

Congregation *Kehillat Israel*

Congregation Kehillat Israel is pleased to announce two b'not mitzvah in the month of June!

Rachel Dupuis will be called to the Torah during Shabbat morning services on Saturday, June 3rd.

Dalia Gold Fermaglich will be called to the Torah during Shabbat morning services on Saturday, June 10th. Please join us in celebrating this milestone in their lives. We thank Matt and Sara, Rachel's proud parents, for hosting our congregational kiddush luncheon on June 3rd; and we thank Kirsten and Jon, Dalia's proud parents, for hosting our congregational kiddush luncheon on June 10th.

Mazel tov, Rachel and Dalia!

Congrats to graduating senior

Raphael Benjamin Fermaglich Gold
Parents: Kirsten Fermaglich and Jon Gold. High school: East Lansing High School. College entering in the fall: University of Pittsburgh



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Community Events**

Saturday Service Schedule - 10:00 am

June 3, at KI and on Zoom with Rabbi Matthew - Kol Haneshamah - Rachel DuPuis Bat Mitzvah

June 10, at KI and on Zoom with Rabbi Matthew - Kol Haneshamah - Dalia Fermaglich Bat Mitzvah

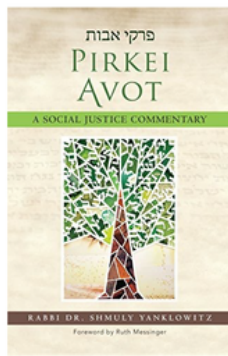
June 17, at KI and on Zoom with Rabbi Matthew - Sim Shalom

June 24, Joint Service at Shaarey Zedek and on Zoom - Conservative Service

*Welcome Shabbat with Rabbi Matthew and Stephanie
Friday June 16th from 6:30 – 7:00 PM (Zoom)
Featuring Ody Norkin singing Yedid Nefesh and Rabbi Matthew playing klezmer*



Social Justice and Jewish Wisdom



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 June 4 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.

From the Desk of Rabbi Matthew

June marks a celebratory month for Kl. Mazel tov to Rachel Dupuis and to Dalia Gold Fermaglich on becoming bat mitzvah. The community celebrates with you.

It is also a month for national celebration, marked by the new federal holiday of Juneteenth. Juneteenth commemorates the end of slavery in the United States. News that slavery had been abolished arrived belatedly to Galveston, Texas, on June 19, 1865. The following year began the first official Juneteenth celebrations there. As time went on, African Americans in other states also began to celebrate their freedom on June 19. Juneteenth became a state holiday in Texas in 1980, and a number of other states subsequently followed suit. In 2021 Juneteenth was made a federal holiday. The day is also celebrated outside the United States, being used by organizations in a number of countries to recognize the end of slavery and to honor the culture and achievements of African Americans.

If July 4th symbolizes American freedom from tyranny, Juneteenth symbolizes the awakening of American moral consciousness. It teaches us that the freedoms secured by the Revolutionary War were external in nature. America, in enslaving African Americans, enchained its own soul. Whereas celebrations on the Fourth of July are uncomplicatedly self-congratulatory, the celebrations of Juneteenth occasion cannot help but be accompanied by a recognition that the struggle for America to free herself from her self-inflicted curse of violent racism is an ongoing one.

Juneteenth, then, marks an occasion for special prayerful recognition of the famous adage of Rabbi Tarfon, “You are not required to finish the task, but neither are you free to desist from it” (Pirkei Avot 2:16).

In 1951, Rabbi Mordecai Kaplan collaborated with J. Paul Williams and Eugene Kohn on a new prayerbook for the celebration of American holidays titled *The Faith of America*. It contains special liturgy to mark Lincoln’s birthday as a day devoted to the ideals of equality and fraternity. It introduces it with a reflection that we must “make America safe for differences and liberate all those today who are oppressed by unbrotherly prejudice and rancor.” If Lincoln’s birthday causes us to reflect on this theme from the perspective of the liberator, Juneteenth causes us to reflect on this theme from the perspective of the liberated. *The Faith of America* includes as part of its liturgy a poem by the famed poet and leader of the Harlem Renaissance, Langston Hughes, “Let America Be America Again.” Let us make this poem part of our liturgical recognition of Juneteenth today:

O, let America be America again—
The land that never has been yet—
And yet must be—the land where every man is free.
The land that’s mine—the poor man’s, Indian’s, Negro’s, ME—
Who made America,
Whose sweat and blood, whose faith and pain,
Whose hand at the foundry, whose plow in the rain,
Must bring back our mighty dream again.

Kehillat Israel would like to recognize our graduating seniors from high school, college, or other institutions.

Please send in 1) the senior's name, 2) the parent's name(s), 3) the institution from which he/she is graduating, and 4) the Name of the institution from which he/she will be attending in the fall. Names will appear in a KI Newsletter and will also be announced at a Shabbat Service.

Send information to kikatherineb@gmail.com

Great Books

The next meeting of the Great Books group will be on Monday June 26, at 1:30, at KI. We will be discussing the next three stories in the Pearlman Honeydew collection: The Golden Swan, Cul-de-sac, and Deliverance. Alan Posner

Hadassah Book Club

Our next meeting is Wednesday,
June 28, 2023, on Zoom at 1PM.

June's book is The Slaughterman's Daughter by Yaniv Iczkovits, translated from Hebrew.

Winner of the 2021 Wingate Literary Prize; finalist for one of the 2021 National Jewish Book Awards.

Discussion leader will be Fern Griesbach.

My bat mitzvah project, the vaquita:

For my bat mitzvah project, I have chosen to focus on the world's most endangered marine mammal: the vaquita. You're probably thinking: "What on earth is a vaquita?!", and so was I until a few months ago when I saw this critically endangered porpoise on a list of animals from WWF (World Wildlife Fund). However, once I started researching, I quickly developed a passion for trying to help this animal, and after you understand a little bit more about the vaquita and the danger it's in, I hope you will too.

What is the vaquita and why is it endangered:

First, some basic facts: Vaquitas are small porpoises that are found only in the northern part of Mexico's Gulf of California, occupying the smallest geographical range of any marine mammal. They feed mostly on small fish and crustaceans, and are shy animals, usually traveling in groups of 1 or 2. The main cause of the vaquita's dangerous move towards extinction are gillnets set by fisherman in this region, which they often get tangled in and drowned by. These gillnets are set by fishermen who are illegally trying to catch totoaba, another endangered animal in this area. Totoaba are prized in China for their swimming bladders, which are used for medicinal purposes, so illegally setting these gillnets and then smuggling the totoaba to China on the black market is a good way to earn money for fishermen leaning on the edge of poverty, and vaquitas, although not the subject of this hunting, are becoming victims more and more.

Why saving the vaquitas is important to me and should be to you too:

It's easy to think of the vaquita as just another endangered animal- there are sadly hundreds of them. Every day we hear about the pandas, the polar bears, and the elephants, and although we are devastated by the terrible news coming in constantly, we hear so much about it that it is easy to become immune to these tragedies and to dismiss this lesser known, critically endangered porpoise. So why did this animal, in particular, catch my attention? Well, there are a couple of reasons. One is that the vaquita is so critically endangered, the numbers are impossible to ignore. When they were discovered in 1958, there were approximately 5,000 vaquitas in the world. As of 2023, there are less than 10 of these adorable porpoises in the entire world. That's about 1/2 the size of my extended family. These unfathomable numbers spoke to me, because, well, there isn't much time left. Another reason the vaquita's dire plight spoke so deeply to me was that their situation parallels other animals becoming extinct all around the world, especially in regards to how poverty often plays a role in illegally fishing and hunting. These fishermen are not intentionally hurting vaquitas, and they don't want to. They are simply doing what it takes to keep their families alive. The issue of the vaquita runs much deeper than just the animals - in fact, it has to do with organized crime, corrupt government, poverty, and much more. There is actually a whole lot more around this case when you look into it, but when you put everything together, you can see how much the situation mirrors how we as human beings for centuries have interacted with our environment and everything in it- from manipulation to conservation and everything in between. Assigning blame is easy to do, but it is not right, and this complicated issue with the vaquita really showcases that. If we can learn to work together and do what is best for the fishermen, the economy, and the vaquitas, we can apply that to every other environmental and human issue we have to face.

What I would love you to do:

Some people think there is no hope left, but I disagree. We can save the vaquita, but it starts with taking action. Here are two ways to help:

1. Donating to a great organization called VaquitaCPR. This organization focuses on saving vaquitas while still supporting fishermen in the area (you can find more information about what exactly they are doing to help these adorable porpoises on their website, linked!)
2. Contact the Mexican president and ask him to step up efforts to save the vaquita. You can send your letter to:

Presidente Andrés Manuel López Obrador
Residencia oficial de Los Pinos, Molino del Rey s/n,
Col. San Miguel Chapultepec, Distrito Federal. C.P. 11850

Helping either of these ways would be so incredibly appreciated. Please help any way you can, and thank you so much for reading!

Dalia Fermaglich <3

Member News

Dear Fellow Kl'ers, We have a timeshare for one week in a one-bedroom suite at the Vedanta Resort on the Riviera Maya just south of Cancun, Mexico. There are no fixed dates; it is subject to availability. Meals are not included. There is a kitchen, as well as many eating options at the resort. We would like to donate that vacation stay to anyone who will make a donation of \$1200 or more to KI. (Current non-member rates are \$580-\$670 per night). Contact Don or Liz for more details if interested.
kaufmand@msu.edu, kaufmanea@gmail.com



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.



**Adult education discussion with Rabbi Matthew
on Saturday, June 17 at 4:30 pm. Topic TBA.**

KI's Bikkur Cholim - If you know of any KI member who is ill or injured please inform either Rabbi Matthew at kirabbim@gmail.com or 517- 582-4155 or Robin Willner at ronit24@sbcglobal.net of KI's Bikkur Cholim so that we may provide help and support as needed. Please let Rabbi Kaufman know if you or someone in your family is in need of special prayer support.



Paypal donate button is up and running on our website.

**Copy and paste the link below or scan the
QR code to donate to KI**

[https://www.paypal.com/donate/?
hosted_button_id=DQ8JSHFW6G5VW](https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=DQ8JSHFW6G5VW)

**Monthly Board Meeting Wednesday,
June 14, 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

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).



Yahrzeits

- Michael Borus, 15 Sivan, June 4**
Alexander Amber, 15 Sivan, June 4
Aryeh (Arthur) Seagull, 15 Sivan, June 4
Nancy Goldschlack, 16 Sivan, June 5
Elinor Menchik, 26 Sivan, June 15
Edwin Bladen, 29 Sivan, June 18
Bernice Gordon, 29 Sivan, June 18
Walter Davis, 1 Tammuz, June 20
George Kessler, 1 Tammuz, June 20
Walter Kron, 2 Tammuz, June 21
Glenda Scheer, 3 Tammuz, June 22
Jean Yonke, 8 Tammuz, June 27
Corinne Balaban, 8 Tammuz, June 27
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Happy

BIRTHDAY

Sherry Davis

The KI librarians are no longer accepting donations of books for the KI library until we know more about the library's future. However, the library remains OPEN for browsing, borrowing, or returning borrowed books. Come browse our large collection of books with Jewish themes or written by Jewish authors. Your

Librarians:

Barbara Hyman, Liz Kaufman, Lois Rosen, Betty Seagull, Joel Sharkey

Shared Summer Saturday Services

As we did last year, due to lower than usual attendance in the summer, Shabbat morning services will alternate between KI and Shaarey Zedek in the summer of 2023, with one exception.

The schedule is as follows:

- June 24 Shaarey Zedek (Conservative Service)
- July 1 Kehillat Israel (Reconstructionist Service)
- July 8 Shaarey Zedek (Conservative Service)
- July 15 Kehillat Israel (Reconstructionist Service)
- July 22 Shaarey Zedek (Conservative Service)
- July 29 Shaarey Zedek (Conservative Service)
- August 5 Kehillat Israel (Reconstructionist Service)
- August 12 Shaarey Zedek (Conservative Service)
- August 19 Kehillat Israel (Reconstructionist Service)
- August 26 Shaarey Zedek (Conservative Service)

KI will lead the conservative service at Shaarey Zedek. KI members and Shaarey Zedek members are invited to attend services at KI and Shaarey Zedek. We intend to make the services available via Zoom.

Soup 'n Shmooze Presents:
Stan and Toba Kaplowitz



Morocco: Scenery,
Architecture, Politics,
and Religion

Bonus Content:
Cats We Met On the Way

Sunday June 11
7:00 pm
Kehillat Israel
Potluck Dinner
at 6:00
Zoom Link to Follow

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