

## **CoM** newsletter

CONGREGATION OF MOSES • Kalamazoo, Michigan

November, 2025

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## OUR TREE RELATIVES

This is the first part of Rabbi Goldman's Kol Nidre Sermon. Stay tuned in the coming months for the rest.

On a beautiful Tuesday last May, the 100-year-old tree in front of our house came crashing down. It fell away from the house and its upper branches destroyed our across-the-street neighbor's hedge. Its massive trunk, wide enough to take three adults to encircle it at its base, blocked the entire street for days. Once the city cleared



it from the road so that cars could drive through, its hulking remains, with exposed root system, sat in front of our house for months.

The loss of this tree is immense. After living here for less than two years, we have lost five of the six mature trees in our yard. Less than a year after we moved in, we had to cut down four trees because they were dead, sick, weak or could not survive the loss of the others. Had they still been standing during the storm that brought terrible tornadoes to Portage, or one of the powerful storms we've had since, one of their limbs could have severely damaged our house. So with the loss of yet another tree, we have only one old, majestic tree left.

This story has moments of hope, moments of beauty. My sons, two and five years old, had gleefully played at the base of this tree, a silver maple, the evening before he fell. They had recently taken to walking up the slight hill of our street with their bikes to zoom down from the driveway of the neighbor on our right to the driveway of the neighbor on our left. When we called them in at dusk, they could not resist zooming a few more times, using the incline at the base of the silver maple to get even more speed. Earlier that day, the day before he fell, Kieran and I had gone to Mulder's Nursery and purchased two trees, an attempt to begin to replace the four we had lost the year before. I am convinced that the giggles, peels of laughter and delight of my sons playing at his base, and our conversations earlier in the day as we walked around our yard discussing exactly where to plant the trees we had just bought, and where to plant others in the years to come, allowed the silver maple to take his leave. He knew that he was leaving the land in good hands. He knew that we would do our best to steward the land not only for ourselves but for the next generation and those who come after that.

Jewish tradition has tremendous reverence for trees. We have comments and stories in the Talmud that assert that trees are the closest living beings to humans. We are instructed to plant trees for the next generation, with the following story:

A young boy witnessing an old man planting a tree stops and asks, "Why are you planting this tree? You will never live to see it full grown." The man responds, "Because people planted trees for me, I will plant trees for others."

Another story, significant because of what it expresses about Jewish theology, states: If you are in the middle of planting a tree when the Messiah arrives, first finish planting the tree, then go greet the Messiah. Before the enlightenment, before the discipline of history was conceived of, all Jews existed in the time between The Revelation, or the moment we received

#### The Oversight Board

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

#### Oversight Board Members

#### President

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The Cold 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.

Torah from Moses on Mt. Sinai, and The Redemption, when the Messiah will come and transform our earthly world into The World To Come.

I have read traditional texts of Hassidic men crying out to God asking, "What is taking you so long?!" But yet the Talmud instructs, if you are planting a tree at just this moment, finish planting. In that moment planting a tree is more important than the Messiah.

## Rabbi Goldman

## Shabbat Hoda'ah

A special thanksgiving dinner

#### Friday, November 14

Services at 6:00 pm · Dinner at 7:00 pm

Join us for a special Shabbat Thanksgiving Dinner! This unique evening offers a chance to pause, reflect and come together as a congregation in meaningful celebration.

Let's light the Shabbat candles, welcome the beauty of tradition and share a festive meal filled with friendship, laughter and gratitude. During the dinner, we'll take time to express thanks for the blessings in our lives—big and small—and honor meaningful moments and relationships that enrich our community.

Bring your family, bring your friends and bring your gratitude as we fill our sanctuary and our hearts with thanksgiving.

Reserve your spot and celebrate Shabbat in the spirit of gratitude! Everyone is welcome, with advance signup.

See the menu and sign up here: congregationofmoses.org





Pleae RSVP online at: **tinyurl.com/TorahScroll200th** or call TBI at 269-342-9170.

### Memorial Service to Remember Janet Heller

Temple B'nai Israel will hold a memorial service for Janet Heller on Tuesday, December 9 at 7:00 pm.

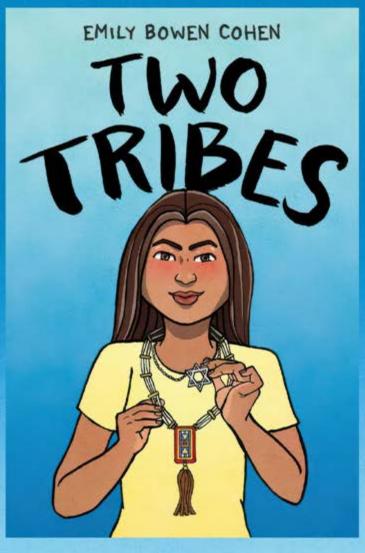
The service will also be livestreamed through the TBI channels, which will be announced in advance.

Condolence cards and/or memorial donations may be sent to Janet's husband: Michael Krischer 2719 Pfitzer Avenue Portage, MI 49024

# Coming to the Fisher Library Nov. 2

"The story is well crafted, with Jewish and Muscogee beliefs integrated to great effect and art that enhances the text. A powerful graphic novel about honoring every part of our identity."

— Kirkus Reviews





Emily Bowen Cohen creates comics that explore intersectional identity. She is Jewish and a member of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. She uses personal experience to tell stories that examine contemporary American and Jewish culture. Emily grew up in rural Oklahoma. Her father was the Chief of Staff at their tribal hospital and her mother is a nice Jewish girl from New Jersey. After her father's early death, Emily was separated from her Native family. A decade later, she returned to Oklahoma for a bittersweet homecoming.

Emily drew on her personal experiences to create her debut graphic novel, *Two Tribes*, published by HarperCollins. The book has garnered many reviews and honors since publication in August 2023, Awards include: YALSA Great Graphic Novels for Teens, School Library Journal Best Books of 2023, a finalist for the National Jewish Book Award, and American Indians in Children's Literature (AICL) Best Books of 2023. She has spoken at numerous schools, from elementary through college and was the keynote speaker for Jewish American Heritage Month at the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Please note: You must be registered to attend this event. Click on the image to sign up or visit the CoM website.

## **Services and Events Calendar**

Saturday, November 1	9:30 am	Shabbat Services	Torah: Genesis 12:1-13:18 Haftarah: Isaiah 40:27-41:16
		Kiddush hosts	Haus/Krefman
Sunday, November 2	9:00 am	Okun Kalamazoo Community Jewish S	
Sunday, November 2	9:30 pm	Emily Bowen Cohen, author of Two Trib	·
Wednesday, November 5	4:30 pm	OKCIS classes at TBI	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,
Wednesday, November 5	7:00 pm	Mussar group	
Friday, November 7	5:10 pm	Shabbat candle lighting time	
Friday, November 7	7:00 pm	200-year-old Torah Celebration and Scholar-in-Residence <b>at TBI</b>	
Saturday, November 8	10:00 am	Services at TBI with Scholar-in-Resider	
,			Torah: Genesis 18:1-18:33
			Seph Haftarah: II Kings 4:8-17
Sunday, November 9	9:00 am	OKCJS classes	
Wednesday, November 12	7:00 pm	RAC Meeting	
Friday, November 14	5:03 pm	Shabbat candle lighting time	
Friday, November 14	6:00 pm-Dinner	Community Dinner at CoM with Shabbat Services following,	
	7:00 pm-Services	hosted by Robyn Levene and Rae Lee	: Howard
Saturday, November 15	9:30 am	Shabbat Services and Torah Study	
		Kiddush hosts	Johnson/Strauss
Sunday, November 16	9:00 am	OKCJS classes	
Sunday, November 16	1:30 pm	Connecting Chords Concert, featuring	g Sarah Aroeste, at CoM
Wednesday, November 19	4:30 pm	OKCJS classes at TBI	
Wednesday, November 19	7:00 pm	OvB Meeting	
Friday, November 21	4:57 pm	Shabbat candle lighting time	
Friday, November 21	6:00 pm	Student-led Shabbat Services and Din	ner at TBI
Saturday, November 22	9:30 am	Shabbat Services	Torah: Genesis 25:19-26:22
			Haftarah: Malachi 1:1-2:7
		Kiddush hosts	D. Davidoff/Tenenbaum
Sunday, November 23	9:00 am	OKCJS classes	
Thurs & Fri, November 27 & 28		CoM Closed for Thanksgiving holiday	
Friday, November 28	4:54 pm	Shabbat candle lighting time	
Saturday, November 29	9:30 am	Shabbat Services	Torah: Genesis 28:10-30:13
			Haftara: Hosea 11:7-12:12
		Kiddush hosts	Camhi/Beer

### Sarah Aroeste

## Sunday, November 16 at 1:30 PM Congregation of Moses

Inspired by her family's Sephardic roots in Greece and Macedonia, **Sarah Aroeste** has spent the last 15 years bringing her contemporary style of original and traditional Ladino music to audiences around the world.

Sarah writes and sings in Ladino, the Judeo-Spanish dialect which originated from Spanish Jews after their expulsion from Spain in 1492.

American born, she has worked tirelessly to keep Ladino music alive for a new generation. Her style, whether with her original music or with interpreting Ladino folk repertoire, combines traditional Mediterranean Sephardic sounds with contemporary influences such as rock, pop, electronica and jazz.

#### Tickets at <u>connectingchordsfestival.com</u>





We kicked off the school year with an Open House on Sunday, September 7. Jonah Weiner celebrated his Bar Mitzvah the following Saturday, September 13. Mazal Tov to Jonah and the entire Weiner family! This celebration set the perfect tone for our first day of school on Sunday, September 14th, welcoming students from Pre-K through grade 7.



Our learning continued with a Rosh Hashanah family service at CoM and a Yom Kippur family service at TBI, along with two Sukkot events that brought our Jewish community together outdoors to enjoy the fantastic weather this year. The enthusiasm for learning remained strong with the Great Lakes Brass band during the Simchat Torah celebration, accompanied by a Taco Bar potluck, hosted by the Religious School Committee. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed food and participated, making it a memorable event for the kids as they shared in the joy of the Torah!

As if that weren't enough excitement, we also had the privilege of celebrating another classmate's Bar Mitzvah. Carter Hanson marked his big day on Saturday, October 25. Mazal Tov to Carter and the entire Hanson family!

Currently, we have 33 students enrolled from Pre-K to 7th grade, and our staff this year is outstanding. Our 6th and 7th graders work with both Rabbi Goldman and Rabbi Schicker, immersing themselves in prayer study and preparing for their Torah readings. The 4th and 5th graders learn from Jenifer Rubin, Isaac Rubin, Cary Mannaberg and Asher Saltzman on Wednesdays and Sundays, practicing prayers and exploring Judaism.

Students in PreK through 3rd grade enjoy Sundays with Aaliyah Smith, Anna Saltzman, Evan Sheinker and Angie Saltzman, participating in activities that bring Torah stories to life, along with crafts to reinforce the aleph bet. Rachel Haus shares her passion for Jewish literature during Sunday sessions. You might also catch Abram Wasser leading a basketball activity with a Jewish twist—like Rosh Hashanah ball, where players "dunk the apple" (basketball) into the "honey" (hoop) for a sweet year ahead. Or Lucas Ofstein, using his guitar to lead students in songs and prayer practice.

Mark your calendars: the OKCJS students will lead services at TBI on November 21, during our first student-led service of the year, followed by a baked potato bar dinner.

It's not too late to join us! Second semester begins on January 7, 2026. Sign up using the registration link for the OKCJS 5786 school year, below.

#### https://forms.gle/VEi3BHUqlinDyYEZ8

Shalom,

Angie Saltzman





## Get Ready for the Hanukkah Market Calling all artists, craftspeople and makers!

Would you like to sell your handmade goods at the CoM/TBI Hanukkah Market? Consider getting a table space to display and sell your work! Table fee is \$15 and you keep what you earn from your sales. Any type of craftworks are welcome, including food items (no meat, pork or shellfish).

Sunday, December 7, 9:00 am - 12:30 pm at CoM

### Gift Wrapping Supplies Needed for the Hanukkah Market

The Hanukkah Market will once again have a gift wrapping station. Any type of gift wrap, ribbons, bows, gift bags and tape that you can contribute would be appreciated.

There will be a drop box at TBI (in the hall) and CoM (near the office) where you can put donations. Thank you!



to benefit the Okun Kalamazoo Community Jewish School

## Food+Hanukkah Gifts+ Hanukkah Supplies+Art

Sunday, December 7 9:00 am - 12:30 pm at the Congregation of Moses



Jointly sponsored by Temple B'nai Israel and Congregation of Moses

## Get Ready to Sing!

Community Hanukkah Celebration

Featuring Chicago Acapella Group, Listen Up!

Sunday, December 14 3:00 - 5:00 pm at CoM

#### You haven't heard anything quite like this.

Powerful harmonies and percussion that you can feel in your kishkes. When you close your eyes, you'll hear the whole band, from soaring lead vocals to the thundering bass.

The repertoire is drawn from a dizzying array of Jewish and secular genres from Yiddish Swing to the Beatles to Israeli pop. There's something for everyone - like a good kiddush!

Don't expect to sit back and simply watch the show. Listen Up performances are highly interactive with audience involvement and singing, bringing Jewish music to life.

This celebration is funded by the Ravitz Foundation Initiative for Small Michigan Jewish Communities. Thank you!





**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.

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, <u>comofficemgr@congregationofmoses.org</u> Dennis Means, Religious Activities Committee co-chair

Kiddush/Shabbat Hosts, November/December 2025				
Date	Occasion	Host	Host	
Saturday, November 1	Shabbat Kiddush	Lori & Steven Krefman	Rachel & Jeff Haus	
Saturday, November 8	Shabbat Kiddush	At TBI		
Friday, November 14	Shabbat Dinner	Robyn Levene	Rae Lee Howard	
Saturday, November 15	Shabbat Kiddush	Rebecca & Adam Strauss	Andrea & Michael Johnson	
Saturday, November 22	Shabbat Kiddush	Denise Davidoff	Cheryl & Mike Tenenbaum	
Saturday, November 29	Shabbat Kiddush	Joyce & Steve Camhi	Larry & Cindy Beer	
Saturday, December 6	Shabbat Kiddush	Cindy & David Greenwald	Maxine & Neal Berke	
Saturday, December 13	Shabbat Kiddush	Phil Oretsky	Dennis & Linda Means	
Friday, December 19	Shabbat Dinner	Gerry & Lee Tregerman	Michelle Angel	
Saturday, December 20	Shabbat Kiddush	Allison & Adam Weiner	Whitney & Rob Weiner	
Saturday, December 27	Shabbat Kiddush	Shane Riley	Jenna & Richard Verne	

Etz Chaim Endowment Fund Sustains Our Synagogue Into the Future

Thirty years ago, the Congregation of Moses established its **Etz Chaim Endowment Fund** to support the current and future needs of the Congregation of Moses. Endowed funds provide significant support to the synagogue year-after-year.

We are forever grateful to the 46 generous and thoughtful families, listed below, who have made gifts. Our congregation benefits yearly from their support as we meet today's financial challenges.

This coming year, please consider joining in this long-term, continuing support of our Jewish community. These gifts secure religious, educational and social needs – now and beyond our lifetimes.



For more information on how gifts can be made, please call or email the synagogue office at 342-5463 or **comofficemgr@congregationofmoses.org**. Thanks for considering this opportunity to ensure our synagogue's future.

#### **LEADING GIFTS**

Rosalie and Marvin Okun Celia and David Davidoff Shirley and Robert Grekin Beatrice and Werner Sichel Annelise and Louis Loeser RaeLee and Mac Howard

#### **MAJOR GIFTS**

Gloria and Stanley Besbris
Nan and Ed Goldenthal
Rosalie and Sam Halpert
Rachel and Edgar Inselberg
Marcia F. and Martin H. Kalb
Robyn and Scott Levene
Tamara and Earl Norman
Kim and Arlen Rubin
Elizabeth and Donald Thall
Ida and Sadie Zimmerman
Naomi and Norman Marshall

#### **ADDITIONAL GIFTS**

Leslie Davis
Ruby and Eugene Field
Mollie and Haym Kruglak
Marcia and Michael Liepman
Sandra and Lawrence Rose
Christy and Bruce Stein
Susan and Patrick Welbourne

Irving Schensul
Marian and Ken Fisher
Dorothy and Jack Levene
Joshua Weiner
Ben Gubin
Tema and Rob Lando

Anne Arbetter Fischell
Sallie and Ken Goodman
Dona Satir
Margaret and Jehiel Israelson
Patricia and Richard Kirschner
Helen Levy
Judy Davis and Al Rosenthal
Sue and Morris Stulberg
Shirley Wise and Frank Szopo
Sylvia and Fred Blum

Marilyn and Arthur Feinberg Betty and Joe Hirschfield Fred Libin Joy and Irving Rappaport Natalie and Harvey Spivak Esther Stulberg

## You Give, Then The Colef Fund Gives. Double Your Donation at No Extra Cost!

Your gifts to our community are needed more than ever in these times of diminishing services to needy individuals and families. As you plan your Tzedakah giving, the Colef Fund is ready to match your donations, dollar for dollar up to \$250 per year, making your gift worth twice as much.

In Kalamazoo for example, **Loaves and Fishes** collects and distributes food so that hundreds of struggling families can have nutritious meals. The **YWCA** provides safe and nurturing daycare, early childhood education and emergency shelter for women escaping abuse. **Community Homeworks** teaches skills to homeowners, lends the necessary tools and helps make repairs that keep families safe and in their homes. In Israel, **The Jewish Agency for Israel** is giving immedi-



Independence. Dignity. Self-determination.

ate and long-term support to victims of terror-helping them heal, rebuild and find hope again.

These organizations are on the front lines, changing lives every single day. And these are just a few of many, many dedicated nonprofits working to make life better for people in need.

#### Want your donation doubled? Here are the three simple steps.

- I. Choose the organization(s) you want to help from the list on the Colef Fund website, coleffund.org
- 2. Make your gift.
- 3. Tell the Colef Fund about your gift and we'll match it.

It's so easy. You give, then we give.

### Since 2019, the Colef Fund has matched nearly \$55,000 of donations from our Jewish community to nonprofit organizations in Kalamazoo and beyond. We want to give more!

Make a gift to your favorite nonprofit from the list on our website, send us a copy or photo of your check, or your online donor confirmation, and we will match your gift (up to \$250) to that same organization! It's that simple.



Donations have been made by the following individuals and families.

#### Mazal Tov to Pnina Ari-Gur, recipient of WMU's Global Engagement Award

Judy Davis & Al Rosenthal, Gary Adelman, Michelle Angel, Sallie & Ken Goodman, Judah Ari-Gur, Cindy & Larry Beer, Maxine & Neal Berke, Rae Lee Howard, Valerie Eisenberg, The Fischell Family, Diane & Harvey Fogel, Beth & Stephen Grode, Wilma Kahn & Phil Horwich, Shirley Wise, Rabbi Shelley Goldman & Kieran Kiley, Diane & Bruce Minsley, The Ruterbusch Family, Judy & Lowell Seyburn, Joanne Simon

#### Mazal Tov to Arthur Feinberg, celebrating a milestone birthday

Judy Davis & Al Rosenthal, Gary Adelman, Michelle Angel, Sallie & Ken Goodman, Pnina & Judah Ari-Gur, Cindy & Larry Beer, Maxine & Neal Berke, Rae Lee Howard, Valerie Eisenberg, The Fischell Family, Diane & Harvey Fogel, Beth & Stephen Grode, Wilma Kahn & Phil Horwich, Shirley Wise, Rabbi Shelley Goldman & Kieran Kiley, Diane & Bruce Minsley, The Ruterbusch Family, Judy & Lowell Seyburn, Joanne Simon

#### **In Memory**

In memory of my father, Robert Goodman, *Ken Goodman*In memory of my mother, Betty Goodman Krohngold, *Ken Goodman*In memory of my father, Jonas Adelman, *Gary Adelman*In memory of my mother, Nell Gluck, *Sherril Dettloff*In memory of my father, Elliot Gluck, *Sherril Dettloff* 

#### In Honor

In honor of Pnina's Western Michigan University Global Engagement Award, *Judah Ari-Gur* In honor of Jonah Weiner's bar mitzvah, *Gillian Thommes* 

#### 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

Thanks to everyone who offered support, assistance and well-wishes to our family as we recently celebrated Jonah's Bar Mitzvah. We are especially grateful to those who were able to attend and spend the day with us. We feel fortunate to have such an embracing Jewish community here in Kalamazoo.

Warmly,
Allison & Adam Weiner

## November 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**.

## November Birthdays

November 5 Michael Rocklin November 8 Rudy Ruterbusch

November 9 Arthur Feinberg - Special Birthday!

November 9 Montana Thommes November 11 Joan (Candi) Levene

November 11 Naomi Verne November 14 Nava Haus November 18 Tema Lando November 18 Darlene Wolf

November 20

November 21 Troy Zukowski-Serlin November 29 Rebecca Gourwitz November 29 Joseph Hirschfield

Jenna Verne

November 29 Paul Solomon



## November Anniversaries

November 9 Jenna & Richard Verne November 23 Judy & Lowell Seyburn November 24 Tamis & Gary Kushner



## **Yahrzeits**

#### November 1-7 (10-16 Heshvan)

David BeckerBen Halpert\*Solomon Schwartz\*Frank Brot\*Fayga Hyman\*Elijah Seeder\*Tillie Columpus\*Tillie Kalb\*Maurice Shinberg\*Morris Dinerman\*Frieda H. Levene\*James StraussHerman B. FineBernice Mindel\*Bernard Willage\*

#### November 8-14 (17-23 Heshvan)

Sylvia S. Badt\* Manuel M. Konigsberg\* Milton Ruden

Maurice Garson\* Daniel C. Pieler Eva Stein\*

Nathan Heckman\* Joe Pollens

Albert W. Knapp\* Jerrold M. Raffel\*

#### November 15-21 (24 Heshvan - I Kislev)

Israel Blasky\* William Haus Abraham Schwartz
Miriam Brot\* Sheila Kaufman Bernice Selcow

J. Carol Fisher Eyges Ruth LaVene\* Rabbi Abraham Tuchman\*

Lucy Anna Feinberg Meyer Reingold\* Sophia Willage\*

Agnes Halpert\* Francis Rosenbaum\*

#### November 22-28 (2-8 Kislev)

Arthur Cohen\* Ralph Lee Kiley Naomi Yehudit Polatof

Leslie Davis Levi Lando Lottie Rapp
Max Fisher\* Susan Levene\* Harold Resnik

Dorothy Fratus Arthur Levi\* Beatrice Lee Rocklin\*

Isadore Goldstein\*Irving Lieberman\*Sherman RoseSeymour D. GreenwaldMiriam Epstein Lieberman\*Beatrice Sichel\*Lilly Greiner\*Martyrs of MilevskoLillian Sofen\*Sam Harris\*Alfred Nadelman\*Abigail Verne

#### November 29 - December 5 (9-15 Kislev)

Robert Darwick

Rebecca Epstein\*

Sheldon Green\*

Shirley Scheinker

Florence Escourt

Jennie Fisher\*

Maurice Rosenthal\*

Shirley Scheinker

Victor Seyburn

Melvin J. Kirschner\*

Samuel Willage\*

Louis Fogel

Barbara Kleinman\*

Ely Zuravel\*

lacob Goldstein\* Andrew H. Levene\*

\*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: <a href="mailto:congregationofmoses.org/yahrzeits">congregationofmoses.org/yahrzeits</a>