



CoM newsletter

CONGREGATION OF MOSES • Kalamazoo, Michigan

Volume 16 Issue 6

June 2023 12 Sivan - 30 Tammuz 5783

Shabbat in the Park This Friday

JUNE 2, 6:00 PM
WOODS LAKE PARK

Kabbalat Shabbat **IN THE PARK**



BYO PICNIC DINNER
BLANKET & GAMES



THE OVERSIGHT BOARD

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

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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.



SHABBATON FUN!

The Jewish Kalamazoo Shabbaton at Pretty Lake was a resounding success, attended by 40-50 people. Shabbat services, games, scavenger hunt, yoga, walks in the woods, good conversations and delicious meals were the highlights of Friday and Saturday.

Huge thanks to Larry and Cindy Beer, and Laura Paul from TBI for their organizing prowess. We look forward to doing it again next year! **Save the date now: May 17-18, 2024.**



It Has Been A Blessing to Explore with You

What an amazing spring it has been. As the daylight hours continue to lengthen, my time with my favorite Michigan community is drawing to an end. It's a bittersweet time; I am looking forward to living with my family again yet sad to be leaving my new family. I want to thank everyone for welcoming me with such open arms, for walking in the wilderness as we explored ideas new and old, and for being such an amazing community.

It was a blessing to experience a community which was so open to exploring your unique story and, more importantly, what you want your story to be as you move into a new chapter, as we looked both backwards and forwards in the life of the congregation. In the past two years together we have introduced new ideas and models of prayer, programming and education. Some were successful and others were educational in their failure and that is a good thing as well.



I know that sometimes I pushed the boundaries of what was familiar and comfortable leading to deep conversations about values, hopes and wishes. Each new leader and each new opportunity leads to boundary pushing which helps us grow, even when we decide to maintain the original boundary. It truly has been a blessing to explore with you.

This year, in partnership with Rabbi Schicker and Temple B'nai Israel, we took a step toward rewriting an old story of "us" and "them" to become Jewish Kalamazoo, a greater "us." By sharing resources, talents and ideas we created a larger offering of education and programming than either community could have done individually while preserving and strengthening our individual uniqueness.

Just in the past two months, we had three fantastic joint programs: the Israel trip, Second Seder and the Shabbaton during which we cooked, prayed, learned, ate and played together. We explored which values were key in our unique communities, how both communities could be creative in bending to find common ground, and how to create new and wonderful opportunities.

We learned through these and other shared and joint ventures that we all have our love for Judaism as a bond that cannot be broken. Even while we express our Judaism in different ways, we have much in common.

I feel confident that I leave you in amazing hands. Yes, there will be some bumps as you discover new talents, loves and ideas with a new spiritual leader but there will also be growth, learning and (I suspect) more than a little laughter. I will take your love and laughter with me as I continue on my way but hope to come visit at some point, and of course if you are ever in Israel ... do come visit!

Today Rabah v'B'Hatzlecha,

Rabbi Hannah Estrin



it's almost time to say shalom.

Join your Jewish Community as we say farewell to Rabbi Estrin.

Sunday June 11 • 4:00 PM at the Congregation of Moses following the Annual Meeting.

Food, drinks, games and laughs outside under the tent. Everyone is welcome.

Please RSVP at congregationmoses.org no later than June 5.



Shabbat and Events Calendar

Thursday, June 1	7:00 pm	Everyday Holiness Class with Rabbi Estrin	
Friday, June 2	6:00 pm	Kabbalat Shabbat Picnic in the Park, Woods Lake Park	
Friday, June 2	8:55 pm	Shabbat candle lighting time	
Saturday, June 3	9:30 am	Shabbat Shacharit Services	Torah: Numbers 4:21-5:10 Haftarah: Judges 13:2-25
Tuesday, June 6	7:00 pm	RAC Meeting	
Thursday, June 8	7:00 pm	Israel on Location with Rabbi Estrin - "Southern Wall - The Time Has Come"	Sign up on the CoM website
Friday, June 9	8:59 pm	Shabbat candle lighting time	
Friday, June 9		Abe Wasser Bar Mitzvah at TBI	
Saturday, June 10	9:30 am	Abe Wasser Bar Mitzvah at TBI - No services at CoM	Torah: Numbers 8:1-9:14 Haftarah: Zechariah 2:14-4:7
Sunday, June 11	2:00 pm	CoM Annual Membership Meeting	
Sunday, June 11	4:00 pm	Goodbye Party for Rabbi Estrin	RSVP online by June 5
Tuesday, June 13	7:00 pm	OvB Meeting	
Friday, June 16	9:03 pm	Shabbat candle lighting time	
Saturday, June 17	9:30 am	Shabbat Shacharit Services	Torah: Numbers 13:1-14:7 Haftarah: Joshua 2:1-24
Monday, June 19	7:00 pm	Hadassah Book Club	Contact Diane Fogel for info
Mon, June 19 - Fri June 23	9:30 am-1:30 pm daily	Camp Keshet at CoM	
Sunday, June 25	11:00 am	Family Day at Camp Tavor	
Friday, June 23	9:04 pm	Shabbat candle lighting time	
Saturday, June 24	9:30 am	Shabbat Shacharit Services	Torah: Numbers 16:1-17:15 Haftarah: I Samuel 11:14-12:22
Monday, June 26	7:00 pm	Adult Learning at TBI, in person or online	See next page for details
Friday, June 30	9:04 pm	Shabbat candle lighting time	
Saturday, July 1	9:30 am	Shabbat Shacharit Services	



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.

TBI Summer Classes

in person or online

Adult Summer Learning

with Student Rabbi Aria Caligiuri

Week 1: Geography of Biblical and
Modern Israel

Week 2: LGBT issues in Judaism

Week 3: Intermarriage and
interfaith families in Judaism

Week 4: Pirkei Avot: The ethics of
our ancestors"

Week 5: Text Study on
Lamentations for Tisha b'Av

Jun 26, Jul 10, 17, 24, 31 at 7:00 PM

Join in person at TBI
or on Zoom

Meeting ID: 849 1968 0222
Passcode: 074568



Rebecca Tregerman, Director

Another school year has ended and OKCJS is in full swing preparing for our first school-run Camp Keshet.



The last day of school was a wonderful celebration of our families who are dedicated to their children's Jewish education. We wanted to take the opportunity to thank parents for their commitment. The school provided a fun day for family bonding, including an awards breakfast where students received recognition for the number of books they read from the Fisher Library, presented by Rachel Haus.

The teachers presented each student with a personalized and meaningful paper plate award. We thanked the volunteers, including Naomi Morse (music), Jenifer Rubin (Hebrew), Rachel Haus (library) and our Joint Religious School Committee (JRSC) members including Ellen Winter, Beth Grode, Gillian Thommes, Angie Saltzman, Becky Hanson and Jeffrey Scheinker. We also thanked my mentor, Susan Scheinker.

We then welcomed the **new JRSC including Brian Horvitz, Rebecca Tregerman, Karl Shook, Sheri Olbrot and Jenifer Rubin**. The program also included goodbyes to our staff who would not be returning including Rabbi Estrin, Benjamin Whitsett and Sam Arnold. We sang the departing Tsevet/staff a song, led by Naomi Morse and presented them with gifts.

Thank you to all the teachers, staff, rabbis, parents and students for an awesome year! We hope to see you all at Camp Keshet.

Camp Keshet will run from June 19th-23rd. There will be a family camp day at Camp Tavor on Sunday, June 25th. **Thanks to a generous grant from the Marvin and Rosalie Okun Foundation, Camp Keshet and Camp Tavor Family Day will be free for OKCJS students!** We will provide a discount to members, and scholarships are available for all. Camp Keshet is a great leadership opportunity for our teens looking for resume building and job training. In addition to the days in June, our **new Director, Angie Saltzman**, will be leading fun camp days in June and July. Watch for future announcements of these special days!



Free Camp for OKCJS Students!

Camp 2023 Keshet



Join us for 1-week of summer fun and learning!
Camp Keshet - Led by our amazing local counselors sharing their love of Israel and Judaism!!! Register by May 31st

Congregation of Moses - Monday, June 19th-Friday, June 23rd

9:30 AM - 1:30 PM each day

- Learn about Israel
- Jewish heritage
- Field trips
- Arts & Crafts
- Outdoor Activities
- Cooking
- Music & dancing
- Much more ...
- Lunch and snacks provided



Family Day at Camp Tavor in Three Rivers - Sunday, June 25th

11:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Campers and their families will meet at Camp Tavor in Three Rivers for a day of fun, swimming, boating, arts & crafts and so much more!

Kosher lunch and snacks will be provided.



In celebration of OKCJS leading Camp Keshet and a grant from the Okun Foundation pricing has changed for this summer: Camp Keshet Week:

\$Free for OKCJS student

\$90 for Non-OKCJS student and members

\$144 for Non-affiliated attendees

Camp Tavor Family Day: Free for OKCJS student and members of CoM or TBI.

\$18 for non-affiliated family



Register your camper at
tinyurl.com/CampKeshet2023 or email
Angie at CampKeshetKzoo@gmail.com
for more info

Bicycles for Afghan Refugees

Last summer, Kalamazoo's Open Roads Bike Program received a grant from the DALMAC Fund (which advances and promotes the use of bicycles in Michigan) to support building and repairing bikes for the local Afghan refugee population in Kalamazoo. The bikes found new riders thanks to a partnership with Samaritas and the Interfaith Afghan Resettlement Team.

Because the refugee community lives in apartment complexes across Kalamazoo, having safe and secure weather-proof storage for the bikes over the winter was a concern. Congregation of Moses stepped in to support this need.

Over the winter, the bikes were securely stored in the attic. In early May, Open Roads team members and volunteers completed some spring tune-ups and loaded them to deliver to their owners.

Open Roads donated 92 bikes in 2022 to this cause and is aiming for 100+ in 2023.

Ann Feldmeier, an Interfaith Afghan Resettlement Team volunteer, noted that John Safapour with Samaritas made all this collaboration possible.

John later wrote to CoM Building Manager Rich Wojtas, "I can't tell you how many superlative compliments we got from both Afghans and the Open Roads folks regarding the bike bonanza at Congregation of Moses."

More than 50 bikes worth over \$5,000 were protected from the winter elements and theft by storing them in the CoM attic, thanks to the efforts of Rich Wojtas and Brad Kennedy who constructed the storage method.





Thank you to the Open Roads crew and all the volunteers who made the bike event possible. We are proud to have helped!

June 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.

June Birthdays

June 2	Kenneth Goodman
June 2	Joseph Schook
June 4	RosaLynn Pollens
June 13	Alana Harriet Haines Weston
June 15	Larry Beer
June 16	Marvin Berkowitz
June 18	Judith Poger
June 25	Arlen Rubin
June 28	J. Phillip Horwich
June 28	Michael Johnson
June 28	Sandra Snyder



June Anniversaries

June 12	Alvin Rosenthal & Judy Davis
June 15	Robert & Tema Lando
June 29	Moritz & Genia Angel



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 Minutes Summary of May 9, 2023

OKCJS REPORT – Rebecca Tregerman

As of the end of May, there will be a complete turnover of the Religious School Committee.

- OKCJS Director – Angie Saltzman (replacing Rebecca Tregerman)
- Co-Chairs – Brian Horvitz, TBI (replacing Ellen Winter), Rebecca Tregerman, CoM (replacing Beth Grode)
- Treasurer – Becky Hanson, TBI (replacing Jeff Scheinker)
- Members – Sherry Olbrot, TBI (Replacing Angie Saltzman)
- Karl Schook, CoM (Replacing Jeff Scheinker)
- Jen Rubin, CoM (Replacing Gillian Thommes)

Beginning this year, OKCJS will completely take over the running of Camp Keshet.

FINANCIAL REPORT – Brad Hershbein

Our expenses are expected to increase next year with the hiring of a new rabbi and continued building maintenance and upgrades. Income from dues, which have not been adjusted for 4-5 years, are flat or declining with inflation. The coming years will require larger fundraising efforts to help pay for key programs and services.

OPERATIONS REPORT – Mike Tenenbaum

Kitchens – We plan to replace our aging dairy refrigerators.

Heating/Cooling – The front offices and library can get rather warm in the summer, and we are exploring options for more efficient HVAC units.

Lighting – We will continue replacing fluorescent lights with LEDs, with costs offset by rebates.

Energy – We have switched to a “time of use” utilities rate for greater savings. We have begun considering a solar array, which could offer substantial savings over time. It would require a large upfront investment, but this could hopefully be offset by rebates or grants.

REFUGEE FREE STORE EVENING HOURS – Rachel Haus

Some refugees are unable to make it to the store during daytime hours and would benefit from evening hours. We will have a trial period this summer during which the store is open two evenings per month (with appropriate security precautions). Refugees will, as usual, be accompanied by a volunteer/case worker and the store will be staffed by a volunteer. The first evening will be Thursday, June 1, from 6:00 - 8:00 pm during Rabbi Estrin's class.

RABBI GOLDMAN – Brad Hershbein

The contract negotiation process is underway with Rabbi Goldman and we expect a signed contract by the end of May.

ANNUAL MEETING, Sunday June 11, 2:00 - 4:00 pm – Brad Hershbein

A meeting packet will be sent by mail and email by May 12. It will include highlight reports covering CoM's activities since last year's annual meeting, including major accomplishments. It will also include the Bylaws, proposed Bylaw amendments and the slate of Board candidates.

Directly after the Annual Meeting, from 4:00 - 6:00 pm, there will be a Goodbye Party for Rabbi Estrin, whose last day will be June 30. Planning is underway and the planning subcommittee will be seeking volunteers to help give Rabbi Estrin a wonderful, heartfelt sendoff.

TBI AND COM BOOK CLUB

Book Club Suggested Reading List

We will meet the last Thursday of each month at “this is a bookstore” in Oakwood Plaza at 7:00 pm.
Contact [Cary Mannaberg](#) or [Patty Conlon](#) with questions.

June 29 - *Hidden Palace* by Helene Wecker

See: www.jewishbookcouncil.org/book/the-hidden-palace

July 27 - Vacation - no meeting

August 31 - *Diamond Setter* by Moshe Sakal

September 28 - (Meet in the sukkah at TBI) *Hope Valley* by Rabbi Haviva Ner David

October 26 - *Best Place on Earth* by Ayelet Tsabari

November 30 - *The Woman Beyond the Sea* by Sarit Yishai-Levi

December 28 - *American Shtetl* by Nomi Stolzenberg and David Myers

January 25 - Reading Together Kalamazoo (Title not announced yet)

February 29 - *How To Be An Antiracist* by Ibram X Kendi

March 28 - *Color of Love* by Marra Gad

Todah Rabah

Dear CoM family,

Thank you so much for the kind words, notes and donations in memory of my grandmother, Estelle S. Freed. She was an incredible woman who lived an amazing life. We are deeply appreciative for the love and support we've received during this time.

~ **Emily Freed & Brad Hershbein**

Mishpacha

Donations have been made by the following individuals and families.

Mazel Tov to Minaleah Koffron on her high school graduation

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 Stella Amy on her high school graduation

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

Condolences to Emily Freed & Brad Hershbein on the passing of Emily's grandmother, Estelle Freed

Judy Davis & Al Rosenthal, Diane & Harvey Fogel, Cindy & Larry Beer, Shirley Wise, Michelle & Alan Angel, 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 mother, Jean Grossman, *Leonard Lebowitz*

In loving memory of my mother, Marian Fischell, *Tim Fischell*

In loving memory of my father, Jack Levene, *RaeLee Howard*

In loving memory of my parents, Drs. Edgar & Rachel Inselberg, *The Jesse/Inselberg Family*

In loving memory of my parents, Celia & Norman Besbris, *Randie Levin, Terry Paule, David Besbris, Debra Strichartz and their families** *Correction: last month's newsletter didn't include each name

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

June 3-9 (14-20 Sivan)

Ida Becker*	Dora Kirschner*	Morris Stulberg
David Berkowitz	Norman Kirschner	Marilyn Zheutlin
Norman D. Bowman*	Rose Lando King*	Aron Ziv*
David Hyman*	Gerald Pryweller*	

June 10-16 (21-27 Sivan)

Herman Davidoff*	Murray S. Gubin*	Louis Rose
Sylvia Goldman*	Zelda Handlesman*	Yaffa Sasson
Moses J. Graff*	Sadie Hyman*	Samuel Schensul*
Pauline Grekin	Hilde M. Nadelman*	Morris Willage*

June 17-23 (28 Sivan - 4 Tammuz)

Ruthe Bernard*	Elaine Hoffman Lamm	Gloria Stein
Recia Deutsch*	Louis Levene*	Paula Strauss*
Izidor Freiwald*	Thelma Lipsitt	Alfred R. Thea*
Bernice Friedman*	Sidney Seyburn*	Sara Lee Weisman*
Dorothea I. Goldstein*	Gertrude Braufman Stein*	

June 24-30 (5-11 Tammuz)

Marsha Abrams	Miriam Roodin*	Leah Schensul*
Bernard Kurlan	Sadye Rosenbaum*	Ruth Sofen*
Pauline Kushner*	Betty Ruden	Siegfried Strauss*

**Denotes a memorial plaque in the synagogue*