



CoM newsletter

CONGREGATION OF MOSES • Kalamazoo, Michigan

Volume 17 Issue 4
April 2024 22 Adar 11 - 22 Nissan 5784

The Song of Songs

This month brings my favorite holiday of the entire year: Passover! We also anticipate and celebrate the full arrival of spring with flowers blooming, trees budding and birds trilling. Our tradition celebrates spring with the reading of The Song of Songs, the most lush and sensual book of the Bible. This Megillah is often read in Ashkenazi communities on the final day of Passover, while Yemenite Jews sing it in its entirety at the beginning of Kabbalat Shabbat services each Friday night.

Noted Jewish poet, professor and translator, Marcia Falk, was initially drawn to this book, writing that it is one in which the voices of women and men could be heard celebrating eros, sensuality and the beauties of nature. This collection of love poems was likely transmitted orally for hundreds of years, beginning around 950 BCE, and was then compiled in written form by 200 BCE. The ancient rabbinic tradition understood The Song as allegory, the love story between God and the Jewish People. Biblical scholar Elsie Stern, describes that later the Jewish mystics interpreted the love story as one between God and the individual soul or, alternatively, as the male and female aspects of the divine.

It is important, and perhaps most liberatory for our own times, to understand The Song with its most simple meaning: that of love poems between a man and a woman. Falk notes that women speak over half the lines in The Song – an exceptionally large proportion for a biblical text – and even more remarkably, they speak out of their own experiences and imaginations in words not filtered through the voice of a patriarchal narrator. Thus it is quite likely that women contributed significantly to The Song's oral composition and may even have been its primary authors. Written before Western art codified gender roles to men as artists and women as muses, in The Song female speakers describe their beloveds as imaginatively and inventively as do their male counterparts.

Stern describes The Song writing: Throughout the poem, motifs such as spices, vineyards and gardens, gazelles and doves, hiding and seeking, king and mother, communicate details about the lover's relationship and the variety and scope of their feelings for one another. While Falk writes that The Song is emotionally complex with anxiety, hostility and loss as counterparts to eros and pleasure. With the wars, pandemic and general unease of the past many years we can only hope to have added eros and pleasure to our anxiety, hostility and loss! Perhaps an antidote to our troubled times is to read aloud to each other Falk's translation *The Song of Songs: Love Lyrics from the Bible* giving ourselves a respite from the day-to-day news cycle.

One final note from Falk as we in the Congregation of Moses community renew our commitment to environmental justice: in The Song no domination exists between human beings and the rest of nature; the natural world is neither idealized nor demonized but depicted as an integral part of human life. The Song of Songs has been sung for centuries in synagogues and at weddings, and before that in ale houses. What more fitting celebration of Spring might we find than to bring these lyrics to life in our own lives?



Rabbi Shelley Goldman

Rabbi Goldman

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.

Lawsuit Ends Exclusion of Jewish Students From School Events in Portage Schools

A recent article in the Detroit Jewish News highlighted the landmark settlement with Portage Public Schools, which is seen as a civil rights victory for Jews and other minorities throughout Michigan.

[Read the article online at this link.](#)



TBI AND COM BOOK CLUB

The TBI/CoM Book Club will meet again on **April 25** at this is a bookstore in the Oakwood Plaza at 7:00 pm.

Contact **[Cary Mannaberg](#)** or **[Patty Conlon](#)** with questions.

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



Shabbat and Events Calendar

Tuesday, April 2	7:00 pm	Mussar class	
Wednesday, April 3	Noon	Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Goldman at CoM or on Zoom	
Wednesday, April 3	7:00 pm	Torah Study with Judah Ari-Gur on Zoom	
Wednesday, April 3	7:00 pm	Movie Night: Ken Burns, The US and the Holocaust, Part 3	
Friday, April 5	7:55 pm	Shabbat candle lighting time	
Saturday, April 6	9:30 am	Shabbat Shacharit Services, with Second Cup following	Torah: Leviticus 10:12-11:32 Haftarah: Ezekiel 45:16-46:18
Sunday, April 7	3:00 pm	Jewish Kalamazoo K-Wings Hockey Game	
Sunday, April 7	4:30 pm	Torah Study with Judah Ari-Gur on Zoom	
Tuesday, April 9	7:00 pm	OvB Meeting	
Wednesday, April 10	Noon	Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Goldman at CoM or on Zoom	
Wednesday, April 10	7:00 pm	Talmud Study with Judah Ari-Gur on Zoom	
Friday, April 12	6:00 pm	Joint Kabbalat Shabbat led by Okun School students, Oneg Shabbat to follow	
Friday, April 12	8:03 pm	Shabbat candle lighting time	
Saturday, April 13	9:30 am	Shabbat Shacharit Services	Torah: Leviticus 13:29-13:59 Haftarah: II Kings 4:42-5:19
Saturday, April 13	11:15 am	Rabbi Goldman's Installation Ceremony with lunch to follow	
Sunday, April 14	4:30 pm	Torah Study with Judah Ari-Gur on Zoom	
Monday, April 15	7:00 pm	Hadassah Book Club	
Tuesday, April 16	6:00 pm	Joint Religious School Committee (JRSC) Meeting at TBI	
Wednesday, April 17	Noon	Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Goldman at CoM or on Zoom	
Wednesday, April 17	7:00 pm	Talmud Study with Judah Ari-Gur on Zoom	
Friday, April 19	8:11 pm	Shabbat candle lighting time	
Saturday, April 20	9:30 am	Shabbat Services/Torah Study	Torah: Leviticus 14:1-14:32 Haftarah: Malachi 3:4-24
Sunday, April 21	4:30 pm	Torah Study with Judah Ari-Gur on Zoom	
Monday, April 22		First Passover Seder	
Tuesday, April 23	9:30 am	Passover Services for Day One	Torah: Exodus 12:21-12:51 Haftarah: Joshua 5:2-6:1
Tuesday, April 23	5:30 pm	Community Seder and Dinner at CoM	
Tuesday & Wednesday, April 23-24		CoM office closed	
Wednesday, April 24	7:00 pm	Talmud Study with Judah Ari-Gur on Zoom	
Thursday, April 25	7:00 pm	CoM and TBI Book Club Meeting at this is a bookstore	
Friday, April 26	8:19 pm	Shabbat candle lighting time	
Saturday, April 27	7:47 pm	Shabbat Shacharit Services	Torah: Exodus 33:12-34:26 Haftarah: Ezekiel 37:1-14
Sunday, April 28	4:30 pm	Torah Study with Judah Ari-Gur on Zoom	
Monday, April 29	9:30 am	Passover Services for Day Seven	Torah: 13:17-15:26 Haftarah: II Samuel 22:1-51
Monday & Tuesday, April 29-30		CoM office closed	

Lunch and Learn Winter and Spring Series

Wednesdays at noon

Foundations for A Thoughtful Judaism: Ethics

Spring series, led by Rabbi Goldman at CoM

Zoom option available

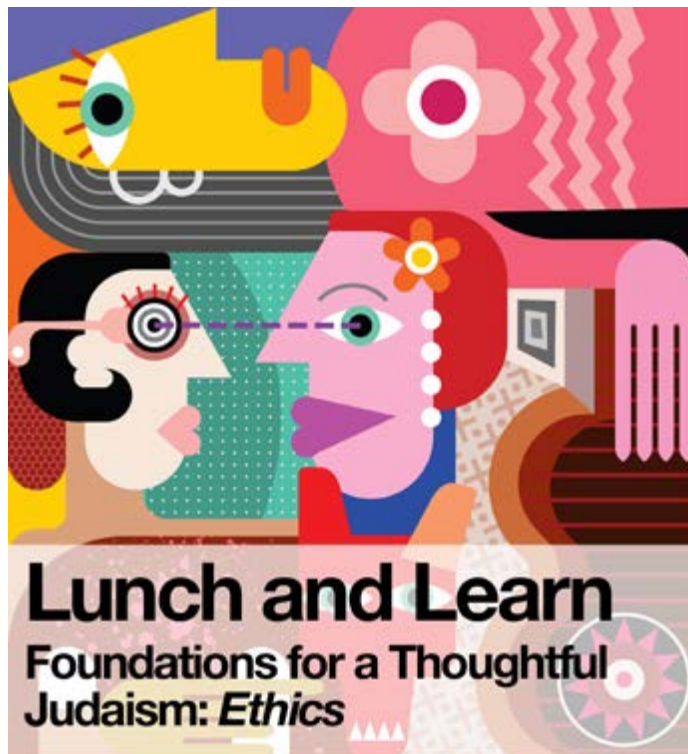
April 3, 10, 17

Sign up here: congregationofmoses.org/event-signup/?EID=99184

Join Rabbi Goldman as we discuss what Jewish texts have to say about Ethics, and how to balance our commitments to the Jewish people and humanity at large.

The course explores questions related to ethical obligation and decision-making: How has Jewish tradition conceived of what we owe other people? How might we approach ethical dilemmas which test our loyalties to values and to people?

Our classes will utilize the **Foundations for a Thoughtful Judaism** curriculum produced by the Jerusalem-based Shalom Hartman Institute.



SHALOM HARTMAN מכון
INSTITUTE הרטמן שלום

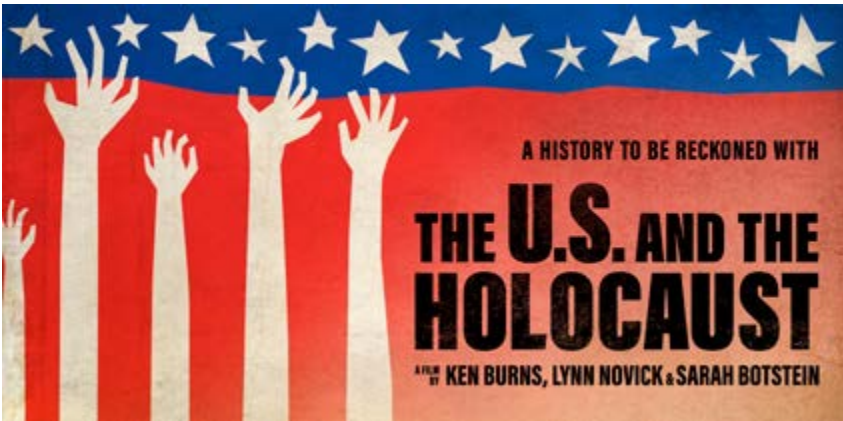


Bracha (blessing) for Shabbat candle lighting

(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.



MOVIE NIGHT SERIES CLOSES

April 3, 7:00 pm - Ken Burns "The US and the Holocaust: The Homeless, Tempest-Tossed, Part 3"

A group of dedicated government officials fights red tape to finance and support rescue operations. As the Allied soldiers advance, uncovering mass graves and liberating German concentration camps, the public sees for the first time the sheer scale of the Holocaust and begins to reckon with its reverberations.

Sign up to participate, congregationofmoses.org/event-signup/?EID=99183



'HOCKEYTONK' GAME
KOMETES @ K-WINGS
April 7 • 3:00 PM • Wings Event Center
3600 Vanrick Drive • Kalamazoo

Tickets: \$15.00
Doors open - 2:00 PM • Puck drops - 3:00 PM



JEWISH KALAMAZOO AT THE K-WINGS GAME

Join the congregations of Temple B'nai Israel and Congregation of Moses for an afternoon of fun at the K-Wings game!

Sunday, April 7, 3:00 pm at the Wings Event Center, 3600 Vanrick Drive, Kalamazoo

Buy your tickets here:

fevo-enterprise.com/event/JewishKalamazoo

Get more game info here:

kwwings.com/games/2024/04/07/hockeytonk-game



The Installation of Rabbi Shelley Goldman as Rabbi of Congregation of Moses

You are cordially invited

to share in the excitement when the Congregation of Moses
officially welcomes Rabbi Shelley Goldman as our next Rabbi!

Friday, April 12, 6:00 pm, led by Okun School students, with Oneg Shabbat to follow
Saturday, April 13, beginning at 9:30 am
Congregation of Moses, 2501 Stadium Drive

The Installation Ceremony will be at about 11:15 am, with lunch to follow services. **Please RSVP here**, so
that we can plan for seating and food.

Purim Carnival!

This year's wildly successful Purim Carnival brought dozens of costumed and colorfully adorned revelers to CoM from the whole Jewish community. Games, pizza lunch and a cake walk were the highlights of the event that kept everyone smiling and laughing.

CoM's new environmental action group, Zazim, teamed up with the TBI Green Team for a climate action postcard campaign sponsored by Dayenu (dayenu.org), a national Jewish climate action organization. Nearly 100 postcards were signed and mailed to Governor Gretchen Whitmer and Climate and Energy Advisor Cory Connolly, in the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy.



The messages supported Michigan's recent passage of the MI Healthy Climate Plan and urged state leaders to prioritize specific initiatives in implementing this legislation. Both adults and children took part in writing messages to our state legislators, recognizing the necessity that leaders hear from citizens about the issues that affect them most urgently.

Thanks to everyone who took the time to write postcards and stand together with Jews nationwide on climate action!



Postcard signing and crafts!



Cake walk prizes waiting to be claimed



The Purim Carnival security team



CoM and TBI members join together for a morning of Purim hijinks.

COMMON GROUND

film screening

The film explores how regenerative agriculture can help heal the soil, our health, and the planet.

APRIL 15th

7:00 PM

Run time: 1 hr 45 min

Join Temple B'nai Israel for a free screening of Common Ground. The 2024 Interfaith Power & Light selection for Faith Climate Action Week

RSVP via QR code or:
<https://tinyurl.com/55923wdt>



The Jewish Studies Program at Kalamazoo College presents a public lecture

“Doing the Right and the Good”: Traditional Jewish Texts Confront Mass Incarceration.

Please note: No unauthorized signs or flyers are permitted at the event.



Rabbi Aryeh Cohen, PhD
Ziegler School of
Rabbinic Studies

Monday, April 8, 2024
7:30 p.m.
Olmsted Room in Mandelle Hall
Kalamazoo College

Rabbi Aryeh Cohen, PhD is Professor of Rabbinic Literature at the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies in Los Angeles. His research and scholarship sit at the intersection of Talmud, Jewish ethics, and social justice activism. He is the author of the book *Justice in the City: An Argument from the Sources of Rabbinic Judaism* (Academic Studies Press, 2012), and has written a number of articles. His most recent works are translations of rabbinic texts dealing with incarceration.



For directions or more information, please contact Jeffrey Haus, Director of Jewish Studies, at jeffrey.haus@kzoo.edu or 269.337.5789.

Free and Open to the Public



For more information and
to watch the LiveStream
kzoo.edu/rabbi-cohen



April 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.

April Birthdays

April 2	Brayden Snyder
April 3	Joshua Ellison
April 4	Sara Amy
April 6	Mara Koss-Weston
April 9	Paul Victor Nimz
April 13	Christy Howard
April 15	Leonard Poger
April 16	Genia Angel
April 18	Gary Kushner
April 19	Charlotte Mary-Ellen Weston
April 20	Susan Scheinker
April 22	Rachel Haus
April 22	Jon Isley
April 23	Michael Tenenbaum
April 26	Al Rosenthal
April 27	Hy Tuchman



April Anniversaries

April 1	Wendy & Melvyn Hyman
April 2	Renay & Marvin Berkowitz
April 4	Judith & Leonard Poger
April 28	Alice & Stephen Koss
April 28	Sandra & Brett Snyder



kalamazoo jewish
COMMUNITY
SEDER 
april 23 • 5:30 pm



Second Night of Passover, Tuesday, April 23
Beginning 5:30 pm at Congregation of Moses, until about 8:30 pm

Join us for an intergenerational, lively Seder experience! We're planning a buffet-style vegetarian dinner, with something for everyone.

The menu will consist of: fish main dish, veggie matzo ball soup, potatoes and vegetables, plus Pesach standards of hard boiled eggs, matzah and charoset. For dessert: cheesecake, macaroons and chocolate covered matzah.

\$30.00 per adult, \$15 per child (age 4-17), free for kids under 4, with a maximum cost per family of \$90. No one will be excluded for lack of funds. Please contact Rabbi Goldman for financial assistance, rabbi@congregationofmoses.org

Get all the details and **[plan your Exodus \(sign up\) here.](#)**

Volunteers are crucial to helping make our seder a success - set up and clean up help will be needed. Please watch your weekly email for details on volunteering.



Let's Warm Soles!

SUPPORT STANLEY'S SOCK DRIVE FOR THE HOMELESS BY DONATING NEW SOCKS IN ALL SIZES FOR MEN, WOMEN, AND CHILDREN.

You can donate new packaged socks by dropping them off at the following locations:

- Temple B'nai Israel @ 4409 Grand Prairie Rd
- Congregation of Moses @ 2501 Stadium Dr
- Drop off at our home in the Brookwood Neighborhood
- DM for Details

**OR SCAN QR CODE TO
VENMO
@RANDY-LUBRATICH**



kzoo jewish community

Shabbaton!

Save the dates: Friday, May 17 - Saturday, May 18

Get away with us to Pretty Lake Adventure Camp in Mattawan for Kalamazoo's second Jewish community Shabbaton! Spend time with friends old and new celebrating all aspects of Shabbat—prayer, play, learning, unwinding, reflecting and exploring the outdoors. Everyone of all ages, affiliated or not, is welcome and encouraged to join us. From candle lighting to Havdalah, our Shabbat experience will be made joyful by being together.

All the happenings:

FRIDAY

Welcome activity, candle lighting, Shabbat services, Shabbat dinner, evening program

SATURDAY

Breakfast, lunch and dinner plus loads of options for how to spend the day: Shabbat services, yoga, a walk in the woods, conversations, learning together, a scavenger hunt, boating and swimming (weather permitting) and lots more. We'll close out Shabbat with Havdalah.

HOUSING

Overnight accommodations are dorm style (shared bathroom in the hall) with four beds (two bunkbeds) per room. We can match you with roommates if you would like or you can reserve the entire room. Space is limited. Bring your own bedding or rent sheets/blanket/pillow/towel. Have a large group? Ask us about staying in an InPost Cabin.

Questions? Please email Kristil, comofficemgr@congregationofmoses.org or call (269) 342-5463.

For information about Pretty Lake Adventure Camp, visit www.prettylakecamp.org

Mishpacha

Donations have been made by the following individuals and families.

Condolences to Valerie Eisenberg on the passing of her beloved husband, Ken

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 Laurel Ofstein and family on the passing of her mother, Marty Fitzhugh

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

Mazel Tov to Beth and Stephen Grode on the birth of their granddaughter, Siban Arlene Friedman

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

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

March 31-April 5 (Adar-II 21 - Adar-II 26)

Rebekka Buchman	Jack Getz*	Norbert Touitou*
Ethel Finn*	Alex Halpert*	
Blanch Friedman*	Francine Klingman	

April 6-12 (27 Adar II - 4 Nissan)

Daniel Eisenberg	Hattie Gerber*	Rachel Seyburn
Edward Ellis*	Richard Hoffman*	Norman Slavin*
Ernestine Ernst	Max Lerman	Aaron Spivak
Lily Felberg	Belle Rifkin	Ina Thall*
Marion Frank	Abraham A. Rocklin*	

April 13-19 (5-11 Nissan)

Celia H. Besbris*	Morris Kirsch*	Rose Sternfield*
Alfred Blum*	Harry Leiberman*	Max Stulberg*
Shirley Cane	Nathan Minsley	Frank Szopo III*
Richard Harris*	Evelyne Munsch	
Berl Kanofsky*	Miriam Bressen Solomon	

April 20-26 (12-18 Nissan)

Cy Beer*	Ruth Anne Lando*	Esther Schechter*
Rebekka Buchman*	Molly Olinik Okun*	Aaron S. Schwartz*
Isadore Friedman*	Larry Rose*	Abe Zimmerman*

April 27-May 3 (19-25 Nissan)

Hannah Beilis	Alfred Hadesman*	Pauline Rosenthal*
Dr. Bert Bez	Hannah C. Hoffman*	Regina Ruta*
Nathan Boris*	Doris Ofsa Kohn	Margot Salomon*
Bella Camhi	Ruth Marcus	Esther Slavin*
Harrison Goldstein*	Joseph Marks*	Mildred Sternfield*
Sidney Gubin*	Belle Minsley	

**Denotes a memorial plaque in the synagogue*

Yahrzeits Now Online

Now you can find all yahrzeits listed on the CoM website for the current week, as well as the entire year. The list is also searchable by name. Find your yahrzeit name and date anytime by visiting this page:

congregationofmoses.org/yahrzeits



Antisemitism Series

Join Rabbis Goldman and Schicker for a series on antisemitism

What is antisemitism? What is its history? How shall we combat it in our own time?

7:00 pm Wednesday, May 8 at CoM

7:00 pm Wednesday, May 22 at CoM