

CONGREGATION SHAAREY ZEDEK

MONTHLY BULLETIN

JUNE / JULY 2025

SIVAN - AV 5785



**Reform *Shavuot*/Yizkor
Worship:
Sunday, June 1 at 7 p.m.**



**Conservative *Shavuot*/Yizkor
Worship: Monday, June 2 at
9:30 a.m.**



A Letter from Rabbi Bigman

At our annual meeting in May, we studied a portion from the *Talmud* from tractate *Taanit*, page 7a. It speaks to the benefit of studying Torah with other people rather than alone (see especially the words in bold below):

אמר רבי חמא ברבי חנינא, מאי דכתיב: "בְּרִחַל בְּבִרְחַל יִחַד", לומר לך: מה בְּרִחַל זה — אחד מחדד את חברו, אף שני תלמידי חכמים — מחדדין זה את זה בהלכה

The Gemara cites other expositions that deal with *Torah* study. Rabbi Hama, son of Rabbi Hanina, said: What is the meaning of that which is written: "Iron sharpens iron, so a man sharpens the countenance of his friend" (Proverbs 27:17)? **This verse comes to tell you that just as with these iron implements, one sharpens the other when they are rubbed against each other, so too, when *Torah* scholars study together, they sharpen one another in *halakhah*.**

אמר רבה בר בר חנה: למה נמשלו דברי תורה כאש, שנאמר: "הלא כה דברי כאש נאם ה'", לומר לך: מה אש אינו דולק יחידי, אף דברי תורה אין מתקיימין ביחידי.

Rabba bar bar Hana said: Why are matters of *Torah* compared to fire, as it is stated: "Is not My word like fire, says the Lord" (Jeremiah 23:29)? **To tell you: Just as fire does not ignite in a lone stick of wood but in a pile of kindling, so too, matters of *Torah* are not retained and understood properly by a lone scholar who studies by himself, but by a group of Sages.**

והיינו דאמר רבי יוסי בר חנינא, מאי דכתיב: "חֲרֹב אֶל הַבַּדִּים וְנָאֻ", חרב על שונאיהן של תלמידי חכמים שעוסקין בד בבד בתורה. ולא עוד אלא שמטפשיהו, שנאמר: "וְנָאֻ" וְנָאֻ.

And this is what Rabbi Yosei bar Hanina said: What is the meaning of that which is written: "A sword is upon the boasters [*habaddim*], and they shall become fools [*noalu*]" (Jeremiah 50:36)? This verse can be interpreted homiletically: There is a sword upon the enemies of *Torah* scholars, a euphemism for *Torah* scholars themselves, who sit alone [*bad bevad*] and study *Torah*. And not only that, but **those who study by themselves grow foolish from their solitary *Torah* study**, as it is stated: "And they shall become fools." . . .



A Letter from Rabbi Bigman

אמר רב נחמן בר יצחק: למה נמשלו דברי תורה כעץ, שנאמר: "עץ חיים היא למחזיקים בה", לומר לך: מה עץ קטן מדליק את הגדול, אף תלמידי חכמים קטנים מחזקים את הגדולים.

Rav Nahman bar Yitzhak said: Why are *Torah* matters likened to a tree, as it is stated: "It is a tree of life to them who lay hold upon it" (Proverbs 3:18)? **This verse comes to tell you that just as a small piece of wood can ignite a large piece, so too, minor *Torah* scholars can sharpen great *Torah* scholars and enable them to advance in their studies . . .**

At our annual meeting I commented that studying Jewish texts is best done with others and is one of many opportunities to connect with our Judaism and with each other. At Shaarey Zedek we do so by offering adult education opportunities of different kinds, from beginning to more advanced levels. But there are many other aspects of our lives for which we also need others: saying *Kaddish* (for which a quorum of ten adult Jews is required) as well as celebrating lifecycle events such as baby namings, *B'nei Mitzvah*, Confirmation, religious school graduation, conversion, etc. We also demonstrate our need to connect with others by welcoming our new members during Shaarey Zedek Live! worship with a blessing in front of their new community, their new family at Shaarey Zedek.

When we come together to worship as a community, our worship is enhanced as we join together in song and prayer. When we mourn a loved one or celebrate an important lifecycle event, we need our community. A supportive community makes all the difference.

May our members find this community here at Shaarey Zedek!



Congregation Shaarey Zedek
Family Day! Join us at the
ballpark for Lansing Lugnuts on
Sundays June 29 and August 3.

Congregation Shaarey Zedek will be celebrating **Pride Shabbat** on Friday, June 6 at 7 p.m. Our guest speakers will be Gabriel DeLong and Logan Harding.

MAZAL TOV!

Mazal Tov to Rachel Olds, daughter of Jeff and Shawna Olds, who graduated from Central Michigan University in April.

Prayers of Healing

are sent to:

Art Cherkinsky
Celia Guro
Carol Horowitz
Chuck Johnson
Regan Johnson
Marilynn Jones
Alon Kalay
Kim Roth
Jen Thompson



High Holy Days Honors

The Ritual Committee will reach out with High Holy Days honors. If you already know you would like to receive an honor, please reach out to **Rachel Minkin** or **Kim Roth**.

Rachel's contact information is rkoothis@gmail.com or 599-0780. Kim's cell phone number is 313-443-3334

Oneg Sponsors



June 6 – Cindy/Jay Meyer, Carla/Randy Israel, Lynne/Ken Page
June 13 – Galit Pelled/Assaf Gilad, Sara/Paul Jodoin, Amanda/Steven Idema, Joan Gray
June 20 – Jane/Bernie Finn, Barbara Robinson-Dunn/Brian Dunn, Aaron Dunn, Judith/Paul Zack
June 27 – Jan/Neil Isaacs, Hannah Grisham, Billie Berman, Martha/Alan Bloomfield
July 4 – Sisterhood
July 11 – Mary/Michael Levine, Shannon/Matt Cohen
July 18 – Arina/Don Ferdig, Marilyn Ruben, Jenny Zillins
July 25 – Sisterhood

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

1	Susan Tons
1	Junis Zumberg
5	Elizabeth Campbell-Schrody
5	Mary Levine
6	Amy Shapiro
7	Jan White
7	Linda Adams
8	Maureen Dyer
11	Gail Wolfe
14	Ronald Horowitz
14	Cheryl Wald
15	Sara Jodoin
16	Joanne Gilbert
18	Elissa George
18	Nancy Kronenberg
18	Nina McNamara
19	Lily St. Clair Brown
20	Judith Zack
21	Todd Elder
22	Roger Simon
22	Wesley Ross
26	Dave Thompson
26	Daphne Merryman
26	Ira Ginsburg
28	Susi Greiner
30	Douglas Ruben

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

5	Stephen & Madeline Flaster
13	David & Jennifer Thompson
15	Kenneth & Linda Adams
15	Naomi Glogower & Jonathan Berman
16	Joseph & Cheryl Wald
16	Kenneth & Lynne Page
18	Jed Magen & Carol Barrett
19	Jay & Cindy Meyer
19	Larry & Cathy Sernick
21	Stewart & Debby Flate
23	Alexander & Georgia Spivak
23	David & Jill Mittleman
26	Bradley & Susan Shafer
27	John & Marcia Eulenberg
28	Roger & Randi Simon

JULY BIRTHDAYS

1	Elizabeth Meadows
2	Jed Magen
5	Lisa Bass
5	Jacob Shapiro
5	Gabriel Elia
8	Stewart Flate
8	Kenneth Rudman
9	Anne Kasen
9	Billie Berman
13	Jane Finn
14	Aaron Pollyea
14	Bill Molner
14	Blake Casher
14	Lauren Colton
14	Lucus Reaser
18	B.J. Rycus
20	Terry Selman
22	Arthur Cherkinsky
25	Marilyn Ruben
26	Cindy Meyer
29	Ken Warshaw
29	Perry Parkhurst
30	Dana deMink
30	Stuart Landay

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

8	Doug & Karen Batchelder
16	Kenneth & Mary Marton
18	BJ & Jill Rycus
18	Dany & Ellen Rothfeld
20	David & Suzanne Lowe



We had a great time with our scholar-in-residence, Rabbi Micah Streiffer, on a spiritual nature walk on May 3! Thank you to the Jeanette Abeles Scholar-in-Residence Fund of Shaarey Zedek and the Greater Lansing Jewish Federation for co-sponsoring the entire weekend of events!



REWARDS PROGRAM



Do you shop at Kroger? Save money on your purchases and help our synagogue, too! Simply login to: 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!

Welcoming the Stranger:

How the Jewish Community can
Support Refugees in Lansing

Sunday, June 8th | 1-3pm

Congregation Shaarey Zedek
Social Hall

Sunday, June 8th | 1-3pm

in the Congregation Shaarey Zedek Social Hall

In honor of World Refugee Month, we're collecting school supplies for the Refugee Development Center's educational programs.

Stop by our event to assemble a tote bag of supplies, write a thank you note for the Office of Global Michigan, learn about the work the RDC does for newcomers in Lansing and how you can help, and listen to a talk about the experience of Jewish refugees in the U.S.

This is a drop-in event. Come by when you can and stay for as long as you're able. Times of the talks will be announced.

CONGREGATION
SHAAREY ZEDEK

Congregation
Kehillat Israel



Greater Lansing
JEWISH FEDERATION

OUTDOOR EVENING



Shabbat **WORSHIP**

Friday, July 4 at 6 p.m.

**BRING YOUR PICNIC DINNER AND
JOIN US ON THE EAST LAWN**

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Please join and help us. Volunteers are needed to make this event happen. Please contact Patty Warshaw if you are available to help at patty@shaarezedek.com

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

JOANNE GILBERT

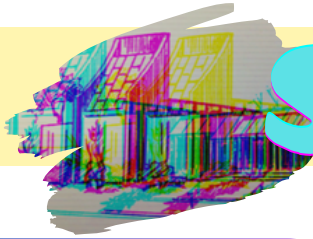


“Obstacles do not block the path, they are the path.” I shared these words recently with one of our students who had just become a *bar mitzvah*. Considered a Zen proverb by many and an updated version of Marcus Aurelius by others, the idea of seeing obstacles as opportunities for growth is invaluable. Our default reaction to an obstacle—whether a literal one which blocks our way like a fallen tree on a trail or a figurative one that threatens our trajectory such as a friend or family member’s disagreement with our perspective—is often to turn away from it, even complain about it. If instead, we figure out how to keep going, however, we will emerge more resilient and resourceful than when we began.

As we bask in summer sunshine, enjoying outside activities and vacations, we can remain mindful that obstacles are opportunities. In our personal and professional lives—our jobs, our relationships, and our communities all provide contexts for encountering and surmounting obstacles. Our congregation is one such context. When we encounter obstacles within our congregational community—whether logistical or relational—remembering that these obstacles do not block the path, but are the path will help us listen to each other, learn from one another, and continue to thrive. Enjoy the longer days of summer, and keep going!



Outdoor *Shabbat* Worship
on Friday, August 22



SZRS News

2025-2026 School Year Information

Registration forms for the 2025-2026 SZRS school year will be emailed out some time in June, along with a tentative calendar and other information.

Thank you so much to the students, staff, volunteers, school committee, and friends of the Shaarey Zedek Religious School for making this year another great year!

Summer Tutoring in Hebrew Available for

Rising 5th, 6th, and 7th Graders



If you or your child is a rising 5th, 6th, or 7th grader who would like to improve her, their or his Hebrew, tutoring will be available weekly in August, with either Rabbi Bigman or *Menahel* Margot. The only cost will be the cost of materials.

Please email Rabbi Bigman or

Margot Valles for more information.



Lifelong Learning News

Midrash and Mayhem: Adventures in Genesis

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

Join us on *Shabbat* morning in the Davis Family Social Hall to nourish your body, mind, and soul on
ReJewvenate
June 7 and August 2 (no July) beginning at 9:15 a.m.

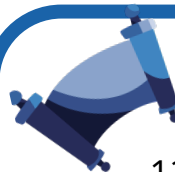
Needle Arts and Nibbles

Shaarey Zedek
Knitting Club



Schuler
Books

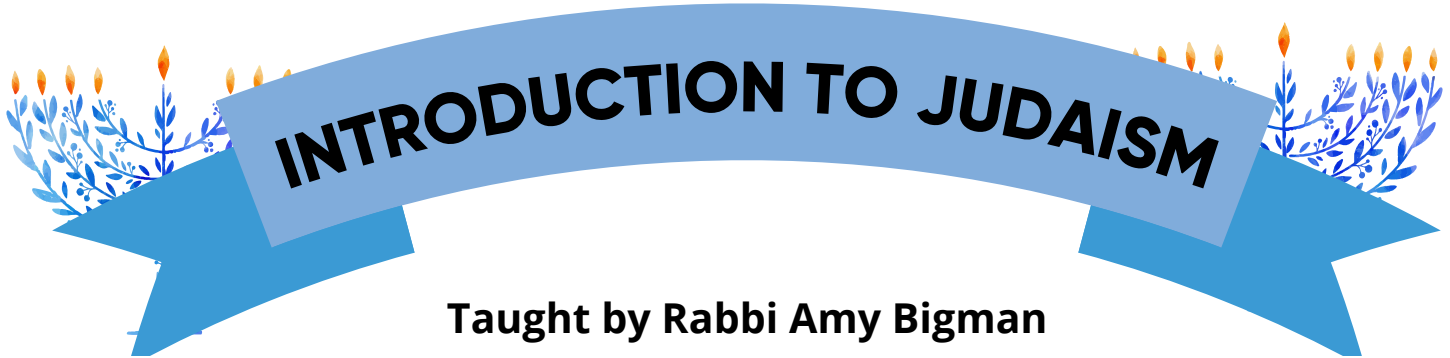
June 1 and July 6 | 2:00 p. m.



WEEKLY TORAH STUDY

12:00 - 12:40 p.m.
Thursdays via Zoom

Please email menahel.margot@shaareyzedek.com
for links or more information about any of these offerings.



INTRODUCTION TO JUDAISM

Taught by Rabbi Amy Bigman

Never had a chance to go to religious school? Or perhaps you've forgotten some of what you learned as a child? Pursuing an interfaith relationship and want to understand your partner's religion? Or perhaps you are thinking of becoming Jewish? Then this is the course for you! We will learn about holidays, life cycle events, prayer, and much more.

Introduction to Judaism is free for Shaarey Zedek members and \$40 for non-members. (Please note: Students will be asked to purchase books to supplement the lessons taught in class.)

Classes will meet in-person on Wednesdays from 6:30-8:30 p.m. on the dates listed below. Pre-registration is required.

Wednesdays:

October 8, 15, 22, 29

November 5, 12, 19 (no class November 26)

December 3

For further information, please contact Rabbi Amy Bigman at 351-3570 or via e-mail at rabbibigman@shaareyzedek.com. The **deadline** for registration will be **September 24**.

_____ Yes, I want to participate in the Introduction to Judaism course!

_____ My check for \$40 made payable to Congregation Shaarey Zedek is enclosed.

_____ I am a Shaarey Zedek member.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone # _____ E-mail address _____

Please return this form and payment by September 24 to:

Rabbi Amy Bigman

Congregation Shaarey Zedek, 1924 Coolidge Road, East Lansing, MI 48823



Shalom Chaverim (Hello Friends),

We'd like to take a moment to honor our dedicated past Sisterhood President, **Karen Weinstein**, for her many loving years of service and leadership. Karen's unwavering commitment has been truly inspiring and has greatly contributed to the growth of our Sisterhood.

As we all know, change can be challenging, but this upcoming change is filled with excitement and opportunity. Beginning with Donor on June 22, we will be transitioning to a new leadership model. Rather than having a single president, it has been voted and approved that a **Presidential Council** will guide us through the next two years.

This new council will consist of three past Sisterhood presidents and one dedicated board member, working together as a collaborative team:

- **Debbie Richmond**
- **Marilyn Ruben**
- **Shawna Olds**
- **Suzanne Lowe**

Together, we will plan new events, celebrate holidays, host meetings, and much more. This fall, we'll be reaching out to all of you for input and ideas as we explore how to shape our identity moving forward.

We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming activities—details will be shared soon. Wishing everyone a fun, meaningful, and safe summer!

Shalom y'all,
Debbie, Marilyn, Shawna & Suzanne

SISTERHOOD ANNUAL DONOR



SAVE THE DATE!
Sunday, June 22



INVITATIONS WILL BE MAILED OUT SOON TO ALL ELIGIBLE MEMBERS!

*Simcha*Grams are greetings sent to Congregation members honoring their special birthdays or anniversaries for 5, 10, 15, 20 years, and more. Check the names of the people you wish to honor.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Birthdays	Date	Age
	Elizabeth Meadows	Jul-1	60
	Kenneth Rudman	Jul-8	70
	Perry Parkhurst	Jul-29	85
	Michael Rubner	Aug-3	85
	Mitzi Goldstein	Aug-13	65
	Lee Kronenberg	Aug-17	87
	Donald Gochberg	Aug-19	92
	Joanna Stark	Aug-31	95
	V Collins	Sep-2	50
	Howard Rittman	Sep-23	86
	Ken Norris	Sep-24	75
	Melissa Rosenberg	Oct-1	50
	Joe Levine	Oct-4	85
	Amanda Idema	Oct-4	50
	Evie Gladstone	Oct-11	98
	Richard Radway	Oct-14	91
	Charlene Epstein	Oct-25	93
	Rabbi Bigman	Nov-1	60
	Christine Pikstein	Nov-1	50
	Alexander Spivak	Nov-4	70
	Sue Safir	Nov-7	80
	Jill Rycus	Nov-9	60
	Arthur Feinberg	Nov-9	80
	Carol Horowitz	Nov-20	85
	Judy Walker	Nov-23	75
	Leon Schafer	Nov-26	88
	Anita Mitchell	Nov-27	85
	Vicki Neiberg	Nov-29	85
	Sara Lurie	Dec-3	65
	Bonnie Radway	Dec-4	88
	Cathy Sernick	Dec-8	65
	Ronald Rycus	Dec-10	80
	Patty Warshaw	Dec-14	65
	Andrew Radway	Dec-26	50

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Anniversaries	Date	Years
	Jerry & Jill Fine	Aug-3	50
	Bernard & Jane Finn	Aug-15	45
	Burton & Marlene Altman	Sep-15	57
	Lowell & Judy Seyburn	Nov-23	56
	Jackie & Don Holecek	Dec-18	60
	Leon & Sheila Schafer	Dec-19	60
	Arthur & Rosanne Cherkinsky	Dec-23	56
	Lisa & John Craig	Dec-23	20
	Don & Joan Gochberg	De 26	69
	Edward & Tina Oser	Dec-28	62
	John & Ethel Anthony	Dec-29	57

Check the names of the people and couples you wish to honor, \$1 per person or couple checked, or \$44 for all. **Due date June 1**

Your name: _____

Amount \$ _____

Or pay by credit card - Name on card: _____

Signature: _____

Card number: _____

Expiration date: _____ Code on back: _____

Or pay by check to "Shaarey Zedek Sisterhood" and mail your completed form to:

Marilyn Ruben
502 E. Geneva Dr.
DeWitt, MI 48820

980-3755 or mjruben@aol.com

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 Carrol Kahn Cultural Fund
- Esther and Justin Morrison Fund
- Ethel Wolfe Kitchen Fund
- Henry Fine and Annette Fine Burke Library 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
- 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

Mazal Tov to Roy Saper and Nell Kuhnmuensch on the birth of their grandchild, June Aster Saper Bloom
Celia Guro

ESTHER AND JUSTIN MORRISON FUND

In honor of the birthdays of Gail Wolfe, Amy Morrison, Ron Horowitz, Lisa Bass, Jane Finn, Marilyn Ruben, Kenny Warshaw; In honor of the anniversaries of Steve and Madeline Flaster, David and Jill Mittleman, Ken and Mary Marton, and BJ and Jill Rycus; In memory of Rose Bernstein; In memory of Irv and Ruth Nedelman
Esther Morrison

ETHEL WOLFE KITCHEN FUND

In memory of Larry Schiamberg
Gail Wolfe

JOSEPH AND MABLE MEITES EDUCATIONAL FUND

In honor of the Minkin/Wheeler *aliyot* on
Saturday, April 19
Judy Minkin

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In memory of Igor Guro
Celia Guro

RABBI MORTON AND AVIVA HOFFMAN TZEDAKAH FUND

In memory of my mother, Aviva Hoffman; In memory of Allen Frank
Dalia Hoffman

GENERAL FUND

A generous donation was received from
Gretchen Smith

YAHRTZEITS



June 6

Isadore Bloom
Bernard Bloomfield
Ethel Brody
Ted Brody
Katherine Guertin
Aviva Hoffman
Norman Pollack
Nancy Pollyea
Helen Schlachter
Ella Shriman
Freida Silverman
Irving Silverman
Mildred Spalter
Ibrahim Srkalovic
Dinah Stark
Agnes Wepman
Cantor Bruce Wetzler



June 13

Mel Applebaum
Herman Baron
Isadore Bloom
Ken Browde
Sydney Goodman
Rosamond Hack
Larry Levy
Patrick Mitchell
Barney A. Ross
David Schafer
Lynne Shapiro
Nina Charlotte Skuller
Bernice Weisberg



June 20

Edith Casher
Blanche Engel
Lillian Friedland Franklin
Margaret Grigg
Blanche Gulvezan
Dennis Israel
Gordana Juracic
Rachel Feuerman Kaplowitz
Lynne Shapiro
Ellen Smith



June 27

Howard Baker
Jerry Bass
Carol Blann
Marvin M. Browde
Eda Bueller
Philip Cohen
Estelle Danowitz
Rabbi Alfred E. Friedman
Julius Eric Friedman
Leon Friedman
Beatrice Gabin
William V. Greene
Barbara Greenstein
Samuel Hecht
Richard S. Kositchek
Daniel H. Kruger
Alex Marion
Jack Martin
Trudi Messer
Irving Nedelman
Ruth Polin
Eva Edith Rubner
Lillian L. Samet
Louis Schwartz
Sandra Thompson
Michael Tidwell
Rosalind Weisberg

July 4

Rose Bernstein
Sivia Goldman
Lillian Hack
Helen Leebaw
John T. McKenna
Margot Ormos
Gail Pearlman
Theodore Post
Eva Edith Rubner
Edythe Weinstein
Sidney Woodrow
Dorothy Bloom Zachar



July 11

Esther Eyl
Bessie Rittman-Gershen
William Haftka
Floyd "Buddy" Jones
Harold Kronenberg
Sam Ledger
Dorothy Parkhurst
Leslie Pollyea
Lionel Rycus



July 18

Bertha Abeles
James Clayton
Anne Epstein
Alexander Eulenberg
Herbert Fernholz
Bernard Friedland
Clarence Gladstone
Elliot Glicksman
Sumner Gochberg
Annette Shuman Guttell
Ruth Eileen Hull
Oscar Kahn
Arlene Kessler
Louis Kositchek
Betty Krohngold
Ruth Nedelman
Eva Raden
Paul Rosenberg
Bertha Shapiro
S. Gerald Shiovitz
Philip Zachar



July 25

Ronald Lawrence Bigman
Nona Blum
Mia Forscher
Helen Fruitman
Elliot Glicksman
Sylvia Levinsky
Orlin "Bob" Lindner
Julie Eliasohn Luebke
Mike Marks
Jacob Pearlman
Louis Rosenfeld
Philip Schlachter
Bertha Silverman
Howard Strickland
Dorothy Caroline Traiger
Ben Wolfe

CONDOLENCES are sent to
Dick (Bonnie) Radway, on the death of his
brother Robert Radway on May 20.

Congregation Shaarey Zedek
1924 Coolidge Road
East Lansing, MI 48823

Worship Schedule - June

Sunday, June 1 — Reform *Shavuot/Yizkor* Worship, 7 p.m.
Monday, June 2 — Conservative *Shavuot/Yizkor* Worship, 9:30 a.m.
Friday, June 6 — Pride *Shabbat* Worship, 7 p.m.
Friday, June 13 — Shaarey Zedek Live! Worship, 6 p.m.
Friday, June 20 — *Shabbat* Evening Worship, 7 p.m.
Friday, June 27 — *Shabbat* Evening Worship, 7 p.m.

Worship Schedule - July

Friday, July 4 — *Shabbat* Evening Outdoor Worship, 6 p.m.
Friday, July 11 — Shaarey Zedek Live! Worship, 6 p.m.
Friday, July 18 — *Shabbat* Evening Worship, 7 p.m.
Friday, July 25 — *Shabbat* Evening Worship, 7 p.m.