



# CoM newsletter

CONGREGATION OF MOSES • Kalamazoo, Michigan

Volume 16 Issue 2  
February 2023 10 Shevat - 7 Adar 5783

## LET'S GO TO THE THEATRE

Drama Desk Award Nominee

# BECOMING

# DR. RUTH

by Mark  
St. Germain



 farmers alley theatre

Join Rabbi Schicker and Rabbi Estrin for **Becoming Dr. Ruth** (a one-woman show) on **Sunday, March 19th at 2:00 pm** presented by Farmers Alley Theatre (suggested PG-13 for content).

Special discounted tickets are available if we reach a minimum of ten people attending.

Interested? Please email Rabbi Schicker (rabbi@templebnaisrael.com) ASAP so tickets can be reserved.

**More info about the show can be found here.**

**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.**

# EASY MONEY!

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.

Just save your actual receipts from any SpartanNash store and place them in the folder with the Direct Your Dollars logo outside our office. No need to sign up for anything, simply bring in your receipt after you shop.



Ask friends and relatives to bring you their receipts and help get us over the top!

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at [rjkirschner99@gmail.com](mailto:rjkirschner99@gmail.com). Thanks for helping!

~ Pat Kirschner

## Unlimited Cards

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

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

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

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



# Shabbat and Events Calendar

Thursday, February 2	7:00 pm	Everyday Holiness with Rabbi Estrin	Registration is full
Friday, February 3	5:41 pm	Shabbat Candle lighting time	
Friday, February 3	7:00 pm	Refugee Shabbat Joint Service at TBI	
Saturday, February 4	9:30 am	Shabbat Shacharit Service	Torah: Exodus 13:17-15:26 Haftarah: Judges 4:4-5:31
Sunday, February 5	3:00 pm	Israeli Dancing at TBI	
Sunday, February 5	4:00 pm	Tu B'shvat Seder at TBI	
Thursday, February 9	7:00 pm	Israel: On Location - Masada Zoom only	Sign up on the CoM website
Friday, February 10	5:50 pm	Shabbat Candle lighting time	
Saturday, February 11	9:30 am	Shabbat Shacharit Service	Torah: Exodus 18:1-20:23 Haftarah: Isaiah 6:1-7:6; 9:5-6
Sunday, February 12	12:00 pm	OKCJS Family Lunch and Jumping at Airborne	Sign up by emailing OKCJSdirector@gmail.com
Monday, February 13	7:00 pm	<i>Getting Good at Getting Older</i> , with Rabbi Schicker on Zoom	Sign up on the CoM website
Tuesday, February 14	7:00 pm	OvB Meeting	
Wednesday, February 15	7:00 pm	CoM and TBI Book Club on Zoom, <i>If All the Seas Were Ink</i> , Ilana Kurshan	Contact Cary Mannaberg to sign up, cmannaberg@gmail.com
Friday, February 17	5:59 pm	Shabbat Candle lighting time	
Saturday, February 18	9:30 am	Shabbat Shacharit Service	Torah: Exodus 21:1-22:3 Maf: Exodus 30:11-30:16 Haftarah: II Kings 12:1-17
Sunday, February 19	9:00 am	Torah Yoga at CoM	
Sunday, February 19	4:00 pm	Israeli Dancing at TBI	
Tuesday, February 21	10:00 am	Rabbi Estrin's Rosh Hodesh book discussion at <b>this is a bookstore</b> of <i>The Exodus</i>	
Wednesday, February 22	12:00 pm	Lunch and Learn at CoM: Judaism and Jewish Ethics in Practice	<i>The Court System in Judaism, Israel and the US</i>
Friday, February 24	6:08 pm	Shabbat Candle lighting time	
Saturday, February 25	9:30 am	Shabbat Shacharit Service	Torah: Exodus 10:1-11:3 Haftarah: Jeremiah 46:13-28
Monday, February 27	7:00 pm	<i>Getting Good at Getting Older</i> , with Rabbi Schicker on Zoom	Sign up on the CoM website
Wednesday, March 1	12:00 pm	Lunch and Learn at CoM: Judaism and Jewish Ethics in Practice	"To Cultivate and Care For" - <i>Environmental Ethics</i>

## Bracha (blessing) 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**

The guest speaker will be Afifa Thaj, a local worker from Samaritas, who has a key role in settling "new Americans" as they arrive in Kalamazoo.

Oneg Shabbat to follow, with Syrian and other goodies.

This event will be both in person and on YouTube.



Congregation  
of **Moses**

# Israeli Folk Dancing

Sunday, February 5  
3:00 pm at TBI,  
before the Tu B'Shevat Seder

# Tu B'Shevat Seder

This Sunday, February 5,  
4:00 pm at TBI

Come and celebrate an authentic Jewish connection to ecology. Experience a modern take on a 16th century mystical ritual by enjoying a different kind of seder with trays piled high with an amazing bounty of fruits, nuts and aromas symbolizing the Four Worlds as described by the ancient Kabbalists. This minor holiday is truly special. Follow these two steps to sign up:

- Use the **RSVP Form** to let us know you are coming and how many people you're bringing so we can set a place at the table for all.
- Use the **Google Sign Up Sheet** to sign up to bring fruits, nuts, lovely aromas, challah, or wine.

Help is needed to make this event a success! If you can volunteer to help set up, clean up or serve food, just add your email address at the top of the sign up sheet, next to what you want to do and we will send you more information.

# 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

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 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

"Masada: A Date With Life" - Thursday, February 9, 7:00 pm  
Zoom only

Sign up on the website to attend.

# Mishpacha

## CONDOLENCES TO

Robyn and Laura Levene on the passing of their beloved husband and father, Scott Levene.

Rae Lee Howard and Lori Putman on the passing of their brother, Scott Levene.

Denise and Nathan Davidoff on the passing of their beloved husband and father, Bob Davidoff.

Judy and Paul Davidoff on the passing of Paul's brother, Bob.

Andrea and Mike Johnson on the passing of Mike's mother, Norma Jean Johnson.

## MAZEL TOV TO

Emily Freed on her special birthday

*Donations have been made by the following individuals and families.*

### Condolences to Robyn Levene on the passing of her beloved husband, Scott

*Brad Hershbein & Emily Freed, Al Rosenthal & Judy Davis, Diane & Harvey Fogel, Cindy & Larry Beer, Shirley Wise, Wilma Kahn & Phil Horwich, Michelle & Alan Angel, Diane & Bruce Minsley, Joanne Simon, Beth & Stephen Grode, Maxine & Neal Berke, Sallie & Ken Goodman, The Ruterbusch Family, Valerie & Ken Eisenberg, The Fischell Family, Judy & Lowell Seyburn, Pnina & Judah Ari-Gur, Mike & Cheryl Tenenbaum, Pat & Richard Kirschner, Fran Raffel*

### Condolences to Rae Lee Howard and Lori Putman on the passing of their brother, Scott Levene

*Brad Hershbein & Emily Freed, Al Rosenthal & Judy Davis, Diane & Harvey Fogel, Cindy & Larry Beer, Shirley Wise, Wilma Kahn & Phil Horwich, Michelle & Alan Angel, Joanne Simon, Diane & Bruce Minsley, Beth & Stephen Grode, Maxine & Neal Berke, Sallie & Ken Goodman, The Ruterbusch Family, Valerie & Ken Eisenberg, The Fischell Family, Judy & Lowell Seyburn, Pnina & Judah Ari-Gur*

### Condolences to Judy and Paul Davidoff on the passing of Paul's brother, Bob Davidoff

*Brad Hershbein & Emily Freed, Al Rosenthal & Judy Davis, Diane & Harvey Fogel, Rae Lee Howard, Cindy & Larry Beer, Shirley Wise, Wilma Kahn & Phil Horwich, Michelle & Alan Angel, Diane & Bruce Minsley, Joanne Simon, Beth & Stephen Grode, Maxine & Neal Berke, Sallie & Ken Goodman, The Ruterbusch Family, Valerie & Ken Eisenberg, Rae Lee Howard, The Fischell Family, Judy & Lowell Seyburn, Pnina & Judah Ari-Gur, Laurel & Michael Scheidt, Julie Northrop*

### Condolences to Andrea and Mike Johnson on the passing of Mike's mother, Norma Jean Johnson

*Brad Hershbein & Emily Freed, Al Rosenthal & Judy Davis, Diane & Harvey Fogel, Cindy & Larry Beer, Shirley Wise, Wilma Kahn & Phil Horwich, Michelle & Alan Angel, Diane & Bruce Minsley, Joanne Simon, Beth & Stephen Grode, Maxine & Neal Berke, Sallie & Ken Goodman, The Ruterbusch Family, Valerie & Ken Eisenberg, Rae Lee Howard, The Fischell Family, Judy & Lowell Seyburn, Pnina & Judah Ari-Gur*

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

*Nan Goldenthal, Lynda McKinnon, Kim & Arlen Rubin, Robert & Tema Lando, Sandi Kopelman, Judy & John Marx*

### Mazel Tov to Emily Freed on her special birthday

*Brad Hershbein, Al Rosenthal & Judy Davis, Diane & Harvey Fogel, Cindy & Larry Beer, Shirley Wise, Wilma Kahn & Phil Horwich, Michelle & Alan Angel, Diane & Bruce Minsley, Joanne Simon, Beth & Stephen Grode, Maxine & Neal Berke, Sallie & Ken Goodman, The Ruterbusch Family, Valerie & Ken Eisenberg, Rae Lee Howard, The Fischell Family, Judy & Lowell Seyburn, Pnina & Judah Ari-Gur*

## In Loving Memory

In loving memory of our sister Caryn Levene, our mother Betty Levene and of our brother Scott Levene,

*Rae Lee Howard & Lori Putman*

In loving memory of Caryn Levene, *Alice & Steve Koss*

In loving memory of my uncle, Max Ernest, *Marjorie Gaynor*

In loving memory of my mother, Annelise Loeser, *Marjorie Gaynor*

In loving memory of my father, Bernard Deutsch, *Michelle Angel*

In loving memory of my father Edward Hageman, *Nan Goldenthal*

In loving memory of my father, Sam I. Stein, *Bruce Stein*

In loving memory of my father, Dr. Joseph A. Kahn, *Wilma Kahn*

In loving memory of my mother, Viola Doggett, *Julie Northrop*

In loving memory of my mother-in-law, Josephine Bovin on her first yahrzeit, *Julie Northrop*

In loving memory of my father, Sidney Schwartz, *Paul & Sharon Schwartz*

## In Honor

Thank you for all the birthday and well wishes, *Gloria Besbris*

In honor of the visit of nephew and niece, Sloane & Andrea Levitt, *Sylvia Blum*

In honor of my visit to the Congregation of Moses, where I have such fond childhood memories, *Jennifer Fisher*

---

# Today Rabah

**A very special thanks to Rabbi Harvey Spivak,** who performed three funerals of current and past members in a very short period of time.

As we grieve, we are appreciative of your care and spiritual guidance over our community.

**TO REGISTER:**



# LUNCH & JUMPING

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12TH**

Please join us after school in the social hall for pizza,  
and then meet at Airborne for trampoline jumping!

**11:30 - Lunch at CoM**

**12:30-1:30 at Airborne**

**AIRBORNE ADVENTURE PARK**  
5103 Portage Rd, Portage

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

Please sign-up using  
this google form:

<https://forms.gle/BcnmSdQuRvdxEEwDA>

# COM AND TBI BOOK GROUP

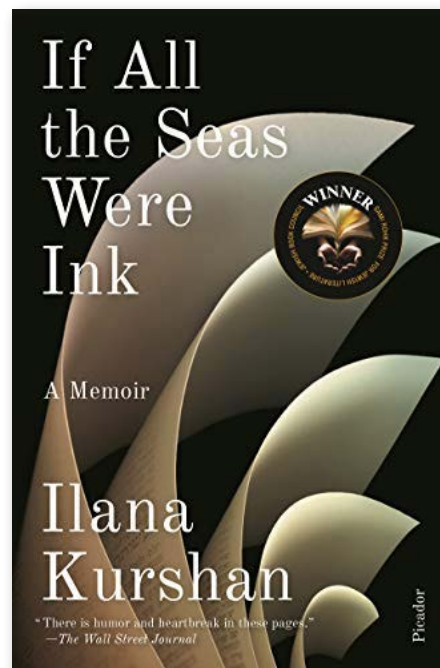
**February 15, 7:00 pm on Zoom**

The group will discuss the memoir, *If all the Seas Were Ink* by Ilana Kurshan, and will meet on Zoom with Ahavas Israel in Grand Rapids and TBI.

There may be a copy of the book available at the Fisher Library, so please search the database online, [congregationofmoses.org/fisher-library](http://congregationofmoses.org/fisher-library).

Check out this brief video where the author discusses the book, [www.youtube.com/watch?v=MmjCm7MFA7o](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MmjCm7MFA7o)

Please contact [Cary Mannaberg, cmannaberg@gmail.com](mailto:cmannaberg@gmail.com) to reserve a spot on the Zoom call.



---

## Judaism and Jewish Ethics in Practice

**Difficult Topics as Seen Through the Lens of Judaism**

**To be held in person at Congregation of Moses and via Zoom**

Bring your own vegetarian lunch.

Sign up online, [congregationofmoses.org/com-events](http://congregationofmoses.org/com-events) by February 15

Our spring series will delve more deeply into issues in our world today. What does Judaism have to say about these subjects and what Jewish values might influence our decision-making? We will begin each session with learning and then open up for kind and curious conversation about our views, stances, challenges and fears.

The Court System in Judaism, Israel and the United States - **Feb 22, noon**

"To Cultivate and Care For" - Environmental Ethics - **March 1, noon**

The First Amendment - Separation of Church and State - **March 8, noon**

"Be Fruitful and Multiply" - Reproductive Rights - **March 15, noon**

"And You Shall Guard It" - Gun Rights - **March 22, noon**

It's in the News - topic to be determined - **March 29, noon**



kzoo jewish community

# Shabbaton!

**Friday, May 12 - Saturday, May 13**

Get away with us to Pretty Lake Adventure Camp in Mattawan for Kalamazoo's first Jewish community Shabbaton! Spend time with friends old and new celebrating all aspects of Shabbat—prayer, play, learning, unwinding, reflecting and exploring the outdoors. Everyone of all ages, affiliated or not, is welcome and encouraged to join us. From candle lighting to Havdalah, our Shabbat experience will be made joyful by being together.

## Choose from two options:

- 1 Full program - the whole thing**  
\$40/person (maximum \$120 per household in one room)  
Late Friday afternoon until Saturday evening  
Includes 4 vegetarian meals + housing (see details below)
- 2 Saturday only**  
\$20/person (max \$60 per household)  
Includes 2 vegetarian meals - lunch and dinner



## All the happenings:

### FRIDAY

Welcome activity, candle lighting, Shabbat services, Shabbat dinner, evening program

### SATURDAY

Breakfast, lunch and dinner plus loads of options for how to spend the day: Shabbat services, yoga, a walk in the woods, conversations, learning together, a scavenger hunt, boating and swimming (weather permitting) and lots more. We'll close out Shabbat with Havdalah.

### HOUSING

Overnight accommodations are dorm style (shared bathroom in the hall) with four beds (two bunk-beds) per room. We can match you with roommates if you would like or you can reserve the entire room for \$120. Space is limited. Bring your own bedding or rent sheets/blanket/pillow for \$25/bed. Have a large group? Ask us about staying in an InPost Cabin.

**Reserve by April 16 online. Reservation page will be live soon.**

**Non-refundable pre-payment is required.**

Questions? Please email Erica, [comofficemgr@congregationofmoses.org](mailto:comofficemgr@congregationofmoses.org) or call 269-342-5463.

For information about Pretty Lake Adventure Camp, visit [www.prettylakecamp.org](http://www.prettylakecamp.org)

# Torah Yoga

with Sim Birnbaum  
Sunday, February 19 at  
9:00 am



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

## 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** or call her at (269) 267-4253.

The deadline to apply is March 15.





*Rebecca Tregerman, Director*



## OKCJS Teacher Feature— Benjamin Whitsett

For the OKCJS Teacher Feature this month, I'd like to spotlight our kindergarten and first grade teacher, Moreh Benjamin Whitsett. I am grateful that Moreh Benjamin stepped in to fill this critical role for our youngest learners. Throughout the year, the class size has almost doubled as new families have joined the school. Moreh Benjamin and his wonderful co-teacher, Morah Mazal Haus, have warmly welcomed each new student to their group as all enjoy a fun and interactive Hebrew curriculum through the revolutionary *Hebrew Through Movement* curriculum and Jewish ritual and text study with *Chai Curriculum*. His favorite part of teaching is when he sees the kids continue to discuss the lesson once class has ended. It shows that the children are engaged in learning and processing it into their world.

Moreh Benjamin enjoys discussing the value of starting Hebrew education at a young age while students are able to quickly absorb new languages. He wants to give a shout-out to his amazing co-teacher Morah Mazal for supporting and running the classroom. He also wants to let his students know they are all exceeding expectations and looks forward to continuing to see them flourish.

Born and raised in Kalamazoo, and an alumnus of Temple B'nai Israel's religious school, Moreh Benjamin has always been a leader in the school, including winning the Shana Winter Award. He has taught in our program for two years and before that, volunteered for an additional three years. Moreover, Moreh Benjamin has taught in the Sizzlin' Summer Science camp run by the Kalamazoo Area Math and Science Center (KAMSC). He loves being a student at Loy Norrix High School, where he runs the high school newspaper and also helped design and launch a weather balloon.

Additionally, Moreh Benjamin enjoys 3d animation, reading about math and physics, and playing the cello. His focus on the technical side of life has enabled him and a fellow student to team up to win two prestigious competitions, the Association for Computing Machinery High School Programming Contest as well as the Michigan State University Virtual High School Programming Contest. After high school graduation this spring, Moreh Benjamin hopes to attend either Kalamazoo College or the University of Chicago to pursue a double major in mathematics and physics, and a minor in computer science. Long-term goals include obtaining a physics Ph.D. and pursuing a career in academia.

His parents Aaron and Kate and younger sister Ellie are very proud of him! You can bet that Benjamin has been helping Ellie prepare for her bat mitzvah this March. The family is looking forward to this celebration of Ellie's accomplishments.

Moreh Benjamin has been connected with Kalamazoo's Jewish community since he was three years old, and it has been a constant in his life. He likes Kalamazoo and believes the city offers everything he could ever want from a larger town, but has the small-town dynamics which include running into people he knows. He appreciates that

the Jewish community is one devoted to Tikkun Olam. As Moreh Benjamin explains, Judaism has “a rich history of injustice, reminding us that the world can be a cruel place. Our ancestors fought many battles so this community would exist today, and now we have the opportunity to take the ideals of the Torah and apply them in our daily lives, for the overall betterment of the world.” He lives by this credo and embodies tikkun olam as a kind, respectful, responsible and helpful individual.

We wish him well in pursuit of his goals and hope that he will consider staying connected with our local Jewish community well into his future!

*Rebecca Tregerman*  
Director, OKCJS



# Kosher v'Hechsher

## What do we mean when we say "it's Kosher?"

Let's start with defining the original meaning of the word. Kosher literally means "fit" but more generally means in accordance with Jewish law. It refers to food and that's all. Actions, people and rules cannot be kosher. In fact, with the exception of not mixing meat and milk, or their derivatives, all references to kosher are in relation to the consumption of flesh.

Today when we say food is Kosher we are stating that it is in accordance with Jewish law. This is where the bigger question actually lies. Jewish law according to whose interpretation? Yours, mine, the Conservative Movement, a Reform Shul or someone trained to give certification of Kashrut? Those are all possible answers. My kosher and my neighbor's kosher may or may not be the same, yet we both keep kosher.



*Rabbi Hannah Estrin*

Once we began to lose the connection to where our food originates, and at the time when packaged and prepared foods came into play, there grew a need for a system to tell the purchaser if the item was Kosher. This was when the hechsher, seal of Kashrut, came into being. There are hundreds of hechshers around the world. Each is overseen by an individual or council who attaches their name to the guarantee. And just like different interpretations of what it means to be Kosher, so each hechsher follows the beliefs of the granting authority. Although there was a highly limited use of these symbols as far back as the Talmudic Period, they did not proliferate until the past couple hundred years as our food began to come from further and further away. In America the "O-U" is the most widely known kosher symbol.

So we are left with the same question. What does "it's Kosher" mean anyway? Well, it depends on who is making the statement. In Kalamazoo, we might typically encounter three types of Kosher. There are those guidelines when bringing home-cooked food into both TBI and CoM (they are virtually the same). Next, we can look at the CoM kitchen where only hechshered products are allowed. And Chabad where items must be hechshered according to a smaller list of acceptable certifications. In short, all of our buildings are Kosher, they differ in which hechsher they require, if any. For clarity, we can say that the CoM kitchen is a hechshered kitchen.

If your eyes are not yet rolling back in your head, and you would like more, take a look at the "Home-Prepared Food at CoM" on the following page or the equivalent information sheet from TBI. For more information on the CoM kitchen, we now have a scaled down "essentials" booklet.

If you want the full 70+ page version with the historical changes, that is also available. And of course there are many wonderful publications available through the library and your local bookstore.

Please contact the office if you'd like to have any of the kitchen information emailed to you.

# Sharing Home-Prepared Food at CoM

## Guidelines for events at CoM that involve home-prepared food items, such as a potluck or cook-off event.

The Congregation of Moses is committed to our mission to be an inclusive Conservative Jewish community which respects our congregants' varying levels of religious observance, our commitment to maintaining a kosher kitchen (within the standards of the Conservative Movement), and which allows us to enjoy social gatherings as a community.

As approved by the Religious Activities Committee on December 7, 2022, consumption of food will adhere to the following:

- Food must be pareve (neutral) or dairy.
- Meat, shellfish, pork and their derivatives are prohibited. None of the following should be used in preparation: meat or chicken broth, non-kosher gelatin, lard, “shortening” (that doesn’t specify “vegetable shortening”).
- Kosher species of fish such as tuna, salmon, whitefish, and cod are OK.
- Purchased prepared-food items must be vegetarian.
- Attention to safe food handling practices is essential, including attention to proper refrigeration or heating and to the amount of time that food is set out.
- All food items should be labeled as to whether they include nuts, dairy, alcohol and gluten as a courtesy to participants with food preferences or allergies.
- Ingredients do not need a hechsher (kosher certification).
- Please remember to bring your own serving utensils.

All food items must be taken home at the end of the event.

A specifically designated area of the building is to be used for events with home-prepared foods (for example, the lobby AND social hall, or the social hall only). Home-prepared food should be consumed **only in the designated area** during specific scheduled events.

Both the main kitchen and kitchenette (Mitbach and Mitbachon) will be locked and inaccessible during these events. Disposable plates and cutlery may be provided by the event organizer or CoM. **Our preference is that participants provide their own eating and serving utensils in order to reduce waste.**



Thank you for your attention to these guidelines. We look forward to eating together!

# OvB Minutes Summary of January 17, 2023

## I. OKCJS DIRECTOR REPORT – *Rebecca Tregerman*

- Enrollment increased for 2022-2023 school year.
- 30% of all OKCJS students with diagnosed learning or behavior challenges.
- School is providing special services and will continue to do so from here out.
- Creating relationship with Grand Rapids United Jewish School (similar in makeup to OKCJS)
- Working on Camp Keshet for summer 2023.

## II. SPIRITUAL LEADER SEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT – *Jeffrey Haus and Leslie Bez*

- One applicant so far; he is currently a hospice chaplain in Seattle.
- Uncertain if he'll be a good fit, but will bring him in for a Shabbat weekend visit and continue the search.

## III. TREASURER'S REPORT – *Brad Hershbein*

- Financial assets doing relatively well; zigzagging due to market fluctuations.

## IV. NEW BUSINESS

- 2023 PROPOSED BUDGET – *Brad Hershbein*
  - Expected expenses for 2023 higher than 2022, but lower than 2021.
  - Hoping for greater income from dues and other sources.
  - **MOTION:** To approve proposed 2023 budget
  - Motion approved by all voting members present.
- NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT – *Patty Conlon and Brad Hershbein*
  - Karl Schook – Religious School Committee
  - Brad Hershbein – President
  - Phil Oretsky – Vice-President
  - Neal Berke – Treasurer

## Update to Changes in CoM Communications

As previously reported, the existing bulletin format will be changing in order to reduce the workload for our volunteers and staff. The plan is to expand the information in our weekly email communications, with many more links to online content on the CoM website.

Incorporating the changes to our website will take awhile longer, so the new format will not be coming as soon as we had anticipated. We'll keep working on it in the meantime.

If you have comments or questions, please send them to [bulletin@congregationofmoses.org](mailto:bulletin@congregationofmoses.org).

The Congregation of Moses wishes **mazel tov and yom huledet sameach** to our members who are celebrating anniversaries and birthdays this month. If you would like to be included in our monthly recognition of birthdays and anniversaries, please contact the office at 342-5463, or [comofficemgr@congregationofmoses.org](mailto:comofficemgr@congregationofmoses.org).

## February Birthdays

February 2	Steve Camhi	February 20	Gabe Amy
February 2	Judy Davis	February 20	Mazal Vered Haus
February 6	Michelle Zukowski-Serlin	February 24	Gail Brot
February 7	Anne Arbetter Fischell	February 24	Emily Freed's "special birthday"
February 7	Allison Weiner	February 24	Evan Scheinker
February 11	Brad Kennedy	February 26	Judah Ari-Gur
February 12	Marcie Brown	February 27	Sherri Deems
February 15	Cathy Cheron	February 28	Cooper Howard
February 19	Julia Strauss		



## February Anniversaries

None that we know of!



**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](mailto:pdavidoff@ameritech.net)



**THE GRETA BERMAN ARBETTER  
 KAZOO SCHOOL**  
 Nurturing curiosity,  
 creativity &  
 confidence.  
 (269) 345-3239  
[kazooschool.org](http://kazooschool.org)



**אונקלו**  
 Onkelus Translations  
 We bring your document to life!

**N** English->Hebrew and Hebrew->English  
**K** High quality, professional translations & editing  
**E** Able to meet tight deadlines  
 Proficient in technical jargon in several industries  
 Discounts for repeat business/large jobs

**L** Our service is used by both business and personal users who need quality, fast-turnaround translations but don't want to pay high premiums and can't risk inaccurate computer translations.

**U** Contact us for a price quote or sample of our business: [onkelus@gmail.com](mailto:onkelus@gmail.com)

**S**

# Yahrzeits

## February 4-10 (13-19 Shevat)

Viola Doggett	Johanna Kroon*	Dorothy Miller
Sidney Eisenberg	Lambert Kroon*	Susan Samalin
Eugene Field*	Arnold B. Lamm	Leo Simon
Waller J. Finn*	Caryn Levene*	Hyman Tregerman

## February 11-17 (20-26 Shevat)

Elizabeth Cohen	Anna B. Haus	Manuel Newlander*
Ann Fine	Hyman Kirschner	Charlotte Stulberg*
Max Friedman*	Evelyn Krasnick*	Esther Stulberg*
Ralph David Golden*	William Leder*	Michael Stulberg*
Minnie Graff*	Robert Levy*	Donna Taylor
Brina Hadesman*	Eli Mindel*	Mary Zuravel*

## February 18-24 (27 Shevat - 3 Adar)

Adela Blum-Auerbach*	Marianne Mimi Katz*	Ellis Schwager
Jean Rosenblatt Davis	Miriam Epstein Lieberman*	Eliyahu Shor
Frieda Friedman*	Wini Meinert	Rebecca Stulberg*
Morris Friedman*	Dorothy Masursky Moyer*	Harriet Swartz*
Rachel Goldstein*	Balfour Peisner*	William Zheutlin*
Rosalie Halpert*	Lou Sanders*	

## February 25-March 3 (4-10 Adar)

Benjamin Bennison*	Herman Fisher*	Arthur Katz
Charles Berman	Sarah Forman*	Barry W. Kirschner*
Aaron Columpus*	Theodore Forman*	Bess L. Peven*
Sallie L. Cushner*	Sylvia Taubman Golde	Michele Arkush Schaff*
Anna P. Davidoff*	James H. Goldman*	Morris Schensul*
Ethel Duchen-Wachtel*	William Greiner*	Mary Schpok*
Isaac Escourt*	Benjamin Gubin*	Sol W. Schwartz
Archie Feinberg	Marion Halpert*	Laure Touitou*
Gershon (George) Fisher*		

\*Denotes a memorial plaque in the synagogue