



CoM newsletter

CONGREGATION OF MOSES • Kalamazoo, Michigan

Volume 16 Issue 8
August 2023 14 Av - 14 Elul 5783

Welcome Rabbi Goldman

Rabbi Goldman's first Shabbat service will be August 5. Please plan to attend and give her a warm welcome!

Rabbi would also love to get to know members. She will be setting aside Tuesday afternoons for appointments at 1:00, 2:00, or 3:00 pm, beginning August 8.

Please call 342-5463 or [email the office](#) to set up a time to meet with her.



CLIMATE LEADERS NEEDED!

Help Us Develop and Implement Our Climate Action Plan

The Congregation of Moses will be joining the Jewish Climate Leadership Coalition. [You can learn more about the organization here.](#)



Adamah
PEOPLE • PLANET • PURPOSE

The Coalition is a network of Jewish community organizations who recognize the existential threat and moral urgency of climate change and commit to take action.

As a member of the coalition, CoM will develop a Climate Action Plan for both reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and mobilizing our broader networks around climate action in the coming year.

Anyone in the community of any age, including teens, are welcome!

Please contact Carolyn Kennedy if you would like to know more or help create the action plan. The goal is to work toward reducing CoM's carbon footprint in every aspect including incorporating the use of solar energy, installation of electric vehicle chargers and energy efficient building use plans. **There's a lot of work to do and your efforts could make a HUGE difference.**

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

Oversight Board

- President**
 Brad Hershbein, (617) 967-3093
 bhershbein@congregationofmoses.org
- Vice-President Operations**
 Mike Tenenbaum, (269) 929-8384
 tenemike1967@gmail.com
- Vice-President Programming**
 Saraphoena Koffron,
 skoffron@congregationofmoses.org
- Vice-President Religious Activities**
 Al Rosenthal, (269) 290-5565
 alvin.rosenthal@wmich.edu
- Treasurer** Neal Berke,
 treasurer@congregationofmoses.org
- Secretary** Rachel Haus, (412) 719-4293
 library@congregationofmoses.org
- Human Resources Administrator**
 Maxine Berke, (978) 761-8212
 maxineberke@gmail.com
- Member-at-Large** Patty Conlon,
 conlonpn@yahoo.com
- Member-at-Large** Phil Oretsky,
 blueskyphil@msn.com
- Trustee Representative**
 Shirley Wise, (269) 330-3103
 goldensmw@sbcglobal.net

Synagogue Staff

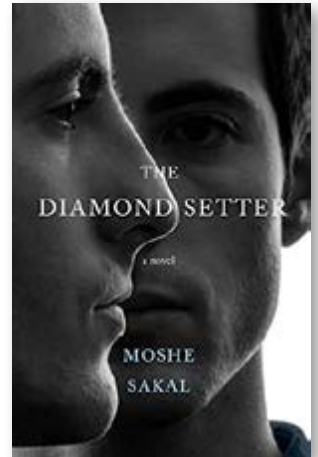
- Rabbi** Shelley Goldman
 rabbi@congregationofmoses.org
- Office Manager** Kristil Semrau
 comofficemgr@congregationofmoses.org
- Building Manager** Rich Wojtas
 buildingmanager@congregationofmoses.org
- Library Director** Rachel Haus
 library@congregationofmoses.org

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.

TBI AND COM BOOK CLUB

We will meet each month at “this is a
 bookstore” in Oakwood Plaza at 7:00
 pm. Contact **Cary Mannaberg** or **Patty
 Conlon** with questions.

August 31 - *The Diamond Setter* by
 Moshe Sakal



Future dates and titles:

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



Shabbat and Events Calendar

Friday, August 4	8:40 pm	Shabbat candle lighting time	
Saturday, August 5	9:30 am	Shabbat Shacharit Services - Come welcome Rabbi Goldman!	Torah: Deuteronomy 7:12-9:3 Haftarah: Isaiah 49:14-51:3
Thursday, August 10	7:00 pm	Mussar class meeting	
Friday, August 11	8:31 pm	Shabbat candle lighting time	
Saturday, August 12	9:30 am	Shabbat Shacharit Services	Torah: Deuteronomy 11:26-12:28 Haftarah: Isaiah 54:11-55:5
Tuesday, August 15	6:00 pm	Joint Religious School Committee meeting	
Friday, August 18	8:21 pm	Shabbat candle lighting time	
Saturday, August 19	9:30 am	Shabbat Shacharit Services - Second Cup following services	Torah: Deuteronomy 16:18-16:20 Haftarah: Isaiah 51:12-52:12
Monday, August 21	7:00 pm	Hadassah Book Club	Contact Diane Fogel for info
Wednesday, August 23	7:00 pm	OvB Meeting	
Friday, August 25	8:10 pm	Shabbat candle lighting time	
Saturday, August 26	9:30 am	Shabbat Shacharit Services	Torah: Deuteronomy 21:10-21:14 Haftarah: Isaiah 54:1-10



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.

AUGUST 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.

August Birthdays

August 2	Michael Siegel
August 6	Sabrina Snyder
August 8	Elizabeth Siegel
August 11	Patrick Welbourne - Special birthday!
August 12	Amelia Schook
August 13	Shane Sarah Riley
August 15	Lori Putman
August 20	Magnus Leidan Riley
August 24	Michelle Angel
August 28	Michael Weston - Special birthday!
August 29	Olivia Scheinker



August Anniversaries

August 5	Judah & Pnina Ari-Gur
August 5	Jeffrey & Susan Scheinker - Special anniversary!
August 8	Michael & Cheryl Tenenbaum
August 11	Steve & Joyce Camhi
August 12	Lee Klingman & Emily Hoffman
August 17	Harvey & Diane Fogel
August 17	S. David & Jann Stulberg
August 22	Jeffrey & Rachel Haus
August 30	Rudy & Jill Ruterbusch



Mishpacha

Donations have been made by the following individuals and families.

Mazel Tov to Patrick Welbourne and Michael Weston on their special birthdays

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, Valerie & Ken Eisenberg, Rae Lee Howard, The Fischell Family, Judy & Lowell Seyburn, Wilma Kahn & Phil Horwich

Mazel Tov to Susan and Jeffrey Scheinker on their special anniversary

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, Valerie & Ken Eisenberg, Rae Lee Howard, The Fischell Family, Judy & Lowell Seyburn, Wilma Kahn & Phil Horwich

In Memory

In loving memory of my father, Meyer Lebowitz, *Leonard Lebowitz*

In loving memory of my father, Louis Loeser, *Marjorie Gaynor*

In loving memory of my mother, Betty Goodman Krohngold, *Ken Goodman*

In loving memory of my beloved son, Jonathan David Tregerman, *Lee Tregerman*

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

August 5-11 (18-24 Av)

Natalie Aaronson	Harris Handlesman*	Louis Pollens
Max Besbris*	Ruth Kaplan*	Ethel Roodin*
Herb Cane	Harold Karlin*	Ephraim Rose*
Molly Feinberg	Lianne Lando*	Nettie Schwartz*
Milton Feinberg*	Anna Marks*	Sylvia A. Weinstein*
Elliott Gluck*	Leon Okun*	Ben Weisman*

August 12-18 (25 Av-1 Elul)

Wilbur Aaronson	Marion Raskin Grant	Richard Star
Mary Bennison*	Bertha Rothschild*	Ilan Stensh
Irving W. Cushner*	Sol Schpok*	Esther Tigay Weiner*
Jack A. Fisher*	Peggy Schwartz*	Sadie Zimmerman*
Anna Friedman*	Gertrude Seeder*	
Milton Kirschner*	Harry B. Sofen*	

August 19-25 (2-8 Elul)

Aaron Bennison*	Anna Graff*	Steven Laventure*
Evelyn Berke	Jean Greenwald	Robert Munsch
Anne Breslow*	Morris Haffenberg*	Lester M. Richman
Sam Camhi*	Rose Handlesman*	Joseph Sichel*
Sadye R. Goldenberg*	Jacob Krohngold	

August 26-September 1 (9-15 Elul)

Evan Adelman	Alvin Kushner*	Meyer C. Weiner*
Gertie Feldman	Heidi Schechter Moldo	Dena H. Winick*
Jerome Gerber*	Fannette Schwartz	

**Denotes a memorial plaque in the synagogue*

Annual Meeting Minutes

6/11/2023

Called to order 2:10 pm

Attending: Michelle Angel (Past President), Maxine Berke, Patty Conlon, Rabbi Estrin, Rachel Haus (Secretary), Brad Hershbein (President/Treasurer), Brad Kennedy, Carolyn Kennedy, Charlie Ofstein, Al Rosenthal (RAC), Mike Tenenbaum (Ops), Shirley Wise (Trustee) + approx. 40 other members

Documents sent to congregation by email on May 11, 2023

- I. **THANK YOU/GOODBYE D'VAR TORAH** – Rabbi Estrin
- II. **HIGHLIGHTS OF PAST YEAR** – Brad Hershbein
 - A. First in-person Community Seder since pandemic
 - B. Two CoM B'nai Mitzvah (Evan Scheinker, Lucas Ofstein) and several TBI B'nai mitzvah
 - C. Israel trip in April organized and guided by Rabbi Estrin
 - D. Shabbaton at Pretty Lake Camp in May
 - E. Refugee Free Store – served over 500 families!
 - F. Adult ed classes (over 50) led by Rabbi Estrin
 - G. Other programming (much in conjunction with TBI)
 1. Israeli dancing, Book Club, Mahjong, Yoga, Shabbatot, Playgroup chavurah, Tashlich, “Sukkah in the Hut” , Simchat Torah celebration, Chanukah Bazaar, Purim Carnival
 - H. Colef Fund helping wider community (donated over 1.1 million!)
 - I. New yearzeit board arriving soon!
- III. **REPORTS**
 - A. Membership – Over past 5 yrs has remained stable at around 100 families.
 - B. OKCJS – enrollment at about 40 students, up from past year; $\frac{2}{3}$ are TBI kids
 1. Rebecca Tregerman stepped down from director position. Angie Saltzman to replace her.
 - C. Financial – 2016 saw huge jump in assets due to Schensul family bequest.
 1. Some dips in 2022 due to stock market fluctuations & high inflation.
 2. Current operating budget – \$375,000
 - a. $\frac{1}{2}$ from member dues, $\frac{1}{2}$ from endowment assets
 - b. Most expenses go to staff, building maintenance and programming.
 - c. Budget will rise due to inflation and new expenses, requiring fundraising and possible increase in dues.
 - D. Volunteer opportunities – all areas needed: religious services, kitchen, programming, committees, library, tikkun olam, financial donations

IV. **BYLAWS** **** If you would like to review the bylaws as approved at the Annual Meeting, please click this link or call the office to request a mailed copy.**

- A. Bylaws changed to reflect new CoM governing structure. New bylaws approved last year with proviso that additional clarification needed.
- B. Bylaws ad-hoc committee – Joe Hirschfield (chair), Charlie Ofstein, Sherry Deems, Saraphoena Koffron, Brad Hershbein
- C. To approve changes, need 30% of (Jewish) adult CoM members to vote (54 people). If that number is not present, bylaws allow for absentee voting.
 - 1. VOTE among those present: 52 yea, 0 nay
 - 2. VOTE (absentee before & after meeting): 7 yea, 0 nay
 - 3. **TOTAL VOTE – 59 in favor**

V. **OVERSIGHT BOARD CANDIDATE SLATE**

- A. No slate last year because bylaws not then approved.
- B. Proposed slate:

PRESIDENT: Brad Hershbein

SECRETARY: Rachel Haus

TREASURER: Neal Berke

VICE PRESIDENT OF OPERATIONS: Mike Tenenbaum

VICE PRESIDENT OF PROGRAMMING: **Write in candidate – Saraphoena Koffron**

VICE PRESIDENT OF RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES: Al Rosenthal

MEMBER AT LARGE: Patty Conlon

MEMBER AT LARGE: Phil Oretsky

C. VOTE among those present: 50 yea, 0 nay

D. VOTE (absentee before & after meeting): 7 yea, 0 nay

E. TOTAL VOTE – 57 in favor

VI. **GOODBYE TO RABBI ESTRIN/WELCOME TO RABBI GOLDMAN**

- A. Thank you from the entire congregation to Rabbi Estrin, who led us for two years out of pandemic and into a dynamic future, with stronger connections with TBI and the unaffiliated. Last day will be June 28, 2023.
- B. Welcome to Rabbi Shelley Goldman, who will begin on August 1, 2023. Was a difficult search, headed by Laurel Ofstein, then Jeff Haus and Leslie Bez, with very few candidates. But Rabbi Goldman has vast experience and is warm & engaging.

VII. **COMMENTS**

- A. Saraphoena Koffron – Lawsuit to compel Portage Public Schools to stop scheduling school events during religious holidays is ongoing. Progress is being made which hopefully, will benefit all Kalamazoo County students.

Meeting Adjourned – 3:30pm