



CoM newsletter

CONGREGATION OF MOSES • Kalamazoo, Michigan

Volume 17 Issue 1

January 2024 20 Tevet - 21 Shevat 5784

Holding on to Hope

Three Organizations Working on Shared Society/Coexistence as the Only Path Forward

On the heels of a very successful Adult Education Series, Israel at War with Rabbi Estrin, we are excited to share the free, stand-alone session, Holding on to Hope, offered through the Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association.

The three presenters for Holding on to Hope, scheduled for **noon on Wednesday, January 3**, are all "on the ground" in Israel, and the moderator is a respected rabbi in Montclair, NJ.

Please see further details and sign up here, <https://www.reconstructingjudaism.org/events/>

Holding on to Hope

Wednesday, January 3
12 pm ET / 11 am CT / 10 am MT
9 am PT / 6 pm Europe / 7 pm Israel



Mohamad Kundos
Principal of the Hand in Hand School, Kfar Saba





May Pundik
Israeli CEO of A Land for All





Alon-Lee Green
National co-director of Standing Together





Moderated by Rabbi Elliott Tepperman,
Bnai Keshet Reconstructionist Synagogue,
Immediate Past-President of the RRA and
current Co-chair of the JStreet Rabbinic Cabinet



RECONSTRUCTING JUDAISM



Reconstructionist RABBINICAL ASSOCIATION

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.



CoM office hours will be changing.

Beginning January 2, new office hours will be:

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday

open 8:30 am – 12:30 pm

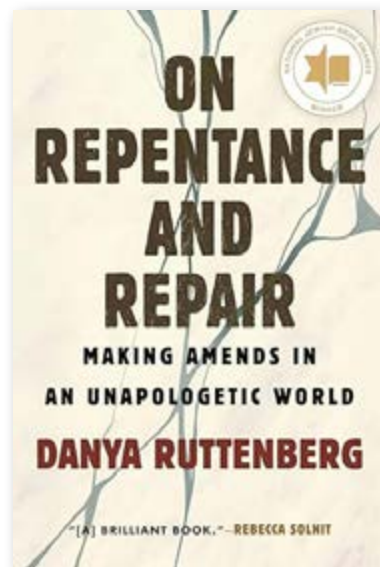
Tuesday, open 11:00am – 3:00 pm

TBI AND COM BOOK CLUB

Read Something Interesting

The TBI/CoM Book Club will meet again on **January 29 at People's Church on North 10th Street, 7:00 pm** to discuss *On Repentance and Repair* by Rabbi Danya Rutenberg, a crucial new lens on repentance, atonement, forgiveness and repair from harm—from personal transgressions to our culture's most painful and unresolved issues.

The discussion will be co-led by Rabbi Schicker, Rabbi Goldman and Rev. Lonberg of People's Church.



Free childcare is available! If you would like complimentary child care, please **email Rev. Lonberg** at least one week in advance with the ages of the kids.

Contact **Cary Mannaberg** or **Patty Conlon** with questions.


Future dates and titles:


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

Lunch and Learn Series Beginning Again

TIME 
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

DATES 
Wednesdays
Jan 10 - Feb 14

 **SHALOM HARTMAN** מכון
INSTITUTE הרטמן שלום


TEMPLE B'NAI ISRAEL
Kalamazoo, Michigan

**Congregation
of Moses**

Lunch & Learn
**JUDAISM &
PEOPLEHOOD
IN PRACTICE**
At TBI and on Zoom

Join Rabbi Schicker as we discuss what Judaism has to say about Peoplehood, and how we can apply the teachings of our tradition to our current conversations about the State of Israel. Our classes will utilize the Foundations for a Thoughtful Judaism curriculum produced by the Shalom Hartman Institute.

REGISTER AT:
[HTTP://TINYURL.COM/WINTERLUNCHANDLEARN2024](http://tinyurl.com/winterlunchandlearn2024)

Wednesdays at noon, beginning January 10.

Led by Rabbi Schicker at TBI, Zoom option available
January 10, 17, 24, 31 and February 7, 14

Sign up here.

Spring series, led by Rabbi Goldman at CoM, Zoom option available
March 13, 20, 27 and April 3, 10, 17
Topics to be announced.

Shabbat and Events Calendar

Wednesday, January 3	7:00 pm	Talmud Study with Judah Ari-Gur on Zoom	
Friday, January 5	5:07 pm	Shabbat candle lighting time	
Saturday, January 6	9:30 am	Shabbat Shacharit Services	Torah: Exodus 3:1 - 4:17 Haftarah: Isaiah 27:6-28:13, 29:22-23
Sunday, January 7	4:30 pm	Torah Study with Judah Ari-Gur on Zoom	
Tuesday, January 9	7:00 pm	OvB Meeting at CoM	
Wednesday, January 10	Noon	Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Schicker at TBI or on Zoom	
Wednesday, January 10	7:00 pm	Talmud Study with Judah Ari-Gur on Zoom	
Friday, January 12	5:14 pm	Shabbat candle lighting time	
Saturday, January 13	9:30 am	Shabbat Shacharit Services, with Second Cup following	Torah: Exodus 7:8-8:15 Haftarah: Ezekiel 28:25-29:12; 29:21
Sunday, January 14	4:30 pm	Torah Study with Judah Ari-Gur on Zoom	
Wednesday, January 17	Noon	Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Schicker at TBI or on Zoom	
Wednesday, January 17	7:00 pm	Talmud Study with Judah Ari-Gur on Zoom	
Wednesday, January 17	7:00 pm	Mussar Class	
Friday, January 19	5:22 pm	Shabbat candle lighting time	
Friday, January 19	7:00 pm	Kabbalat Shabbat Services	
Saturday, January 20	9:30 am	Shabbat Shacharit Services	Torah: Exodus 11:4-12:28 Haftarah: Jeremiah 46:13-28
Sunday, January 21	4:30 pm	Torah Study with Judah Ari-Gur on Zoom	
Tuesday, January 23	6:00 pm	Joint Religious School Committee (JRSC) Meeting at CoM	
Tuesday, January 23	7:30 pm	RAC Meeting	
Wednesday, January 24	Noon	Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Schicker at TBI or on Zoom	
Wednesday, January 24	5:30 pm	Tu B'shvat Seder with Rabbis Schicker and Goldman at TBI	
Wednesday, January 24	7:00 pm	Talmud Study with Judah Ari-Gur on Zoom	
Friday, January 26	5:31 pm	Shabbat candle lighting time	
Saturday, January 27	9:30 am	Shabbat Services/Torah Study	Torah: Exodus 14:15 - 16:10 Haftarah: Judges 4:4-5:31
Sunday, January 28	4:30 pm	Torah Study with Judah Ari-Gur on Zoom	
Wednesday, January 31	Noon	Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Schicker at TBI or on Zoom	
Wednesday, January 31	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-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.

OKCJS had a busy December! Thank you to everyone who supported OKCJS during the past month.

The Hanukkah Market was a great success! We had 15 vendors who raised over \$400 for the students' Jewish education. The event included the OKCJS cookie sale for the school tzedakah project that raised \$132. The students voted to support Keshet which "equips Jewish organizations with the skills and knowledge to build LGBTQ-affirming communities, create spaces in which all queer Jewish youth feel seen and valued, and advance LGBTQ rights nationwide." If you would like to contribute to this organization, please go to their website: www.keshetonline.org/donate/ or give your donation to Rabbi Shicker or Angie Saltzman.



Angie Saltzman, Director

We had several festive Hanukkah events including one of my personal favorites, the Hanukkiah lighting in Bronson Park, where we sang songs and feasted on special treats! The kids enjoyed a Hanukkah PJ party on the fourth day of Hanukkah where they were treated to latkes, donuts and apple cider, coordinated by congregant volunteers. The students also enjoyed making edible dreidels and hanukkiah.



We finished out the school semester with a potluck dinner followed by student-led Shabbat Services at CoM. If you missed these events, don't worry, we have more events planned in the future in which you can join us!

OKCJS Updates

During school hours on Sundays, the plan is to maintain a single entrance and exit for school, using the door near the Sofen Room. **The front entrance will not be used during school.** Someone 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 on Sunday. **Thank you to the Okun Foundation** which awarded OKCJS a security grant to make this possible.



The school was also 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 madrichim (leadership) programming and support Camp Keshet.

The Shana Winter Fund paid for me to attend a conference entitled, "Convening on Strategic Teen Engagement." I am feeling energized, with new ideas for teens.

Nathan Strauss has joined our teaching staff and we are so pleased to have him! Thanks Nathan!

Reflections at the New Year

I have always been a fan of New Year's Eve. My earliest experiences of the holiday included lavish meals at the home of dear family friends and staying up until midnight to listen to the unsanctioned neighborhood fireworks in a Chicago neighborhood. As an adult, I love making resolutions, always filled with hope that this year I will be among the 9% of people who keep their resolutions.

Most years, I take the opportunity of the New Year to look forward but this year I have been engaged in a fair amount of reflection. The earth shattering events of the pandemic, brutal Hamas attack on Israel, and the War in Gaza, along with my family's major move, settling into a new congregation and community, and just thinking about where my young children were a year ago as opposed to now, has got me meditating on the year that was.

There is much cognitive dissonance in the desire to be happy on a personal level while the Jewish people and the world at large are in so much pain. I also think that I have barely begun to comprehend how the colossal changes wrought by COVID have affected me, let alone how October 7 and its aftermath have forever changed Israeli society and world Jewry. This New Year feels more liminal than any before as I am truly humbled by the violence, death and despair that are all around me. What is a reputable response to being in such a fragile place? One of the pieces of spiritual technology that we have in our Jewish toolbox is prayer.



Rabbi Shelley Goldman

In my first year of rabbinical school, a teacher asked us to take on a new personal practice for a month and journal, reflect and consider the effects of the practice on our lives. I chose to recite the Bedtime Shema each night before falling asleep. Contrary to its name, there are actually a series of possible prayers and psalms to be recited in addition to the Shema, including Psalm 91. It begins: *One who dwells in the shelter of the Supreme One, under the protection of Shaddai, God will abide. I say of Adonai, God is my refuge and my stronghold, my God in Whom I trust. For God will save you from the snare-trap, from destructive pestilence. With God's wings, God will cover you and beneath God's wings, you will find refuge; God's truth is a shield, a full shield. You will not fear the terror of night, nor the arrow that flies by day, the pestilence that prowls in darkness, nor the deadly plague that ravages at noon. A thousand will fall at your left side, and ten thousand at your right side but it shall not come near you.*

Most nights my reaction to these first seven lines of this psalm was cognitive dissonance: My life is not that bad and this is far too violent for bedtime. But a few times in my month of recitations I connected to these words with profound gratitude: Thank God I am not spending my days dodging arrows. Unfortunately, in the intervening decade and a half since my Personal Practice Project, we have all experienced pestilence and plague. And on October 7, what Israelis call Shabbat HaShechora, or Black Sabbath, we experienced thousands falling at our side. I guess there is comfort in that the Psalms really do speak to the full range of human experience, but I do not yet know of the redemptive qualities having lived through these traumas.

In this difficult space, I fall back on my earlier and naive understanding of New Year's. I hope for the best, wish the best on others and trust that in time we will begin to make sense of our world. Happy 2024.

Rabbi Goldman



Michigan Secretary of State
Jocelyn Benson



Oakland County
Clerk Lisa Brown



West Bloomfield Township
Clerk Debbie Binder

THE POWER OF YOUR **VOTE:** TAKING ADVANTAGE OF NEW VOTING RIGHTS

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 11, 2024
7:00 PM ON ZOOM**

The successful passage of the ballot initiative, Proposal 2 of 2022 (Promote the Vote 2022), amended the Michigan Constitution to protect the right of every eligible Michigander to vote, expand voter registration opportunities and voting options, and enhance the security of our elections.

Join us to learn what you need to know to make your voting plan a success.

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER

Once registered, you will be sent the link to join the webinar.

This event is free and open to the public. Questions? Email mail@ncjwmi.org or call the NCJW | MI office at 248-355-3300, ext. 0.

[Sign up here.](#)



Seed Bombs!
Planting!

Desalination!

Fruits!

Nuts!

Join us to celebrate the
New Year of the Trees
with a

Tu Bishvat Seder

Wednesday, January 24

5:30 PM at TBI

With Rabbi Schicker, Rabbi Goldman
and the TBI Green Team

Please RSVP

ALL AGES!



January 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.

January Birthdays

January 2	Benjamin Barry
January 2	Stephen Koss
January 3	Rod Anderson
January 4	Gloria Besbris
January 5	Madeline Strauss
January 6	Emily Green
January 6	Emily Hoffman
January 7	Sandra Rose
January 8	Leslie Bez
January 11	Richard Kirschner
January 14	S. David Stulberg
January 15	Beth Morrison
January 16	Fran Raffel
January 19	Gary Adelman
January 20	Hannah Estrin
January 22	Nan Goldenthal
January 22	Avery Nicole Howard
January 25	Jann Stulberg
January 26	Viola Fisher
January 28	Nancy Jane Diamond
January 30	Rae Lee Howard
January 30	Susan Welbourne
January 31	Izaak Robert Weston



January Anniversaries

January 9	Bruce and Diane Minsley
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Mishpacha

Donations have been made by the following individuals and families.

Condolences to Rob Lando on the death of his brother, Levi Lando

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

Condolences to Carolyn Kennedy on the death of her mother, Barbara Arkush

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 Memory

In loving memory of my mother-in-law, Josephine Boven, *Julie Northrop*

In loving memory of my uncle, Max Ernst, *Marjorie Gaynor*

In loving memory of our parents, Jack and Sadye Rubin, *Arlen & Kim Rubin*

In loving memory of my dear husband, Michael Simon, *Joanne Simon*

In loving memory of my father, Fred Arkush, *Carolyn Kennedy*

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

January 6 - 12 (25 Tevet-2 Shevat)

Dr. Morris Berkson	Norma Jean Johnson	Bernice Roodin*
Robert Davidoff	Joseph Kahn	Sidney Schwartz*
Nesha Gerber*	Ethel Kotzer*	Dr. Morris Sofen*
Sussman Gerber*	Susan Lapid	Bertha Shinberg*
Isadore Halpert*	Annelise Loeser*	Jesse S. Zimmerman*
Chester Holstein	Louis Miller*	

January 13 - 19 (3-9 Shevat)

Gordon Bennison*	Carole Katz	Zachary Price*
Barry Berke	Sydney Konigsberg	Nathan J. Rosenbaum*
Sophie Blasky*	Michael Kurlandsky*	Julius Schensul*
Esther Buchsbaum	David Leder*	Marilyn Silverman*
Arvin Davis*	Macel Munsch	Samuel Slosberg*
Frances M. Fisher	Renee Munsch	Louis William Wachtel*
Arthur Hershbein	Sylvia Nierman*	Myer Winick*
Bella Kaiser*	Nathan Oshinsky	

January 20 - 26 (10-16 Shevat)

Louis Brown*	Lambert Kroon*	Martin Morrison*
Viola Doggett	Arnold B. Laam	Sophie Oberstein
Rebecca Gubin*	Betty Levene*	Birdie C. Sanders*
Evelyn Hyman	Caryn Levene*	Leo Simon
Abraham Kaiser*	Anna Levinson*	
Johanna Kroon*	Dorothy Miller	

January 27 - February 2 (17-23 Shevat)

Sidney Eisenberg	Brina Hadesman*	Charlotte Stulberg*
Eugene Field*	Evelyn Krasnick*	Esther Stulberg*
Ann Fine	Robert Levy*	Michael Stulberg*
Waller J. Finn*	Eli Mindel*	Donna Taylor
Ralph David Golden*	Manuel Newlander*	Hyman Tregerman
Minnie Graff*	Susan Samalin	Mary Zuravel*

**Denotes a memorial plaque in the synagogue*

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

Boys Town Jerusalem

Community Healing Centers

Constance Brown Hearing Centers

Disability Network

Ecumenical Senior Center

Farmerhood

Family and Children's Services

First Day Shoe Fund

Gryphon Place

HIAS

Innovation: Africa

JDC

Jewish Federation of Southwest Michigan (*donations matched to Jewish Federations of North America*)

KC Ready 4s

Kalamazoo Covenant Academy

Kalamazoo Literacy Council

Kalamazoo Loaves and Fishes

Meshi Children's Rehabilitation Center

Ministry with Community

Open Doors

Partners in Housing Transition

Planned Parenthood of Kalamazoo

Portage Community Center

Prevention Works

Read and Write Kalamazoo (RAWK)

Ready to Read/Kalamazoo Public Library

St. Luke's Diaper Bank

Senior Services

SLD Read

Southwest Michigan Miracle League

Trauma Recovery Associates (TRA)

Tzevet Mikey

United Way of Kalamazoo and Battle Creek

Urban Alliance

Water 4 Mercy

Yad LaKashish/Lifeline for the Old

Yad Ezra V'Shulamit

YWCA of Kalamazoo

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

FREE STORE UPDATE

The Friends Free Store at CoM has been providing free used and new clothes, jackets, shoes, toys, blankets, towels, sewing supplies and fabric, baby equipment and some household products for almost two years. Thank you to everyone who has participated in providing donations!

The store is regularly visited by refugee families, caseworkers and volunteers to pick up initial necessities and often again when the seasons change. Shopping for themselves and choosing their own clothes and toys gives dignity to those who have lost so much.

Refugees have come from at least 17 countries – Afghanistan, Turkey, Syria, CAR, Congo, Eritrea, Sudan, Iraq, Namibia, Kenya, Tanzania, Senegal, Burundi, Rwanda, Yemen, Myanmar, Cuba, and Venezuela. Many had been living in refugee camps for years and arrived here via the US State Department process.

Six month statistics, collected from June 1, 2023 – Dec 1, 2023:

988 volunteer hours of time – driving, sorting, shopping, picking up inventory

23 caseworker visits to the store from Samaritas or Bethany

444 shoppers

At the present rate, we are likely to double our number of volunteer hours and shoppers served in 2023/2024 as the word about the store has gotten out into the community.

A unique feature of the store is that several people who came to Kalamazoo as refugees now volunteer in the store regularly or help us over the phone with translation, when necessary. Their ability to speak languages like Pashto, Dari, Arabic, Swahili or Kinyarwanda, has been important for serving the newly arriving families.

We also liaison with other community resources. For example, if you have a working refrigerator, washing machine, or smart TV that you no longer use, pick-up can be arranged to place the item in an arriving family's home. Sewing machines are also valuable—we have a volunteer that arranges for repairs.

If you have questions about the Friends Free Store, please contact Janet Nykaza (jnykaza@gmail.com) or Robin Pollens (robin.pollens@gmail.com). Thank you!

988
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23
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