CONGREGATION Shaarey Zedek December 2024

MONTHLY BULLETIN

DECEMBER 2024 CHESHVAN - KISLEV 5785

SHAAREY ZEDEK LIVE DINNERS - PRE-CHANUKAH DINNER-Dinner 5:15 p.m. Service 6 p.m. and oneg following. Adults \$7, kids under 13 are \$5 Food will include latkes and macaroni and cheese. **RSVP Thursday, December 12** Please contact Amy Shapiro

at 312-841-8653 or amyjshapiro6@gmail.com On the website of Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks z"l, the former Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of the Commonwealth of Great Britain and well-known author and commentator, there are videos for each night of *Chanukah*. Here is what Rabbi Sacks taught for the third night of the holiday:

A Letter from Rabbi Bigman

THE THIRD MIRACLE

https://rabbisacks.org/videos/the-third-miracle/

We all know the miracles of *Chanukah*, the military victory of the Maccabees against the Greeks, and the miracle of the oil that should have lasted one day but stayed burning for eight. But there was a third miracle not many people know about. It took place several centuries later.

After the Destruction of the Second Temple, many Rabbis were convinced that *Chanukah* should be abolished. After all, it celebrated the rededication of the Temple. And the Temple was no more. It had been destroyed by the Romans under Titus. Without a Temple, what was there left to celebrate?

The *Talmud* tells us that in at least one town, Lod, *Chanukah* was abolished. Yet eventually the other view prevailed, which is why we celebrate *Chanukah* to this day.

Why? Because though the Temple was destroyed, Jewish hope was not destroyed. We may have lost the building but we still had the story, and the memory, and the light. What had happened once in the days of the Maccabees could happen again. And it was those words, *od lo avdah tikvateinu*, "our hope is not destroyed," [that] became part of the song, *Hatikvah*, that inspired Jews to return to Israel and rebuild their ancient state. So as you light the *Chanukah* candles remember this. The Jewish people kept hope alive, and hope kept the Jewish people alive.

We are the voice of hope in the conversation of humankind.

Rabbi Sacks shared here the constant theme of Judaism: Hope is not lost. Despite the loss of the Temple in Jerusalem (twice!), despite pogroms, despite everything that has befallen our people, we still hope. Hope is essential. As it says in Psalm 27:14:

קַוֹּה אֶל־יְהוָה חֲזַק וַיָּאֲמָץ לִבֶּךָ וְקוֹּה אֶל־יְהוָה

Hope in God; be strong and of good courage!

Hope in God!

May the lights of your *chanukiyah* remind you of this "third miracle": Keep the faith, keep the hope, keep the prayers and do the work for better days ahead. *Chag Chanukah Sameakh!*

This year is one of those rare years when *Chanukah* is celebrated in two separate secular calendar years: Beginning at sundown on December 25, 2024, *Chanukah* ends at sundown on January 2, 2025. Since *Chanukah* will take place during our children's school winter break, we will be celebrating it a bit early this year with our Pre-*Chanukah* Celebration on Friday, December 13. We begin with dinner at 5:15 p.m.* and will continue with our family-friendly worship at 6 p.m. Our *Gan* (kindergarten), *Alef* (first grade), and *Bet* (second grade) students will lead us in *Chanukah* songs during worship. I look forward to celebrating with you!

*Please see registration information on front cover.

Ner Shel Tzedakah (Candle / Light of Righteous Giving)

As part of an initiative to address the problem of poverty in the general and Jewish communities, the Union for Reform Judaism, the Jewish Council for Public Affairs, and the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism created this program to raise public awareness and educate the Jewish community about poverty during the *Chanukah* season. It is planned each year for the sixth night of *Chanukah* and the first one was held in 2007.

On the 6th night of *Chanukah*, families are encouraged to teach their children about the needs of those less fortunate and donate the value of the gifts they would ordinarily exchange (or the gifts themselves) to local or national organizations assisting the poor. The process of deciding where and how to fulfill this *mitzvah* can itself be a fun and engaging family project.

CHANUKAH BLESSINGS

Thank you, God, for the *mitzvah* of the *Chanukah* lights. May they spark within us the courage to speak out for freedom. Thank you, God, for the miracles which saved our people then and now. Thank you, God, for bringing us together at this happy time.

[<u>Mishkan T'filah for Youth</u>, p. 144]

For all nights:

בָּרוּך אַתָּה יי, אֱלוֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶך הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִידְשָׁנוּ בְּמִצוֹתָיו וְצִיוָנוּ לְהַדְלִיק נֵר שֶׁל חַנֻכָּה

Blessed are You, *Adonai* our God, Ruler of the universe, who has made us holy through commandments and commanded us to light the candles of *Chanukah*.

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי, אֱלוֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, שֶׁעָשָׂה נִסִּים לַאֲבוֹתֵינוּ בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם בַּזְמַן הַזֶּה

Blessed are You, *Adona*i our God, Ruler of the universe, who made miracles for our ancestors in those days at this season.

<u>On the first night only:</u>

בָּרוּך אַתָּה יי, אֱלוֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, שֶׁהֶחֶיָנוּ, וְקִיְמָנוּ, וְהִגִּיָענוּ לַזְּמַן הַזֶּה

Blessed are You, *Adona*i our God, Ruler of the universe, who has given us life, sustained us, and enabled us to reach this season.

On the sixth night:

בָּרוּך אַתָּה יי, אֶלוֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִידְשָׁנוּ בְּמִצוֹתָיו וְצִיוָנוּ לְהַדְלִיק נֵר שֶׁל צְדָקָה

Blessed are You, *Adonai* our God, Ruler of the universe, who has made us holy through commandments, and inspires us to light the Candle of Righteousness.

As we light this "Ner Shel Tzedakah" tonight, we pray that its light will shine into the dark corners of our world, bringing relief to those suffering from the indignity and pain that accompany poverty. May our act of giving inspire others to join with us in the fight against the scourge of hunger, homelessness, need, and want. Together, let us raise our voices to cry out for justice, and may that clarion call burst through the night's silence and declare that change must come.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Raphaela and Nick Ware 2145 Isaac Lane, East Lansing MI 48823 Email: raphaela.ware@gmail.com x.nicholasware@gmail.com 510-684-0770 Raphaela 310-713-6536 Nick

Oneg Sponsors

| Friday, December 6 - Idan Lissy's Bar Mitzvah |
|------------------------------------------------|
| Friday, December 13 - Sharon/Howard Frischman, |
| Shiny/Scott Imberman, |
| Rebecca/Raphael Kasen |
| Friday, December 20 - Jessie/Alon Kalay, |
| Micah Lurie/Nicholas Hefty, |
| Sara/Robert Lurie, |
| Krystal Sharpe-Kamer/Brian Kamer |
| Friday, December 27 - Sisterhood |



Leaves, acorns, and rocks are available for purchase on Shaarey Zedek's Tree of Life:

> Leaf \$125.00 Acorn \$250.00 Rock \$500.00

Contact **Ethel Anthon**y at 285-0477 to order for SIMCHA engraved leaf, acorn, or rock.

COUPON BOOKS FOR SALE!

The P.J. Library fund sends age-appropriate books to Jewish children between 6 months old and 8 years old. Please help Shaarey Zedek support this worthwhile program, and save money at the same time! Each book is only \$25. Please call Burt Altman at 285-9783, or see Executive Director Mark Silberstein in the synagogue office.



Prayers of Healing

are sent to

Marlene Altman Brian Dunn Alon Kalay Shari Wilson





On Sunday, November 10, members of GLTY enjoyed an afternoon of fun at High Caliber Karting & Entertainment at the Meridian Mall. Thanks to the GLTY Fund for subsidizing this event!





Upcoming Events

December 15: (GLTY Jr. Grades 5-7)

Pizza lunch and magic show with Jeff Olds at 12 p.m. directly after Sunday School. RSVP details will be forthcoming.

January 12: (GLTY Grades 8-12)

Constellation Cat Café Mitzvah Project

We will assist with cleaning the cat café and having some "cat time." The Cat Café has recently experienced an accident at their new location. GLTY will be hosting a holiday donation drive and will bring donations with us to our event in January. RSVP and a list of donations will be forthcoming.

Greater Lansing Temple Youth Holiday Drive



Support the Constellation Cat Cafe

Donate any new cat supplies or toys to Mittleman Family Lobby at Shaarey Zedek between November 22 through January 5. **No items with catnip can be accepted.**

8th-12th graders will deliver donations during their *mitzvah* project in January.

Questions? Contact: Youth Group Advisor, Ashley Maloff (maloffas@msu.edu)

2025 DIRECTORY UPDATES!

We need your name, mailing address, new email, and phone number for the 2025 Sisterhood Directory.

Send your changes and updates to Marilyn Ruben mjruben@aol.com



1924 Coolidge Road, East Lansing MI 48823

BIRTHDAYS

| 1 | Elijah Hollender |
|----|----------------------|
| 1 | Brian Kamer |
| 1 | Todd Cook |
| 2 | Phoebe Elder |
| 3 | Sara Lurie |
| 4 | Bonnie Radway |
| 4 | Kim Roth |
| 8 | Cathy Sernick |
| 9 | Deborah Ginsburg |
| 10 | Ronald Rycus |
| 11 | Adelaide Moser |
| 11 | Celiarose Varner |
| 12 | Stuart Morrison |
| 13 | Carol Welch |
| 13 | Kenneth Page |
| 14 | Patty Warshaw |
| 16 | Judah Merryman |
| 17 | Christina DeJong |
| 20 | Alec Andre Elia |
| 23 | Ryan Vincent |
| 26 | Andrew Radway |
| 26 | Krystal Sharpe-Kamer |
| 26 | Shawn Kamer |
| 29 | Naomi Casher |
| 31 | Aaron Siegal |
| | |

ANNIVERSARIES

| Robert & Sara Lurie |
|--------------------------------|
| Richard & Bonnie Radway |
| Jackie & Don Holecek |
| Leon & Sheila Schafer |
| Steven Zumberg & Rachel Asbury |
| Arthur & Rosanne Cherkinsky |
| Lisa & John Craig |
| Donald & Joan Gochberg |
| Edward & Tina Oxer |
| Stephen & Mitzi Goldstein |
| John & Ethel Anthony |
| |









We listened! As part of our ongoing commitment to communication and transparency, over the last several months, Board members and I held listening sessions both in person and on Zoom as well as a congregational budget meeting open to all. Many thanks to everyone who attended these meetings; your input led to rich discussion, and we are turning your ideas into action.

Specifically, in the listening sessions, when we asked congregants what they think is working well here at Shaarey Zedek, we heard universal praise and appreciation pertaining to all grades in our Shaarey Zedek Religious School. When we asked what could be changed/improved, we heard the desire for Conservative worship—particularly in the context of the Three Pilgrimage Festivals. We want to honor this request, and in order to determine whether hosting such worship is feasible, we need a commitment from you!

For the Conservative worship services, we need ten people to commit to being part of the *minyan*. We will also need people to read or chant one or more of the seven *Torah aliyot* and the *Haftarah* portion. If someone would like to lead Hallel, that would be most welcome. There will not be Musaf, but there will be Yizkor.

The dates for 2025 are:

Saturday, April 19 — Seventh Day Pesach/Yizkor

Monday, June 2 — Shavuot / Yizkor

Tuesday, October 14 — Shemini Atzeret / Yizkor

If you will commit to attending these worship services, please let **Ritual Vice President Rachel Minkin** know by February 10 (rktoothis@gmail.com). If you would like to chant or read Torah or Haftarah at these services, please let Rabbi Bigman know by February 10 (rabbibigman@shaareyzedek.com).

The other area congregants would like to see changed/improved is pastoral care. To that end, Board Trustee Terry Selman has agreed to chair the Caring Community Committee. Historically, the Caring Community has involved a group of congregants cooking/freezing food, so we have meals for those needing assistance when dealing with challenging times such as illness and grief. The Caring Community has also relied on congregants to deliver meals and other necessities. Terry needs your help to make this work! Please contact her if you're willing to be part of the Caring Community (terrylselman@gmail.com).

Of course, Rabbi Bigman is always available for pastoral care. Please be sure that she knows what you need! All requests for illness/bereavement/other support should be sent to Executive Director Mark Silberstein so that he can forward them either to Rabbi Bigman or Terry Selman, depending on the need (executive@shaareyzedek.com).

Finally, as our congregational budget meeting made clear, although we don't anticipate a deficit in our upcoming budget, we have critical needs that must be met in both the areas of capital improvements and general operations. Thanks to a small group of generous donors from our congregation, we will soon begin asking you for donations to our \$100,000 Matching Campaign. When you get a call from a member of our Fundraising Committee, please give what you can!

I hope the upcoming winter holidays provide the succor of family and friends to each of you. As always, I am deeply grateful to all of you for your innumerable contributions to our congregational family.

SHAAREY ZEDEK RELIGIOUS SCHOOL NEWS

SZRS Calendar

December 🛃 January

1 Sun. NO SZRS

4 Wed. SZRS

8 Sun. SZRS

• M-i-T

 Moving Traditions Family Program #4

11 Wed. SZRS 15 Sun. SZRS

• Kadima

- Chanukah Program!
- Confirmation Class

18 Wed. SZRS

22 Sun, NO SZRS 25 Wed. NO SZRS 29 Sun. NO SZRS

1 Wed. NO SZRS

5 Sun. SZRS

- M-i-T
- Confirmation Class

8 Wed. SZRS

12 Sun. SZRS

15 Wed. SZRS

19 Sun. SZRS

- M-i-T
- Dr. MLK Day Special Program

22 Wed. SZRS

26 Sun. SZRS

Confirmation Class

29 Wed. SZRS

Winter Break

12/19/24 - 1/4/25

February

2 Sun. SZRS 5 Wed. SZRS

- 9 Sun. SZRS
- M-i-T

News



12 Wed. NO SZRS

but

TU BISHVAT

- Congregational Seder
 - at 5:00 p.m.
- 16 Sun. NO SZRS
- 19 Wed. SZRS
- 23 Sun, SZRS
 - M-i-T
- Confirmation Class
- 26 Wed, SZRS

SZRS Policy for Canceling School due to Weather

Wednesdays: We follow the East Lansing Public Schools and will cancel school if the ELPS close. We will notify you by 2 p.m. at the latest. Sundays: On Sundays, Menahelet Margot will consult with Rabbi Bigman and the school committee chair to determine if the roads are safe. If school will be canceled, a notification will go out by 7:30 a.m.

PLEASE NOTE: After two cancelations, SZRS will be held online via Zoom.



Friday, Dec 13 6:00 p.m.

Join us for our Pre-Chanukah Shabbat worship with Gan through 2nd-Graders participating.

SHAAREY ZEDEK ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Four new opportunities for Lifelong Learning in December, January and beyond!

Introduction to Yiddish Its History, Language, and Culture

There will be three independent classes introducing aspects of Yiddish language, history and culture.

reless

WITH RABBI BIGMAN

Wednesdays December 4, 11, 18 5:15 - 6:00 p.m.

These classes will be ABOUT Yiddish, rather than teaching you to speak Yiddish. However, you will leave each class with some new Yiddish vocabulary after each class. Moreover, on December 18, we will be learning the *alefbeis* and how to read Yiddish.



Sundays at 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. January 12, 19, 26

We often hear about the prophets like Isaiah, Jeremiah and Micah, but

there are women in the Bible who are also prophets! Join Rabbi Bigman in learning about what prophecy is in Judaism, who is considered a prophet, and the seven biblical prophetesses.

To Register for any of these classes, please fill out this <u>form</u>: <u>https://forms.office.com/r/TWekwsfvsY</u> (there is a QR code for it on the next page) or, email menahelet.margot@shaareyzedek.com.

WEEKLY TORAH STUDY

Rabbis Amy Bigman and Margot Valles will take turns leading a discussion about the Parashat Hashavua, the weekly Torah portion. No prior knowledge is required but whatever wisdom you bring will be welcome. 12:00 - 12:40 p.m. Thursdays beginning January 9 via Zoom (link provided to those who register)

Winter 2024 Shaarey Zedek Adult **Education Classes Registration**



Ongoing Classes

Midrash and Mayhem: Adventures in Genesis

Tuesdays, December 3, 10 and 17 at 8:00 p.m. via Zoom

Rejewvenate will be taking off December in

order to celebrate a Bar Mitzvah with the congregation. We will see you on Saturday, January 4.

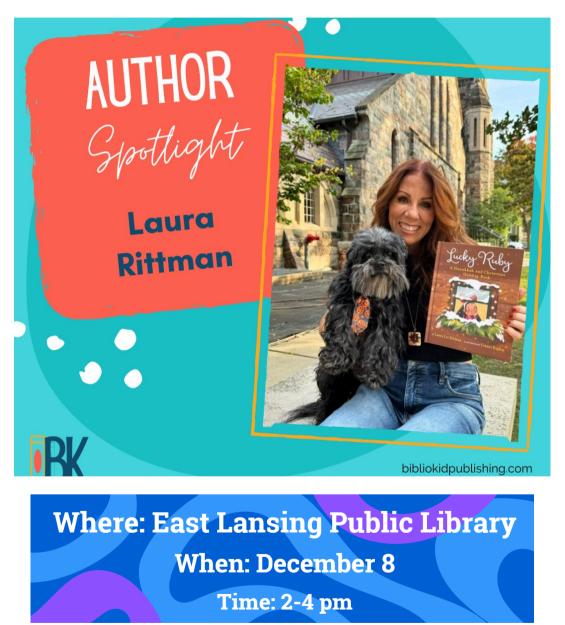
Needle Arts and Nibbles Shaarey Zedek Knitting Club

Schuler Books Sunday, December 8 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.



Present an interfaith program



Come hear the story of <u>Lucky Ruby</u>, a book about being raised with both traditions of Christmas and *Chanukah*, read by Author Laura Lee Rittman. After the story, children will be invited to participate in a PJ Library project and activity.... parents can join in an interview and discussion with Laura about her book journey!

SISTERHOOD NEWS

Our next board meeting is December 2 at 6:30 p.m. Sisterhood welcomes all who support our mission, which is to support the ideals and enhance the quality of Jewish living. We are stronger together! Sisterhood welcomes all who support this mission. Please join.

RSVP wrenyk@aol.com by December 1. Meeting location TBD.



Come laugh and play with friends old and new at Congregation Shaarey Zedek Game Night!

Thursday, January 16 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

in the Davis Family Social Hall

A variety of games for ages 12+ will be set up along with snacks and desserts.

Everyone is welcome but please RSVP by January 6 so we can make sure we have enough goodies for everyone! **Ros Covey** <u>roslyncovey@att.net</u> 230-6065

SISTERHOOD NEWS

DECEMBER 12 12:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m



Indulge in mouthwatering delights while supporting Shaarey Zedek Sisterhood as 20% of your orders will be contributed.

SHAAREY ZEDEK SISTERHOOD FUNDRAISER



Bundt Bake-Off and Bingo!



Everyone is welcome for a Bundt Cake Bake-Off and fun, <u>free</u> Bingo **Sunday, February 23 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.** in the Davis Family Social Hall

Bake your favorite cake in a Bundt pan and enter it to win a prize! Or just come for the tasting and vote for your favorite Bundt cake recipe. We'll play free, no-prize Bingo while we enjoy these delicious treats!

> Cake registrations and RSVPs are <u>required by February 1</u> so we can make sure we have enough cake for everyone! **Ros Covey** <u>roslyncovey@att.net</u> or 230-6065

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:

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



In memory of Helen Goodman Gale Rosen

ESTHER AND JUSTIN MORRISON FUND

In honor of the birthdays of Ron Rycus, Stuart Morrison, and Patty Warshaw. In honor of the anniversary of Richard and Bonnie Radway.

In memory of Abraham Morrison Esther Morrison

ETHEL WOLFE KITCHEN FUND

In memory of Alan Wolfe Gail Wolfe

JEANETTE ABELES SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE FUND

In memory of Sylvia Woodrow Michael Woodrow

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

- In memory of Charles Lachman Ken Bardach
- A generous donation has been made by Dalia Hoffman and Daniel Weiner

RABBI MORTON AND AVIVA HOFFMAN TZEDAKAH FUND

In memory of Rabbi Morton and Aviva Hoffman Dalia Hoffman Daniel Weiner

SOPHIE RADWAY MEMORIAL PJ LIBRARY FUND

In memory of Jacquelyn Gutowitz Burt and Marlene Altman

GENEROUS DONATION FOR SIMCHAT TORAH

Celiarose Varner

GENEROUS DONATION FOR SHAAREY ZEDEK LIVE DINNER SPONSORSHIP

Ed and Alene Keller

YAHRTZEITS



December 6

Ethel Altman **Bernard Danowitz** Wood Dunham Ronald Dyer Melvin Finn lack Frank **Clair Gassoway** leff Gold Irma Green Anne (Hannah) Bloom Kaplowitz Alice I. Lawitzke Vera Katz Audrey Mandel **Philip Shapiro** Zelda Shay Benjamin William Simon Helen Sommers Lou Warshaw Lena Zohott

December 13

Ryan Anderson Clifford J. Bardach Lillian Berman Michael David Berman Sterling Berman David Mark Eulenberg **Phyllis Hendrick** Gertrude Kahn Manuel Leon Kruger Joseph Levine Helen Lewenhof Israel Margolis **Phyllis Marion** Irving Panush Freda Kaplowitz Shapiro Harry Silverman **Dorothy Sharrow** Charlie Warshaw Leo Wegner Ralph Weinstein

December 20

Shirley Finn Abelman John Bathke Mary Ezzo Amy Gochberg Shirley Idema Paul Mandel **Dennis Marion** Ann Mermelstein Florence Miller Daniel Pikstein Louis Sernick Isaac Guy Shapiro Michael Sharrow Marlene Shiovitz Charles Vrabel Ellen Wolin

December 27

Marcia Bayles David Cohen Larry Arnold Daniels Gerald Danowitz Helen Gaal lacob Gabin Tamra Freeman Gallo Katherine Greene Harold Horowitz David Kahn Herb Klein Elizabeth Kotzin Sarah Levine Jean Loper Ruth Marton Lois Perelman Betty Rosenfeld Anna Rundell Edward Schwartz Dora Shooman Hyman Shooman Ben Sigal Arnold S. Silberstein Eugene 'Bud' White



MEMORIAL BOARD PLAQUES

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

CONDOLENCES are sent to Larry (Laurie) Bass and Lisa Bass, on the death of their mother and grandmother Rae Bass, on November 8

Congregation Shaarey Zedek 1924 Coolidge Road East Lansing, MI 48823

Worship Schedule

Friday, December 6 — *Shabbat* Evening Worship, 7 p.m.

Saturday, December 7 — *Shabbat* Morning Worship, including the *Bar Mitzvah* of Idan Lissy, 10 a.m.

Friday, December 13 — Shaarey Zedek Live! Worship & Pre-*Chanukah* Celebration, including songs by the *Gan* and *Alef/Bet* classes, 6 p.m.

Friday, December 20 — *Shabbat* Evening Worship, 7 p.m.

Friday, December 27 — Shabbat / Chanukah Evening Worship, 7 p.m.