her daughter Juleah Szopo to Dean Fefopoulos

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

Speedy Recovery to Judy Davis

Donations made to the General Fund: *Al Rosenthal, 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*

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 Rae Lee Howard

Donations made to the General Fund: *Al Rosenthal & Judy Davis, 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*

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

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

Mazel Tov to Shirley Wise on the Marriage of her Daughter Juleah Szopo to Dean Fefopoulos

Donations made to the General Fund: *Al Rosenthal & Judy Davis, Diane & Harvey Fogel, Cindy & Larry Beer, 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*

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

In Loving Memory

Donation made to the General Fund: In loving memory of Gertrude Stein: *Bruce Stein*

Donation made to the Building Fund: In memory of Rosalie Okun: *Joshua & Pamela Weiner*

Donation made to the Joyce & Morton Fisher Kitchen/Oneg/Kiddush Fund: In memory of Rosalie Okun: *Gail Brot*

Donation made to the Levene Cantor Fund: In memory of my dad, Jack Levene: *Lori & Glenn Putman*

Other

Donations made to the Building Fund:

In honor of Ken Goodman's 70th birthday: *Carolyn & Brad Kennedy*

In honor of Adam Beer's graduation from medical school. Mazel Tov to Cindy & Larry Beer: *Carolyn & Brad Kennedy*

In honor of Maddie Strauss' graduation from Portage Central High School: *Judy & Leonard Poger*

CoM Committees Need Your Ideas!

With the adoption of revised by-laws at the Annual Congregational meeting in May, we wanted to provide an overview of our current super committees, subcommittees and stand-alone committees. We are always looking for new and diverse voices to move our community forward.

If you are interested in leading or joining any of these committees, please let us know by sending an email to comofficemgr@congregationofmoses.org. Committees and chairs are listed below. You can also contact the committee chairs directly.

Operations Super Committee: *Mike Tenenbaum*

If it's physical or having to do with the building, grounds or facility, it probably happens here.

Facilities Subcommittee: *Mike Tenenbaum*

Library Subcommittee: *Rachel Haus*

Cemetery Subcommittee: *Jenna Verne*

Garden and Grounds Subcommittee: *Carolyn Kennedy*

Mitbach/Kitchen (Physical facility and kashrut) Subcommittee: *Gail Brot and Joanne Simon*

Programming Super Committee: *Brad and Carolyn Kennedy*

If it has to do with learning, fun or food, it probably happens here.

Communications Subcommittee: *Carolyn and Brad Kennedy*

Membership Subcommittee: not currently active, but you can help restart it!

Shabbat/Holiday Meals Subcommittee: not currently active, but you can help start it!

LifeLong Learning (Adult Ed) Subcommittee: not currently active, but you can help restart it!

Religious Action Committee (RAC): *Al Rosenthal*

If it has to do with religious services and activities, it falls here.

High Holidays: *Al Rosenthal*

Caring Connection Subcommittee: *Pat Kirschner*

Kiddush/Oneg Subcommittee: *Wilma Kahn and Phil Horwich*

Bereavement Meal Subcommittee: *Joanne Simon*

Chevra Kadisha: not currently active, but you can help start it!

Stand-Alone Committees

Colef Fund: *Carolyn Kennedy*

Okun Kalamazoo Community Jewish School: *Beth Grode* (joint religious school committee with TBI)

Temporary Committees

- Spiritual Leader Search Committee: *Laurel Ofstein*

Although we are extremely fortunate to have Rabbi Estrin for another year, it's already time to begin thinking about our next spiritual leader. Be a part of the team that makes it happen!

- OvB Nominations Committee: *Patty Conlon*

Are you interested in learning more about how CoM operates and becoming a future leader? Talk to Patty about joining the CoM's governing body, the Oversight Board.

- By-Laws Amendment Committee: *Charlie Ofstein*

At our annual meeting in May, we approved a new set of by-laws that were years in the making. Still, like the U.S. Constitution, the by-laws are a living document and will need tweaking as we move forward. If you'd like to help with that process, sign up with Charlie.



BOOK CLUB ZOOM EVENT WITH AUTHOR MAGGIE ANTON

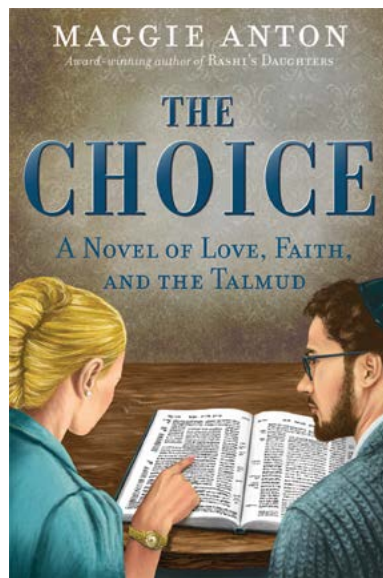
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 10, 7:00 PM ON ZOOM

***The Choice: A Novel of Love, Faith and the Talmud*, by Maggie Anton**

The combined book club of Congregation of Moses and Temple B'nai Israel will be joining with the book club of Grand Rapid's Congregation Ahavas Israel on August 10 at "This is a Book Store," at 7:00 pm in Oakwood Plaza to discuss this new book.

It is anticipated that author Maggie Anton, will be present on Zoom to join the discussion.

Maggie Anton's latest book, *The Choice*, masterfully interweaves and explores love and faith through historical events, Jewish traditions and history, and the Talmud. Anton has reimagined the main characters from Chaim Potok's *The Chosen*, added strong female characters and voices, which were non-existent previously, and placed them years later into mid-1950s Brooklyn. The reader is gifted with love stories as well as a story of the love of learning.



You can learn more about Maggie's latest book here: www.jewishbookcouncil.org/book/the-choice-a-novel-of-love-faith-and-talmud

Purchasing:

To buy the ebook version, you can get a discount off the Amazon price at <https://payhip.com/b/XBOmh>.

If you would like a signed print version of the book at a discounted price, please email Rachel Haus at library@congregationofmoses.org to participate in the group order.

If it makes more sense for you to buy it on your own, it is available at Amazon or your favorite bookseller.

Sign up on our website and receive the zoom link before the event.

NEW ADDITION TO OUR BROADWAY ENTRANCE

We've added a Little Free Library, filled with great books for all ages although it seems to have attracted the attention of our Camp Keshet kids!

The Library was given to CoM free by **The Art of Planting Little Free Libraries**, the brainchild of two teachers at Winchell Elementary, committed to art, literacy and serving local families.

Special thanks to Dionna Roberts of Winchell School for all her help with obtaining and filling the library!



Next Year in Jerusalem!

A Jewish Community Adventure in Israel



Kalamazoo
Jewish Community
Israel Tour

April 16-26, 2023

Trip details, itinerary and registration at jewishkalamazoo.org



WHAT'S UP WITH THE RAIN GARDEN?

The rain garden with native wildflowers in front of CoM is finally finished! As intended, the flowers are beginning to bloom and attract pollinators.

Stones have been added to slow down the intense rush of water. Best of all, the design appears to be working as intended to catch and hold water until the deep-rooted native wildflowers can slowly absorb it. (photo at right).

Recently, a group of visitors organized by Hope for Creation, toured the CoM rain garden during its congregational garden tour. About 15 people attended the presentation about rain gardens and native plants. (photos below and bottom right)

Thanks to volunteers Joyce Camhi, Brad Kennedy, Harvey Fogel, Shirley Wise, Sherry Deems, Gerry Tregerman, Janis English (for her help with plant labels) and big thanks to Rich Wojtas for his invaluable assistance with nearly everything.

Please stop and take a look at the garden the next time you visit.



A rain garden holds water in a shallow "bowl" allowing it to be slowly absorbed. The deep-rooted native plants filter many of the toxins contained in the water before it reaches the watershed.



Garden tour participants learned about the purpose of rain gardens and the value of planting native wildflowers.



Michigan native wildflowers and grasses are beginning to get established in the garden.



A congregational tour was held in mid-June and CoM hosted guests.

JULY 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

- 7/1 Howard Katz
- 7/2 Andrew Jeremy Angel
- 7/2 Sydney Aileen Angel
- 7/3 Shira Haus
- 7/5 Laurel Scheidt
- 7/6 Jill Ruterbusch
- 7/7 Sallie Goodman
- 7/7 Elisabeth Thall
- 7/10 Joel Bez
- 7/12 Andrea Johnson
- 7/12 Deborah Torres
- 7/13 Nomi Kluger-Nash
- 7/13 Blue Koffron
- 7/14 Joyce Camhi
- 7/15 Eliana Rubin
- 7/16 Zachary Morrison
- 7/17 Isabel Howard
- 7/18 Lev Koffron
- 7/18 Kim Rubin
- 7/19 Sara Kurlandsky
- 7/20 David Green
- 7/22 Patricia Kirschner
- 7/24 Jenifer Rubin-Behar
- 7/26 Jeffrey Haus
- 7/26 Diane Minsley
- 7/30 Melvin Hyman
- 7/30 Wilma Kahn
- 7/31 Karl Schook



ANNIVERSARIES

- 7/3 Dona & Ken Satir
- 7/6 Patricia & Richard Kirschner
- 7/14 Laurel & Charles Ofstein
- 7/20 Maxine & Neal Berke



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E Able to meet tight deadlines
Proficient in technical jargon in several industries
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S Contact us for a price quote or sample of our business: onkelus@gmail.com

Yahrzeits

July 2-8 (3-9 Tammuz)

Ruthe Bernard*	Pauline Kushner*	Sidney Seyburn*
Izidor Freiwald*	Miriam Roodin*	Paula Strauss*
Bernice Friedman*	Sadye Rosenbaum*	Siegfried Strauss*

July 9-15 (10-16 Tammuz)

Siegfried Baum*	Edward Okun*	Dorothy B. Slavin*
Meyer H. Lebowitz*	Sara Rose*	Ruth Sofen*
Louis Loeser*	Leah Schensul*	Elmer Steinberg*

July 16-22 (17-23 Tammuz)

Norman Brickman*	Israel Israelson*	Charles Marks*
Eugene Colef*	Harry C. Kaufman*	Sophie Milller
Esidore H. Graff*	Louis E. Koss*	Irving Schensul*
Robert Grekin*	Herman Benjamin Lando*	Helen Tenenbaum*

July 23-29 (24 Tammuz - 1 Av)

Mary Goldsmith*	Bernice Kirsch*	Milton Wruble*
Samuel Gottlieb*	Yetta Marcus*	
Norman Graff*	Mollie Wolfe*	

July 30-August 5 (2-8 Av)

Cecile Cohen*	Freda Kaufman*	
Martin Ginsberg*	Sarah Rozanoff*	

**Denotes a memorial plaque in the synagogue*

TZEDAKAH

New Drop-Off Bin for Food Collection

Please bring your food and personal hygiene items for donation to **Loaves and Fishes** anytime to CoM. We now have a large collection barrel in the lobby to hold larger quantities of canned and boxed food.

Consider grabbing a few extra items to donate to KLF during your next grocery run. Below you'll find items that are in high demand during this time.

- Jelly/Jam
- Cereal
- Canned Soups and Stews
- Meals in a Box (like Hamburger Helper)
- Shelf-Stable Almond or Rice Milk
- Baking Mixes (like Jiffy or Bisquick)
- Ensure® or similar protein drinks
- Canned Meat
- Shelf-Stable Tortillas
- Granola Bars
- Microwavable Foods (like rice in a bag)

KLF does not accept partially opened boxes and bags. Please try to avoid donating rusty, badly damaged cans.



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



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**.



Remaining ScripCents gift cards available for purchase

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

A total of 20 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