CONGREGATION SHAAREY@ZEDEK

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

APRIL 2021 NISAN-IYAR 5781



RABBI'S MESSAGE

As we enter the month of April, we are in the midst of the *Pesach* festival. As we eat our *matzah*, we remember the lessons of slavery and freedom. We are also looking forward to *Shavuot*, the Season of the Giving of our *Torah* (*Z'man Matan Torateinu*) which comes fifty days after the beginning of *Pesach*. Our ancestors could not be ready to receive the *Torah* until they were free from both the physical slavery of Egypt as well as the mental state of slavery.

We are commanded to count from *Pesach* to *Shavuot*: "And from the day [the second day of *Pesach*] on which you bring the *omer* offering -- the day after the sabbath -- you shall count off seven weeks. They must be complete: you must count until the day after the seventh week -- fifty days; then you shall bring an offering of new grain to the Lord." [Leviticus 23:15-16]

The *omer* was an ancient Hebrew measure of grain. Biblical law forbade any use of the new crop until an *omer* was brought to the Temple as an offering. The ancient Rabbis taught that when the *Torah* speaks of counting the seven weeks from the second day of *Pesach* to *Shavuot*, this counting had to be understood quite literally. Each day should be counted: 'This is the first day of the *Omer*,'" etc. The seve n weeks of counting the *omer* lasts from *Pesach* to *Shavuot*. The counting links the Exodus from Egypt with the giving of the *Torah* at Sinai; it links our physical redemption at *Pesach* to our spiritual redemption at *Shavuot*.

Rabbi Sharon Cohen Anisfeld, of Hebrew College in Newton Centre, Massachusetts, wrote a few years ago that:

...This season of the *Omer*, when we literally count the days from Passover to *Shavuot*, is all about getting from here to there. Rooted in the agricultural rhythms of ancient Israel, it's a time of both anxiety and anticipation, as farmers waited to see what the season's first wheat harvest would yield. In our mythic history, it's about getting from Egypt to Sinai, from the world of Pharaoh to the world of justice and lovingkindness that the *Torah* summons us to create.

The journey out of Egypt teaches us three things about getting from here to there.

<u>First, the journey begins when we recognize that "here" is not acceptable.</u> In the story of the Exodus, it begins when the Israelites cry out. We're told that the people who were enslaved in Egypt had forgotten even how to groan. Imagine, the Jewish people had forgotten how to kvetch! That's how bad things were. The first moan that rises up from the exhausted Israelite slaves in the book of Exodus is understood by many commentators as the beginning of the process of liberation. To begin to cry out is to take the risk of seeing that things could be different.

Second, the Exodus teaches us that the journey from here to there has to happen one step at a time. We enact this truth in our ritual counting of the *Omer*. We count each day and bless the act of counting -- but we are careful never to mention the next day's count. The progression from one day to the next is not to be taken for granted. We count only the time we have been given; we look toward Sinai, but we thank God for the present moment.

Continued on next page

RABBI'S MESSAGE

Finally, the *Omer* teaches us that the journey out of Egypt -- the journey from here to there -- is not just an ancient memory. It's about the possibility of renewal that is built into all of creation, into society, into the human heart. It is everywhere, at all times...

The Exodus comes to teach us that even in the darkest of times and narrowest of places, there is a song in our souls that cannot be silenced, a seed of new life that will not be denied, a capacity for renewal that cannot be extinguished...

May this year's journey from *Pesach* to *Shavuot* reawaken this knowledge within us... [emphases added, "We Who are the Gardeners are Also the Garden," April 2018]

Our "capacity for renewal...cannot be extinguished" as we move from the very darkest of days of this global pandemic to a time of vaccines becoming available to an eventual time of returning to normal. The song in our souls continues to sing and the singing grows stronger with each day, as we continue to put one foot in front of the other and move through our days.





SZRS news

Created by Rudolf Horaczek from the Noun Project

שָׁלוֹם

This month many of our students will be studying the value of **Shalom** or **Peace** through a Jewish lens. You can study this, too! **Just think:** How do you create peace in the world? in your family and community?

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL:

For 3rd-7th Graders = Wednesday, April 28 For Everyone Else = Sunday, April 25

APRIL CALENDAR

- 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

for yourself? **Make it Jewish:** The *T'filah*, each *Kaddish* and our Threefold Blessing ends with a prayer for peace. Why?

In *Pirkei Avot* we learn that Hillel used to say, "Be like the disciples of Aaron: loving peace, pursuing peace, loving people and bringing them closer to the *Torah*" (1:12) How might loving peace and pursuing it relate to bringing people closer to the *Torah*?



New Date for the SZRS Family Picnic: Please plan to join us (location TBD) for a celebration of the 2020-2021 school year on the afternoon of **Sunday, May 23**.



LIFELONG LEARNING NEWS















APRIL AND MAY SERIES

Lunch'n Learn with our Temple Librarians Thursdays at Noon

Please register at http://bit.lv/TempleLibrarians

APRIL 15

Deborah Margolis, Middle East Studies Librarian, Library Liaison to the MSU Serling Institute for Jewish Studies and Modern Israel and the MSU Muslim Studies Program and SZRS Gan Teacher

APRIL 22

Rachel Minkin, Head of Reference and Discovery Services at MSU Libraries and SZRS Kitah Zayin (7th Grade) Teacher

APRIL 29

Jessica Sender, Library Liaison to the College of Nursing at MSU and SZRS Librarian MAY 6

Betsy Hull, Okemos Branch Head Librarian for Capital Area District Libraries

Check your weekly announcements for information about the special topic of each session.

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SISTERHOOD UPDATE—APRIL 2021



"Warm Hug" Campaign

Thanks to the leadership of *Karen Weinstein*, and volunteers including *Roslyn Covey*, Sisterhood has wrapped up a winter "Warm Hug" campaign. The campaign provided 20 Sisterhood members with a warm blanket and a note.

While we eagerly await the opportunity to be in-person with our community, know Sisterhood is thinking of all of our members and are here to help.



Pictured above: fabrics for the blankets and a contact-less delivery. Save the Date—Donor and Installation—Sunday, June 27 at 2 p.m.

CELEBRATING JOYOUS OCCASIONS

Please join us on Friday, May 7 at 7 p.m. for *Shabbat* worship and the

Graduation Ceremony for our 2020 and 2021 classes:

Class of 2020

Alex Adam Child of Miriam and Razvan Adam

Sara Cook Child of Rebecca Bahar-Cook and Todd Cook

Forrest Colson Child of Janet and Mark Colson

Bonita Yoder

Child of Monica and Lewis Resnick and Ken Yoder

Class of 2021

Myles Behar Child of Stephanie Constan and Jack and Jenifer Behar

Ella Horgan Child of Cindy and Brian Horgan

Rachel Olds Child of Shawn and Jeff Olds

Jo Schwitzer Child of Christina DeJong and Todd Wilson and Stephen Schwitzer Please join us on Friday, May 21 at 7 p.m. for *Shabbat* worship and the

Confirmation Ceremony for our 2021 Class:

Juliana Cohen Child of Shannon and Matthew Cohen

Ethan Olds Child of Shawn and Jeff Olds

Josie Shapiro Child of Karen and Erik Shapiro

Registration for both services is required and can be found at

https://zoom.us/j/96901881729? pwd=Y1VxY2h0WFIzNnBITVErQ1ZsejNOQT 09

This link is for BOTH the May 7 and the May 21 service. We look forward to sharing our congregation's joyous occasions with you!

SYNAGOGUE NEWS

MAZAL TOV to ...

Gail Eisenberg on the birth of her grandson, Joel Marcus Eisenberg, son of Paul and Marina Eisenberg. Joel was born on January 11th and is named after his grandfather, our late member Dr. Joel Eisenberg.

Cori Barkman, daughter of **Susan Anderson**, who was appointed to the 29th Circuit Court of Clinton and Gratiot Counties by Governor Gretchen Whitmer.



Asa Wheeler, son of Rachel Minkin and Abraham Wheeler, will be called to the *Torah* on *Shabbat* morning, April 24, at 9:30 a.m.

Asa is a seventh grade student at Chippewa Middle School (Okemos) where he plays clarinet in the school band. He also plays soccer for the Okemos Soccer League. For his *mitzvah* project, Asa will be hosting a small virtual living room concert in support of the Children's Hospital of Michigan via the Children's Foundation. Asa is interested in donating specifically towards children's Mental Health as well as alleviating Child Abuse and Neglect. (see page 10 for details)

The Minkin-Wheeler family invites the congregation to share in their *simcha* by watching the livestream of the *Shabbat* morning worship service at <u>www.shaareyzedek.com</u>. (On the home page, scroll down to "Get Connected." Click on "Live Stream Services." At 9:30 a.m. click on the link and the service will begin.)



Nolan Zatkin, son of Jennifer and Mathew Zatkin, will be called to the *Torah* on *Shabbat* morning, May 1 at 10:30 a.m.

Nolan is an eighth grade student at Holt Junior High School, where he plays in the school band, is a member of the wrestling team and plays travel baseball for the Prime Baseball organization. For his *Mitzvah* Project, Nolan is organizing and participating in a baseball hitting tournament to raise money for the local food bank.

The Zatkin family invites the congregation to share in their *simcha* by watching the livestream of the *Shabbat* morning worship service

at <u>www.shaareyzedek.com</u>. (On the home page, scroll down to "Get Connected." Click on "Live Stream Services.")

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SYNAGOGUE NEWS

THANK YOU

Thank you to the congregation for bringing me some lovely *Purim* and *Pesach* treats. It's delightful. Janet Abramson

DIRECTORY UPDATE

John and Marcia Eulenberg's correct mailing address is 1909 Danbury E, Okemos, MI 48864.

Irene Ross's new address 1301 N. Taimiami Trail #1001 Sarasota, FL 34236

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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: <u>www.krogercommunityrewards.com</u> click on "Michigan" and click "enroll" to sign up. You will need your Plus card and our congregation's code— 84431.

SHOP AMAZON

Via our website-www.shaareyzedek.com Buy from Amazon.com and Congregation Shaarey Zedek will receive 4% of your total order. You **can access** Amazon by clicking on the Amazon image on our website, but once you are on their site, you can use your normal Amazon profile and order as you always do!

PRAYERS OF HEALING

Prayers of healing are sent to....

Linda Woodrow, Anita Baron, Aviva Panush, Miriam, Adam, Royalyn Vert, Alan Zohott, Allen Frank, Bob Luebke, Jane Finn, Ken Browde, Celia Guro, Igor Guro, Melanie Jacobs, Winnie Rome, Char Epstein, Madeline Flaster

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.



POST-PASSOVER PIZZA AND PASTA PARTY!

The early stages of the pandemic shut down our annual FUNdraiser last year but not this year!!

While we won't be reserving a room at Pizza House due to COVID restrictions, you are welcome to eat in, carry out, or have your meal delivered and Pizza House will share some of the proceeds with Shaarey Zedek.

Saturday and Sunday, April 3 and 4 Anytime, day or night Be sure to mention "Shaarey Zedek FUNdraiser"

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DO A MITZVAH

For his *Mitzvah* Project, Asa Wheeler will be hosting a small virtual living room concert in support of the Children's Hospital of Michigan via the Children's Foundation. Asa is interested in donating specifically towards children's Mental Health as well as alleviating Child Abuse and Neglect.

To donate directly to the Foundation, please go to <u>https://yourchildrensfoundation.org/ways-</u> <u>to-give</u> and click on the large, light blue DONATE button in the upper right hand corner of the screen. Asa's living room concert will be Saturday, April 17th, at 7:00 p.m. This concert will be streaming live at <u>https://www.twitch.tv/</u> <u>susstew</u> and viewers will also be able to donate online during the recital.

COVID-19 has affected children in a myriad of ways. Changes to their schooling and their social lives, along with parents' job loss and food insecurity, have contributed to their increase in stress. Kids have had to find ways to adapt, to manage stress, and there has been a great need to help them feel empowered and give them a touch of normalcy.

When stress builds for Lilah Epley, one of our current *Bat Mitzvah* students, she goes to her room and sings out LOUD. For her *Mitzvah* Project this year, she will be performing a livestreamed musical revue of empowering, soul lifting songs to remind us all that we are strong, we are resilient, and we are not alone.

Please join us Saturday, April 24 at 7:00 p.m. for Sing Out Loud! Tickets are \$13 (see what we did there?) and available at the Eventbrite link below. Once you purchase your ticket, you will receive a Zoom link to the event.

All proceeds from the show will be donated to MAZON. Want to make a donation to MAZON in her honor and NOT see her show? You can do that at the link below as well.

https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sing-outloud-tickets-145932787897



Virtual living room concert Featuring Asa Wheeler Saturday, April 17 at 7:00 p.m.

All proceeds from *Mitzvah* Project will be donated to the Children's Foundation





Saturday, April 24 @ 7pm All proceeds from this Mitzvah Project will be donated to MAZON.

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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, a minimum donation of \$18 will be required in order to receive a listing in the "Commentary" and acknowledgment to a recipient. This policy applies to these funds :

- Jeanette Abeles Scholar-In-Residence Fund
- Bette Sue Rittman All Children Are Special Fund
- Bernard Friedland Educational
 Materials Fund
- Bubbe Lynn Rycus Beautification
 Fund
- Building Fund
- Cantor Pamela Schiffer Caring Community Fund
- Henry Fine and Annette Fine Burke Library Fund
- David and Carrol Kahn Cultural Fund
- Joseph & Jeannette Lutvak Fund
- Jerry Cohen Photography Fund
- Joseph and Mable Meites Religious School Fund
- Esther and Justin Morrison Fund
- Landscape Fund
- Prayer Book Fund
- Robert Goodman Music Fund
- Sophie Radway PJ Library Fund
- Rabbi Morton and Aviva Hoffman *Tzedakah* Fund

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

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

JOE AND JEANETTE LUTVAK

MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of the mother of Kimiko Suvo

Mark Lutvak and Phylis Davis

GENERAL FUND

A generous donation was received from Miriam and Razvan Adam In memory of Martin H. Ross

William Boss and Associates A generous donation was received from Matt Aldrich

JOE AND MABLE MEITES RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

A generous donation was received from Miriam and Razvan Adam

LANDSCAPE FUND

In memory of Jon Raven In memory of Marty Ross In honor of the recovery of Anita Baron Larry Shanker

BUILDING FUND

In memory of: Benjamin Levine Susie Levine Maier Levine Jessie Feinstein Sam Silver Eve Silver Rosie Silver Rhoda Kaye Hedda Blum Jacob Blum

In memory of:

Eulalah McDonald Jack McDonald Larry Levy

Jackie Holsclaw

ESTHER AND JUSTIN MORRISON FUND

Happy Birthday to: Sue Davis Jill Fine In memory of Rose Morrison Wishing Rabbi Bigman, Patty and Ken Warshaw and my Shaarey Zedek family a happy and healthy Passover Esther Morrison

SOPHIE RADWAY PJ LIBRARY FUND

In memory of Daniel Goldstein Happy Birthday to Mike Woodrow Bonnie, Dick and Andy Radway In memory of Albert and Shirley Fine Lisa Fine An anonymous donation was received to support our program

ETHEL WOLFE KITCHEN FUND

In honor of Jerry and Sue Weiss on their anniversary

Ellen and Dany Rothfeld In memory of Daniel Goldstein Marguerite Howe

CANTOR PAMELA SCHIFFER CARING

Thank you to Ellen and Dany Rothfeld for their support of *the Purim-Mishloach Manot bags*

Thank you to Patty and Kenny Warshaw and all involved for everything you do. Lee and Nancy Kronenberg

Thank you to the following for the support of the Passover Pandemic Package:

Esther Morrison Judy Minkin Anne Hughes Janet Abramson Anita and Pat Mitchell Ellen and Dany Rothfeld Jackie Holsclaw **Betsy Hull** Jerry and Sue Weiss Marlene and Burt Altman Melanie Jacobs and Shane Broyles Carol Welch Carol and Ron Horowitz Joan and Don Gochberg Rhana and Zack Dyme Sheila and Leon Schafer Robbie and Joe Levine Margot and Sean Valles

COMMUNITY NEWS



Community Yom HaShoah/Holocaust Remembrance Day Program-Sponsored by the Greater Lansing Jewish Federation-April 7, 7:00 p.m.

They Lived to Tell Us: Personal Stories of Resistance and Triumph During the Holocaust

In reading the obituary for Stephanie Barch just a few weeks ago, two things were evident. First of all, we had lost another dear member of our congregation. Secondly, she had a story to tell about her youth in Nazi occupied Vienna and brave escape to England that, sadly, most of us had not heard.

With Stephanie's story in mind, the Greater Lansing Jewish Federation is focusing this year's *Yom HaShoah* program on brave Jews who are still with us and will inspire us with their stories of individual triumph in the tragic Holocaust era. Our speakers will include one whose family outwitted the Nazis in Paris and another who did so in Budapest.

We will begin with a candle-lighting. We have some yellow candles available.

email <u>lansingjewishfederation@gmail.com</u>, and we will get you one. You may also use a *yahrzeit* candle, if you have one at home.

April 7, 7:00 p.m. on Zoom

Registration Required: <u>https://zoom.us/meeting/</u> register/tJwsd-yrrzkiGtwecDBFotKKX_w8Gx9jC9rK





PASSION FOR ACTION: Give Israel the Gift of Change

On April 15th, the Israel Religious Action Center (IRAC) is launching an Israel Independence Day Crowdfunding Campaign to raise funds for our work creating a democratic, just, and pluralistic Israel.

At IRAC, ACTION is our middle name. **We are your partner for progress and pluralism in Israel**. We create change with legal action, advocacy, and community organizing.

We invite you to support our campaign from April 15-26: <u>http://bit.ly/IRAC-JGive</u>

BOY SCOUT TROOP 180

Dear Rabbi Bigman, Patty and all of the Congregation,



Boy Scout Troop 180 is extremely grateful for all your support and sponsorship over the years. We were planning to present the Congregation our thanks and a gift to everyone for allowing us to be part of your community. Unfortunately, Covid happened and we have been unable to present this is person. The donations come from all member of Troop 180, past and present. The funds are for the planting of a tree and the remaining to go toward your HVAC replacement. We are so thankful for all of your support.

Troop 180 East Lansing

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YAHRTZEITS

April 2-3

Charles Bressler, Albert Fine, Jacob Greenstein, Joseph Gulvezan, Louis Kamins, Rochelle Levitetz, Eulalah McDonald, Eleanor Metcoff, Sanford Meyer, Violet Myrold, Carol Goodman Pondel, Patricia Nassar, Sophie Radway, Ruth E. Rome, Myrna Rubin, Dorothy Sieven, Simone Soltan

April 9-10

Dorothy Abramson, Fannye Abramson, Sadye Blechman, Stephen Carl Clayton, Sharren Cook, Will Greenberg, Leon Handelsman, Kipton Kaplan, Robert Norris, Margo Rubens, Eva Shuman, Loralee Tessmer, Don Weinshank, Seth Weisman, Cynthia Eulenberg Weisz, Thomas Zohott

April 16-17

Jane Abramson, Miriam Barshefsky, Lee Bishop, Clara Fine, Meyer Garbel, Maureen Gladstone, Harold Gladstone, Warren Johnson, David Luebke, Rose Tillie Morrison, Lillian Pearl, Alan Schwartz, Margie Shanker, Helen Tanenbaum, Harold Trippe, Rebecca Smookler White

April 23-24

Lillian Briggs, Herman Byron Bueller, Ellyce Field, Shirley Fine, E. I. Greenberg, Rose Ledger, Jenny Meadows, Jack B. McDonald, Zelda Rose, Florence Rudman, Sylvia Brothers, Louis Shanker

April 30-May 1

Jack Baker, Anne Bigman, Peter Blyveis, Andre Elia, Charles Fenberg, Helen Handelsman, Eva Hattner, Jim Johnson, David Kaplowitz, Margaret Kramer, Irving B. Kremer, Thelma Saper, Leonard Silk

CONDOLENCES

Condolences are sent to:

Cathy and Larry Sernick on the death of her father, Jon Ezzo, on February 28.

Jeff and Shawn Olds on the death of his step-dad, Hank Markowe, on March 4.

Courtney and Ryan Vincent on the death of her grandfather, William Thompson, on March 8.



MEMORIAL BOARD PLAQUES

Memorialize your loved one and honor their name with a plaque in the Shaarey Zedek sanctuary.

Please contact Patty Warshaw in the Shaarey Zedek office for further information.

ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of Congregation Shaarey Zedek will be held on Sunday, May 17 at 10:00 a.m.

YOM HA'ATZMAUT ACROSS NORTH AMERICA



CONGREGATION SHAAREY ZEDEK EAST LANSING, MI

CONGREGATION SHAAREY@ZEDEK

2ND ANNUAL

YOM HA'ATZMAUT ACROSS NORTH AMERICA

LIVESTREAM CONCERT AND FUNDRAISER BENEFITTING COVID-19 RELIEF



Josh Nelson



Hadar and Sheldon



Chava Mirel

APRIL 11, 2021 @ 2PM ET/1PM CENTRAL

PROCEEDS BENEFIT MAZON A Jewish R To Hunger

A Jewish Response

LOOK FOR THE LIVESTREAM LINK IN YOUR INBOX - COMING SOON!

ELLEN ALLARD-THE QUEEN OF JEWISH EARLY CHILDHOOD MUSIC



Congregation Shaarey Zedek joins with other congregations to offer special program for 3-6 year olds and their families focusing on Israel. This program featuring award-winning musician and early childhood music educator Ellen Allard will take place on Sunday, April 11 at 11:30 a.m. (She also will be offering a training session for those involved with programming for younger children on April 6 by special invitation. Please contact Rabbi Bigman for further information.s)

Rabbi Bigman has seen Ellen perform for adults and children: "Ellen Allard has more energy than just about anyone I've ever seen. I'm so glad that we can bring this program to our community."

According to the Reform Judaism website, "Ellen Allard is synonymous with the very best in children's music. She is a multi-award winning children's recording artist, composer, performer and early childhood music educator, drawing on a rich tradition of musical experiences in presenting her lively and captivating concerts, keynote presentations and workshops for family audiences and educational conferences across the country."

Allard has won several Children's Web awards for her work, including the albums "Sing it! Say it! Stamp it! Sway it! vol. 1," "Sing it! Say it! Stamp it! Sway it! vol. 3," "Sing Shalom: Songs for the Jewish Holidays" and "Good Kid." Her music has been recorded by other artists and her compositions have been used in schools, synagogues and summer camps. It is also taught to cantorial students attending Hebrew Union College's Debbie Friedman School of Sacred Music in New York City and the Hebrew College in Newton, MA.

Zoom Information

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86160170996?pwd=QWEwb3A1anJEVmd3clZiUW1GbTlXdz09

Meeting ID 861 6017 0996

Passcode 291984

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86160170996?pwd=QWEwb3A1anJEVmd3clZiUW1GbTIXdz09

MORE ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES



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 sulture based on t

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.





Arial 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 Pagent 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.



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Commentary

CONGREGATION SHAAREY©ZEDEK

1924 Coolidge Road East Lansing, Michigan 48823 www.ShaareyZedek.com

> Friday, April 2 Shabbat /Pesach/Yizkor Evening Service 7:00 p.m. Saturday, April 3 Shabbat/Pesach/Yizkor Morning Service 9:30 a.m.

Friday, April 9 SHAAREY ZEDEK LIVE! 7:00 p.m. Saturday, April 10 Shabbat Morning Service 9:30 a.m.

Friday, April 16 Shabbat Evening Service 7:00 p.m. Saturday, April 17 Shabbat Morning Service 9:30 a.m. Friday, April 23 Shabbat Evening Service 7:00 p.m. Saturday, April 24 Shabbat Morning Service, including the Bar Mitzvah of Asa Wheeler, 9:30 a.m.

Friday, April 30 Shabbat Evening Service 7:00 p.m. Saturday, May 1 Shabbat Morning Service 10:30 a.m. including the Bar Mitzvah of Nolan Zatkin

