



CoM newsletter

CONGREGATION OF MOSES • Kalamazoo, Michigan

Volume 16 Issue 9
September 2023 15 Elul 5783- 15 Tishrei 5784

What Part Can You Take in Building Our Community?

When I remember the Rosh Hashanah observances of my childhood, I think of walking in the woods with my parents and brother. We had not yet joined a synagogue and my mother wanted us to connect with God through trees and nature. We would drive to the forest preserve and walk the paths, stopping to recite the Shema while sitting on a tree log where many people before us had found connection and community.

By the time I was 10, I was asking so many questions about Judaism that my parents decided that I needed some formal religious education. We joined a synagogue and I remember sitting with my family in the back block of seats in a freezing cold sanctuary, curious and delighted by all the Hebrew and songs. Later that day, we ate Rosh Hashanah lunch on a fellow member's back porch in the warmth of a Chicago September. There were bagels, cream cheese, the rare treat of lox and lively conversation.

One of the things that I love about Congregation of Moses is our name. It reminds me that among the most important aspects of a Jewish community are our connections with each other—congregation—and our links with the people and places of our past—Moses. To be a kehillah kedosha, a holy community, also implies a relationship with God or the Divine Force that obligates us to make the world a better place.



Rabbi Shelley Goldman

I see so much at CoM that I connect with, respect, and am excited to be part of with my partner and our two young sons. I love that we host the Free Store and welcome refugees to Southwest Michigan by providing material assistance and human connection. I love that we have a rain garden that is as functional as it is beautiful—it filters rainwater runoff and deposits cleaner water back into the ground while providing a place for native flowers to bloom, plants to flourish, and butterflies to alight, providing beauty for us to look at and cleaner air for us to breathe.

As we all get to know each other in the year to come, I encourage you to consider the ways that you'd like to be involved in our holy community. What gifts, skills, and talents do you want to bring to the table this year? How do you want to volunteer your time to help create our religious services and participate in our social programs? How do you want to help make the world a better place together with your Jewish community?

Please call the office to make an appointment to meet with me. I want to hear what you have to say!

Shanah Tovah u'Metukah. Have a good and sweet New Year,
Rabbi Goldman

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.**

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.

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

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

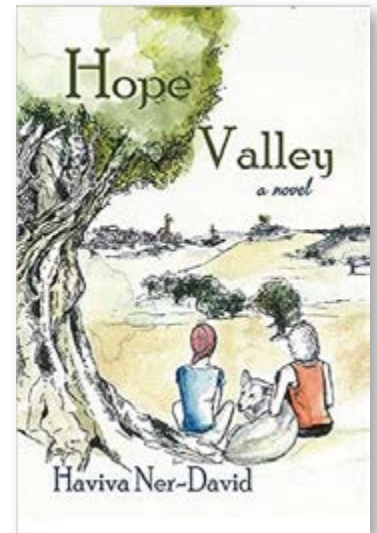
November 30 - *The Woman Beyond the Sea* by Sarit Yishai-Levi

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



Introduction to Torah Tropes Class

Andrea Johnson and Susan Scheinker will be teaching an **Intro to Torah Tropes class** this fall. Across four



1-hour classes, we will teach you how to recognize and chant common Torah tropes in the traditional Conservative melody.

We ask that attendees be over the age of 13 and able to read Hebrew. There is no cost for the class and you do not have to be a member of CoM to attend.

Classes will be held at CoM on October 29th, November 5th, 12th and 19th, from 10:30 - 11:30 am. Online sign-up will be available on the website.





Marvin & Rosalie Okun
KALAMAZOO COMMUNITY



Jewish School

OKCJS 5784
REGISTRATION OPEN

Classes begin on Sunday, September 10,
9:00 am - 12:00 pm



Register for school at:

<https://tinyurl.com/mscup8ra>

Contact
okcjsdirector@gmail.com
with questions
or
you are interested in working
within the classroom





OKCJS HIGH HOLIDAY FAMILY SERVICES

FAMILIES AND SIBLINGS ARE ENCOURAGED TO JOIN

ROSH HASHANAH

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 17TH @ 9:00 AM
CONGREGATION OF MOSES

YOM KIPPUR PRE KOL NIDRE SERVICE

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 24TH @ 4:00 PM
TEMPLE B'NAI ISRAEL

Join TBI for "Reverse Tashlich" at the Kalamazoo River

Sunday, September 10, 1:00 pm at Riverview Launch, 1523 Riverview Dr.

Tashlich is a practice we do between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, where we stand by a body of flowing water and cast our sins into the waters. For Reverse Tashlich, we walk along the banks of a river and remove trash to make up for the sin of polluting creation. While doing this, we reflect on the sanctity of pure waters.

TBI will again participate in a nationwide Reverse Tashlich through our partnership with the Kalamazoo River Watershed Council. TBI has adopted a section of the Kalamazoo River, north of Mosel Avenue. We invite people of all ages and ability levels to join us. We may be wading into water and soft mud, but there will be no swimming or canoeing.

We will provide safety equipment, grabber sticks, and will collect all the trash you pick up and properly dispose of it. If you would like to participate, please wear rubber boots or closed toe shoes, sturdy gloves, and long pants as there may be poison ivy.

Bring a change of clothing in case you get muddy and we will have treats at the end. We expect to be done by 2:30 pm. A liability waiver form will need to be signed on the day of the event.

For more info, please **contact Cary Mannaberg, cmannaberg@gmail.com.**

Fisher Library News

Welcome to the 2023-24 school year and (soon to be) year 5784!

Change is all around us – a new Rabbi (Rabbi Goldman), a new Religious School Director (Angie Saltzman) – and while these changes certainly affect Fisher Library, some things remain the same. For instance, we have a great crop of new books for kids and adults. Take a look!

American Prometheus: The Triumph and Tragedy of Robert J. Oppenheimer

The Best Minds: A Story of Friendship, Madness, and the Tragedy of Good Intentions

Barbie and Ruth: The Story of the World's Most Famous Doll and the Woman Who Created Her

On Repentance And Repair: Making Amends in an Unapologetic World

Signal Fires: A Novel

Rebecca of Salerno: A Novel of Rogue Crusaders, a Jewish Female Physician, and a Murder

How To Find Your Way In The Dark (A Sheldon Horowitz Novel, 1)

Being Heumann: An Unrepentant Memoir of a Disability Rights Activist

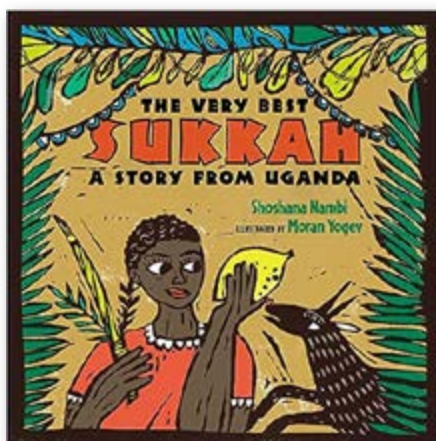
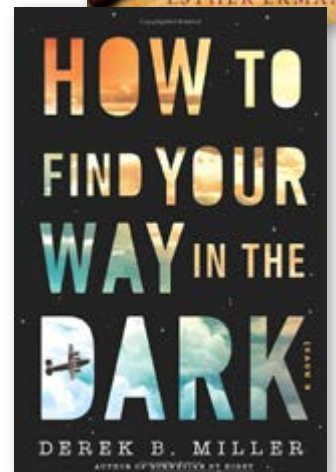
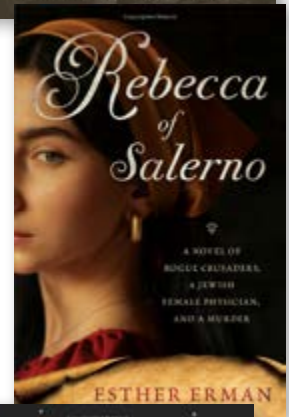
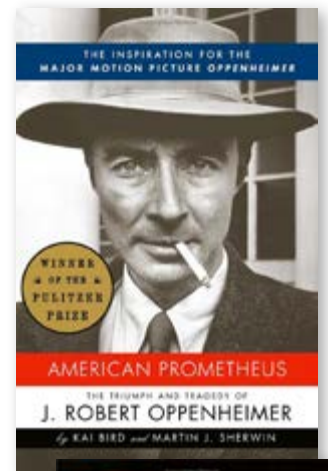
Ring of Solomon

The Very Best Sukkah: A Story from Uganda

Mazal Bueno!

Dear Mr. Dickens

These are just a few of our new titles! To see them all (and much more), check out our online catalog at fisherlibrary.rmwebopac.com



Shabbat and Events Calendar

Friday, September 1	7:58 pm	Shabbat candle lighting time	
Saturday, September 2	9:30 am	Shabbat Shacharit Services	Torah: Deuteronomy 26:1-26:3 Haftarah: Isaiah 60:1-22
Sunday, September 3	4:30 pm	Torah Study with Judah Ari-Gur on Zoom	
Wednesday, September 6	7:00 pm	Shofar Ceremony	
Wednesday, September 6	7:00 pm	Talmud Study with Judah Ari-Gur on Zoom	
Thursday, September 7	7:00 pm	Mussar Class	
Friday, September 8	7:46 pm	Shabbat candle lighting time	
Saturday, September 9	9:30 am	Shabbat Shacharit Services - Second Cup following services	Torah: Deuteronomy 29:9-29:11 Haftarah: Isaiah 61:10-63:9
Saturday, September 9	8:30 pm	Selichot and Havdalah	
Sunday, September 10	3:00 pm	Federation Kickoff Event at CoM	
Tuesday, September 12	7:00 pm	OvB Meeting	
Wednesday, September 13	7:00 pm	Talmud Study with Judah Ari-Gur on Zoom	
Friday, September 15	7:00 pm	Shabbat and Erev Rosh Hashanah Services with Oneg	
Friday, September 15	7:34 pm	Shabbat candle lighting time	
Saturday, September 16	9:00 am	Rosh Hashanah Morning Services	Torah: Genesis 21:1-21:4 Haftarah: I Samuel 1:1-2:10
Saturday, September 16	8:00 pm	Rosh Hashanah Evening Services	
Sunday, September 17	9:00 am	Rosh Hashanah Morning Services	
Sunday, September 17	9:00 am	Family Services with OKCJS at CoM	
Sunday, September 17	1:00 pm	Tashlich at Woods Lake Park	
Sunday, September 17	4:30 pm	Torah Study with Judah Ari-Gur on Zoom	
Monday, September 18		Fast of Gedaliah	
Monday, September 18	7:00 pm	Hadassah Book Club	
Tuesday, September 19	6:00 pm	JRSC meeting at TBI	
Wednesday, September 20	7:00 pm	Talmud Study with Judah Ari-Gur on Zoom	
Thursday, September 21	6:00 pm	Memorial Services at Riverside Jewish Cemetery	
Friday, September 22	7:22 pm	Shabbat candle lighting time	
Saturday, September 23	9:30 am	Shabbat Shacharit Services	Torah: Deuteronomy 32:1-32:6 Haftarah: Hosea 14:2-10; Micah 7:18-20; Joel 2:15-27
Sunday, September 24	9:00 am	Sukkah Building	
Sunday, September 24	9:00 am	OKCJS classes	
Sunday, September 24	11:00 am	Break-the-Fast preparations in the kitchen	
Sunday, September 24	4:00 pm	Family Services with OKCJS at TBI	
Sunday, September 24	4:30 pm	Torah Study with Judah Ari-Gur on Zoom	
Sunday, September 24	6:30 pm	Kol Nidre Service	
Monday, September 25		YOM KIPPUR - OFFICE CLOSED	
Monday, September 25	9:00 am	Yom Kippur Morning Services with Yizkor	

Shabbat and Events Calendar, continued

Monday, September 25	4:30 pm	Presentation/discussion with Bruce Stein: <i>Recent Supreme Court Decisions and the Establishment Clause</i>	
Monday, September 25	5:30 pm	Mincha	
Monday, September 25	6:45 pm	Neila	
Monday, September 25	8:15 pm	Final Shofar Blowing and Break-the-Fast	
Wednesday, September 27	7:00 pm	Talmud Study with Judah Ari-Gur on Zoom	
Friday, September 29	7:09 pm	Shabbat candle lighting time	
Saturday, September 30	9:30 am	Sukkot Morning Services	Torah: Leviticus 22:26-22:33 Haftarah: Zechariah 14:1-21
Sunday, October 1	4:00 pm	Pizza in the Hut Family Event at CoM	



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.

Mishpacha

Wishing Alan Cohen the best upon his move to Florida.

Donations have been made by the following individuals and families.

In Memory

In loving memory of our mother, Peggy Schwartz, *Paul & Sharon Schwartz*

In loving memory of my father, Irving Cushner, *Cindy Beer*

In loving memory of my parents, Rose and Morris Rose, *Gloria Besbris*

In loving memory of my parents, Rose and Morris Rose, *Sandy Rose*

In loving memory of our parents, Meyer & Esther Weiner, *Joshua & Pamela Weiner*

In loving memory of my aunt, Bertha Rothschild, *Majorie Gaynor*

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



Sign up now for the yearly Sukkot celebration at CoM. Bounce house, games, pizza dinner, bonfire pit, crafts and lulav shaking! Everyone welcome!

[Sign up online: congregationofmoses.org/event_signup/?EID=99139](http://congregationofmoses.org/event_signup/?EID=99139)

Yahrzeits

September 2-8 (16-22 Elul)

William A. Austin	David E. Hyman	Joseph Thall*
Katherine Bachenheimer	Harry Kaufman*	Clarice Weiner
Max Bennisson*	Miriam Kaufman*	Dyna Gitel Wise*
Tobias Budin*	Ida Rubel*	
Henry Graff*	Ida Schensul*	
Harry Halpert*	Mitchell Sternfield*	

September 9-15 (23-29 Elul)

James Beilis	Herbert Fisher*	David Loeser*
Lillian Brot*	Janet M. Hoffman*	Patti Paull*
Russ Deutsch	Martin Krasnick*	Leon Slavin*

September 16-22 (1-7 Tishrei)

Stanley Brown	Leonard Haus	Peter Kevin McCain
Helen Arlene Gerber*	Celia Schiff Horwich*	John Jacob Moyer*
Nell Gluck*	Samuel Benjamin Horwich*	Ruth Simon
Ed Goldenthal	Harry King*	Eli Verne
Robert Goodman	Michael Liepman*	

September 23-29 (8-15 Tishrei)

Sarah Besbris*	Sam Kurlandsky*	Abraham Rozanoff*
Blanche Kushner Ell*	Rosa Levi*	Janice G. Weinstein
Gertrude Forman*	Martha Loeser*	Sumner Weinstein*
Belle Franklin*	Ada Mostcovy	Thomas Wolfe*
Samuel Franklin*	Shay Okun*	Rose N. Wruble*
Gil Golde	Sidney Rose*	
Eva Halpert*	David Rosenberg*	

September 30-October 6 (16-21 Tishrei)

Jonas Adelman	Fay Ginsberg*	Benjamin Marshall*
Howard Arbetter	Harriet Ginsberg*	Marvin Okun*
Wilhelm Blum*	Jeffrey Ginsberg*	Rose Roseman*
Lucille S. Brown*	Lawrence Kaufman	Sam A. Roseman*
Verna Jean Eisenberg	Ida Konigsberg	Viola Turndorf
Rena Feinberg*	Rae Libin*	Bertram Zheutlin

OvB Minutes Summary of July 11

A. COLEF COMMITTEE – Carolyn Kennedy

The OvB approved the following three motions:

- To accept the amendments to the Colef Fund by-laws for the purpose of adding one member from outside CoM membership.
- To approve the purchase of a software subscription from Foundant Technologies for use by the ColefTzedakah Committee to manage the Fund's grant-making.
- To approve a \$50,000 two-year grant from the Colef Fund to the YWCA Kalamazoo for support of the YWCA Farm to Early Care and Education (F2ECE).

B. PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE – Saraphoena Koffron

As the new Programming Committee Chair, Saraphoena planned to organize responsibilities and consult with former chairs for history and guidance.

C. RELIGIOUS SCHOOL COMMITTEE – Rebecca Tregerman

The Religious School Committee (RSC) is completely new this year, with complete turnover from both CoM and TBI. The RSC is reviewing the OKCJS Governance Document in consultation with both Rabbis, congregation boards, and presidents.

Angie Saltzman is the new OKCJS Director. She comes with a highly experienced educational background. The Shana Winter Foundation is funding online courses in Jewish studies and education to further Angie's professional development.

D. NEW STAFFING

Office Manager, Kristil Semrau – started 2nd week of July, taking over for Erica.

Rabbi Shelley Goldman – started August 1.

An ad hoc committee has been formed to assist Rabbi Goldman and provide guidance/feedback during her first year.

E. NEW PROGRAMS (for future consideration)

The OvB discussed participating in the following two programs. They decided to defer on the first program until next year, when Rabbi Goldman has had more time to know our congregation. Information about the second program was shared with relevant families.

ADL Kulanu program to combat antisemitism

RootOne Funding for Israel Travel – This is a partnership with USCJ – they provide a \$3,000 voucher for Israel travel for B*Mitzvah teens.

F. DISCUSSION TO RENEW ISRAEL BOND – Brad Hershbein

The OvB approved renewing our \$25K Israel bond at a higher interest rate.



Get to Know Your Genes

Where are your ancestors from?



(From family tree DNA)

Speaker: Leo Cooper

Where: Congregation of Moses

When: Sunday, September 10, 3:00 pm

Refreshments will be served

Leo is originally from the Gull Lake area, studied at WMU and graduated with a degree in Anthropology in 2022. He is working with the team that researched a paper on the Genetics of Ashkenazi Jews. Leo will present a summary of his work for non-specialists.

Leo's group carried out a comparison of the genomes from communities of the 14th Century with those of current Jews. These reveal a microcosm of diversity. How many people today know there were two different communities of Ashkenazi Jews from central Europe? They are our ancestors. We are a mix of both of them. Leo will also speak on the B'nai Jews, an even more diverse population from Italy and the Byzantine Empire. Today everyone is merged into a single community, Klal Yisroel.

We hope you will join us for our first in-person kickoff since Covid.

CLIMATE LEADERS NEEDED!

Help Us Develop and Implement Our Climate Action Plan

The Congregation of Moses is now a member of 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.**

New Yahrzeit Board at CoM

For the first time in many years, the Congregation of Moses has a new Yahrzeit board! We had run out of space to feature the plaques of members' loved ones, *zichronam livracha*, in our sanctuary. The new board will be installed on one of the walls of the sanctuary, forward of the doors.

Memorial boards are a reminder of the importance of l'dor v'dor, "from generation to generation," and as we approach the High Holy Days, please consider making a donation. Thanks to pledges from a few congregants, we were able to order the board, but additional support will help us pay the remaining costs. A goal of \$3,800 has been established to cover the remaining cost of the board, as well as the installation and mounting for which professional services are required.

You can make your donation online to honor those who came before us, at congregationofmoses.org/yahrzeit_donate/ or simply mail a check to CoM with the notation, "Yahrzeit Board."



Thank you!