



CoM newsletter

CONGREGATION OF MOSES • Kalamazoo, Michigan

Volume 16 Issue 12
December 2023 18 Kislev - 19 Tevet 5784

Coming This Weekend!



Sunday, Dec 3, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm at Congregation of Moses

Shop local for handmade, homemade, unique gift items and support your community and the OKCJS at this one-stop shopping, festive event!

Money raised from vendor table fees and sales of Hanukkah supplies and refreshments goes to the OKCJS (religious school). Invite your friends and family to join you!

Handmade items feature paintings, drawings, crocheted toys, quilts, embroidery, block-printed fabrics, fleece socks and ear warmers, jewelry, goat soap, greeting cards, bookmarks, kitchen items and hawthorn cordial. Homemade food such as challah, sufganiot (jelly-filled donuts), baked goods, and fresh farm-grown produce will be for sale.

Hanukkah supplies include wrapping paper, dreidels, candles and gelt. Refreshments (bagels, coffee, apple cider) will also be available for sale.

Contact Rebecca Pollens, srpollens@yahoo.com for questions, details or if you'd like to reserve a space to sell your goods (it's not too late).

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.



With Rabbi Shelley Goldman

Wednesday, 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.

Please call the office if you'd like to attend, 269-342-5463.

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.

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

January 29 - *On Repentance and Repair*
 by Rabbi Danya Ruttenberg. Discussion led by Rabbi Schicker and Rev. Lonberg of People's Church. **Meet at People's Church.**

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

March 28 - *Color of Love* by Marra Gad

April 25 - Reading Together Selection, *Yellow Face*, by R.F. Kuang



NEFESH MOUNTAIN

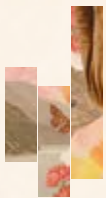
THE LOVE & LIGHT TOUR



Tuesday, December 5, 7:00 pm at Congregation of Moses

Since their formation nearly a decade ago, Nefesh Mountain has been proudly open and vocal about their background and heritage as Jewish Americans, and are among the first preeminent Americana / Bluegrass bands to infuse Jewish tradition and soul into the beautifully diverse tapestry of American roots music.

The Nefesh Mountain Love and Light Tour is bringing "messages of inclusivity, unity and love in response to the current and devastating war in Israel and Gaza and these incredibly dark times. As musicians who ultimately have our songs and performances to give this world, we humbly offer these unique shows in December as an olive branch and safe space for those who are in search of more unity, compassion and light."



Get discounted tickets in advance

Adults - \$10
Family - \$25
Child (18 and under) - \$5



Tickets at the door

Adults - \$15
Family - \$25
Child (18 and under) - \$5



Congregation
of **Moses**

Security provided by Kalamazoo Public Safety.

Shabbat and Events Calendar

Friday, December 1	4:54 pm	Shabbat candle lighting time	
Saturday, December 2	9:30 am	Shabbat Shacharit Services	Torah: Genesis 34:1-35:15 Haftarah: Obadiah 1:1-21
Sunday, December 3	9:00 am	Hanukkah Market and Library Book Sale at CoM, until 1:00 pm	
Sunday, December 3	4:30 pm	Torah Study with Judah Ari-Gur on Zoom	
Tuesday, December 5	7:00 pm	Nefesh Mountain Love and Light Tour at CoM	
Wednesday, December 6	12:00 pm	Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Estrin on Zoom	
Wednesday, December 6	7:00 pm	Talmud Study with Judah Ari-Gur on Zoom	
Wednesday, December 6	7:00 pm	Adult Education with Rabbi Goldman - The Meaning of Prayer	
Thursday, December 7	6:00 pm	First Night! Hanukkah Candle Lighting at Bronson Park	
Friday, December 8	4:30 pm	Hanukkah Candle Lighting at Bronson Park with Rabbi Goldman	
Friday, December 8	4:53 pm	Shabbat candle lighting time	
Saturday, December 9	9:30 am	Shabbat Shacharit Services, with Second Cup following	Torah: Genesis 38:1-38:30 Haftarah: Zechariah 2:14-4:7
Saturday, December 9	6:00 pm	Hanukkah Candle Lighting at Bronson Park	
Sunday, December 10	4:30 pm	Torah Study with Judah Ari-Gur on Zoom	
Sunday, December 10	6:00 pm	Hanukkah Candle Lighting at Bronson Park	
Monday, December 11	6:00 pm	Hanukkah Candle Lighting at Bronson Park	
Tuesday, December 12	6:00 pm	Hanukkah Candle Lighting at Bronson Park	
Wednesday, December 13	12:00 pm	Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Estrin on Zoom	
Wednesday, December 13	6:00 pm	Hanukkah Candle Lighting at Bronson Park with OKCJS Students	
Wednesday, December 13	7:00 pm	OvB Meeting	
Wednesday, December 13	7:00 pm	Talmud Study with Judah Ari-Gur on Zoom	
Thursday, December 14	6:00 pm	Hanukkah Candle Lighting at Bronson Park with Rabbi Goldman	
Friday, December 15	4:53 pm	Shabbat candle lighting time	
Friday, December 15	7:00 pm	OKCJS Student-led Shabbat Services	
Saturday, December 16	9:30 am	Shabbat Shacharit Services	Torah: Genesis 41:53-43:15 Haftarah: I Kings 3:15-4:1
Sunday, December 17	4:30 pm	Torah Study with Judah Ari-Gur on Zoom	
Monday, December 18	7:00 pm	Hadassah Book Club	
Tuesday, December 19	8:00 pm	Listening and Processing the Israel-Hamas War with Larry Beer at CoM	
Wednesday, December 20	7:00 pm	RAC Meeting	
Wednesday, December 20	7:00 pm	Talmud Study with Judah Ari-Gur on Zoom	
Friday, December 22	4:56 pm	Shabbat candle lighting time	
Saturday, December 23	9:30am	Shabbat Shacharit Services	Torah: Genesis 45:28-46:27 Haftarah: Ezekiel 37:15-28
Wednesday, December 27	7:00 pm	Talmud Study with Judah Ari-Gur on Zoom	
Friday, December 29	5:01 pm	Shabbat candle lighting time	
Saturday, December 30	9:30 am	Shabbat Shacharit Services	Torah: Genesis 49:1-49:26 Haftarah: I Kings 2:1-12
Sunday, December 31	4:30 pm	Torah Study with Judah Ari-Gur on Zoom	

***CoM office will be closed Monday, December 25 - Monday, January 1**



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.

News from the Okun Kalamazoo Community Jewish School

- The JRSC (Joint Religious School Committee) has revised the OKCJS Governance Document.

- The committee held an emergency security meeting, applied for two security grants and is waiting to hear back. In the interim, the plan is to maintain a single entrance and exit for school using the door near Sofen room. The front entrance will not be used during school. JRSC members will be assigned to door duty, requiring those not part of school to sign in. A KDPS officer will be monitoring the building during school hours.

- The school was awarded a three-year, \$18,000/year Okun Foundation grant for Camp Keshet (total of \$54,000), with emphasis on teen engagement throughout the year. The intention is to bolster madrachim (counselor) programming and support Camp Keshet.

- Angie returned from a conference entitled, "*Convening on Strategic Teen Engagement.*" She is feeling energized with new ideas for teens.

- One-on-one tutoring began for 4-6th graders.

- The students have been preparing for Rabbi Goldman's installation and student-led services.

- We are planning/advertising the upcoming Hannukah Market on December 3, which is also an OKCJS fundraiser.

- Miriam Verne and Nathan Strauss have joined our teaching staff!

Please come and support OKCJS at these upcoming events:

Sunday, December 3rd - Hanukkah Market at CoM

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

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



Angie Saltzman, Director

The New Normal

As we settle into the new normal after the Hamas attacks of October 7, I have been comforted by the prophetic words of Rabbi Sharon Brous of Ikar in Los Angeles. A Jewish Theological Seminary-trained rabbi and moral voice of our times, Brous' sermons are easily accessible via YouTube or [Ikar.org](https://www.ikar.org). I highly recommend them as a balm in these trying times.

In September's newsletter, I included my reflections on the word Shema, which were part of my Rosh Hashanah Sermon on that foundational prayer. This month I'd like to explore the word *Yisrael*. At first glance, this word seems simple. It is the name for the entire worldwide Jewish people, Israel, in its Hebrew pronunciation. Early one momentous dawn a few millennia ago, Jacob was renamed Israel and we have been known as *B'nai Yisrael*, the children of Israel, the descendants of Jacob, ever since.

Names are important and often contain deeper meanings. Jacob was renamed *Yisrael* after he had wrestled with an angel all night long. The angel was an emissary of God; or perhaps God's Own Self had come to engage our forefather. Thus, the name *Yisrael* means one who wrestles with God. "*Yisra*" to struggle and "*El*" for God, the short form of the more familiar Hebrew word *Elohim*.

Just as our ancestor Jacob struggled with God, so do we ask questions and push back, each in our own way. We wonder about the existence of evil in the world. If God is omniscient, omnipotent and omnipresent, if God is all-knowing, all powerful, and everywhere all at once, then why is there so much suffering in the world? As Jews we value asking questions. So revered is the asking of the question that we are encouraged to question even God, even The Creator of All. *Yisrael*: we are a people who struggle with God.

It is okay to struggle with God. It is okay to rail at God, to be angry, to ask WHY? God can take our anger. God is big enough to handle all of our emotions. When all else fails it is okay to whisper our deepest fears and voice the longings of our hearts. In recent days as I have listened to reports of hostages being freed, I have shed tears over what they have endured and hope for the safe return of all of our people.

Unfortunately, we have been in this situation before, so much so that there is a prayer in the Siddur entitled "*Prayer for those Being Held in Captivity*." In the days and weeks ahead, I offer this prayer as a prescription to be said whenever its words would be of comfort.

May The One who blessed our ancestors: Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel and Leah, Joseph, Moses and Aaron, David and Solomon, bless, protect and guard the captives among our people who are in distress and captivity. We, the members of this holy congregation, pray on their behalf. May the Holy One of Blessing have compassion on them and bring them out of darkness and the shadow of death; may God break their bonds, deliver them from their distress, and bring them swiftly back to their families' embrace. And let us say: Amen.

If you ever need to talk with your rabbi please reach out. I have appointment times specifically reserved on Tuesdays, or other times by appointment. I look forward to hearing from you.



Rabbi Shelley Goldman

The Jewish Federation of Kalamazoo
and Southwest Michigan will be
gathering every night of Hanukkah at
6:00PM [4:30pm on Friday] at Bronson
Park to light the Hanukkah Menorah.

Dec. 7th-14th

CANDLE 1: RABBI HALLER

CANDLE 2: RABBI GOLDMAN

CANDLE 3 & HAVDALAH: RABBI SCHICKER

CANDLE 4: RABBI HALLER

CANDLE 5: RABBI SCHICKER

CANDLE 6: JEWISH FEDERATION

CANDLE 7: OKCJS, R. GOLDMAN & R. SCHICKER

CANDLE 8: RABBI GOLDMAN

Bring your friends!

Celebrate Hanukkah in Bronson Park

Beginning on Thursday, December 7, nightly lighting at 6:00 pm
except for Friday, December 8, at 4:30 pm.

Join us as often as you can! Religious School students will
participate on Wednesday, December 13.

For further information and questions, please contact:
Jacob Weintraub, jmw003@aol.com, or call 269-808-8765



The Jewish Federation®
OF KALAMAZOO AND SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN

B"H



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MENORAH & DREIDEL CRAFTS

CHANUKAH REFRESHMENTS & MORE

ALL ARE WELCOME | NO CHARGE
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Congregation of Moses Fisher Library

Annual Book Sale

Sunday, December 3

9:00 am – 1 pm



As part of the annual Community Hanukkah Market

New and Gently-Used Books and Media

Children's and Adult Titles

Fiction and Non-Fiction

Rare and Unusual Finds

Torah • History • Holidays • Prayer • Lifecycle • Literature • Israel • Culture

Great Hanukkah Gifts!

Prices as low as 50 cents!

All proceeds go directly to the purchase of new materials.

Israel at War

Lunch and Learn Series
with Rabbi Estrin



Israel at War: Moral Implications and Life on the Ground

Continues on Wednesdays, at noon on Zoom (from your home or the Sofen Room)

December 6: Israeli Deterrence

December 13: Caring for the Needy

Sign up online at congregationofmoses.org/com-events

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
[Here is the link to book an appointment with me.](#)



Israeli Folk Dancing with Michelle Miller-Adams

Friday December 8, following Hanukkah services at TBI

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



Listening and Processing the Israel-Hamas War

Tuesday, December 19 from 8:00 - 9:00 pm in the CoM Sofen Room

CoM member and psychologist, Larry Beer, will lead a discussion designed to help us process our thoughts, feelings and ideas in the aftermath of the October 7th attack on Israel and the ongoing war with Hamas.

Grant Awards from the Okun Foundation

The Okun Foundation has awarded two grants this fall, which will enable improvements in security and the use of our space.

The OKCJS grant application to the Okun Foundation for emergency security needs through the rest of the school year, to pay for onsite security through KDPS or (as needed) private security, was approved in the amount of \$13,000.

Thank you to Angie and the rest of the Joint Religious School Committee (JRSC) for taking the initiative to write the grant, the funds for which will help keep our kids safe at both CoM and TBI.

The foundation also awarded \$18,000 to enable CoM to begin the first stage of improvements to our Kikar, courtyard, behind the building. The funds will provide seating, shade, some play equipment for kids, gardening containers and supplies.

Huge thanks to the Okun Foundation for their generosity and support of our community!

December 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.

December Birthdays

December 1	Lowell Seyburn
December 2	Moritz Angel
December 2	Richard Wolf
December 3	Rachel Snyder
December 5	David Gelman
December 7	Erica Sloan
December 8	Saraphoena Koffron
December 11	Hannah Barry
December 12	Noah Morrison
December 13	Kenneth Eisenberg
December 14	Elijah Katz
December 16	Rebecca Strauss - Special birthday!
December 17	Sylvia Blum
December 17	Laurel Ofstein
December 21	Michael Koffron
December 21	Lucas Carl Ofstein
December 22	Rebecca Tregerman-Campbell
December 27	Minaleah Koffron
December 27	Brett Snyder



December Anniversaries

December 31	Karen Libman & Mitch Kachun
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Take Advantage of This Great Opportunity!



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.

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.**

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

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.

Mishpacha

Donations have been made by the following individuals and families.

Mazel Tov to Rebecca Strauss on her special birthday in December

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, Rabbi Goldman & Kieran Kiley

In Honor

In honor of Valerie & Ken Eisenberg's 50th anniversary, *Tema and Rob Lando*

In honor of the Angel family's new granddaughter/great-granddaughter, *Tema and Rob Lando*

In Memory

In loving memory of Jamie Fogel, *Tema and Rob Lando*

In loving memory of my mother, Frieda Levene, *Joan (Candi) Levene*

In loving memory of my father Andrew Levene, *Joan (Candi) Levene*

In loving memory of my mother, Beatrice Lee Rocklin, *Sharon Schwartz*

In loving memory of Jamie Fogel, *Sandy Rose*

In loving memory of my father, Sheldon Green, *Allison (Adam) Weiner*

In loving memory of my mother, Lillian Sofen, *Nancy Zarnow*

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



Thank You

Thank you to all who donated and sent well wishes on our 30-year wedding anniversary. We are blessed to have such caring and thoughtful friends and fellow congregants. We really miss seeing everyone on a regular basis.

If you get tired of the cold this winter, come visit us in sunny Florida! Happy Hanukkah!

~ *Ken and Sallie Goodman*

Yahrzeits

December 2-8 (19-25 Kislev)

Jeanette Adelman	Herbert Kaiser*	Jack Rubin
Sam Becker*	Irving Lieberman*	Seth Nelson Schupan*
Carl Brot*	Rose Patrick	Michael Simon
Jeanette Buchman-Harris	Herman Pollack*	Joseph Strauss*
Harold Goldsmith*	Joy Rappaport*	
Raquel Israelson*	Zalmon Roodin*	

December 9-15 (26 Kislev - 3 Tevet)

Fred Arkush*	Edward Finman*	Jackie Strauss
Gertrude Boris*	Blanche G. Friedman*	Jean Tregerman
Zipora Feder	Rose Kleiman*	Molly Zimmerman*
Doris Field*	Helen Levy*	Rosalie Zimmerman*

December 16-22 (4-10 Tevet)

Reuven Aglanov	Arnold Finn*	Raleigh Schechter
Herbert Barak*	Joseph Grekin	Sheine Schensul*
Edward Brody*	Molly King*	Lena Spivak*
Jacob Cohen*	Muriel Krefman	Alfred Stenesh
Uzetta Cohen*	Irving Kuklin*	George Tenenbaum*
Elizabeth Ellison	Samuel Rosenbaum*	
Max Ernst	Louis Schechter	

December 23-30 (11-17 Tevet)

Josephine Bovin	Samuel Kirsch	Sadye Levy Rubin
Ben Brot*	Joseph Klingman	Leo Salomon*
Bernard Deutsch*	Arlene Lando*	Charlette Schupan*
Haim Noah Feder	Harvey Lipsitt	Rebecca Schwartz
Jacob Gerber*	Nathan Marcus*	

December 31-January 5 (18-24 Tevet)

Leah Budin*	Bessie Ellias London*	Sam I. Stein*
Barbara Gross Finestone*	Rose Paull*	Ben Zimmerman*
Jay Scott Levene*	Vivian Pollack*	
Seymour Levine*	Libby Rose*	

**Denotes a memorial plaque in the synagogue*