



CoM newsletter

CONGREGATION OF MOSES • Kalamazoo, Michigan

Volume 18 Issue 4
April 2025 3 Nissan - 2 Iyar 5785

In the Cause of Freedom

There is a piece of art in my office that reads: **None of us are free until all of us are free.**

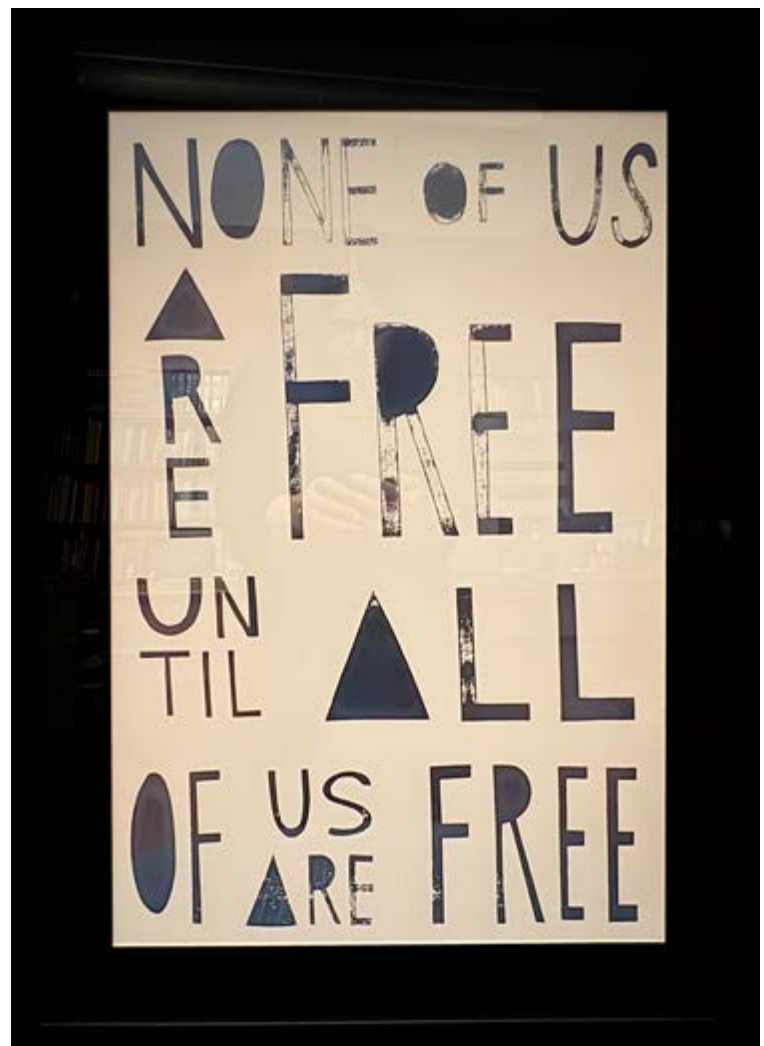
A friend of a friend made it for every guest at a Seder in 2016. The hosts assigned each of the guests one of the 14 parts of the Seder and asked them to lead it in whatever way was meaningful to them. Some led from the traditional Haggadah, others from interpretive Haggadot. There was music, singing and incredible food.

The art was created for the entire section of Maggid, The Telling, the longest piece of the Seder. The artist stated that she read Maggid and reflected on the meaning of Passover. She explored different ways to tell the tale. She distilled the meaning of Passover into these 11 words. They have become a guiding principle for me. What is required of me in this moment? How is what I am doing advancing the cause of my own freedom and that of everyone else?

Ken Yehi Ratzon, Bimheira b'Yameinu. May it be God's will. May it be our will. Quickly and soon.

Hag Sameach. A Zissen Pesach. Happy Passover.

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,
bhershbein@congregationofmoses.org

Vice-President Operations

Mike Tenenbaum,
tenemike1967@gmail.com

Vice-President Programming

Open Position
Vice-President Religious Activities

Dennis Means,
dmeansmd@gmail.com

Treasurer Neal Berke,
treasurer@congregationofmoses.org

Secretary Rachel Haus,
rachel@congregationofmoses.org

Human Resources Administrator
Maxine Berke,

mberke@congregationofmoses.org

Member-at-Large Patty Conlon,
conlonpn@yahoo.com

Member-at-Large Phil Oretsky,
blueskyphil@msn.com

Trustee Representative
Rae Lee Howard, RHoward@ihdist.com

Synagogue Staff

Rabbi Shelley Goldman
rabbi@congregationofmoses.org

Office Manager Kristil Semrau
comofficemgr@congregationofmoses.org

Office hours: Monday-Friday
8:30 am – 12:30 pm

Building Manager Rich Wojtas
buildingmanager@congregationofmoses.org

Library Director Rachel Haus
library@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.



Got Chametz?

Rabbi Goldman will sell your Chametz for Pesach.

If you'd like to participate, please call or email by 5:00 pm on Tuesday, April 8.



Caring Circle

Caring Circle—compassionate volunteers for the Congregation of Moses family. **Caring Circle is a network of volunteers who would like to support our CoM members in times of need, whether during an acute crisis or a need for ongoing support.**



The members of **Caring Circle**, listed below, welcome your call. They have agreed to make their names and contact information available so that you can choose to connect with the person with whom you feel most comfortable.

Call, email or text (all numbers are cell phones unless otherwise indicated)

Rae Lee Howard 269-217-2833, rhoward@ihdist.com

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

Larry Beer 269-324-0777 home, lbbkzoo@aol.com

Rachel Haus 412-719-4293, rachelhaus@yahoo.com

Patty Conlon 269-352-6324, conlonpn@yahoo.com



COM OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday, 8:30 am – 12:30 pm

Services and Events Calendar

Thursday, April 3	7:00 pm	Movie night at CoM - Orchestra of Exiles - sign up online	
Friday, April 4	7:54 pm	Shabbat candle lighting time	
Saturday, April 5	9:30 am	Shabbat Shacharit Services at CoM	Torah: Leviticus 4:27-5:26 Haftorah: Isaiah 43:21-44:23
		Kiddush hosts	Johnson/Hyman
Tuesday, April 8	7:00 pm	Mussar group	
Wednesday, April 9	4:30 pm	Okun Kalamazoo Community Jewish School classes	
Wednesday, April 9	7:00 pm	Oversight Board Meeting	
Friday, April 11	8:01 pm	Shabbat candle lighting time	
Saturday, April 12	9:30 am	Shabbat Shacharit Services at CoM	Torah: Leviticus 8:1-36 Haftorah: Malachi 3:4-24
Saturday, April 12		Happy Passover - First Night Seders at home	
		Kiddush hosts	Barry/Ofstein
Sunday, April 13	9:30am	Pesach I Services	Torah: Exodus 12:21-51 Maf: Numbers 28:16-25 Haftorah: Joshua 5:10-6:1; 6:27
Sunday, April 13	5:00 pm	Second Night Seder at TBI - Sign up: https://bit.ly/jewishkzooseder25	
Monday, April 14	Building closed		
Wednesday, April 16	Noon	Lunch & Learn: On Tyranny chapters 1-10	
Wednesday, April 16	4:30 pm	Okun Kalamazoo Community Jewish School classes	
Wednesday, April 16	7:00 pm	RAC Meeting	
Friday, April 18	8:09 pm	Shabbat candle lighting time	
Saturday, April 19	9:30 am	Shabbat Shacharit Services at CoM	Torah: Exodus 13:17-14:25 Haftorah: 2 Samuel 22:44-51
		Kiddush hosts	Wise/Eisenberg
Sunday, April 20	Building closed		
Tuesday, April 22	7:00 pm	Yom HaShoah Service at CoM	
Wednesday, April 23	4:30 pm	Okun Kalamazoo Community Jewish School classes	
Wednesday, April 23	7:00 pm	Kitchen Committee Meeting	
Thursday, April 24	7:00 pm	Book Club at TBI	
Friday, April 25	6:00 pm	Yom Haatzmaut Services at CoM	
		Oneg hosts	Hershbein & Freed/Oretsky
Friday, April 25	8:17 pm	Shabbat candle lighting time	
Saturday, April 26	9:30 am	Shabbat Services and Torah Study	Genesis 4
		Kiddush hosts	Davidoff/Thommes
Sunday, April 27	9:00 am	Okun Kalamazoo Community Jewish School classes	
Wednesday, April 30	4:30 pm	Okun Kalamazoo Community Jewish School classes	

Be as courageous as you can.

Lunch and Learn Featuring "On Tyranny: Twenty Lessons from the Twentieth Century," by Timothy Snyder

Wednesday, April 16 & Thursday, May 1, noon at CoM

The book will provide the context for thoughtful and meaningful discussions that will lead to effective and practical action. The remaining two sessions will be devoted to a closer examination of the chapters in the book, as well as discussion of the results of the Evolve Symposium, "Practices for Defending Democracy."

In October 2024, 26 rabbis and lay leaders participated in this symposium by describing how they are able (or unable) to pursue the 20 practices that are outlined in Dr. Snyder's book as a response to tyranny and hate.

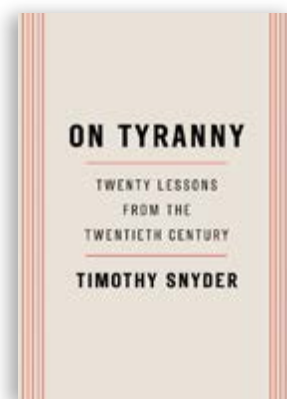
Participants in this series will gain a better understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of tyrannical movements and learn about strategies and techniques to not only cope with, but neutralize the power that has been granted to modern-day tyrants.

"On Tyranny" is a call to arms and a guide to resistance, with invaluable ideas for how we can preserve our freedoms in the uncertain years to come. The book is slim, 125 small pages and/or a 2-hour audio book.

There are two copies of "On Tyranny" in the CoM Fisher Library. You can contact Rachel (rachel@congregationofmoses.org) to check on availability.

"On Tyranny" is also available at this is a bookstore, in Oakwood Plaza. You can check availability or purchase online **using this link, bookbugkalamazoo.com/book/9780804190114**. Use the online discount code "MOSES" (without the quotes) at checkout to receive 15% off.

Advance sign up is required. Get all the details and sign up online at congregationofmoses.org.



Family (Tot) Shabbat Services

Saturday, April 5, 9:00 am at TBI

Rabbis Goldman and Schicker invite you and your little ones to join us for our relaunch of Tot Shabbat Services. All are invited - so bring some friends!

Please note that each month the location will alternate between CoM and TBI.



**Future dates:
May 3 at CoM**

Jewish Federation Camp Scholarships

The Jewish Federation of Kalamazoo and Southwest Michigan again is offering scholarships to Jewish summer camps. Some camps have their own assistance programs and we will work with them, too.

We are pleased to be able to help our children experience the unique environment of the Jewish summer camp.

For more details and a scholarship form, please contact:
Jacob Weintraub
jmw003@aol.com
269-808-8765



The Jewish Federation®
OF KALAMAZOO AND SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN

Deadline for applications is May 1.



Need a Seder table?
Have a Seder table?



Jewish Kalamazoo is excited to introduce our first-night Seder matching program!

We are hoping that every member of our amazing Jewish community will share Passover with other like-minded Seder-goers. If you are planning a Seder and have extra space, please visit jewishkalamazoo.org and click on the "I'd like to be a Seder Host" button.

Or if you're looking for friendly company to join for the first night of Passover, click on the "I'm looking for a Seder table to join for the first night" button.

Check it out at jewishkalamazoo.org. Chag Pesach Sameach!

Get ready for
PASSOVER
With OKCJS

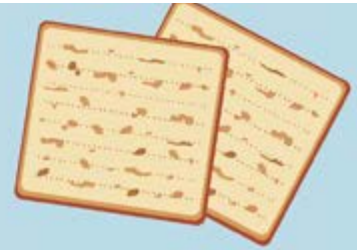
Wednesday April 9
5:30pm
Temple B'nai Israel



Join us on for a multi sensory telling of the Passover story and introduction to the Seder for kids of all ages and their grownups!



You are
INVITED



to the
SECOND NIGHT
Passover Seder

Sunday, April 13th
5:00 PM

at Temple B'nai Israel
RSVP Required

Temple B'nai Israel - Congregation of Moses
Jewish Federation of SW Michigan

Please join us on Sunday, April 13th at 5:00 pm for a joint Seder with the Jewish community at Temple B'nai Israel.

Please RSVP and register here: <https://bit.ly/jewishkzooseder25>



Yom HaShoah Observance

Joint service with CoM and TBI on **Tuesday, April 22 at 7:00 pm in the Sofen Room.**

Booklets generously provided by the Jewish Federation of Kalamazoo and Southwest Michigan.

ANNUAL MEETING

We look forward to seeing you at our CoM Annual Congregation Meeting on **Sunday, May 4 from noon - 1:30 pm**, immediately following Religious School.

The meeting this year returns to the late spring schedule of annual meetings past, our own return to normalcy. We will discuss major milestones, including our completed renovations, upcoming plans for the congregation and vote on the slate of Oversight Board officers (see below). We will also provide copies of a summary of the congregation's activities since the last meeting.

Meeting Logistics:

The annual meeting will be held in person in the social hall. We will have catered falafel, grape leaves, hummus and related Mediterranean food, as well as popcorn, ice cream, drinks and other snacks available during the meeting, and there will be time to socialize and catch up with each other.

For those who want to participate but are unable to attend in person, we plan to livestream the meeting, with the ability to ask questions. A copy of our most recent by-laws were included in the mailing from the 2023 annual meeting; **if you would like to request a copy of the by-laws, or a summary copy of CoM activities, please contact Kristil Semrau at comofficemgr@congregationofmoses.org or 269-342-5463.**

The Congregation of Moses Nominating Committee is pleased to present the following slate of candidates for Oversight Board (board of directors) for election at our annual meeting.

President: Brad Hershbein

Secretary: Rachel Haus

Treasurer: Neal Berke

Vice President of Operations: Mike Tenenbaum

Vice President of Religious Activities: Dennis Means

Vice President of Programming: Elissa Cahn

Member-at-large: Robyn Levene

Member-at-large: Charlie Ofstein

Additionally, the Congregation of Moses Trustees choose their own representative with voting privileges on the OvB - Rae Lee Howard will continue in this capacity.

Patty Conlon and Phil Oretsky have been serving as members-at-large. We thank Patty and Phil for their service to the Congregation of Moses. Non-voting members Stephen Grode (past president), Carolyn Kennedy (Colef Committee representative), and, of course, Rabbi Goldman, will continue to serve.

Additional details will be forthcoming in weekly emails and other communications.

We look forward to seeing you on May 4!

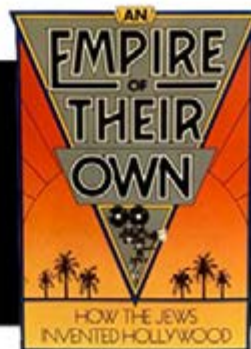
Congregation of Moses

MOVIE NIGHT

7:00 PM all dates



April 3



May 8



June 12

Let's Go to the Movies!

Orchestra of Exiles, Thursday, April 3 at 7:00 pm

The inspiring story of the creation of the Palestine Philharmonic Orchestra (to become the Israel Philharmonic in 1948) as the dark clouds of Nazi persecution gathered over Europe. Through pure determination, and over many obstacles, prominent Jewish musicians and their families were brought to Palestine to create a world class orchestra. The orchestra performed to overflowing crowds providing hope and preserving the light of culture in a time of trial and uncertainty. The movie includes interviews of prominent Jewish musicians associated with the Palestine/Israel Philharmonic to include Itzhak Perelman, Yasha Heifetz, Zubin Mehta (a long-serving conductor at the Israel Philharmonic) and Leonard Bernstein (who served as a guest conductor for numerous performances). There are many classical music vignettes in the video. The video will be followed by a group discussion led by Rabbi Goldman on the role of music in Judaism and its importance to generations of Jews.

Hollywood, An Empire of their Own, Thursday, May 8, 7:00 pm

Produced by Arts and Entertainment, and based on a best-selling book by Neal Gabler, "An Empire of their Own; How the Jews Invented Hollywood." The video provides the inside story of how Jewish moguls, who were almost all immigrants from Eastern Europe or their children, created the great Hollywood studios and produced the movies which brought drama, comedy, laughter and tears to hundreds of millions of people and defined American culture for decades. There is plenty of footage in the video from the golden age of Hollywood. The video also raises the question of why the Jewish moguls chose to avoid Jewish issues in their movies. The video will be followed by a group discussion led by Rabbi Goldman on the Jewish Influence in American popular culture.

Broadway Musicals, A Jewish Legacy, Thursday, June 12, 7:00 pm

Produced by PBS. Tap your feet and hum along as we watch segments of the most endearing Broadway musicals, and learn the story of how Jewish composers, lyricists, and producers created the beloved songs and stage performances which are uniquely American and Jewish in form and message. The video will be followed by a group discussion led by Rabbi Goldman on the topic (and obligations) of the Jews as a gifted people.

Sign up to attend online: congregationofmoses.org/event-signup-dev/?EID=99257



Your Vote for Israel's Future

MARCH 10 - MAY 4, 2025

Cast your vote today for the Jewish and Israeli future!

From now through May 4, 2025, you and all American Jews have the opportunity to vote online at ZionistElection.org to make your voice heard in the election for the 39th World Zionist Congress, "the parliament of the Jewish people." Voting is a crucial, tangible and attainable step toward creating a stronger tomorrow. The larger the voter turnout, the more loudly the American Jewish voice is heard.

To be eligible to vote, you must:

- Be Jewish (and not subscribe to another religion)
- Be 18 years or older by June 30, 2025
- Be a U.S. citizen or a legal permanent resident in the U.S.
- Maintain your primary residence in the U.S.
- Accept the Jerusalem Program (the Zionist movement platform)
- Have not voted in the November 2022 Knesset election (and will not vote in any future Knesset election which may be held prior to July 28, 2025)

It only takes a few minutes to vote online at zionistelection.org or by paper ballot.

The Conservative Movement is advocating voting for **slate 17 - MERCAZ USA: The Voice of Conservative/Masorti Judaism**

A coalition of groups including the National Council of Jewish Women and Habonim Dror North America is advocating voting for **slate 16 - HATIKVAH: The Progressive Slate - Vote for Change & Hope, Vote for a Better Future in Israel**

Saturday morning Kiddush is an integral part of the celebration of Shabbat and hosting a Kiddush is a great way for you to be involved in the CoM community. It is important that all members occasionally host Kiddush so that the responsibility is spread out over the entire congregation.

Each member of the CoM community is asked to host a Kiddush two-three times per year. Two member families are randomly assigned a date to co-host. Dennis Means or Wilma Kahn will be on hand to answer questions on your Shabbat morning. You will also receive an email about a month in advance with detailed instructions. You do not need to purchase food, though you may if you wish. **The request is purely to set up and clean up our normal fare.**

Please find your date on the schedule below and confirm by email that you will be able to host on that Shabbat morning. We realize that some of the dates might not work for you. We only ask that you notify us immediately if this is the case. We will be able to find an alternative date for you, but we will need time to find a replacement host and a new date for you.

Thank you in advance for playing an important part in this weekly ritual. Please feel free to contact us with any concerns or questions.

Rav Todot/Many Thanks,

Kristil Semrau, CoM Office Manager, comofficemgr@congregationofmoses.org

Dennis Means, Religious Activities Committee co-chair

Kiddush Hosts, April - June 2025

Date	Occasion	Host	Host
Saturday, April 5	Shabbat	Johnson	Hyman
Saturday, April 12	Shabbat	Barry	Ofstein
Saturday, April 19	Shabbat	Wise	Eisenberg
Friday, April 25	Yom Haatzmaut	Hershbein/Freed	Oretsky
Saturday, April 26	Shabbat	Davidoff	Thommes
Saturday, May 3	Shabbat	Lando	Fisher
Saturday, May 10	Shabbat	Badt	Greenwald
Friday, May 16	Shabbat	Kennedy	J. Rubin
Saturday, May 17	Shabbat	Brown	Verne
Saturday, May 24	Shabbat	Camhi	Stein
Saturday, May 31	Shabbat	Beer	Bez
Saturday, June 7	Shabbat	Davidoff	Tenenbaum
Saturday, June 14	Shabbat	Weiner	Serlin-Zukowski
Friday, June 20	3rd Friday Services	Howard	Levene
Saturday, June 21	Shabbat	Patrick	Schupan
Saturday, June 28	Shabbat	Eisenberg	Goldenthal

The Okun School's Purim celebration was a resounding success and truly a memorable occasion. The day kicked off with parents, guardians and friends coming together over coffee and bagels. This was followed by a lively Purim spiel titled "Esther's Ometz Lev," written by our PreK-1st grade teacher, Emily Jane Warheit. It was performed by our 4th-7th grade students who chose to participate in the Sofen room.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to our Joint Religious School Committee: Rebecca Tregerman, Brian Horvitz, Karl Schook, Aviva Luciano, Becky Hanson, Jen Rubin and Marcie Brown, for organizing such a wonderful event for our Kalamazoo Jewish community. We also appreciate the Jewish Federation of Southwest Michigan and the Marvin and Rosalie Okun Foundation for their generous support of our Joint Religious School. Our "Pie in the Face" fundraiser raised \$65 for Tzedakah, benefiting the Refugee Free Store.



With summer approaching, we're excited to announce that Camp Keshet will be FREE for OKCJS students this year, thanks to the generous support from the Marvin and Rosalie Okun Foundation. Camp Keshet 2025 dates for students entering grades 1-7 are as follows: Week 1: August 4-8; Week 2: August 11-15, running Monday through Friday from 9:30 am to 2:00 pm, unless we are on a field trip.

We're also thrilled to announce a special three-day camp planned for July 9-11 (Wednesday to Friday), running from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm each day for campers entering grade 2-7 at Camp Tavor in Three Rivers MI. Registration for Camp Keshet will open in mid-April. Additionally, Camp Tavor has some special offers lined up for our Kalamazoo families.



I recently attended the 73rd Annual Jewish Educators Assembly (JEA) Conference, held in Chicago from March 16 -19. The theme of this year's conference, **"Israel: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow,"** focused on innovative approaches to Israel education and best practices for engaging learners in meaningful and relevant ways.

The conference brought together Jewish educators from across North America for engaging sessions led by expert presenters, thought leaders and fellow educators. Participants explored new strategies, curriculum enhancements and pedagogical techniques to deepen students' connection to Israel and Jewish identity.



I am grateful for the opportunity to connect with colleagues and learn from leading experts in Jewish education, and I appreciate the support from the Shana Winter Fund for making this learning opportunity possible.

Angie Saltzman, Director

Mishpacha

Donations have been made by the following individuals and families.

In Memory

In memory of my mother, Faye Hageman, *Nan Goldenthal*

In memory of my mother, Sallie Cushner, *Cindy & Larry Beer*

In memory of my brother, Bertram Stein, *Bruce & Christy Stein*

In memory of my sister, Roberta Stein, *Bruce & Christy Stein*

In memory of my mother Francine Klingman, *Lee Klingman & Emily Hoffman*

In memory of my husband Richard Hoffman, *Emily Hoffman*

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

EARTH MONTH SPRING GROUNDS CLEANUP

Sunday mornings, April 6 and April 20, 9:30-11:30 am

Come spend a beautiful morning outdoors, as we begin our spring cleanup of the CoM grounds and gardens. We have a few different areas to spruce up!

We'll also be preparing some new areas for planting native shrubs and pollinator plants, and removing some old overgrown shrubbery.

We'll supply the coffee and treats, you bring your work gloves and (if you have them) a rake and pruning tools. Let's get outside!

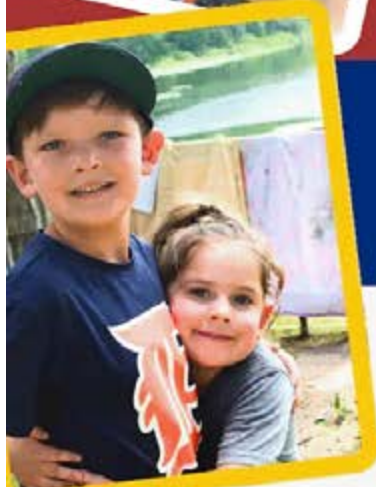




Camp Keshet



**JOIN US AT CAMP TAVOR
SUMMER 2025 AND  SAVE**



**REGISTER FOR A SUMMER SESSION
AND SAVE:**

- \$200 OFF 8-DAY SESSION
- \$300 OFF ALL OTHER SESSIONS
- SAVE ANOTHER \$700-\$1000 WITH OHC GRANT
- TAVOR SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORT AVAILABLE
- CHECK WEBSITE FOR DATES

NOT READY FOR SLEEPAWAY?

**TRY CAMP TAVOR'S FAMILY CAMP
FRIDAY, AUG. 8TH-10TH
\$75 PER ADULT - KIDS UNDER 12 FREE**



WWW.CAMPTAVOR.ORG

RANDY@CAMPTAVOR.ORG



269-215-1399

April Celebrations

The Congregation of Moses wishes **mazel tov and yom huledet sameach** to our members and friends 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 - Special birthday!
April 19	Charlotte Mary-Ellen Weston
April 20	Susan Scheinker
April 22	Rachel Haus
April 23	Michael Tenenbaum
April 26	Alvin Rosenthal
April 27	Hy Tuchman



April Anniversaries

April 1	Wendy & Mel Hyman
April 4	Judith & Leonard Poger
April 28	Alice & Stephen Koss
April 28	Sandra & Brett Snyder



Yahrzeits

April 5-11 (7-13 Nissan)

Alfred Blum*	Evelyn Munsch	Max Stulberg*
Rebekka Buchman*	Larry Rose*	Frank Szopo III*
Berl Kanofsky*	Aaron S. Schwartz*	Abe Zimmerman*
Morris Kirsch*	Miriam Bressen Solomon	
Nathan Minsley	Rose Sternfield*	

April 12-18 (14-20 Nissan)

Cy Beer*	Joseph Marks*	Esther Schechter*
Hannah Beilis	Belle Minsley	Mildred Sternfield*
Isadore Friedman*	Molly Olinik Okun*	
Ruth Anne Lando*	Regina Ruta*	

April 19-25 (21-27 Nissan)

Dr. Bert Bez	Alfred Hadesman*	Nathalie Morrison*
Nathan Boris*	Sam Halpert*	Pauline Rosenthal*
Bella Camhi	Hannah C. Hoffman*	Margot Salomon*
Alan Cohen	Doris Ofsa Kohn	Esther Slavin*
Harrison Goldstein*	Jack Kushner*	
Sidney Gubin*	Ruth Marcus	

April 26-May 2 (28 Nissan - 4 Iyar)

Ann Boudrie Basile	Martin Fisher	Joseph Schensul*
Ann Block	Rose G. Fisher*	Jacob Seeder*
Celia Davidoff*	William Miller	Kate Stein*
Abraham Epstein*	Trina Reingold*	Dana Wardlaw

**Denotes a memorial plaque in the synagogue*

*Now you can find all yahrzeits listed on the CoM website for the current week, as well as the entire year.
Search your yahrzeit name and date anytime by visiting this page: congregationofmoses.org/yahrzeits*