

CONGREGATION SHAAREY ZEDEK

MONTHLY BULLETIN

JANUARY 2025
TEVET - SHEVAT 5785

MITZVAH DAY

20
January

MLK JR. DAY OF SERVICE

We are benefiting Lansing non-profit organizations: Punks with Lunch, The Refugee Development Center, and The Women's Center of Greater Lansing.

10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. at the synagogue for volunteer work and snacks with an optional lunch at a restaurant (TBD) at 1:00 p.m.

This is a family-friendly event, please bring your children!

Visit the website to RSVP:
<https://forms.office.com/r/Tq6PeYkHNf>



A Letter from Rabbi Bigman

MAKING AN APPOINTMENT

We find the word "*mo'eid*" throughout the *Tanakh*. There is also a *Talmudic* tractate called *Mo'eid*. The word is often translated as "fixed time" as in the opening verses of Leviticus 23: "The Lord spoke to Moses, saying: 'Speak to the Israelite people and say to them: These are My fixed times, the fixed times of the Lord, which you shall proclaim as sacred occasions.'" The word which is translated into English as "fixed time," *mo'eid*, can also be translated as "appointment." We could now translate the text as follows: "... These are My appointments, the appointments of the Lord, which you shall proclaim as sacred occasions."

This sounds more like God is inviting us in rather than commanding us to do something. Rather than looking at the holy days and festivals as times where duty compels us to come to the synagogue and/or to partake of certain traditions in our homes, we should look at them as invitations. God is inviting us to return to God, to our people, and to our traditions, even if we may have absented ourselves from them previously. We may not have stepped foot in a synagogue or participated in Jewish rituals at home recently, yet God is inviting us to come back.

Our *Torah* tells us of the *Ohel Mo'eid* ("Tent of Meeting") which our ancestors built to bring the community together. The Jewish Encyclopedia translates *Ohel Mo'eid* as the "'tent of mutual appointment,' that is, [the] place of meeting." Similarly, modern synagogues are referred to as *Batei K'nesset* (Houses of Gathering or Meeting).

Synagogues are where people gather or meet. Yet too often people have complained to me that they were not welcome in a congregation because they were not wealthy. People have told me that they would have liked to become Jewish, but were told that they had to be born Jewish and could not convert to Judaism. I would not want to be part of a congregation or a religion that didn't welcome people. Indeed, we are told in the *Torah* numerous times to welcome the stranger, to welcome those who feel or perceive themselves as unwelcome.

Perhaps that is why I prefer the translation of *mo'eid* as an appointment: We make appointments all the time – with our doctors, with our clients, with our rabbis*. All we have to do is pick up the telephone, go online, or send an e-mail in order to make an appointment. So, too, with God: all we have to do is make the appointment. Set aside time on *Shabbat* for an appointment with God. Come worship with your Jewish family. Study the weekly *parashah* with a friend or via our new online sessions. Judaism is easily accessible. Just take the time to set up an appointment.

*As always, I am available to meet with you in my temple office or via phone, Zoom, or FaceTime. Should you wish to make an appointment with me, please reach out to me at rabbibigman@shaareyzedek.com.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Nina and Michael McNamara
5902 Buttonwood Dr., Haslett, MI
Email: m.d.mcnamara@gmail.com
Email: nina.mcnamara@gmail.com
334-201-3488 Michael
334-202-3341 Nina

Gabrielle Kindig and Felix Shalev
601 Pine Forest Dr., Apt. 101, East Lansing, MI
Email: felix45049@gmail.com
Email: gabriellekindig@gmail.com
517-282-2154

Oneg Sponsors

January 3 – Sisterhood
January 10 – Patty/Ken Warshaw, Lauren Warshaw,
Brenda/Michael Hull, Betsy Hull
January 17 – Mark Silberstein in memory of his
stepfather, Rabbi Noah M. Gamze,
Bonnie/Richard Radway in memory of
the Radways
January 24 – Junis Zumberg, Renee Zumberg,
R.B./Vicki Brown, Lily Brown,
Terry Zumberg
January 31 – Nell Kuhnmuensch/Roy Saper,
Alene/Ed Keller, Marilyn Ruben



MAZAL TOV!

Marty Pearlman on his
recent marriage to
Francine Bellet.

Dr. Charles Schiffer who
received the Mentor of
the Year Award from the
American Society of
Hematology at its
December meeting.



Prayers of Healing

are sent to:

Marlene Altman
Brian Dunn
Marilynn Jones
Alon Kalay



SOUP-ER SHABBAT



Friday, February 7
Dinner 6:15 p.m.
Shabbat Worship 7 p.m



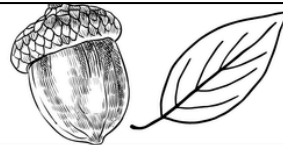
WHAT: *Shabbat* dinner with soup, salad, and *challah*

COST: Cans of soup to be donated to the Greater Lansing Food Bank

ATTIRE: Wear jeans and your favorite football team (NFL, college, or high school) sweatshirt for a casual *Shabbat* evening

RSVP: Required so that we have enough food. Contact **Jenniffer Reaser** at JennReaser1981@outlook.com by Wednesday, February 5

LEAVES, ACORNS, AND ROCKS ARE
AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE ON
SHAAREY ZEDEK'S TREE OF LIFE:



1

LEAF \$125

2

ACORN \$250

3

ROCK \$500



The Tree of Life is the perfect
way of honoring a *simcha*.

Contact Ethel Anthony at
N8PWC1947@gmail.com

SHAAREY ZEDEK LIVE

DINNERS

- ARE BACK!-

Dinner 5:15 p.m. Service 6 p.m.
and *oneg* following.

Adults \$7, kids under 13 are \$5

PIZZA AND SALAD

RSVP Thursday, January 9
using the link below:

www.bit.ly/LiveDinners

Sponsored by Ed and Alene Keller

If you have any questions, contact Amy Shapiro at 312-841-8653 or AmyJShapiro6@gmail.com

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)

BIRTHDAYS

4	Esther Morrison
4	Samantha Kamer
5	Michael Ranieri
5	Noah Elia
6	Morgan Vincent
10	Lynn Spoon
11	Joanne Guertin
11	Betsy Hull
14	Matthew Cohen
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
24	Renee Zumberg
26	Mary Danowitz
26	Ron Weinstein
29	Juliet Feinberg
29	Jennifer (Ruben) Zillins
29	Evan Cohen
31	Edward Oxer
31	Allen Frank

ANNIVERSARIES

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



יום הולדת שמח!
(HAPPY BIRTHDAY)



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

JOANNE GILBERT



In his now classic book, Bowling Alone, Robert Putnam bemoans the decrease in civic engagement in the US, using declining interest in bowling leagues as his emblematic example. This influential work, published in 2000, turned out to be the proverbial canary in the coal mine as the rise of digital media over the last two decades, coupled with impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic, have had a profound effect on face-to-face communication in general, and membership in nonprofit organizations specifically.

Indeed, houses of worship have been feeling the loss of membership and decline in member engagement deeply. In his 2023 article, "This is Not the End of the Synagogue" in the Jewish Journal, Matthew Schultz notes that "according to a 2020 Pew Research Center study, more than a third of Conservative synagogues and a fifth of Reform synagogues have 'gone out of business' in the past two decades," and that "only 20% of American Jews show their faces in a synagogue at least once a month." Discussing the fact that many Jews are not observant and might only attend synagogue on the High Holy Days, however, Schultz urges us to realize that regular synagogue attendance has never been particularly high. He offers possible alternatives to traditional worship in traditional synagogues, asking us to consider the needs and resources of our congregational communities as we contemplate a future of flexibility and adaptation.

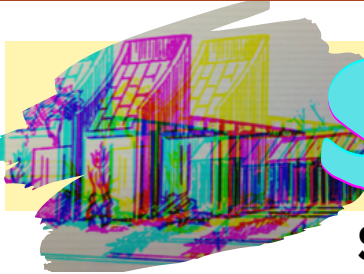
Writing in "The Wall Street Journal" on October 17, 2024, Gregory Zuckerman is even more optimistic, heartened by the increase in affiliation with Jewish organizations since the devastating Hamas attack on Israel on October 7, 2023. Zuckerman reports that "Some 43% of American Jews say they are more engaged in Jewish life than before the Oct. 7 attacks, including roughly a third of the community who said they previously had minimal involvement" (according to 2024 data from a Jewish Federations of North America survey of 6,000 people). Both Schultz and Zuckerman provide counterarguments to the collective handwringing common within congregations as members worry that a decrease in synagogue membership portends a bleak future for the Jewish community.

These perspectives are relevant to the concerns I hear from some of you. They are also relevant to a challenge our synagogue leadership faces on a daily basis: trying to increase member engagement. Whether through serving on committees, working on projects, or even simply attending events, members are the lifeblood of our congregation. **We need YOU to get involved!** Even an hour a week helps immensely, and there are countless opportunities to volunteer your time. Are you passionate about welcoming new members? Join the Membership Committee! Are you interested in helping others who are ill or grieving? Join the Caring Community! Are you willing to assist in setting up for or cleaning up after an event or to serve as a greeter for *Shabbat* services? Call the main office and your offer will be welcome! Please engage in any way that works for you; **we need your energy and commitment to meet our congregational needs!**

Finally, **please give what you can to our Matching Campaign!** Our Fundraising Committee is working hard to raise \$100K from our membership which will be matched by a small and extremely generous group of donors within the congregation. **When a member of the Fundraising Committee calls you, please contribute! Any amount is welcome, and we deeply appreciate your contributions!**

Do you have questions, concerns, or suggestions? We are always happy to hear from you; please contact us at any time! Although Business Vice President John Anthony and I will both be out of the country for an extended period this winter, we can always be reached via email (gilbert@alma.edu and johnanth25@gmail.com), and text, phone call, or video chat via What'sApp (Joanne: 989-285-5918 and John: 881-7290 or 285-0477). Many, many thanks to all of you for helping our congregation thrive!

SHAAREY ZEDEK RELIGIOUS SCHOOL NEWS



SZRS News

SZRS Calendar

January

- 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



February

- 2 Sun. SZRS
5 Wed. SZRS
9 Sun. SZRS
- M-i-T
- 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
28 Fri. 7th-Grade
Shabbat

March

- 2 Sun. SZRS
5 Wed. SZRS
9 Sun. SZRS
- M-i-T
 - Confirmation Class
- 12 Wed. SZRS
MEGILLAH Reading
at 5:00 p.m.
- 16 Sun. SZRS ends at
11:00 a.m.
PURIM Carnival
- Kadima
- 19 Wed. SZRS
23 Sun. NO SZRS
26 Wed. NO SZRS
30 Sun. NO SZRS

Winter Break

12/19/24 - 1/4/25

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, *Menahel* 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.

SZRS Goes to Services

Friday, Feb 28
7:00 p.m.

Join us as our **Kitah Zayin / 7th Grade Class** helps to lead us in *Shabbat* worship.

SHAAREY ZEDEK ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAMS

NEW

Four new opportunities for Lifelong Learning
in January and beyond!

JEWS IN SPORTS

Jesse Goldberg-Strassler

*The Voice
of The Lansing Lugnuts*

Sunday mornings
10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. on
the following dates:

JANUARY 5

FEBRUARY 2

MARCH 2

THE 7
Prophetesses

WITH RABBI BIGMAN

Sundays at 10 a.m. - 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.

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 p.m. - 12:40 p.m. Thursdays beginning January 9
via Zoom (link provided to those who register)

Winter 2024 Shaarey Zedek Adult
Education Classes Registration



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

Ongoing Classes

Midrash and Mayhem: Adventures in Genesis

Tuesdays at 8:00 p.m. via Zoom

ReJewenate 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 4** and **February 1**.

Please Rise!

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

Love to Learn Minyan

10:10 a.m. - 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 5 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.

I recently had a conversation with someone that went to a funeral where nobody from their congregation attended the funeral. I listened as they spoke and my heart broke a little. My personal thought may differ from anyone else. I remember a time that when there was a funeral, an effort was made to make sure there was a *minyan* (10 Jewish members). I know life is busy, it is easy to get lost in our crazy schedules.

When the Rabbi sends out an email *Baruch Dayan HaEmet*, I will check my schedule and if possible, I will show up out of respect to our members. I hope you can do the same.

Everyone deserves to be respectfully remembered. When you see those emails from the Rabbi, think about how you want to be remembered at the end of life.

Karen Weinstein
Sisterhood President

***Oneg* Donation Assignments**

Please remember to bring the items assigned to you for *Oneg*. If you cannot bring them, please contact Roslyn at roslyncovey@att.net or Karen at wrenyk@aol.com

The Gift Shop will be open every Sunday that we have religious school from 9:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Our Sisterhood has a long history with Shaarey Zedek. We have been evolving to match the needs of the congregation for years.

Sisterhood of Congregation Shaarey Zedek started as a hub of activities. Our sisters were known by their husbands' names, such as Mrs. Ken Prouty, and they hosted the *onegs* wearing white gloves. They put on programs for the entire community showing our delicious traditional food. They put on shows to entertain the congregation.

Today Sisterhood is much different. We work a lot behind the scenes. We help supplement the religious school, organize weekly *onegs*, and more.

We need more people involved. Could this be you?

We have many open spots to fill! Please email wrenyk@aol.com if you can help.



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 roslyncovey@att.net 230-6065



Bundt Bake-Off and Bingo!



Everyone is welcome for a
Bundt Cake Bake-Off and fun, free 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 required by February 1
so we can make sure we have enough cake for everyone!

Ros Covey roslyncovey@att.net 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



BUILDING FUND

In memory of Martin Landay
Susan Bathke and Stuart Landay

BUBBE LYNN RYCUS BEAUTIFICATION FUND

In memory of Ethel Altman
Burt and Marlene Altman

CANTOR PAMELA SCHIFFER CARING COMMUNITY FUND

In memory of Phil Sharkey, husband of Karen Cayo. In memory of Robert Bassing, brother of Nancy Pollack
Aviva Panush
In memory of Herbert Hattner and Katherine Green
Charlene Epstein

ESTHER AND JUSTIN MORRISON FUND

In honor of the birthdays of Sarah Mark and Allen Frank
Esther Morrison

JEANETTE ABELES SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE FUND

Wishing *Kol Tov* to Steve and Mary Siet on their move
Aviva Panush
In memory of Rae Bass
David Kositchek

JOSEPH AND MABLE MEITES EDUCATIONAL FUND

In honor of Daphne Elder and Norah Grossmann becoming *B'not Mitzvah* and Adin Schneider on becoming *Bar Mitzvah*
Aviva Panush

PRAYER BOOK FUND

In loving memory of Gertrude Kahn
Don and Jackie Holecek

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In memory of John Bathke
Susan Bathke and Stuart Landay
In memory of Ruth Marton
Ken and Mary Marton
In honor of Idan Lissy becoming a *Bar Mitzvah*
Micah and Razi Lissy

GENEROUS DONATION

Konrad Cukla



January 3

Lois Crawford
Harry Gershen
Rebecca Hecht
Hilda Kirsch
Dorothy Lachman
Irwin Mittleman
Philip Rachman
Josef Rittman
Esther Schiffer
Edward Schwartz
Morton Siet
Harold Soffin
Marilyn Soifer
Helen Tabak
Betty Tannenbaum
Jerry Weisberg
Ilene Wolfe

January 10

Barbara Anderson
Donald Baron
Annette Fine Burke
Lillian Busch
Charles Carp
Henrietta Epstein
Thomas Falcsik
David Hecht
Abe Kamins
Ruth Kositchek
Michael Ledger
Viva Irene Lowe
Jack Rachman
David Radway
Lillian Richmond
Bill Russell
Cecilia Struze
Royalyn Vert

January 17

Sally Baron
Thelma Cohen
Martin Fruitman
Lilly Greenberg
Wilbert Hines, Jr.
Lillian Horowitz
Lois Cone Lurie
Al Meadows
Lila Radway
Ralph Robinson
Rosemarie Sender
Larry Thompson
Anna Zidell

January 24

Esther Berman
Archie Crego
Harry Fine
James Gouin
Dick Ormos
Rebecca Pfeifer
Abraham Polukoff
Rachel Price
Jeanette Schafer
Bella Schlissberg
Rosemarie Sender
Kay Shapiro
Howard Soifer
Arnold Zumberg

Friday, January 31

John Blakeslee
James Carson Bowler
Leo Goldner
Kurt Gorwitz
Elizabeth Gouin
Ethel Lindner
Pearl Shiovitz
Marvin Soifer
Bertha Wegner
Jay Werber
Alan Zohott



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
The family of Shari Wilson on her death.

Congregation Shaarey Zedek
1924 Coolidge Road
East Lansing, MI 48823

Worship Schedule

Friday, January 3 -- *Shabbat* Evening Worship, 7 p.m.

Friday, January 10 — Shaarey Zedek Live! Worship, 6 p.m.

Friday, January 17 -- *Shabbat* Evening Worship, 7 p.m.

Friday, January 24 -- *Shabbat* Evening Worship, 7 p.m.

Friday, January 31 -- *Shabbat* Evening Worship, 7 p.m.