



CoM newsletter

CONGREGATION OF MOSES • Kalamazoo, Michigan

Volume 16 Issue 5

May 2023 10 Iyar - 11 Sivan 5783



Thursday, May 25, beginning at 7:00 pm at CoM

Come to CoM for a community dinner, brief services and learning. Everyone welcome!

- 7:00 pm Shavuot services (30 mins)
- 7:30 pm Dairy Potluck dinner - register with Erica by email or call 342-5463
- 8:30 pm Choose your own Shavuot sessions
 - A) Social Hall - games and puzzles
 - B) Sofen Room - USCJ scholar stream on Zoom - see topics on the next page
 - C) Cafe-style learning with Rabbi Estrin and others. If you would like to teach a session on a topic of your choice, please contact Rabbi Estrin.

Friday, May 26, beginning at 6:00 pm at TBI

Erev Shabbat service and dinner from 6:00-8:00 pm, followed by Torah study from 8:00 - 9:00/9:30 pm, led by Michael Tanoff. The Torah study theme is "*What Really Happened at Mt. Sinai?*"

RSVP by May 23 at <https://tinyurl.com/TBIShavuot5783>

Saturday, May 27th, beginning at 9:30 am at CoM

Shabbat Shavuot Services, including Yizkor. Kiddush lunch to follow.

If you would like to help with any aspect of this day, please contact Rabbi Estrin.

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.



Thursday, May 25th, 8:00 pm-12:00 am

Join with thousands of Jews for the Conservative/Masorti Movement Tikkun Leil Shavuot Torah from Coast to Coast, sponsored by Exploring Judaism! Learn from rabbis, teachers, students and leaders.

Presenter Schedule:

8:00 pm-8:30 pm, Rabbi Jacob Blumenthal, "*Democracy is a Jewish Value: The Torah of Israel's Declaration of Independence*"

8:30 pm-9:00 pm, Hazzan Sara Geller, "*Singing and Gathering for Hag!*"

9:00 pm-9:30 pm, Rabbi Ed Feinstein, "*An Owner's Guide to the Human Soul - Abraham Joshua Heschel's 'Who Is Man?'*"

9:30 pm-10:00 pm, Eric Leiderman and Rabbi Zach Golden, "*No More Edifice Complex: How Do You Build Communities of People, Outside of Brick and Mortar?*"

10:00 pm-10:30 pm, Rabbi Lisa Gelber and Rabbi Jan Uhrbach, "*Hanging by a Thread: Torah and the Comfort of the Unknowing*"

10:30 pm-11:00 pm, Heather Miller, "*Becoming Better: Exploring Character Traits in Jewish Tradition*"

11:00 pm-12:00 am, Rabbi David Fine and Rabbi Barry Leff, "*The Driving Teshuva Redux: Electric Cars and Oneg Shabbat*"



Student-Led Shabbat Services and Teacher Appreciation

Friday, May 5th

at Temple B'nai Israel
4409 Grand Prairie Rd, Kalamazoo

SERVICES START AT 6:00 PM
WITH TACO BAR AFTER SERVICES



Sign up to bring an ingredient for vegetarian taco bar:

<https://tinyurl.com/mrx9dmnh>

Shabbat and Events Calendar

Thursday, May 4	7:00 pm	Everyday Holiness Class with Rabbi Estrin	
Friday, May 5	5:30 pm	Student-led Kabbalat Shabbat and Teacher Appreciation with potluck dinner following	At TBI
Friday, May 5	8:28 pm	Shabbat candle lighting time	
Saturday, May 6	9:30 am	Shabbat Shacharit Services	Torah: Leviticus 21:1-22:16 Haftarah: Ezekiel 44:15-31
Tuesday, May 9	7:00 pm	OvB Meeting	
Thursday, May 11	7:00 pm	Israel on Location with Rabbi Estrin - "Yavne: <i>My Children Have Bested Me</i> "	Sign up on the CoM website
Friday, May 12	8:35 pm	Shabbat candle lighting time	
Friday, May 12		Shabbaton at Pretty Lake Camp	
Saturday, May 13	9:30 am	Shabbaton at Pretty Lake Camp/ Shabbat Shacharit Services	Torah: Leviticus 25:1-38 Haftarah: Jeremiah 16:19-17:14
Monday, May 15	7:00 pm	Hadassah Members Book Club	Contact Diane Fogel for info
Friday, May 19	8:42 pm	Shabbat candle lighting time	
Saturday, May 20	9:30 am	Shabbat Shacharit Services	Torah: Numbers 1:1-54 Haftarah: I Samuel 20:18-42
Sunday, May 21	3:00 pm	Yale Strom Concert at CoM	Get tickets online at www.mfsm.us/events/2023/yale-strom-hot-pstromi/
Thursday, May 25	7:00 pm	Shavuot Services, Community Dinner and Learning or Games at CoM	
Friday, May 26	6:00 pm	Shavuot Services, Dinner and Torah Study at TBI	See cover page for RSVP link
Friday, May 26	8:49 pm	Shabbat candle lighting time	
Saturday, May 27	9:30 am	Shabbat Shacharit Services	Torah: Deuteronomy 14:22-16:17 Maf: Numbers 28:26-28:31 Haftarah: Habakkuk 3:1-19



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-she-er 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.

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

MAY Birthdays

May 1	Carrie Richman
May 5	Steven Richman - Special Birthday!
May 6	Alan Cohen
May 8	Adam Strauss
May 9	Emma Fischell
May 9	Bruce Minsley
May 10	Jeffrey Scheinker
May 24	Stella Amy
May 28	Sondi Brown



MAY Anniversaries

May 5	Michelle and Alan Angel
May 26	Rebecca and Adam Strauss



The Connecting Chords Music Festival is proud to welcome Yale Strom & Hot Pstromi on Sunday, May 21 at 3:00 PM at Congregation of Moses, presenting a program of klezmer music “with a little horseradish on the side.”

For more information and tickets:

General admission tickets are available for **[purchase on the website](#)** and at the door.

Advance online tickets are \$17 (\$12 for seniors); at-the-door tickets are \$20 (\$15 for seniors). Tickets for ages 25 and under are always \$5!





Mayim Chai! Water is Life!

In conjunction with the Kalamazoo River Watershed Council, join us for a "reverse tashlich" to help clean up a section of the shoreline of the Kalamazoo River.

Come together with TBI and CoM Religious School families on Sunday, May 21 at 1:00 pm. All volunteers welcome!

We will walk along the banks, not in the river. Wear long pants and sturdy, closed-toe shoes. Bring work gloves. We will have some "grabbers" and garbage bags.

Parking is on Commerce Lane by East Mosel Avenue in Kalamazoo.

Children are welcome to join us! We will have each family sign a release of liability waiver. Questions should be directed to Cary Mannaberg, cmannaberg@gmail.com.

TBI AND COM BOOK CLUB

Join us on May 18 at 7:00 pm at this is a bookstore in the Oakwood Plaza, to discuss *The Golem and the Jinni*, by Helene Wecker. It is a fantasy-mythical novel about a romance between a golem and a jinni. It takes place in New York's Lower East Side in the 1920's.

The story summary from amazon.com:

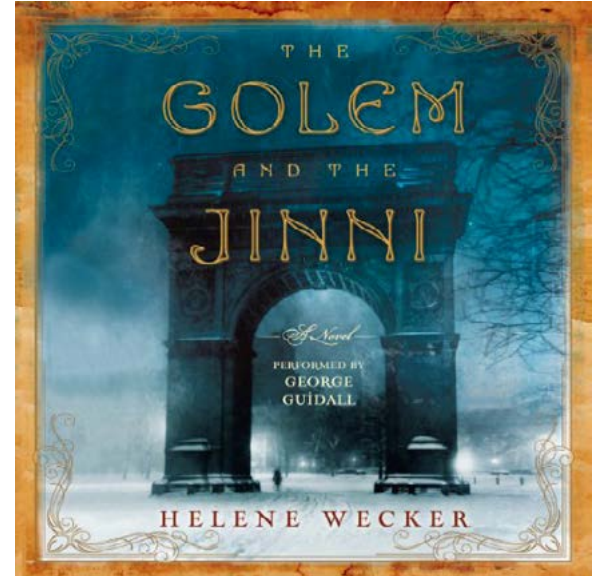
Chava is a golem, a creature made of clay by a disgraced rabbi knowledgeable in the ways of dark Kabbalistic magic. She serves as the wife to a Polish merchant who dies at sea on the voyage to America. As the ship arrives in New York in 1899, Chava is unmoored and adrift until a rabbi on the Lower East Side recognizes her for the creature she is and takes her in.

Ahmad is a jinni, a being of fire born in the ancient Syrian desert and trapped centuries ago in an old copper flask by a Bedouin wizard. Released by a Syrian tinsmith in a Manhattan shop, Ahmad appears in human form but is still not free. An iron band around his wrist binds him to the wizard and to the physical world.

Chava and Ahmad meet accidentally, and become friends and soul mates despite their opposing natures. But when the golem's violent nature overtakes her one evening, their bond is challenged. An even more powerful threat will emerge, however, and bring Chava and Ahmad together again, challenging their very existence and forcing them to make a fateful choice.

Here is a review and study guide from the Jewish Book Council:

www.jewishbookcouncil.org/book/the-golem-and-the-jinni-a-novel#body-text



CALLING ALL HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS!



Apply today for the Andrew H. Levene Scholarship.

Call or email the CoM Office to receive an application. Applications are due by July 15.

OvB Meeting Summary of April 10, 2023

COLEF COMMITTEE – Carolyn Kennedy

The OvB unanimously approved the ColefTzedakah Committee's recommendation to provide grants from the Colef Fund to the following organizations. These grants will provide critical services to persons in need in Kalamazoo, Southwest Michigan, Israel and former Soviet countries.

Yad LaKashish/Lifeline for the Old
ORT America - K'far Silver Youth Program
JDC - Elderly Welfare in the Former Soviet Union
JDC - Emergency Aid for Ukrainians
Partners in Housing Transition
Ecumenical Senior Center
SLD Read
Planned Parenthood

To strengthen grant diversity, the Colef Committee will now have one grant period per year but will also offer funding annually for mini-grants.

The committee will be seeking new members very soon.

RABBI SHELLEY GOLDMAN CANDIDATE VISIT

Based on multiple interviews, enthusiastic recommendations, and highly positive survey results, the Spiritual Leader Search Committee unanimously recommended hiring Rabbi Goldman.

Although the OvB discussed some concerns raised in surveys and other feedback, they concluded that the positives were quite strong and that Rabbi Goldman would be an excellent fit for CoM. The vote was unanimous to start contract negotiations.

ANNUAL MEETING – Brad Hershbein

The Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, June 11, time to be announced. An information packet will be sent to CoM members by mid-May.

Packets will include a summary of committee reports, amended bylaws to be voted on at the meeting, and the slate of OvB candidates. As existing OvB members rotate off, there is an opportunity for new leadership roles from the Congregation.

You can still sign up for Shabbat at Pretty Lake Camp!
Enjoy a relaxing day or weekend with your community.

Go to jewishkalamazoo.org/shabbaton



kzoo jewish community
Shabbaton
May 12-13 at Pretty Lake

Todah RABAH

A hearty TODAH RABAH goes to volunteers (from both CoM and TBI) who helped repair nearly 200 of CoM's heavily used chumashim (Torah in printed form) during our Mitzvah Day Book Repair Party!

Not only did they perform a mitzvah, but they learned a new skill and had fun in the process! One more session will likely be scheduled at a future date to finish the repair work.



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On behalf of the entire Davidoff family, thanks to everyone who sent cards, letters or made donations in memory of Bob Davidoff.

We very much appreciate the many expressions of love and kindness we have received, and we will always remember the humor and determination that Bob exhibited throughout his life. Thank you again for your support.

-Paul F. Davidoff

Mishpacha

Donations have been made by the following individuals and families.

Mazel Tov to Steve Richman, celebrating a milestone birthday

Judy Davis & Al Rosenthal, Diane & Harvey Fogel, Cindy & Larry Beer, Shirley Wise, Michelle & Alan Angel, Emily Freed & Brad Hershbein, Diane & Bruce Minsley, Joanne Simon, 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, Wilma Kahn & Phil Horwich

Mazel Tov to Sam Arnold being named “WMU Presidential Scholar”

Judy Davis & Al Rosenthal, Diane & Harvey Fogel, Cindy & Larry Beer, Shirley Wise, Michelle & Alan Angel, Emily Freed & Brad Hershbein, Diane & Bruce Minsley, Joanne Simon, 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, Wilma Kahn & Phil Horwich

Mazel Tov to Lucas Ofstein on his Bar Mitzvah

Judy Davis & Al Rosenthal, Diane & Harvey Fogel, Cindy & Larry Beer, Shirley Wise, Michelle & Alan Angel, Emily Freed & Brad Hershbein, Diane & Bruce Minsley, Joanne Simon, 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, Wilma Kahn & Phil Horwich, Pamela & Joshua Weiner

Condolences to Paul Solomon on the passing of his mother, Miriam Bressen Solomon

Judy Davis & Al Rosenthal, Diane & Harvey Fogel, Cindy & Larry Beer, Shirley Wise, Michelle & Alan Angel, Emily Freed & Brad Hershbein, Diane & Bruce Minsley, Joanne Simon, 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, Wilma Kahn & Phil Horwich

In Loving Memory

In loving memory of my brother, Melvin Poger, *Judy & Leonard Poger*

In loving memory of my father, Cy Beer, *Larry Beer*

In loving memory of my beloved husband, Larry Rose, *Sandy Rose*

In loving memory of my parents, Celia & Norman Besbris, *Randie Levin*

In loving memory of our beloved father and husband, Norman B. Marshall, *Debbie & Scott Golan and Naomi Marshall*

In Honor

In honor of Liz Siegel and her feathered friends, *Nan Goldenthal*

All donations go to one of our special funds:

General Fund • Building Fund • Herman & Rose Fisher Library Fund • Rabbi's Discretionary Fund
Joyce & Morton Fisher Kitchen/Oneg/Kiddush Fund • Honor & Memorial Fund • Levene Cantor Fund
Marvin & Rosalie Okun Fund • Harry B. Sofen Learning Center Fund

Yahrzeits

May 6-12 (15-21 Iyar)

Stanley Besbris*	George Hyman*	Werner Liepman*
Norman Besbris*	Carrie Kanofsky*	Dorothy Pollens
Bessie Boris*	Allen Katz*	Ceil Rabinovitz Schechter
Marian Fischell	Jacob Isaac Kavalhuna	Fannie Rose*
Robert Forman*	Doris S. Kirschner*	Benjamin Rose*
Hyman Gottlieb*	Dorothea Knapp*	Ronn Sofen*
Jean Grossman*	Bernard Krauss	Ida Zimmerman*
Sol Heytow	Dora Leiberman*	

May 13-19 (22-28 Iyar)

Samuel Berman*	Bryna Graff*	Melvin Poger
Peggy Friedman Frank*	Edgar Inselberg*	Irving Rappaport*
Morris Louis Friedman*	Samuel Konigsberg*	Morris Spivak*
Michael Goldberg*	Ida Levene*	Julius Stulberg*

May 20-26 (29 Iyar - 6 Sivan)

Morris Cohen	Sol Raffel	Yitzhok Rosenberg*
Myron Freed	Aaron Rosenberg*	Zipporah Seeder*
Shalom Friedman Rosenberg*	Avraham Rosenberg*	Nathan Silverman*
Samuel Graff*	Dov Bernard Rosenberg*	Celia Slosberg*
Hannah Rachel Marmel Rosenberg*	Janet Rosenberg*	Irvin Wise*
Mitchell Peven*		

May 27-June 2 (7-13 Sivan)

Mina Blum Seidler*	Irving Lando*	Sarah Oshinsky
Joyce Fisher*	Jack Levene*	David Rose*
Goldie Fogel	Jean H. Morrison*	Meyer Turndorf
Ida Kazanovitz	Harry Okun*	Diana Zheutlin*

**Denotes a memorial plaque in the synagogue*