

CONGREGATION SHAAREY ZEDEK

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

MAY 2021 *IYAR /SIVAN* 5781



Shavuot Celebrations

WE WILL BEGIN OUR OBSERVANCE OF
SHAVUOT WITH PRAYER AND LEARNING

Sunday, May 16

7:30 p.m. *Shavuot Hallel and Yizkor*

8:00 p.m. Learning with Rabbi Amy Bigman and Dr. Margot Valles

Pre-registration is required:
<http://bit.ly/Shavuot21>



Pre-registration is required: <http://bit.ly/Shavuot21>

RABBI BIGMAN'S LETTER

It is customary between *Pesach* and *Shavuot* to read from *Pirkei Avot*, "The Sayings of Our Ancestors." *Avot* is a section of the *Mishnah*, which is essentially a legal text. The *Mishnah* takes the laws found in the *Torah* and arranges them in order by topic. It consists of six orders (*s'darim*) which contain a total of 63 tractates. *Avot* is different than the other 62 tractates of the *Mishnah* in that it contains the sayings of the rabbis -- the moral, ethical, and philosophical teachings of about sixty rabbis -- rather than citing specific laws. It was compiled by Rabbi Yehudah Ha-Nasi (Judah the Prince) around the year 200 C.E.

This year during our Friday evening *Shabbat* worship since the beginning of *Pesach*, I have chosen one or two texts from *Pirkei Avot* to study using a new-ish book titled *Pirkei Avot: A Social Justice Commentary* by Rabbi Dr. Shmuly Yanklowitz. While Rabbi Dr. Yanklowitz is an Orthodox rabbi, this book's publisher is the CCAR Press (Central Conference of American Rabbis Press), which is affiliated with the Reform Movement. A very interesting combination indeed!

The first two chapters of *Pirkei Avot* trace the uninterrupted transmission of the *Torah* from the first rabbis to the disciples of these original rabbis and through the generations of rabbis who followed. By placing themselves in a line of transmission that begins with Sinai, the rabbis of the *Mishnah* define themselves as the possessors of the authentic tradition.

One of my favorite teachings from *Pirkei Avot* comes from the last two *mishnayot* of the second chapter. Rabbi Tarfon, who lived in the middle of the first century and into the second century, is cited in *Pirkei Avot* 2:20 and 2:21 (sometimes numbered as 2:15 and 2:16):

Rabbi Tarfon says: The day is short, the task is abundant... He [also] used to say: You are not required to complete the task, yet you are not free to desist from it.

Rabbi Dr. Yanklowitz notes that there is much to do and that it is difficult to balance the different parts of our lives: "But we must find balance; it is commanded of us." [p. 116] He goes on to note that:

[S]piritual and cultural changes take a long time to shift. Slavery was prohibited in America, but more than a century and a half later, we're still dealing with the racial injustice that the practice of slavery set in motion.

And to be sure, the fact that injustice continues to fester shows that the work to improve the world can never cease. We must engage deeply in the issues that affect countless people and propel the world toward justice. [p. 117]

...Going forth into the world to promote change and seek harmony is a sacred task. [p. 120]

Working towards making our world a better place is our responsibility: As the first-century Hillel said: "One must not separate oneself from the community." [*Pirkei Avot* 2:5; some editions 2:4] This is our challenge. This is our sacred duty.

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 (in absentia)

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

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=Y1VxY2h0WFZlZnBITVZlZsejNOQ
T09](https://zoom.us/j/96901881729?pwd=Y1VxY2h0WFZlZnBITVZlZsejNOQT09)

**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!**

SISTERHOOD UPDATE—MAY 2021

Bring Your Own Book Club Meeting & Book Swap

Amy Shapiro will host the final spring Sisterhood Bring Your Own Book Club & Book Swap on Sunday, May 2, at 2:00 p.m. via Zoom. If you want to pass along good books to other Sisterhood members, bring 1-5 books to the meeting and see who is interested in a swap. Zoom information will be available in the weekly announcements.

Slate of Sisterhood Officers for 2021-2023

Thank you to Roslyn Covey, Rebecca Bahar-Cook, and Gail Wolfe for serving on the Nomination Committee. Thank you to all of the Sisterhood members who accepted nominations to serve—your participation is greatly appreciated!

Sisterhood Executive Board

President:	Karen Weinstein
1st Vice President:	Amy Shapiro
2nd Vice President:	Roslyn Covey
3rd Vice President:	Marilyn Ruben
4th Vice President:	Margot Valles
Treasurer:	Mitzi Goldstein
Correspondence Secretary:	Jen Zillens
Recording Secretary:	Barbara Robinson-Dunn
Membership Secretary:	Rebecca Bahar-Cook
Immediate Past President:	Kelly Feinberg
Life Board Member:	Royalyn Vert
Trustee:	Suzanne Lowe & Gail Wolfe

Sisterhood Committee Chairs

Ethel Wolfe Kitchen Fund:	Gail Wolfe
Gift Shop:	Marilyn Ruben, Mitzi Goldstein
Oneg:	Roslyn Covey
Hospitality:	Roslyn Covey
Fund Raising:	Ethel Anthony
Interfaith:	Jan White
Program:	Lauren Warshaw, Sara Hopkins
Personal Interest:	Shawn Olds
Yes Fund/Youth Scholarship:	Mallory DePrekel
Simcagram:	Lisa Craig/Joanne Gilbert
Publicity:	Lisa Craig
Directory:	Marilyn Ruben

Save the Date—Donor and Installation, Sunday, June 27 at 2:00 p.m.

Shaarey Zedek Religious School News

THANK YOU!

A great big thank you to the SZRS teachers, staff, students, families, the Sisterhood, the Executive Board and the Congregation Shaarey Zedek community for making a difficult year successful!

We couldn't have done it without you! Faced with challenge after challenge, we got through it and we even had a good time because of the commitment you've made to our children and their Jewish learning. You made this year great and I am filled with gratitude for the work and support you put in.



FACEBOOK GROUP

The SZRS Families Stay Connected Facebook Group began last year to help us maintain our sense of community and cooperation during the pandemic stay at home orders. We have also used it to share Jewish education resources to do Jewish learning at home. It has since blossomed into a place to share student accomplishments, information about upcoming events and, of course, stay connected.

Please join us at:

<http://bit.ly/SZRSfacebook>

MAZAL TOV

TO OUR GRADUATES AND CONFIRMANDS!

Graduates Class of 2020:

**Alex Adam, Forrest Colson,
Sara Cook, Bonita Yoder** (in absentia)

Graduates Class of 2021:

**Myles Behar, Ella Horgan,
Rachel Olds, Jo Schwitzer**

Confirmands:

**Juliana Cohen,
Ethan Olds, Josie Shapiro**

Shabbat celebrations in their honor will be held during Friday night services on May 7 (Graduation) and May 21 (Confirmation).

An extra special double big thank you to **Jennifer Thompson** (Chair), **Gabriel Elia, Daniel Feinberg, Jeff Olds, Karen Shapiro, and Karen Weinstein** for serving on the school committee this year.

Lifelong Learning News

THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who participated in our adult educational programming since we went remote last March. We are especially grateful to all of our teachers, leaders and presenters:

Rabbi Amy Bigman
Mike Bishop
Dr. Christina DeJong
Dr. Joanne Gilbert
Betsy Hull
Dr. Ken Levine
Deborah Margolis
Dr. Elizabeth Meadows
Rachel Minkin
Aviva Panush
Jessica Sender
Dr. Amy Simon
Dr. Margot Valles
Dr. Sean Valles

I want to express particular gratitude to **Shawn Olds** who suggested we offer Lunch'n Learn programs during this time and **Rebecca Bahar-Cook** whose thoughtful expressions of concern led to the pop-ups on racism we held last summer.

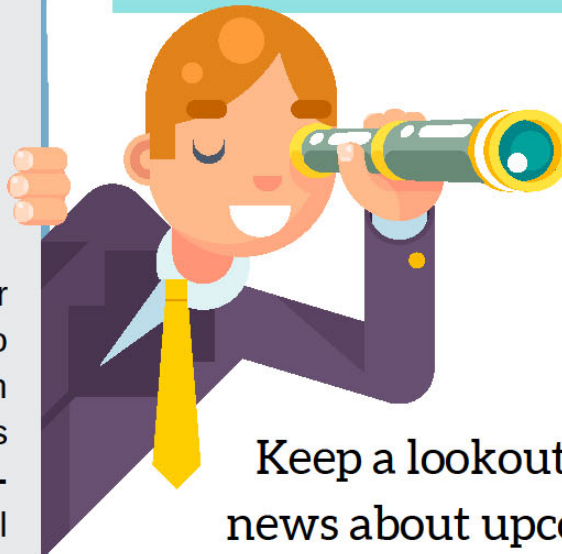


YOU CAN STILL REGISTER FOR THE LAST SESSION OF OUR TEMPLE LIBRARIANS LUNCH'N LEARN SERIES FEATURING

BETSY HULL
OKEMOS BRANCH
HEAD LIBRARIAN FOR
CAPITAL AREA
DISTRICT LIBRARIES

[HTTPS://BIT.LY/TEMPLELIBRARIANS](https://bit.ly/templelibrarians)

THURSDAY, MAY 6 AT NOON



Keep a lookout for more news about upcoming and exciting adult educational programs.

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 "Commentary" and acknowledgment to a recipient. This policy applies to the :

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

Also included are these endowed 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
- Shapiro Endowed Religious School Fund
- CSZ Endowment Fund
- *L' Dor Vador* Fund

ROBERT GOODMAN MUISC FUND

In memory of Linda Woodrow
In memory of Naomi Rachman
Joan and Don Gochberg

RUTH E. ROME MUSIC FUND

In memory of Naomi Rachman
Susan and James Kostaroff

CANTOR PAMELA SCHIFFER CARING COMMUNITY FUND

In memory of Naomi Rachman
Carol and Ron Horowitz
Jami, Sami and Josh Weinberg
Lisa and Tom Aronson
Robin Marcus
Lynne and Jon Shapiro

DAVID AND CARROL KAHN CULTURAL FUND

In memory of Naomi Rachman
Wendy Kahn and Susie Stern

GENERAL FUND

In memory of Linda Woodrow
In memory of Naomi Rachman
Steve and Mitzi Goldstein

A donation in memory of Linda Woodrow and Naomi Rachman was made. An Oneg will be held in their memory when we are able to do so.
Elaine Cherney

ESTHER AND JUSTIN MORRISON FUND

Happy Birthday to:
Ezra Morrison
Jerry Fine
Winnie Rome
Alan Wolfe

Happy Anniversary to Carol and Ron Horowitz

In memory of:
Gerson Bernstein
Linda Woodrow
Naomi Rachman
Esther Morrison

SOPHIE RADWAY PJ LIBRARY FUND

In honor of the recovery of Richard Mermelstein
In memory of Linda Woodrow
In memory of Naomi Rachman
Marlene and Burt Altman

A generous donation was received from Matthew Aldridge

In memory of Naomi Rachman
In memory of Linda Woodrow
Ros Covey
Carol Welch

In memory of Naomi Rachman
Judy Robins
Naomi and Blake Casher

In memory of Linda Woodrow
Bonnie, Dick and Andy Radway
Gloria Epstein

MAUREEN GLADSTONE FLOWER FUND

In memory of:
Maureen Gladstone
Harold Gladstone
Jon Ezzo
Marty Ross
Marv Gladstone

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In memory of Linda Woodrow
Mike Woodrow and family

In memory of Naomi Rachman
The Rachman Family

In memory of Wesley R. Fishel
Larry Fishel

JOE AND MABLE MEITES RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

In honor of my grandson, Asa Wheeler, becoming *Bar Mitzvah*
Judy Minkin

In memory of Linda Woodrow
Sue Safir

In honor of Asa Wheeler becoming *Bar Mitzvah*
Gail Eisenberg

HENRY FINE AND ANNETTE FINE BURKE LIBRARY FUND

In memory of Naomi Rachman
Sue Safir

In memory of Linda Woodrow
In memory of Naomi Rachman
Elaine Cherney

ETHEL WOLFE KITCHEN FUND

In memory of:
Linda Woodrow
Naomi Rachman
Harold DeJong
Alan and Gail Wolfe

REMEMBRANCES

YAHRTZEITS

April 30 and 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

May 7-8

Rebecca Dinetz, Edna Dyme, John Eliasohn, Shirley Gaynor, Audrey Gienapp, Arthur Hendrick, Marlene Hoffman, Milton Kaufman, Robert Kramer, Harriet Lieberman, Joseph Marton, Mildred Molner, Leonor Reizen, Rose Smith, Avi Teles

May 14-15

Gerson Bernstein, Robert Blau, Jules Danowitz, Augusta Dorfman, Max Drelich, Irene Ely, Louis Eyl, Art Falk, Francis Fine, Judy Frank, Aviva Hoffman, William Rosenthal, Jerold Saper, Mildred Spalter, Leonid Spivak, Agnes Wepman, James Wilson

May 21-22

Isadore Bloom, Edith Reid Flaster, Tom Gochberg, Toddy Gold, Bernice Israel, Alexander Kahn, Bernice Kaufman, Lillian Mattes, Norman Pollack, Bekah Rosenfeld, Jerrold Selman, Simon Silverman, Louis Zidell

May 28-29

Jack Davis, Max Feintuch, Stanley Gold, Raymond Grigg, Ethel Kirschman, Blanche Oxaer, Charles Ruben, Judith Smookler

CONDOLENCES

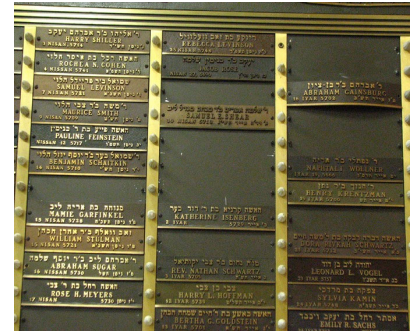
Condolences are sent to Nancy Bennett and family on the death of her father, Joseph Bradley Becker, on March 27.

Condolences are sent to Christina DeJong and family on the death of her father, Harold DeJong, on April 3.

Condolences are sent to Mike Woodrow and family on the death of his wife, Linda Woodrow, on April 4.

Condolences are sent to the family of Naomi Rachman, who died on April 4.

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 16 at 10:00 a.m. You can access the meeting via Zoom, either on your device or telephone. A Zoom invitation will be sent to members-in-good-standing separately. The agenda, minutes and reports will be sent electronically no later than May 14.

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

Commentary *Worship* *Schedule*

Saturday, May 1

Shabbat Morning Service 10:30 a.m. including the *Bar Mitzvah* of Nolan Zatkan

Friday, May 7

Shabbat Worship and Graduation Ceremony via Zoom. Please see page 3 for details and link 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 8

Shabbat Morning Service 9:30 a.m.

Friday, May 14

Shabbat Evening Service 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 15

Shabbat Morning Service 9:30 a.m.

Sunday, May 16

Shavuot Hallel and *Yizkor* 7:30 p.m. via Zoom. Please see front page for details and link

Friday, May 21

Shabbat Worship and Confirmation Ceremony via Zoom 7:00 p.m. Please see page 3 for details and link.

Saturday, May 22

Shabbat Morning Service 9:30 a.m.

Friday, May 28

Shabbat Evening Service 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 29

Shabbat Morning Service 9:30 a.m.

