

CONGREGATION SHAAREY ZEDEK

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November 2020 *Cheshvan-Kislev* 5781



THANKSGIVING PRAYER

By Rabbi Naomi Levy

For the laughter of the children,

For my own life breath,

For the abundance of food on this table,

For the ones who prepared this sumptuous feast,

For the roof over our heads,

The clothes on our backs,

For our health,

And our wealth of blessings,

For this opportunity to celebrate with family and friends,

For the freedom to pray these words

Without fear,

In any language,

In any faith,

In this great country,

Whose landscape is as vast and beautiful as her inhabitants.

Thank You, God, for giving us all these. Amen.



RABBI BIGMAN'S LETTER

For many years it was my custom to share with you books I have read and/or have been added to the temple's library in preparation for Jewish Book Month. I have been remiss the past few years, but wanted to bring back the custom this year.

Jewish Book Month was established by the Jewish Book Council "to promote the reading, writing and publishing of quality English language books of Jewish content in North America." Jewish Book Month occurs annually during the month prior to *Chanukah* (25 *Cheshvan* - 25 *Kislev*). This year that coincides with the secular dates November 12 - December 10.

The books below have all been provided by the generous donors to the Henry Fine and Annette Fine Burke Library Fund. Since the temple building has been closed due to the global health situation, the books listed are currently "residing" in my home. If you are interested in checking out any of them, please let me know and I will make arrangements to get the book(s) to you.

Children's Books

The Purim Superhero by Elisabeth Kushner

The story of a boy who doesn't want to dress like a superhero for Purim as do the other boys in his class.

Roller-Coaster Grandma by Dr. Ruth Westheimer and Pierre Lehu

A graphic novel of the life of Dr. Ruth Westheimer, from being a Holocaust survivor to an Israeli soldier to a therapist and radio personality.

Martin & Anne: The Kindred Spirits of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Anne Frank by Nancy Churnin

The stories and lessons of the lives of two people, born in the same year, who lived across the ocean from each other.

A Moon for Moe and Mo by Jane Breskin Zalben

The story of Moses Feldman (Moe) and Mohammed Hassan (Mo) who live at opposite ends of Flatbush Avenue in Brooklyn. They meet while their mothers are shopping for Rosh HaShanah and Ramadan, respectively.

The Adventures of Hershel of Ostropol by Eric A. Kimmel

An anthology of stories about Hershel and how his cleverness helps him through life.

The Flower Girl Wore Celery by Meryl G. Gordon

Emma is invited to be the flower girl at her aunt's wedding: Is she really going to wear a dress made of celery? Is she really going to walk down the aisle next to the "ring bear"? Isn't the "bear" scary?

Adopting Ahava by Jennifer Byrne

Jonathan is an adopted child; for his birthday present, his mothers take him to the local animal shelter to adopt a pet.

It's Too Crowded in Here! and Other Jewish Folktales by Behrman House Publishing

Eight folktales, based upon Torah and Talmud stories, are re-told for young children in this book. Each tale is followed by a page of resources for parents to discuss the Jewish value taught in each folktale.

Young Adult Book

Color Me In by Natasha Diaz

Inspired by the author's life, the main character, Nevaeh, feels invisible in both the Black and Jewish communities of which she is a part given her parentage.

Continued on next page

BOOKS, BOOKS, AND BYOB

Adult Books

Black, White & Jewish: Autobiography of a Shifting Self by Rebecca Walker

The author is the daughter of author Alice Walker and lawyer Mel Leventhal who went between the Black world of her mother and the Jewish world of her father following her parents' divorce.

The Color of Love: A Story of a Mixed-Race Jewish Girl by Marra B. Gad

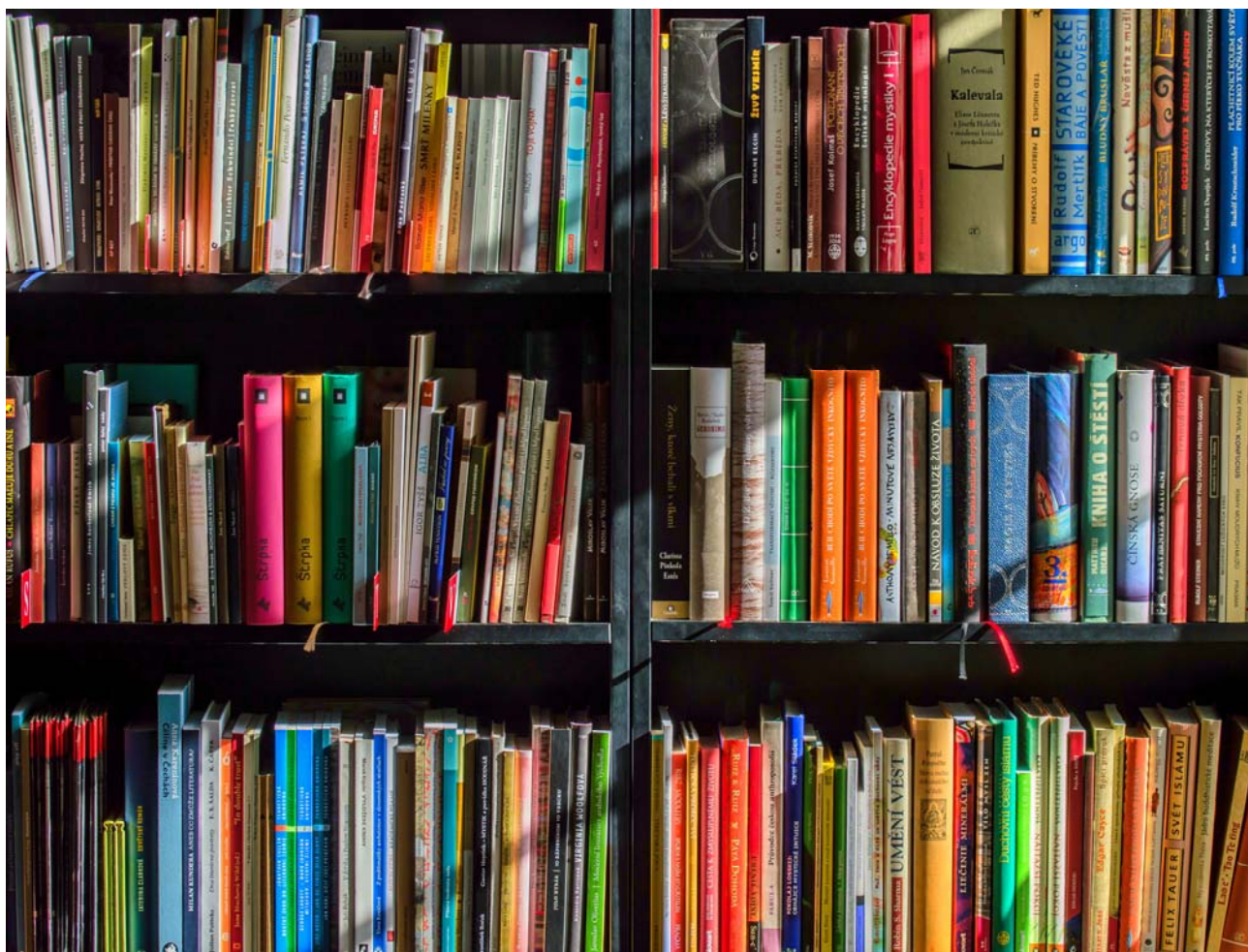
The story of the biological daughter of a white Jewish woman and a Black man who was adopted by a Jewish family in Chicago who is mistreated by family members and ends up becoming the primary caregiver of one who had treated her poorly throughout her life.

Ariel Samson: Freelance Rabbi by MaNishtana

A semi-autobiographical novel about Ariel Samson: a twenty-something black Orthodox rabbi

SISTERHOOD— BRING YOUR OWN BOOK CLUB

Save the date of December 6 at 2:00 p.m. for our BYOB Zoom meeting. A registration link will be sent closer to the date. In the meantime, keep reading!!



SISTERHOOD



Congregation Shaarey Zedek Sisterhood November 2020

THANK YOU FOR MAKING DONOR A SUCCESS!

On October 25, Sisterhood held a virtual musical Donor event. While we missed seeing our community in person—the event was a huge success! Thank you to all of our donors, and attendees; your participation was greatly appreciated.

During the afternoon, we were treated to the delightful voices of **Dr. Christina DeJong, Susi Greiner, and Cantor Emerita Pamela Schiffer**. The event also featured a lovely piece by **Jan White**, and a message from Susan Singer, West Michigan Area Director, Women for Reform Judaism Central District. Special thanks go to **Karen Weinstein** and **Roslyn Covey** for planning the virtual Donor event this year.


The money raised will support core Sisterhood commitments—including providing funds to the Congregation Shaarey Zedek Religious School to make learning affordable for all families.

MAY HER MEMORY BE A BLESSING

Our Sisterhood community lost a wonderful human being when **Carrol Kahn** passed away. In a coming event, we hope to share stories of Carrol—so her memory can continue to be a blessing. If you have a story to contribute, please contact Kelly Feinberg at kelly.feinberg@gmail.com.

SPECIAL THANKS TO MICHAL EIDIN

Thank you to Michal Eidin, who designed the 2020-2021 Congregation Shaarey Zedek Directory.



CENTRAL DISTRICT WRJ VIRTUAL GATHERING

Sisterhood members are invited to attend the Central District WRJ Virtual Gathering on Nov. 6-8. The theme for 2020 is “**Magic Happens When Women Build Community.**”

The gathering is free, but registration is required.

Please visit: <https://wrjcentral.wufoo.com/forms/z813xcq0cl6jmp/> to register.

MENAHELET MARGOT'S MESSAGE

SZRS NEWS



HUMAN DIGNITY כבוד הבריות

On November 8, we will be joining our friends from *Kivunim* (KI's religious school) and students around the world to study the concept of Human Dignity (*kavod habriyot*) as part of the Global Day of Jewish Learning put on annually by Limmud.

On this special day, students of all ages across the globe study the same topic for one day of intense Jewish learning. Our adult friends will be meeting from 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. and then the religious schools will meet from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. all via Zoom.

Links will be provided to SZRS families and adults who register.

Students in gan (pre-K/K) through second grade will be looking at ways we can think about treating all humans with dignity.

Students in third through seventh grade will be doing some problem based learning, considering when respecting human dignity might come before other important Jewish obligations. High-schoolers will have their regular classes but beginning at 12:15 p.m.

If you are interested in continuing your learning, Limmud will be live streaming sessions throughout the day.

NOVEMBER CALENDAR

1 (Sunday): Regular School

4 (Wednesday): Regular School

- Visit from Miriam Udel

8 (Sunday): Special Program

Global Day of Jewish Learning

- SZRS with Kivunim

- 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

- Tichon meets 12:15 - 1:00 p.m.

11 (Wednesday): Regular School

15 (Sunday): Regular School

- Confirmation Class Meets

18 (Wednesday): Regular School

22 (Sunday): Regular School

25 (Wednesday): NO SCHOOL

29 (Sunday): NO SCHOOL



Miriam Udel will be visiting our 3rd-7th grade students to share her new book of Yiddish children's stories: Honey on the Page

LIFELONG LEARNING NEWS



ANNOUNCING OUR NEXT ROUND OF

LUNCH'N LEARNS

DECEMBER 3, 10 AND 17 AT 12:00 P.M.

Register by clicking this link OR copying and pasting it into your browser bar:

https://msu.zoom.us/j/606015154RT6T620JTEwcuTGPIx8_m

Please join us on the first three Thursdays in December as we learn from another panel of congregant experts. Our last series was wonderful! It included 3 Alma-based professor-congregants: **Elizabeth Meadows**, on anxiety, **Mike Bishop** on banding birds and **Joanne Gilbert** on humor and gender. We learned so much and had a great time!

Our December series is all set but we're always looking for new ideas! If there is something YOU are an expert on OR would like to learn about, please let us know! We hope to keep offering these opportunities for short, single-session learning.

Our December series has some thematic overlap: **Amy Simon** will be speaking about her experiences teaching the Holocaust and antisemitism to students at MSU. **Ken Levine** will be speaking about a midwestern Yiddish newspaper, *The Jewish World*, and how it helped Jewish immigrants socialize to the U.S. in the early 20th Century. **Margot Valles** will talk about what we can learn from Jewish werewolves.

"Jewish Werewolves and What We Can Learn From Them"

DECEMBER 17



Amy Simon

"Teaching the Holocaust and Antisemitism in 2020"

DECEMBER 3



Kenneth J. Levine

"How Samuel Joshua Rocker and *Die Yiddishe Welt* Turned Jewish Immigrants into Jewish Americans"

DECEMBER 10



Margot B. Valles

Not a picture of the speaker

GLOBAL DAY OF JEWISH LEARNING

November 8 Via Zoom

10:00-11:00 a.m. Adult Education: An opportunity to learn with Kehillat Israel's new rabbi, Rabbi Dr. Matthew Kaufman, and Shaarey Zedek's own Rabbi Amy Bigman

11:00 a.m.-12:00 noon Combined Kehillat Israel/Shaaarey Zedek Religious School

12:15 p.m.—1:00 p.m. *Tichon* (High School)

Zoom registration information will be sent later. Registration will be due by November 6 at noon.



Hundreds of communities, on six continents,
dedicating one day to the shared pursuit of Torah study.

Live-streamed lessons throughout the day,
taught by leading Jewish teachers, including:



Tema Smith



Rabbi Shoshana
Cohen



Rabbi Lauren
Tuchman



Rabbi Shmuly
Yanklowitz

Join us for a day of learning,
connected together with Jews from
around the world, about Judaism's
vision of **human dignity**, the ethics
of **inclusivity**, and the imperative to
decrease **marginalization**.

Минск Запоріжжя São Paulo
vancouver Oviedo Одеса
Москва מוֹבֵיץ חיפה
New York ירושלים София Miami
Toronto A Coruña
תל-אביב Los Angeles DÜSSELDORF

THEGLOBALDAY.ORG



EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH ANAT HOFFMAN

Please contact Rabbi Bigman at rabbibigman@shaarezedek.com by noon on Friday, November 13 for the Zoom link registration.

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

DOES THE JEWISH STATE TREAT ALL JEWS EQUALLY?

AN EXCLUSIVE
CONVERSATION WITH
ANAT HOFFMAN,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF
THE ISRAEL RELIGIOUS
ACTION CENTER

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15
1:00 p.m. via Zoom



Anat Hoffman will meet with Shaarey Zedek and community members to discuss the treatment of Reform and other liberal Jewish movements in Israel. For many years, Reform Jews in Israel have suffered discrimination and even violence, and IRAC has endured many legal struggles on the way. IRAC's persistence is beginning to pay off, as things are beginning to develop in a positive and more cordial direction. Nonetheless, the status quo still prevails in Israeli society today.

This webinar will reflect on the current legal status of the Reform and other liberal Jewish movements in Israel. We will address the challenges of having non-Orthodox conversions and weddings recognized; equal governmental funding; and the challenges facing our congregations.

Anat Hoffman has served as the Executive Director of IRAC since April 2002. She previously served as a member of the Jerusalem City Council for 14 years, and she is one of the only women in Israel who served three terms on a city council. During those years, Anat built a reputation for being an effective and courageous fighter for social justice and equality as part of the opposition. Anat chose to devote her adult life to the Jewish value of Tikkun Olam, repairing the world. Beginning in 1988, she served as Chairwoman of Women of the Wall, who fight for the rights of women to pray, read *Torah*, and wear *tallitot* at the Western Wall.

Anat Hoffman, as a girl, was an Israeli swimming champion, and since has preserved a strong connection with the world of sports, specifically the topic of women in sports. Anat has a B.A. in psychology from UCLA. She lives in Jerusalem and is the mother of three.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Chanukiah Lighting

The Greater Lansing Jewish Federation is sponsoring an outdoor *Chanukah* celebration for the entire Jewish community, Sunday, December 13, 4:00 p.m. Details to follow.



MSU JEWISH STUDIES /SERLING INSTITUTE NOVEMBER EVENTS

Yiddish Children's Literature and the Jewish Twentieth Century: A Conversation

Thursday, November 5th, at 7:00 p.m.

Miriam Udel will be discussing her book, Honey on the Page: A Treasury of Yiddish Children's Literature, that was just published in October 2020. The book is her edition and translation of Yiddish Children's Literature.

Jewish Justices of the Supreme Court

Tuesday, November 10th, at 7:00 p.m.

Dr. David Dalin will discuss his book Jewish Justices of the Supreme Court, from Brandeis to Kagan, which was selected as a finalist for the 2017 National Jewish Book Award. The talk examines the lives, legal careers, and Jewish legacies of the eight Jews who have served or who currently serve as justices of the U.S. Supreme Court: Louis D. Brandeis, Benjamin Cardozo, Felix Frankfurter, Arthur Goldberg, Abe Fortas, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Stephen G. Breyer, and Elena Kagan.

Virtual Screening of "Shared Legacies: The African American- Jewish Civil Rights Alliance" followed by panel discussion with members of the Congressional Black-Jewish Caucus

Date and Time TBA for November

WOMEN'S POWER

Book Discussion with Melissa Klapper and with Lori Harrison-Kahan

Thursday, November 19th, at 3:00 p.m.

This discussion is part of a conference sponsored by the Center for Gender in Global Context entitled "Gender, Women's Suffrage, and Political Power: Past, Present, and Future."

Links will be sent in our weekly announcements or go to jsp.msu.edu for more information.

Save the Date!
Sunday, November 1, 2020

Outstanding presenters
—from our region!



The Limmud Michigan eFestival!

on Zoom! **Introductory Community Session** 11:30 AM
Multiple 50-Minute Sessions Noon-3:00
Exciting details soon!