

# CONGREGATION SHAAREY ZEDEK

MONTHLY BULLETIN

JANUARY 2024  
TEVET - SHEVAT 5784



IN HONOR OF JEWISH DISABILITY AWARENESS, ACCEPTANCE,  
AND INCLUSION MONTH

WE WELCOME COMEDIAN AND ACTIVIST

**PAMELA  
RAE  
SCHULLER**

Comedian Pamela Rae Schuller is relentlessly funny. Her observations on disability, mental illness, dating, family, and past misadventures have led to brutally honest confessions about what it's like being 4 foot 6 (and a half) and having a whole lot of Tourette Syndrome.

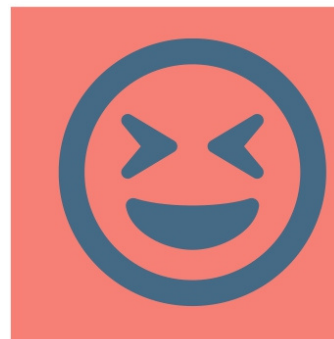


**FEB  
03  
8 PM**

At Congregation  
Shaarey Zedek  
18+ | \$10

**REGISTER AT:  
JEWISHFEDERATIONLANSING.ORG**

This Event is sponsored by  
Congregation Shaarey Zedek  
The Ravitz Foundation  
The Estate of Roselyn and Robert Solo  
Greater Lansing Jewish Federation





# A Letter from Rabbi Bigman

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## EXCITING PERSONNEL ANNOUNCEMENTS!

For the last two years, Director of Congregational Lifelong Learning **Dr. Margot Valles** has been studying through an online school called the Pluralist Rabbinical Seminary. At the Pluralist Rabbinical Seminary, students "study a core of advanced level classical and modern Hebrew, *Tanakh*, *Talmud* and rabbinical texts, history, liturgy, practical rabbinics, and other important subjects. Students also learn business and non-profit development, as well as interdisciplinary studies." [<https://jewishpluralism.org/>]

I am excited to announce that on December 3rd, Margot was ordained as a rabbi! As you will see from Margot's letter on page **4**, she will continue her current role as our educator, serving the educational needs of our congregation. As always, she and I will work together to offer the best religious school and adult education offerings as possible.

*Mazal tov* to Rabbi Dr. Margot Valles on this exciting life event! We will be celebrating this *simkhah* in the spring. Please watch for details in upcoming bulletins.

#####

In January we will be welcoming to our congregation our new administrator **Cassidy Oody**! Cassidy will be moving to Michigan from Florida where she has served most recently as the Director of Community Engagement and Programs of the Jewish Council of North Central Florida. She has also previously served as the director of programming and communications at a synagogue and has held other positions outside of the Jewish community during her career.

We are excited to welcome Cassidy and her family to East Lansing soon! She will begin her position as administrator the first week of January.

I am excited to be welcoming and working with Cassidy in the near future!

## Prayers of Healing

are sent to:

Char Epstein  
John Eulenberg  
Marcia Eulenberg  
Celia Guro  
Marilynn Jones  
Mike Levine  
Milt Price  
Winnie Rome  
Dany Rothfeld  
Shari Wilson  
Alan Zohott



## MEMBER DIRECTORY UPDATE

New address for

Susan Tons  
3238 Briarhill Road  
Hartland, MI 48353



It is our custom to read the names of those in need of healing at our Friday evening *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.

## Oneg Sponsors



January 5 – Sisterhood

January 12 - Patty/Ken Warshaw, Lauren Warshaw, Betsy Hull,  
Brenda/Michael Hull, Courtney/Brian Vincent

January 19 - Gail Wolfe, Kelly/Dan Feinberg, Amanda/Adam Seyburn

January 26 - Junis Zumbeg, Renee Zumberg, Terry Zumberg, Vicki/R.B.  
Brown, Lily Brown

## BIRTHDAYS



## ANNIVERSARIES

4	Esther Morrison
4	Samantha Kamer
5	Michael Ranieri
5	Noah Elia
6	Morgan Vincent
10	Lynn Spoon
11	Joanne Guertin
11	Betsy Hull
15	Lisa Craig
16	Doug Batchelder
17	Sarah Marks
18	Roy Saper
19	Sue Weiss
19	Seren Delaney
20	Alon Kalay
21	Jeffrey Olds
21	Valerie Levitt
22	Sandy Gladstone
24	Renee Zumberg
26	Mary Danowitz
26	Ron Weinstein
29	Juliet Feinberg
29	Evan Cohen
31	Edward Ozer
31	Allen Frank

8	Jason and Christine Pikstein
19	R.B. and Vicki Brown
26	Micah and Razi Lissy

יום הולדת שמח!  
(HAPPY BIRTHDAY)





## A Message from *Menachelet* Margot

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Dear Congregation Shaarey Zedek,

I am excited to announce that on December 3rd I was ordained as a rabbi through the Pluralist Rabbinical Seminary (PRS) at a ceremony in Tarrytown, NY. I loved my PRS education and I learned so much in the program. I am looking forward to seeing how my new skills can be used to serve the community and enrich my work as I continue in my role as Director of Congregational Lifelong Learning.

I plan to continue my role (and title) of Menachelet (Director) in my part-time work at Shaarey Zedek. Serving the educational needs of the community and running the religious school is my passion! It was what I was hired to do and I love doing it! It will be okay to address me with the title "rabbi," just as long as we understand that my role at Shaarey Zedek is as the educator, not rabbi of the congregation.

Rabbi Bigman remains the *Mara D'atra* (the rabbinic authority) of our community. All questions pertaining to Shaarey Zedek and communal ritual, practice, and custom are her exclusive domain. Rabbi Bigman is also the first person to call for all life-cycle events. People will not get to "pick" which rabbi they want for a given life-cycle event. However, with my new skills, I will be happy to pick up some of the rabbi's work in this domain, when she is unavailable, as a service to her and the community. Rabbi Bigman remains the rabbi on the *bimah*. She can, of course, as she has in the past, call on me to lead a service if she will be out of town or if she is sick. Leading services, however, will not be one of my central duties.

As more possibilities arise, I look forward to figuring out exactly how I can be helpful while staying in my lane.

We are planning to celebrate as a community in the spring. More details to come in the months to follow!

I am so grateful for Rabbi Bigman's encouragement and support from the moment I first discussed this with her and throughout this journey. I also really appreciate your support and patience as I went through this process. Thank you so much!

Yours,  
Margot





## SZRS News

**Welcome back!**

**We hope you had a great winter break!**

### SZRS Calendar

#### January

~~Wednesday, January 3~~  
~~Sunday, January 7~~  
Wednesday, January 10  
Sunday, January 14 MLK  
• M-i-T  
Wednesday, January 17  
Sunday, January 21  
• Confirmation  
• Kadima  
Wednesday, January 24  
• Tu Bishvat Program  
Sunday, January 28  
• M-i-T  
• Tu Bishvat for Littles  
Wednesday, January 31

#### February

Sunday, February 4  
• Special Program for Teens  
• Confirmation  
Wednesday, February 7  
Sunday, February 11  
• M-i-T  
Wednesday, February 14

~~Sunday, February 18~~  
Wednesday, February 21  
Sunday, February 25  
• M-i-T  
Wednesday, February 28

#### March

Sunday, March 3  
• Confirmation  
Wednesday, March 6  
Friday, March 8  
• 3rd-5th Grade Service  
Sunday, March 10  
• M-i-T  
Wednesday, March 13  
Sunday, March 17  
• Purim Carnival  
Wednesday, March 20  
Sunday, March 24  
Wednesday, March 27  
Sunday, March 31

#### April

Wednesday, April 3  
Friday, April 5  
• 6th-7th Grade Service  
Sunday, April 7  
• Confirmation  
• M-i-T

Wednesday, April 10  
Sunday, April 14  
• Last day of Tichon  
• M-i-T  
Wednesday, April 17  
Friday, April 19  
• Graduation  
Sunday, April 21  
~~Wednesday, April 24~~  
Sunday, April 28  
• M-i-T Presentation Day

#### May

Wednesday, May 1  
Sunday, May 5  
• Confirmation Rehearsal at noon  
Wednesday, May 8  
~~Sunday, May 12~~  
Wednesday, May 15  
Sunday, May 19  
• Last day of SZRS  
• SZRS Family Picnic

### Tu Bishvat , New Year for the Trees,

is a day long celebration of trees, the Earth, and our spiritual connection to it. This year it will be on January 25th (beginning the evening before). Our 3rd- through 7th graders will celebrate it on Wed., Jan 24 while our younger students will celebrate it on Sunday, January 28.



## Lifelong Learning News



We are offering a bunch of new adult ed opportunities beginning this month including two Sunday morning sessions with MSU Professor Dr. Yael Aronoff about the war in Israel (page 11), the opportunity to study Hebrew on Wednesday afternoons (page 7) and a new lunch'n learn series exploring contemporary topics with Rabbi Bigman and Rabbi Mark Washofsky (page 10).

### Ongoing Classes

#### **Midrash and Mayhem: Adventures in Genesis**

Thursdays, January 11 and 18 at 8:00 p.m. via Zoom

## ReJewvenate Three Ways to at Shaarey Zedek

Join us on *Shabbat* morning in the Davis Family Social Hall to nourish your body, mind, and soul on **January 6** and **February 3**.

#### **Please Rise!**

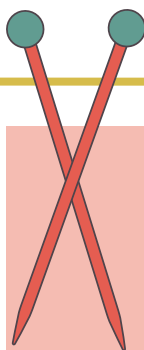
9:15 - 10:00 a.m. Stretching and Movement. Led by **Lauren Warshaw**.

#### **Love to Learn Minyan**

10:10 - 11:00 a.m. Prayer and Discussion. Led by **Margot Valles**.

#### **Midrash Maker Space**

11:15 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Creativity and Art. Led by **Kelly Feinberg**.



### **Needle Arts and Nibbles Shaarey Zedek Knitting Club**

Schuler Books  
Sunday, January 7 at 2:00 p.m.



For any **Lifelong Learning** related questions, please reach out to Dr. Margot Valles at (412) 614-0310 or [menahelet.margot@shaareyzedek.com](mailto:menahelet.margot@shaareyzedek.com).

# HEBREW

WITH  
RABBI  
BIGMAN

**\$36**



WEDNESDAYS  
THIS WINTER

5:15-6:00 P.M.

DAVIS FAMILY SOCIAL HALL

Beginning January 10

Whether you are brushing up or starting from *a/ef*, this class will help you read Hebrew fluently and with confidence!

This course will only run with at least 5 students registered. Please register [here](https://bit.ly/HebrewWinter24) (<https://bit.ly/HebrewWinter24>) or email [rabbibigman@shaareyzedek.com](mailto:rabbibigman@shaareyzedek.com) by December 31.

**Rabbi Bigman received a *Chanukah* card from the Lansing Area Parkinson's Support Group which meets at Shaarey Zedek monthly:**

**תודה!**

We are so very grateful that your congregation continues to allow our members to gather together there for our support group meetings each month. You have many other things to attend to at this terrible, difficult time, but you haven't let us slip through the cracks.

With deep appreciation,  
The Lansing Area Parkinson's Support Group



Get a gift for yourself and  
Join us for an Evening of Elegance at



117 E César E. Chávez Ave, Lansing, MI 48906

For a Sisterhood Fundraiser on  
Monday, January 22 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Indulge in an exclusive shopping experience and discover the  
transformative power of a perfect fit while supporting Sisterhood!

### 5 REASONS TO JOIN US

1. Comfort Redefined - find the right fit
2. Feel Great About Your Body - you will feel like a million bucks
3. Confidence Boost - if you look good, you will feel good
4. Ignite a Romantic Spark - set the stage for a special moment
5. Contribute to Sisterhood - funds benefit our members and SZRS

Wine and light refreshments will be served

Please email [rebeccabc@capitolfundraising.com](mailto:rebeccabc@capitolfundraising.com) to RSVP



## INTRODUCTION TO AMERICAN MAH JONGG

Are you interested in learning how to play Mah Jongg?

Mah Jongg is an interesting, social, stimulating, and fun rummy type game. If you would like to learn to play, please join us on Sunday, January 14 at 2 p.m. in the Davis Family Social Hall. Instructors will be available to teach you to play.

IF INTERESTED, PLEASE CALL TO REGISISTER

ROBIN WILLNER

OR

ROSLYN COVEY

332-3722

230-6065

[Ronit24@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Ronit24@sbcglobal.net)

[roslyncovey@att.net](mailto:roslyncovey@att.net)





## SISTERHOOD SINGING BOWL GROUP MEDITATION

*Sunday, February 4  
from 3:00-4:00 p.m.*

\$15 per  
person



Join your Sisterhood friends for a peaceful and deeply relaxing experience! We will start with a brief tour of the spa and then settle into a private room where we will be guided through a special meditation set to the enchanting sounds of the solid quartz crystal singing bowls. This sound therapy will be enhanced by color/light therapy and aromatherapy.

Wear comfortable clothes.

You will lie on a floor mat or sit in a chair.

Limited to 8 participants.

(Registration info will be in the next newsletter)

Beyond a Dream Metaphysical Day Spa  
4738 Central Park Dr, Okemos 48864

# COMMUNITY NEWS

## TRIP TO THE DETROIT INSTITUTE OF ARTS



Enjoy a special docent walking tour of the art in the DIA done by Jewish artists as well as Jewish Art created by non-Jewish artists.



We will make arrangements for a chartered bus if 50 people are interested. We need 50 of us to make this event happen and keep the cost of the trip to \$40.00 per person.



Meet at Shaarey Zedek at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, May 7 and return by 4 p.m.



Karen Glickman from Kehillat Israel and Ethel Anthony from Shaarey Zedek are chairing this exciting and educational event.



Greater Lansing Jewish Federation graciously contributed part of the cost of the bus.



Please contact **Ethel Anthony** by December 31 at [n8pwc1947@gmail.com](mailto:n8pwc1947@gmail.com) to reserve your spot. You do NOT have to send your check. We will notify you by email when checks are due.

RABBI AMY BIGMAN  
AND RABBI DR. MARK WASHOFSKY

## GOT A HALF-HOUR?

WEDNESDAYS IN FEBRUARY

12:00 - 12:30 p.m. on Zoom

### WHAT DOES JUDAISM SAY ABOUT THE ISSUES OF TODAY?

Using the Freehof Institute of Progressive Halakhah's Twelve-Minute Shiur, we will study the lesson with Rabbi Dr. Washofsky (pre-recorded) and then discuss it (live) with Rabbi Bigman.

Rabbi Mark Washofsky, Ph.D., is professor emeritus at the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion's Cincinnati campus. He has been involved with HUC for over 50 years.

He chaired the Responsa Committee of the Central Conference of American Rabbis from 1996-2017 and has been a sought-after expert in a broad array of Reform responses to Jewish ethical and legal issues. His book, *Jewish Living: A Guide to Contemporary Reform Practice*, serves as a desk reference for many congregational leaders and professionals. His extensive publications include *Reform Responsa for the Twenty-First Century* and essays and articles on medieval halakhic literature, the application of legal theory to the study of Jewish law, Jewish bioethics, outreach and conversion, among other topics.

Dr. Washofsky has been a Shaarey Zedek scholar-in-residence twice, most recently in the fall of 2016 to celebrate Rabbi Bigman's 25th anniversary in the rabbinate.

PLEASE REGISTER BY FEBRUARY 1 IN ORDER TO RECEIVE  
THE ZOOM LINK. TO REGISTER PLEASE EMAIL:

[rabbibigman@shaareyedek.com](mailto:rabbibigman@shaareyedek.com)

**Want to learn more  
about the war  
between Israel and  
Hamas?**

**Want to deepen your  
understanding in  
conversation with an  
expert?**

**Dr. Aronoff** is the Michael and Elaine Serling and Friends Endowed Chair in Israel Studies, the director of the Serling Institute for Jewish Studies and Modern Israel and a professor of Political Science / International Relations at James Madison College at Michigan State University. She served as the President of the Association of Israel Studies from 2019-2021. Her research focuses on understanding the process by which wars end and peace is established.



## **TWO TALKS ON THE CONFLICT WITH PROFESSOR Yael Aronoff**

**Sunday Morning**  
**10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**  
in the Chapel.  
Presentation followed by  
discussion.

### **January 21**

Negotiating a Peace Agreement between  
Israel and the Palestinian Authority: Progress  
Made in the Past and Hopes for the Future

### **January 28**

Analyzing Wars Between Israel and Hamas in  
the Past and Present

# 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 "Bulletin" 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 Fund
- Bubbe Lynn Rycus Beautification Fund
- Building Fund
- Henry Fine and Annette Fine Burke Library Fund
- David and Carrol Kahn Cultural Fund
- Joseph & Jeanette Lutvak Fund
- Joseph and Mable Meites Educational Fund
- Jerry Cohen Photography Fund
- Esther and Justin Morrison Fund
- Landscape Fund
- Planned Giving Fund
- Prayer Book Fund
- Robert Goodman Music Fund
- Sophie Radway Memorial PJ Library Fund
- Cantor Pamela Schiffer Caring Community Fund
- Rabbi Morton and Aviva Hoffman *Tzedakah* Fund
- Ethel Wolfe Kitchen Fund
- YES Fund

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

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

## **BETTE SUE RITTMAN ALL CHILDREN ARE SPECIAL FUND**

In memory of Alan Wolfe  
Howard Rittman Family: Jay, Laura, and Ruby Rittman  
Steven and Terri Wood, Amanda, Josh, Sammi  
Alson Family: Sindy, Mark, Seth, Heather, and Charlotte

## **BUILDING FUND**

In memory of Vera Katz  
Kim Roth

## **BUBBE LYNN RYCUS BEAUTIFICATION FUND**

In memory of Morris Altman  
Burt and Marlene Altman

In memory of Alan Wolfe  
Ron Rycus

## **CANTOR PAMELA SCHIFFER CARING COMMUNITY FUND**

In memory of John Bathke  
Susan Bathke and Stuart Landay

## **JOSEPH AND MABLE MEITES EDUCATIONAL FUND**

In honor of Margot Valles becoming a Rabbi  
Aviva Panush



# GIFTS, HONORS AND MEMORIALS

## ETHEL WOLFE KITCHEN FUND

In memory of Alan Wolfe  
Charlene Epstein  
Anita and Perry Parkhurst  
Jerry and Sue Weiss  
Debbie, Dave, and Isaac Richmond  
Aviva Panush  
Susan Bathke and Stuart Landay  
Steve and Mitzi Goldstein  
Elizabeth Evangelista  
Herb and Michele Better

## MAUREEN GLADSTONE FLOWER AND SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT FUND

In memory of Rose Gladstone  
Marvin Gladstone

## RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In memory of Gertrude Kahn  
Jacqueline and Donald Holecek

## RABBI MORTON AND AVIVA HOFFMAN TZEDAKAH FUND

In memory of Rabbi Morton Hoffman  
Daniel Weiner

## RUTH E. ROME ENDOWED MUSIC FUND

In memory of Jill Osias  
Don and Joan Gochberg

## SOPHIE RADWAY MEMORIAL PJ LIBRARY FUND

In memory of Alan Wolfe  
Burt and Marlene Altman

In honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Adelaide Moser  
Aviva Panush

In memory of Jackie Gutowitz  
Burt and Marlene Altman

## SECURITY

A generous donation was received from  
Patrick and Teresa Patterson  
Annette Weinshank  
Gretchen Smith

In thanks to Rabbi Bigman  
Alice Dreger and Aron Sousa

## YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In honor of Karen Weinstein's Simcha  
Aviva Panush





# YAHRTZEITS



## JANUARY 5

Barbara Anderson  
Lois Crawford  
Thomas Falcsik  
Harry Gershen  
James Gouin  
David Hecht  
Rebecca Hecht  
Dorothy Lachman  
Abraham Polukoff  
Josef Rittman  
Esther Schiffer  
Rosemarie Sender  
Morton Siet  
Harold Soffin  
Marilyn Soifer  
Cecilia Struze  
Betty Tannenbaum  
Royalyn Vert  
Jerry Weisberg  
Ilene Wolfe



## JANUARY 12

Donald Baron  
Sally Baron  
Annette Fine Burke  
Lillian Busch  
Charles Carp  
Thelma Cohen  
Elizabeth Gouin  
Abe Kamins  
Ruth Kositchek  
Benjamin Shalom  
Kruger  
Michael Ledger  
Viva Irene Lowe  
Lois Cone Lurie  
David Radway  
Ron Radway  
Lillian Richmond  
Ralph Robinson  
Bill Russell  
Larry Thompson  
Jay Werber  
Jamie Allison White



## JANUARY 19

Lee Abramson  
Paul Eisenberg  
Marvin Engel  
Martin Fruitman  
Lilly Greenberg  
Benjamin Albert Levine  
Maier Simon Levine  
Abraham Marks  
Al Meadows  
Rebecca Pfeifer  
Rachel Price  
Beatrice Rabin  
Lila Radway  
Jeanette Schafer  
Kay Shapiro  
Anna Zidell



## JANUARY 26

Esther Berman  
Harry P. Berman  
Archie Crego  
Robert Echt  
Benjamin Evans  
Harry Fine  
Abe Gabin  
Leo Goldner  
Dick Ormos  
Faylene Owen  
Matilda Post  
Bella Schlissberg  
Frank Selman  
Rebecca Sernick  
Winnie Snyder  
Howard Soifer  
Arnold Zumberg



### MEMORIAL BOARD PLAQUES

Memorialize your loved one and honor their name with a plaque in the Shaarey Zedek sanctuary. Plaques are \$550 and proceeds support the General Fund of the annual budget.

### CONDOLENCES are sent to

Martha Kruger, on the death of her mother Sylvia Kruger, on December 6

Michelle Bader and Debbie Donohue on the death of their mother Miriam Wetzler, on December 16

Congregation Shaarey Zedek  
1924 Coolidge Road  
East Lansing, MI 48823

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## Worship Schedule

Friday, January 5 -- *Shabbat* Evening Worship, 7 p.m.

Friday, January 12 -- Shaarey Zedek Live! Worship, 6 p.m.

Friday, January 19 -- *Shabbat* Evening Worship, 7 p.m.

Friday, January 26 -- *Shabbat* Evening Worship, 7 p.m.

