

CONGREGATION SHAAREY ZEDEK

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

JANUARY 2022 TEVET/SH'VAT 5782

Justice, Justice You Shall Pursue • צדק צדק תרדף

CONGREGATION SHAAREY ZEDEK

Racial Justice Task Force



Congregation Shaarey Zedek's **Racial Justice Task Force** is dedicating 2022 to criminal justice reform. We invite you to join us in exploring and experiencing the Jewish value of pursuing justice (*tzedek tzedek tirdof*) with a **kickoff event via Zoom at 7 p.m. on Jan. 13.**

We'll hear from people with firsthand experience of our state's criminal justice system who will tell us about the key issues we can become active in, such as voting rights, re-entry efforts and community funding.



Rick Speck
Community Engagement Specialist
Safe & Just Michigan
Formerly Incarcerated



Ronnie Waters
Community Engagement Specialist
Safe & Just Michigan
Formerly Juvenile Lifer



Danny Jones
Outreach & Engagement Coordinator
Michigan Collaborative to
End Mass Incarceration
Former Juvenile Lifer



Dr. Christina DeJong
School of Criminal Justice
Michigan State University
Associate Professor

Register now at bit.ly/racialjusticeprogram

RABBI BIGMAN'S LETTER

יומא חד הוה אזל באורחא חזייה ליהווא גברא דהוה נטע חרובא אמר ליה האי עד כמה שנין טעין אמר ליה עד שבעין שנין אמר ליה פשיטא לך דחיית שבעין שנין אמר ליה האי [גברא] עלמא בחרובא אשכחתיא כי היכי דשתלי לי אבהתי שתלי נמי לבראי

One day, he [Honi the Circle-Maker] was walking along the road when he saw a certain man planting a carob tree. Honi said to him: This tree, after how many years will it bear fruit? The man said to him: It will not produce fruit until seventy years have passed. Honi said to him: Is it obvious to you that you will live seventy years, that you expect to benefit from this tree? He said to him: That man himself found a world full of carob trees. Just as my ancestors planted for me, I too am planting for my descendants. [*Ta'anit* 23a]

This month, on January 17, we will celebrate what might appear to be one of the most unusual holidays of the Jewish year: *Tu Bishvat*, literally "the 15th of (the month of) *Shevat*," but better known as the New Year of the Trees. The *Mishnah* designates this date as the birthday of the trees. It was important in ancient days to know how old a tree was in order to observe certain *mitzvot* (commandments). In the days of the Temple, tithes and offerings were made based upon the new fruit of the trees; fruit gathered from the previous year's produce could not be used for the current year's offering.

After the destruction of the Temple, we found other ways of celebrating *Tu Bishvat*. For example, today, like the man whom Honi encountered, we might plant trees in Israel under the auspices of the Jewish National Fund or participate in a *Tu Bishvat seder*.

Trees are a symbol of life and, indeed, the *Torah* itself is called the "Tree of Life." By celebrating this holiday, we are connected to Israel, to nature, and to our *Torah*. Many today see this holiday as sort of a Jewish Earth Day, a day which reminds us to take care of the environment.

Just as the man whom Honi encountered planted for future generations, so too do we continue to do so today. One of the ways we do that is by contributing to our congregation which supports our religious school and by making donations to Jewish institutions of higher learning. By shopping in the [Sisterhood Gift Shop](#) or making donations to the [Joseph and Mable Meites Religious School Fund](#), the [Bette Sue Rittman All Children Are Special Fund](#), the [Florence Rudman Education Fund](#), and the [Shapiro Endowed Religious School Fund](#), we plant for future generations of our own members. By supporting the [Sophie Radway Memorial PJ Library Fund](#) we plant not only for our own members but also young Jewish children across 36 zip codes in the mid-Michigan area, sending books of Jewish content to children ages 6 months to 8 years old. Please help us to help children learn about and be proud of their Judaism, paving the way for future generations of Jews.

As we celebrate *Tu Bishvat* and we begin this new year of 2022, may each of you be blessed with happiness and good health!

Lifelong Learning Opportunities

HOLY HARLOTRY

Sexworkers,
Pimping, and
Prostitution
in Judaism

Three sessions co-led by Rabbi Amy Bigman and Dr. Margot Valles

January 12, 19, 26
7:30 - 8:15 p.m. via Zoom

You must register in advance to attend. Please register, here:
<https://bit.ly/HolyHarlotry>

BIG IDEAS IN JUDAISM

Part 1
Exploring
Jewish
Peoplehood

Join Dr. Margot Valles in exploring questions about Jewish peoplehood such as: What does it mean to be part of Jewish community? How does one enter? What is the purpose of community? To what extent can communities and even the Jewish People hold diversity and shared values at the same time? What does Jewish peoplehood entail today when the centers of Jewish life, North America and Israel, are so different and independent from one another?

Understanding Jewish Peoplehood Sunday, January 30 at 11:15 a.m.

Belonging to the Jewish People Sunday, February 6 at 11:15 a.m.

Peoplehood and the Centrality of Place Sunday, February 12 at 11:15 a.m.

The sessions work in such a way that they enrich each other but do not build linearly.

You can attend one, two or all three sessions!

All classes held in the Davis Family Social Hall. Proper Masking is REQUIRED.

Course is appropriate for **everyone**: including folks who are new to Judaism, who are Jewish-adjacent, and / or who are experts in Judaism!



SZRS News

WINTER / SPRING 2022 CALENDAR:

January

- 5 (Wednesday)
- 9 (Sunday) Confirmation Class; *Kadima*
- 12 (Wednesday)
- 16 (Sunday) MiT; Special Programming for Dr. MLK Jr. Day and *Tu Bishvat*
- 19 (Wednesday)
- 23 (Sunday) *Madrichim* Mtg
- 26 (Wednesday)
- 30 (Sunday) MiT

February

- 2 (Wednesday)
- 6 (Sunday) Confirmation Class; *Kadima*
- 9 (Wednesday)
- 13 (Sunday) MiT; *Madrichim* Mtg; Staff Mtg
- 16 (Wednesday)
- 20 NO SCHOOL
- 23 (Wednesday)
- 25-28 L'Taken Trip to DC
- 27 (Sunday)



March

- 2 (Wednesday)
- 6 (Sunday) Confirmation Class; *Kadima*
- 9 (Wednesday)
- 13 (Sunday) MiT; *Madrichim* Meeting
- 16 (Wednesday) *Purim* at SZRS (*Megilah* Reading)
- 20 (Sunday) *Purim* at SZRS
- 23 (Wednesday)
- 27 & 30 NO SCHOOL

April

- 3 NO SCHOOL
- 6 (Wednesday) 10 (Sunday) Confirmation Class; MiT; *Kadima*; Staff Mtg.
- 13 (Wednesday)
- 17 NO SCHOOL
- 20 (Wednesday) *Pesach* at SZRS
- 24 (Sunday) MiT; *Madrichim* Mtg; Last day of *Tichon*
- 27 (Wednesday)

May

- 1 (Sunday) MiT
- 4 (Wednesday)
- 8 NO SCHOOL
- 11 (Wednesday) 15 (Sunday) *Madrichim* Mtg; Staff Mtg
- 18 (Wednesday)
- 22 (Sunday) MiT; Confirmation Class; Last day for Gan through 2nd Grade
- 25 (Wednesday) Last Day of School for 3rd-7th Graders
- 29 NO SCHOOL



**Shavuot Celebration
and SZRS
Family Picnic
Sunday, June 5
10:00 a.m.**

Two New Ways to ReJewvenate at Shaarey Zedek

Beginning in February and occurring on the first *Shabbat* morning of the month.*

On the first *Shabbat* of each month, join us as we pray, learning about the liturgy, prayer traditions, diverse customs, and everything else that makes up a meaningful prayer service as we go.

All you need is a love of learning and a desire to connect to your spiritual community.

Love to Learn Minyan

10:00 - 11:00 a.m. in the chapel*

(This service will NOT be available via Livestream.)

Are you looking for a creative escape from the everyday?

Interested in finding a new way to enrich your spiritual practice?

Do you find coloring relaxing? If so, **this is for you!**

Midrash is the ancient Jewish art of interpreting classical texts in a way that brings out significant, new understandings.

In this 45-minute session you will

Midrash Maker Space

learn and leave with a new *midrash* written or drawn **by you** about an evocative passage from the *Torah* portion, *Haftarah*, or holiday liturgy.

11:15 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. in the Davis Family Social Hall*

Despite the crayons, this space is most appropriate for adults and teens.

Programs facilitated by Dr. Margot Valles. If you would be interested in leading a session or getting more involved, please reach out to Margot at menahelet.margot@shaareyzedek.com or by calling / texting (412) 614 - 0310.

*These programs will be canceled if it is no longer safe to gather in person or in the event of a *Bar* or *Bat Mitzvah* ceremony.

SISTERHOOD NEWS

Do you ever find yourself deep in thought about the connections you make with those around you? Not just the typical "Hello", and "How are you?".

I was reminded the other day about the concept of how every interaction we have with others can leave a lasting memory for that person. We never truly know the full impression we make. Sisterhood is striving to put our best impression out there for you. Please join us whenever you can.

Your Sisterhood President,
Karen Weinstein

What's Happening this Month

Jan. 2 at 2 p.m. Cooking with Terry Selman via Zoom. Please RSVP to wrenyk@aol.com by January 1 and we will email the Zoom link and ingredients needed if you want to cook along with us.

Jan 22 Game Night in the Davis Family Social Hall at 6:00 p.m. age 13 + \$10 per person

Jan. 25 at Virtual Cooking; plant based 1 pot meal and dessert with Rachel Asbury . Please RSVP to wrenyk@aol.com by January 20 and we will email the Zoom link and ingredients needed if you want to cook along with us.

Gift Shop News

We are open on Sundays from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. when the religious school is open. We can special order items for that special occasion coming up. Stop by to look through the catalogs.



Let's cook together and have some fun.

We will be hosting virtual cooking classes.

These will be virtual events. We hope to introduce some Great Jewish recipes with Terry and learn about plant based meals with Rachel. If you are interested in leading or attending a cooking session email wrenyk@aol.com.

Dates to Remember

Please join us for our 1st annual Community
Mah Jongg Event
Thursday, May 12, 2022
12:15 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
At Congregation Shaarey Zedek
Questions? Call Ethel Anthony at
517-285-0477



SYNAGOGUE AND COMMUNITY NEWS

MAZAL TOV to....

Jay Saper, son of **Roy Saper and Nell Kuhnmuench**, who was featured in the November issue of the Detroit Jewish News. Here is the link to the article.

<https://thejewishnews.com/2021/11/17/through-art-writing-and-teaching-jay-saper-honors-his-jewish-heritage/>

Susie Kahn Stern, daughter of the late David and Carrol Kahn, who lit the fourth candle on the *menorah* at the White House *Chanukah* celebration on December 2.

Halie Soifer, daughter of **Sandy and the late Howard Soifer** and current CEO of the Jewish Democratic Council of America, was also in attendance. Both of these women grew up at Congregation Shaarey Zedek.

Heather Abramson Krasna, daughter of **Janet and the late Paul Abramson**, was awarded the PhD in Public Health from Maastricht University, The Netherlands on December 15.

Adam Seyburn, who became co-owner of The Peanut Shop in downtown Lansing on December 7.

Matt Grossmann and Sarah Reckhow, who are opening "Hooked, a bookstore, coffee shop/wine bar in the East Lansing/Lansing area in April.

DIRECTORY UPDATE

Beatrice Linder
2700 Burcham Dr., Apt 530
East Lansing, MI 48823

SHAAREY ZEDEK OFFICE HOURS

Monday—Closed
Tuesday-Friday 9:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m

PARKINSON'S SUPPORT GROUP

The Parkinson's Support Group meets at Shaarey Zedek on the second Tuesday of each month at 1:00 p.m. There are group discussions for patients and for caregivers.

We would welcome other support groups to meet here at Shaarey Zedek. Please contact Patty Warshaw at 351-3570 ex. 1 if your group is interested.

Creating Confident Caregivers is a 6-week interactive class designed for caregivers of those with dementia. The class focuses on dementia and dementia specific-related information, skills, and attitudes to manage stress and become a confident caregiver. Person with dementia must be community dwelling (cannot live in a facility providing 24-hour care).

Where: Online via Zoom

When: Wednesdays, January 19 – February 23, 2022 from 2:00 – 4:00 pm on Zoom

Free of charge

To register: Call Tri-County Office on Aging at 517-887-1465 or e-mail Christine at histedc@tcoa.org



If you shop at Kroger, you probably have a Kroger Plus card. Not only can it save you money on your purchases, but can help our synagogue, too! Simply log on to: www.krogercommunityrewards.com to sign up. You will 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.

PRAYERS OF HEALING

Prayers of healing are sent to....

Elaine Pearlman, Jerry Weiss, John Craig, Arlene Kessler, Mike Bishop, Joanne Gilbert, Anita Baron, Alan Zohott, Royalyn Vert, Celia Guro, Igor Guro, Aviva Panush, Jane Finn, John Eulenberg, Winnie Rome, Amanda Seyburn

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. Thank you.



COMMUNITY NEWS



Presents

Shmita and All of Life

Sunday January 9 at 4 p.m.

[Register by clicking here](#)

This is the third in a four-part series with Rabbi Fred Scherlinder Dobb, rabbi of Adat Shalom Reconstructionist Congregation and chair of the national board of the Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life.



And save the date for the final talk in the series!

- February 6 - "Shmita and Us"

JEWISH & NEW-ISH: A SUPPORTIVE ONLINE SPACE FOR THOSE WHO HAVE RECENTLY (0-5 YEARS) CONVERTED TO JUDAISM

Have you converted to Judaism in the past five years? Join an online gathering where you can make connections, process your experiences, and learn with others in this safe space offered through a Reform Jewish lens. Ask questions without fear, share triumphs and challenges in a nurturing environment, and continue to explore your journey with Judaism in a community of care.

We recognize that the experiences of those who convert to Judaism are by no means monolithic (and many choose other language to describe themselves, preferring Jew by Choice, or preferring not to label themselves at all). We welcome and affirm people from a wide range of backgrounds including Jews of Color, people with disabilities, members of the LGBTQIA+ community, and people from other marginalized communities.

Facilitated by Sue Boj dak (she/her) and Yanira Quiñones (she/her). Live captioning and/or ASL interpretation available with 2 weeks advance request. CONTACT LEARNING@URJ.ORG FOR REGISTRATION INFORMATION. Thursdays, December 9, January 13, February 10, 8-9 PM ET; Plan to attend 1, 2 or all 3 free sessions.

Welcome the Stranger: An Interfaith Service of Song and Story

Please join Rabbi Bigman as The Interfaith Clergy Association of Greater Lansing will revive its annual interfaith service on Monday, February 7, at 7:00 p.m., at The Peoples Church.

The theme of the service is "Welcome the Stranger." We will offer scriptures and songs from many faiths that emphasize the importance of welcoming and tending to newcomers in our midst. Members of the recently arrived Afghan community will share stories of faith, and Judi Harris, director of Refugee Services for St. Vincent Catholic Charities, will share updates about the return of refugees to our area.

All are welcome to gather as a community of many different faiths, but one single community of friendship and mutual respect. You can attend in person, or watch the livestream at <https://tinyurl.com/yc4udz9f>

JANUARY 2022

Friday, January 7
Shabbat Evening Service 7:00 p.m.

Friday, January 14
SHAAREY ZEDEK LIVE 7:00 p.m.
Saturday, January 15
Shabbat Morning Programming (see adjoining
column)

Friday, January 21
Shabbat Evening Service 7:00 p.m.

Friday, January 28
Shabbat Evening Service 7:00 p.m.



We are really excited to celebrate *Shabbat* with you on Saturday, January 15. Please join us.

9:00-9:30 a.m. *Torah* discussion (sanctuary)
9:30-11:00 a.m. Conservative worship (sanctuary)
10:30-11:00 a.m. Tot Program (Davis Family Social Hall)
11:00-11:30 a.m. Nosh (Davis Family Social Hall)
11:30-11:45 a.m. Tot *Shabbat* worship (sanctuary)

Please RSVP to Karen Weinstein at wrenky@aol.com if you will be attending our Tot *Shabbat* program.