



CoM newsletter

CONGREGATION OF MOSES • Kalamazoo, Michigan

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Now What Do I Say About Israel?

Benjamin Netanyahu and the 37th Knesset are now in power in Israel. Since the Knesset elections on November 1st, there has been a multitude of articles spouting despair and outrage. Asking questions like: "What will become of the State of Israel?" "Will Israel no longer be a democracy?" and "How could Israelis elect them?"

At the moment, I want to ask a different question. The question of how do we, as American Jews, talk about Israel in light of the incoming government? How do we support a country if it has a political situation we despise?



Rabbi Hannah Estrin

The conversation is not about left and right, but rather about center right and the religious and political far right. There is a possibility that Israel as a Jewish and democratic state will be under serious threat from the new government. There is a possibility that laws will be passed which attack the foundations of Israel's democracy. Laws which enact intolerance, racism, homophobia and misogyny. Laws which remove the small gains that Reform, Conservative and other non ultra-Orthodox groups have gained in recent years. And we should be outraged by all of these things and share our outrage.

But let us not despair. Instead, let us funnel that outrage into conversation and action within our own communities and on the world stage. Let us make a commitment to work for a better and stronger Israel.

What can we do?

- Speak it. Tell the truth about the current government and what you think about it. And then make a distinction between the government and the people, between the government and the long-held Israeli values. Between the government and what you believe that Israel can and should be.
- Donate time or resources to organizations throughout Israel that are fighting for pluralism and equality. Here are three of my favorites: **Masorti Olami**, **The Israel Religious Action Center**, **Tzohar**.
- Request from the American Government that Ben-Gvir, who has been convicted in Israel of inciting racism and supporting a terrorist organization (Kahane Chai) be denied a visa and entry to the United States.
- Find an opportunity to support dovish, centrist or right wing politicians who have a commitment to a state of *all* Jews, in all their diversity.
- As always, ask questions, read a variety of opinions and educate yourself on the nuances of Israel. Or come visit and see it all for yourself.
 - Join us on January 19th, 8:00 am on Zoom, where you can ask your questions about what is happening in Israel today. **Register here.**
 - Subscribe to the Jerusalem Post, English Ha'aretz, or Ynetnews and see how Israelis report the news.
 - Listen to a podcast. I like "For Heaven's Sake" with Donniel Hartman, Yossi Klein Halevi and Elana Stein-Hain (Hartman)

The triumph of this Knesset is scary, but it is a setback, not a defeat. Remember the dire predictions when Menachem Begin became Prime Minister? Yet under him Iran's nuclear capabilities were destroyed and peace was made with Egypt. Let us hope that the actions of this government will not reflect the personalities within it, but will build an Israel that we are proud of. Then we can judge by their actions.

For now, go learn, speak up and mobilize to support the Israel that we want to see as a homeland. Let's not give into extremism.

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.**

Direct Your Dollars

Our CoM fundraiser through Direct Your Dollars has collected just short of \$30,000 in receipts toward the goal of \$150,000 as of the beginning of 2023.

Please help us to continue climbing to meet the goal in order to raise \$1,000 for the congregation.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at rjkirschner99@gmail.com.

Thanks for helping!

~ Pat Kirschner



Show That You Care

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

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

Just call or [email Erica](mailto:ericasloan@congregationofmoses.org) in the office and let her know you'd like to participate. Then choose a fund and drop off or mail your check for \$400 for the entire year. That's all it takes!

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



Shabbat and Events Calendar

Friday, January 6	5:07 pm	Shabbat Candle lighting time	
Saturday, January 7	9:30 am	Shacharit Service	Torah: Genesis 47:28-48:22 Haftarah: I Kings 2:1-12
Tuesday, January 10	7:00 pm	OvB Meeting in person and on Zoom	
Wednesday, January 11	4:30 pm	OKCJS classes meet at TBI	
Friday, January 13	5:14 pm	Shabbat Candle lighting time	
Saturday, January 14	9:30 am	Shacharit Service	Torah: Exodus 1:1-2:25; Haftarah: Isaiah 27:6-28:13; 29:22-23
Sunday, January 15	9:00 am	OKCJS classes at CoM	
Sunday, January 15	9:00 am	Torah Yoga with Sim Birnbaum	Sign up on the CoM website or call the office
Sunday, January 15	4:00 pm	Israeli Dancing at TBI	
Monday, January 16	7:00 pm	Hadassah Book Club	
Wednesday, January 18	4:30 pm	OKCJS classes at TBI	
Wednesday, January 18	7:00 pm	RAC meeting	
Thursday, January 19	8:00 am	"Live from Israel" on Zoom with Rabbi Estrin	Sign up on the CoM website or call the office
Friday, January 20	5:23 pm	Shabbat Candle lighting time	
Saturday, January 21	9:30 am	Shacharit Service, with Second Cup following services	Torah: Exodus 6:2-7:7 Haftarah: Ezekiel 28:25-29:21
Sunday, January 22	9:00 am	OKCJS classes at CoM	
Monday, January 23	7:00 pm	"Getting Good at Getting Older" with Rabbi Schicker	Sign up on the CoM website or call the office
Tuesday, January 24	8:00 am	Rabbi Haviva Ner-David on Zoom <i>Dreaming Against the Current: A Rabbi's Soul Journey</i>	Sign up on the CoM website or call the office
Wednesday, January 25	4:30 pm	OKCJS classes at TBI	
Friday, January 27	5:32 pm	Shabbat Candle lighting time	
Saturday, January 28	9:30 am	Shacharit Service	Torah: Exodus 10:1-11:3 Haftarah: Jeremiah 46:13-28
Sunday, January 29	9:00 am	OKCJS classes at CoM	
Monday, January 30	7:00 pm	"Getting Good at Getting Older" with Rabbi Schicker	Sign up on the CoM website or call the office
Friday, February 3	5:41 pm	Shabbat Candle lighting time	
Friday, February 3	7:00 pm	Joint Kabbalat Shabbat at TBI	With speaker and special Oneg Shabbat

Bracha for Shabbat 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-sher 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.



5th Annual
**REFUGEE
SHABBAT**
a project of **HIAS**

Join Temple B'nai Israel and Congregation
of Moses for our annual joint service

February 3, 2023
Guest Speaker! **7:00 PM** *Special Oneg!*

Temple B'nai Israel



Congregation
of **Moses**

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 the office at 342-5463, or comofficemgr@congregationofmoses.org.

January Birthdays

January 2	Benjamin Barry	January 15	Beth Morrison
January 2	Stephen Koss	January 16	Fran Raffel
January 5	Madeline Strauss	January 19	Gary Adelman
January 6	Emily Green	January 22	Nan Goldenthal
January 6	Emily Hoffman	January 22	Avery Nicole Howard
January 7	Sandra Rose	January 25	Jann Stulberg
January 8	Leslie Bez	January 26	Viola Fisher
January 11	Richard Kirschner	January 30	Rae Lee Howard
January 14	David Stulberg	January 30	Susan Welbourne



January Anniversaries

January 9 Diane and Bruce Minsley



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Book Discussion with Rabbi Schicker

Based on the book, *Getting Good at Getting Older* by Richard Siegel and Rabbi Laura Geller (physical copy highly recommended, but also available on Kindle)

Monday nights 7:00 - 8:00 PM on Zoom

- January 23 - Getting Good at Gaining Wisdom
- January 30 - Getting Good at Getting Along
- February 13 - Getting Good at Getting Better
- February 27 - Getting Good at Getting Ready
- March 20 - Getting Good at Giving Back
- March 27 - Getting Good at Giving Away

Registration required - minimum of 4 participants required for each discussion. Each is a stand-alone discussion.

Register by January 13th on the CoM website

No cost for members of TBI or CoM. \$30 non-members, for the series.



“Getting Good at Getting Older”



Israel: On Location

Explore the intersection of Jewish texts and Israel
With Rabbi Hannah Estrin

"Live from Israel" - Thursday, January 19, 8:00 am - Zoom only

Sign up on the website to attend.

Torah Yoga

with Sim Birnbaum

Sunday, January 15 at 9:00 am

Come join us for a fun and relaxing hour. Bring your yoga mat and water bottle. No yoga experience necessary.



Mishpacha

CONDOLENCES TO

Joanne Simon on the passing of her beloved husband, Michael

Donations have been made by the following individuals and families.

Condolences to Joanne Simon on the passing of her husband, Michael

Al Rosenthal & Judy Davis, Diane & Harvey Fogel, Cindy & Larry Beer, Shirley Wise, Men's Club, Michelle & Alan Angel, Emily Freed & Brad Hershbein, Diane & Bruce Minsley, Beth & Stephen Grode, Sherry Deems, Judy & Leonard Poger, Maxine & Neal Berke, Sallie & Ken Goodman, The Ruterbusch Family, Valerie & Ken Eisenberg, Rae Lee Howard, The Fischell Family, Judy & Lowell Seyburn, Alan Cohen, Pat & Richard Kirschner, Alice & Steve Koss, Nomi Kluger-Nash, Randie Besbris Levin

In Loving Memory

In loving memory of my parents, Jack & Sadye Rubin, *Arlen Ruben*

In loving memory of my sister, Jackie Strauss, *Adam Strauss*

In loving memory of my father, Andrew Levene and my sister, Sue Levene, *Candi Levene*

Dreaming Against the Current: A Rabbi's Soul Journey

with Rabbi Haviva Ner-David

**Live from Israel on Zoom -
Tuesday, January 24, 8:00 am EST**

Haviva Ner-David is a writer and rabbi. In 2006, she became the first woman to publicly receive Orthodox rabbinic ordination, only to leave Orthodoxy and call herself a post-denominational rabbi. Ten years later, she received interfaith ordination from the One Spirit Interfaith-Interspiritual Seminary and now goes by post-denominational inter-spiritual rabbi.

She writes both fiction and non-fiction, and is the author of three spiritual journey memoirs, a novel, short stories, essays, a blog on Times of Israel, scholarly articles and a guidebook for engaged couples.

Join us via Zoom to hear her fascinating story and a discussion of her newest book, "Dreaming Against the Current: A Rabbi's Soul Journey." Q&A will follow.

Sign up to attend on the website: congregationofmoses.org/com-events





Colef
The Samuel J. and Mary E. Colef Fund

Independence. Dignity. Self-determination.

The Colef Fund of the Congregation of Moses supports programs locally, nationally and globally that address hunger, poverty, homelessness, literacy, joblessness, health, education and building safe communities.

The Colef Fund will match your donations

dollar-for-dollar, up to a yearly total of \$250 per family (minimum \$50) to any of these nonprofits.

Gifts made anytime from January 1 – December 31, 2022 will be matched!

- Big Brothers Big Sisters, bbbsmi.org
- Boys Town Jerusalem, boystownjerusalem.org
- Community Healing Centers, chcmi.org
- Constance Brown Hearing Centers, cbrown.org
- Disability Network, dnswm.org
- Ecumenical Senior Center, ecumenicalsc.com
- Family and Children's Services, fcsource.org
- First Day Shoe Fund, firstdayshoefund.org
- Gryphon Place, gryphon.org
- HIAS, hias.org
- Innovation: Africa, innoafrica.org
- JDC, jdc.org
- Jewish Federation of Southwest Michigan (donations matched to Jewish Federations of North America, jfna.org)
- KC Ready 4s, kcready4s.org
- Kalamazoo Covenant Academy, kcovenantacademy.org
- Kalamazoo Literacy Council, kalamazooliteracy.org
- Kalamazoo Loaves and Fishes, kzoolf.org
- Meshi Children's Rehabilitation Center, meshicenter.org
- Ministry with Community, ministrywithcommunity.org
- Open Doors, odkzoo.com
- Planned Parenthood of Kalamazoo, ppmi.org
- Portage Community Center, portagecommunitycenter.org
- Prevention Works, prevention-works.org
- Read and Write Kalamazoo (RAWK), readandwritekzoo.org
- Ready to Read/Kalamazoo Public Library, kpl.gov/children/ready-to-read
- St. Luke's Diaper Bank, www.stlukesdiaperbank.org
- Senior Services, milestoneseniorservices.org
- Southwest Michigan Miracle League, swmimiracle.org
- Trauma Recovery Associates (TRA), traumarecoveryassociates.com
- Tzevet Mikey, tzevetmikey.com
- United Way of Kalamazoo and Battle Creek, uwbckr.org
- Urban Alliance, uainc.org
- Yad LaKashish/Lifeline for the Old, lifeline.org.il
- Yad Ezra V'Shulamit, yadezra.net
- YWCA of Kalamazoo, ywcakalamazoo.org

The Colef Fund has previously supported each of the organizations listed.

How to get your donation matched by the Colef Fund

Send the following information **along with a copy of your donation receipt from 2022** to:

Congregation of Moses, Attn: Colef Fund, 2501 Stadium Dr, Kalamazoo, MI 49008

Or **email: coleffund@congregationofmoses.org**.

Please make your gifts **by December 31, 2022** to have them matched. **The maximum to be matched by the Colef Fund is \$250 per family per year, regardless of which projects or agencies you choose to support.**

Include this information please:

- Your name, address, email address and phone number
- Amount to be matched
- Organization name, and a receipt or acknowledgement of your donation

Find us online at coleffund.org or on Facebook



Rebecca Tregerman, Director



OKCJS Teacher Feature—Moreh Sam Arnold

We've been fortunate to have Moreh Sam teach at OKCJS for the past four years! While attending WMU's Early Childhood Education program, Moreh Sam reached out to both local congregations to ask about a teaching position and was quickly invited by then-principal Nora Chaus to join the staff at OKCJS.

Outside of OKCJS, Sam has taught at many schools, both in the Kalamazoo and Metro Detroit areas. This includes his home synagogue's religious school, where he's provided support for B'nai Mitzvah students to read Torah, Haftorah and daven. More recently, Sam finished two pre-internships and noted with pride that, including his OKCJS students, he has been able to impact over two hundred students' lives in this last semester.

Moreh Sam helps students grow their passion for Judaism and considers himself fortunate to have had strong Jewish role models and hopes to be the same for others. In his classroom, he has a poster that states "Knowledge intertwines Mitzvot, Ethics, Israel, Holidays, Hebrew, Prayer, Yiddishkeit and Holocaust Education, and it is this Jewish learning that provides a solid base to our lives." Moreh Sam likes this poster because it reminds him of his beloved teacher, Cantor Leonard Gutman, and emphasizes how Judaism can fit into everyday routines. He loves diving into questions about the "whys" behind the prayers we say and the texts we study.

Moreh Sam was raised with his younger siblings Adam and Shoshana in Farmington Hills in an observant home by parents Wendy and Philip. His mom leads Shiva Minyan and steps up to read Megillah, share a D'var Torah and more. She has even read Torah from the bimah of Congregation of Moses! Sam's dad helps teach Hebrew and appreciates Jewish literature.



Moreh Sam excelled in his religious school at Congregation Shaarey Zedek, where at his Bar Mitzvah he led the shul in Kabbalat Shabbat, Maariv, Shacharit, read all seven aliyot on top of Maftir, and chanted Haftorah. To this day, Sam is proud to say he learned from Cantor Gutman (and still is learning) all of the Shabbat services, Shalosh Regalim (festival davening), High Holy Day davening, and how to chant Megillot with the proper trope. This learning has shaped his passion for being able to lead a community in Tefillah (prayer) and has helped him have an appreciation for being within a shul community. His family currently belongs to Adat Shalom Synagogue in Farmington Hills where he often leads services when home.

On a Shabbat morning, Moreh Sam has been found over these past four years sharing the Bimah with the Rabbis, Rachel Haus and other lay leaders. He has learned the power, meaning and potential that exists within a smaller Jewish community.

Moreh Sam lives by the following quote written in the Mishnah: "These are the deeds that yield immediate fruit and continue to yield fruit in time to come: honoring parents; acts of kindness; attending the house of study punctually, morning and evening; providing hospitality; visiting the sick; helping the needy bride; attending the dead; concentrating on the meaning of prayer; making peace between one person and another, and between husband and wife. And the study of Torah is equal to them all."

Moreh Sam's goal is to be ordained a Rabbi, as well as pursue a master's degree in Jewish Education on top of a possible master's degree in Sacred Music. This would allow him to teach any person from the youngest to the oldest, and be able to not only have knowledge around Jewish prayer, but also share words of Torah, be there in all walks of life, and have the opportunity to be and lead a community too.

In his free time, he enjoys listening to music, playing piano, cooking, hiking and walking his puppy, Chester. Moreh Sam practices davening, Torah readings, or something for Shabbat/Festival services from time to time.

We wish him the best upon his upcoming graduation from WMU! He is always welcome back here and we will miss him dearly.

Rebecca Tregerman



Yahrzeits

December 31-January 6 (7-13 Tevet)

Dr. Herbert Barak*	Arnold Finn*	Nathan Marcus*
Edward Brody*	Jacob Gerber*	Sadye Levy Rubin
Ben Brot*	Joseph Grekin	Louis Schechter
Jacob Cohen*	Molly King*	Raleigh Schechter
Uzetta Cohen*	Muriel Krefman	Rebecca Schwartz
Elizabeth Ellison	Arlene Lando*	

January 7-13 (14-20 Tevet)

Josephine Bovin	Samuel Kirsch	Leo Salomon*
Leah Budin*	Joseph Klingman	Charlette Schupan*
Bernard Deutsch*	Harvey Lipsitt	Dr. Sam I. Stein*
Haim Noah Feder	Vivian Pollack*	

January 14-20 (21-27 Tevet)

Dr. Morris Berkson	Dr Seymour Levine*	Sidney Schwartz*
Barbara Gross Finestone*	Bessie Elias London*	Ben Zimmerman*
Nesha Gerber*	Rose Paull*	Jesse S. Zimmerman*
Isadore Halpert*	Bernice Roodin*	

January 21-27 (28 Tevet - 5 Shevat)

Gordon Bennison*	Bella Kaiser*	Zachary Price*
Barry Berke	Carole Katz	Bertha Shinberg*
Samuel Colef*	Ethel Kotzer*	Marilyn Silverman*
Frances M. Fisher	David Leder*	Samuel Slosberg*
Sussman Gerber*	Annelise Loeser*	Dr. Morris Sofen*
Chester Holstein	Louis Miller*	Louis William Wachtel*
Joseph Kahn	Sylvia Nierman*	Myer Winick*

January 28-February 3 (6-12 Shevat)

Sophie Blasky*	Abraham Kaiser*	Renee Munsch
Louis Brown*	Sydney Konigsberg	Sophie Oberstein
Esther Buchsbaum	Michael Kurlandsky*	Nathan Oshinsky
Arvin Davis*	Betty Levene*	Nathan J. Rosenbaum*
Rebecca Gubin*	Anna Levinson*	Birdie C. Sanders*
Arthur Hershbein	Martin Morrison*	Julius Schensul*
Evelyn Hyman	Macel Munsch	