



April 2009 Newsletter

Temple B'Nai Israel

New format for Temple Newsletter

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Temple B'nai Israel has been hit hard by the economic depression that has spread from Michigan to across the country.

Dues, building assessments and pledge collections for the year are only 70% of last year's collections at this time. If current trends continue, the Temple will experience a budget deficit of approximately \$20,000 for the fiscal year.

This deficit has compelled the Temple Board to reduce expenses. Volunteers will now compose the Temple newsletter. The contents are streamlined and only the most

pertinent Temple information will be published. All members for whom there is a valid e-mail address will receive their edition via e-mail, although hard copy editions will be available upon request. As always, the newsletter will be posted on the web at www.templebnaiisraelofpetoskey.org.

Please enjoy the newsletter in its new format. The Temple Board hopes that at some point in the future revenues will recover and we will be able to offer an improved newsletter.

Passover Seder

The Passover Seder is scheduled for Saturday, April 11 at 4:30 PM in the Social Hall. Student Rabbi Tami Elliott will lead the Seder. The Seder is a potluck event and guests will be asked to bring a dish for all to share.

Reservations are required to attend. Therese Rasch and Rosalyn Goldstick have volunteered to organize the Seder. Please call Therese at 231-526-9301 or Rosalyn at 231-547-2636 to make reservations and to determine which dishes will be needed.

Although the Seder will be a potluck event, a

\$10 donation for all guests 12 years or older is requested to cover the costs of Matzos, wine, table linens, etc. Although a donation is requested, nobody will be denied the Seder experience if it is not possible to make a donation.

Who will be the Matzo Ball Queen this year? Each year the matzo balls seem to get better and better, but everyone has his own ideas as to the type they like best—light and fluffy, medium or hard and chewy. Which is your favorite? Come and try them all!

Purim Fun!

Student Rabbi Michael Weinstein conducted the reading of the Megillah during the Temple's Purim party on March 15. The story of Purim was acted out by our own members with special lyrics set to Beach Boys' tunes. Truly, it was a fun event for everyone.

It was so good to have Rabbi Michael and his family with us after having been our rabbinic intern several years ago, and everyone enjoyed seeing them again.

The carnival featured games and prizes for all the youngsters and of course a wonderful potluck lunch!



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Temple Dues Payments Needed!

As noted on page 1 of the newsletter, Temple Dues and Building Assessments have been lagging considerably. Only 65% of Temple members have paid their dues and assessments to date, and revenues are only at 70% of last year’s revenues as of this date. If current trends continue, the Board estimates that the congregation will face a \$20,000 deficit for the year.

This Board has reduced expenditures a number of ways, including taking in newsletter composition, delaying Union of Reform Judaism dues payments, and using volunteers for a number of contracted services.

Currently, the board has made plans to hire for a Rabbinic presence at the Temple this summer. However, we will not be able to actually hire a Rabbi unless

dues payments are forthcoming. Reminder notices are being sent out this month. Please, if you have not paid your dues, please do so if you are able. If you have only made partial payments, please pay the remainder.

If you cannot pay right now, but intend to do so in the future, please contact our Treasurer, Gus Paz and advise him of your plans.

In the event that dues payments are not forthcoming, the Board will make arrangements for Summer services using volunteer Rabbis, lay leaders and so on. However, the continuity of an on-staff Rabbi for the Summer is a highly desired service that the Board would like to continue if possible.

Temple Calendar

- April 10, 5:30 PM: Tot-Shabbat
- April 10, 7:00 PM: Shabbat Services with Student Rabbi Tami Elliott.
- April 11, 10:00 AM. Religious School (Yes, Saturday)
- April 11, 5:00 PM: Temple Seder & Pot Luck at the Social Hall.
Donations: \$10 for 12 or older.
- April 13, 7:00 PM: Temple Board Meeting
- April 26, 10 AM: Religious School.



Passover Mock Oatmeal Cookies

- 1 cup matzo meal
- ½ c. chopped nuts
- ¾ c. Sugar
- ½ c. raisins
- ½ tsp cinnamon
- 2 eggs
- 1 c. matzo farfel
- 1/3 c. melted fat

Mix together the dry ingredients, and then beat the eggs and fat into the mixture. Drop in lumps onto a greased cookie sheet and bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes.

Growing Jewish Families

This month’s Tot Shabbat is scheduled for 5:30 PM on Friday, April 10. Student Rabbi Tami Elliott will lead the service, which will have a Passover theme. As usual, light snacks will be provided at the start, and the service will conclude at 7:00 with a healthy meal.

This month’s teen event has been rescheduled to April 19th or 26th, in light of the upcoming spring break. Please contact the Detroit Federations’ teen coordinator, Eric Awerbach, at 248-568-1856 or awerbuc!@msu.edu for details. Nancy Dwan will have details as they are available.

If you are interested, please contact Nancy Dwan in regards to hosting a Rosh Chodesh event for April, which is still in development. Several events are under consideration.

Irene Stein: In Memorium

It is with great regret that we announce the passing of Mrs. Irene Stein, of Pellston, MI on March 1, 2009.

Irene was long a beloved pillar of the temple community, having been a member for over 25 years. She was the resident pianist for decades, proudly accompanying the Rabbis and service leaders at Shabbat and Religious School Services.

Emigrating from Poland in 1921, Irene grew up in Detroit and moved to the Petoskey area in the 70s.

Irene was laid to rest near her husband Herman (Hy) Stein, in Greenwood Cemetery in Petos-

key in a beautiful ceremony on March 3, led by Rabbi Pichus Neuberger of Toledo.

There was a wonderful memorial service for Irene on Sunday March 22. Members of the congregation gathered for fond remembrances of Irene over the many years.

Her brother Jack Stein, sister Dorothy Reuben, sons Talbert, Roy, and Mickey, three grandchildren and five great-grandchildren, survive Irene

Donations Received

Alvin's Helping Hand Fund

Joseph & Helen Dresner, in honor of Betty Rosenhaus' special Birthday.

Robert & Marilyn Silver, in honor of Betty Rosenhaus' special Birthday.

Stacey McCracken Memorial Fund

Rosalyn Goldstick, in honor of Irene Stein.

Bev Holden, in honor of Irene Stein.

General Fund

Linda and Tom Klein, in memory of Jinks Jervey-Page.

Irwin and Judy Elson, in memory of Jinks Jervey-Page.

Meyer Seltzer, in memory of my parents Dr Sam & Bella Seltzer's Yahrzeit.

Rosalyn Goldstick, for Pearlana Bodzin.



Funds/Named Donations Available

- Temple General Fund Newsletter Fund Prayer Book Fund Capital Campaign/Building Fund
- Irene Gordon Memorial Fund Lee and Miles Jaffe Memorial Fund Religious Education Fund
- Stacy McCracken Memorial Youth Enrichment Fund Alvin's "Helping Hand" Rosenhaus Memorial Fund
- Tree of Life Fund (Leaves \$100 Each, Stones \$1000 each) Aubrey and Gerald Meyerson Perpetual Kaddish Fund
- Donor Wall Tile Fund (Tiles \$48 each plus freight) Tribute Fund (packets of 5 tributes available for \$90/pack)

Rabbi's Corner

Shalom Chaverim,

We come together in this Hebrew month of Nisan to celebrate Passover, the season of our redemption from slavery. Here are some bits of Passover trivia. Hassidic rabbis, at one time, would gather on the 7th day of Passover with cups of water, which they danced with and jumped over and spilt and danced through to mimic the splitting of the Red Sea and the journey toward freedom. It is a little known fact that Passover was at one time considered to be the Jewish New Year. How more natural is it to consider Passover, our freedom from all slaveries, as a time for new beginnings, a time of new possibilities. The cup of Elijah signifies the final redemption, the coming of the Messianic age. Hassidic Rebbe, Naftali Horowitz, who died in 1817, would have seder participants pour from each of their full cups of wine into Elijah's cup, as they went around the table. He wanted each person to know that he/she was responsible for bringing about the Messianic age. A modern twist on this ritual is to have each person add to the cup and then share a wish for the coming year. I look forward to seeing you soon and celebrating our freedom and potentials together!

Chag Sameach from Tami Elliott, Rabbinic Intern

Member News

Temple B'nai Israel members recently scored a smashing success in the Petoskey High School Brain Bowl, defeating the Petoskey News Review in the finals to score first overall! Members Suzanne Shumway, Therese Rasche, Tom Johnson and Harry Kitchen were a terrific team, all pitching in together at critical times. The team barely survived an encounter with the Library team in the Semi-Finals, but went on to dominate the finals for a convincing victory. Congratulations to the team and the congregation!

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