



April 2010

# Temple B'Nai Israel

### Temple Board

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231-548-1412

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231-487-1661

Gus Paz, Treasurer  
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231-535-2455

Josh Meyerson  
231-347-5402

Lori Schulman  
231-547-1226

Elisa Seltzer  
231-526-6432

### Rabbi's Corner:

According to the community members with whom I have spoken, this is the first winter in a long time that not one Student Rabbi visit has been canceled due to weather. You may choose to thank God or global warming for this mini-miracle, but regardless, it has been quite a remarkable winter. Rebbitzin Jill and I have been so delighted to see your beaming faces every time we visit. Not once did we count less than a minyan at any of our services. You should all be very proud of the community you have built.

Speaking of counting, we will be doing more counting shortly. In Leviticus 23:15-16 the ancient Hebrews were instructed to count seven weeks between the holidays of Passover and Shavuot. During those seven weeks, the Hebrews were to rededicate themselves to God. They should bring offerings to the Temple daily, they may not get married, they must refrain from wearing new clothes, they may bathe only for hygienic reasons, and may not cut their hair.

In celebration of the Omer, I will be growing a beard (with Jill's approval). Please know when you see me next, I am letting my hygiene slip with reason. If you wish to join with me we will maintain our beards until Lag B'Omer on May 2<sup>nd</sup>, when we will celebrate with our first ever Lag B'Omer BBQ – fun with food and music!

There are many exciting plans being put together for this summer, with many educational and social activities. If you would like to get involved, we are always looking for additional help, just talk to one of the Board members.

Kul tuv, (Student) Rabbi Brent Gutmann



### Join in the Community Seder

#### **Inside this issue:**

Events	2
Donations	3
New Members	3
April Calendar	4

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 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4:30 PM. Tom Johnson will be leading the Seder this year. Therese Rasche will be coordinating the pot-luck, but needs assistance. There is a \$10 fee for everyone 12 years old and up to help recover expenses. Please contact Therese for more information on how you can help: 231-526- 9301 or [trasch@ncmich.edu](mailto:trasch@ncmich.edu). Call today!

## Upcoming Events

Saturday, April 3, 4:30 PM – **Community Seder**  
 Monday, April 12, 7:00 PM – **Temple Board Mtg.**  
 Friday, April 16, 5:15 PM – **Tot Shabbat**  
 Friday, April 16, 7:00 PM – **Shabbat Services**  
 Sunday, April 18, 10:00 AM – **Religious School**  
 Sunday, April 25, 10:00AM – **Religious School**



*It is not incumbent upon you to complete the task. Yet, you are not free to desist from it.*

*Pirkei Avot*



*Do you know who's behind these festive Purim masks?*

## Temple Plans Mitzvah Project

As we sit down at our Passover Seder each year, we raise our matzo and recite: "This is the bread of persecution. Let all who are hungry, come and eat with us. Let all who are in want, come share the hope of Passover." What do those words mean to us today?

Passover is not only a celebration of being freed from Egypt, but also a commandment to free others. Today, the statistics around the depth and breadth of hunger and poverty in America are staggering: 17.6 million food insecure households, making up 49.1million people. To address poverty in our community, our Temple will launch a congregation-wide Mitzvah Project this season. We will provide and serve a noon meal at the Presbyterian Soup Kitchen, which feeds anyone comes The kitchen is open on Thursdays and Sundays. Temple Sisterhood will start the ball rolling and will invite both men and women to help. Watch your email for actual times and dates and how you can volunteer.

Passover is one of my favorite holidays, and regrettably it comes but once year. Yet its celebration serves as a constant reminder that in order to address issues of poverty, we must engage ourselves all year- round. According to Pirkei Avot "It is not incumbent upon you to the complete the task. Yet, you are not free to desist from it."

Pam Ovshinsky

## Upcoming Rosh Chodesh Events

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.



## 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.*



*The Religious School children enjoyed presenting their "Purim Spiell." "Can you find Queen Esther and our not-so-sinister Haman?"*



**Donations Received**

**Tree of Life Fund** – Rosanne and Gus Paz, in memory of Richard Gardner



**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!**

*Mazel Tov to Jay and Shellie Bavers of East Jordan on the birth of their granddaughter Ruthann Marie Ecker, on February 4, 2010.*



**Poverty Reduction Initiative**

Char-Em Poverty Reduction Initiative (PRI) is a local collaborative of human service, civic and faith-based groups working to raise awareness of poverty and to reduce poverty in Charlevoix and Emmet counties. PRI is recruiting volunteers for their "Navigator" and "Money Mentoring" programs. Training is available. Please contact me if you would like more details on volunteering – Pam Ovshinsky: 231.622.8611 or [povsh@yahoo.com](mailto:povsh@yahoo.com).

**Funds/Named Donations Available**

- Temple General Fund  Newsletter Fund
- Prayer Book Fund  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



*"Passover affirms the great truth that liberty is the inalienable right of every human being."  
 From Judaism as Creed and Life, by M. Joseph*

April 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
March 28 10:00 Religious School 12:30 Women’s Seder	29 1 <sup>st</sup> Night of Pesach	30 2 <sup>nd</sup> Night of Pesach	31	April 1	2 7:50 p.m. 	3 4:30 Temple Seder
4	5	6	7	8	9 7:59 p.m. 	10
11	12 7:00 Temple Board Meeting	13	14	15	16 5:15 Tot Shabbat 7:00 Shabbat Services 8:08 p.m. 	17
18 10:00 Religious School	19	20	21	22	23 8:17 p.m. 	24
25 10:00 Religious School	26	27	28	29	30 8:26 p.m. 	

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