



Congregation Kehillat Israel



Following his mother's death, Lev Raphael began an odyssey of discovery to find out who his mother, a Holocaust survivor, actually was both during and following the war years. He will share the secrets he uncovered with us. His talk will conclude with a reading from his latest published essay written in her memory.



Lev Raphael is a leading figure in American Jewish Literature and the author of twenty-seven books including *Dancing on Tisha B'Av*, *Writing a Jewish Life* and *My Germany*. His work has appeared in fifteen languages and he has done invited talks and readings in nine different countries.

SOUP AND SCHMOOZE NEWS from Arlene Sharkey, KI VP for Education

Changing of the Guard: We would like to welcome Stephanie Kaufman as KI's Soup and Schmooze's new coordinator, and to thank Arthur Slabosky for his previous efforts in that position. Yasher koach, Arthur!

We are excited to announce the first Soup and Schmooze of 2023. LEV RAPHAEL, well known author and speaker, will be coming to KI on Sunday evening, January 15th, for a presentation entitled "My Mother, Mystery, and Memory." His talk will focus on the role his mother played in his career and how he's honored her in his fiction and creative nonfiction--how she inspired him. We will meet at 6:30 pm in the Social Hall at KI, and Lev will speak at 7:00 pm. Please bring some wonderful desserts to share. Coffee and tea will be provided.

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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).*

Food, Kashrut and Justice
Saturday December 17 at 4 pm
Register in advance:

https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/tZlkdeGrrDsrHttf5v1JYE_5a08UIIT3lsV2Ge

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:

- Israel (Jan 21)
- Racial Justice (Feb 18)
- Economic Justice (Mar 18)
- Building Community



**RECONSTRUCTING
JUDAISM**

Deeply rooted. Boldly relevant.

From the Desk of Rabbi Matthew

I'd like to draw your attention to a Reconstructing Judaism resource that you may enjoy drawing upon to enhance your own connection to Jewish community and ritual. It's an online resource called [Ritualwell](#). Ritualwell is an initiative of Reconstructing Judaism. They offer [on-line learning](#) opportunities. There are some [upcoming events](#) that may be of interest to you. One of these is a free program that you may find will enhance your enjoyment of the upcoming festival of Hanukkah, titled [This Little Light of Mine: 8 Mindful Rituals for Hanukkah](#).

Of course, there will be plenty to keep you occupied here with KI, as you can see in this newsletter! Please join me for our ongoing *Through a Reconstructionist Lens* series of discussion topics. Our topic this month is "Food, Kashrut and Justice." Please make sure to register well enough in advance that you will have time to watch a video (approximately 45 minutes) on the topic and peruse the source sheet that will be supplied to you. We always have engaging discussions as people share their thoughts and discuss what is meaningful and relevant to them. I hope you will join me on December 17th for that (see flyer in this newsletter).

I am also offering an opportunity to learn from one of the most well-known works of rabbinic literature, the Wisdom of the Sages (*Pirkei Avot*). Even if you have never heard of the text, you are surely familiar with some of the famous sayings that come from it, such as Hillel's famous dictum "If not now, when." Please join me as we explore this work through the lens of social justice over the next number of months. Get the most of out the discussions, I recommend that you acquire the edition of *Pirkei Avot* that I am using for this purpose -- *Pirkei Avot: A Social Justice Commentary* by Rabbi Dr. Shmuly Yanklowitz (CCAR Press 2018). I look forward to having you join me on December 11th for that (see flyer in this newsletter).

I also hope you will join me in welcoming Shabbat into your homes with a brief zoom-based celebration on December 9th. It's a joyful way to end the work-week with a bit of company and music before you enjoy your dinners at home. I hope it helps set the tone for a joyous shabbat for you.

I'm available to you from December 3 to December 17 this month. Please don't hesitate to reach out if there's anything I can do for you.

*Welcome Shabbat with Rabbi Matthew and Stephanie
Friday December 9th from 6:30 – 7:00 PM (Zoom)
Featuring Ody Norkin singing Yedid Nefesh and Rabbi Matthew playing klezmer*



Klvunim

Klvunim Newsletter December 2022

The end of the Gregorian year is upon us! Time is flying by! This past month was full of many wonderful things—most specifically the first Klvunim School Shabbat since before the pandemic. Once again, we were able to gather as a community in the sanctuary and sing our songs of praise and thanksgiving to HaShem. Our littlest students helped lead the Shema. Kitah

Bet students helped lead other prayers: Danny and Ari chanted the Ve'Ahavta and did a beautiful job. Gwen and Gabe re-composed the traditional Baruch Shemar. Our b'nei mitvah students gave their own thoughts on the Torah portion and helped lead a great discussion.

While cameras are not allowed in the shul during Shabbat, my mind is full of pictures from the day. If you were there too, perhaps you have some snapshots as well. I particularly see the younger brother of a student scampering delightedly around the sanctuary. Kids snuggled up with their families during the service. Elders of our congregation laughing and smiling as the children did their various scheduled and unscheduled parts of the service. The pandemic has taken many things from us. To have this back is a reminder of just how much we all can be thankful for.

Rabbi Matthew, Sarah, and I are beginning plans for another School Shabbat... more details to come.

In the meantime, enjoy these actual snapshots of our work at school.



Jonny, Zach, and Danny work with Manu to color in chalk Alef Bet letters.



The Gan/Alefers started their studies about Israel and colored in a map of the country.



Rabbi Matthew talked with Kitah Bet students about the story of Sodom and Gamorrah.

Kehillat Israel's



HANUKKAH

Celebration

Sunday, December 18th 5-7pm

5:30-5:45 Schmooze for Adults/ Crafts for Kids

5:30-5:45 Kivunim Hanukkah Play

5:45 Candle Lighting

6:00 Dinner!

RSVP: katherineh@gmail.com

Hadassah Book Club

Wednesday, December 7, 2022, on Zoom at 1PM.

Note: This meeting is for November and December, and is much earlier in the month than usual to avoid Hanukkah and the holiday season.

Our book: More Than I Love My Life by David Grossman, translated from Hebrew, fiction based on a true story, the latest book by this esteemed Israeli writer.

Discussion leaders: Lois Rosen and Liz Morley

Learn Torah Trope with Gail Richmond

Gail Richmond will be hosting a class to teach KI members Torah trope. The class will start January 5th and be held on Thursdays from 6:00-7:00 pm at KI. If the weather is bad, class will be shifted to Zoom.

Gail has kindly agreed to offer this class free of charge in exchange for a promise to help out with either a Shabbat, Rosh Hashanah, or Yom Kippur Torah reading. Please respond by January 1st to Nicole Ellefson if you are interested, nicole.ellefson@gmail.com



THANK YOU
for your support!

Library Donations

Ken Nadler

General Fund

JP and Naomi Casher in honor of
Paula Yevilaf and Jay Kefman.

Daniel Glickman Memorial Fund

Lori and Joseph Wisniewski

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/i/community/community-rewards> KI will earn a percentage of your purchases. No cost to you.

Monthly Board Meeting Wednesday, December 14, 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 Yahrzeit's

Larry Messe, 19 Kislev, December 13

Maggie Linz, 27 Keslev, December 21

Happy
BIRTHDAY

Claire Berkman

Barry Gross

Happy
Anniversary

Ken and Karen Glickman

**Nigel Paneth and
Ellen Polack**



An Evening With
Dan Nichols



Saturday, December 3

Congregation Shaarey Zedek, 1924 Coolidge Road, East Lansing

6:30 p.m. Dinner featuring special dishes
from members of the community
8:00 p.m. Dan Nichols concert

\$10 per person
RSVP at jewishfederationlansing.org

If you have questions or would like to bring a dish to the event, email lansingjewishfederation@gmail.com

Sponsored by the Greater Lansing Jewish Federation and
Congregation Shaarey Zedek, with generous support from the Ravitz Foundation



The Michael and Elaine Serling Institute
for Jewish Studies and Modern Israel
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Finifter Lecture: “Language as Identity: the Greek Romaniote Jews in the 20th Century” **by Andreas Bouroutis**



**Wednesday,
December 7th from
7:00 - 8:30 pm
JMC Library, Case Hall**

**To livestream
this event on
our YouTube
page, scan
this QR code**





Chanukah Storytime with PJ Library

Sunday December 18

2:00 - 3:00 PM

Families with kids age 8 and younger

All families are welcome to enjoy a special Chanukah Storytime in collaboration with PJ Library and special guest reader Karen Weinstein! Craft & snack to follow!
No registration required



East Lansing Public Library

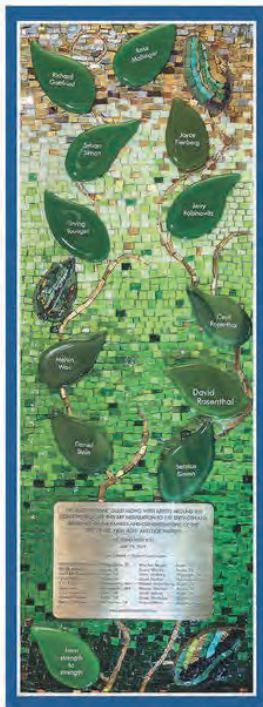


Library

Bring Jewish stories home



FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT: MOSAICS INSPIRED BY TRAGEDY



On Exhibit through December 22 MSU Main Library, 3-West

566 West Circle Drive, East Lansing, MI 48824

Please check library hours before visiting: <http://lib.msu.edu/hours>

“From Darkness to Light: Mosaics Inspired by Tragedy” is an exhibit of mosaics that were produced by artists in response to the shooting at the Tree of Life Synagogue building in Pittsburgh, which occurred four years ago during Sabbath worship services and took the lives of 11 people. The mosaic project was initiated by lead artist Susan Ribnick of Austin, Texas.

The first museum installation of the mosaics was curated by the Skirball Museum of Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion, Cincinnati, Ohio. MSU Libraries is exhibiting over 30 metal reproductions of the original mosaics.



SKIRBALL MUSEUM
CINCINNATI

The exhibit is cosponsored by the
MSU Serling Institute for Jewish Studies and Modern Israel.
The new *Guide on Antisemitism for the MSU Community 2022*
(https://inclusion.msu.edu/_assets/documents/resources/Serling-Institute-Guide-on-Antisemitism-for-MSU-2022.pdf)
will be available at the exhibit.



lib.msu.edu | @MSULibraries

For parking information, please visit <http://maps.msu.edu/interactive>