

# CONGREGATION SHAAREY ZEDEK

MONTHLY BULLETIN

FEBRUARY 2026  
SHEVAT - ADAR 5786

Annual  
**REFUGEE**  
**SHABBAT**  
*Services*



*Shabbat Morning*  
March 7 at 10 a.m.



**CONGREGATION KEHILLAT ISRAEL**

**SPONSORED BY CONGREGATIONS  
KEHILLAT ISRAEL AND  
SHAAREY ZEDEK**



Guest Speaker

**KWACH KWAN ABWOL**

Director of Refugee Services at Catholic  
Charities of Ingham, Eaton & Clinton  
Counties



# A Letter from Rabbi Bigman

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## HOW IS FOOTBALL LIKE LIFE?

Super Bowl Sunday is coming up soon! Super Bowl LX will be played on Sunday, February 8 at Levi's Stadium in Santa Clara, California. Sadly, our Detroit Lions will not be playing (yet again!).

About a year ago one of my colleagues posed the following question on the Reform rabbis' Facebook page: "How is football like life?" One colleague noted that "football IS life," referring to the famous quote from the TV show "Ted Lasso." (On "Ted Lasso," which takes place in England, the word "football" refers to what we Americans call soccer.)

A few of my colleagues noted that in (American) football the team has four tries to move the ball ten yards down the field. If the team doesn't get it after the first try, it has three more attempts. ("If at first you don't succeed, try, try again!") If Team A doesn't move the ball ten yards after the fourth time, the ball is turned over to Team B. While Team A's defense is on the field, its offense has the chance to re-group and figure out how to get the job done, how to do things better or more efficiently, when the ball is returned to the offense.

Taking care of our world feels like football: We try to "move the ball down the field," with the hopes of scoring, but we don't always succeed, or we only partially succeed. Our world needs so much repair! How do we move the ball down the field to help our fellow human beings? How do we make *tikkun olam* (repair of the world) come to fruition?

Our friends, co-workers, neighbors, and classmates probably won't tell us when they're in need. Some of them might be struggling to put food on the table or pay the rent or mortgage. How can you look for a job if you're hungry? How can you focus in school if your stomach is growling? In football, as in life, you keep on trying -- and you rely on your teammates to help you reach your goal, whether it's getting a touchdown or field goal in football or getting enough money to pay the bills and feed the family.

We may not be able to fix world hunger, but we CAN help those in our community. And so, just as during the High Holy Days and on *Pesach* I ask you to join me in donating to the Greater Lansing Food Bank and *MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger\**, this month please help to fix our corner of the world by doing the following:

1. Register for the **Soup-er Shabbat Dinner** (please see page 5 for the details)
2. Bring as many **cans of soup** as possible and place them on the dinner tables in the Davis Family Social Hall (to be used as each table's centerpiece)
3. **Volunteer to deliver** the soup to the Greater Lansing Food Bank
4. Join together with our Congregation Kehillat Israel friends for dinner, worship, and an *oneg*, wearing a sweatshirt from your favorite football team and enjoying time with folks from our sister congregation
5. Have fun while doing a *mitzvah*!

If you also wish to make a monetary donation, you may do so at the following websites:

Greater Lansing Food Bank: [greaterlansingfoodbank.org](http://greaterlansingfoodbank.org)

MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger: [mazon.org](http://mazon.org)

# PRESIDENT'S CORNER

JOANNE GILBERT



What is your passion? Poetry? Photography? *Torah* Study? Perhaps you're a foodie or an avid gardener. Whatever your interest, you can be certain that there are others in the congregation who share it, and to that end, soon you will be receiving a survey from the Membership Committee. Why? Because we are going to create topic-driven small groups for congregants to join--a venture that many synagogues successfully facilitate.

These groups meet monthly at a non-synagogue location; some go out to dinner together while others might meet in members' homes. The groups are a way for congregants to pursue common interests and get to know each other. And in order to offer the most exciting groups, we need to know what you want!

Please fill out the brief survey you receive from the Membership Committee and help us build community by suggesting topics for groups.

If you have questions, please contact Membership Committee Chair, Carol Barrett at: [carol@qids.net](mailto:carol@qids.net)

## THANK YOU!

Thank you to my Sisterhood family and all friends who honored me with the *Simchagram* on my birthday. I can never thank you enough for your thoughtfulness. And to all who called, sent cards, flowers and made donations, I am eternally grateful. May you be blessed with health and happiness today and always.

Esther Morrison

## ADDRESS CHANGE

Konrad Cukla  
6124 Lodewyck St  
Detroit MI 48224

## THANK YOU!

To my Shaarey Zedek family -  
Thank you for your kind words and contributions in memory of my beloved mother Rita whom many of you met at our family *simchas* over the years. I wish all of you good health and much happiness in the new year.

Ken Rudman and family

## REWARDS PROGRAM



Do you shop at Kroger? Save money on your purchases and help our synagogue! Simply login to: [www.krogercommunityrewards.com](http://www.krogercommunityrewards.com) to sign up. You 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!

## THANK YOU!

Thank you to **Bonnie, Dick, and Andy Radway** for the set of their family *Shabbat* Candlesticks from Williamsburg, Virginia.

## PRAYERS OF HEALING

are sent to:

Art Cherkinsky, Jane Finn, Joan Gray, Susi Greiner, Celia Guro, Carol Horowitz, Alon Kalay, Kim Roth, Terry Selman, Courtney Vincent, Carolyn Zohott

## Oneg Sponsors



February 6 - Sisterhood

February 13 - Ashley/Jonathan Kagey, Raphael Kasen, Sharon/Howard Frischman

February 20 - Gail Wolfe, Alene/Ed Keller, Razi/Micah Lissy

February 27 - Giselle/Gabriel Elia, Sara/Micah Siegal, Courtney/Brian Vincent



# OUR CHANUKAH SHABBAT

Dinner was held on Friday, December 19, bringing together families, friends, and members of the congregation for a meaningful evening of celebration and community. It was a wonderful time of connection, reflection, and togetherness. Thank you to the Membership Committee for planning the dinner.



Shaarey Zedek and Kehillat Israel's

# Soup-er *Shabbat*

Friday, February 6 | Dinner 6:15 p.m.

*Shabbat* Worship 7 p.m.



Please join us at Congregation Shaarey Zedek for a  
soup dinner and worship jointly led by  
Rabbi Amy Bigman and Rabbi Matthew Kaufman.

Cost: Cans of soup for the Greater Lansing Food Bank

Attire: Wear your jeans and t-shirts/sweatshirts that support your  
favorite NFL/College/High School team

RSVP REQUIRED SO WE HAVE ENOUGH FOOD. Call or text Carol  
at 410-0535 by February 4.



# WINE, CHOCOLATE AND CHEESE

an evening of new tastes and delightful  
company.

Saturday, February 21  
7:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

1604 River Terrace  
East Lansing

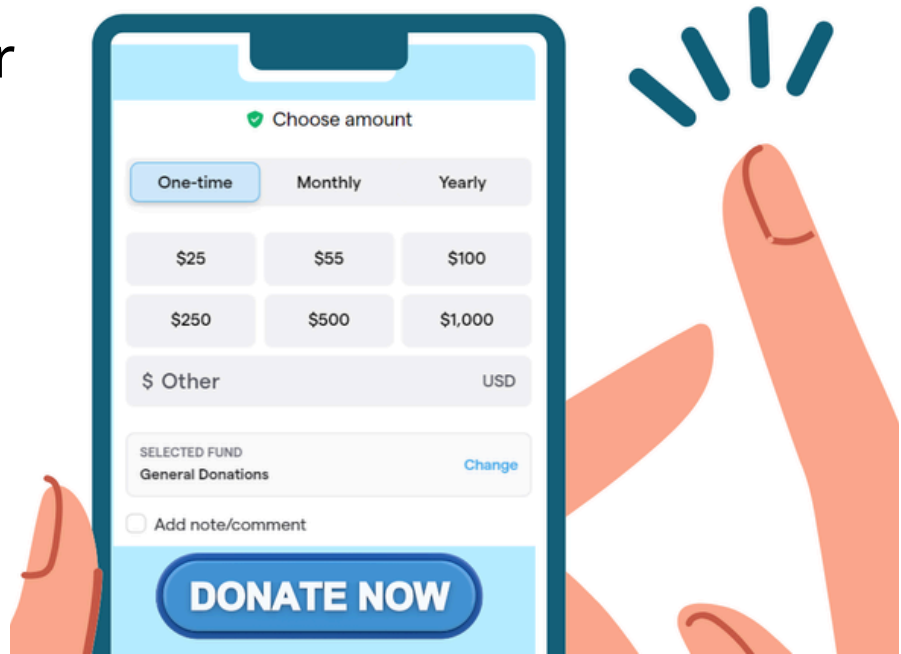


This is an adults only event!  
RSVP to Carol at 410-0535  
RSVP by February 18



# Our Website Now has a Donate Button!

You can now send your contribution online in just a few clicks. Visit **ShaareyZedek.com** and click "Donate." Thank you for your generosity!



Poverty. Climate change. Racial justice. LGBTQ+ equality. Human rights. Tikkun Olam. What does Judaism teach us about creating a just society? Once a month, through June, we will take a one-hour "study break" to learn about an aspect of social justice in Jewish texts.

All classes are Mondays at 3 p.m. ET. Free and open to all! Offered on a suggested contribution basis. Shaarey Zedek is pleased to co-sponsor this series in conjunction with LAASOK.

## Jewish Responses to Climate Change

**Monday, February 2**  
**3pm Eastern on Zoom**  
**With Rabbi Glenn Jacob**



 <p><b>Speaking Up to Power: Learning From Esther</b> Rabbi Laura Rappaport March 2, 2026</p>	 <p><b>What We Leave for the Poor</b> Rabbi Barry Block April 20, 2026</p>
 <p><b>The Right to Live, The Right to Die</b> Rabbi Sylvia Rothschild May 11, 2026</p>	 <p><b>Protecting LGBTQ+ Rights: A Jewish View</b> Rabbi Micah Buck June 8, 2026</p>

Register at <https://LAASOK.org/current-offerings/#justice>

You're Invited To A *Purim*  
**Masquerade Ball!**



**Costume Contest! Dancing! Drag!  
Refreshments!**

**Monday, March 2  
7-9 p.m. at Shaarey Zedek  
21+ to attend**



Wear your best formal dress and  
join us for an evening of revelry!

Please RSVP to **Gabby** at [gabriellekindig@gmail.com](mailto:gabriellekindig@gmail.com) by **February 23**.

**Greater Lansing Area  
Parkinson's  
Support Group**



Meets at Shaarey Zedek every second Wednesday of the month from 1:00-3:00 p.m. Join us for education, camaraderie and social activities. Learn coping techniques, share knowledge and experience and make new friends. Offer and receive support from those who understand. Caregivers and people with Parkinson's meet in separate rooms.

For more information, please contact Mark Talbot at 525-1707 or visit [LAPSG.org](http://LAPSG.org)

**Amateur Drag  
Performers Wanted!**



Would you like to do a  
*Purim*-themed drag look  
and perform to a song at  
our Masquerade Ball?

Contact **Gabby** at  
[gabriellekindig@gmail.com](mailto:gabriellekindig@gmail.com)  
by **February 15**.



## Congregation Shaarey Zedek is holding its first annual Black-Tie Non-Event Proceeds to be directed to the General Fund

The event will NOT take place on March 21, 2026.

Cocktails will NOT be served at 6:00 p.m. and dinner will NOT be served at 7:00 p.m.

NO program will be held at 8:00 p.m.

By not attending the event you will be saving yourself:

- Cost of buying an evening gown or renting a tuxedo
- Childcare for the evening
- Parking costs in our lot including tips to the parking attendant
- Cost of a 5-Star Michelin establishment
- Day before costs: Beautician cut & style, manicure, pedicure, eyebrow wax as well as Botox injections
- Boutonniere/corsage
- Gentlemen's hair styling
- Gas costs/wear and tear on your car

With purchase of a ticket for this **TRULY** unbelievable event, you will be able to stay at home and relax.

### Your Ticket Cost is as follows:

Marc Chagall Level:	\$50-\$100
Amedeo Modigliani Level:	\$101-\$250
Annie Leibovitz Level:	\$251-\$500
Yaacov Agam Level:	\$501 +

Looking forward to **NOT** seeing you. Please send your ticket(s) payment to the address below indicating your payment level.

Make your check out to: Congregation Shaarey Zedek

Congregation Shaarey Zedek  
c/o Ethel Anthony  
4805 N. Powell Meadows Lane  
Okemos, Michigan 48864  
285-0477



Agam



Chagall



Modigliani



Leibovitz

## BIRTHDAYS

3	Aaron Dunn
5	Joan Gray
5	Jay Meyer
8	Shannon Cohen
9	Steven Siet
9	Debbie Richmond
9	Shawna Olds
9	Naomi Glogower
11	Sheila Schafer
12	Emuna Lissy
12	Micah Siegal
13	Jack Nolish
23	Debby Flate
23	Melinda Adams
29	Dany Rothfeld
29	Sara Siegal

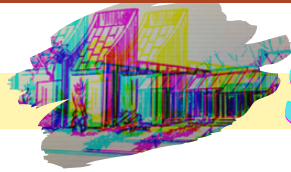
## ANNIVERSARIES

2	Iliya Liampert and Kelsey Osborne-Garth
4	Nina & Michael McNamara
11	Stephen & Joanne Guertin
17	Steven & Mary Siet
22	Ken & Patty Warshaw
26	Jeff Green & Nora Pasman-Green



יום הולדת שמח!  
(HAPPY BIRTHDAY)





### Upcoming Special Dates and Programs at SZRS

- **Sunday, February 1** *Tu Bishvat* at SZRS (MiT meets)
- **Sunday, February 15** NO SZRS: Presidents' Day
- **Sunday, February 22** MiT meets
- **Friday, February 27** Sixth and Seventh graders lead *Shabbat* services
- **Sunday, March 1** *Purim* Carnival
- **Wednesday, March 4** SZRS *Megillah* reading
- **Friday, March 13 - Monday, March 16** *L'Taken* trip to Washington, DC

### School Committee Meeting

Our School Committee meetings are generally open to any member of the congregation. If you would like to attend, please email Gabriel Elia (Gabriel.elia@gmail.com) for the Zoom link. Our next meeting will be Thursday, February 19 at 8:00 p.m.

## Lifelong Learning News

New adult education classes are in the works!

Dear Shaarey Zedek,

I am delighted to begin my work here as the Director of Congregational Lifelong Learning. When I first set foot in Shaarey Zedek as a college student more than twenty years ago, I had no idea it would eventually become my congregational home. I was fortunate enough to teach in the religious school under Aviva Panush's guidance and return to teach here again when Margot began her time as director. I truly am standing on the shoulders of giants.

For those of you who don't know me yet, I am a lifelong Michigander, growing up in Ann Arbor and moved to East Lansing for college and now to raise my family. When I am not at Shaarey Zedek, I am generally working at the Women's Center of Greater Lansing, baking in my kitchen, spending time with my family, or riding my bike.

I come from a long line of Jewish educators, and I am looking forward to creating an engaging class list to meet a variety of Jewish education wants and needs. If there is a topic that you would like to see covered, please let me know! My email address is [naomi@shaareyzedek.com](mailto:naomi@shaareyzedek.com) and I am in the building on Sundays and Wednesdays.

I can't wait to hear from you.

Naomi Glogower, Director of Congregational Lifelong Learning





**JOIN MAH JONGG  
FUN!**

**Every Sunday starting  
January 11 through February  
15**

**NO Mah Jongg on February 1**

**2:00 - 4:00 p.m. FREE**

**Davis Family Social Hall**

**LEARN  
HOW TO  
PLAY!**

**OPEN  
PLAY!**

**LIGHT REFRESHMENTS  
PROVIDED.  
EVERYONE WELCOME!**

RSVP to Roslyn Covey at [roslyncovey@att.net](mailto:roslyncovey@att.net)

Indicate if it's for lessons or open play, and list the dates you'll attend.

**TREASURER  
NEEDED!**

If you're looking for a way to get involved with Sisterhood and enjoy working with numbers, please consider volunteering to be our next treasurer! Send us a message at [SisterhoodShalomSZ@gmail.com](mailto:SisterhoodShalomSZ@gmail.com) and let's talk about it!

Everyone is invited to attend Sisterhood meetings. You do not need to be a member of Sisterhood to attend but this is where we do our planning for exciting events.

**Our next meeting is February 2 at 6:30 p.m. at Shaarey Zedek.**

# GIFTS, HONORS AND MEMORIALS

We are grateful for your generous contributions to our designated funds, this enables the congregation to offer services and programs that would not otherwise be available.

While donations of any amount are welcomed, 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:

- Altman Family Building Fund
- Bette Sue Rittman All Children Are Special Fund
- Bubbe Lynn Rycus Beautification 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
- Joseph & Jeanette Lutvak Fund
- Joseph and Mable Meites Educational Fund
- Landscape Fund
- GLTY Fund
- Marvin and Maureen Gladstone Technology Fund
- Planned Giving Fund
- Prayer Book Fund
- Rabbi Morton and Aviva Hoffman Tzedakah 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
- Marvin and 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



## ALTMAN FAMILY BUILDING FUND

In memory of Rita Rudman  
Randi and Roger Simon

## ESTHER AND JUSTIN MORRISON FUND

In honor of the birthday of Shawna Olds; In  
honor of the anniversaries of Stuart and Gayle  
Morrison, Ken and Patty Warshaw  
Esther Morrison

In honor of "Aunt " Esther Morrison's 107th  
birthday  
Wendy Kahn and Susan Stern

## GENERAL FUND

In memory of my grandmother, Roza Beck Erdos  
Judy Minkin

In honor of Esther Morrison  
David Kositchek and Barbara Kositchek

To honor the *Yahrzeits* of Paul Abramson, husband,  
father and grandfather, and of Lee Abramson, son,  
brother and uncle.  
Janet Abramson and family

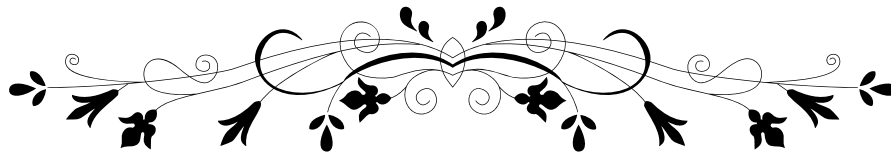
## RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

A generous donation was received from Gretchen  
Smith

## SHAPIRO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL ENDOWMENT FUND

A generous donation was received from Michael  
Shapiro





## February 6

Barbara Alpert  
Harry P. Berman  
Benjamin Evans  
Andre Friedlis  
Abe Gabin  
Daniel Goldstein  
Kurt Gorwitz  
Charles Israel  
Beverly Kamins  
Leonard Kerner  
Donald Polin  
Charles Rosenthal  
Bernice Schlachter  
Rebecca Sernick  
Morris Silverman  
James Zachman

## February 13

Paul Abramson  
Craig Matthew Bigman  
Julius Binder  
Bess Blyveis  
Jesse Silver Feinstein  
Isadore "Tom" Goodman  
Rhoda Kaye  
Benjamin Casey Lamb  
Saul Liefer  
Mike Magen  
Timothy Merryman  
Edythe Meyer  
Maurice J. Robins  
Arnold Robinson  
Anna Schwartz  
Colleen Siet  
Eve Silver  
Edwin Skuller  
Dennis Sobol  
Betty Bloomfield Soffin

## February 20

Edward Bloomfield  
Pearl Cohan  
Jacques Cohen  
Jack H. Finn  
Elizabeth Gabin  
Joseph Gutoskey  
Alan Jeffrey Kositchek  
Susie Cohen Levine  
Mary Pollack  
Ronald Rosen  
Linda Lee Weingarten Roth  
Yetta Sacks  
Howard Schlachter  
Frank Selman  
Shirleyetta Sernick  
Lee Gochberg Showstack  
Phillip Samuel Silver  
Irma Wald

## February 27

Harvey Altman  
Gussie Bloomfield  
Ruth Bradshaw  
Jean Breslau  
Robin Fields  
Marvin Gladstone  
Erwin Harvith  
Abraham Hattner  
Cecille Kerner  
Charles Kotzin  
Martha Saunders Kruger  
Sylvia Rosenstein Levy  
Gayle Lutvak  
Joseph Lutvak  
N. Jeannette Lutvak  
Kitty Marks  
Alan Neiberg  
Jay Ormos  
Sarah Rimar  
Winnie Rome  
Morris Rubin  
Dobe Rubiner  
Abraham Sommers  
Yolanda Weiss



## 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

Paul (Judith) Zack, on the death of his father Albert Zack, on January 20

Congregation Shaarey Zedek  
1924 Coolidge Road  
East Lansing, MI 48823

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## Worship Schedule

Friday, February 6 — Soup-er *Shabbat* Worship, 6 p.m.  
(see page 5 for further details)

Friday, February 13 — Shaarey Zedek Live! Worship, 6 p.m.

Friday, February 20 -- *Shabbat* Evening Worship, 7 p.m.

Friday, February 27 -- *Shabbat* Evening Worship, 7 p.m.,  
*Kittot Vav* and *Zayin* students will lead us in worship