

CONGREGATION SHAAREY ZEDEK

1924 Coolidge Road, East Lansing, Michigan 48823 • Ph.: 517-351-3570 • Fax: 517-351-5909 • www.shaarezedek.com

FEBRUARY 2021 SHEVAT/ADAR 5781



WHO'S THE HANGMAN? A MEGILLAH MYSTERY

*A Congregation Shaarey
Zedek Adult Purim Party*

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2021 8:00 P.M.

Register for the event by February 20, here:

<http://bit.ly/MysteryPurim21>

Every one has a role to play, but don't you worry:
After your registration is confirmed, we will give
you everything you need to have a great time!

Zoom friendly costumes encouraged!



<http://bit.ly/MysteryPurim21>

RABBI BIGMAN'S LETTER

PURIM AND VACCINATIONS

At the end of this month, we celebrate the festival of *Purim*. This festival is celebrated in a joyous way: dressing up in costumes, acting silly, playing games, making noise to block out the name of the bad guy, cheering the heroes, and so on. We are told at the end of the Book of Esther to observe *Purim* as a day "of feasting and merrymaking, and as an occasion for sending gifts to one another and presents to the poor." [9:22] So we participate in the *mitzvot* of *mishloakh manot* [sending gifts] to our family and friends and *matanot l'evyonim* [gifts to the poor].

I have to admit that I'm not much in the mood to celebrate this year. *Purim* was the last in-person festival that we celebrated as a congregational family last year just before the pandemic really hit Michigan in March. A few days after *Purim* we were scheduled to leave on a ten-day congregational trip to Israel. I had to make the decision to postpone the trip just a few hours before our Adult *Purim* Party. (A few days later, Israel closed its borders to travel from abroad.)

I had so been looking forward to sharing Israel with members of our congregation, most of whom were to be first-time travelers to Israel, and then spending a few extra days in Jerusalem visiting family and just enjoying being in that wonderful city. Little did we know at that time that one year later we still wouldn't be able to travel to Israel.

In Judaism, we do not despair; we hope, we pray, and we work towards a better time. And so I will participate in the *Purim mitzvot* noted above and I will find a silly costume to wear for our religious school celebration of *Purim*, and I will have hope!

One of the reasons for hope is the availability of new vaccines to combat COVID-19. My colleague Rabbi Lior Nevo, a chaplain at Hebrew SeniorLife in Boston, compiled a series of prayers for this time that you may find meaningful as you receive your vaccination. I share a few of them below:

Rabbi Karen Reiss Medwed

With gratitude and thanksgiving to the Healer of repairable hearts and Restorer of brokenness, appreciation and thanks for inspiring the medical teams and scientists, granting them the wisdom, knowledge, and expertise to prepare this vaccine for all of us. May it be Your will that with my vaccination I will be granted the ability to heal and keep safe humankind and be granted the privilege to fulfill the *mitzvah* of one who saves a life. Blessed are You, Healer of all who are sick.

On Receiving A Vaccine

Rabbi Margaret Frisch Klein

Modah Ani/Modeh Ani

I thank You

For the wisdom of the scientists

For the courage of the trial volunteers

For the strength and compassion of the health care professionals

For the patience of the delivery workers

All

Who have brought us to this moment.

For our bodies

our finely balanced networks

Capable of blessing you

May this vaccine offer protection.

May it offer strength.

May it offer hope

Baruch Atah Adonai,

Shehechianu v'ki'manu v'higianu lazman hazeh.

Blessed are You,

who has kept us alive and sustained us and enabled us to reach this very moment.

RABBI BIGMAN'S LETTER

Rabbi Susan Elkodsi

May the One who hears prayers and requests, hear my prayer. I am about to be given a vaccine to protect me against the novel Coronavirus which has claimed so many lives this year. I am concerned. I know this vaccine might have side effects, and I pray for the strength and grace to handle any that I experience, and to accept that all medications and vaccines have potential side effects. Give me the wisdom to trust my instincts and my body, that I will know when to be concerned. Help my mind to be calm and to trust in this medication and its healing capabilities.

Divine Healer, I am grateful for those whom You have endowed with the knowledge and ability to create vaccines and medications that can protect us against or slow the progress of devastating diseases. I am grateful for my doctors and practitioners who care for me body and spirit.

May this medication/vaccine bring me healing, and may I be granted peace of mind in the knowledge that I am sheltered beneath the wings of *Shekhina*.

Baruch Ata Ado-nai, rofeh haKol, shomei-ah t'filati. [Blessed are You, Adonai, Healer of All, Who hears my prayer.]

A Prayer for Receiving the Covid Vaccine

Rabbi Naomi Levy

I have been praying for this day and now it is here!

With great excitement, a touch of trepidation
And with deep gratitude

I give thanks

To all the scientists who toiled day and night
So that I might receive this tiny vaccination

That will protect me and all souls around this world.

With the pandemic still raging

I am blessed to do my part to defeat it.

Let this be the beginning of a new day
A new time of hope, of joy, of freedom
And most of all, of health.

I thank You, God, for blessing me with life
For sustaining my life

And for enabling me to reach this awe-filled moment. *Amen.*

Rabbi Aaron Starr

May it be Your will, Heavenly Healer, that this endeavor be for healing and may You grant healing to me, to my loved ones, to my nation, and to all who are in need. Fill me with a sense of gratitude for all who create, distribute, and deliver this vaccine, and for all those who work for the health of individuals and our communities. Empower me to care in good health ever more deeply for others. Blessed are You, Holy One, Healer of all flesh, sustaining our bodies in wondrous ways.

[Based on Babylonian *Talmud Brachot* 60a and the Morning Blessings]

Rabbi Rebecca Kamil

As we move from darkness to light

May we take this vaccine as a sign of what is to come

A world reopened and renewed
embracing family and friends

Gathering together in joy.

May we also be mindful of what has been

The lives lost

The sorrow felt

And may the past and present intertwine Em-
Giving us hope for the future

LIFELONG LEARNING NEWS



ANNOUNCING OUR NEXT ROUND OF
ADULT CLASSES

Family Drama in Genesis

Take one, two or all three of these classes exploring difficult familial relationships in the book of Genesis! With three different teachers, each at a different time, there's something for everyone. These classes will look at the less savory side of the *avot v'imahot* (ancestors) we are used to praising. This is a great opportunity to learn with friends and to get a new perspective on old stories. No prior knowledge is necessary.



Each class will be held via Zoom. Advanced registration is required. Links are provided under each description. Please register by January 25th.

What's Wrong with This Picture? Another Look at Parent / Child Relationships in Genesis

Aviva Panush ❄️ Sunday, January 31 and February 7 at 12:00 p.m.

"I accept the *Torah* as the moral and ethical guide for my life," states a *Bar/ Bat Mitzvah* on receiving the *Torah* scroll, passed down through the generations. *Torah* provides many wonderful examples of moral and ethical behavior. It also portrays its characters as human beings, and sometimes human behavior is neither moral nor ethical. Join us to look at and learn from our biblical heroes in their role as parents.

There's Nothing New Under the Sun Sibling Rivalry in Genesis



Rabbi Amy Bigman ❄️ Wednesdays, February 3 & 10 at 12:00 p.m.

Parental favoritism, sibling jealousy, you name it -- it's not unique to your family or to our generations. From the earliest of siblings until today, families deal with these issues. Join us to look at and learn from our biblical heroes in their role as siblings.



It's Groundhog Day, Again! Marital Strife in Genesis

Dr. Margot Valles ❄️ Thursdays, February 4, 11 and 18 at 7:00 p.m.

For the married couples in Genesis, the same problems seem to repeat over and over again: infertility, wives jealous of concubines, husbands pretending their wives are their sisters. Join us to look at and learn from our biblical heroes in their role as spouses



Adult Ed Links:

Aviva Panush's "What's Wrong with This Picture?" <http://bit.ly/WhatsWrongPicture>

Rabbi Bigman's "There's Nothing New Under the Sun: Sibling Rivalry in Genesis" <http://bit.ly/NothingNewUnderSun>

Dr. Valles' "It's Groundhog Day, Again! Marital Strife in Genesis" <http://bit.ly/GroundhogDayAgain>

SZRS NEWS

Winter/Spring 2021 Calendar



FEBRUARY

3 (Wed) Regular School
 7 (Sun) Regular School
 10 (Wed) Regular School
 14 (Sun) **NO SCHOOL**
(President's Day Weekend)
 17 (Wed) Regular School
 21 (Sun) Regular School &
 Confirmation Class
 24 (Wed) **Special School Day**
(Purim at School)
 28 (Sun) **Special:**
(Purim at School)



MARCH

3 (Wed) Regular School
 7 (Sun) Regular School
 10 (Wed) Regular School
 14 (Sun) Regular School &
 Confirmation Class
 17 (Wed) Regular School
 21 (Sun) Regular School
 24 (Wed) Regular School
 28 (Sun) **NO SCHOOL**
(Pesach Day 1)
 31 (Wed) Regular School



APRIL

4 (Sun) **NO SCHOOL**
(Spring Break)
 7 (Wed) **NO SCHOOL**
(Spring Break)
 11 (Sun) **NO SCHOOL**
(Spring Break)
 14 (Wed) Regular School
 18 (Sun) Regular School &
 Confirmation Class
 21 (Wed) Regular School
 25 (Sun) Regular School
 28 (Wed) Regular School

Sunday, April 25 is the last day of school for our *gan*, first and second grade students and for our high school students.

Wednesday, April 28 is the last day of school for our third through seventh graders.

Save the Date: Sunday, May 2 will be our annual SZRS Family Picnic.



Celebrate *Purim* with the Shaarey Zedek Religious School!

Hear the students chant *Megilat Esther* (The Book of Esther) on Wednesday, February 24 and watch the virtual costume parade on Sunday, February 28.

All members welcome!

Please email Margot at menahelet.margot@shaareyzedek.com for more information.

SYNAGOGUE NEWS

MAZAL TOV to....

Melanie Jacobs, who has become interim dean of MSU College of Law.

Howard Rittman on the birth of his great-granddaughter, Charlotte Jo Alson, born on December 20. Proud parents Seth and Heather Alson welcome her as well.

Lauren Warshaw who made the Dean's List, Fall Semester, at Baker College.

Sean Valles, PhD., who has been named director of the Center for Ethics and Humanities in the Life Sciences at Michigan State University.

Rabbi Bigman who was included in "The City Pulse" newspaper January 6 edition saluting fabulous people.

Bernie and Jane Finn on the birth of their grandson, Calix Apollo Finn-Palmer, born on January 2. Proud parents Jenn Finn Palmer and Jason Palmer welcome him as well.

Naomi and Blake Casher on the birth of their grandson, Alón Barel Krefman, born on January 10 to Jay Krefman and Paula Yevilaf. Proud parents and big brother Manu (Emanuel) welcome him with lots of love.

Ben White, son of Glenn and Jan White who graduated from Mercer University Law School, passed the Georgia Bar and has been admitted to practice.

THANK YOU

The Horowitz family is grateful and thankful for the caring shown to us by our Shaarey Zedek family. Ron and I loved the *Simchagrams* we received for our 80th birthdays. It is wonderful to help the youth program by remembering special events. We also love the special deliveries we received for *Rosh Hashanah* and *Hanukah*. Kudos to the packaging and delivery team. We are proud to be members of Shaarey Zedek.

Carol and Ron Horowitz

Dear Sisterhood Family,
Thank you for the *Chanukah* gift/gelt received in December. I so appreciate your thoughtfulness and your kind and generous expression of support and friendship.

Patty Warshaw

I wanted to extend a BIG Thank You to everyone in Sisterhood and my Shaarey Zedek family. You have sent cards, dropped off books, baked goods and gifts for me at my new home (The Willows-Okemos). Your thoughtfulness has lifted my spirits and gotten me through some tough times! Now if only someone could sneak in a chili-dog, fries and a cold Bud Light :) Looking forward to the time when we can see each other in person!

Yours, Cathy Gorwitz

PRAYERS OF HEALING

Prayers of healing are sent to....

Anita Baron, Alan Zohott, Allen Frank, Aviva Panush, Royalyn Vert, Ken Browde, Bob Luebke, Celia Guro, Igor Guro, Miriam Adam, Cathy Gorwitz, Rebecca Bahar-Cook, Miriam Andrews

It is our custom to read the names of those in need of healing at our Friday evening and Saturday morning *Shabbat* services. If you would like the name of a loved one read at services, please contact the synagogue office by noon on Friday.

Please note: In order to keep our list current, a new list will be started each month. Names from the previous month will not be retained. Thank you



KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS PROGRAM

If you shop at Kroger, you probably have a Kroger Plus card. Not only can it save you money on your purchases, but it can help our synagogue, too! Simply log on to: www.krogercommunityrewards.com click on "Michigan" and click "enroll" to sign up. You will need your Plus card and our congregation's code— 84431.



Via our website-
www.shaareyzedek.com

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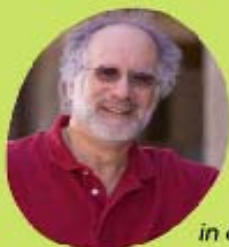
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Or Copy this link: <https://www.amazon.com/?tag=congrshaarzed-20&linkCode=ur1>.



SPECIAL EVENTS

Registration will be forthcoming. Shaarey Zedek is co-sponsoring with several small URJ congregations.



Adult Education: THURSDAY LUNCH & LEARN

All classes to be held on zoom. Registration link will be sent out in advance.

Professor Ken Wald

Foundations of American Jewish Liberalism

JANUARY 7

American Jews have built a political culture based on the principle of equal citizenship in a secular state. In his book, Wald traces the development of this culture by examining the controversies and threats that stimulated political participation by American Jews.

Esther Safran Foer

I Want You to Know We're Still Here

FEBRUARY 4

Armed with a black-and-white photo, a hand-drawn map, and a handful of leads that only came to light after the publication of her son Jonathan's novel *Everything is Illuminated*--Foer travels to Ukraine to find the shtetl where her father hid during the war.



Bill Haltom

Why Can't Mother Vote?

MARCH 4

The story of Joseph Hanover, an Orthodox Jew who fled Poland in 1895, and found a new life in Memphis, TN. As a young citizen of the US, he read the Constitution and not understand why the right to vote was not extended to all Americans. He led the fight for the ratification of the 19th Amendment.

Jonathan Kaufman

The Last Kings of Shanghai: The Rival Dynasties That Helped Create Modern China

APRIL 8

Kaufman tells the history of how the Sassoons and Kadoories, two Jewish families doing business in China for over a century, participated in an economic boon that opened China to the world.



Ariel Sabar

Veritas: A Harvard Professor, a Con Man and the Gospel of Jesus's Wife

MAY 6

In 2012, Harvard professor Karen King found an ancient scrap of papyrus in which Jesus calls Mary Magdalene "my wife." If early Christians believed Jesus was married, it would upend the 2,000-year history of the world's predominant faith.

Professor Hillary Levey Friedman

Here She Is: The Complicated Reign of the Beauty Pageant in America

JUNE 3

Beauty pageants have had a role in many of the feminist movement's signature achievements, including bringing women into the public sphere, helping them become leaders in business and politics, providing increased educational opportunities, and giving them a voice in the age of #MeToo.



**REFUGEE
SHABBAT**
a project of **HIAS**

Pray for Refugees and Asylum Seekers in a Special Shabbat Evening Service

Rabbi Amy Bigman, Congregation Shaarey Zedek

Rabbi Matthew Kaufman, Congregation Kehillat Israel

Gather for Singing, Prayer and Shabbat Music

With Special Guest Speaker Rev. Alice Townley

Presbyterian Church of Okemos, Board Member of All Faith Alliance for Refugees

Friday, March 5, 7:00 p.m.

**A Zoom link will be sent as we get closer to the
Event.**



Commentary

CONGREGATION
SHAAREY ZEDEK

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East Lansing, Michigan 48823
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Commentary
Worship
Schedule

FEBRUARY

Friday, February 5
Shabbat Evening Service 7:00 p.m.
Saturday, February 6
Shabbat Morning Service 9:30 a.m.

Friday, February 12
Shaarey Zedek LIVE! Shabbat Service 7:00 p.m.
Saturday, February 13
Shabbat Morning Service 9:30 a.m.

Friday, February 19
Shabbat Evening Service 7:00 p.m.
Saturday, February 20
Shabbat Morning Service 9:30 a.m.

Friday, February 26
Shabbat Evening Service 7:00 p.m.
Saturday, February 27
Shabbat Morning Service 9:30 a.m.

