Summer is here. It’s time to learn the Torah of the garden.

Rabbi Jill Hammer, this article originally appeared on My Jewish Learning.

My mother died in February, and since then I’ve been caring for her home. At the time of her death, she had over a hundred plants — and that’s only inside the house. Outside, there were hundreds more — roses and lilacs and dahlias, lilacs of the valley and rises and daffodils, violets and honeysuckle and sunflowers. They bloom in almost all seasons, from late winter to late autumn. Except when the ground is frozen, there is never a moment when something is not blooming in my mother’s garden. And she celebrated when they bloomed, whether once a season or once every 10 years. They were, in many ways, the great work of her life, and it’s powerful for me to be caring for them now.

I grew up surrounded by those plants. I ate wild strawberries, chestnuts and pears. I used pine needles for doll beds and hickory nuts for toy food. I slept (or pretended to) on carpets of moss and used branches of sunflowers of the forest sing for joy. “Psalm 17:33

experiences were mostly good. I planted peas and understand.

I wanted to nurture, appreciate my mother, the plants are their own kind of people — beings I try to nurture, appreciate and understand.

So it’s moving to me that the Jewish tradition sees plants in a similar way — as beings with voices. Psalm 96:12 states: “Let the fields rejoice and all that is in them; let the trees of the forest sing for joy.” Psalm 17:33 continued to page 7

Ann Arbor Jewish community has a new security manager

By Rachel Wall, Communications and Development Manager at the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor

The Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor is pleased to announce a new partnership with Jewish Community Security, Inc. (JCSI) of Metro Detroit to hire the Ann Arbor area’s first Jewish Community Security Manager. This new position is made possible by a grant from the LiveSecure initiative, which is a collaboration between JCSI and the Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA) and the national Secure Community Network (SCN).

The new role is designed to significantly increase safety and security for all those who participate in Jewish life in the Ann Arbor area. The Community Security Manager will establish a system of coordination and communication among local Jewish organizations for security issues, special events, and training needs. This role will also assist agencies with developing individualized emergency procedures, and will serve as a liaison to local, state, and federal law enforcement partners.

“We have been working to raise our security efforts to a more professional level in line with industry standards,” says David Nachi, the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor’s Security Committee Chair. “This collaboration allows us to do exactly that.”

Public safety expert and law enforcement veteran Shane Dennis began as Ann Arbor’s inaugural Community Security Manager in June. Shane’s most recent work is at JCSI, where he joined the team in March of 2022. At JCSI, Shane served as Security Coordinator for both the Yeshiva Beth Yehudah Boys School in Southfield and its Girls School in Oak Park. He has also worked as a Security Coordinator at Camp Tamakonack.

Shane will continue to be employed by JCSI as Ann Arbor’s Community Security Manager, thanks to the new partnership between JCSI and the Jewish Federations of Greater Ann Arbor and of Metropolitan Detroit.

“This is a partnership we have discussed for many years,” says Gary Sikorski, JCSI’s Director of Community-Wide Security for Metro Detroit. “We have always had a strong relationship with the Ann Arbor Jewish community. The formation of Jewish Community Security, Inc., and the timing of the LiveSecure grant, allowed our partnership to become a reality.”

In spring of 2022, JCSI spun off from the Jewish Federation of Metro Detroit (IFMD) to become a standalone security organization. The program has grown from just one person in 2006 to 15 as of last year. The new collaboration with Ann Arbor represents a further expansion of the organization’s impact.

“This collaboration serves as a force multiplier for both the Detroit and Ann Arbor Jewish communities. We could not have a better Security Manager in place than Shane, to establish and lead community security in Ann Arbor,” Gary Sikorski says.

Through this partnership, JCSI and IFMD will provide guidance and support to develop and implement a collective security approach.
From the Editor

Being here in summer

Clare Kinberg

When I was teaching religious school at the Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Congregation, I created curriculum based on Rabbi Jill Hammer’s The Jewish Book of Days, which makes connections between the Jewish cycle of sacred time and nature’s cycles, particularly the annual cycle of the life of trees. How pleased I was then, to find that the syndicated news service Jewish Telegraphic Agency offered her deeply resonate teaching on the Torah of gardens, a spiritual take on doykei (hereness) Judaism. Judaism rooted in the land we live on, wherever that is. This month’s two feature articles, Shifra Epstein’s “Dizengoff in Odessa” and Stacey Dieve’s on moving from Ann Arbor to Switzerland are also about place, but mostly community. They too, are taken on “hereness.”

July is a short month for this Jewish newspaper in Washtenaw. But the days are long, hopefully with opportunities to enjoy earth’s gardens. Perhaps this is a place to put in a plug for the “Summer Strolls,” on July 6 at Argo Park and Nature Area, and on July 20 at Leslie Science and Nature Area (see Calendar on page 17).

As always, let me know if you move, have a topic or event you want to write about, review, or comment on. I look forward to hearing from you.

As a proud and active member of the Washtenaw County Jewish Community, I am dedicated to providing you with exceptional service for all of your real estate needs.

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Kids cook for a cause camps

Cornman Farms, the restaurant kitchen and event venue that is part of the legendary Zingerman’s Delicatessen businesses in Ann Arbor, will be hosting three three-day immersive experiences for kids this summer to bring awareness and resources to local nonprofits while teaching hands-on gardening and cooking techniques.

“Camps for a Cause” is a new offering based on the success of Cornman Farm’s “Cook for a Cause” program, which brings groups of people together to cook farm-fresh meals to be delivered to local families in need. Designed for those between the ages of nine and 12, each session will teach campers to cook and garden while preparing meals for local nonprofits like the Ronald McDonald House and the Delonis center. Sessions this summer will be held in July and August on the following dates:

July 17–19: Pizza Party
July 31–Aug 2: Pancake Palooza
Aug 14–16: Lasagna Love

After each session, each camper receives takeaways of the same components of the meals they create that day and information about the nonprofit partner for that week. Campers will receive a custom Cornman Farms apron, recipes for the dishes made at camp, and a starter plant to bring home!

Each three-day session is $300, and runs from Monday–Wednesday, 9 a.m.–12 p.m. indoors in Cornman Farms’ 1834 farmhouse as well as outside around their 27-acre property.

Registration and more details on each specific session can be found online at https://shop.zingermanscornmanfarms.com/collections/kids-camps.
First annual A2 Climate Teach-In

By Murray Rosenthal

Each-ins are a product of the Vietnam protests of the 60s. They are meant to be practical, participatory, and oriented toward action. Six decades later, Ann Arbor activists and officials sought to revitalize this spirit of activism by holding a new event focused on climate action.

The Annual A2 Climate Teach-In was held on Sunday, May 7, at Genesis of Ann Arbor (a building shared by Temple Beth Emeth and St Claire’s Episcopal Church). Ann Arbor Mayor Christopher Taylor was the keynote speaker. Mayor Taylor spoke about advancing our A2Zero goals to achieve an equitable and just transition to communitywide carbon-neutrality by 2030. Ann Arbor is encouraging residents and commercial and nonprofit buildings to move away from the use of natural gas and to switch to the use of renewable electricity.

A total of 226 attendees participated in the teach-in, which was supported by 28 promotional partners and eight sponsoring houses or worship.

After Mayor Taylor spoke, attendees were given the opportunity to attend breakout sessions covering the following topics:

- What and How We Eat
- Government Support to Help You Go Green
- Local Advocacy Opportunities
- A Zero-Waste Lifestyle and the Circular Economy
- How Your Green Teams Can Take Action
- Local Climate Justice
- Solar Panels

After the breakout sessions, Shelie Miller, Ph.D., gave an excellent presentation entitled, “Finding the Best Leverage Points to Make a Difference.” Dr. Miller is a Professor, Director, Program in the Environment; Jonathan W. Bulkeley Collegiate Professor of Sustainable Systems, and a University of Michigan Distinguished Faculty Fellow in Sustainability. She spoke about the overwhelming number of actions we can all take to reduce our carbon footprint. This can cause overwhelming feelings which lead to emotions and physical sensations of guilt that can be difficult to manage. Dr. Miller provided a roadmap and process we can all use to decide on which of these actions we can take and ways to deal with the feelings of guilt about not doing everything.

The closing event of the teach-in was a networking session that included several booths representing local sustainability organizations and nonprofit organizations. We are looking forward to the next teach-in in May 2024. For more information, see www.climateherostories.com.

Jews of Color Network

Family Picnic, August 13

See our August issue for details
AARC welcomes Gabrielle Pescador as new rabbi
By Gillian Jackson and Emily Eisbruch

The Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Congregation (AARC) is delighted to announce that Gabrielle Pescador will join us as our new rabbi beginning in July.

Born and raised in Ontario, Canada, Rabbi Gabrielle has been a resident of Southeast Michigan most of her adult life, and she loves the Great Lakes region. She is ordained as a cantor and has recently finished the requirements to be a rabbi. Rabbi Gabrielle has served as Interim Spiritual Leader of Temple B’nai Israel of Petoskey and as guest cantor in synagogues throughout the country. In 2018 Rabbi Gabrielle founded and continues to lead the Rosh Chodesh Online Minyan and is a regular prayer leader and teacher for Pardes Hannah of Ann Arbor.

Rabbi Gabrielle is a harpist and composer of liturgical music and considers the harp an instrument of healing. Before entering the ALEPH Ordination Program, Rabbi Gabrielle spent several years working on documentary films and community art projects focused on issues of social justice. From 2019–2021 she was cantorial soloist for the high holy days for AARC.

Rabbi Gabrielle’s motivation for becoming a rabbi stems from a deep desire to serve, particularly by helping people find meaning through engaging in Jewish life. She sees many pathways to meaning making in Jewish tradition — through prayer and celebration of Shabbat and holidays, through the study of Torah, Jewish thought and Jewish history, through Jewish art and creative ritual, and through the many expressions of tikkun olam (repairing the world).

Rabbi Gabrielle is excited to join the AARC’s diverse and vibrant community. She says, “I am so moved by the heart and soul and enthusiasm of the AARC members, and so impressed by their curiosity, knowledge base, lay leadership, artistic contributions, and strong volunteer presence. There is so much richness here and so many interesting people. I can’t wait to get started and do Jewish together.”

“Rabbi Gabrielle’s commitment to engaging with the community is truly inspiring,” notes Debbie Gombert, aortic to participation. Rabbi Gabrielle’s rabinic leadership will lead Shabbat morning services on Saturday, July 8, and fourth Friday Shabbat services on Friday, July 28. Please visit our website at https://aarccon.org/ or email aarcccligan@gmail.com to learn more.

LIFE & LEGACY® leadership conference
By Osnat Gafni-Pappas, LIFE & LEGACY manager Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor

This spring, Jewish communal leaders from the Greater Ann Arbor area joined forward-thinking colleagues from across the country for this year’s annual LIFE & LEGACY® Leadership Conference in Springfield, Massachusetts.

LIFE & LEGACY is a national legacy-giving program, which started 10 years ago in Western Massachusetts and is in its third year in the greater Ann Arbor area. Through the local program, participating Jewish organizations in Washtenaw County have secured more than 425 after-life commitments, valued at $1.4 billion. Shannon Hall, Executive Director of Temple Beth Emeth (TBE), attended the conference and reflected, “Temple Beth Emeth has been highly successful in reaching our LIFE & LEGACY goals and has been awarded many of the incentive grants available. I am grateful that our TBE committee reinvested funds from our grants into my participation in this year’s Legacy Gathering Conference, along with additional financial support from the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor.”

The local community-wide LIFE & LEGACY program is a collaboration between the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor and the Harold Grinspoon Foundation (HGF). Its goal is to preserve vibrant Jewish life for future generations by ensuring the long-term financial health of the greater Ann Arbor Jewish community organizations.

The four-year program, which provides coaching, training, and incentive grants to Ingram legacy giving into the philanthropic culture of the community, is made possible by collaborations between the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor and local Jewish organizations, in addition to the relationship with HGF.

Beth Israel Congregation (BIC) is another participating organization. When asked about the significance of LIFE & LEGACY in our community, BIC Board President Deborah Ball, along with Board Member Prue Rosenthal and Director of Operations Beth Jarvis, agreed, “The LIFE & LEGACY initiative has supported an important conversation at Beth Israel Congregation that is crucial to our long-term sustainability as a congregation. For the Board, talking about LIFE & LEGACY spurred a renewal of our development strategies, and to think more about the longer-term vision and less about shear transactions.” They added, “LIFE & LEGACY also helped congregants of all ages and stages of life to realize that they don’t have to be wealthy or close to the end of their life to be philanthropic.”

The conference in Springfield focused on building skills, sharing best practices, and providing opportunities for networking between communities to continue building sustainable legacy-giving programs in participants’ local communities.

“I was able to gain new development skills in how to make an ‘ask’ [for money] easier through improv,” said Shannon Hall. “[I also learned about] approaching challenges as an adaptive leader with an adaptive mindset and best practices in stewardship. This knowledge will impact the work I do in LIFE & LEGACY and beyond. I am thankful for the opportunity to be a leader with an adaptive mindset and best practices in stewardship.”

Also in attendance at the conference was the founder of HGF, Harold Grinspoon. Afterwards, Grinspoon said, “We were thrilled to be able to gather in person this year and host a collaborative, educational, and impactful conference. The LIFE & LEGACY program continues to build the Jewish future, and today, more than ever, the need remains great for a strong endowment. I am immensely proud of what the participating communities have done in 10 years; to have secured $1.4 billion in commitments is an incredible accomplishment.”

The following organizations are LIFE & LEGACY participants in Washtenaw County: Ann Arbor Orthodox Minyan, Beth Israel Congregation, Chabad House of Ann Arbor, Eastern Michigan University Center for Jewish Studies, Hebrew Day School of Ann Arbor, Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor, Jewish Cultural Society, Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County, Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor, Temple Beth Emeth, and University of Michigan Hillel.

Please reach out to Community LIFE & LEGACY Manager Osnat Gafni-Pappas for more information at osnat@jewishannarbor.org or 734-773-3538.

JFS’ social enterprise division welcomes new leadership
by JFS staff

Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County is excited to welcome Michelle Malamis as the new director of Business and Philanthropic Advancement. Michelle has over 20 years of experience working in Jewish communal work, including 14 years working for JFS of Metro Detroit and eight years with Kadima Mental Health Services in Southfield (now Gesher, formerly JVS and Kadima). Michelle started her new role in April with a focus on revitalizing the Herb Amster Center, a social enterprise division of JFS created to develop revenue-generating services to reduce JFS dependence on philanthropy. The Herb Amster Center was created in honor of Herb Amster, a well-respected, innovative leader in the business and nonprofit communities, as well as a mentor and inspiration to many.

“It is a very exciting time to join this amazing agency as there are so many potential revenue-generating programs that we can develop that will serve the community, while helping to sustain essential programs like our Nourish Nutrition Services (specialty food pantry and commercial kitchen), Wise (aging adult and caregiver services), and Resettlement and Integration Services,” says Malamis.

Business ideas include developing a kitchen incubator for trainings and events; a catering business; Wise older adult services, including care management, transportation and medical accommodation; growing our THRIVE counseling services; expanding Elite Interpreters’ services to the business community; and workplace employee trainings including DEI and wellness.

To learn more about the JFS Amster Center, please contact Michelle Malamis at 734-982-5375 or michellem@jfsannarbor.org.

Michelle Malamis stands with Jewish Family Services’ Chief Development Officer, Melissa Goodson.
Rabbi's new chaplaincy invites you to respond to climate change
Hannah Davis interviews Rabbi Ora Nitkin-Kaner

Rabbi Ora Nitkin-Kaner, who served the Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Congregation from 2017 through June of 2022, hasn’t been idle since moving to Connecticut. She’s begun a new endeavor, called “Exploring Apocalypse,” a chaplaincy practice helping people delve into and deal with their feelings about climate change and other “systemic unravelings.” It’s designed for people who are “experiencing fear and uncertainty about the future, and want kind, non-prescriptive help figuring out how to be a person right now.” We sat down with Rabbi Ora to discuss her new project and what led her to this work.

WIN: What drew you to this work? How did it come about?
RO: Last year I went on a hike in rural Michigan. During the hike, I happened to pass two different pairs of young people — strangers to me and each other — who were talking about “the apocalypse” at the exact moment I passed them. That made me start wondering: just how many people are feeling this way? We usually think of “apocalypse” as a phrase that religious fundamentalists use to threaten damnation and keep people in line. But secular young folks are using the word often in a little tongue in cheek — as a way of voicing genuine concern that the future won’t be better than the past. This is the first time in many generations that people are feeling this way. It’s a painful thing to feel, but it doesn’t serve us to push or rush through it. In fact, when we sit with it, it offers us a window into what we value and how we want to show up in the world.

You might be surprised to hear that this considered approach is built into the original meaning of “apocalypse.” Before the word became associated with “end times,” it simply meant “to uncover” or “to reveal.” Our uncertain future is presenting us with a couple choices: We can keep pushing away our fears, and in doing so, let them control us; or we can sit with our feelings, explore them, and give them — and ourselves — some breathing room. What is revealed in that exploratory, open spaciousness is profound and transformative.

WIN: What goals do you have for your chaplaincy practice and for people working with you to accomplish? What’s the process like for people working with you? The word “exploring” apocalypse seems a very deliberate choice, as opposed to “dealing with” or “surviving” or even “navigating” apocalypse.
RO: Climate change isn’t just physically harming us and the natural world; it’s also causing chronic anxiety, dread, grief, and isolation. Why the isolation? Because it’s harder to connect when we can’t tell the truth about how we’re feeling or what we’re imagining our futures will be like. Exploring Apocalypse offers folks a space to uncover and explore their feelings about the future, so that they can move out of numbness, silence, and stoniness into energy, agency, playfulness, and connectedness.

My work with clients is dynamic, creative, and tailored to the individual. With one client, a soon-to-be father, we explore his hopes and fears about becoming a parent in a climate-changing world. With a client who’s a climate scientist, we work on the bifurcation between her work and her personal life — no one wants to hear about the climate crisis and anxiety she’s feeling as she works on the front lines. With another client, we work on what’s blocking her from being louder in her activism. My goal is to help each client see more clearly what climate change is bringing up for them and understand that it’s not a personal failing that this is so hard — that it’s hard on everyone, because we’re all holding awareness of an existential, amorphous threat. It’s reasonable to seek out support to do this vital, meaningful work. We can’t breathe deeply, can’t act zestfully, can’t live joyfully and productively if we aren’t honest about how we’re doing with all this. My role is to support folks in living, compassionately and creatively, and stepping into their own agency to face this moment.

Exploring Apocalypse can be found at https://www.exploringapocalypse.com.

TBE events in July

Events and services are both in person and/or virtual. Please see www.templebethemeth.org for full details, locations information, and links.

Shabbat Service (lay-led)
Fridays at 7:30 p.m.

Saturday Shabbat service
Saturdays at 10 a.m.

Weekday morning blessings
Weekdays at 9:15 a.m.
Join Rabbi Whinston each weekday morning for a short service of song, poetry, and meditation.

Daily afternoon blessings
Mondays through Thursdays at 3 p.m.
Join Cantor Hayut each afternoon for an intimate short service.

Adult B’nai Mitzvah
Mondays at 5:45 p.m. and Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m.
Contact Cantor Hayut at cantorhayut@templebethemeth.org for details and with questions.

Twenty-five-minute mindfulness with Jewish spiritual director Linda Greene

Tuesdays at 8:30 a.m.
Zoom room opens at 8:15 a.m. for optional check-in, Blessing and intention setting 8:30–8:35 a.m. Meditate 8:35–9 a.m. Start your day centered and connected.

Queer Torah Study
Tuesdays at 7 p.m.
Join us in-person or via Zoom for a discussion of queer themes in the weekly Torah portion! Led by Ari Marcotte and Ari Smith. Guest leaders welcome! Contact Ari Marcotte at marcotte.30@gmail.com for more information.

Cantor’s (Jewish) Book Club with Cantor Hayut
Thursdays at 11 a.m.
Join Cantor Hayut to read and discuss books of Jewish interest a few chapters at a time. This year, the book group will be reading primarily, although not exclusively, works by Israeli authors. For more information or questions, please contact Cantor Hayut.

Back Door Food Pantry
Thursdays, 4 to 7 p.m.

Meditation with Claire Weiner
Thursdays at 5 p.m.
Join Claire Weiner for a 40-minute meditation session.

Shabbat morning Torah study
Saturdays at 8:30 a.m.
Join us for this weekly discussion of the Torah portion.

Summer Strolls
Thursday, July 6, 10:30 a.m., Argo Park and Nature Area
Thursday, July 20, 10:30 a.m., Leslie Science and Nature Area
Join the Exploring Apocalypse-Based Social Worker Rebecca Niebuhr on a stroll through some of Ann Arbor’s beautiful nature areas. This program is for anyone who wants to get outside and socialize!

Rerecognition Group
Tuesday, July 18, 4 p.m.
The group will have opportunities to share openly about their process of grieving and will also have topic-based readings to spark discussion.

Aging Solo
Thursday, July 20, 4 p.m.
Join us for discussion, support, and snacks at the Jewish Community Center.

LGBTQ Shabbat Potluck
Friday, July 21, 6 p.m.
Join us for a Shabbat dinner and candle lighting with members of the local queer community! Bring a dish to share with others, make new friends and let us know what you’d like to see in future queer programming! In order to make sure we can feed everyone, please respond to this survey (https://bit.ly/3yelbgt) or email Ariane Smith at brairie@umich.edu with the dish you’re planning to bring.

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Dizengoff in Odessa
By Shifra Epstein

In memory of my grandparents, Shifra Epstein (1879–1925) and Israel Epstein (1872–1932), who moved in 1919 with their four children from Białystok (Russia) to Jaffa. My grandparents are buried in the Trumpeldor Cemetery in Tel Aviv, not far from Zina and Meir Dizengoff.

A Jewish city
An Odessian was asked one day,
— How many people live in Odessa?
— One million.
— And how many of them are Jews?
— I just told you. One million.
You see, in people’s minds, “Odessian” and “Jews” are often confused.

Throughout the war in Ukraine, I have been anxiously following the bombardment and destruction of the beautiful southern harbor city of Odessa. Named “The Southern Beauty” by the beloved Hebrew poet Hayim Nachman Bialik, Odessa holds a special place in Jewish history and culture. In the late 19th and early 20th century, Odessa was home to the world’s second-largest Jewish community in the world (Warsaw being the largest). Many Jews fleeing persecution and poverty in other parts of Europe and the Russian Empire settled there. Odessa was also the home of several famous Jewish writers, Zionists, and artists once connected with Odessa is Meir Yankelevich Dizengoff (1861–1936), a multi-talented, charismatic, and hip Jew, a businessperson, proud Zionist, and the beloved first mayor of Tel Aviv. Born in the village of Akimovici in the Moldavian part of Bessarabia, his family moved to Kishinev (now Chisinau, Moldova) in 1878, where he graduated from high school and studied at the Polytechnic College of Kazinaw.

From 1882 to 1884 Dizengoff served in the Russian army in the city of Zhitomir (now northwestern Ukraine). Following his service, he moved to Odessa, where he became an apprentice at the Odessa “Trash” Craft School for Jewish youth. In Odessa, Dizengoff became involved in the underground, revolutionary, socialist political organization “Narodnaya Volya” (The People Will), known for its use of terror to achieve its goal of organizing the Russian peasantry to overthrow tsarism. In 1885, within a year of moving to Odessa, Dizengoff was arrested for insurgency and served eight months in jail. In 1888 Dizengoff moved to Paris to study engineering at the Sorbonne. While there, he met a representative of Baron Edmond de Rothschild who offered him to start a glass factory for the production of wine bottles near the town of Zichron-Ya’akov, where the Rothschild wineries were located. Dizengoff accepted the offer and in 1892 moved to Palestine where he set up a glass bottle factory for the Baron’s wineries in Rehob Lexion and Zichron Ya’akov wineries.

Two years later, after failing his attempts to create a union for the Jewish workers of the Baron’s wineries, Dizengoff went back to Odessa where he got a job as the director of a glass factory owned by Belgians.

In 1904 Dizengoff founded Geula, “salvation,” an organization devoted to the purchasing of private land in Palestine. Geula became a central organization for transfer of land to the future Jewish state. After living through a pogrom in Odessa in 1905, Dizengoff was convinced to move back to Palestine.

In 1909, Dizengoff helped found Ahutzay Bayit (Homestead), a cooperative society that aimed to create a new Jewish neighborhood on the sand dunes north of Jaffa. The neighborhood was eventually named Tel Aviv, which means “Hill of Spring” in Hebrew. When Tel Aviv was recognized as a city in 1921, Dizengoff was elected its first mayor, serving in the role for 20 years from 1921 to 1936 (not including a three-year hiatus from 1925–1928).

In his civic vision of Tel Aviv, Dizengoff was inspired by Theodor Herzl’s German-language utopian novel, Altneuland (The Old New Land), a vision of political Zionism as cosmopolitan, liberal, and secular.

In his architectural vision of Tel Aviv, Dizengoff was inspired by the architecture of European cities, particularly Odessa. For Dizengoff, European style architecture reflected the Zionist aspiration that Tel Aviv should resemble a European resort town.

As can still be seen in Tel Aviv today, there are buildings with Baroque elements and gabled and oriental features. The first City Hall of Tel Aviv, Beth Hai, “The House of the City,” designed in 1925 and located in 27 Bialik Street, was modeled after Odessas National Academic Opera and Ballet Theater, built in 1877 in a baroque-neo-Renaissance style. The city’s main thoroughfare, which runs from Jaffa to the northern suburbs and was named after Dizengoff, was inspired by pleasant promenades in Odessa running along the high bank over the port of Odessa.

Dizengoff was behind the Alkudaya, the secular Purim carnival in the streets of Tel Aviv; the Maccabiah, “Jewish Olympics”; Yeald Hanezach, “the Levant Fair”; and the Tel Aviv Museum of Art.

Dizengoff’s architecture, the institutions he created, and his relationship with the residents of Tel Aviv all contributed to the character of Tel Aviv as a cultural city loved by its citizens that never sleeps.

Prior to the war in Ukraine, some 300,000 Israelis would visit Ukraine each year. The city of Odessa, the cradle of Israeli culture, had been experiencing a “golden age” — with modern Israel and Israelis proving an unlikely inspiration. In response to the growing interest by Jews in Odessa, the city mapped out the houses where famous Jewish writers, Zionists, and artists once lived. Thus, today, with or without guides, Israelis can visit the former house of Meir Dizengoff on 30 Chispora Street.

An inscription on a map of the State of Israel and the city of Tel Aviv declared: “In this House from 1897 to 1905 the Zionist activist Meir Dizengoff and the future mayor of Tel Aviv lived.”

On the wall outside Bazzarayma 33 it is noted that this is the house where Vladimir (Zeev) Jabotinsky (1880–1940), his family lived. Thus, today, with or without guides, Israelis can visit the former house of Meir Dizengoff on 30 Chispora Street.

May we remember them as the heroes of our nation and our people.

— Shifra Epstein

July events at BIC
Everyone is welcome to join Beth Israel Congregation for services, classes, and events. Services are being held in person and virtually. Beth Israel is now live streaming services on the Beth Israel YouTube channel (Beth Israel Congregation AA MI). All links are also available on the Beth Israel homepage (www.bethisrael-aa.org). Please note that passwords are used. Contact the office to get the passwords at office@bethisrael-aa.org.

Shabbat in the Park
Friday, July 14, 6 p.m.
Join us for a family-friendly dinner for all sponsored by the Kress Family. Come enjoy a pasta bar dinner at 5:45 p.m. followed by the Friday evening service at 6:15 p.m. featuring Rav Nadav on the bimah and Rachel Lawrence Lupton on guitar. Capture the night off with a sundae bar for dessert after services. All are welcome to this free event. Please register on the Beth Israel website (bethisrael-aa.org).

Tisha B’Av Services at Beth Israel
Sunday, July 24, 9:30 a.m.
Tish B’Av Morning Service
Thursday, July 27, 2:30 p.m.
Tisha B’Av Mincha
Tisha B’Av is the saddest day on the Jewish calendar — the anniversary of the destruction of both temples in Jerusalem when we also commemorate other tragedies like the expulsions of Jews from England and from Spain. We observe Tisha B’Av with a full fast from sunset to sunset. During evening and morning services, we chant the biblical books of Eichah (Lamentations), traditionally attributed to the prophet Jeremiah, who wrote it in the aftermath of the destruction of the First Temple in 586 BCE.

Home Shabbat: From the Rabbi’s Table to Yours
Friday, July 28, 6 p.m.
Join Rav Nadav and his family for Kabbalat Shabbat service over Zoom (only) from their Shabbat table to yours. Join at 5:40 p.m. for some pre-Shabbat visiting.

Theology Book Club: Online
Wednesdays at 8 p.m.
Beth Israel Congregation’s Theology Book Club welcomes you to join them to read together and discuss books on Jewish thought and beliefs. The books are in English. Contact Paul Shifrin at (218) 514-7276 for more information.

In Person and Online Services
Evening Minyan: virtual only
Sundays at 5 p.m.
Friday Evening Services: in person and virtual
Kabbalat Shabbat Service at 6 p.m.
Shabbat Morning Services: in person and virtual
Saturdays at 9:30 a.m.
expected a barrage of personal questions when filling out my family’s immigration paperwork for our Swiss residency permits, but asking our religion was not one of them.

Two years ago, my company offered my family and me an opportunity to move from Ann Arbor to the French-speaking part of Switzerland for a four-year assignment. It was the height of the COVID-19 pandemic when travel still felt like a distant dream. Our family had moved around a lot, but well been in Ann Arbor for seven years and had finally settled down. We had recently bought and started fixing up a charming old home, and our two children were very happy at school. We also had never felt more connected Jewishly, having found an extended family with the Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Congregation (AARC) and being able to connect virtually with a wonderful Jewish Renewal synagogue near our old home in California. The idea of blowing up our lives was completely unnerving, but it felt like an opportunity of a lifetime that we couldn’t pass up.

As Switzerland is not part of the European Union, their immigration rules are very strict and controlled. Our permits, visas, and registration with authorities required mountains of paper work on our family, work, financial, educational, criminal, and travel histories. What gave me the most pause though, was the question asking us to state our religion. The official reason the authorities ask this question is tax related. In most of Switzerland, declared affiliation with the Catholic or Reformed (Protestant) movements (which covers two thirds of the adult population) triggers a direct income tax for the upkeep of the country’s churches. Everyone else, even other sects of Christianity, is exempt from a religion tax. Yet, the authorities still ask the question.

What I found most interesting though, is that 24% of the Swiss population declared no religious affiliation — compared to only 1% in 1970. What isn’t clear is, of that 24%, how many really are atheist or agnostic versus those that just didn’t want to answer.

Jews are only officially 0.2% of the Swiss population, but my guess is that this number is lower than reality due to hesitancy around declaring a belief. What gave me the most pause was the question asking us to state our religion.

We found no Reconstructionist congregations anywhere in Central Europe, let alone locally, and the closest Renewal congregation was 11 hours away in Berlin. Lasanne has an Orthodox synagogue and Geneva a Liberal one (Europe’s version of Reform), but neither fits our family. Zurich has a few more options, but is at the opposite end of the country.

So, we began a journey to figure out how we are going to nourish our Jewish identity and maintain our connection to Judaism without a local community. This was with an added challenge of being in a country with only official Christian religions. All public holidays and even some of the public education revolve around Catholicism and Protestantism, not to mention that Geneva is the very birthplace of the Christian reformation.

Our first year in Switzerland was dominated by survival — immigration paperwork, getting the kids adjusted to going to school in a new country in a new language, finding our way in a new culture, and trying to learn enough French to start functioning. Now we are at the point where we can finally explore, discover, and embrace our new home, though we still struggle with how to have a meaningful Jewish life here. This feels especially pertinent around the Jewish holidays when we are used to being with our friends and community, and could easily find those Jews in the Ann Arbor area or Zingerman’s. Finding a box of matzah in a more rural part of Switzerland became a project, resulting in us having to order it from French Amazon and it delivered across the border to Switzerland. We learned though that holidays seem to be a time where Jews here will ask semi-cryptic signaling questions online to find information or each other, posting in local Facebook groups to ask where to find matzah meal or gelt. If you know, you know. One such post resulted in a secret Facebook group for Jewish families in Switzerland, where there are only 28 members across the country.

We’ve had to adjust our expectations, but what has saved us is the ability to maintain connections to our communities in the U.S. online. We are grateful that AARC offers live streaming of services and our congregation in California is still on Zoom, so we can join Shabbat morning services here on our Saturday nights with the time change. The Jewish Renewal synagogue in Berlin is also still on Zoom, giving us an opportunity to attend holiday events and Friday night services in our own time zone. There is a popular local Jewish cultural center that feels very similar to Challah for us to buy on Shabbat and a traditional Swiss hat that looks like a yarmulke, feeling like a taste of home. We are still finding our way and don’t have all the answers yet, but we are still grateful for this incredible experience. It’s building resiliency for all of us that we hope will only strengthen our Jewish lives.

Finding Jewish community Ann Arbor to Switzerland

By Stacy Diève, special to the Washtenaw Jewish News

The Jewish population in Europe has decreased in every decade since WWII. The remnants of silent communities are prolific in so many parts of Eastern and Central Europe, with former synagogues and Jewish sites from Amsterdam to Krakow to Basel and beyond turned into museums, bookstores, or more likely turned into something else entirely. It’s a constant reminder of what might have been. While it seems that in many ways we are living in a more advanced and enlightened world, we had to go into this experience with our eyes open.

Upon hearing of our move, a dear editor friend of mine offered to put me in touch with a client of hers who was about to publish a book detailing the rise of antisemitism in Europe and detailing the rise of antisemitism in Europe and current problems.- Continued from page 1

One of the things I have missed most from our American Jewish community is the ability to attend services in our time zone. There is a popular local Jewish cultural center that feels very similar to Challah for us to buy on Shabbat and a traditional Swiss hat that looks like a yarmulke, feeling like a taste of home. We are still finding our way and don’t have all the answers yet, but we are still grateful for this incredible experience. It’s building resiliency for all of us that we hope will only strengthen our Jewish lives.

In the winter, I wondered if we would ever find a community to keep us connected, and trying to learn enough French to start functioning. Now we are at the point where we can finally explore, discover, and embrace our new home, though we still struggle with how to have a meaningful Jewish life here. This feels especially pertinent around the Jewish holidays when we are used to being with our friends and community, and could easily find those Jews in the Ann Arbor area or Zingerman’s. Finding a box of matzah in a more rural part of Switzerland became a project, resulting in us having to order it from French Amazon and it delivered across the border to Switzerland. We learned though that holidays seem to be a time where Jews here will ask semi-cryptic signaling questions online to find information or each other, posting in local Facebook groups to ask where to find matzah meal or gelt. If you know, you know. One such post resulted in a secret Facebook group for Jewish families in Switzerland, where there are only 28 members across the country.

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Older adults have a higher risk of developing depression

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JFS specialty food pantry and commercial kitchen grand opening

By Gabby Markowitz, JFS Development and Events Manager

On Sunday, May 21, Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County (JFS) held a grand opening event of the Shalom Commercial Kitchen and Specialty Food Pantry. Over 100 guests were in attendance for the ribbon cutting ceremony, led by Sue Sefansky, JFS past president, and Congresswoman Debbie Dingell.

With the completion of the yearlong construction of the new Shalom Kitchen, located in the JFS building on 2245 S. State Street, JFS Nourish Nutrition Services has significantly expanded its food pantry capacity by adding new services, further solidifying its role in the community as a unique provider of specialty food and nutrition services.

JFS’s Nourish Nutrition Services has come a long way since it began 30 years ago as a humble makeshift pantry in the CEO’s office to ensure that no one left the agency hungry. During the pandemic, services were quickly and dramatically increased, adding delivery options and extending the pantry’s operations to five days a week. Today, Nourish Nutrition Services has grown to become a preeminent Washtenaw County provider of nutrition services, serving all diverse members of the local community.

“Unlike the old pantry, which was designed to merely accommodate our existing building layout, the new pantry is designed exclusively and strategically with nutrition services in mind,” said Christine Taylor, Senior Director of Community Assistance at JFS. “We’re really excited for clients and volunteers to experience the dramatically different space.”

Not only does the new multipurpose area quadruple the capacity of the original JFS Specialty Food Pantry, but also, the addition of a commercial kitchen provides new community engagement opportunities. In addition to these new endeavors, the commercial kitchen will serve as a business incubator for individuals wishing to start their own small food businesses, including current Micro Enterprise Development program participants, refugees, and immigrants.

The variety and quality of services provided by JFS’s Nourish program makes Shalom Kitchen unique within Washtenaw County. The Shalom Kitchen creates new pathways to nutrition for clients who do not benefit from a one-size-fits-all approach. Notably, older adults often face mobility, vision, and dexterity issues which can preclude their preparing certain foods. The new kitchen will enable JFS to prepare new food options like cut prepped vegetables and bundled snacks to make it easier for older adults to eat healthy choices.

JFS has long been committed to making food as barrier-free as possible for all Washtenaw County residents. JFS is the county’s only specialty food pantry catering to medical, religious, and cultural diets, such as halal and kosher options. For those unable to visit the pantry in person, delivery options are available, and a new online ordering system will make ordering food ahead easier than ever before.

“No one should have to decide between nutritious food and paying for other critical needs such as medicine and rent,” said Sarah Schneider Hong, Chief Program Officer at JFS. “We all have a shared responsibility to address food insecurity, and our new kitchen and pantry is a big step towards meeting the needs of the community.”

Financial contributions to the kitchen and JFS Nutrition Services are still needed. Contact Melissa Goodson at mgoodson@jfsannarbor.org to learn about opportunities. JFS Nutrition Services is always looking for volunteer support, especially drivers to deliver meals on wheels (and a friendly greeting) to seniors. Please contact volunteer@jfsannarbor.org to get involved. Learn more at www.nourishnutritionservices.org.

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For more information about Uniper, please contact WISE Program Manager, Lisa Gdaniec at (734) 575-8129 or lgdaniec@jfsannarbor.org.

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**Community**

**1923 Taco Bus owners grow big dreams**

By Candace Buikley and Trina Fuller

Candace and Trina became friends in the Temple Beth Emeth adult b’nai mitzvah class that graduated in 2022. They will be honing their palates, visiting, and writing about a variety of independent, locally owned Washtenaw County restaurants, catering to a variety of dietary preferences.

**Community**

**JFS utilizes “Food is Medicine” training**

By Gabby Markowitz, JFS Development and Events Manager

In an exciting development for the community, Jewish Family Services (JFS) of Washtenaw County has been accepted into the latest cohort of the Food is Medicine Coalition’s Medically Tailored Meal Accelerator Program. This prestigious opportunity positions JFS to become a national leader in providing medically tailored meals and underscores the organization’s commitment to supporting the ever-growing needs of the community.

The Medically Tailored Meal Accelerator Program, administered by the Food is Medicine Coalition, is an initiative designed to support and empower organizations in delivering nutritionally targeted meals to individuals with specific medical conditions. Through this program, JFS will have access to specialized resources, training, and expertise, enabling the organization to enhance its existing services and offer even more comprehensive care to its clients.

A medically tailored meal is a specialized meal plan prescribed by a healthcare professional, typically a doctor or registered dietitian, to address the specific dietary needs of individuals with chronic diseases or medical conditions. JFS will work with its clients to create personalized meal plans that are tailored to meet specific nutritional requirements, taking into account factors such as calorie intake, macronutrient composition, portion sizes, and dietary restrictions. These plans are prepared with an emphasis on fresh, whole foods and are often customized to accommodate individual preferences, allergies, or intolerances. Examples of medically tailored meals include diabetic meal plans focused on controlling blood sugar levels, meal plans for hypertension aimed at reducing sodium (salt) intake and increasing potassium-rich foods; and heart-healthy meal plans typically focused on reducing saturated and trans fats, cholesterol, and sodium while promoting the consumption of omega-3 fatty acids, fiber, and antioxidants.

“We are thrilled and honored to have been accepted into the Medically Tailored Meal Accelerator Program,” said Chrissy Taylor, Senior Director of Community Assistance. “This represents a significant milestone for our organization and reinforces our dedication to improving the health and well-being of our community members. We look forward to collaborating with experts in the field and implementing best practices that will create meaningful change in the lives of our medically tailored meal program participants.”

The program is set to commence in the second half of August, marking the beginning of an exciting journey for JFS. During this time, representatives from JFS will participate in an immersive, three-day on-site meeting at Community Servings from October 3-5. This meeting will serve as a hub for knowledge sharing, networking, and skill-building, enabling JFS to learn from other leading organizations in the field and foster invaluable connections.

By joining the Medically Tailored Meal Accelerator Program, JFS demonstrates its dedication to staying at the forefront of innovative solutions by implementing these programs into their Specialty Food Pantry. Medically tailored meals have been proven to significantly impact the health outcomes of individuals with chronic diseases and complex medical needs. These customized meals are designed by registered dietitians and meet specific nutritional requirements while considering dietary restrictions and personal preferences.

JFS’s involvement in this program will allow the organization to expand its capacity, improve meal quality, and refine these important processes. JFS aims to enhance its comprehensive approach to supporting individuals’ overall well-being and reduce the burden of illness.

Find more information about JFS’s Nourish Nutrition Services at: www.nourishnutritionservices.org.

**1923 Taco Bus**

552 S. Main St., Ann Arbor
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http://1923.llc

**Dizengoff in Odesa, continued from page 6**

Israeli cinema. This cross-cultural pollination is evidenced by a number of bars and restaurants in the city center, from Allenby — an Israeli restaurant which draws its guests in with signs in Hebrew and English — to Dizyngoff (Dizi), an aspiring Israeli-Parisian-Asian fusion restaurant that looks on the reconstructed monument of Catherine II, the founder of Odesa.

Dizi is part of a story of a new generation of young, Western-educated Odesans who moved back to the city after living abroad in cities such as Tel Aviv and Paris. Today many Odesans know about Meir Dizengoff through Dizi. A Russian inscription on the restaurants Facebook page reads “Dizyngoff — a part of Israel in the center of Odesa.”

Alexander Vlasopov, 26, one of the restaurant’s four founders, had the idea after spending some time in Israel after a Birthright Jewish heritage trip. He is adamant that Dizyngoff is at heart a Tel Aviv restaurant, multicultural and multiethnic, with strong Jewish roots.

“Our restaurant is influenced by Jewish and Israeli culture, but we also wanted it to be fun and essentially Odesan,” Vlasopov says. The restaurant’s young patrons imbibe the image of a Russian restaurant which has been successfully converted into a coffee shop. They loved the idea, researched, located, and purchased a bus in England, had it shipped to the port in New Jersey, and drove it to Ann Arbor. The 1923 Taco Bus name pays homage to the first engine-powered double decker bus released in London after World War I in 1923. The Orrs, who are Ann Arbor restaurant veterans, decided to realize their dream of owning a restaurant where they turn out delicious food with global flavors that attend to the needs of people with allergies and dietary restrictions. Not gluten sensitive? No allergies? Don’t let that stop you from eating here.

A few words on allergens. The 1923 Taco Bus kitchen never had gluten inside of it, does not serve peanuts or tree nuts, and you will find dairy on just one taco, the Arasamjang sauce on top was a fitting condiment. The Arabian Night — which features crunchy falafel, feta cheese, and roasted vegetables — has a surprisingly delicious balsamic glaze and is a delicious and unexpected combination of flavors. The Omegnya (or O.M.G.) was filled with the brin with ginger glazed chicken, crisp cucumber, fresh cilantro, and mango salsa, with seasoned sesame oil drizzle. It was a light and flavorful take on classic Japanese flavors.

If you are looking for a traditional taco, the Calle Clasica, a classic street taco, was offered with a choice of marinated beef or chicken, grilled onions, fresh cilantro, and homemade pico de gallo. While it was perfectly acceptable, we felt the other tacos on the menu with their creative fillings were much more compelling to our palate.

The Orrs hope to secure a coveted liquor license soon, and envision a limited selection of beer and curated signature cocktails. Currently, the beverage selection is a soft selection of mostly American and Mexican soda and bottled water. You can bring your own water bottle to reduce plastic consumption.

While writers and poets first moving from cities such as Odesa gave birth to Israeli cultural life, before the invasion, contemporary Israeli culture was returning to the Black Sea. Although not all of its visitors know who it is named for, it is still a good and honorable way to preserve the history of a remarkable man who got his start in Odesa.

During the month of June with the war still going on, Dizi posted on its Facebook page that they are open and offering their special and long-awaited Okroshka, Russian cold summer soup of potatoes, boiled eggs, cucumbers, onions, and herbs. Also on the menu are rhubarb (or rumbabara), goat cheese, strawberries, asparagus, pancakes and seven types of sparkling wines served on the Dizyngoff Summer Terrace.

The big red classic London double decker bus at S. Main St. and Madison is able to serve you in any type of weather. Besides the bus food stop dining, there is a newly renovated communal dining room in the adjacent building which has a bathroom — a big plus. Look for expanded outdoor patio seating soon, just in time for football and people watching season. We look forward to watching Aaron and Miriam’s vision for growth and success become a reality.

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I was flipping through some of the papers and came across an article about the history of chocolate in the kitchen. It was fascinating! The article mentioned that chocolate was first used as a currency in the Middle East, and it wasn’t until the 16th century that it started being used as a food ingredient. I thought that was really interesting, and I decided to try making some chocolate recipes of my own. I’ve been experimenting with different types of chocolate over the past few weeks, and I’m really enjoying the process. It’s been a fun challenge to see how I can incorporate chocolate into different dishes and see what works best.

Here are a few of my favorite chocolate recipes that I’ve tried so far:

- **Chocolate Brownies**: These are my go-to recipe for any occasion. They’re rich and fudgy, and they never last long. The secret is to let them cool completely before cutting, or else they’ll be too crumbly. I like to add a sprinkle of sea salt to give them a little extra flavor.

- **Chocolate Mousse**: This is a classic dessert that’s always a hit. It’s creamy and light, and it’s perfect for a special occasion. The key to success is to use good-quality chocolate, and to beat the cream just until it’s soft peaks form.

- **Chocolate Chip Cookies**: These are always a crowd-pleaser, and they’re easy to make. I like to use a mix of dark and milk chocolate chips for a nice balance of flavors. Be sure to leave enough space between the cookies before baking, or they’ll merge together.

- **Chocolate Fondue**: This is a fun and festive dessert that’s great for entertaining. I like to serve it with a variety of dippers, like fruit, marshmallows, and graham crackers. The key is to keep the fondue pot warm so the chocolate stays melted.

Overall, I’m really enjoying my chocolate experiments. It’s been a great way to stay creative in the kitchen and try new things. I can’t wait to see what other chocolate recipes I’ll come up with next.
Comparing Real Estate Prices within Washtenaw County

Median sales price increased 6.7% to $450,000 for single-family homes and 1.2% to $283,250 for townhomes/condos in Washtenaw County as of the available data at the time of printing. Ann Arbor is the most expensive community and Ypsilanti represents the most affordable community in the Ann Arbor area.

Interest Rates Expectations

Rates on 30-year fixed rate mortgages are averaging 6.79% at the time of writing which is higher than 6.39% last month and 5.34% last year at this time.

Interest rates for a 30-year fixed rate mortgage are forecast to be in the mid-6% range for 2023 and taper down to the mid-5% range by 2025.

Inventory of properties for sale

New listings in Washtenaw County decreased by 23.5% for single-family homes but increased 7.1% for townhomes/condos. As a result, the inventory of available single-family homes decreased 40.2% and townhomes/condos by 28.8%.

The lack of inventory makes competition between buyers for the available properties intense and puts continued upward pressure on prices. Additionally, with interest rates higher, it means fewer people are interested in selling if they have a low interest rate mortgage on their current property.
Calendar

JULY 2023
As our community eases into in-person events with sensitivity to changing pandemic safety, always check websites or call for updates before planning to attend anything listed here and for prayer services.

Saturday 1
Chukat-Balak
Havdallah 10:07 p.m.
Tora Study: TBE. Weekly discussion of the Torah portion. 8:50-9:50 a.m.

Sunday 2
Tanya: Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. 11 a.m.

Monday 3
Tuesday 4
Twenty-five-minute Mindfulness with Jewish Spiritual Director Linda Greene: TBE and Pardes Hannah. 8:30 a.m.
Tea and Torah for Women: Chabad. 8 p.m.

Wednesday 5
Yiddish Tish (Virtual) (Yiddish Conversation & Reading Group): Zoom. About 45 minutes each of conversation and reading. Free and open to all those interested in Yiddish language, literature, and culture, no matter what level of proficiency. For more information, to get the link, and to make certain that we are meeting on a specific day, please email Elliot H. Gertel at eglert@umich.edu at least one day before scheduled meeting day every Wednesday (except major Jewish holidays): 2 p.m.
Theology Book Club: BIC. 8 p.m.

Thursday 6 Fast of Tammuz
Summer Stroll: Argo Park and Nature Area. 11:30 a.m.
Cantor’s (Jewish) Book Club: TBE. Cantor Hayut leads the discussion. 11 a.m.
Backdoor Food Pantry Open: TBE. 4–7 p.m.
Meditation with Claire Weiner: TBE. 5 p.m.
Talmud: Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. 8 p.m.

Friday 7
Candle Lighting 8:56 p.m. Pinchas

Saturday 8
Havdallah 10:05 p.m.
Torah Study: TBE. Weekly discussion of the Torah portion. 8:50–9:50 a.m.

Sunday 9
Tanya: Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. 11 a.m.
Monday 10
Adult B’nai Mitzvah: TBE. For inquiries, contact Cantor Regina Hayut at cantorhayut@templebethemeth.org. 5:45 p.m.

Tuesday 11
Twenty-five minute Mindfulness with Jewish Spiritual Director Linda Greene: TBE and Pardes Hannah. 8:30 a.m.
Adult B’nai Mitzvah: TBE. For inquiries, contact Cantor Regina Hayut at cantorhayut@templebethemeth.org. 8:30 p.m.

Queer Torah Study: TBE. Join us in person or via Zoom for a discussion of queer themes in the weekly Torah portion! Led by Ari Mar- cotte and Ari Smith. Guest leaders welcome! Contact Ari M (ari.marcotte@gmail.com) for more information. 7 p.m.
Tea and Torah for Women: Chabad. 8 p.m.

Wednesday 19 Rosh Hodesh Av
Yiddish Tish Conversation & Reading Group: every Wednesday; see above. 2 p.m.
Theology Book Club: BIC. 8 p.m.

Thursday 20
Summer Stroll: Leslie Science and Nature Area. 10:30 a.m.

Friday 21
Candle Lighting 8:47 p.m. Devarim
Aura of Kabbalat Shabbat: BIC. A Jewish Renewal-inspired singing service led by Rabbi Aura Ahuvia. All are welcome to attend. 6 p.m.
LGBTQ Shabbat Potluck: TBE. Join us for a Shabbat dinner and candle lighting with members of the local queer community! Bring a dish to share with others, make new friends, and let us know what you’d like to see in future queer programming! Registration requested: 6 p.m.

Saturday 22
Havdallah 9:54 p.m.
Torah Study: TBE. Weekly discussion of the Torah portion. 8:50–9:50 a.m.

Sunday 23
Tanya: Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. 11 a.m.
Monday 24
Adult B’nai Mitzvah: TBE. For inquiries, contact Cantor Regina Hayut at cantorhayut@templebethemeth.org. 5:45 p.m.

Tuesday 25
Twenty-five-minute Mindfulness with Jewish Spiritual Director Linda Greene: TBE and Pardes Hannah. 8:30 a.m.
Adult B’nai Mitzvah: TBE. For inquiries, contact Cantor Regina Hayut at cantorhayut@templebethemeth.org. 6:30 p.m.
Cantor’s (Jewish) Book Club: TBE. Cantor Hayut leads discussion. 11 a.m.
Backdoor Food Pantry Open: TBE. 4–7 p.m.
Aging Solo: TBE. At the An Arbor JCC. 4 p.m.
Meditation with Claire Weiner: TBE. 5 p.m.
Talmud: Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. 8 p.m.

Friday 26
Candle Lighting 8:56 p.m. Mator-Masei
Shabbat in the Park: BIC. At County Farm Park annual Shabbat in the Park at the main pavilion. Bring your picnic or enjoy a pre-ordered meal from BIC. The evening starts with dinner followed by Kabbalat Shabbat services. 6 p.m.
Family Shabbat: JCS. Welcome Shabbat at the JCC. Dinner from a local restaurant follows a short observance that includes scriptures, readings, songs, candle lighting, wine, and challah. Children are welcome. Dinner is free for JCS members. The cost of dinner for non-members is $10/person or $25/family. Registration required: www.jewishculturalso.org. 6:30 p.m.

Saturday 27 Tisha B’Av
Women’s Rosh Chodesh Circle: TBE. In person and on Zoom. 5:30 p.m.
AARC at the JCC. At the JCC. This is a hybrid service led by our new rabbi Gabrielle Pescado-r. Welcome Rabbi Pescador. Everyone is welcome! Zoom link will be sent out the week before the event. 10:00 a.m. to noon.

Sunday 28
Tanya: Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. 11 a.m.
Monday 29

Contact Ari M (ari.marcotte@gmail.com) for more information. 7 p.m.
Tea and Torah for Women: Chabad. 8 p.m.

Wednesday 30
Yiddish Tish Conversation & Reading Group: Every Wednesday; see above. 2 p.m.
Erev Tisha B’Av Service: BIC. 9 p.m.

Thursday 27 Tisha B’Av
Tisha B’Av Morning Service: BIC. 9:30 a.m.
Cantor’s (Jewish) Book Club: TBE. Cantor Hayut leads discussion. 11 a.m.
Tisha B’Av Mincha Service: BIC. 2:30 p.m.
Backdoor Food Pantry Open: TBE. 4–7 p.m.
Meditation with Claire Weiner: TBE. 5 p.m.

Friday 28
Candle Lighting 8:41 p.m. Va’etchanan
Home Shabbat: From the Rabbi’s Table to Yours. BIC. Join Rav Nadar and his family for Kabbalat Shabbat service over Zoom (only) from their Shabbat table to yours on the last Friday of each month. Join us early at 5:40 p.m. for conversation and visiting. 6 p.m.
**IN MY SHOES**

**WALK A MILE IN MY SHOES**

**Join us for our annual**

**Walk a Mile in My Shoes**

**Sunday, September 10, 2023**

**Burns Park Elementary School**

Help Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County (JFS) raise the vital funds necessary to help address the ongoing Refugee Resettlement program and meet the basic human needs of our clients, such as personal safety, nourishment, support, and guidance as they settle into their new lives in their new country.

Your partnership will make a **real and tangible** difference.

Learn more about JFS’s sponsorship opportunities and how you or your company can make a real difference in our client’s lives.

The Walk A Mile in My Shoes event directly supports JFS’s Refugee Resettlement Programs. While registration for the event is free, we encourage you to ask your friends and family to sponsor your journey and JFS’ mission of creating solutions, promoting dignity, and inspiring humanity.

**We can’t help complete your to-do list.**

**But we can help you plan for retirement.**

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Obituary

Barbara Levin Bergman died on June 2 after a courageous battle with cancer, surrounded by family, friends, and her loving caregiver. Barbara was a longtime Ann Arbor resident and served as a Washtenaw County Commissioner from 1993 to 2012. She was active in the establishment of the Delonis Center and was a champion for community mental health issues in the county.

Barbara was born on May 25, 1935, in Detroit. Her childhood was divided between the city and her parents’ farm in Brighton. She graduated from the University of Michigan with a degree in English, and obtained a Master of Social Work degree from U of M. Her family moved from the Detroit area to Ann Arbor in 1980.

She was married for 37 years to Reuben Bergman, the love of her life, until his death in 1995, and they had three sons, Jeff, Daniel, and David.

After retirement, Barbara was anything but “retired.” She pursued her hobby of photography, traveling widely both in the U.S. and internationally. She moved to Sarasota, Florida, in 2015.

Barbara is survived by her three sons and by her grandsons Ryan, Sam, Jonah, and Gabriel. Barbara’s warm heart, bright intelligence, her love of laughter and friends will long be remembered.

“Shabbat of Vision”
Rabbi Aharon Goldstein, Chabad of Ann Arbor

The Torah portion, Devarim, read on Saturday, July 22, the first portion in the book of the Torah known as Devarim (Deuteronomy), is always read on the Shabbat before Tisha B’av, known as Shabbat Chazon (literally “The Sabbath of Vision”). As nothing in Judaism is coincidental, the Torah portion of Devarim and Shabbat Chazon must be interconnected.

The Book of Deuteronomy is unique in that, unlike the first four books of the Torah, it was transmitted by Moses to the generation of Jews that was about to enter the land of Israel.

The generation of Jews that wandered through the desert is known as “the generation of knowledge.” Because they occupied such a high spiritual level, they commensurate with Moses, they merited to lead a completely spiritual existence. The generation that entered Israel, by contrast, began a new chapter in Jewish history. Because they had to involve themselves in more mundane affairs, their spiritual level is considered to be lower than that of the preceding generation.

Nonetheless, it was precisely the generation that entered Israel that was able to successfully fulfill G-d’s plan. G-d wants us to serve Him within the context of the material world, establishing a “dwelling place” for Him in the “lower realms.”

Accordingly, although the Jews who entered Israel were spiritually inferior in comparison with their parents, they possessed a certain advantage over their elders: The Jews who entered Israel merited to attain a level of “peace and security” that was denied the previous generation.

Shabbat Devarim is thus a resolution of two opposites. On the one hand, the Jews’ entry into the land of Israel was a very great descent, for it signified the need for daily contact with worldly matters. On the other hand, it was precisely by means of this descent that they were able to attain the highest ascent of all: the fulfillment of G-d’s plan.

Likewise, Shabbat Chazon is a study in contradiction. Shabbat Chazon occurs in the middle of the Nine Days, a period in which we mourn the destruction of the Holy Temple. Yet, at the same time, as the famous Rabbi Levi Yitzchak of Berditchev explained, on Shabbat Chazon every Jew is shown a vision of the Third Holy Temple, an edifice that will be infinitely superior to the two Holy Temples that preceded it.

Thus Shabbat Chazon expresses the same theme of descent for the purpose of ascent as Devarim. It is precisely through the descent which caused the Temple’s destruction in the first place that we will achieve the highest ascent of all: the establishment of the Third Holy Temple by Moshiach, may it happen at once.

Simchas and Sorrows

The Washtenaw Jewish community sends condolences to:

Barbara Berry on the death of her husband, Sheldon Berry, May 18.
Pat Soskolne on the death of her mother, Naomi Metter, May 23.
The Family of Barbara Levin Bergman on her death, June 2.

The Washtenaw Jewish community sends mazel tovs to:

Leah Shelef on her bat mitzvah, July.
The Sustainable Modern Homestead

The Sustainable Modern Homestead started with a set of fundamental ideas: an energy-efficient, earth-friendly home that melds interior and exterior, inviting open space into the home environment without sacrificing privacy, and that engages the surrounding landscape for its beauty, as well as its natural warmth and cooling potential.

The Sustainable Modern Homestead represents a robust collaboration between Giraffe’s skilled designers, the homeowners, and our trusted construction teams. Through a series of early schematic massing and plan review sessions, Giraffe designers and the homeowners were able to develop a spatial arrangement that was uniquely suited to their family, while embracing a series of sustainable features they are passionate about. Deep roof overhangs and a careful arrangement of south facing windows create passive solar heating potential. A strong, central east-west axis connects a series of distinct but connected public and private spaces. Alignment of windows and doors on the north and south facades create a visual harmony on the exterior as well as a potential for cross ventilation and circulation in the home.

New, sustainable materials Giraffe integrated into the architecture of the Sustainable Modern Homestead include 5.5” T-stud framing, Havelock Sheep’s Wool insulation, ZIP R6 insulated sheathing, a standing seam metal roof made from recycled materials, Arbor Woods thermally modified cladding and Vesta Steel siding.

Inside the home, Giraffe stewarded the owner’s vision installing radiant heating and high thermal mass concrete floors throughout the home, a Unico high speed forced air system and a whole house HRV (heat recovery ventilator).

The Sustainable Modern Homestead combines thoughtful, clean designs with sustainable, progressive-thinking construction methods and systems. Giraffe’s and the homeowners’ goal is to make this type of building practice a standard for the homes we build today and in the years to come.

Follow us on Instagram @giraffedesignbuild to see our in-depth build process, and the details for our upcoming Giraffe Design Build in-studio presentation on building your own sustainable home.

| giraffedesignbuild.com | info@giraffedesignbuild.com | 734.562.2125 |

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