

# CONGREGATION SHAAREY ZEDEK

MONTHLY BULLETIN

MARCH 2025

ADAR - NISSAN 5785





# A Letter from Rabbi Bigman



## MARCH 10-MAY 4 WORLD ZIONIST CONGRESS ELECTIONS

### What is the World Zionist Congress?

Established by Theodor Herzl in 1897, the Zionist Congress (as it was originally known) was the legislative body of the Zionist Organization (ZO), a non-governmental entity that promoted Zionism. Today, the two bodies are known respectively as the World Zionist Congress (WZC) and the World Zionist Organization (WZO).

The WZC, also known as the Parliament of the Jewish People, comprises 500 delegates. It enables delegates to exert ideological influence on both Israeli society and the global Jewish agenda, as well as allocate financial and other resources to various organizations -- including the Reform Movement -- in Israel.

The WZC meets in Jerusalem every five years, and the 39th World Zionist Congress is scheduled to meet in Jerusalem in 2025. The elections to determine the size of the various delegations that will attend are scheduled to be held from March 10 to May 4.

### Why your vote matters

Participating in the WZC elections is the only way North American Jews can weigh in democratically about issues in Israel and ensure that the Reform Movement's values and positions are heard in matters of Israeli policy.

The outcome of the WZC election directly impacts our ability to engage in vital advocacy and legal work in Israel. Even in the difficult days since October 7th, our democracy work through the Israel Movement for Reform and Progression Judaism (IMPJ) and the Israel Religious Action Center (IRAC), has proven crucial for Israel's secure and democratic nature and for marginalized individuals within Israeli society.

Due to our success in previous elections:

- We ensured that over \$4,000,000 a year (\$20 million over 5 years) of financial support goes to our movement in Israel, allowing it to significantly expand its reach.
- We appointed key professionals to advance Reform Jewish values within the National Institutions.
- We have passed key resolutions in the World Zionist Organization's policy body for equality, transparency, and pluralism.

In addition, we have joined with Israeli political parties to advocate for societal change to impact the overall safety of Israel and for marginalized individuals including conversion, marriage and divorce, religious pluralism, gender rights, and combating racism.

Our successes include:

- Our fight for LGBTQ+ rights has led to the same-sex partners of fallen soldiers receiving crucial death benefits for the first time.
- Our advocacy for religious pluralism has seen a growing outcry for patrilineal Jews fallen in battle or murdered by terrorists on 10/7 to receive a full Jewish burial inside Jewish cemeteries, rather than being degraded in death and buried outside the fence.
- Our movement's long battle for gender equity in Israel has led to the advancement of women in the IDF (an important pathway to social/economic advancement in Israeli society).

### **What's at stake in this year's election?**

Nothing less than the soul of the State of Israel is at stake in the 2025 WZC election. The ultra-Orthodox and ultra-Nationalist movements are using the levers provided through these institutions – and power gained in the World Zionist Congress elections – to advance their agenda, including:

- Rolling back gains for LGBTQ+ rights, gender equity, and religious pluralism
- Stripping Israeli Reform clergy and communities of their rights and funding
- Advancing policies to weaken the influence of Reform Jews by rejecting our conversions and questioning the authenticity of our children's Jewish identity.
- Allowing the ultra-Orthodox to keep the core curriculum out of their schools, and to advance additional gender segregation in Israeli society.

***Our representation in the WZC helps protect fundamental rights for all Israelis and for Reform Jewish communities. It also prevents extremist factions from implementing policies that oppose our core shared values of democracy, freedom, pluralism, and security.***

### **Who is eligible to vote?**

Voters in the WZC elections must:

- Be 18 years of age
- Self-identify as Jewish
- Live in the United States

Please note that there will be a minimal processing fee for you to vote online. Please watch your e-mail for specific information about how to vote.

[Most of the material in this article was taken from the website of the Association of Reform Zionists of America. Check out its website for more information ([arza.org](http://arza.org)) or go to [vote4reform.org](http://vote4reform.org)]

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Konrad Cukla  
507 S Franklin St, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858  
Email: konrad-cukla@gmail.com  
414-520-8880

## REWARDS PROGRAM



Do you shop at Kroger? Save money on your purchases and help our synagogue, too! Simply login to: [www.krogercommunityrewards.com](http://www.krogercommunityrewards.com) to sign up. You need your Plus card and our congregation's code—84431. A percentage of your purchases will be donated to Shaarey Zedek—at no cost to you. Thank you for your support!

## Prayers of Healing

are sent to:



Brian Dunn  
Marilynn Jones  
Alon Kalay  
Miriam Wheeler  
Carolyn Zohott



## Oneg Sponsors

March 7 – Sarah Reckhow/Matt Grossmann, Christine/Jason Pikstein, Beth Brauer, Shiny/Scott Imberman

March 14 – Mitzi/Steve Goldstein, Celiarose/Ken Varner, Darlene Morgan/Aaron Pollyea

March 21 - Sisterhood

March 28 – Sisterhood

## SAVE THE DATE!

COMMUNITY SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE  
RABBI MICAH STREIFFER

Co-sponsored by Congregation Shaarey Zedek and the Greater Lansing Jewish Federation

Rabbi Micah Streiffer is a Toronto-based rabbi, teacher, and Ph.D. student who is the Founder and Director of LAASOK, a virtual *Beit Midrash* (House of Study) that brings together liberal Jews to engage with our sacred texts, he's also the host of the "Seven-Minute Torah" podcast

Friday, May 4, 7 p.m. — "Is God Really Listening to our Prayers...and Does it Matter??" during *Shabbat* evening worship

Saturday, May 5, time TBD — "Open Up Our Eyes: A Jewish Spiritual Nature Walk and *Havdalah*"

Sunday, May 6, time TBD — "Jewish Parenting By Example"

# PURIM CELEBRATIONS

Join us for the *Purim* Carnival on March 16 from 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Cost is \$15 per child. We have fun prizes and new games this year:

## ARTS AND CRAFTS

BASKETBALL

PIN THE HAT ON HAMAN

GUESS THE CANDY IN THE JAR

COSTUME CONTEST

JAIL

## BOWLING

LOLLIPOP TREE

RING TOSS

EGG RACE

BEAN BAG TOSS



## BE HAPPY, IT'S ADAR! TIME TO CELEBRATE PURIM!

On *Purim* we celebrate by observing four *mitzvot*: hearing *Megillat Esther*, *mishloakh manot* (sending gifts) to our family and friends, eating a special celebratory meal, and participating in *matanot l'evyonim* (gifts for the poor).

We encourage people to bring boxes of pasta or other "noisy" foods to stamp out Haman's name when *Megillat Esther* is read and throughout our days of celebration. This food will be donated to the Greater Lansing Food Bank as our congregation's *matanot l'evyonim*.

Costumes are encouraged at each of the following events:

### Wednesday, March 12

Reading of *Megillat Esther* by our students 5:00 p.m. (open to all)

### Friday, March 14

Dinner 5:15 p.m. (all ages)\*

Shaarey Zedek Live! Worship 6:00 p.m. (all ages)

*Oneg Shabbat* 6:45 p.m. (all ages)

Adult *Purim* Celebration 7:15 p.m. (ages 21+)

### Saturday, March 15

GLTY set-up for carnival 5:00 p.m.

### Sunday, March 16

School 9:30 a.m.

*Purim* Carnival 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

## Religious School Graduation

Please join us on Friday, April 18 at 7:00 p.m. as we honor our student who has continued their Jewish studies through high school.



**GRADUATION OF NOLAN ZATKIN, CHILD OF MATHEW ZATKIN  
AND JENNIFER ZATKIN**

## Post-Passover Pizza & Pasta Party



4790 South Hagadorn  
East Lansing

Please join us as we “break” Passover together by eating pizza and other breaded foods at Pizza House. This Pizza House **FUNdraiser** will be held on April 20. Bring this flyer or mention Shaarey Zedek and 15% of your bill will be donated to the synagogue. (This offer is also good for carry-out and delivery.)

**Sunday, April 20**

(From 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. the back room of the restaurant will be available for Shaarey Zedek members and guests.)

\* Out of respect for our members who observe eight days of Passover, we are holding this event on the eighth day so that all members of our congregation can participate.

## Security Committee Update

The Shaarey Zedek Security Committee meets regularly, collaborating with administration to keep our building secure and our congregants safe.

The Security Committee would like to remind all congregants of the following:

1. If you see something, say something.
2. Do not hold the door for others when you are let into the building.
3. If you have questions or concerns related to security, we want to hear them. Please contact **Amy Shapiro** at [amyjshapiro6@gmail.com](mailto:amyjshapiro6@gmail.com) or 312-841-8653.

A few action items that the Security Committee is working on:

1. Increasing security guard presence at large gatherings.
2. Decreasing entry points during funerals.
3. Ensuring the consistency of visitor vetting procedures
4. Increasing communication to congregants about existing safety measures, security procedures, and upcoming improvements. Let us know how we can help you feel safe! We value your feedback and your membership.

SHAAREY ZEDEK LIVE  
**DINNERS**  
- ARE BACK!-

Dinner 5:15 p.m. Service 6 p.m.  
and *oneg* following.

Adults \$7, kids under 13 are \$5

**Friday, March 14**  
**RSVP by Thursday, March 13**  
using the link below:

**[www.bit.ly/LiveDinners](http://www.bit.ly/LiveDinners)**

*Sponsored by Carol Barrett and Jed Magen*

*If you have any questions, contact Amy Shapiro at  
312-841-8653 or AmyJShapiro6@gmail.com*

16  
MARCH

SUN

5:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

# MARCH *Madness*

SELECTION

SUNDAY

AT CONGREGATION SHAAREY ZEDEK

We will be streaming the Selection Sunday broadcast in the Davis Family Social Hall. Food and beverages will be provided. We will have pizza, chips, dips, and other finger food.



For questions or to  
RSVP, call Carol Barrett  
517.410.0535 or  
[carol@qids.net](mailto:carol@qids.net)

# CONGREGATIONAL SEDER



## JOIN YOUR SHAAREY ZEDEK FAMILY FOR A LIGHT DINNER THE FIRST NIGHT OF PASSOVER Saturday, April 12, 6:00 p.m.

We need volunteers to help prepare, serve, and/or clean up. Please contact Amy Shapiro  
312-841-8653 or [amyjshapiro@yahoo.com](mailto:amyjshapiro@yahoo.com)

*Please make your reservation by Sunday, April 6. Limited to first 100 reservations. No walk-ins, please.*

**\$20 per adult, \$8 per child 6-12, \$0 per child 5 or under**

Mail check, payable to "Shaarey Zedek Sisterhood," to:  
Roslyn Covey, 2320 Sapphire Ln., East Lansing, MI 48823

Questions? Call Roslyn 230-6065

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### SEDER RESERVATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_

No. of adults \$20 x \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

No. of children 6-12 years old \$8 x \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

No. under 6 yrs. \_\_\_\_\_ (No charge)

TOTAL Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

# SYNAGOGUE NEWS

## BIRTHDAYS

1	Madeline Idema
1	Robert Warnke
2	Glenn White
2	Robert Lurie
4	Joseph Wald
6	Giselle Claux Elia
7	Wesley Elder
8	Karen Weinstein
8	Richard Mermelstein
13	Terry Zumberg
14	John Craig
15	Shelia Marquardt
16	Mary Siet
16	Georgia Spivak
19	Carol Beals
21	Mike Woodrow
23	Jonah Kalay
25	Madeline Flaster
26	Paul Jodoin
28	Don Holecek
28	Deborah Gouin
29	Michael Levine
29	Regan Johnson
30	Bernard Finn

## ANNIVERSARIES

20	Jenniffer and Lucas Reaser
22	Jerrold and Sue Weiss
23	James and Mary Danowitz
28	Erik and Karen Shapiro
30	Scott Mandel and Maureen Dyer



יום הולדת שמח!  
(HAPPY BIRTHDAY)



# PRESIDENT'S CORNER

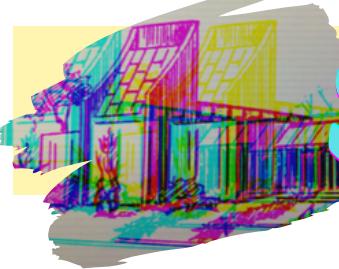
JOANNE GILBERT



Are you feeling stressed, worried, despondent, exhausted, or all of the above? You're not alone! Our congregation has experienced a great deal of change recently, as has our country. Change creates uncertainty, and uncertainty can be frightening. And although in the U.S., we live in a highly individualistic culture, we can learn valuable lessons about the importance of community from collectivist cultures.

Indeed, cultures that emphasize communal connections, prioritizing collective rather than individual goals, teach us that the "we" is more important than the "me." And our tradition obligates us not only to care about our community, but also to think, plan, and act communally. We need each other, and in uncertain times, standing together provides comfort, strength, and resilience. During the dark, cold days of winter, we can collectively bring light to our community. Whether we attend *Shabbat* services, volunteer on committees, or help with specific events, we can each contribute to our *kehila kedosha*, our sacred and cherished community. How do we keep our community strong in these uncertain and challenging times? We show up. We focus on others. We share our concerns and also our gratitude.

I am deeply grateful for the myriad ways each of you enriches our congregational community, one that I hope warms and renews you now and always.



## SZRS Calendar

### March

2 Sun. SZRS  
5 Wed. SZRS

**Friday, March 7**  
**5th/6th Grade Shabbat**

9 Sun. SZRS  

- M-i-T
- Confirmation
- *Kitah Zayin* (7th Grade) trip to Zekelman Holocaust Center

12 Wed. SZRS  

- **MEGILLAH** Reading at 5:00 p.m.

16 Sun. SZRS [ends at 11:00 a.m.]  

- **PURIM** Carnival
- No *Tichon*

19 Wed. SZRS  
23 Sun. NO SZRS  
26 Wed. NO SZRS  
30 Sun. NO SZRS



### April

2 Wed. SZRS  
6 Sun. SZRS  

- M-i-T
- **SZRS Model Seder**

9 Wed. SZRS

**Friday, April 11**  
**3rd/4th Grade Shabbat**

13 Sun. NO SZRS  
16 Wed. SZRS  
20 Sun. SZRS  
23 Wed. SZRS  

- **Yom Hashoah Observance**

27 Sun. SZRS  

- Last day of M-i-T
- Last day of *Tichon*
- Confirmation Rehearsal

30 Wed. SZRS  

- **Yom Hazikaron / Yom Haatzmaut Observance**

### May

4 Sun. SZRS  

- Last day for *Gan* (Pre-K/K) thru 2nd-Graders
- **SZRS End of Year Family Picnic** at 11:00 a.m.
- **Special Scholar-in-Residence Program**

7 Wed. SZRS  
11 Sun. NO SZRS  
14 Wed. SZRS  

- Last day for 3rd-thru 7th-Graders

**5th & 6th Grade Participation Shabbat**

**Friday, March 7 at 7:00 p.m.**



will be read and dramatized by our 3rd-through 7th-graders on Wednesday, March 12 at 5:00 p.m.

## ***Midrash and Mayhem: Adventures in Genesis***

Tuesdays at 8:00 p.m. via Zoom (email Margot for the link)

## **ReJewvenate**

Join us on *Shabbat* morning in the Davis Family Social Hall to nourish your body, mind, and soul on **March 1**.

- 9:15 - 10:00 a.m. Stretching and Movement with Lauren Warshaw
- 10:10 - 11:00 a.m. Prayer and Discussion with Margot Valles
- 11:15 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Creativity and Art with Kelly Feinberg

## **JEWS IN SPORTS**

### **Jesse Goldberg-Strassler**

*The Voice of The Lansing Lugnuts*

Sunday morning  
10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

**MARCH 9**

Please note the  
new date



### **Needle Arts and Nibbles**

#### **Shaarey Zedek Knitting Club**

Schuler Books  
March 2  
2:00 p.m.

## **WEEKLY TORAH STUDY**

Rabbis Amy Bigman and Margot Valles will take turns leading a discussion about the *Parashat Hashavua*, the weekly *Torah* portion. No prior knowledge is required but whatever wisdom you bring will be welcome.

12:00 - 12:40 p.m. Thursdays  
via Zoom (link provided to those who register)

Winter 2024 Shaarey Zedek Adult Education Classes Registration



To Register for weekly Torah study, please fill out this [form](#):  
<https://forms.office.com/r/TWekwsfvSY> (or use the QR code for it above)  
or email [menahelet.margot@shaareyzedek.com](mailto:menahelet.margot@shaareyzedek.com).

# SISTERHOOD NEWS

Sisterhood is accepting camp scholarship requests from March 1 to March 31.

Questions? Please reach out to Mitzi Goldstein at [mitzgoldstein@gmail.com](mailto:mitzgoldstein@gmail.com)



To apply for a scholarship, please complete the online form: <https://bit.ly/417kEnl>



**MARCH 20**  
**12:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.**

You are invited to join us at Buddy's Pizza (2010 W Grand River Ave) on March 20 between 12:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Indulge in mouthwatering delights while supporting Shaarey Zedek Sisterhood as 20% of your orders will be contributed.

**SHAAREY ZEDEK  
SISTERHOOD  
FUNDRAISER**

Remember to tell your server that this is for a fundraiser for Shaarey Zedek Sisterhood.

# STRONGER ♥ TOGETHER

## LANSING JEWISH UNITY LUNCH

Join us for an afternoon of Jewish unity.

All ages welcome - activities will be provided for children.

Catered by Jerusalem Bagel Southfield.

RSVPs encouraged. Please email  
[lansingjewishfederation@gmail.com](mailto:lansingjewishfederation@gmail.com) to ensure enough food  
and seating.

**SUNDAY, MARCH 30, 2025  
I NISSAN 5785**

**12:30 PM - 2:30 PM**

**HANNAH COMMUNITY CENTER  
819 ABBOT ROAD  
EAST LANSING, MI 48823**

SPONSORED BY THE  
MITTLEMAN FAMILY

Chabad Greater Lansing/MSU  
Kehillat Israel  
Greater Lansing Jewish Federation

MSU Hillel  
Shaarey Zedek

# GIFTS, HONORS AND MEMORIALS

Congregation Shaarey Zedek is grateful for your generous contributions to our designated funds. These funds enable the congregation to offer services and programs that would not otherwise be available.

While donations of any amount are most welcome, due to rising costs, a minimum donation of \$18 will be required in order to receive a listing in the "Bulletin" and acknowledgment to a recipient.

This policy applies to these funds:

- Bette Sue Rittman All Children Are Special Fund
- Bubbe Lynn Rycus Beautification Fund
- Building Fund
- Cantor Pamela Schiffer Caring Community Fund
- David and Carroll Kahn Cultural Fund
- Esther and Justin Morrison Fund
- Ethel Wolfe Kitchen Fund
- Henry Fine and Annette Fine Burke Library Fund
- Jerry Cohen Photography Fund
- Joseph & Jeanette Lutvak Fund
- Joseph and Mable Meites Educational Fund
- Landscape Fund
- Planned Giving Fund
- Prayer Book Fund
- Rabbi Morton and Aviva Hoffman Tzedakah Fund
- Robert Goodman Music Fund
- Sophie Radway Memorial PJ Library Fund
- YES Fund

Also included are these funds. Please make separate checks payable to these funds:

- Cemetery Perpetual Care Fund
- Maureen Gladstone Flower and Social Engagement Fund
- Ruth E. Rome Endowed Music Fund
- Florence Rudman Education Fund
- Rabbi's Discretionary Fund
- Shapiro Religious School Endowment Fund
- CSZ Endowment Fund
- L' Dor Vador Fund



## BETTE SUE RITTMAN ALL CHILDREN ARE SPECIAL FUND

In memory of Chuck Rosenthal  
Lee and Nancy Kronenberg

## BUBBE LYNN RYCUS BEAUTIFICATION FUND

In memory of Isadore "Tom" Goodman  
Ethel and John Anthony

## BUILDING FUND

In memory of beloved husband Paul Abramson and beloved mother, Anna Schwartz  
In memory of Lee Abramson  
Janet Abramson

## CEMETERY PERPETUAL CARE FUND

In memory of Abraham Marks  
Sarah Marks

## ESTHER AND JUSTIN MORRISON FUND

In honor of the birthdays of Carol Beals, Madeline Flaster and Bernie Finn  
Esther Morrison

## JEANETTE ABELES SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE FUND

In honor of Miriam Wheeler's recovery  
Judy Minkin

## L' DOR VADOR FUND

In memory of Daniel Goldstein  
Steve and Mitzi Goldstein

## MAUREEN GLADSTONE FLOWER AND SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT FUND

In memory of Maureen Gladstone  
Marvin Gladstone

## RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In memory of Alan Wolfe  
Gail Wolfe

A generous donation was received from Gretchen Smith

# YAHRTZEITS



## March 7

Jean Breslau  
 Edith Adele Cherkinsky  
 Luiz Costa  
 Rabbi Philip Frankel  
 Jeffrey Friedlis  
 Elizabeth Gabin  
 Harry Gittlen  
 Erwin Harvith  
 Charles Kotzin  
 Martha Saunders Kruger  
 Joseph Lutvak  
 Ethel Neiberg  
 Jay Ormos  
 Irving Pfeifer  
 Mary Pollack  
 Marc Polster  
 Pati Ranieri  
 Altamae Rosenthal  
 Sarah Rimar  
 Ronald Rosen  
 Duane Searles  
 Frank Selman  
 Neza "Nickie" Shulman  
 Blanka Papo Srkalovic  
 William Thompson

## March 14

Gerard Abeles  
 Michael Burney  
 George Cohan  
 June Ehrlich  
 Helen M. Fox  
 Samuel Ginsburg  
 Arthur Goodman  
 David Jacob Hull  
 Solomon Lindner  
 Stel Finn Litwack  
 Joanne L. Lunn  
 Gayle Lutvak  
 N. Jeanette Lutvak  
 Anna Norris  
 Saul Rothenberg  
 Bella Ruben  
 Morris Rubin  
 Elmer J. Shapiro  
 Marge Simon  
 Bernard Smookler  
 Anne Varner  
 Morrie Zumberg

## March 21

Chelsea Barker  
 Sarah Berman  
 Edna Rosenberg Cohen  
 Alvin Danowitz  
 Sylvia Harvith  
 Elaine Landay  
 Ruth Magen  
 Monroe Molner  
 Audrey Rubner  
 Yetta Sacks  
 Craig Saper  
 Martin Saper  
 Victor Saper  
 Barbara Schwartz  
 Bernice Schafer  
 Ethel Seaver  
 Milt Seaver  
 Shirleyetta Sernick  
 Rebecca Silverman  
 Harry Smallberg  
 Jacob Stark

## March 28

Harry Abramson  
 William Bass  
 Ida Katz Bloom  
 Harold DeJong  
 Soll Gaynor  
 Morris Goldstein  
 Sylvia Goldstein  
 Joseph Gulvezan  
 Hyman Guttell  
 David A. Hecht  
 Doug Lippincott  
 Phillip Margules  
 Freda Mindell  
 Violet Myrold  
 Patricia Nasser  
 Harry Rimar  
 Dorothy Sieven  
 Joseph Wepman



## MEMORIAL BOARD PLAQUES

Memorialize your loved one and honor their name with a plaque in the Shaarey Zedek sanctuary. Plaques are \$550 and proceeds support the General Fund of the annual budget.



**CONDOLENCES** are sent to  
 The family of Norman Abeles on his death  
 David Kositchek on the death of his brother Jeff Kositchek

Congregation Shaarey Zedek  
1924 Coolidge Road  
East Lansing, MI 48823

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## **Worship Schedule**

Friday, March 7 — *Shabbat* Evening Worship, 7 p.m., led by our Fifth- and Sixth-Graders

Saturday, March 8 -- *Shabbat* Morning Worship, 10 a.m., including the *B'nei Mitzvah* of Kairi Ross

Wednesday, March 12 -- Reading of *Megillat Esther* by our religious school students, 5 p.m. (open to all)

Friday, March 14 — Shaarey Zedek Live! Worship 6 p.m. (all ages)  
*Oneg Shabbat* 6:45 p.m. (all ages)  
Adult *Purim* Celebration 7:15 p.m. (ages 21+)

Friday, March 21 -- *Shabbat* Evening Worship, 7 p.m.

Friday, March 28 -- *Shabbat* Evening Worship, 7 p.m., led by our Sisterhood