



March 2010

Temple B'Nai Israel

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Rabbi's Corner:

On March 29th, we will gather around the table and read from the Haggadah, the story of our fore-fathers' and fore-mothers' exodus from Egypt.

But Passover can be much more than simply retelling the story of our people's exodus. Haggadah comes from the word L'hagid; meaning, "to tell." In this spirit, one of my teachers encouraged, "Re-write the four questions. Use your questions to ask your parents and grandparents to tell *their* story." He implored us that doing this would be the true fulfillment of the commandment, "Remember the day of your departure from Egypt" (Deuteronomy 16:3).

A healthy community is one which preserves its stories for future generations. Last year, Rebbitzin Jill and I went on a mission to the Crimea in Southern Ukraine on the Black Sea. We led Passover Seders for communities that had been devastated by years of famine and poverty. After many Jews fled those communities, the USSR put in place laws prohibiting religious practice. Most Jews knew little more than that they were Jewish. No one remembered how to lead the traditional Seder, but they had fabulous stories to tell. Their Haggadah was filled with stories of survival and triumph. Jill and I met a man who changed his name four times to elude the Soviet Government after his parents were abducted for subversive behavior, and a woman who organized the remaining Jews of her town to retake possession of their Synagogue, which the Soviet Government had taken for government use.

Our stories are important, and we must recount them often so that they are preserved. Not only should Passover be the story retelling our exodus from Egypt, make sure this Passover is your Passover. Don't forget you must also ask your questions and tell your story.

Kul Tuv, Best Wishes,
(Student) Rabbi Brent Gutmann



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Happiness Comes to Life with Esther

Rosh Chodesh Adar: Saturday, February 27, 2010, 2:00 p.m. in the Temple Social Hall
"The Book of Esther and the Jewish Woman in the Bible" will be presented by Jill Gutman, Graduate Student in Jewish Ethics, HUC-JIR, Cincinnati, OH. The Talmud teaches, "When the month of Adar comes, it increases our happiness." Come have afternoon tea with our Rosh Chodesh women's group and experience our unique brand of frivolity and joy as we celebrate the Book of Esther and the Jewish woman in the Bible. Like Purim shows us, appearances are not always what they seem?!

Upcoming Events

Friday, Feb. 26, 5:15 PM – Tot Shabbat
 Friday, Feb. 26, 7:00 PM – Shabbat Services
 Saturday, Feb. 27, 2:00 PM – Rosh Chodesh Women's Group – Book of Esther, w/ Jill Gutmann
 Sunday, Feb. 28, 10:00AM – Religious School
 Sunday, Feb. 28, 11:30AM – Purim Carnival
 Tuesday, March 8, 7:00 PM – Temple Board Mtg.
 Sunday, March 14, 10:00 AM – Religious School
 Friday, March 19, 7:00 PM – Dinner at Thai Orchid
 Sunday, March 28, 10:00 AM – Religious School
 Sunday, March 28, 12:35 PM – Women's Seder
 Monday, March 29 – 1st night of Passover
 Tuesday, March 30 – 2nd night of Passover
 Saturday, April 3, 4:30 PM – Community Seder

Thai Orchid Dinner in March

Since Rabbi Brent will be unable to join us this month, the Board thought it would be fun to get together socially. Please join us at Thai Orchid at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, March 19th for good food and conversation. No RSVP necessary. We look forward to seeing you there.



Large Print Siddurs

A temple member pledged to finance two large print Siddurs. If you are interested in having additional large print Siddurs made available for Shabbat services and would like to make a pledge, please contact Tom Johnson, Board Secretary, at 231-487-1661.

Mazel Tov—Becca Willens



I had a piece in a gallery opening last Thursday, and I thought it was a good opportunity to show some of you a portion of what I do here in Chicago. It was a collaboration with Hillel and the Spertus Institute called "What Does it Say to You?" Hillel students from schools around the South Loop went to the museum at the Spertus Institute and chose

a piece as inspiration, then used that piece to create a reactionary work in terms of their own Jewish Identity.

In Judaism, we constantly ask one question: "why?" At my synagogue, we question our practices in order to make them applicable to today's world. We relate Torah portions to current events. On Passover, we ask 'why this night out of all other nights?' There is an enormous tradition of growth and understanding within our people.

My piece is heavily centered on growth, unity, and understanding. I decided to experiment with things

I already had, which helped me learn how to take different materials to create a cohesive piece. I found many bits of fabric, buttons, paint, and other supplies that were needed. However, since they were not all meant for the same project, I had to learn how to use these different fabrics in a manner appropriate to my theme. We see the irregular, patchy roots caused by the Holocaust, and the rebuilding of our culture as the florets condense toward the torso and collar. We also see the bloodline curve up around the back and sprouting at the top, which represents the Jewish people's growing strength every day.

I used Maryan S. Maryan's piece as my inspiration, because he lived through the Holocaust, which visibly affected his work. It has a sense of chaos within borders and many of his pieces are simultaneously dark and comical, carrying a depth I wanted in my own work. In order to achieve a similar balance I pulled elements such as color, shape, and silhouette.



Obituary

It is with great regret that I have learned that long time Temple Member, Leo Kaplan, passed away on January 15th, 2010 in Texas after a brief illness.

Leo was married to Dr. Henriette Kaplan, brother-in-law to Gloria Levine, and was a long time supporter of our Temple. He attended summer services for many years, and was a good friend to all who knew him.

He was buried in Greenwood Cemetery in Petoskey. Please forward your regards to Henriette. Her address and phone number will be made available to those who so request. An obituary will be forthcoming in the future.



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.



Religious School Update

The Religious School program is about 2/3 the way through the year. It has been a great year so far with our 10 students. The school is structured to give the foundation of Judaism to our students. It is organized with three distinct parts – service, classes, social time. The service portion is designed for students to learn traditional Shabbat prayers and songs. The class room portion is divided into two 45-minute classes. One class is Hebrew and the second is a subject class, including Bible Stories, Jewish History, Holidays, Mitzvah, Values, Life Cycle Events, and Israel. The social portion of the day allows time, usually around a pot-luck lunch, for the kids and the parents to get to know each other.

Next year we are looking forward to a productive year. We are planning on about five kids who have been participating in the Tot Shabbat program to join the religious school as our newest Aleph Class. We are also looking forward to three Bar Mitzvahs in the next school year. If you have any questions about the religious school program, contact Val Meyerson, the Education Coordinator at meyersen_954@charter.net or 231.487.1661.

Purim Festivities

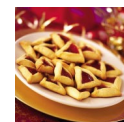


Purim is on its way and the Religious School plans a festive afternoon. Sunday, February 28th, 11:30, Rabbi Brent will kick off the day with a short Megillah reading, followed by the *Purim Spiel*, by

Suzanne Shumway, performed by the Religious School students. The *Spiel* promises to bring laughter and commotion to our Purim fun. A Purim Carnival will follow, along with a pot-luck lunch (of course!). Parents (and anyone who would like to volunteer) are hosting different carnival games. If you would like to set up a booth for the carnival, just bring it by the social hall at 11:00 AM on the 28th to set it up. Prizes will be available for all participants. And – don't forget – come in costume!



Hamantaschen from Noreen Gilletz



Ingredients:

- 1 seedless orange
- 2 eggs
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup oil
- 2 tsp. baking powder
- 3 cups flour
- Jam or other fillings

Cut the orange into quarters; pulverize it in your food processor until finely chopped. Add the eggs, sugar, oil, and process for about 10 seconds. Add the baking powder and flour and process with several on/off turns, just until the flour is blended into dough. It will be slightly sticky. Cut the dough into 3 pieces, and work with just one lump at a time.

Roll the dough out on a well-floured board to about 1/8 inch thickness. Using a cookie cutter cut 3-inch circles of dough. In the middle of each circle, put about 1/2 teaspoon of filling: jam, chocolate chips, or even canned pie filling. Pinch (securely) the sides of the circle up, making a triangular enclosure, and leaving the top slightly open so that you can see the filling. Place cookies on a greased cookie sheet and bake at 350° F for 15 to 20 minutes, or until lightly browned. Makes about 4 dozen hamantaschen.

Sisterhood's Community of Caring

Over the past few months, Sisterhood has been involved in every level of our Temple's social infrastructure. We created sub-committees to meet our Temple's functional needs, provided practical assistance to Temple members as needed, and participated in Rosh Chodesh events and other Temple activities. We also fielded several offers of help from Temple members with a desire to assist other members in need. As a new Sisterhood President, it has been a rewarding few months.

Sisterhood's recent experience of both providing support as needed and receiving offers of more support has led me to think of us as a "community of caring." A Hebrew term - "kavanah," i.e., "intention" - also began to float through my mind after Gail Willens introduced participants to Betsy Teutsch's Kavanah Cards at the month of Tevet Rosh Chodesh event. Perhaps both of those concepts will combine in some way to characterize Sisterhood's evolving identity.

Carol Ellstein, Sisterhood President

Upcoming Rosh Chodesh Events

Rosh Chodesh Nisan: Sunday, March 28, 12:35 p.m.

"Women's Passover Seder" mini-style, w/ Julie Gales. Join our group as we celebrate one of Judaism's most beloved traditions from a women's perspective, with one of Ann Arbor's premiere Jewish teachers and storytellers. Please send your favorite Passover recipe, along with a special memory by March 20th to povsh@yahoo.com, to include it in a special take-away booklet for all participants. Contact Pam Ovshinsky to RSVP at 231.622.8611.

Rosh Chodesh Iyar: Saturday, May 2, 2:00 p.m.

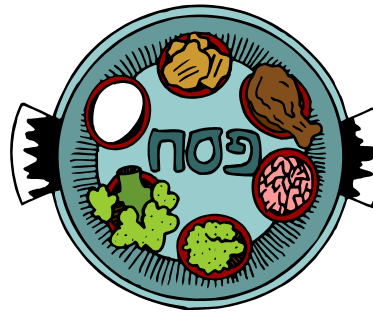
"Judaism & Bioethics" w/ Jill Gutmann. The Talmud teaches us that "...whoever saves a single life is as if s/he saved an entire universe..." Explore the ancient wisdom of our ancestors & contemplate how it informs our lives.

Rosh Chodesh Sivan: Saturday, June 12

2:00 p.m. – "The Gift of Shabbat" w/Jean Gross. Take time out of your busy schedules and re-appreciate the Jewish oasis of Shabbat. Learn the secrets of making a delicious matzo ball soup and roast chicken (can you say "schmaltz" anyone?) with our own food guru, Jean Gross.

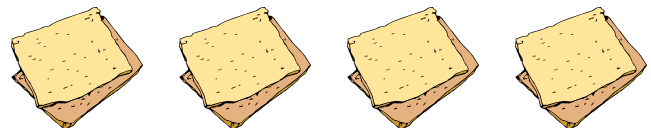
6:00 p.m. – Temple wide "Shabbat" potluck. All Temple members included. Enjoy a traditional Shabbat style meal with family and friends.

Passover is Just Around the Corner



For those of us staying in town over Spring Break – which happens to coincide with Pesach – we will be hosting a Temple Community Seder. Please join us for the epic telling of one of our greatest stories – Saturday, April 3rd, 4:30 PM. Tom Johnson

will be leading the Seder this year. Therese Rasche will be coordinating the pot-luck, but needs assistance. Please contact Therese for more information on how you can help: 231-526- 9301 or trasch@ncmich.edu. Call today!



Growing Jewish Families

The Growing Jewish Families program has been quite a successful endeavor. The program has been weaving together, with three threads, the northern Michigan Jewish community.

We have hosted monthly Tot Shabbat programs with up to 15 children and six families participating. We have also hosted numerous Rosh Chodesh programs, where the Jewish women of our community meet to discuss various topics. We hope to offer a teen event this spring.

Growing Jewish Families (GJF) has been funded through a grant from the Jewish Women's Foundation of Detroit. The GJF grant will be complete this June. Many thanks go to all the people who helped make this a success:

- Grant Writers – Elisa Seltzer, Gail Willens, & Val Meyerson
- Grant Administrator – Val Meyerson
- Grant Coordinators – Nancy Dwan, Emily Stuchel, Pam Ovshinsky
- Grant Volunteers – Jen Wolf, Mary Jean Meyerson, Gail Willens, and Jean Gross

And many thanks for all the people who attend the programs and strengthen our community by being present and participating!

Donations Received

General Fund

Elizabeth Frey

In memory of Shirley Willens

- Carol Ellstein & Joe Wildberg
- Honey & Irv Freidman
- Steve Selden
- Charles & Rhoda Lampert

Barbara Dechter, in memory of Joan Chodak

Stacy McCracken Fund

Bev Holden – Thank you to all who helped since Hanukah. Love to all.

Memorial Garden

In memory of Leo Kaplan

- Gary & Carol Hurand
- Michael Hurley & Judith Lessow Hurley
- William & Mary Lou Somerville

Newsletter Fund

Elizabeth Frey



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



Temple Welcomes New Members

On behalf of the Board of Directors, Sisterhood, and all Temple members, we welcome all the new members from 2009. We look forward to getting to know you this year.

- Beth and Sidney Feldman
- Dan and Frannie Foster
- William and Judith Hindle
- Linda and Tom Klein
- Brad and Becky Kranig
- Gloria Levine
- Richard and Joan Mund
- Susan Kroll and Edward O'Neill
- Don and Naomi Overton
- Dr. Richard and Jane Ruzumna
- Charles and Maxine Shapiro
- B.J. and Larry Shawn
- Dr. Lawrence Sherman and Faith Allen
- Dorothy and Reuben Silver
- Rahel Sivan
- Carol Spritz

Are you mailing something to the Temple? The Temple does not have a mail receptacle on location so please address your correspondence to: PO Box 2416, Petoskey, 49770. The physical location of the Temple is 505 Michigan, at the corner of Waukazoo. Thank you.

March 2010

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------|-------------|---|---|
| | | | | February 25 | 26
5:15 Tot Shabbat
7:00 Shabbat Services | 27
2:00 Book of Esther -
Rosh Chodesh Event |
| 28
10:00 Religious School
11:30 Purim Carnival | March 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8
7:00 Temple Board
Meeting | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14
10:00 Religious
School | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19
7:00 Dinner @ Thai
Orchid | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28
10:00 Religious School
12:35 Women's Seder | 29
1st Night of Pesach | 30
2nd Night of Pesach | 31 | April 1 | 2 | 3
4:30 Temple Seder |

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

web: www.templebnaiisraelofpetoskey.org