



# Congregation *Kehillat Israel*

## **SOUP 'N SHMOOZE PRESENTS: JOHN LE CARRE AND POLITICS**

Sunday December 17, 2023  
Potluck dinner at 6:00pm  
Presentation at 7:00  
Congregation Kehillat Israel

Join us for an evening  
of espionage and  
intrigue with author  
Myron Aronoff.

Myron Aronoff, author of *John Le Carre: Balancing Ethics and Politics*, interprets the ambiguous ethical and political implications of the work of John Le Carre, revealing him to be one of the most important political writers of our time.

### **In this issue:**

Page 2 - Rabbi's  
Programs

Page 3 - Rabbi's Article

Page 4 - Saturday  
Service Schedule &  
Rabbi Liaison  
Information

Page 5 - Donations

Page 6 - Camp News

Page 7 - Book Clubs

Page 8 - Member News

Page 9 - Yahrzeits,  
Birthday's, &  
Anniversaries

Page 10 Community  
Events



## **Saturday December 9th at 4:30 PM: Chat GPT, Artificial Intelligence and Jewish Ethical Wisdom, with Rabbi Matthew.**

Our discussion will be based on Reconstructing Judaism's fascinating Evolve: Groundbreaking Jewish Conversations October 26th podcast, available here: <https://evolve.fireside.fm/46> (click on the triangle-shaped play button in the banner at the top of the page — or subscribe to the podcast using your podcast app.) Please be sure to listen to the podcast first so that we can have a discussion.

For those who are interested in exploring even more, you can read these short essays written for the podcast here: "ChatGPT is the opposite of the Golem" Copy and paste the link below.

<https://evolve.reconstructingjudaism.org/chatgpt-is-the-opposite-of-the-golem/>; and, "The power and danger of artificial intelligence"

<https://evolve.reconstructingjudaism.org/the-power-and-danger-of-artificial-intelligence/>.

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***Welcome Shabbat with Rabbi Matthew and Stephanie***

***Friday December 15 from 6:00 – 6:30 PM (Zoom)***

***(feature singing with Ody Norkin and klezmer played by Rabbi Matthew!)***

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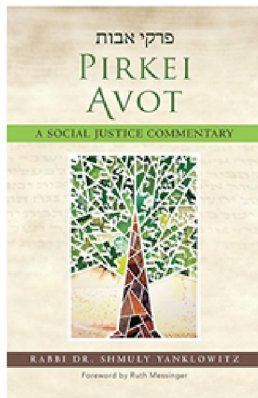


# From the Desk of Rabbi Matthew

Winter approaches and the nights are getting longer. The winter solstice this year falls on December 21st, the shortest day of the year. It is no coincidence that during this time of increased darkness, we celebrate Hanukkah, the Festival of Lights. As the nights get longer, we will counter the darkness with nightly additions of a brightly burning candle. With each new light, we demonstrate our determination to not let the darkness of the hour overwhelm us. In these dark times of war and increased antisemitic threats, we must light within our own hearts a Hanukiyah of hope. Hanukkah is about the light of hope that we cast into the world.

Hanukkah reminds us that hope must be cultivated. It is we who must light the candles each night. It takes commitment to create hope, but we need only take a small first step to light that first candle. With each new candle, our ability to experience that miracle continues to increase. We may not yet see our way through the darkness, but we can determine that we shall not be overcome by it.

## 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 December 10 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.

## Saturday Service Schedule

**December 2**, 10:00 am at KI and on Zoom - Kol Haneshamah

**December 9**, 10:00 am at KI and on Zoom with Rabbi Matthew -Lev Shalem

**December 16**, 10:00 am at KI and on Zoom with Rabbi Matthew -Kol Haneshamah

**December 23**, 10:00 am at KI and on Zoom - Lev Shalem

**December 30**, 10:00 am at KI and on Zoom - 5th Shabbat

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## Rabbi Liaison Committee

The KI Board of Directors is pleased to announce that the Rabbi Liaison Committee has been revitalized, with Committee members being appointed in September. The members of this committee are Betty Seagull, Elizabeth Morrisseau, and Lonnie Barnett. The purpose of the Rabbi Liaison Committee is to facilitate and promote the most effective and mutually satisfying working relationship between the Rabbi and the Board of Directors and the Congregation Membership.

Members of the KI community can approach this committee with ideas and suggestions for improving the relationship between the Rabbi and the Congregation collectively as well as enhancing the relationship with groups, committees, and/or individual congregants. The Rabbi can also approach this committee for these same reasons. The Committee will embrace a collaborative spirit to support meaningful and constructive dialogue.

The committee can be reached at the following e-mail address. Please note that only the 3 committee members (Betty, Elizabeth, and Lonnie) have access to this email box.

rabbiliasioncommittee@gmail.com (that's 'rabbi liaison committee' - but without any spaces - @gmail.com)

For those that would like to reach this committee but prefer not to e-mail, you can approach any committee member during KI events, or, you can reach either Betty or Lonnie at the following phone/text numbers.

Betty Seagull: (517) 664-1844

Lonnie Barnett: (517) 927-3628

**THANK YOU**  
for your support!

## ***General Fund***

**Dr. JP Blake and Naomi Casher** - in honor of Jay and Paula Yevilaf Krefman.

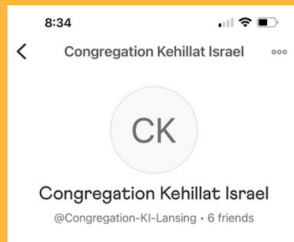
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**Paypal donate button is up and running on our website.**

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

**Here is out venmo information if you would like to give via venmo**



# HANUKKAH! CHANUKAH!

Please come to a Hanukkah party  
at Kehillat Israel  
on December 9<sup>th</sup>.

Games and dreidls at 5:30.

Candle lighting at 6:00, then a latke dinner with songs.

Bring your family's hanukiah/ hanukkiot, so we can fill the room with light.



After dinner, KIVunim 3<sup>rd</sup> through 7<sup>th</sup> graders will perform a short play.

What to bring: You and your menorah  
A contribution of \$20 per family is appreciated but not required.

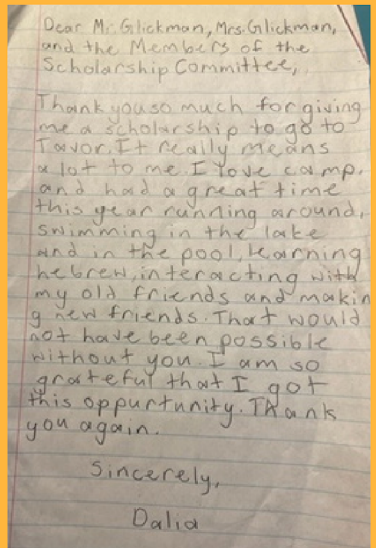
## Camp News.

It's that time again - time to think about summer camps.

KI adults and families love to hear from KI students who attend Jewish Camps. If any campers would like to share their thoughts about the summer Jewish camp they attended this past summer, please send a paragraph or a picture to Katherine in the KI office, and it will appear in the next Newsletter.

Here's Dalia's reflection:"

**Karen B. Glickman**  
**glickmankb@gmail.com**



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**The KI Kiddush -- an easy KI volunteer job.**  
**Only you can keep our KI Kiddush going.**

**To sign up to be the host of our volunteer KI kiddushes please do the following:**

- 1) Go to <https://kehillatisrael.net/>
- 2) Click on "Member Section"
- 3) Click on Kiddush Sign-up Form
- 4) Pick a date when you can help out as the kiddush coordinator.

**Easy job -- set up the social hall, defrost a challah from the freezer, bring a dozen bagels, and clean up after kiddush.**

**Contact Kate Farley at [katefarley246@gmail.com](mailto:katefarley246@gmail.com)**

# Great Books

The next meeting of the group will be on Monday, December 18, at 1:30, at KI. We will be starting a new book, Five-Carat Soul, by James McBride, discussing the first entry, "The Under Graham Railroad Box Car Set." In anticipation of the new year, assume that the January meeting will be discussing entries in our alternate text, The Penguin Book of the Modern American Short Story. With our new texts, feel free to acquaint others with what we are up to, in the event they want to participate.  
Alan Posner

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## Hadassah Book Club

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, December 6, 2023  
We'll discuss The Two-Family House by Lynda Cohen Loigman.  
Fiction. Two women from the house deliver babies minutes  
apart and develop a close bond that eventually unravels.

Discussion Leader will be Bettie Menchik.

Please note the early December date. This meeting is for both  
November and December.



# Member News

**Rabbi Matthew's drop-in office hours** are on Sundays from 11-1 and on Wednesdays from 3-5. Appointment times outside of drop-in hours may be arranged by emailing Rabbi Matthew at [Klrabbim@gmail.com](mailto:Klrabbim@gmail.com). Rabbi Matthew's regular work schedule is on Sundays, Wednesdays, and most Saturdays. Congregants can generally expect responses to non-urgent matters on one of those days. The rabbi will be available outside of his regular work schedule for urgent matters. In case of emergency, please phone Rabbi Matthew at (517) 582-4155.

**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](mailto:kirabbim@gmail.com) or 517- 582-4155 or Robin Willner at [ronit24@sbcglobal.net](mailto: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.

**KI building hours of operation** - Wednesday , Thursday , and Friday 8:30 am to 3:00 pm



# Yahrzeits

- Larry Messe**, 19 Kislev, December 2  
**Maggie Linz**, 27 Kislev, December 10  
**Thea Zimmerman**, 3 Tevet, December 15  
**Sherry Volk**, 5 Tevet, December 17  
**Daniel Allen**, 8 Tevet, December 20  
**John Russo**, 9 Tevet, December 21  
**Delcie Juran**, 9 Tevet, December 21  
**Arnold Werner**, 13 Tevet, December 25  
**Alex Heideman**, 17 Tevet, December 29

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

**Claire Berkman**  
**Barry Gross**



**Ken and Karen Glickman**  
**Nigel Paneth and Ellen Polack**

# Monthly Board Meeting on Wednesday December 13, 7:00 pm AT KI

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## 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**

**Neil Gordon - Past President**

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## 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).

# Community Events

Volunteers requested: **The Greater Lansing Food Bank** has a monthly food distribution at University Lutheran Church on Harrison Avenue. 2-3 drivers are needed every month to make food deliveries to families, mostly in Spartan Village. The distribution is usually the 4th Thursday of the month, but earlier this month and next: November 16 and December 21. This mitzvah takes about an hour. You drive to the church and park in the volunteers lot, check in with either Brian or Clarke to get boxes for each family. About 18 boxes will be filled and then you deliver to two places in Spartan Village – ½ mile away. No lifting is required – just a smile when the Kazakh families thank you for the help – they will be at the dropoff points to receive the boxes and empty your car. The families are very grateful for the help. Bettie and Paul Menchik and Barbara Hyman have been volunteering but more volunteers are needed. Call or email Bettie, [menchikb@msu.edu](mailto:menchikb@msu.edu) or 349-5261. Bettie Landauer-Menchik

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## Trip to The Detroit Institute of Arts

The Detroit Institute of Arts has a special docent tour which takes us on a walking tour of the art in the DIA done by Jewish artists as well as Jewish Art created by non-Jewish artists. Karen Glickman from KI and Ethel Anthony from SZ are chairing this exciting and educational event. If there are 50 Lansing people who are interested in attending this, we will make arrangements for a chartered bus. The plan is to travel by bus from the Shaarey Zedek Parking lot at about 9:00 am on Tuesday, May 7th. Returning about 4:00 pm.

The Lansing Jewish Welfare Federation graciously has contributed part of the cost of the bus. However, we need 50 of us to make this event happen as well as to keep the cost of the bus trip to \$40.00 per person. We know it is a long way away, but if you are seriously interested, please contact Ethel Anthony by 12/31/23 [n8pwc1947@gmail.com](mailto:n8pwc1947@gmail.com) to reserve your seat on the bus. You do NOT have to send your check. We will notify you by email when checks are due. Please RSVP before December 31, 2023. Let's go on a road trip!!