



February 2010

Temple B'Nai Israel

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231-526-6432

Rabbi's Corner:

Saturday, January 16th was Rosh Chodesh Shevat, the first day of the month of Shevat. This month is best known for the holiday Tu B'Shevat. On the 15th of Shevat, we will celebrate the holiday, "New Year's Day" for the trees. It is a time when the winter starts to lose its grip over Israel, and Israelis venture out of their homes and plant trees to make the desert bloom. The first tree to bloom in Israel is always the almond tree. In Hebrew, the word for almond is `She-ked. A productive person is a Shek-`dan; they are the first ones to flee cabin fever and to get busy preparing for a bountiful harvest.

For a while, a forgotten holiday, in recent decades, Tu B'Shevat has once again regained a place for itself as a day for us to reflect upon our connection with the environment. We should be proud we cared for our environment long before Copenhagen. Deuteronomy 20:20 commands us, "When you wage war . . . you must not cut down the trees." Moreover, our holiest of books, the Torah, is referred to as Etz Chaim, the Tree of Life, "do not forsake it."

Tu B'Shevat's return to importance makes a significant statement about our values and our culture. While the time may not quite be right in northern Michigan to go out and start planting, we will gather as a community on January 3^{1st} to celebrate this important day with a traditional Tu B'Shevat Seder. We hope you will be a part of our gathering as we commemorate this special day for the health of our community, and that of our planet. May the coming year be a good year for the almond trees in Israel, a year for productivity.

Rosh Chodesh Sameach,
(Student) Rabbi Brent Gutmann



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New Temple Roster for 2010

Our Temple roster was last updated in 2007, and there are bound to be changes in information listed. Sandy LaLonde has volunteered to do work on this project. Please contact her by phone at 231-439-9772 or email at: slalonde3@charter.net with any changes in all contact information. Those who don't respond should expect a friendly phone call to obtain this information. The goal is to complete the update by June. Thank you for your assistance.

Learn Conversational Hebrew!

Mango Languages is an online learning site and offers Hebrew. We are set up for a trial. Check it out through the Temple website or directly through:

<http://libraries.mangolanguages.com/temple-b-nai-israel-of-petoskey/try/c17c21fe0>

If you like the Hebrew lessons and would like us to subscribe, let Val know: 231-487-1661 or meyersen_954@charter.net.

Rosh Chodesh Women's Group meets Esther

Rosh Chodesh Adar: Saturday, February 28, 2:00 PM

Jill Gutmann, Graduate Student in Jewish Ethics, HUC-JIR, Cincinnati, OH (and the Rabbi's wife), will help us celebrate the Book of Esther and other Jewish heroines by looking at the various characteristics of biblical women and comparing them to the different masks we wear in our own lives.

In keeping with the spirit of joy and frivolity of the holiday, we will decorate paper mâché masks to be worn during our Temple Purim carnival!



Temple Women Engage in Herbal Indulgences

The January Rosh Chodesh program was a great success thanks to our own Temple herbalist, Gail Willens.

Temple women came together in the Willens' beautiful lake-front home for an afternoon of camaraderie, learning and fun as Gail

treated us to her secret herbal potions, interspersed with special Jewish rituals that helped to create a safe, sacred space reflecting the personalities and interests of the women involved. In the opening candle lighting ceremony, the women created a beaded necklace for the candle. Each woman added a bead for herself, and beads were added in memory of the yartzeits of Carol Engelman and Jinx Jervey-Page. As new women join us, they will be able to add a bead to the string. Each upcoming Rosh Chodesh, all the Temple women will be with the group, either physically or spiritually.

Thanks go out to all who came, especially Gail for hosting, Sally Cannon for her great picture-taking, Lori Katzman for car-pooling, Sandy Lalonde for heading our phone tree and Val Meyerson and previously, Nancy Dwan-Gold for setting the stage so we can continue another great season of Rosh Chodesh programming.



Upcoming Events

Feb. 7, 10:00 AM – Religious School

Feb. 8, 7:00 PM – Temple Board Meeting

Feb. 26, 5:15 PM – Tot Shabbat

Feb. 26, 7:00 PM – Shabbat Services

Feb. 27, 2:00 PM – Rosh Chodesh – Book of Esther, w/ Jill Gutmann

Feb. 28, 10:00AM – Religious School

Feb. 28, 11:30AM – Purim Carnival

March 14, 10:00 AM – Religious School

March 21, 1:00 PM – Rosh Chodesh Meeting



Tikkun Olam

This January we celebrated a Jewish holiday, Tu B'Shevat, and an American holiday, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

As Jews we celebrate Tu B'Shevat, dubbed the Jewish Arbor Day. Even though Tu B'Shevat is considered a minor holiday on the Jewish calendar, today we are never more aware of its significance in an era of melting ice caps and the deforestation of our wilderness.

As Jews, the image of trees has always held much significance. Our Torah is known as the "Tree of Life." Even in ancient times, Talmudic scholars understood sustainability. They stated, "It is forbidden to live in a town which has no garden or greenery." (Jerusalem Talmud, Kiddishun 4:12).

Right before Tu B'Shevat, we celebrate Martin Luther King Day. MLK Day has a special place in the Judaism of the Reform Movement. Genesis teaches us we are all created b'tzelem Elohim, "in the image of God." Like Dr. King, we share a common vision grounded in the Godliness of human life and the commitment to create a more just society. This year may we find the strength to continue marching on the road to freedom and a healthy world.



Donations Received

General Fund

Richard & Madelon Weber

In Memory of Shirley Willens

- Sally & Martin Mayer
- Lynda & Harold Friedman
- Al & Harriet Colman

In memory of Joan Chodak

- Trudi & Henry Wineman
- Julie & Larry Burgess
- Rhoda & Jordan Raider
- Annie & Rob Cohen
- Brenda & Skip Kovinsky
- Carole & Herbert Ebner

Religious Education Fund

In Memory of Shirley Willens

- Lori Scheer
- Ellen & Gerard Scheer

Perpetual Kaddish Fund

Berta Molasky Meyerson, in honor of Joel D. Tauber being named "Distinguished Alumnus, University of Michigan."

Newsletter Fund

Judy & Frank Kaske

Al & Harriet Colman, in honor of Rosalyn Goldstick

Capital Campaign Fund

Steve Fishman, stained glass window

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 & Gerald Meyerson Perpetual Kaddish Fund
- Donor Wall Tile Fund (Tiles \$48 each plus freight)
- Tribute Fund (packets of 5 tributes for \$90/pack)

Temple B'Nai Israel Donation Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

My contribution is in honor or memory of:

Circle which fund you are designating (above) and then mail your check and this completed form to:

Gus Paz, Treasurer
Temple B'Nai Israel
PO Box 2416
Petoskey MI 49770

"The old shall be made new;
and the new shall be made holy."

Avraham Isaac Kook



Are you mailing something to the Temple? The Temple does not have a mail receptacle on location so please address to our PO Box 2416, Petoskey, 49770.

The physical location of the Temple is 505 Michigan, at the corner of Waukazoo. Thank you.

February 2010

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------|-----------|----------|-------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 10:00 Religious School 7 | 7:00 Temple Board Meeting 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 5:15 Tot Shabbat 7:00 Shabbat Services 26 | 2:00 Rosh Chodesh Event – Book of Esther 27 |
| 10:00 Religious School 11:30 Purim Carnival 28 | | | | | | |

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