



CoM newsletter

CONGREGATION OF MOSES • Kalamazoo, Michigan

Volume 17 Issue 5
May 2024 23 Nissan - 23 Iyar 5784

Heard, Helped or Hugged?

I have been thinking a lot about our current moment: Its complexity and swirl of emotions. On a personal level I feel deep joy, satisfaction and elation at my recent Installation. I believe that on a congregational level this is where we are as well. We're happy because we have found each other and are well on our way to creating a great Rabbi-Congregation relationship. When we lift our gazes a little higher and look beyond our community to the wider world and global Jewish community, the picture changes significantly. To state the obvious: We see war, hatred and violence. We feel uncertain about the future in our country and for our friends and loved ones, as well as Israelis and Palestinians.

There are many strategies to deal with this unease, this pain. One is to read more newspaper articles, listen to more radio stories, watch more programs which explore and explain the reality in which we find ourselves. Another is to become immersed in family, hobbies and other interests. Both strategies are valid and useful and I venture to guess that each one of us is taking care of ourselves, using a mix of methods. For my part, I have almost completely exited social media and have consciously decided to get my news from reputable journalists. I decide how much time I will spend looking directly at the gaping wounds of our world before I open the Ha'aretz or New York Times apps on my phone. This is hardest to do if I decide to look at night, but I'm getting better.



Rabbi Shelley Goldman

I have also felt great joy in embarking on a journey of discovering for myself the big deal of Taylor Swift. At first, I wanted to better understand my 5th and 6th grade students in The Okun School, our community religious school. Then there was the recommendation of the 8-year old daughter of dear friends from Camp Tavor. Finally, the obsession of our K-College freshman babysitter pushed me over the edge. I started listening, deciding that I would play each album in its entirety at least once, even the ones that are not Taylor's Version. It took three albums before I was no longer listening with curiosity, it took three albums before I was obsessed. I can now discuss lyrics and references, albeit in a limited manner, with the true aficionados. It is an escape from societal pain and a reexamination of the personal pain of young love, the relationships of youth. My current favorite song however, is called Death By A Thousand Cuts. If you're in deep like me, search for The Eras Tour Live Version. I have found myself tearing up equally at the intensity of the crowd and the line: "Cause I can't pretend it's okay when it's not." That line and these words a few phrases later express for me love lost and also the deep pain of our current social, political, economic, religious and military moment: "I ask the traffic lights if it'll be all right, They say 'I don't know.'"

And yet, each day, we live, love and find joy. We put one foot in front of the other when we can't do anything else - we keep going. Some time ago, I read a New York Times article which spoke to the issue of how we can best help each other get through tough times. You can find it here: www.nytimes.com/2023/04/07/well/emotions-support-relationships.html. If you cannot access it, feel free to email me and I'll send you a copy. The author is writing about the power of adults asking each other a simple question that she learned from her sister, an elementary school teacher. We exist in community and our lives are better when we celebrate in the good times and console each other in the hard times. The next time you meet a friend in distress, I humbly submit for your consideration the following question: Do you want to be heard, helped or hugged? This is possibly the best way we can all take care of each other in this moment.

Rabbi Goldman

The Oversight Board

always welcomes comments from CoM congregants and invites you to attend its regular meetings, held monthly.

Oversight Board Members

President

Brad Hershbein, (617) 967-3093
bhershbein@congregationofmoses.org

Vice-President Operations

Mike Tenenbaum, (269) 929-8384
tenemike1967@gmail.com

Vice-President Programming

Open Position

Vice-President Religious Activities

Dennis Means, (517) 974-9334
dmeansmd@gmail.com

Treasurer Neal Berke,

treasurer@congregationofmoses.org

Secretary Rachel Haus, (412) 719-4293

rachel@congregationofmoses.org

Human Resources Administrator

Maxine Berke, (978) 761-8212
mberke@congregationofmoses.org

Member-at-Large Patty Conlon,

conlonpn@yahoo.com

Member-at-Large Phil Oretsky,

blueskyphil@msn.com

Trustee Representative

Shirley Wise, (269) 330-3103
goldensmw@sbcglobal.net

Synagogue Staff

Rabbi Shelley Goldman

rabbi@congregationofmoses.org

Office Manager Kristil Semrau

comofficemgr@congregationofmoses.org

Office hours: Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri -

8:30 am – 12:30 pm

Tues, 11:00am – 3:00 pm

Building Manager Rich Wojtas

buildingmanager@congregationofmoses.org

Library Director Rachel Haus

rachel@congregationofmoses.org

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.

Poems written in memory of and inspired by my father, Morris Kirsch, survivor of the Holocaust

By Sarah Kirsch

STRONG

He was STRONG, proud to be a Jew, STRONG in the midst of his unjustified pain, suffering and losses, trying to move forward.

STRONG, hoping his sacrifices would live on in the hearts and souls of the future generations, never to be forgotten, so they too would become proud, STRONG Jews.

GOD'S ANGEL WHISPERED IN MY EAR

An angel whispered in my ear, STAY STRONG
 as I stood in a line-up of shivering, starving Jews, in the midst of a bitter winter
 Our striped thin uniforms waved in the cold wind, on our thin, frozen, barefooted bodies STAY STRONG,
 A whispering in my ear, KEEP THE FAITH, as I stood, weak, thin and starving, guarding food I was forbidden to eat. KEEP THE FAITH.

A whispering in my ear, five more miles, as my frail, cold, exhausted body walked an endless death march, with thousands of Jews behind,
 ready to give up. I passed the words on: FIVE MORE MILES. An angel whispered in my ear, I AM WITH YOU, KEEP THE FAITH,
 KEEP THE FAITH.



Shabbat and Events Calendar

Wednesday, May 1	7:00 pm	Talmud Study with Judah Ari-Gur on Zoom	
Friday, May 3	8:26 pm	Shabbat candle lighting time	
Saturday, May 4	9:30 am	Shabbat Shacharit Services, with Second Cup following	Torah: Leviticus 17:1-18:30 Haftarah: Ezekiel 22:1-19
Sunday, May 5	4:30 pm	Torah Study with Judah Ari-Gur on Zoom	
Sunday, May 5	6:00 pm	Yom HaShoah Hitkansut: A Ritual Gathering at TBI	
Tuesday, May 7	7:00 pm	Mussar Class	
Wednesday, May 8	7:00 pm	Talmud Study with Judah Ari-Gur on Zoom	
Wednesday, May 8	7:00 pm	Antisemitism Class, Part 1, at CoM	
Friday, May 10	8:34 pm	Shabbat candle lighting time	
Friday, May 10	7:00 pm	Stanley Lubratich- Bar Mitzvah at TBI	
Saturday, May 11	10:00 am	Stanley Lubratich- Bar Mitzvah at TBI	Torah: Leviticus 19:1-37 Haftarah: Amos 9:7-15
Sunday, May 12	4:30 pm	Torah Study with Judah Ari-Gur on Zoom	
Tuesday, May 14	7:00 pm	Oversight Board Meeting	
Wednesday, May 15	7:00 pm	Talmud Study with Judah Ari-Gur on Zoom	
Friday, May 17	8:41 pm	Shabbat candle lighting time	
Friday, May 17	6:00 pm	Yom Ha'atzmaut Community Celebration Dinner at CoM	
Friday, May 17	7:00 pm	Kabbalat Shabbat Services at CoM	
Saturday, May 18	9:30 am	Shabbat Services/Torah Study	Torah: Leviticus 22:17-23:22 Haftarah: Ezekiel 44:15-31
Sunday, May 19	4:30 pm	Torah Study with Judah Ari-Gur on Zoom	
Monday, May 20	7:00 pm	Hadassah Book Group	
Tuesday, May 21	6:00 pm	Joint Religious School Committee Meeting at CoM	
Wednesday, May 22	7:00 pm	Antisemitism Class, Part 2 of 2, at CoM	
Wednesday, May 22	7:00 pm	Talmud Study with Judah Ari-Gur on Zoom	
Thursday, May 23	7:00 pm	TBI/CoM Book Group at this is a bookstore	
Friday, May 24	8:48 pm	Shabbat candle lighting time	
Friday, May 24	7:00 pm	Zoe Leinwand Bat Mitzvah at TBI	
Saturday, May 25	10:00 am	Zoe Leinwand Bat Mitzvah at TBI	Torah: Leviticus 25:29-26:2 Haftarah: Jeremiah 32:6-27
Saturday, May 25	6:00 pm	Community Lag B'Omer celebration at TBI	
Sunday, May 26	4:30 pm	Torah Study with Judah Ari-Gur on Zoom	
Wednesday, May 29	7:00 pm	Talmud Study with Judah Ari-Gur on Zoom	
Friday, May 31	8:54 pm	Shabbat candle lighting time	



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.



Yom HaShoah

Holocaust Memorial Day

Hitkansut: A Ritual Gathering

Sunday, May 5th from 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

at Temple B'nai Israel

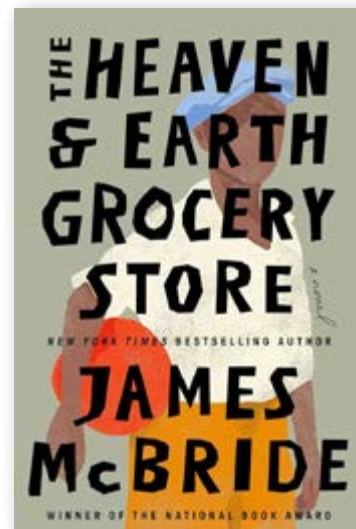
Please RSVP at: <https://tinyurl.com/YHS5784>



TBI AND COM BOOK CLUB

The TBI/CoM Book Club will meet again on **May 23** at this is a bookstore in the Oakwood Plaza at 7:00 pm to discuss *The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store*, by James McBride.

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



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



Congregation
of Moses



The Jewish Federation®
OF KALAMAZOO AND SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN



Stories of Interest to the Kalamazoo Jewish Community

A recent article on **Second Wave Media Southwest Michigan** entitled "Faith communities and others help refugees feel at home in Kalamazoo," highlighted the Friends Free Store housed at Congregation of Moses, along with other community efforts aimed at helping to assist refugees in the Kalamazoo area.

The story featured photos and background information on the collaboration between Congregation of Moses, Temple B'nai Israel, People's Church and Prince of Peace Church to supply needed clothing, shoes, toys and household items to families settling in the community.

Read the story here: www.secondwavemedia.com/southwest-michigan/features/Faith-communities-and-others-help-refugees-feel-at-home-in-Kalamazoo.042524.aspx

Second Wave also published a story this past week entitled "Local synagogues and churches rewilding to welcome migratory flocks and other creatures" which mentioned the efforts of Congregation of Moses, Temple B'nai Israel and local churches to plant Michigan native pollinator plants and trees, reduce lawn areas and remove invasive plant species.

Find the story here: www.secondwavemedia.com/southwest-michigan/features/local-churches-re-wilding-to-welcome-migratory-flocks-and-other-creatures.042524.aspx



REVERSE TASHLICH

The community is invited to join the TBI Green Team for the **Reverse Tashlich on Sunday, May 19th at 12:30 pm.**

We will be cleaning along the banks of the Kalamazoo River starting at 1523 Riverview (across from the CoM Cemetery). Bags and tools will be provided but participants should wear close-toed shoes and bring work gloves.

Reverse Tashlich is an innovative environmental Jewish ritual. Last year, 4,000 Jews and allies in 23 countries collaborated to honor tradition and address a modern crisis, by cleaning up waterfront locations and combating plastic pollution. Incorporating Reverse Tashlich into Jewish life allows individuals to connect their spiritual and ethical values with environmental stewardship, while being a part of a global movement.



RABBI SUCCESS TEAM

Do you have feedback for or about Rabbi Goldman? We want her to be successful at Congregation of Moses, so if you have specific comments or feedback, here's what to do.

You may contact Rabbi Goldman directly with your feedback or get in touch with a member of the Rabbi Success Team to schedule a time to talk. The team members are:

Jeff Haus - hausjeff@yahoo.com

Andrea Johnson - redhead5318@gmail.com

Charlie Ofstein - call (269) 330-1866

Thank you!

May 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.

May Birthdays

May 1	Pnina Ari-Gur
May 2	Carrie Richman
May 5	Steven Richman
May 6	Alan Cohen
May 8	Adam Strauss
May 9	Emma Fischell
May 9	Bruce Minsley
May 10	Jeffrey Scheinker
May 11	Benjamin Avner
May 17	Sherril Dettloff
May 24	Stella Amy
May 25	Rich Wojtas
May 28	Sondi Brown



May Anniversaries

May 5	Michelle & Alan Angel
May 26	Rebecca & Adam Strauss
May 28	Betty & Joe Hirschfield



Mishpacha

Donations have been made by the following individuals and families.

In Memory

In loving memory of my father, Abe Rocklin *Sharon Schwartz*

In loving memory of my aunt, Ernestine Ernst *Marjorie Gaynor*

In loving memory of my father, Cy Beer *Larry Beer*

In loving memory of my husband, Larry Rose *Sandy Rose*

In loving memory of Celia & Norman Besbris *Randie Levin, Terry Paule, David Besbris, Debra Strichartz and their families*

In memory of Ken Eisenberg *Carolyn & Brad Kennedy*

In memory of Ken Eisenberg *Alice & Steve Koss*

In memory of Ken Eisenberg *Kim & Arlen Rubin*

In memory of Laurel Ofstein's mother, Marty Fitzhugh *Carolyn & Brad Kennedy*

In memory of Laurel Ofstein's mother, Marty Fitzhugh *Laurel & Mike Scheidt*

In memory of Laurel Ofstein's mother, Marty Fitzhugh *Joshua & Pam Weiner*

In Honor

In honor of Rabbi Goldman's installation, *Robyn Levene*

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



The family of Ken Eisenberg would like to send a giant thank you for the incredible outpouring of love and support during this difficult time. Ken's passing took us all by surprise and it was hard to cope, but Valerie's friends and religious leaders helped her get through the first difficult weeks. We were amazed by the number of people that came to Rose Arbor, the funeral and the shivas.

There are no words to thank the Chevra Kadisha for their ritual preparation prior to the burial. Kalamazoo is extremely lucky to have such a strong, supportive and loving Jewish community.

Valerie wishes to thank everyone who sent cards, food and donations. She loved each and every card and knows that donations to Israel are greatly appreciated at this difficult time.

With love from Valerie, Ben Eisenberg (brother), June Rowe (sister), Madeleine Golde (sister), and Sara Olson (granddaughter)

Yahrzeits

May 4-10 (26 Nissan - 2 Iyar)

Ann Boudrie Basile	Martin Fisher	Trina Reingold*
Alan Cohen	Sam Halpert*	Joseph Schensul*
Celia Davidoff*	Jack Kushner*	Jacob Seeder*
Abraham Epstein*	William Miller	Kate Stein*
Rose G. Fisher*	Nathalie Morrison*	Dana Wardlaw

May 11-17 (3-9 Iyar)

Ann Block	Morton Fisher*	David Lando*
Samuel Boris*	Guttie Gerber	Norman Marshall*
Robert Cheron	Ethel Haffenberg*	Jack Perse
Harriet Edwards	William Kaplan*	Grant Schwartz
Barbara Stein Fisher*	Rebecca Krefman	Ruth Spivak

May 18-24 (10-16 Iyar)

Stanley Besbris*	Rachel Inselberg*	Rosalie Okun*
Bessie Boris*	Allen Katz*	Ceil Rabinovitz Schechter
Jeanette Brown*	Doris S. Kirschner*	Fannie Rose*
Daniel Goodman	Samuel Lando*	Bella Schensul*
Rose Holstein	Max LaVene*	Dorothy Serline Gerber
George Hyman*	Werner Liepman*	Ida Zimmerman*

May 25-31 (17-23 Iyar)

Norman Besbris*	Sol Heytow	Dora Lieberman*
Marian Fischell	Carrie Kanofsky*	Melvin Poger
Robert Forman*	Jacob Isaac Kavalhuna	Dorothy Pollens
Estelle Freed	Dorothea Knapp*	Irving Rappaport*
Hyman Gottlieb*	Samuel Konigsberg*	Benjamin Rose*
Jean Grossman*	Bernard Krauss	Ronn Sofen*

**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