



# CoM newsletter

CONGREGATION OF MOSES • Kalamazoo, Michigan

Volume 16 Issue 11  
November 2023 17 Cheshvan - 17 Kislev 5784

## installation celebration

of Rabbi Goldman and the Congregation of Moses  
November 17 and 18

**Please join us as we formally install Rabbi Shelley Goldman as the Congregation of Moses's rabbi on November 17 and 18.**

This celebration will include a Friday night service at 7:00 pm followed by an Oneg Shabbat, and a Saturday morning Shabbat service followed by a catered kiddush luncheon.

We are inviting other members of the Kalamazoo Jewish community and local officials from the city for this important event, and one of Rabbi Goldman's mentors, Rabbi Elyse Wechterman, will offer a special benediction.

**Please RSVP to attend here, or at [congregationofmoses.org/com-events](https://congregationofmoses.org/com-events).**

## 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.



Dear CoM Family,

We'd like to thank you for your comforting condolence wishes that keep on coming, donations to CoM and other organizations, feeding us for the first two days (organized by Joanne Simon and friends), your hugs, and continued support through this very difficult time. Many of you knew our son Jamie and we're so glad you had that opportunity. Thank you again for keeping us in your thoughts and prayers.

With love,

**Harvey, Diane. Jonah, Devra and Linda Fogel**

## 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.

**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

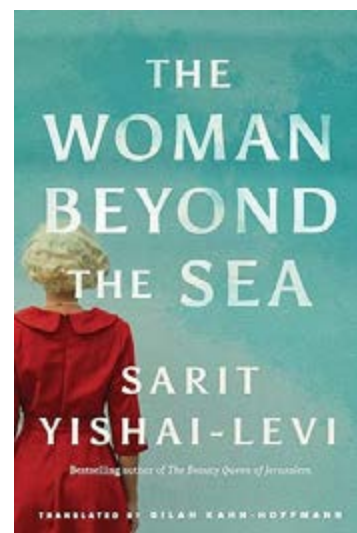
Kalamazoo (Title not announced yet)

**February 29** - *How To Be An*

*Antiracist* by Ibram X. Kendi

**March 28** - *Color of Love* by

Marra Gad



# I Pray for Peace

Like many of you, I have spent the last several weeks vacillating between deep sadness and utter rage. I wake up every morning and check the news while still lying in bed, steeling myself for what I might see, what may have developed overnight.

Far too many nights I have read news articles, opinion pieces, or texted with Israeli friends while my children's small sleeping bodies warm the bed beside me. I have snuggled Micah and Amiel while silently crying, thinking about the Israeli children kidnapped in Gaza or seeing in my mind's eye the newspaper photograph of the anguished faces of Palestinian kids holding out pots and waiting for them to be filled with precious potable water. I have read of the atrocities visited upon our Jewish brothers and sisters on October 7, grateful for the journalistic standards in the United States which shield us from actually seeing the horrific images, which can never be unseen. The images which are themselves part of the terrorism, to terrify all those who allow their eyes to see. Dayenu, it is enough to allow our minds to process and our hearts to understand the gravity of what has befallen us.



*Rabbi Shelley Goldman*

I have heard friends cry out in anguish, angry that non-Jewish friends have not inquired into their wellbeing while I have experienced the polar opposite. Friends from across the country have reached out while acquaintances in Kalamazoo who I have known for less than three months have stopped me on the street to express concern, solidarity, despair and hope for a better future. People have called, written emails, sent cards and flowers, and shown up in person at CoM to express their solidarity with me as the rabbi, and through me to the entire CoM community.

I feel profound sadness that this political conflict has violently intensified during my lifetime rather than culminating in a Middle East peace which seemed so possible in the mid-1990s when I began to pay attention in earnest to the dynamics between the State of Israel and Palestinians. I feel rage at the political leaders of Israel who decided that annual attacks on the citizens of southern Israel and retaliatory bombings of Gaza were preferable to finding a way to make peace with their enemies. I am angry at the terrorists of Hamas but cannot allow them much space in my being. I leave that rage to their own people, people who have more than enough material after being held hostage themselves for 16 years without elections to, hopefully, choose more appropriate leaders.

And through all of this, I am acutely aware that I have been the rabbi of Congregation of Moses for less than three months. While many people have met with me on Tuesday afternoons and I've begun to have wonderful parking lot conversations or discussions at Kiddush after Shabbat morning services, as a community we have not yet really gotten to know each other.

I pray that we can extend each other compassion and grace as we move through this terrible time together. I pray that we continue to engage with each other respectfully across profound differences in perspective and visions for the way forward. I pray for peace.

## Rabbi Goldman



## Shalom!

The 5784 school year has officially started! OKCJS began the school year celebrating the High Holidays and Sukkot together.

We have a total of 41 students enrolled this year, ranging from Pre K through 9th grade. There are currently 11 members of our teaching staff.

Meet our amazing teaching staff:

Pre K - 1st - Mazal Haus

2nd - 3rd - Olivia Scheinker

Pre K - 3rd grade supports - Omer Kogan and Miriam Verne

4th - Cary Mannaberg

5th-6th - Rabbi Goldman

7th - Rabbi Schicker

4th-7th grade supports - Jen Rubin and Laura Paul

Library - Rachel Haus

Music - Naomi Morse



*Angie Saltzman, Director*

With the current risk of violence towards the Jewish people, Kalamazoo Public Safety has reached out to the synagogues offering added security during school hours. Their presence during school hours has been noticed and we are very grateful for this support from the Kalamazoo community.

Please come and support OKCJS at these upcoming events:

**Saturday, November 18th** - Rabbi Goldman Installation at CoM

**Sunday, December 3rd** - Hanukkah Bazaar at CoM

**Wednesday, December 13th** - OKCJS Hanukkah Candle Lighting at Bronson Park, 6:00pm

**Friday, December 15th** - Student-led Shabbat at CoM

## Introduction to Torah Trope

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.**

**Sign up online at [congregationofmoses.org/com-events](https://congregationofmoses.org/com-events)**

# Shabbat and Events Calendar

Wednesday, November 1	12:00 pm	Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Estrin on Zoom	
Wednesday, November 1	7:00 pm	Talmud Study with Judah Ari-Gur on Zoom	
Friday, November 3	5:32 pm	Shabbat candle lighting time	
Saturday, November 4	9:30 am	Shabbat Shacharit Services	Torah: Genesis 19:1-20:18 Haftarah: II Kings 4:1-37
Saturday, November 4	11:00 am	Zyndorf/Angel baby-naming	
Sunday, November 5	10:30 am	Intro to Torah Trope Class	
Sunday, November 5	4:30 pm	Torah Study with Judah Ari-Gur on Zoom	
Tuesday, November 7	7:00 pm	Mussar Class	
Wednesday, November 8	12:00 pm	Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Estrin on Zoom	
Wednesday, November 8	7:00 pm	Talmud Study with Judah Ari-Gur on Zoom	
Thursday, November 9	7:00 pm	OvB Meeting	
Friday, November 10	4:24 pm	Shabbat candle lighting time	
Saturday, November 11	9:30 am	Shabbat Shacharit Services, with Second Cup following	Torah: Genesis 24:10-24:52 Haftarah: I Kings 1:1-31
Sunday, November 12	10:30 am	Intro to Torah Trope Class	
Sunday, November 12	4:30 pm	Torah Study with Judah Ari-Gur on Zoom	
Wednesday, November 15	12:00 pm	Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Estrin on Zoom	
Wednesday, November 15	7:00 pm	Talmud Study with Judah Ari-Gur on Zoom	
Friday, November 17	4:18 pm	Shabbat candle lighting time	
Friday, November 17	7:00 pm	Kabbalat Shabbat with Oneg Shabbat	Please RSVP on the website
Saturday, November 18	9:30 am	Shabbat Shacharit Services	Torah: Genesis 30:14-31:16 Haftarah: Malachi 1:1-2:7
Saturday, November 18	11:00 am	Installation of Rabbi Goldman	Please RSVP on the website
Sunday, November 19	10:30 am	Intro to Torah Trope Class	
Sunday, November 19	4:30 pm	Torah Study with Judah Ari-Gur on Zoom	
Monday, November 20	7:00 pm	Hadassah Book Club	
Tuesday, November 21	6:00 pm	JRSC Meeting at TBI	
Wednesday, November 22	7:00 pm	Talmud Study with Judah Ari-Gur on Zoom	
Friday, November 24	4:14 pm	Shabbat candle lighting time	
Saturday, November 25	9:30am	Shabbat Shacharit Services	Torah: Genesis 30:14-31:16 Haftarah: Hosea 12:13-14:10
Sunday, November 26	4:30 pm	Torah Study with Judah Ari-Gur on Zoom	
Tuesday, November 28	7:00 pm	RAC Meeting	
Wednesday, November 29	12:00 pm	Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Estrin on Zoom	
Wednesday, November 29	7:00 pm	Talmud Study with Judah Ari-Gur on Zoom	

## 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- 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.



## **Classic Midrash/Modern Midrash, with Rabbi Shelley Goldman**

**Wednesdays, November 1 and 8, 7:00 pm, at CoM**

The text of the Bible can be terse and enigmatic. The rabbis-of-old filled in the holes with their own stories, some of which have become so beloved by the Jewish people that folks can be shocked to learn that they are not actually found in the Bible.

In recent decades, contemporary writers and interpreters of Torah have taken inspiration from the rabbis of 2000 years ago and written Modern Midrashim. In the first class we will study classic Midrashim, while the texts of the second class will be modern explorations of the ancient text. Please bring yourself, an open mind and a love of stories.



## **The Meaning of Prayer, with Rabbi Shelley Goldman**

**Wednesdays, November 29 and December 6, 7:00 pm at CoM**

Each week at CoM we spend several hours in prayer. Have you ever stopped to think about the deeper meanings behind our prayers?

In this introductory class we will examine the first two standard prayers of our people: The Shema and The Amidah. Please bring yourself and your questions to these interactive sessions.

# Israel at War

Lunch and Learn Series  
with Rabbi Estrin

begins November 1



**Lunch & Learn with Rabbi Estrin, from Israel**  
**Wednesdays, beginning November 1 at noon**  
**On ZOOM (from your home or on the big screen at CoM)**

## Israel at War: Moral Implications and Life on the Ground

Join with Rabbi Estrin in Jerusalem during this timely lunch and learn where we will tackle some of the challenges of morality during war. Each session will contain some learning, an update for the week and time for Q&A. In this class, there are no right or wrong questions or answers. Tears, fears, anger and hope will all be held in sacred space.

**November 1:** Redeeming the Hostage

**November 8:** Proportionality

**November 15:** Just War

**November 29:** IDF Ethics

**December 6:** Israeli Deterrence

**December 13:** Caring for the Needy

**Sign up online at [congregationofmoses.org/com-events](https://congregationofmoses.org/com-events)**



# November 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](mailto:comofficemgr@congregationofmoses.org).

## November Birthdays

November 5	Mike Rocklin
November 8	Rudy Ruterbusch
November 9	Art Feinberg
November 9	Montana Thommes
November 11	Joan (Candi) Levene
November 11	Naomi Verne
November 14	Nava Haus
November 18	Tema Lando
November 18	Darlene Wolf
November 20	Jenna Verne
November 21	Jack Behar
November 21	Troy Zukowski-Serlin - Special birthday!
November 27	Paul Solomon
November 29	Rebecca Gourwitz
November 29	Joe Hirschfield



## November Anniversaries

November 6	Tim & Christy Howard
November 9	Rich & Jenna Verne
November 23	Lowell & Judy Seyburn
November 24	Gary & Tamis Kushner
November 27	Mike & Saraphoena Koffron





# CALLING ALL MAKERS!

CRAFTERS, ARTISTS, BAKERS, FOOD ARTISANS  
RESERVE SPACE NOW FOR THE HANUKKAH MARKET!



**Sunday, December 3, from 9:00 am - 1:00 pm  
at Congregation of Moses**

We'd love to have you participate by displaying and selling your handmade art, craft or homemade food item! The table fee will be \$15. Vendors keep any money they make from sales.

We encourage all kinds of hand-crafted items, including paintings, pottery, knitting, jewelry or Judaica. We also hope to have a delicious assortment of homemade foods and baked goods as well. (Foods must be prepared in advance and **cannot include meat, meat broths or shellfish.**)

Contact Rebecca Pollens at [memconn@templebnaiisrael.com](mailto:memconn@templebnaiisrael.com) for more information or if you'd like to reserve a space to sell your goods.



**Independence. Dignity. Self-determination.**

**Colef**

The Samuel J. and Mary E. Colef Fund

*The Colef Fund of the Congregation of Moses supports programs locally, nationally and globally that address hunger, poverty, homelessness, literacy, joblessness, health, education and building safe communities.*

## The Colef Fund will match your donations

dollar-for-dollar, up to a yearly total of \$250 per family (minimum \$50) to any of the nonprofits listed below.

**Gifts made anytime from January 1 – December 31, 2023 will be matched!**

Big Brothers Big Sisters	Open Doors
Boys Town Jerusalem	Partners in Housing Transition
Community Healing Centers	Planned Parenthood of Kalamazoo
Constance Brown Hearing Centers	Portage Community Center
Disability Network	Prevention Works
Ecumenical Senior Center	Read and Write Kalamazoo (RAWK)
Farmerhood	Ready to Read/Kalamazoo Public Library
Family and Children's Services	St. Luke's Diaper Bank
First Day Shoe Fund	Senior Services
Gryphon Place	SLD Read
HIAS	Southwest Michigan Miracle League
Innovation: Africa	Trauma Recovery Associates (TRA)
JDC	Tzevet Mikey
Jewish Federation of Southwest Michigan ( <i>donations matched to Jewish Federations of North America</i> )	United Way of Kalamazoo and Battle Creek
KC Ready 4s	Urban Alliance
Kalamazoo Covenant Academy	Water 4 Mercy
Kalamazoo Literacy Council	Yad LaKashish/Lifeline for the Old
Kalamazoo Loaves and Fishes	Yad Ezra V'Shulamit
Meshi Children's Rehabilitation Center	YWCA of Kalamazoo
Ministry with Community	

***The Colef Fund has previously supported each of the organizations listed.***

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## How to get your donation matched by the Colef Fund

Send the following information **along with a copy of your donation receipt from 2023** to:

Congregation of Moses, Attn Colef Fund, 2501 Stadium Dr, Kalamazoo, MI 49008

Or **email:** [coleffund@congregationofmoses.org](mailto:coleffund@congregationofmoses.org).

Please make your gifts **by December 31, 2023** to have them matched. **The maximum to be matched by the Colef Fund is \$250 per family per year, regardless of which projects or agencies you choose to support.**

Include this information please:

- Your name, address, email address and phone number
- Amount to be matched

**Find us online at [coleffund.org](http://coleffund.org) or on Facebook**

# Colef Committee Openings

**The Colef Tzedakah Committee has two openings for committee membership.**

The Colef Fund, established in 2016 through the bequest of Eugene Colef, supports programs locally, nationally and globally that address hunger, poverty, homelessness, literacy, joblessness, health, education and building safe communities.

The Fund provides grants to 501(c)3 nonprofit organizations that encourage independence and self-determination in recipients, guided by Jewish values of tzedakah and tikkun olam.



The ColefTzedakah Committee is a working committee, with each member expected to actively participate in committee operations. Specific responsibilities include:

- Attendance at monthly committee meetings
- Research of nonprofit agencies as potential grantees
- Act as the Colef Contact for potential grantees
- Participate on working subcommittees as needed to improve the committee's operations
- Participate in volunteer efforts and other community engagement activities associated with nonprofit agencies within our community

Application for committee membership is open to CoM members. If you would like to apply, please send 1) your name and complete contact information, 2) a brief statement of why you would like to be considered for a position on the committee, and 3) a description of skills you possess that would make you a good member of the team.

Please email your application to [\*\*coleffund@congregationofmoses.org\*\*](mailto:coleffund@congregationofmoses.org) by November 10.

## Colef Fund Supports JAFI's Fund for Victims of Terror

The ColefTzedakah Committee recently made a major donation to the **Jewish Agency for Israel's Fund for Victims of Terror**, which provides emergency aid for those in dire need.

To help survivors in the wake of tragedy, the fund provides financial assistance in as quickly as 48 hours, as well as ongoing care to get individuals and families on the road to recovery.

# Refugee Friends Free Store

Even before Afghan refugees began to arrive in the United States in 2021, those previously involved with helping refugees sprang into action collecting donations for people with little else but the clothes on their backs.

As the donations of clothing, shoes, sewing materials and toys mounted, leaders at Congregation of Moses soon realized that our former Youth Lounge would be an ideal space to store them. Before long, dedicated volunteers from Congregation of Moses, Temple B'nai Israel, People's Church and others of all faiths from all over Kalamazoo County worked to transform this storage space into a "free" store, where refugees coming to Kalamazoo from all over the world would be able to shop for what they needed with dignity and fellowship.

The Refugee Friends Free Store accepts donations from Monday-Friday, 8:30 am - 12:30 pm, except on Jewish and legal holidays - if you're not sure, please call the office at 342-5463.

**Shoppers must have an appointment** to come to the store. The Friends Store is **always closed on Saturday and Sunday**.

**Volunteers are always needed** to help sort clothes, pick up families, gather donations, keep records, and help our refugee friends find what they need.

For more information on how to volunteer, please contact Rachel Haus, [rachelhaus@yahoo.com](mailto:rachelhaus@yahoo.com) and/or Janet Nykaza, [jnykaza@att.net](mailto:jnykaza@att.net)





**Hello, I am Sim Birnbaum**, a member of the Jewish community, whom some of you know through my yoga classes last year at CoM.

I am also a massage therapist and hope that you will consider receiving a massage during this time to help process the immense stress and grief that we are all experiencing.

All my massage services are 25% off, and nobody will be turned away for lack of funds.

Please check out my website at [jyfliving.com](http://jyfliving.com)  
Here is the link to book an appointment with me.



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## Israeli Folk Dancing

with Michelle Miller-Adams

Sundays, November 5 and November 26, 4:00 pm at TBI

Enjoy a fun and fast-paced hour of dancing to authentic music. No experience necessary!



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## Loaves and Fishes High Holiday Food Drive Update

Thank you to everyone who donated food for our Loaves and Fishes food drive. We were able to donate nearly 120 lbs. of food to help ease food insecurity in our local community.

You are welcome to drop off food donations at CoM at any time throughout the year. There is always a need! Thank you!



# Mishpacha

Donations have been made by the following individuals and families.

## **Condolences to Diane & Harvey Fogel on the passing of their son, Jamie Fogel.**

*Judy Davis & Al Rosenthal, 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, Rabbi Goldman & Kieran Kiley*

## **Mazel Tov to Valerie and Ken Eisenberg on their 50th wedding anniversary.**

*Judy Davis & Al Rosenthal, Diane & Harvey Fogel, 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, Rae Lee Howard, The Fischell Family, Judy & Lowell Seyburn, Wilma Kahn & Phil Horwich*

## **Contributors to the purchase of a rock for the Tree of Life, in honor of the Eisenberg's anniversary:**

*Patricia & Richard Kirschner, Sallie & Ken Goodman, Marian Fisher, Shirley Wise, Joyce Camhi, Gerry & Lee Tregerman, Carolyn & Brad Kennedy, Michelle & Alan Angel, Raye Ziring, Sherran Deems, Cynthia & Larry Beer, Dona Satir, Norma Beatriz, Tema & Rob Lando*

## **Mazel Tov to Troy Zukowski-Serlin celebrating his special birthday in November.**

*Judy Davis & Al Rosenthal, 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, Rabbi Goldman & Kieran Kiley*

## **In Memory**

In loving memory of my parents, Ben & Evan Halpert, *Diane Field*

In loving memory of my grandmother, Martha Loeser, *Marjorie Gaynor*

In loving memory of my father, Julian Doggett, *Julie Northrup*

In memory of our loved ones, *Pnina & Judah Ari-Gur*

## **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

## November 4 – 10 (20 Cheshvan – 26 Cheshvan)

Miriam Brot*	Dr. William Haus	Sheila Kaufman
Lucy Ann Feinberg	Nathan Heckman*	

## November 11 – 17 (27 Cheshvan – 4 Kislev)

Israel Blasky*	Arthur Levi*	Bernice Selcow
J. Carol Fisher Eyges	Meyer Reingold*	The Jews of Milevsko
Isadore Goldstein*	Harold Resnik	Rabbi Abraham Tuchman*
Agnes Halpert*	Beatrice Lee Rocklin*	Sophia Willage*
Ruth LaVene*	Francis Rosenbaum*	Abigail Verne
Susan Levene*	Abraham Schwartz	

## November 18 – 24 (5 Kislev – 11 Kislev)

Arthur Cohen*	Seymour D. Greenwald	Lottie Rapp
Leslie Davis	Lilly Greiner*	Sherman Rose
Rebecca Epstein*	Sam Harris*	Maurice Rosenthal*
Jennie Fisher*	Melvin J. Kirschner*	Beatrice Sichel*
Max Fisher*	Barbara Kleinman*	Lillian Sofen*
Dorothy Fratus	Alfred Nadelman*	Samuel Willage*
Sheldon Green*	Naomi Yehudit Polatof	

## November 25 – December 1 (12 Kislev – 18 Kislev )

David Davidoff*	Sheldon Hoenig	Shirley Scheinker
Florence Escourt	Eta Kercman*	Rae Sklansky*
Louis Fogel	Max Konigsberg	Greg Tapfar
Jacob Goldstein*	Naomi Kuperberg*	Victor Paul Tuchman*
David Graff*	Andrew H. Levene*	Ely Zuravel*

*\*Denotes a memorial plaque in the synagogue*

# The "Lucky Ones": Victims Treated at Hadassah Hospital

*By Barbara Sofer, October 10, 2023*

Michal Ohana, 27, a social media editor, just wanted to dance. She and a group of friends drove from Jerusalem to the all-night dance party near Kibbutz Re'im not far from Israel's border with the Gaza Strip. As dawn broke and they started to go home, trucks and motorcycles carrying armed terrorists pulled in front of them.

Ohana literally ran for her life, dodging automatic machine gun fire and rocket-propelled grenades in a nightmare chase. She took what she thought was refuge under an abandoned Israeli tank. But when many others joined her, they became a target for Hamas gunfire. She took a bullet in her leg.

"I was one of the lucky ones," she said. "There were murdered people all around me." Hundreds of young people attending the event were killed by the Hamas terrorists.



*Michal Ohana with her mother, Rita Zak, a veteran nurse at Hadassah Ein Kerem.*

Ohana, hospitalized this week at Hadassah Hospital Ein Kerem, shared her horrific experience with Hadassah National President Rhoda Smolow, who flew to Israel from New York and visited the wounded who had been transported to the Hadassah Medical Organization from the South.

"I feel privileged to be supporting a hospital that gives excellent care to the wounded civilians and soldiers," said Smolow. She conveyed the concerns and prayers of the nearly 300,000 Hadassah members, and the men and women of Hadassah International, all of whom support Hadassah's lifesaving work in Israel and throughout the world.

Read the rest of the story at: [www.hadassah.org/story/the-lucky-ones-victims-treated-at-hadassah-hospital](http://www.hadassah.org/story/the-lucky-ones-victims-treated-at-hadassah-hospital)

**We thought you'd enjoy some mostly upbeat stories about what's happening in Hadassah Hospital during this war. You can be proud that you are a Hadassah member!**

**Check out [Our Stories \(hadassah.org\)](http://hadassah.org), for up-to-date background information and stories that you can read in your own time.**

*Diane Fogel, Nan Goldenthal, Raye Ziring*



# Israel Emergency Campaign



The terrorist attacks have left a wave of human suffering and institutional damage in Israel. Families of the slain and abducted as well as surviving victims and their families have ongoing needs for food, housing, medical care and emotional and psychosocial support. Resources spent during the first response to the tragedies must be replaced. Children, the elderly and infirm require additional specialized and expensive services. Security needs have increased and medical establishments that were strained prior to the attacks are sometimes critically short of personnel and facilities today. The always resilient Israelis are addressing these problems in innovative ways but the needs are great and likely to grow greater.

The Jewish Federation of Kalamazoo and Southwest Michigan is joining with fellow federations to support the 2023 Israel Emergency Campaign. So great is the need that we are offering a matching campaign: **every dollar donated will be matched dollar for dollar.**



## Blue Ribbons for Israel

The blue ribbon symbolizes support and solidarity for the safe return of the hostages taken by Hamas terrorists in Israel. It symbolizes solidarity with the hostages, their families, and all who care about their safety.

Every donor will receive as many blue ribbons as they and their immediate family request.

Please send your check to Jewish Federation of Kalamazoo and Southwest Michigan, 4040 Greenleaf Circle #411, Kalamazoo, MI 49008 and put **Israel Emergency Campaign** in the subject line.

No money raised in this campaign will go to a West Bank settlement.

# OvB Minutes Summary of October 18

## **A. Financial Report – Brad Hershbein**

We expect higher spending going forward as we continue to adjust to higher prices. Thus, we need to update our dues structure, which has not changed since 2016, to add revenue.

MOTION: To raise the normal dues structure from \$1750 to \$1900/yr/family, with all other parameters of the graduated dues structure carrying forth; first-year dues to be raised from \$100 to \$118/yr/family. There will also be a letter sent to the congregation in November explaining the rationale for these raises.

VOTE: 7 yes, 1 no – Motion passed.

The letter to the congregation will also outline various giving levels & strategies and whom to contact about special circumstances and adjustments.

## **B. Greeter Signup – Brad Hershbein**

Involves greeting people at the door for services and major events, but also keeping an eye on suspicious activity and ensuring the door stays locked when not in use, especially in the current climate.

## **C. OKCJS governance document and CoM anti-harassment policy**

Currently being updated.

## **D. Rabbi's installation preparations**

Plans: Friday night service with oneg, Saturday morning service with kiddush lunch, all catered.

We will need volunteers to help with set up/clean up and donations to defray cost; a signup sheet will go out with weekly blasts, and OvB members will call congregants.

We will be inviting TBI, the Kalamazoo mayor, civic and religious leaders, and Rabbi Elyse Wechterman (Rabbi Goldman's mentor and CEO of Reconstructionist Rabbinical Assoc.).

## **E. Purchasing Israel Bonds in light of Israel-Hamas war – Phil Oretsky**

MOTION: Congregation of Moses to purchase an Israel Bond in a substantial amount, subject to President and Treasurer determination of availability of funds.

VOTE: 5 yes, 0 no, 2 abstentions

Addendum by email: Brad H. – After reviewing our finances, I recommend we purchase a 5-year Jubilee bond in the amount of \$35,000. This bond pays an interest rate of 5.43% and would mature in November 2028; it will help us preserve liquidity, increase expected return and marginally reduce stock market risk. A follow-up motion to purchase the Israel bond as specified was made: As of Wednesday, October 25, 2023, the vote: 6 yes, 0 no, 2 abstentions.

## **F. Colef grant to The Fund for Victims of Terror through the Jewish Agency for Israel**

MOTION: That OvB approves distribution of \$32,000 to The Fund for Victims of Terror.

VOTE: Passed unanimously