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Through a Reconstructionist Lens – with Rabbi Matthew

Interested in exploring Jewish learning, prayer, God, and how to think Jewishly about the issues of our day?

Join Rabbi Matthew for the ultimate Reconstructionist introduction to Judaism class. *Exclusively for KI members (and prospective members).*

Classical Jewish Texts
Saturday November 19 at 4 pm
Register in advance:
https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/tZUte-CvpzorHNwWmTgDWKTJ4ZhZ6ehLqfQ_

This is not your average basic “informational” or “how-to” class! This innovative adult education series, developed by Reconstructing Judaism, asks important questions of us even as it offers a wonderful entry point to learning. It teaches that Jewish life is as much about creating meaning as it is about responding to tradition.

Learn and discuss a wide range of topics monthly with Rabbi Matthew. Join for any or all of them! This class features engaging video interviews with knowledgeable speakers and other materials that are provided to class registrants in advance of each class. Once you've looked at the background material, simply join Rabbi Matthew for a group discussion on that month's topic, and let's learn together!

Upcoming topics include:

- Kashrut and Justice (December 17)
- Israel
- Racial Justice
- Economic Justice
- Community



**RECONSTRUCTING
JUDAISM**

Deeply rooted. Boldly relevant.

From the Desk of Rabbi Matthew

We've heard it said that the vote is sacred. What does this mean from a Jewish perspective?

If American democracy is our civil religion, then the vote constitutes our minyan which allows us to engage in public prayer. Our vote voices our prayer for the healthy functioning of democracy.

If we frame the sanctity of the vote through the Jewish lens of minyan, then we understand that voting is more than an individual right. It is a communal obligation. It is a mitzvah in the sense of feeling commanded, rather than in the fluffier sense of congratulations for a job well done.

Who counts in a minyan? It took a long time before a majority of American Jewish communities started counting women in a minyan. Indeed, the classic codes of Jewish law are explicit about excluding certain categories of people from minyan. The Shulchan Aruch specifically proscribes women from being counted in a minyan. It also informs us that a deaf-mute person also may not be counted. The Mishnah Berurah excludes androgynous people. The list continues.

It would now be unthinkable to exclude these from a minyan in Reconstructionist, Reform, and most Conservative communities (and many Orthodox communities have developed creative ways to work around halachic restrictions). In our community, we believe that the sacred right to be counted in a minyan must be made available to all adult Jews. But as much as we might wish them to be, our standards are not universal Jewish standards. Women are not universally counted in a minyan.

We should take a lesson from our history, and be vigilant about protecting the right to vote for all. Securing the right of all to count in the minyan of the American voting system must be fought for, just as our expansive understanding of minyan came about only after protracted struggle.

What can we do to make sure that our voting minyan will not exclude people who might otherwise be at risk of being excluded?

Take time to read and decide for yourself whether or not Proposal 2 is a step toward supporting an inclusive approach to the mitzvah of minyan.

S&S - Travelling the Silk Road in Uzbekistan with Bettie

Curious as to why a nice Jewish girl wants to spend Rosh Hashanah in Bukhara, Uzbekistan? Come join Bettie Menchik at 6:30 at KI on Sunday, November 13th . Learn about my recent travels along the Silk Road to Uzbekistan, including spending Rosh Hashanah at a Bukharan synagogue where the service was in Farsi and Hebrew. Dessert will be served first, with the presentation at 7 pm. Questions? Email Bettie at menchikb@msu.edu. ***Bettie Landauer-Menchik***

HHD Food Drive - Good morning KI friends, KI's online link raised a total of *drum roll* \$983.65!

By our calculation that totals more than 2900 meals! When combined with the 283lbs you collected, this creates a grand total of 3136 meals! (283lbs=236 meals)



Klvunim

Fun things coming up!

• Saturday, November 5, 9:30am-12:30pm: Come help restore the earth by planting trees! Kl will join Edgewood United Church in planting 150 trees! We'll meet at the Towar Woods Preserve, at the end of Margate Lane, East Lansing (Navigate to 2939 Margate Lane, East Lansing) Do not pull into the driveway at this address since it is residential, but rather park respectfully along the road. X marks the spot on the map below.

• Saturday, November 12, 10am-1pm: Klvunim joins Shabbat services! Klvunim will participate in Shabbat services. Children will help lead some prayers and children, parents will be invited to help read the Haftarah in English (II Kings 4:8-17), and our b-mitzvah students will give the d'var Torah. Afterwards, Klvunim will sponsor the kiddush, with Klvunim bringing bagels, cream cheese, and lox. Please plan to bring a dish to pass and sign up for what you'll be bringing:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20FOA4DA9A82AA3FA7-kivunim1>

If you and your children are not able to attend, please let me know asap. Given we'll all be at shul for Shabbos, we will not have Sunday school on November 13.

As always, thanks for sharing your children with us. Sundays and Wednesdays are my favorite times of the week. (cont)



The Fall has flashed before us, filled with High Holiday celebrations followed closely by Sukkot. Learning at the shul school continues streaming on as well. We are happily settled into our routines at this point, enjoying instruction in Hebrew, tefillah, holidays, Torah/Tanakh, and Israel.

To celebrate Sukkot, the community's children pitched in to help set up and decorate the sukkah. The younger children created flags with paint and permanent markers. Kitah Bet students worked over the space of several weeks to create a mural showing themselves and their younger student buddies in a sukkah. It was gorgeous, but alas it was claimed by the high winds and rain that came just after the start of sukkot.

We enriched our observance of Sukkot this year by adding a new twist on the traditionally lulav and etrog. Thanks to both Tessa Paneth-Pollak and Rebecca Froebe for sharing the idea that the species of plants in the lulav and the etrog could be supplanted (pun intended) with locally grown items. So just before Soup in the Sukkah, all the kiddos went out in groups to search for 4 different (and non-poisonous) plants to make their lulavs. Children then could use either an ear of corn from the sukkah or an apple to serve as the etrog. Together we recited the prayers and enjoyed waving our new and local lulav/etrogs.



KI is returning to a regular KI kiddush on Saturday mornings.

Those attending services this past summer enjoyed Kiddush outside, but together. KI provided challah, juice and wine and everyone brought their own lunch if they chose to do this.

In September 2022, KI minyan goes began having challah, wine and juice as well as bringing their own lunch inside KI -in the social hall. Those who wished to share food brought an individually packaged snack. People continued to bring their own lunch.

However, many minyan folks are in favor of returning to a normal kiddush and have agreed to share in the duties for doing so. KI Returns to Kiddush in December!!

Minyan attendees may continue to bring their own individual lunch if they wish to stay away from the food line

However, if you want to participate in “Returning to Kiddush,” please call Katherine at 517-882-0049 and sign up to be the “host” for a week. A list of the tasks for being the host or coordinator for a week are found on the KI website. A paper copy of the sign-up sheet is posted in the kitchen.



Help KI return to a regular KI kiddush on Saturday mornings.

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In September 2022, KI minyan goers began having challah, wine and juice as well as bringing their own lunch inside KI -in the social hall. Those who wished to share food brought an individually packaged snack. People continued to bring their own lunch.

As we approach 2023, many minyan folks are in favor of returning to a normal kiddush and have agreed to share in the duties for doing so.

Minyan attendees may continue to bring their own individual lunch if they wish to stay away from the food line

However, if you want to participate in "Returning to Kiddush," please sign up below to be the "host" for a week.

- 1) Host provides bagels. Please order these pre-sliced.
- 2) KI members working with food in the kitchen may choose to be masked.
- 3) KI members going through the food line may choose to be masked.
- 4) The social hall tables will be set up in a large square with seating only on the outside of the tables. No one directly facing another person. Try to stay separated.
- 5) KI will provide challah, butter, cream cheese, wine, and grape juice, as well as coffee and tea.

On a regular Shabbat, the coordinator's tasks include the following:

- Set-up the Social Hall and tables
- Place out the pre-sliced challah, pour juice and wine
- Place out the pre-packaged food and other food that KI members are sharing; place out food in the members' containers
 - Make hot water and coffee
 - Serve food in the original containers
- At the conclusion of kiddush, the coordinator announces for everyone to help clean-up. Coordinator checks that all cleanup is finished and trash taken out before leaving

Attendee's tasks:

- Bring a dish to pass or prepackaged snacks
- Take home leftovers

Shabbat kiddush is fun. Minyan regulars, school families and visitors are invited. We schmooze, continue the d'var discussion, and basically visit together and catch up on the pulse of the community.

We hope you will join us on Saturdays

Hadassah Book Club

The Hadassah Book Club will not meet in November due to Thanksgiving.

In December we are starting a new Reading List for 2022 to Early 2024. The first meeting with the new list is December 7, 2022.

The December book is *More Than I Love My Life* by David Grossman. Translated from Hebrew. Fiction, based on a true story. The latest book by the esteemed Israeli writer. Lois Rosen and Liz Morley will be discussion co-leaders for this book.

To request a copy of the new reading list, please send an email to lmrosen@umich.edu.

Great Books

At our October 17 meeting, a few decisions were made: Our next session will be on Monday, 21 November, at 2:00 PM, at KI. We will be discussing the next two stories in *The Best American Short Stories 2015*, edited by T.C. Boyle: "The Largesse of the Sea Maiden" by Denis Johnson and "M & L" by Sarah Kokernot. We also decided that, starting in December, we will be using an alternate text, reading stories in the collection by Edith Pearlman, "Honeydew." Copies should be available for purchase in a variety of places. Stay well.



THANK YOU
for your support!

Daniel Glickman Memorial Fund

Betty Seagull in memory of Paula Bladen
Marcia Horan and Richard Block in memory of Paula Bladen

Consultant Donations

David and Beverly Weiner
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Ken Nadler
Ken and Karen Glickman
Stan and Toba Kaplowitz

Ronnie Nadler Fund

Betty Seagull in honor of Ken Nadler's 80th birthday

General Fund

Jason and Nancy Hanflik
Lois Rosen and Bob Uphaus in memory of Paula Balden

Fundraising for KI through Amazon

Shop Smile Amazon and earn money for KI. The link below will take you directly to smile.amazon.com and you can shop and support KI. We will earn .5% of your purchase. Look us up as - Kehillat Israel Lansing Michigan - and shop.
<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/38-1918632>

Kroger fundraising to earn money for KI

Members can sign up by searching for Congregation Kehillat Israel and connecting KI to their Kroger plus card. Our account number is nv535. You can go to the Kroger Community Funds home page for instructions. Copy and paste this link to your browser or click : <https://www.kroger.com/!community/community-rewards>
KI will earn a percentage of your purchases. No cost to you.

Monthly Board Meeting Wednesday, November 9, 7 pm Zoom

Board of Directors

Doug Moffat - President - 2024

Kirsten Fermaglich - Executive VP - 2024

Susan Morris - Secretary - 2023

Leon Puttler - VP for Finance - 2023

Ody Norkin - VP for Facilities - 2023

Richard Block/Gail Richmond - VP for Religious Affairs - 2024

Arlene Sharkey - VP for Education - 2024

Liz Harrow - VP for Programs - 2023

Robin Willner - First Trustee - 2024

Judy Spanogle - Trustee - 2023

Emily Schnurr - Trustee - 2024

Stuart Braiman - Trustee - 2023

Michelle Loree - Trustee - 2023

Neil Gordon - Past President

WE HAVE ADDED MORE DATES TO OUR TORAH & HAFTARAH SIGN-UP

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1273RVz5LmC8EDS3O3mvdvU-PkZUMrzWpFH-OyISl68/edit?ts=604a403d#gid=0> to sign up to give a dvar or chant Torah/haftarah. If you don't see the date you want on there, please reach out to kikath-erineb@gmail.com.

Zoom Gabbaim for Shabbat Services - If you are comfortable using Zoom (or would like to learn more), please contact Judy Spanogle at kikatherineb@gmail.com (this is open to teens as well as adults).



September Yartzeit's

Annika Berry, 10 Cheshvan, November 4

Nicolas Messe, 14 Cheshvan, November 8

Gerald Pollack, 19 Cheshvan, November 13

Ann Harrison, 22 Cheshvan, November 16

Audrey Matisoff, 23 Cheshvan, November 17

Debbie Mixer, 23 Cheshvan, November 17

Arlinda Perlow, 28 Cheshvan, November 22

Ziona Neubauer Bisno, 5 Kislev, November 29

Happy

BIRTHDAY

Brad Rakerd

Barbara Hyman

Judy Shulman

Gabe Kende

David Wiener

*Happy
Anniversary*

Steve and Lisa Gold

Max and Sheryl Kahn



The Jewish Federations[®]
OF NORTH AMERICA



**NOVEMBER 6,
2:00 P.M.**

Congregation Shaarey Zedek
1924 Coolidge Road, East Lansing

FEDERATION CAMPAIGN KICK-OFF

Come hear what Greater Lansing
Jewish Federation has
accomplished and our plans for the
coming year!

GUEST SPEAKER:


Catherine Cangany, PhD

Executive Director of the Jewish
Historical Society of Michigan
presenting
"The Eggmen: Reconsidering
Michigan's First Jews."

Light refreshments.

We are not charging for this event. We will
have program materials and pledge cards for
the 2022-2023 campaign for you there.

REGISTRATION:

lansingjewishfederation@gmail.com 

Greater Lansing Interfaith Gathering

Coming
Together
Through
Story & Song

Offering for
Global Institute
of Lansing
globallansinginstitute.org

Reception Follows

Monday
Nov. 14
7:00pm

University
United Methodist Church
1120 S. Harrison
East Lansing (parking behind)
live stream at <https://youtu.be/UtoUHBq9Y2Q>



“Specters of the Future and Monsters of the Past: Writing (About) Jewish Fantasy” by Elana Gomel

Tuesday, November 1st from
7:00 - 8:30 pm
JMC library, Case Hall

Elana Gomel's latest novel *Nightwood* is a dark fairy tale centered on immigrant experience. The protagonist is Ukrainian. But the history that reverberates through the blood forests and human farmyards of the novel is the history that Jews recognize – in this respect *Nightwood* is a Jewish fantasy, even though there are no explicit Jewish references in it.

The talk will address Jewish history not as an agreed-upon narrative of national identity but rather as a haunted ho use of traumatic memories and apocalyptic premonitions. Dr. Gomel will argue that only by confronting ghosts of history can the cycle of violence be broken. And the only genre that brings us face to face with our monsters is fantasy.

Gomel's fantasy, horror and science fiction stories featured in numerous magazines as well as several award-winning anthologies. Some of her recent fantasy novels include *The Hungry Ones*, *The Cryptids* (2019), and *Black House* (2021).

Elana Gomel is an associate professor at the Department of English and American Studies at Tel-Aviv University. She has taught and researched at Princeton, Stanford, University of Hong Kong, and Venice International University. She is the author of five academic books and numerous articles on subjects such as narrative theory, posthumanism, science fiction, Dickens, and Victorian culture. Among her books are *Bloodscripts: Writing the Violent Subject* (OSU Press, 2003), *Narrative Space and Time: Representing Impossible Topologies in Literature* (Routledge 2014), and *Science Fiction, Alien Encounters, and the Ethics of Posthumanism: Beyond the Golden Rule* (Palgrave/Macmillan, 2014).

sponsors: College of Arts and Letters, James Madison College, College of Social Science, Residential College of Arts and Humanities, Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion, International Studies and Programs, Peace and Justice Studies, Department of Linguistics, Languages, and Cultures.

To livestream
this event on
our YouTube
page, scan
this QR code,
or press here





Sisterhood Shabbat

Sisterhood, Spirituality, and Social
Justice: Empowering Women in
the 21st Century



Our Guest Speaker

Rabbi Marla J. Feldman

Executive Director of the Women of
Reform Judaism



Friday, December 2

Dinner 6 p.m.

Worship 7 p.m.

Shaarey Zedek Sisterhood is honored to welcome to our congregation Rabbi Marla J. Feldman. A Reform rabbi and lawyer, she was previously Director of Development of the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ) and Director of the Commission on Social Action of Reform Judaism.

Before joining the URJ staff, Rabbi Feldman worked in the Jewish Community Relations field, serving communities in Detroit and Delaware. She also taught as adjunct faculty at the University of Detroit-Mercy and the Widener University College of Law in Wilmington, DE, and served congregations in Sarasota and Orlando, FL.

If you would like to join us for dinner prior to worship, all we ask is that you RSVP to Shawn Olds at 896-5199 by November 28.

There is **NO CHARGE** for the dinner, but donations are welcome.