



CoM newsletter

CONGREGATION OF MOSES • Kalamazoo, Michigan

Volume 17 Issue 9
September 2024 28 Av - 27 Elul 5784

PREPARATIONS FOR THE NEW YEAR

As the summer draws to a close and a new school year begins, our thoughts naturally turn to reflection on what was, and hopes and dreams for what will be. This year we blessedly have all of September to get into a new rhythm in our lives and reflect before the start of Rosh Hashanah.

I look forward to seeing you at the 9:00 am Morning Shofar Zoom session each day during the Jewish month of Elul, beginning on September 4. A rotating cast of characters will help you set an intention for the day through poetry or song and then you'll hear the sound of the Shofar. A great use of ten minutes or less!

We have two evening sessions of High Holy Day Prep! On **September 17**, we will screen "Hallelujah: Leonard Cohen, A Journey, A Song" – a great documentary and a fabulous film for the month of Elul. Discussion to follow.

On **September 24**, Rabbis Goldman and Schicker will lead the group in more focused and personal preparation for the Yamim Nora'im/ the High Holy Days.



Rabbi Shelley Goldman

The ultimate preparation for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, and the best service of the whole year, is Selichot! This musical and meditative service happens on the Saturday night before Rosh Hashanah. This year, please join Rabbis Schicker and Goldman, along with musical accompanist Keith Eiser, on **Saturday, September 28 at 8:00 pm at Temple B'nai Israel.**

I hope you had a good summer and wish you all the best as we head into fall. Please enjoy one of my favorite September poems:

"Coming Up On September" by Marge Piercy

White butterflies, with single
black fingerpaint eyes on their wings,
dart and settle, eddy and mate
over the green tangle of vines
in Labor Day morning steam.

The year grinds into ripeness
and rot, grapes darkening,
pears yellowing, the first
Virginia creeper twining crimson,
The grasses, dry straw to burn.

The Oversight Board

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

Oversight Board Members

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8:30 am – 12:30 pm

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Library Director Rachel Haus
library@congregationofmoses.org

The New Year rises, beckoning
across the umbrellas on the stand.
I begin to reconsider my life.
What is the yield of my impatience?
What is the fruit of my resolve?

I turn from my frantic white dance
over the jungle of productivity
and slowly a niggun slides,
cold water down my throat.
I rest on a leaf spotted red.

Now is the time to let the mind
search backwards like the raven loosed
to see what can feed us. Now,
the time to cast the mind forward
to chart an aerial map of months.

The New Year is a great door
that stands across the evening and Yom
Kippur is the second door. Between them
Are song and silence, stone and clay pot
to be filled from within myself.

I will find there both ripeness and rot,
what I have done and undone,
what I must let go with the waning days
and what I must take in. With the last
tomatoes, we harvest the fruit of our lives.

Rabbi Goldman

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.



Shabbat and Events Calendar

Wednesday, September 4	7:00 pm	Mussar class	
Friday, September 6	7:46 pm	Shabbat candle lighting time	
Saturday, September 7	9:30 am	Shabbat Shacharit Services	Torah: Haftarah: Isaiah 51:12-52:12
		Kiddush set up and clean up	Adelman/Zukowski-Serlin
Sunday, September 8	9:30 am	Okun Community Jewish School Registration at CoM	
Wednesday, September 11	7:00 pm	OvB Meeting	
Friday, September 13	7:36 pm	Shabbat candle lighting time	
Saturday, September 14	9:30 am	Shabbat Shacharit Services	Torah: Deuteronomy 23:8-24:13 Haftarah: Isaiah 54:1-10
		Kiddush set up and clean up	Amy/Wise
Sunday, September 15	9:00 am	Okun School - First day, welcome back!	
Tuesday, September 17	7:00 pm	Adult Ed: High Holy Day Prep #1	
Wednesday, September 18	4:30 pm	Okun School - First Wednesday at TBI	
Friday, September 20	7:00 pm	Third Friday Shabbat Services at CoM	
Friday, September 20	7:24 pm	Shabbat candle lighting time	
		Oneg Shabbat set up and clean up	Camhi/Atkinson
Saturday, September 21	9:30 am	Shabbat Services and Text Study	Torah: Deuteronomy 26:12-28:6 Haftarah: Isaiah 60:1-22
		Kiddush set up and clean up	Barry/Morrison
Sunday, September 22	9:00 am	Okun School at CoM	
Sunday, September 22	10:45 am	Author Ruth Behar Program— <i>The Jews of Cuba: Journeys and Stories</i>	
Tuesday, September 24	7:00 pm	Adult Ed: High Holy Day Prep #2	
Wednesday, September 25	4:30 pm	Okun School at TBI	
Thursday, September 26	7:00 pm	Book Club Meets at TBI	
Friday, September 27	7:11 pm	Shabbat candle lighting time	
Saturday, September 28	9:30 am	Shabbat Shacharit Services	Torah: Deuteronomy 30:1-31:6 Alt. Haftarah: Isaiah 63:1-9
		Kiddush set up and clean up	Beer/Nimz
Saturday, September 28	8:00 pm	Joint Selichot Services at TBI	
Sunday, September 29	9:00 am	Okun School at CoM	



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.



Marvin & Rosalie Okun
KALAMAZOO COMMUNITY
Jewish School

Okun School

Now accepting students for 5785!

**Open House@CoM Sunday,
September 8th, 9:30 am - 11:30 am**



- decorate canvas school bag
- see your classroom
- complete registration

**First Day of School is Sunday,
September 15, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm**



Register for school at:

<https://tinyurl.com/276weyc6>

Contact Angie Saltzman at okcjsdirector@gmail.com
with questions



Okun School Year 5785: Registration Now Open!



The Okun School year kicks off on **Sunday, September 8th with an Open House from 9:30 am- 11:30 am at CoM.** Parents can finish registering their children. The students will have a chance to check out their classroom and decorate their own canvas school bag.

The first day of school for Pre-K through 7th grade will be Sunday, September 15th from 9:00 am- 12:00 pm at CoM.

The Okun School is offering a Madrichim program this year for students in grades 8th-12th. We don't have a schedule yet, but if your child would like to join us this year, have them contact Angie Saltzman. Thanks!

The registration link is ready! Here it is: <https://tinyurl.com/276weyc6>

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Angie Saltzman, the Education Director, at okcjsdirector@gmail.com or call (269) 506-3305.

Calling All Bakers For High Holiday Baking

Your help is needed once again to prepare pastries for Erev Rosh Hashanah, Break-the-Fast and Sukkot.

Please contact Rae Lee Howard at 269-217-2833 for details and schedule. **Baking will begin September 16.**





Soul-stirring.

Each morning at 9:00 from September 5 - October 1

Hear the soul-stirring sound of the shofar every morning during the month of Elul, a longstanding tradition to prepare for the High Holy Days.

Join us each morning (**except Shabbat**), from Thursday, September 5 through Tuesday, October 1, as Congregation of Moses hosts a ten-minute Zoom session beginning at 9:00 am and featuring:

- Live blowing of the shofar
- A short poem, story, song or reading on the theme of the High Holy Days
- Chanting of Psalm 27.

Sign up at congregationofmoses.org to get the link.

Schedule Of High Holy Day Services

We look forward to joining together for High Holy Day services this October.

As she did last year, Rabbi Shelley Goldman will lead us in song, prayer and learning along with our longtime chazzan, Cantor John Hendler. Many of our congregants will also participate in parts of the services. The Religious Activities Committee has been busy planning for the season, and the schedule below details all of the upcoming services and programs.

Selichot

September 28: Selichot and Havdalah at TBI, 8:00 pm

Rosh Hashanah

October 2: Erev Rosh Hashanah Services, 7:00 pm
October 3: Rosh Hashanah Morning Services, 9:00 am
Tashlich with TBI at Woods Lake Park, 1:30 pm
Rosh Hashanah Children's Services at TBI, 4:30 pm
Evening Services, 7:00 pm
October 4: Rosh Hashanah Morning Services, 9:00 am

Days Of Repentance

October 6: Sukkah Building, 9:00 am
Memorial Services at Riverside Jewish Cemetery, 1:00 pm
Memorial for October 7 attack, 7:00 pm

Yom Kippur

October 11: Kol Nidre Services, 6:30pm
October 12: Yom Kippur Morning Services with Yizkor, 9:00 am
Yom Kippur Children's Services at CoM, 4:30pm
Afternoon Program, 5:15 pm
Mincha, 6:15 pm
Neilah, 7:00 pm
Final Shofar Blowing and Break-the-Fast, 7:54 pm

Sukkot

October 17: Sukkot Morning Services, 9:30 am
October 18: Eat, Pray, Sing Community Dinner, 6:00 pm
October 24: Shmini Atzeret Services and Yizkor, 9:30 am
October 25: Simchat Torah Celebration and Shabbat Services at TBI, 6:00 pm

Milestones and Events of the Past Year

- Rabbi Shelley Goldman celebrated her one-year anniversary with us on August 1, our office manager, Kristil Semrau celebrated her one-year anniversary two weeks earlier and our building manager, Rich Wojtas, recently celebrated his three-year anniversary. Mazal Tov!
- Our joint Marvin and Rosalie Okun Kalamazoo Community Jewish school had 37 students this past school year. Director Angie Saltzman will return for her second year this fall!
- In April, we formally installed Rabbi Goldman; over 120 people attended, including Rabbi Goldman's mentor, Rabbi Wechterman, and many community leaders. Mayor David Anderson even delivered a proclamation!
- Less than two weeks later, we celebrated a community seder for the second year in a row, with over 100 participants!
- The Free Store for refugees, in the former youth lounge, served in the past six months over 440 refugee shoppers from 17+ countries, many of whom have never been in a synagogue. Thank you to all our community volunteers.
- The Samuel J. and Mary E. Colef Fund has distributed more than \$1.6 million to date, over \$300,000 in 2023 alone, benefitting those in need in our community and Israel, including helping those affected by the October 7 attacks.
- Our membership count rose to 108 families at the end of 2023.
- Last October, not only did we build our new, larger sukkah, we debuted a bonus sukkah to ensure there was room for all!
- Last September, we installed a new Yarhzeit Board, and volunteers have been putting families back together.
- Ongoing joint programming: Adult Ed classes, Mahjong, Tashlich, Sukkot, Simchat Torah celebration, Hanukkah Bazaar, Purim celebration and more!

The continued success of CoM rests on the support of its members. This Yom Tov season, we embark on our first major capital campaign in over a decade as we work toward **two major renovation projects.**

First, we will be replacing all of our external doors, as well as the sanctuary doors—almost all of which are original—to increase our safety and security. Second, we will be replacing many of the aging—and not completely functional—appliances in our kitchen, allowing us to continue preparing meals and onegs for special occasions. We are pleased to announce that we have already raised over \$40,000 in seed money from a few members of our congregation toward these projects. We will need to raise an additional \$100,000 over the next three years to fund these projects. Please remember the spirit of L'Dor v'Dor—from generation to generation—and respond generously to the annual High Holiday Appeal. Please send back your pledge card or make your donation online at congregationofmoses.org/donate. L'shanah tovah!

Ruth Behar stories

Sunday, September 22 at Congregation of Moses
beginning at 10:45 am

Ruth Behar is an award-winning Cuban-American author of stories for both children and adults, exploring the vulnerability we all share.

- 9:30 am – Stories for Pre-Kindergarten - Third grade students
- 10:00 am – Stories for Fourth - Seventh grade students
- 10:45 am – Adult program "The Jews of Cuba: Journeys and Stories"
- 11:30 am – Book signing/sale



Sign up at congregationofmoses.org

sponsored by the Herman and Rose Fisher Library



Apples and Honey Outing at Crane's In Celebration of Rosh Hashanah

The First Hebrew Congregation of South Haven will host an Apples and Honey outing from **10:30 am- 12:00 pm on Sunday, October 6** at the Crane Orchards U-Pick Pavilion located in Fennville, Michigan, in celebration of Rosh Hashanah.

All Jewish community members who live in West Michigan are welcome.

Participants can work on a usable art project, enjoy cider and donuts, hear the shofar, meet beekeepers and find out why it is customary to eat apples and honey during these holidays.

Reservations are required but there is no charge for the event. Email Debbie Ehrlich at debehrllich@hotmail.com or Sharona Shapiro at shapiroolerner@gmail.com. You'll receive all the details when you make your reservation.



The program will take place rain or shine. Participants are invited to go apple picking following the program, at their own expense.

Founded almost 100 years ago, First Hebrew Congregation, located in South Haven, Michigan, is an active congregation, serving all denominations of Judaism.

TBI AND COM BOOK CLUB

The TBI/CoM Book Club will meet again on **September 26** at 7:00 pm at TBI to discuss *When the Angels Left the Old Country* by Sacha Lamb.

October 31, *Racism of People Who Love You* by Samira Mehta

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



New Policies For Donations at the Friends Free Store

The following is excerpted from a new security policy adopted by the Friends Free Store, developed to align with security policies at CoM.

"The Friends Free Store, housed at the Congregation of Moses, invites refugees new to Kalamazoo to shop in the free store (when accompanied by a caseworker) and donors from the greater Kalamazoo community to drop off merchandise, according to the following policies. Store volunteers have set store hours for shopping and donations: 9:00 am to 3:00 pm Monday through Thursday, except on Jewish, state or federal holidays or when the building is closed (such as when all staff are on vacation).

"Donation drop-off should also be arranged by appointment, so that volunteers are present to help with the unloading. Congregation of Moses staff are not obliged to accept donations when store volunteers are not present."

To sum up, **donation drop-off should be arranged by appointment during a time period of 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, Monday through Thursday, except on holidays or when the building is closed. Drop-offs made without an appointment may not be accepted.**

Please call or text one of the following volunteers to make your appointment:

Janet Nykaza, 269-861-1531

Colleen VanSlambrouck, 269-341-0573

Cheryl Quebbeman, 269-615-5373

September Celebrations

The Congregation of Moses wishes **mazal 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.

September Birthdays

September 3	Margot Cecily Weiner
September 4	Adam Gelman
September 5	Philip Oretsky
September 6	Robert Lando
September 7	JoAnn Martin
September 8	Renay Berkowitz
September 8	Charles Ofstein
September 8	Nathan Strauss
September 9	Alan Angel
September 9	Cindy Beer
September 10	Shirley Mengel
September 11	Jonah Benjamin Weiner
September 12	Charlotte Campbell
September 12	Rabbi Shelley Goldman
September 15	Miriam Verne
September 17	Sarah Kirsch
September 18	Oren Gelman
September 19	Richard Verne
September 20	Micah David Ofstein
September 20	Joanne Simon
September 27	Shirley Wise
September 30	Naomi Marshall
September 30	Cheryl Tenenbaum



September Anniversaries

September 6	Michelle & Troy Zukowski-Serlin
September 23	Carrie & Steven Richman
September 28	Kim & Arlen Rubin



Mishpacha

Donations have been made by the following individuals and families.

Condolences

Condolences to Patrick Welbourne on the loss of his wife, Susan, *Joshua & Pam Weiner, Rae Lee Howard*

In Memory

In loving memory of our mother, Rose Rose, *Sandy Rose and Gloria Besbris*

In loving memory of my father, Irving Cushner, *Cindy Beer*

In loving memory of my parents, Fay and Martin Ginsberg, *Carol McCain*

In loving memory of our mother, Peggy Schwartz, *Paul and Sharon Schwartz*

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

Todah Rabah!

Thanks so much for the double anniversary gift! It's been a great 11 years married to Kieran and a great first year with CoM!

~Rabbi Goldman

Yahrzeits

August 31-September 6 (Av 27-Elul 3)

Morris Haffenberg*	Harry B. Sofen*	Sadie Zimmerman*
Bertha Rothschild*	Gertrude Seeder*	
Sol Schpok*	Esther Tigay Weiner	

September 7-13 (Elul 4-10)

Evelyn Berke	Sadye R. Goldenberg*	Joseph Sichel*
Anne Breslow*	Anna Graff*	
Sam Camhi*	Steven Laventure*	

September 14-20 (Elul 11-17)

Tobias Budin*	Harry Halpert*	Meyer C. Weiner*
Jerome Gerber*	Alvin Kushner*	Dena H. Winick*
Henry Graff*	Mitchell Sternfield*	Dyna Gitel Wise*

September 21-27 (Elul 18-24)

Max Bennison*	Ida Rubel*	Joseph Thall*
Lillian Brot*	Ida Schensul*	

September 28-October 4 (Elul 25-Tishrei 2)

Russ Deutsch*	Janet M. Hoffman*	David Loeser*
Herbert Fisher*	Martin Krasnick*	Patti Paull*

**Denotes a memorial plaque in the synagogue*

Find Your Yahrzeits 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



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, 2024 will be matched!

Big Brothers Big Sisters

Boys Town Jerusalem

Community Healing Centers

Communities In Schools of Kalamazoo

Constance Brown Hearing Centers

Community Outreach, Prevention, and Education (COPE) Network

Disability Network

Ecumenical Senior Center

Farmerhood

Family and Children's Services

First Day Shoe Fund

Gryphon Place

HIAS

Innovation: Africa

The Irving S. Gilmore International Piano Festival

JDC

Jewish Agency for Israel

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

Ruach Dromit

St. Luke's Diaper Bank

Senior Services of Kalamazoo

Shalva

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 2024 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, 2024 to have them matched. The maximum to be matched by the Colef Fund is \$250 per family per year.

Include this information please:

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

Find us online at coleffund.org