



# CoM newsletter

CONGREGATION OF MOSES • Kalamazoo, Michigan

Volume 18 Issue 6  
June 2025 5 Sivan - 4 Tammuz 5785

## Fight Antisemitism - Let's Work for Peace

I have been profoundly moved by the statements put out by the Conservative, Reform and Reconstructionist Movements in response to the killings in D.C. Below is what I read on Shabbat right after it happened, drawing almost entirely on the statements by the movements. I offer this statement and a poem by Rabbi Mordechai Rackover as a balm for these times.

We are filled with profound sadness, tremendous anger, outrage and vulnerability as we grieve the loss of Yaron Lischinsky and Sarah Lynn Milgrim. Both worked for the Israeli embassy and committed themselves to supporting Zionism, the Jewish State and the Jewish people. That they were murdered outside Washington's DC Capitol Jewish Museum shakes us to the core.



*Rabbi Shelley Goldman*

An assassination on American soil outside a Jewish communal event is an act of base antisemitism that is irredeemably destructive. A path to a more just world requires a steadfast commitment to seeing each other's humanity and building bridges, not hate and violence.

May Sarah and Yaron's memories be a blessing and may their loved ones find comfort. May we all work to end antisemitism here and around the world, fight against terrorism everywhere and exert ourselves to bring peace.

## Rabbi Goldman

### A Prayer for Light in Times of Darkness by Rabbi Mordechai Rackover, adapted

*Yotzer Or*, Creator of Light, Blessed Holy One, we stand before You, on Shabbat, a day of light.

*Rahaman*, Merciful One, we stand at the end of another week of heartbreak and violence.

*Shekhinah*, Sacred Presence, we stand surrounded by You, as our enemies seek to harm us.

*Somekh Noflim*, Supporter of the Fallen, we call You to bring comfort to the families of those who were cruelly struck down in a land of freedom.

*Matir Assurim*, Freer of Captives, we call You to bring our family members home.

*(continued)*

## 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@ihsdist.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.

*Rofeh Holim*, Healer of the Sick, we call You to repair the bodies and souls of the injured in the ongoing conflict.

*El Roi*, God my Shepherd, protect us and all Your people Israel from danger and those who would lift their hand against us.

*Adonai Tzidkenu*, God of Justice, do Your work in Israel and worldwide to raise the weak and bring down the wicked.

*Noten Lehem La'reyvim*, God who feeds the hungry, end the pain and suffering of the innocent.

*Shomer Israel*, Guardian of Israel, bring an end to the violence that has consumed our people as we seek to live freely in our land.

*Oseh Shalom*, Maker of Peace, bring lasting peace to Israel so that we may live together with our neighbors in security and hope.

*Or Kadmon*, Primordial Light, as the light of creation pierced the void, we pray that the light of Shabbat will enlighten our hearts and that it will penetrate the souls of those who seek to harm us so that they, too, may live in light and hope.

Find this prayer online: [www.exploringjudaism.org/every-day/prayer/personal-prayer/a-prayer-for-light-in-times-of-darkness/](http://www.exploringjudaism.org/every-day/prayer/personal-prayer/a-prayer-for-light-in-times-of-darkness/)



# COM OFFICE HOURS

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



# Services and Events Calendar

Sunday, June 1	2:00 pm	Community Shavuot Celebration and Learning at TBI	
Monday, June 2	9:30 am	Shavuot Morning Services with Yizkor at CoM	
Tuesday, June 3		Shavuot II at home; CoM closed	
Wednesday, June 4	7:00 pm	Mussar group at CoM	
Friday, June 6	8:58 pm	Shabbat candle lighting time	
Saturday, June 7	10:00 am	Bar Mitzvah: Community Services at TBI	Torah: Numbers 7:1-7:89 Haftarah: Judges 13:2-25
		Kiddish hosts	Lando/Fisher
Wednesday, June 11	7:00 pm	Kitchen Committee Meeting	
Thursday, June 12	7:00 pm	Movie night at CoM "Hollywood: An Empire of Their Own"	
Friday, June 13	9:02 pm	Shabbat candle lighting time	
Saturday, June 14	9:30 am	Shabbat Shacharit Services at CoM	Torah: Numbers 10:35-12:16 Haftarah: Zechariah 2:14-4:7
		Kiddish hosts	Whitney & Rob Weiner/Serlin-Zukowski
Wednesday, June 18	7:00 pm	Oversight Board Meeting	
Thursday, June 19		CoM Office closed for Juneteenth	
Friday, June 20	6:00 pm	Todah Rabah! Special Shabbat Dinner to Honor a Group of CoM Members	
Friday, June 20	9:04 pm	Shabbat candle lighting time	
Saturday, June 21	10:00 am	Group Adult B-Mitzvah: Community Services at TBI	Torah: Numbers 15:8-41 Haftarah: Joshua 2:1-24
		Kiddish hosts	Brown/Verne
Thursday, June 26	7:00 pm	Book Club at TBI	
Saturday, June 28	9:30 am	Shabbat Shacharit Services at CoM	Torah: Numbers 17:25-18:32 Haftarah: I Samuel 11:14-12:22
		Kiddish hosts	Eisenberg/Goldenthal

## 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, 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](mailto:hausjeff@yahoo.com)

Andrea Johnson - [redhead5318@gmail.com](mailto:redhead5318@gmail.com)

Charlie Ofstein - call (269) 330-1866

Thank you!

## Shavuot Celebration

Sunday, June 1st at TBI

2:00 PM – 6:00 PM

2:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Free Red Trike Ice Cream & Games

3:00 PM

The Jewish Stake in Democracy in the USA

with Rabbi Goldman

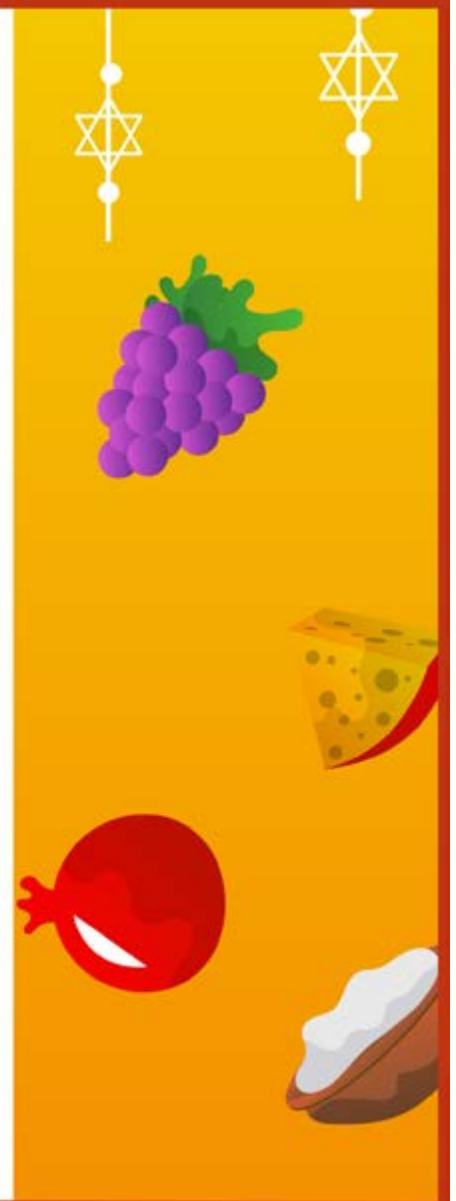
4:00 PM

The Curious Persistence of the Ten  
Commandments with Michael Tanoff

5:00 PM

Women and Sacred Space with Rabbi Schicker

Congregation  
of Moses



## Shavuot Morning Services with Yizkor

Monday, June 2 at Congregation of Moses, beginning at 9:30 am



## SHABBAT DINNER TO HONOR A SPECIAL GROUP OF MEMBERS

**Friday, June 20 at 6:00 pm**

**Our volunteers are the heart and soul of everything we do.**

They give their time, energy and compassion to make a difference in the Congregation of Moses—often without expecting anything in return. Now, it's our turn to give back.

"Todah Rabah" is the Hebrew phrase for "Thank you very much," an expression of deep gratitude and appreciation.

We're hosting a special Volunteer Recognition Event to honor these everyday heroes and we hope you will join us to make it an unforgettable evening. We will share a delicious vegetarian Shabbat dinner, provided by Martini's of Kalamazoo. Shabbat services will follow, where we will hear stories of our honoree group.

**Please come and recognize the volunteer contributions of Al Rosenthal and Judy Davis-Rosenthal, Lee Klingman and Emily Hoffman, Phil Horwich and Wilma Kahn, Richard and Pat Kirschner.**

This event is the first of an ongoing series that will honor and highlight the many ways in which our members have made our community special.

**Advance signups are required.** Please sign up on the website, [congregationofmoses.org](http://congregationofmoses.org)

Volunteers will be needed to help set up and clean up. If you can help, please let us know by email, [com@congregationofmoses.org](mailto:com@congregationofmoses.org).

# Sad News About A Former CoM Member

Cheryl Isley, a former member, passed away on May 26 after a valiant battle against lung cancer for almost four years. May her memory be for a blessing.

Cheryl's obituary can be found here:

[www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/st-louis-mo/cheryl-isley-12394503](http://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/st-louis-mo/cheryl-isley-12394503)

If you would like to send a card to Cheryl's husband Jon and their family, the address is:  
2585 SE Stonebriar Way  
Stuart, FL 34997

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## Another Phishing Scam

Dear CoM members,

There is another phishing scam afoot. **I will never email you and ask you to buy things**, only communicating via email. If you get such an email, please check the actual email address and not just the "name" field. If it's not from [rabbi@congregationof-moses.org](mailto:rabbi@congregationof-moses.org), it is not from me.

Be sure to verify information contained in an email message by calling the office.

I'm deeply sorry if you have been taken in by this scam.

L'Shalom,  
*Rabbi Goldman*



# The Haus Family Invites You to Celebrate With Them



## Mazal's Grad Party Open House!!!

Friends · Event by Rachel Haus, Jeff Haus

📅 Thursday, June 5, 2025 at 4:30 PM

📍 Mazal's house -- 1414 Highgate Rd, Kalamazoo, MI 49006

Come one, come all to celebrate Mazal's graduation from high school! Games, food, treats, and good times!

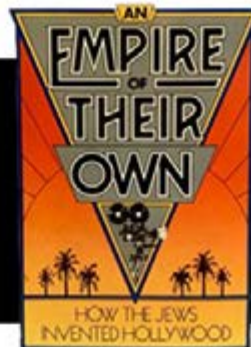
Starting 4:30 until 8:30pm in our backyard -- see you there!

**RSVPs via Facebook are appreciated!**

Congregation of Moses

# MOVIE NIGHT

7:00 PM all dates



## Let's Go to the Movies!

### ***Hollywood, An Empire of their Own, Thursday, June 12, 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 on the Jewish Influence in American popular culture.

### ***Broadway Musicals, A Jewish Legacy, Thursday, July 10, 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 on the topic (and obligations) of the Jews as a gifted people.

Sign up to attend online: [\*\*congregationofmoses.org\*\*](http://congregationofmoses.org)



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

Each member of the CoM community is asked to host a Kiddish 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](mailto:comofficemgr@congregationofmoses.org)

Dennis Means, Religious Activities Committee co-chair

## Kiddish/Shabbat Hosts, June-August 2025

Date	Occasion	Host	Host
Saturday, June 7	Shabbat	<b>Bat Mitzvah: Community Services at TBI</b>	
Saturday, June 14	Shabbat	Whitney & Rob Weiner	Serlin-Zukowski
Friday, June 20	Special Shabbat Services	Rae Lee Howard	Joan "Candi" Levene
Saturday, June 21	Shabbat	<b>Adult B'nai Mitzvah: Community Services at TBI</b>	
Saturday, June 28	Shabbat	Eisenberg	Goldenthal
Saturday, July 5	Shabbat	Marian & Ken Fisher	Jenifer Rubin
Friday, July 11	Friday Services	Kennedy	Fogel
Saturday, July 12	Shabbat	Fischell	Krefman
Saturday, July 19	Shabbat	Schupan	Green
Saturday, July 26	Shabbat	Christy & Tim Howard	Joan "Candi" Levene
Saturday, August 2	Shabbat	Tenenbaum	Kushner
Saturday, August 9	Shabbat	Lando	Greenwald
Saturday, August 16	Shabbat	Hirschfield	Ofstein
Friday, August 22	Friday Services	Oretsky	Nimz
Saturday, August 23	Shabbat	Hoffman/Klingman	Josh & Pam Weiner
Saturday, August 30	Shabbat	Ruterbusch	Verne

**The Marvin and Rosalie Okun Kalamazoo Community Jewish School's school year concluded on Sunday, May 18, marking the start of our summer break.**

The students' final day started with a location change due to storms. Families gathered for breakfast, hosted by the Joint Religious School Committee, followed by an end-of-year celebration. Each student received a Paper Plate Award from their teachers and Rachel Shapiro was honored with the Shana Winter Award. The event wrapped up with students and families singing songs they learned throughout the year, led by Naomi Morse.

As I complete my second year as the Education Director of OKCJS, I want to express my gratitude to the Jewish Community of Kalamazoo for this opportunity. My success is thanks to the dedication and support of several individuals and organizations.

I extend my appreciation to my teaching staff: Emily Warheit, Mazal Haus and Brenna Siskind for PreK/K/Grade 1; Emily Kimmel-Kurtz (KK) for PreK-Grade 3; Cary Mannaberg for Grade 4; Laura Paul and Jen Rubin for Grade 5; Evan Scheinker for Grades 4-7; Rabbi Goldman and Rabbi Schicker for Grades 6 and 7; Naomi Morse for Music; and Rachel Haus for the Library. Teamwork truly makes a difference!

Thank you to the Joint Religious School Committee: Rebecca Tregerman, Brian Horvitz, Karl Schook, Aviva Luciano, Becky Hanson, Jen Rubin and Marcie Brown for your guidance, event planning and valuable time! Our school relies on the support from both the TBI and CoM congregations, the Marvin and Rosalie Okun Foundation, the Jewish Federation of Southwest Michigan and the Shana Winter Fund. Your contributions make all of this possible. Todah Rabah!



*Rachel Shapiro, winner of the Shana Winter Award, with Henry Winter and Rabbi Schicker*

Our Okun School year is now officially on summer break, which means it's time for Camp Keshet, offering students a chance to connect this summer. Those entering 2nd to 7th grade can attend a special three-day camp at Camp Tavor in Three Rivers on July 9th, 10th and 11th (Wednesday to Friday), from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm each day.

For those entering 1st-7th grade, Camp Keshet will be held August 4th-8th and August 11th-15th, running Monday through Friday from 9:30 am to 2:00 pm unless there's a field trip. Kosher lunch and snacks will be provided daily.

Thanks to the generous support from the Marvin and Rosalie Okun Foundation, Camp Keshet will be free for OKCJS students this year. The registration link for Camp Keshet is now live. If you're interested in summer fun, join us! Have a wonderful summer!

**Angie Saltzman, Director**





*PreK-3rd grade class with Director Angie Saltzman*



*PreK-1st grade class with teacher Emily Warheit*



*5th grade class with teachers Jen Rubin (left) and Laura Paul (right)*



*4th grade class with teacher Cary Mannaberg*

*Below, 6th and 7th grade class with Rabbis Goldman and Schicker*

# Paper Plate Awards!



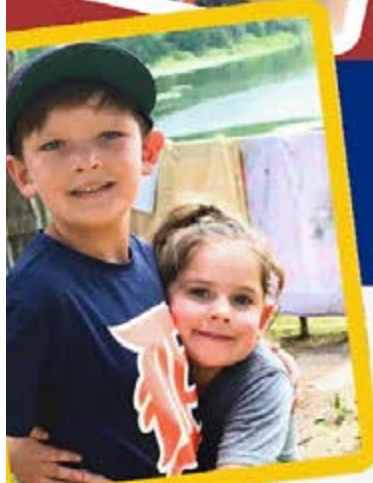




# Camp Keshet



**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**

# Mishpacha

Donations have been made by the following individuals and families.

## In Memory

In memory of our father, Norman B. Marshall, *Debbie & Scott Golan, Ellen & Frank Rondi, Laurie & Jay Josephson and our families*

In memory of my brother, Melvin Poger, *Leonard Poger*

In memory of my mother, Marian Fishell, *Tim Fischell*

## Thank You

Thank you to the members of the CoM for your contributions in memory of Julie, *Mike Northrop*

## **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

# 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@ihsdist.com](mailto:rhoward@ihsdist.com)

**Shirley Wise** 269-330-3103, [goldensmw@sbcglobal.net](mailto:goldensmw@sbcglobal.net)

**Larry Beer** 269-324-0777 home, [lbbkzoo@aol.com](mailto:lbbkzoo@aol.com)

**Rachel Haus** 412-719-4293, [rachelhaus@yahoo.com](mailto:rachelhaus@yahoo.com)

**Patty Conlon** 269-352-6324, [conlonpn@yahoo.com](mailto:conlonpn@yahoo.com)





# June 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](mailto:comofficemgr@congregationofmoses.org).

## June Birthdays

June 2	Ken Goodman
June 2	Joseph Schook
June 4	RosaLynn Pollens
June 10	Micah Kiley Goldman
June 12	Dona Satir
June 13	Alana Harriet Haines Weston
June 15	Larry Beer
June 16	Marvin Berkowitz
June 18	Judith Poger
June 25	Arlen Rubin
June 28	J. Phillip Horwich
June 28	Michael Johnson
June 28	Mike Northrop
June 28	Sandra Snyder
June 29	Natalie Spivak
June 30	Harvey Spivak



## June Anniversaries

June 12	Judy Davis & Al Rosenthal
June 15	Tema & Robert Lando - 50th Anniversary! Mazel tov!
June 29	Genia & Moritz Angel



# Yahrzeits

## June 1-6 (5-10 Sivan)

Joyce Fisher*	Sol Raffel	Janet Rosenberg*
Goldie Fogel	David Rose*	Shalom Friedman Rosenberg*
Myron Freed	Aaron Rosenberg*	Yitzhok Rosenberg*
Jean H. Morrison*	Avraham Rosenberg*	Zipporah Seeder*
Sarah Oshinsky	Dov Bernard Rosenberg*	Mina Blum Seidler*
Mitchell Peven*	Hannah Rachel Marmel Rosenberg*	

## June 7-13 (11-17 Sivan)

David Berkowitz	Irving Lando*	Meyer Turndorf
Ida Kazanovitz	Jack Levene*	Diana Zheutlin*
Rose Lando King*	Harry Okun*	Aron Ziv*
Dora Kirschner*	Gerald Pryweller*	

## June 14-20 (18-24 Sivan)

Ida Becker*	Zelda Handlesman*	Morris Stulberg
Norman D. Bowman*	David Hyman*	Susan Welbourne
Sylvia Goldman*	Norman Kirschner	Marilyn Zheutlin
Moses J. Graff*	Hilde M. Nadelman*	
Murray S. Gubin*	Samuel Schensul*	

## June 21-27 (25 Sivan - 1 Tammuz)

Herman Davidoff*	Elaine Hoffman Lamm	Alfred R. Thea*
Recia Deutsch*	Louis Levene*	Sara Lee Weisman*
Dorothea I. Goldstein*	Louis Rose	Morris Willage*
Pauline Grekin	Yaffa Sasson	
Sadie Hyman*	Gertrude Braufman Stein*	

## June 28-July 4 (2-8 Tammuz)

Ruthe Bernard*	Thelma Lipsitt	Gloria Stein
Izidor Freiwald*	Helen Bayla Perse	Paula Strauss*
Bernice Friedman*	Miriam Roodin*	Siegfried Strauss*
Evelyn "Sunny" Hershbein	Sadye Rosenbaum*	
Pauline Kushner*	Sidney Seyburn*	

*\*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](http://congregationofmoses.org/yahrzeits)*