



CoM newsletter

CONGREGATION OF MOSES • Kalamazoo, Michigan

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THE HEVRA KADDISHA

There is a very important committee within Jewish life: The Hevra Kaddisha. Literally translated, it means the “Holy Society” or the “Holy Friends” but in practice it means the burial society. Specifically, the group of people who make up any Hevra Kaddisha perform a ritual washing of the body and/or provide shmirah or “guarding” of the body from the time of the ritual washing until burial.

Whenever a group of Jewish people moves to a new town, the first institution they create is not a synagogue but rather a cemetery. Our culture is known for our reverent practices around death. In an ever more fast-paced and frenetic world, we Jews are known as those who drop everything when someone dies. When a member of one’s immediate family dies, that is the only thing that matters. We honor the deceased by taking care of their body and caring for their loved ones.



Rabbi Shelley Goldman

Most people are familiar with the Jewish practices of having a burial as soon as possible and sitting shiva after the funeral, with nightly gatherings for one, three or seven days. Lesser known is our practice of taharah or performing a ritual washing of the body. It is an intense, holy and beautiful ceremony. Water is poured over the body and then the met (deceased) is dried and dressed in linen shrouds before being placed in the casket.

Tradition says that members of the Hevra Kaddisha are quiet about their participation, not speaking to others about whom they have helped nor really publicizing their activities at all. In a big and involved Jewish community this works just fine, but in smaller places our modesty around this issue does not serve us well. I continue to advocate that participants should not speak about whom they have helped, but the fact that this ancient ritual is still being practiced today is important to discuss so that we can involve new people in the work.

Largely due to the efforts of Temple member Cary Mannaberg, we have had a Hevra Kaddisha in Kalamazoo for the past few years. We have a small group of women who are on call to perform taharah when the need arises and an even smaller group of men. Tradition dictates that this is a gender-segregated ritual. If the deceased specifically requests otherwise, which does happen, I am flexible on this point. However, in general, while the ceremony is very modest, most people prefer those of their same gender performing it. Each taharah needs five people. Because life always intervenes, it would be best if we had about 30 people trained up and ready to perform this mitzvah, 15 men and 15 women. We need many more men, at this time.

This ritual is not for everyone but if you are at all curious, I encourage you to reach out to our own Al Rosenthal or Cary Mannaberg to discuss it further. Performing taharah is one of the holiest mitzvot, as it is one that can never be repaid directly, it can only be paid forward. In our little Jewish community, we need each person to do their part so that we can continue to live a vibrant Jewish life with all of our customs, rites and rituals.

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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Vice-President Programming

Elissa Cahn, elissa.cahn@gmail.com

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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.



HOT DOG COOKOUT AND MOVIE NIGHT

**Sunday, August 10 at
5:00 pm**

Do you enjoy food? Would you like to watch a light-hearted movie that is appropriate for kids and adults? Then this event is for you!

Join us at CoM starting at 5:00 pm for hot dogs (including vegetarian) and the fixings and enjoy the classic animated movie "An American Tail," beginning at 5:30.



Heads Up, High School Students Entering Their Senior Year!

**If your parents
are members of
the CoM, we
invite you to
apply for the
Andrew Levene
Scholarship.**



A \$500 scholarship is available.

If you would like an application, please call the synagogue office at 342-5463. Applications must be turned in to the synagogue office by September 30, 2025.

Services and Events Calendar

Friday, August 1	8:43 pm	Shabbat candle lighting time	
Saturday, August 2	9:30 am	Shabbat Shacharit Services at CoM	Torah: Deuteronomy 2:31-3:22 Haftarah: Isaiah 1:1-27
		Kiddish hosts	Tenenbaum/Johnson
Sunday, August 3	7:00 pm	Tisha B'Av Observance at CoM	
Tuesday, August 5	7:00 pm	Mussar group meeting	
Friday, August 8	8:34 pm	Shabbat candle lighting time	
Saturday, August 9	9:30 am	Shabbat Shacharit Services at CoM	Torah: Deuteronomy 5:1-6:13 Alt. Haftarah: Isaiah 40:1-8
		Kiddish hosts	Lando/Greenwald
Sunday, August 10	12:00-3:00 pm	Afternoon cookout and movie	
Mon-Fri, August 11-15	All day	Camp Keshet at CoM	
Wednesday, August 13	7:00 pm	Kitchen Use Training Session	
Friday, August 15	8:24 pm	Shabbat candle lighting time	
Saturday, August 16	9:30 am	Shabbat Shacharit Services at CoM	Torah: Deuteronomy 10:12-11:25 Haftarah: Isaiah 49:14-51:3
		Kiddish hosts	Hirschfield/Ofstein
Wednesday, August 20	7:00 pm	Oversight Board Meeting	
Friday, August 22	8:56 pm	Shabbat candle lighting time	
Friday, August 22	7:00 pm	Friday Night Services	
		Oneg hosts	Fischell/Serlin-Zukowski
Saturday, August 23	9:30 am	Shabbat Services and Torah Study	Weekly Torah Portion
		Kiddish hosts	Hoffman & Kahn/Josh & Pam Weiner
Thursday, August 28	7:00 pm	Book Club at TBI	
Friday, August 29	8:02 pm	Shabbat candle lighting time	
Saturday, August 30	9:30 am	Shabbat Services and Torah Study	Torah: Deuteronomy 19:14-21:9 Haftarah: Isaiah 51:12-52:12
		Kiddish hosts	Ruterbusch/Verne

CALLING ALL BAKERS!

Join Us for Our Annual High Holiday Baking Event — Now in Our Refurbished, State-of-the-Art Kosher Kitchen!

We need your help baking delicious pastries for our Erev Rosh Hashanah oneg and Yom Kippur Break-the-Fast. Whether you're an expert or a first-time baker, don't worry about your skill level or the kosher guidelines—our welcoming team will be there to support you, answer questions, and make sure you feel relaxed and at home in the kitchen.

What to expect:

We kindly ask each baker to prepare at least 75 pareve pieces.

All basic baking ingredients will be provided. If your recipe needs specialty items not stocked in the CoM kitchen, simply purchase what you need and submit your receipt for reimbursement.

No need for nerves—just bring your enthusiasm! Our community will ensure you have a joyful, stress-free Jewish cooking experience. Come connect, learn and help make the holidays sweet for everyone.

Watch your weekly email for an online signup form.



November 26, 1957. l-r, Mrs. Ben (Miriam) Brot, Mrs. Louis Brown, and Mrs. Elmer (Molly) Steinberg prepare 1,600 meatballs for the Dec. 8 Sisterhood Buffet Dinner at the Kalamazoo Civic Auditorium

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.

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.**

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

Kiddish/Shabbat Hosts, August & September 2025

Date	Occasion	Host	Host
Saturday, August 2	Shabbat	Cheryl & Mike Tenenbaum	Andrea & Michael Johnson
Saturday, August 9	Shabbat	Cindy & David Greenwald	Tema & Rob Lando
Saturday, August 16	Shabbat	Patty Conlon	Laurel & Charlie Ofstein
Friday, August 22	Friday Services	Anne Fischell	Michelle & Troy Serlin-Zukowski
Saturday, August 23	Shabbat	Emily Hoffman	Lee Klingman
Saturday, August 30	Shabbat	Jill & Rudy Ruterbusch	Jenna & Richard Verne
Saturday, Sept. 6	Shabbat	Stephen & Alice Koss	Michael & Mara Koss-Weston
Friday, Sept. 12	Jonah Weiner's Bar Mitzvah	Dennis Means	-----
Saturday, Sept. 13	Jonah Weiner's Bar Mitzvah	Wilma Kahn	-----
Saturday, Sept. 20	Shabbat	David & Sandra Badt	Bruce & Diane Minsley
Monday, Sept. 22	Erev Rosh Hashanah	RaeLee Howard	Phil Oretsky
Tuesday, Sept. 23	Rosh Hashanah I	Brad Hershbein	-----
Wednesday, Sept. 24	Rosh Hashanah II	Dennis Means	-----
Saturday, Sept. 27	Shabbat	Bruce & Christy Stein	Emily Kimmel-Kurtz
Thursday, Oct. 2	Yom Kippur	Elissa Cahn	

COM OFFICE HOURS

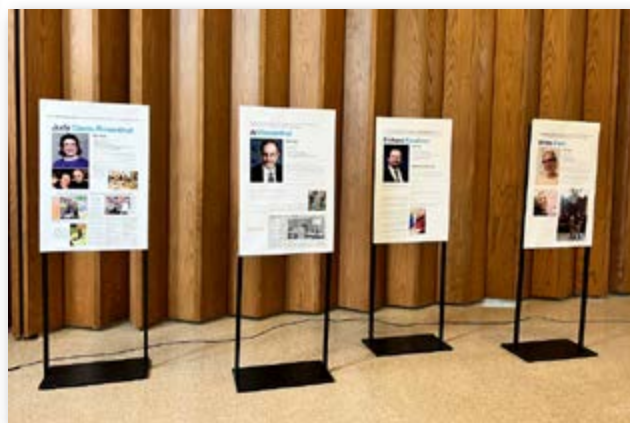
Monday through Friday, 8:30 am – 12:30 pm

תודה רבה! Todah Rabah!



Thank you to all who attended or volunteered for our first Todah Rabah volunteer recognition event in June! Eight members were honored for their long-term volunteerism and service to the Congregation of Moses.

About 50 members and friends enjoyed a Shabbat dinner and services, while learning about the lives and stories of the eight honorees. From left, Pat Kirschner, Richard Kirschner, Emily Hoffman, Lee Klingman, Al Rosenthal, Wilma Kahn and Phil Horwich. Judy Davis-Rosenthal was also honored but unable to attend.





Volunteers Are Needed for a New Project

CoM and TBI have been invited to help launch a Laundry Love site in Kalamazoo!

Laundry Love is a nationwide project in over 310 locations (laundrylove.org). The Laundry Love initiative consists of regular opportunities to work alongside people who are struggling financially by assisting them with their laundry. Laundry Love partners with local laundromats in cleaning clothes and linens of low-income or no-income people and families at no cost.

Laundry Love brightens the lives of thousands of people each month through love, dignity and detergent. In short, Laundry Love is about people coming together.

Laundry Love believes that through the neutral space of a laundromat, every guest and stranger can become a friend. This idea pushes against the labels of “us” and “them” and questions the social, economic and cultural divides that separate people.

So how will it work? It is the goal to have volunteers from the Jewish, Christian and Muslim communities work together on this project. We'll need a minimum of four volunteers to work two to four hours each month. A participating laundromat is being arranged and organizing meetings will be held to review the details. Volunteers will assist participants on-site with laundry logistics at designated times, with schmoozing and snacks also as part of the plan.

This will be a fantastic Tikkun Olam opportunity for our community. The more volunteers we have, the less frequently each volunteer will be needed, so come one, come all. Bring a group of people or a family to volunteer together!

Interested in learning more and volunteering? Watch for a signup link in our weekly email, coming very soon. Thanks!

Mishpacha

Donations have been made by the following individuals and families.

In Memory

In memory of my father, Louis Loeser, *Marjorie Gaynor*

In memory of our mother, Naomi H. Marshall, *Debbie & Scott Golan, Ellen & Frank Rondi, Laurie & Jay Josephson and our families*

In memory of my mother, Helen Tenenbaum, *Michael Tenenbaum*

In memory of my mother, Betty Goodman Krohngold, *Ken Goodman*

In memory of my stepfather, Jacob Krohngold, *Ken Goodman*

In memory of my father, Howard Miller, *Kim Rubin*

In appreciation of Rabbi Goldman, Carolyn and Brad Kennedy, and the team for a beautiful and moving Friday night "Volunteer Appreciation" dinner and service. We were touched and honored.

Pat & Richard Kirschner

Todah Rabah to all those who contributed to CoM funds in honor of my 80th Birthday. You helped to make the day joyful and meaningful.

Pat Kirschner

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

Jewish Federation Fall Kickoff Event- Save the Date

**Sunday, September 7 from 3:00 - 5:00 pm
in the Sofen Room at Congregation of Moses**

Jewish genealogist Leo Cooper will present a follow-up of his presentation from two years ago about tracing Ashkenazi history. This year's presentation will be history of the Sephardic and Ashkenazi connection.

Refreshments will be provided.

For more information contact: Jacob Weintraub, jmw003@aol.com or call 269-808-8765.



The Jewish Federation®
OF KALAMAZOO AND SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN

August Celebrations

The Congregation of Moses wishes **mazal 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.

August Birthdays

August 2	Michael Siegel
August 3	Lyla Savina
August 6	Sabrina Snyder
August 8	Amiel Kiley Goldman
August 8	Elizabeth Siegel
August 11	Patrick Welbourne
August 12	Amelia Schook
August 13	Shane Sarah Riley
August 15	Lori Putman
August 20	Magnus Leidan Riley
August 24	Michelle Angel
August 25	Marilyn Feinberg
August 28	Michael Weston
August 29	Olivia Scheinker



August Anniversaries

August 4	Rabbi Shelley Goldman & Kieran Kiley
August 5	Pnina & Judah Ari-Gur
August 5	Susan & Jeffrey Scheinker
August 8	Cheryl & Mike Tenenbaum
August 11	Joyce & Steve Camhi - 40th Anniversary, Mazal Tov!
August 12	Emily Hoffman & Lee Klingman
August 17	Diane & Harvey Fogel
August 17	Jann & S. David Stulberg
August 22	Rachel & Jeffrey Haus
August 30	Jill & Rudy Ruterbusch



Yahrzeits

August 2-8 (8-14 Av)

Sol Axelrod*	Ida Halpert*	Simon Okun*
Sophie Barkman	Samuel Hoffman	Harriet Rosenbaum*
Sidney Buchsbaum	Marcia Kalb*	Nelson Schupan*
Stacey Cane	Winifred Koss*	Shirley S. Seyburn*
Sara Finkelstein	Mildred Lerman	Leonora Wachtel*
Joseph Hadesman*	Esther Marshall*	Lauren Wolf

August 9-15 (15-21 Av)

Natalie Aaronson	Doris Gotthelf*	Ethel Roodin*
Max Besbris*	Betty Graff*	Rose Rose*
Milton Feinberg*	Ruth Harriet Kaplan*	Phineas Rosenbaum*
Molly Feinberg	Ruth Katz*	Sylvia Weinstein*
Leon B. Friedman	Anna Marks*	Ben Weisman*
Elliot Gluck*	Louis Pollens	

August 16-22 (22-28 Av)

Wilbur Aaronson	Harris Handlesman*	Bertha Rothschild*
Mary Bennison*	Harold Karlin*	Sol Schpok*
Herb Cane	Milton Kirschner*	Nettie Schwartz*
Irving W. Cushner*	Lianne Lando*	Peggy Schwartz*
Jack A. Fisher*	Leon Okun*	Richard Star
Anna Friedman*	Yale Poger	Ilan Stenesh
Marion Raskin Grant	Ephraim Rose*	

August 23-29 (29 Av - 5 Elul)

Aaron J. Bennison*	Steven Laventure*	Esther Tigay Weiner*
Evelyn Berke	Lester M. Richman	Sadie Zimmerman*
Morris Haffenberg*	Gertrude Seeder*	
Rose Handlesman*	Harry B. Sofen*	

August 30-September 5 (6-12 Elul)

Evan Adelman	Sadye R. Goldenberg*	Robert Munsch
Anne Breslow*	Anna Graff*	Fannette Schwartz
Sam Camhi*	Jean Greenwald	Joseph Sichel*
Jerome Gerber*	Jacob Krohngold	

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

*Denotes a memorial plaque in the synagogue