



Congregation
Kehillat Israel

CHOSEN



An evolving concept

**Why has Reconstructionism rejected chosenness?
Why do other movements embrace it?**

a discussion with Rabbi Matthew

May 20 2023

4:30 PM

On Zoom

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Saturday Service Schedule - 10:00 am

May 6, at KI and on Zoom with Rabbi Matthew - Kol Haneshamah

May 13, at KI and on Zoom with Rabbi Matthew- Sim Shalom

May 20, at KI and on Zoom with Rabbi Matthew - Kol Haneshamah

May 27, at KI and on Zoom - Sim Shalom



New KI Board Members

Marc Speiser

Alene Dixon

Laura Yares

Brian Kalt

*Welcome Shabbat with Rabbi Matthew and Stephanie
Take a brief moment to enjoy some company, music, and ritual from
the comfort of your own home
Friday May 12th from 6:30 – 7:00 PM (Zoom)*



From the Desk of Rabbi Matthew

At our annual congregational meeting, our president, Doug Moffat, offered a very helpful and informative summation of how the board has pursued developing a vision for the future of the community over this past year. By the time you read this, Doug will have also presided over three more information-sharing meetings designed to allow for open-ended discussion. I commend Doug and the board for their full engagement of the congregation in the decision-making process. They are following a well-defined Reconstructionist practice of community-based decision making that has been articulated by the former president of RRC, Rabbi David Teutsch.

There are certain constants that ground our community identity. First, our community values being a *beit tefilah*, a house of prayer. We care deeply about maintaining a sacred sanctuary space where we can hold services. Secondly, we value being a *beit midrash*, a community dedicated to Torah study and Jewish education for adults and for children. And thirdly, we value being a *beit kneset*, a close-knit community of people who care for one another in times of need and celebrate together in times of joy. These three classic pillars of Jewish community are the three areas that must continue to flourish in order for us to feel grounded as a community. The form that these three areas of community life will take will likely change from what we are currently used to. With change in form comes the potential for discomfort. But if we remain committed to this overarching construct as the defining feature of what makes KI what it is, then we may also take courage that changing the form will not imperil the strength of our identity. More than this, since we are now in a position to create a vision for our future from afresh, we have the opportunity to improve and revitalize these areas of community life. It was pointed out in the annual meeting, for example, that co-location with Shaarey Zedek could improve the overall feeling of community – of being a *beit kneset* – by deepening our connection with our sister congregation.

Even as we are engaged in discussions of transition, let us remember that we are concerned not simply with preserving the essential character of the KI community. For what sparked this entire process to begin with is the realization that the status quo cannot hold. We have gained a lot of knowledge this year. A realistic framework of what is possible and practical is beginning to emerge.

Although there are practical considerations that bound our vision for the future, this should not obscure the fact that we are doing the work of community building. We now have a realistic sense of options available to us. But we are not done imagining what can be.

We are creating a future. Ask yourself not only what you would like to see preserved, but also ask yourself what you would like to see come to pass. Tell the board what you can imagine. Email me. Email Doug. What new possibilities do you see? What energizes you about the future? What questions need to be asked in order to get there?

Chazak v'nitchazek.

Kiddush Volunteers Needed

We would like to thank all the Shabbat Minyan attendees who volunteered to be the Kitchen Coordinator for a week.

The "job description" for the kiddush host is posted on the KI website under Member Section. To sign up to be the Kitchen Coordinator, go to KI's website or e-mail me and I'll add you to the list with the date that you would like to host:

If you haven't signed up yet, consider celebrating a birthday, anniversary, or special occasion with your KI community.

Let me know if you can help out on **May 20, May 27, and June 24.**

Thanks, Karen Glickman

Hadassah Book Club

The Hadassah Book Club will meet on Wednesday, May 24, 2023, at 1PM on Zoom.

We'll discuss *Defending Britta Stein: A Novel* by Ronald H. Balson.
Historical fiction.

The novel centers on defending a 90-year-old woman who accuses a well-known Norwegian restaurateur of being a Nazi collaborator in WWII.

Discussion Leader: Bev Wiener

Klvunim

We have reached the end of another school year. It was another great year with the community's children.

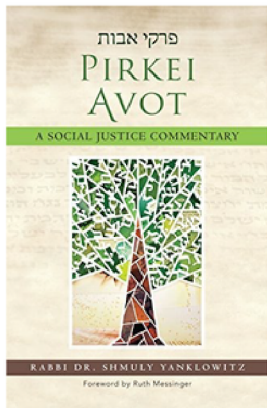


As the year ended, the school hosted a shuk Ha'Atzmaut – Israeli market with Israeli food that the kiddos made and sold to raise funds for the Appel Scholarship Fund. Kids made art inspired by Israeli street art, kiddush cups and besamim holders (spice boxes used during the Havdalah ritual), pickles (at left), and all sorts of other yummy food. We appreciate everyone who came out to enjoy time together, buy some of the kids' artwork, and have a good nosh.

We have two b'not mitzvah coming up soon, Rachel DuPuis comes to the bima on June 3rd followed one week later by Dalia Fermaglich on June 10th. Please join the KI community and their families to celebrate their big days!

Further down the line, we're looking forward to the second year of Camp Kehillat Zedek, which will happen August 7-11 at Congregation Shaarey Zedek in East Lansing. We anticipate another wonderful week full of Jewish camp fun. Many thanks to the Daniel M. Glickman Memorial fund and the Greater Lansing Jewish Welfare Federation for their generous support of Camp KZ attendees!

And finally, all of us kids and fellow teachers would like to wish Raphael Gold all the best for the start of his college career! After working with the school since his bar mitzvah, Raphael heads out to the University of Pittsburgh for the next chapter in his life. We know he'll be super successful but we'll miss him something fierce. Please congratulate him and thank him for his amazing work with our community's children when you see him next.



Pirkei Avot is the urtext of Jewish practical wisdom. In many ways, the words of Pirkei Avot were the first recorded manifesto of social justice in Western civilization.

Join Rabbi Matthew on **Sunday May 7 at 4:30 pm** to explore this ancient text together.

We are using the new *Pirkei Avot: A Social Justice Commentary* by Shmuly Yanklowitz (CCAR Press 2018), which approaches the text through a lens of contemporary social justice and moral philosophy, engaging with both classical commentators and modern thinkers. It is suggested that you purchase this edition to get the most out of our discussions.



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.

THANK YOU
for your support!

◆ **Donations** ◆

General Fund

David and Beverly Wiener in memory of Claire Collins and Madeline Lenski's mother.

Daniel Glickman Memorial Fund

William Hochman

Lipsitz and Holzman Family in honor of Riley Simon's Bar Mitzvah

Appel Scholarship Fund

Doug Moffat In honor of Elijah Braiman



Paypal donate button is up and running. Copy and paste the link below or scan the QR code to donate to KI

https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=DQ8JSHFW6G5VW

Monthly Board Meeting Wednesday, May 10, 7:00 pm Zoom

Board of Directors

Doug Moffat - President - 2024

Kirsten Fermaglich - Executive VP - 2024

Marc Speiser - Secretary - 2025

Leon Puttler - VP for Finance - 2024

Ody Norkin - VP for Facilities - 2024

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

Arlene Sharkey - VP for Education - 2024

Liz Harrow - VP for Programs - 2024

Robin Willner - First Trustee - 2024

First Trustee - Robin Willner - 2024

Alene Dixon - Trustee - 2025

Emily Schnurr - Trustee - 2024

Brian Kalt - Trustee - 2025

Laura Yares - Trustee - 2025

Neil Gordon - Past President

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

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1273RVz5LmC8EDS3O3mvdvU-PkZUMrzWpFH-0yISl68/edit?ts=604a403d#gid=0> (copy and paste into your browser) sign up to give a dvar or chant Torah/haftarah. If you don't see the date you want, please reach out to kikatherineb@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).



Yahrzeit's

Ann Flescher, 18 Iyar, May 9

Miriam Norkin, 21 Iyar, May 12

Jill Elfenbein, 22 Iyar, May 13

Gabor Kemeny, 3 Sivan, May 23

Betty Werner, 4 Sivan, May 24

Ronnie Nadler, 4 Sivan, May 24

Morton Gordon, 8 Sivan, May 28

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Paul and Betty Menchik

SOUP 'N SHMOOZE INVITES YOU TO

SHAKESPEARE'S MUCH ADO ABOUT
NOTHING: COMEDY, DISORDER, AND
DARKNESS

CELEBRATE
SHAKESPEARE'S COMIC
GENIUS WITH STEPHANIE
KAUFMAN.

FIND OUT WHY SOME JOKES
ARE STILL FUNNY AFTER 400
YEARS AND SOME NOT SO
MUCH. PLUS, HOW A COMEDY
CAN COMBINE SASS,
PARANOIA, AND A SIDE OF
BITTERNESS.

BONUS CONTENT: THE RIGHT
WAY TO BEHAVE WHEN YOU
LOVE SOMEONE.



New date and time

SUNDAY MAY 21ST, 2023 AT
7:00 PM

KEHILLAT ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE
AND ON ZOOM
POTLUCK DINNER AT 6:00 PM
IN THE SOCIAL HALL

Community Events

SAVE THE DATES FOR KEHILLAT ZEDEK SUMMER CAMP מחנה קהילת צדק

AUGUST 7-11, 2023



WHAT

Camp Kehillat Zedek is a new week-long, day camp held on the Shaarey Zedek campus, providing a safe, warm, and inclusive environment where kids in our extended community can explore nature, crafts, Hebrew, and Judaism on their own terms.

WHO

Our camp is open to all children between the ages of 4 and 12 who are part of Jewish-identifying families, are part of families exploring Judaism, or who have Jewish heritage.

NEW THIS YEAR! Special Counselor-in-Training (CIT) Program for post-B Mitzvah children under the age of 14.

PROGRAM INFORMATION

Drop off: 9:00 - 9:15 a.m.

Pick up: 3:45 - 4:00 p.m.

(Please pack a vegetarian / kosher lunch)

\$350 for the week

\$175 for first year CITs

Returning CITs Free!

Aftercare* until 5:30 p.m. \$100 for the week

*Please note: There is no aftercare on Friday, August 11



ACTIVITIES

Each day will begin with a short, fun ritual for the whole camp where the daily theme will be introduced. The themes will be related to Jewish values, customs, and fun traditions!

Activities will include movement and sports (capture the flag, gaga, yoga, soccer and more); arts and crafts; Hebrew games; quiet time / free choice; *hugim* (electives) including photography, cooking, Israeli dancing, and more!

HAVE QUESTIONS? KEHILLATZEDEK@GMAIL.COM

CHABAD OF LANSING/MSU

BH



CAMP

Summer
2023!

GAN ISRAEL

🕶️ 2 fun-filled weeks! 🕶️

warm & caring staff » arts & crafts » science » baking
sports » swimming » trips » water activities

Give your children a Jewish camp experience!

EAST
LANSING

⋮ JULY 10 - 21 ⋮
⋮ 9:30 AM-3:30 PM ⋮

AGES
3-12

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

BRACHA LEAH: CALL/TEXT 616-706-8055 | BRACHALEAHW@GMAIL.COM
RABBI HENDEL: CALL/TEXT 517-214-0525