

Congregation *Kehillat Israel*

Join us for

REFUGEE SHABBAT *Services*



February 10, 10 a.m.



KEHILLAT ISRAEL

"Welcoming the Stranger: Refugee Resettlement in Michigan"

Mira Sussman (she/her) is the Resource Development Manager at Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County. She supports resettlement programs and developing affordable housing for this population. She directed the refugee program in Ann Arbor from 2008-2013. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Jewish Studies, a Master's Degree in Social Work, and a Master's Degree in Jewish Communal Service.



Guest Speaker
MIRA SUSSMAN

In this issue:

Page 2 - Rabbi's Article

Page 3 - Seder News
and Soup & Shmooze

Page 4 - Adult Ed
Program

Page 5 - Saturday
Service Schedule &
Welcome Shabbat

Page 6 - Special Vote
Meeting Information

Page 7 - Donations

Page 8 - Kivunim

Page 9 - Book Clubs

Page 10 - Member
News

Page 11 - Yartzeits &
Birthdays

Page 12 - Board of
Directors

Page 13 - Stocks &
Bonds

Page 14-16 Community
Events



SAVE THE DATE

March 10 at 5:00 pm to vote, on the possibility of co-
location with Shaarey Zedek.

From the Desk of Rabbi Matthew

This February we usher in the month of Adar. Or, more precisely, we usher in the first of two months of Adar in a row. This doubling of the month of Adar is something that recurs seven times in a nineteen-year cycle. It is popularly referred to as a Jewish leap year. What this means is that this Jewish year has thirteen months instead of twelve! The Jewish calendar was fixed this way so that the lunar cycle can be calibrated with the solar cycle, thus preserving the placement of Jewish holidays (roughly) around the same time of year. This recalibration is why we experience the Jewish holidays as falling “late” this year. In a Jewish leap year such as this, the first month of Adar is essentially a filler month, one in which no holidays occur but exists simply to expand the year.

That said, Adar I is full of activity at KI! On February 10th, we mark HIAS’s annual Refugee Shabbat by welcoming Shaarey Zedek to join us for Shabbat morning services and we will have a special guest speaker known to a number of KI people -- Mira Sussman, the Resource Development Manager at Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County, where she focuses on supporting the resettlement programs and developing affordable housing for this population (see flyer in this newsletter for more information). And on March 2nd, we look forward to a special KI “school shabbat,” when we will showcase our eager young KI’ers during our shabbat morning services. I look forward to seeing you at both of these special occasions!

Kehillat Israel and Soup 'n Shmooze Present
Bettie Menchik: An Antarctic Adventure

Join us for a community potluck and slide show
of Bettie and Paul's once-in-a-lifetime trip to the
bottom of the world!



Where: The home of Bettie and Paul Menchik
4414 Cherry Hill Drive, Okemos

When: February 4th, 2024

Potluck dinner: 6:00

Presentation: 7:00

Questions?

Contact Stephanie Kaufman

shoshana4351@gmail.com

517-582-4754

LET'S TALK SEDER!

Save the date: Sunday, April 7, 10:00 a.m.

Come join us for an informal morning of sharing and noshing while we talk about our Seder practices. What do you do make your Seders memorable? To help all your guests feel included and encouraged to participate? If you have children at your table, are there things you plan to do to keep them interested and involved? Which Hagaddah do you use? Or do you use a combination of Hagaddot? What do you like about them? We're always open to recommendations! And, of course, what are some of your favorite holiday dishes? Recipes are certainly welcome! You can send them to me--arlenesharkey@ameritech.net--if you wish to have copies made to share.

We're looking forward to a fun and relaxing morning, with new ideas and some Pesach inspiration. With bagels, of course! See you there!

Arlene Sharkey - Adult Education



Lovingkindness in a Time of War

Can individual acts of loving-kindness really make a difference with Israel and Hamas at war? Rabbi Amy Eilberg, a longtime peace activist, says yes. Eilberg, the first woman ordained by the Conservative movement, believes that nearly everyone with a connection to Israel and Gaza – and maybe even those without such a direct connection – are experiencing pain and trauma. In this podcast, Eilberg explains that so many of us are consuming every op-ed and podcast about the conflict as a means to avoid deep pain. She shares her decades-long journey into metta meditation and how she turned to it after October 7. We also discuss how even though many Jews have felt isolated in recent months, she doesn't buy into the narrative that the whole world is against Jews. Nor has she given up on coalition-building or the importance of anti-racism efforts. This is a pastoral conversation in which she addresses the feelings of pain, anger and hopelessness that host Bryan Schwartzman, and many others, have experienced during wartime. It's about how individuals might seek healing and, maybe, how Jewish communities can address trauma to become healthier.

Join Rabbi Matthew on:

Saturday February 17, 2024

4:30 p.m.

Listen to this podcast in advance: <https://evolve.fireside.fm/48>

and/or read this essay:

<https://evolve.reconstructingjudaism.org/lovingkindness-in-a-time-of-war/>

Saturday Service Schedule

10:00 am to 1:00 pm

February 3, 2024, 10:00 am at KI and on Zoom with Rabbi Matthew - Kol Hanesamah

February 10, 2024, 10:00 am at KI and on Zoom with Rabbi Matthew - Lev Shalem

February 17, 2024, 10:00 am at KI and on Zoom with Rabbi Matthew - Kol Hanesamah

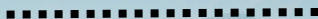
February 24, 2024, 10:00 am at KI and on Zoom
- Lev Shalem

***Welcome Shabbat with Rabbi Matthew and Stephanie
Friday February 9 from 6:30 – 7 PM (Zoom)
(featuring klezmer clarinet with Rabbi Matthew!)***





The KI Board of Directors at its December meeting voted to call a Special Meeting for March 10 at 5:00 pm to vote on the possibility of co-location with Shaarey Zedek. Details and more information will be sent to you in the coming weeks. While we hope that as many as possible will attend in person, we will make arrangements for people to attend or vote, by Zoom.



Rabbi Liaison Committee

Reminder: The Rabbi Liaison Committee focuses on the relationship between the Rabbi and the Congregation. The committee can be reached at rabbiliasioncommittee@gmail.com (that's 'rabbi liaison committee' - but without any spaces - @gmail.com) The 3 committee members -- Betty Seagull, Elizabeth Morrisseau, and Lonnie Barnett -- are the only ones that have access to this email box. 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

Naomi and Arnold Revzin

Daniel Glickman Memorial Fund

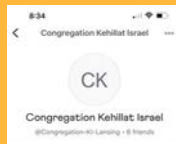
James and Michelle Loree



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



Klvunim

We've begun preparing for the next school shabbat which will happen on March 2nd! As part of our work, the entire school has started an in depth text study of that day's portion– K' Tisa ([Exodus 32](#)), the story of the golden calf. As we began our text study, it became clear that the children did not understand what it meant to "worship" as the Israelites did at the altar with the golden calf. This led us into an interesting discussion the following Wednesday during kitah bet, led by Rabbi Matthew where we talked about what worship is in the Torah/Tanakh and how that connects to what we do in synagogue today. We'll continue exploring this idea of what we do in Jewish liturgy/ritual and why we do it, leaving room to fully explore the idea of how those practices do or don't connect to the children's way of thinking.



In that Wednesday discussion about "worship," I asked the children if they hold a concept of "God." I explicitly stated that any/all answers were correct, so long as it was what felt true inside of them. Several children said they did. One child said that they did not, but that they value coming to KI and joining in all the things we do because they love being with the people. I love this vision for why one would choose to do or be Jewish. I suspect many of us feel much closer to this concept than that of a greater presence called God. So let's look forward to being together and gathering on March 2nd to celebrate being Jewish. Am yisrael chai. The people of Israel live.

At left, a kitah bet and kitah alef student work together to build the scene of the Israelites worshipping the golden calf while Moses was on Mt. Sinai.

Don't forget to check out KI's Facebook page! [facebook.com/KIMichigan](https://www.facebook.com/KIMichigan)

Great Books

The next KI Great Books session will be on Monday, 19 February, at 1:30, at KI. The stories to be discussed will be the next two items in James McBride's *Five Carat Soul*: "Buck Boy" and "Ray-Ray's Picture Box." Be well. Alan Posner



Hadassah Book Club

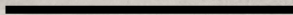
Our next meeting will be Wednesday, February 28, 2024, on Zoom at 1pm. February's book is *Devotion: A Memoir* by Dani Shapiro. This memoir is about Dani's search for meaning in life. Called an "elegant book" about facing the big spiritual questions of life, death, love, and loss. Lois Rosen will be the discussion leader.

Proposed book list for 2024 will be sent in early February so everyone will have a chance to go over it. At the February meeting we'll review the list and make final decisions. The new list with meeting dates will be sent in March.

The book for the March meeting is *The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store* by James McBride. Gaby Kende will be discussion leader.

Enjoy your reading!

Lois



Tax Letter for Contributions - If you would like a tax letter for contributions made to KI please email Katherine at kikatherineb@gmail.com

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 Kirabbim@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 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.

KI building hours of operation - Wednesday , Thursday, and Friday 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Please call for appointment 517-882-0049.

**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



Yahrzeits

Martin Fox, 24 Shevat, February 3

Yetta Balaban, 13 Adar 1, February 22

David Bing, 13 Adar 1, February 22

Beth Zinman, 14 Adar 1, February 23

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

**HAPPY
Anniversary!**

**Eileen Heideman
David Purvis
Liz Kaufman
Dany Rothfeld
Alan Posner
Val Thonger**



Contact Katherine at
kikatherineb@gmail.com if
you want your anniversary
listed in the newsletter

Monthly Board Meeting on Wednesday
February 14, 7:00 pm

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

Jay Krefman - 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).

How to give stocks and bonds to KI for donations

For Contributions of Securities or Mutual Fund Shares to

Congregation Kehillat Israel

To give Stock, bonds and ALL DTC ELIGIBLE SECURITIES):

If your securities are currently held by a brokerage firm other than Vanguard

Send your transfer information (what stock and how many shares you are giving) to your broker along with the following information.

DELIVER TO DTC CLEARING #0062 (Vanguard Brokerage)
ACCOUNT 35042338 (KI)

If your securities are currently held by Vanguard brokerage

Go to Vanguard.com

On the upper right of the home page, click on *Forms*.

In the box that will appear below *Forms*, type in *letter of Instruction*.

Use the second form on that list: *Letter of Instruction for Gifts of Securities*

NOTE: When you send the request to your broker to transfer securities, please notify **both** Vanguard Brokerage and the Greater Lansing Jewish Welfare Federation of

- the name and address of the donor(s),
- the security company name and
- the number of shares/units being transferred.

This will help the GLJWF office in knowing that appropriate identification and receipt can be issued for the contribution.

To give shares of mutual funds to KI. Contact your mutual fund company to get its form or letter for such transfers and full instructions. Typically, the donors will also need their signatures to be guaranteed. Please send such completed forms to the KI office.

If you have questions, contact me at kaplowi1@msu.edu or Katherine Booker kikatherineb@gmail.com at KI.

Stan Kaplowitz VP for finance

CONTACTS:

Vanguard Brokerage Services
Phone (877)-662-7447

Community Events

Dear 8-12 Grade Parents,

We have a great opportunity for your child(ren) to join us for a special teen program on **Sunday, February 4 at noon** at Congregation Shaarey Zedek. Teens will have a pizza lunch with other Jewish teens in our community – one need not be a member of a synagogue to attend – followed by a one-hour show, storytelling, and workshop with **comedian Pamela Rae Schuller!**

This program is co-sponsored by Congregation Shaarey Zedek and the Greater Lansing Jewish Federation and is FREE to all participants. We just ask you to RSVP to lansingjewishfederation@gmail.com by February 2 so that we know how much pizza to order!

Here's more info about Pamela:

High School Show and Workshop with Pamela Rae Schuller!

Pamela Rae Schuller is a relentlessly funny comedian and advocate who was kicked out of Hebrew school more times than she can count on her way to becoming a world-renowned speaker. She has been featured on Netflix's *Jewish Matchmaking*, Dr. Mike videos, and NBC.

Known for her use of comedy, storytelling, and improv to inspire communities to a new understanding of inclusion, Pamela shares her story of what it's like seeing the world from 4 feet 6 inches high, finding truly inclusive Jewish spaces where she could shine, and doing it all with a whole lot of Tourette syndrome. Pamela doesn't just "tolerate" what makes her different; she embraces it, loves it, and finds the funny in it... all while challenging her audiences to do the same.

Join us for a program of storytelling, comedy, and community building!

Amy Shapiro

Executive Director, Greater Lansing Jewish Federation

Amy Bigman

Rabbi, Congregation Shaarey Zedek

P.S. Adults are welcome to join us the previous evening, Saturday, February 3, at 7:00 p.m. for a wine & cheese reception followed by an 8:00 p.m. performance by Pamela! Tickets are available at jewishfederationlansing.org

Rabbi Amy B. Bigman

She/Her/Hers

Congregation Shaarey Zedek

1924 Coolidge Road

East Lansing, MI 48823

(517) 351-3570, ext. 2

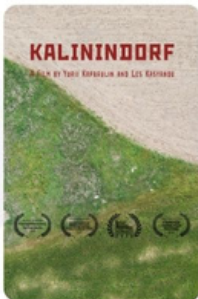
(517) 351-5909 (fax)



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

Exploring Jewish History and the Holocaust in Ukraine through Research and Documentary Filmmaking

By Dr. Yurii Kaparulin



Thursday, February 1, 5:30pm-7:00 pm
JMC Library, 332 Case Hall (3rd floor)

The lecture will be followed by a screening of *Kalinindorf* (Duration: 29 min. Year: 2020) and discussion with directors Yurii Kaparulin and Les Kasyanov



Romance and Classical Studies event series:
Jewish population in Italy
"Giorgio Bassani and Roberto Longhi"
by Dr. Francesca Bini, Stanford University

February 1st, 2024

12:40PM to 1:30 PM EST

LOCATION

Wells Hall A 232 (in-person and zoom)

For zoom link, please contact Dr.

Valentina Denzel at vdenzel@msu.edu



This lecture focuses on Italian writer and intellectual Giorgio Bassani (1916-2000) and his identity as a Jewish author and "visual writer". Dr. Bini will also examine Bassani's relationship with his mentor, Italy's leading art critic and historian Roberto Longhi (1890-1970), and more particularly the influence of Longhi's teaching on Bassani's literary production in terms of re-elaboration of the medium of the artistic image.

Francesca Bini, Ph.D. in Romance Literatures from Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich, specializes in Italian literature, literary criticism, aesthetics, and visual culture studies. As a visiting scholar at Vanderbilt University, she lectured on the literary and filmic works of Pier Paolo Pasolini, exploring connections to Roberto Longhi's teachings. Bini co-authored "Arte e Letteratura nel nome di Roberto Longhi. Bassani, Pasolini, Testori" and curated an exhibition of the same title at Biblioteca Ariostea in Ferrara (April - June 2023). Her research delves into the interplay between verbal and visual arts, particularly the concept of "ekphrasis."



College of Osteopathic Medicine
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

24th Annual Dr. William G. Anderson Lecture Series,
"Slavery to Freedom"

PRESENTS

LOVE GOT ME OVER: SINGING TO FREEDOM

Live Concert Recording

IN COLLABORATION WITH THE
MSU COLLEGE OF MUSIC AND THE MSU GOSPEL CHOIR

PRODUCED BY THE MSU COLLEGE OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

*LIVE BAND PERFORMANCES *STORYTELLING
*BLACK HISTORY

PHOENIX MIRANDA, CO-DIRECTOR
CALEB ROBINSON, MUSIC DIRECTOR
RAHSUN WATSON, CO-DIRECTOR

JOIN THE EVENT ON **FEBRUARY 21, 2024 6:00 P.M.**

FAIRCHILD THEATRE, 542 AUDITORIUM RD., EAST LANSING, MI 48824

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT (517) 432-4979

REGISTER AT THIS LINK: <https://bit.ly/STFMusicEventRegistration>



College of Osteopathic Medicine
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

presents the 24th Annual
Dr. William G. Anderson **Lecture Series**

SLAVERY TO

FREEDOM

An American Odyssey

The series gives the community opportunities to interact with multicultural leaders from education, business, industry, entertainment and government. For 24 years, this series has featured living icons of the American Civil Rights Movement.



DR. TANISHA FORD

5PM, Feb. 1, 2024
Wharton Center
for Performing Arts,
Pasant Theatre

M.C. LYTE

5PM, Feb. 8, 2024
Kellogg Hotel
& Conference Center,
Big Ten AB

**THE REV. DR. WILLIAM
JOSEPH BARBER II**

5PM, Feb. 15, 2024
Wharton Center
for Performing Arts,
Pasant Theatre

DR. RANI WHITFIELD

5PM, Feb. 23, 2024
Kellogg Hotel
& Conference Center,
Auditorium

Dr. Tanisha Ford is the author of four books relating to civil rights and Black culture, and will speak on the intersection of politics, economics and culture. She has received several awards and honors for her work. For example, she was named one of the Root's 100 Most Influential African Americans. Her research has been supported by many institutions, including Ford Foundation, New America and Emerson Collective, to name a few.
Registration: <https://bit.ly/STFDrTanishaFordRegistration>

M.C. Lyte is an American rapper, DJ, actress and entrepreneur. She is the first female of hip-hop's emcees to release a solo album and tease a new podcast. She also opened doors for many to join what is now being celebrated as "50 Years of Hip Hop." She recently received the "1 Am Hip Hop" Lifetime Achievement Award from BET and was also honored at the VH1 Hip Hop Honors. She is also the most recognizable pioneer across generations.
Registration: <https://bit.ly/STFMCLyteRegistration>

Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II is president and senior lecturer of Repairers of the Breach, co-chair of the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival, bishop of The Fellowship of Affirming Ministries, pastor of Greenleaf Christian Church, Goldsboro, N.C. for the past 29 years and professor in the practice of public theology and public policy and founding director of the Center for Public Theology and Public Policy at Yale Divinity School. He has authored four books regarding morality and social justice.
Registration: <https://bit.ly/STFRevDrBarberRegistration>

Dr. Rani G. Whitfield is a highly accomplished Board-Certified Family Physician specializing in sports medicine. Identifying community wellness as a freedom movement, Dr. Whitfield's talk will focus on Black Men's Health. He is widely recognized for his advocacy work, serving as a national spokesperson for the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association. He has earned numerous awards, including the ASA Southeastern Affiliates Service Award, the American Stroke Association Legacy Award and the NAACP Freedom Award.
Registration: <https://bit.ly/STFDrRaniWhitfieldRegistration>

Join the event: Love Got me Over: Singing to Freedom Live Concert Recording
6PM, Feb. 21, 2024 - Fairchild Theatre

Don't miss this night of live band performances, storytelling and Black history in collaboration with the MSU College of Music and the MSU Gospel Choir, led by **Phoenix Miranda, Caleb Robinson and Rashun Watson**.

Registration: <https://bit.ly/STFMusicEventRegistration>



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

Emotions in Yiddish Ghetto Diaries: Encountering Persecutors and Questioning Humanity

By Amy Simon

Wednesday, February 21, 5:30-7:00 pm

James Madison College Library, 332 Case Hall (3rd floor)



Dr. Simon will discuss her new book which uses an empathic reading of Yiddish diarists' feelings, evaluations, and assessments about persecutors in the Warsaw, Lodz, and Vilna ghettos to present an emotional history of persecution in the Nazi ghettos. It re-centers the daily experiences of psychological and physical violence that made up ghetto life and that ultimately led victims to use their diaries as a place of agency to question and attempt to maintain their own beliefs in pre-war Jewish and Enlightenment ethics and morality.

She holds the William and Audrey Farber Family Chair in Holocaust Studies and European Jewish History at MSU. She also won a 2022 MSU university-wide Teacher-Scholar award.

Co-Sponsors: College of Arts & Letters, College of Social Science, International Studies & Programs, James Madison College, Office for Institutional Diversity and Inclusion, and Residential College in the Arts & Humanities