



May 2010

# Temple B'Nai Israel

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## Rabbi's Corner:

The month of Iyar, starting anywhere from mid-April to mid-May, is known in Jewish tradition as the month when the Sun is brightest, but the temperature is still mild and pleasant. It is a month of rejoicing and renewed dedication to God. During the Exodus, the Israelites rededicated themselves in the desert, healing themselves of the scars they incurred in slavery, they purified themselves in preparation to receive the law at Sinai. A court was established for Moses and Jethro, Moses' father in law, to sit and adjudicate matters of the law to maintain order amongst the tribes. At the same time, God provided wellsprings, manna and quail for the Israelites, teaching them the laws of the Sabbath. And of course, the time was filled with much, much counting.



*Brent & Jill in Jerusalem*

We count the days of the Omer the entire month. Also, tradition tells us the first census of the Israelites was taken in the second year of the wanderings in the desert. Each Jewish male of adult age brought a half-shekel to the temple. That half-shekel was their stake in the inheritance of the people. Approximately 603,000 males were counted, but we are taught that counting Jews is a dangerous thing; for, a plague broke out in Israel right after the counting, and so we are instructed that whenever we do count we should count yalmulkas, or pairs of shoes, or noses, but not people.

It has been a wonderful year getting to know each of you. It's hard to believe two thirds of a year has passed since the first time I met you, and I realize there is no place I would like to be counted more than amongst your numbers. We will count two visits in the next month, one more weekend in Iyar when we will celebrate Lag Ba'Omer and one in the next month, Sivan, where we will celebrate a lovely Shabbat together.

I hope that you will spend your time these next few weeks counting the buds on the trees and a few more days of unusually warm weather. Thank you for making each of my visits so very special. I can't wait to see you again!

Kul tuv, (Student) Rabbi Brent Gutmann



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## Lag Ba'Omer Potluck

Please join the Temple community in a dairy/vegetarian potluck after Sunday School on Sunday, May 2nd in celebration of Lag Ba'Omer. **Please bring a dish to pass.** According to the Torah, (Lev. 23:15), we are obligated to count the days between Passover (the Exodus) to Shavu'ot (the giving of the Torah). This period is known as the counting of the Omer, a period of partial mourning due to a plague during the life of Rabbi Akiba. Typically, weddings, parties, and other celebrations are not permitted. In addition, haircuts are not allowed. (Some of you may have noticed Rabbi Brent's shaggy locks & full beard during his last visit!) The 33rd day of the counting is a minor holiday which celebrates a break in the plague – Lag Ba' Omer. Hope you can join us.

## Upcoming Events

Fri., April 30, 7:00 PM – **Shabbat Services**  
 Sat., May 1, 2:00 PM – **Judaism & BioEthics**  
 Sun., May 2, 10:00 AM – **Sunday School**  
 Sun., May 2, 12:00 – **Lag Ba'Omer Potluck**  
 Mon., May 10, 7:00 PM – **Temple Board Mtg.**  
 Fri., May 14, 5:15 PM – **Tot Shabbat**  
 Fri., May 14, 7:00 PM – **Shabbat Services**  
 Sun., May 16, 10:00 AM – **Sunday School**  
 Sun., May 30, 11:00 AM – **Sunday School Picnic**  
 Sat., June 12, 2:00 PM – **Shabbat Cooking Class**  
 Sat., June 12, 6:00 PM – **Shabbat Dinner Potluck**  
 Sun., June 13, noon – **Mitzvah Project**

"When you give food to a hungry person, give your best and sweetest food."  
 Mishnei Torah,  
 Hilchot Issurei Mizbrayach 7:11



### Save the Date!

Temple wide mitzvah project will be held on June 13. We will provide and serve the noon meal at the Presbyterian Church Soup Kitchen. For more information and to volunteer, contact Pam at 231.622.8611 or povsh@yahoo.com.

## Israeli Summer Day Camp

The opportunity for the Israeli Summer Day Camp is fast approaching. We will be hosting Soul Train the week of June 28 – July 2. Soul Train began with the vision of bringing Jewish spirituality into small communities throughout the world. This day camp opportunity is a great way to bring a little bit of Israel into your child's life. There will be a nominal fee per child for the week of camp to help cover the cost of supplies. Scholarships will be available. For more information and to register, contact Val @ 231-487-1661.



## Rosh Chodesh Events

Rosh Chodesh Iyar: Saturday, May 1, 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 and Tot families included. Enjoy a traditional Shabbat style meal with family and friends.

Challah, matzo ball soup, and chicken provided; please bring a non-dairy side dish or dessert to pass.

For more information and to RSVP: contact Pam at (231) 622-8611 or [povsh@yahoo.com](mailto:povsh@yahoo.com).



## Challahs Available

Simply Challah, by Emma Hindle, is offering freshly baked challah to people living in the Charlevoix and Petoskey area. Challah's are baked fresh to order and are made of all natural wholesome ingredients. They have been taste tested by the Temple Board and are rated as absolutely delicious. Orders need to be placed by Wednesday of each week, to be delivered on Fridays. Petoskey orders can be picked up at the Temple after 4:00 pm and Charlevoix orders should contact Emma for delivery details.

Traditional Challah	\$5.00
w/ Sesame Seeds	\$5.00
w/ Garlic Salt	\$5.00
w/ Everything	\$5.50



**To place your order call  
 231-622-1044.**



### Donations Received

**Religious Education Fund** – Elizabeth Frey, in Memory of Barbara Caroline Frey.

**General Fund** – Berta Meyerson, in memory of Marlene Goudsmitt’s Aunt Molly.



### 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.*



### Ravitz Grant Workshop on Sharing Resources in Northern Michigan

Sally Cannon, Gail Willens, and Val Meyerson will represent Temple B'Nai Israel at an all day workshop on Saturday, May 15, 2010 in Elk Rapids. The workshop will bring together representatives from three congregations in Northern Michigan, Temple B'nai Israel, Congregation Ahavat Shalom, and Temple Beth El, to talk about sharing resources in these challenging economic times. The workshop is being funded by a Ravitz grant from the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit, which will pay for a facilitator to lead the discussion, and the participants' lunch. Look for the follow-up in the June newsletter.

### 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



“One cannot and must not try to erase the past merely because it does not fit the present.”

Golda Meir

May 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					April 30 7:00 Shabbat Services 8:26 p.m. 	May 1 2:00 Judaism & Bio-Ethics
May 2 10:00 Religious School 12:15 Lag Ba’Omer Potluck	3	4	5	6	7 8:35 p.m. 	8
9	10 7:00 Temple Board Mtg	11	12	13	14 5:15 Tot Shabbat 7:00 Shabbat Services 8:43 p.m. 	15
16 10:00 Religious School	17	18	19	20	21 8:51 p.m. 	22
23	24	25	26	27	28 8:58 p.m. 	29
30 11:00 Religious School Picnic	31	June 1	2	3	4 9:04 p.m. 	5

Temple B’Nai Israel  
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Located at the corner of Waukazoo &  
 Michigan or on the web at:  
[www.templebnaiisraelofpetoskey.org](http://www.templebnaiisraelofpetoskey.org)