



Temple B'Nai Israel

March 2009 Newsletter



Adar/Nisan 5769

Our One Hundred Twelfth Year of Consecutive Service



DUES PAYMENTS URGENTLY NEEDED

A review of the Temple's budgetary status for the current Fiscal Year shows that income from dues and building assessments are only 80% of last year's payments.

The Board recognizes that the economic depression in Michigan has strained everyone's budget and that Temple dues payments may not be high on the "to pay" list. However, if you have not paid your dues as yet, please do pay as soon as possible. If you intend to pay in the near future, but cannot pay right now, please let Gus Paz (Board Treasurer) know of your plans. The board can then make better plans with regard to the worship schedule for this summer and beyond with this information.

As always, the Board recognizes that an individual's ability to pay can vary, and that it may not be possible to pay dues, in part or in full. The board does not withhold membership eligibility based solely on dues payments, and all are welcome.

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

Daylight Saving Time begins 3/8/09! Remember to "SPRING FORWARD!"



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SCHEDULE ALERT!

Sunday School will meet on Sunday, March 8

Purim Party!

Sunday, March 8

Megillah reading in the sanctuary at 11:30 a.m., followed by a Purim Carnival and Potluck Lunch (Sunday School will meet from 10-11:30 a.m.)

HAPPY PURIM!

Purim helps celebrate our people's will to survive, For without heroine Esther, we would not be alive. Mordechai outsmarted those who would have had the King Issue an edict that to all Jews, would bring.

Death to the entire Hebrew race. Had he not told Esther, that face to face, She must persuade the King to see that the villain Was Haman ... who was really most willing

To wipe out the entire Hebrew race living there, In Persia. And, he really didn't care That innocent people would die at his hand, He only thought that then he'd be in command!

But, Queen Esther defied all of the court rules And sought out the king (not listening to the fools). She secured pardon from the King who loved her so, And she asked that he let all her people go.

Thus Haman was hanged by the neck instead Of the Jews that he had wanted dead. So now we celebrate the feat today, And in every Jewish home we say:

"Celebrate Purim – eat, drink and be glad, That Esther was good, tho Haman was bad. Make noise when you hear Haman's name, Until everyone will know about his shame."

Who will be our Hamantaschen Queen? Are yours the best kind to be seen? Everyone makes them differently, it's true— So, the Queen could be you, or you, or YOU!

By Rosalyn

The Temple B'Nai Israel Newsletter is published monthly on or about the first of the month.

We would love to hear from you! The Newsletter is your forum—all contributions are welcome (including comments and corrections).

Submissions made before the 15th are greatly appreciated. If you would like to have something published in an upcoming issue, please call, write or e-mail:

Call:

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SHABBOS CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES

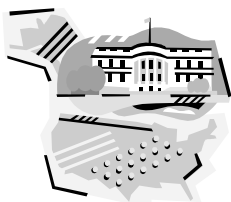


KINDLE SABBATH CANDLES

3/6	6:11 p.m.
3/13	6:19 p.m.
3/20	6:27 p.m.
3/27	6:35 p.m.

NEWS FLASH!

Rabbi David Saperstein, director of the Religious Action Center, has been appointed by President Obama to serve on the new President's Advisory Council on Faith-Based Neighborhood Partnerships. For additional information, please go to www.urj.org.



MARCH YAHRZEITS

Selma Klass

Mother of Arthur Klass

March 1, 1940

Gertrude Tepper

Mother of Sandra LaLonde

March 3, 1981

Bessie Doris Heller

Mother of Phillis Heller

March 5, 1947

Nathan Zeron

Ben C. Shapero

Father of Audrey Shapero-Caldwell

March 5, 1998

Rosalie Goldstick Friedman

Mother of Barbara Mayer

March 20, 2004

David Hecht

Son of Lynn and Skip Hecht

March 29

Phil Moss

Brother of Ann Simon

Dr. Sam Seltzer

Father of Meyer Seltzer

Grandfather of Elisa Seltzer

March 27

Bella Seltzer

Mother of Meyer Seltzer

Grandmother of Elisa Seltzer

March 2

Vivian Ziv

Mother of Bette Rosenhaus

Letter From Rabbi Tami Elliott

Shalom Chaverim,

We are about to enter the month of Adar, the month in which we celebrate Purim, our commemoration of the saving of the Jewish people from the hands of their enemies and the recognition of the courage of Jewish men and women who took a stand on behalf of the Jewish people. We dress up as our heroes, Mordechai and Esther, or our favorite characters to laugh and sing and enjoy a sip of wine.

However, the day before the holiday begins is also commemorated, as the Fast of Esther. This fast reminds us that Esther fasted before risking her life to go before the King to plead for the lives of the Jewish people. The rabbis say that this was a special time for reflection and prayer in which she contemplated her role as a leader for her people in partnership with God. Thus, do we reflect on this Fast Day and remember the gifts that we have been given and to not take them for granted, as we prepare to celebrate a day of merriment and hilarity with family and friends.

Some of the mitzvot of the Purim holiday include hearing the reading of Megillat Esther, the story of our redemption from the hands of our enemies, and the giving of gifts. For the Purim holiday, it is customary to give gifts of money or food to the poor and also to create special gifts of food, called Mishloach Manot, to give to neighbors, family and friends. I encourage you and your children to decorate some paper bags with stickers or pictures and to fill these bags with small bags of snacks, dried fruit, hot chocolate mix, etc. and to hand deliver these sweet treats to the people around you. At the same time, go as a family and pick out foods for the homeless or give tzedakah to an organization which helps to provide food and shelter to those in need. We fast for a day to remind us of the bounty we are surrounded by every day and to not take it for granted, but rather that it is meant to be shared. These gifts remind us of the importance of our relationships with our families and friends, and also with our communities. In communities that are experiencing new challenges and realities, it is especially important for us to remember the ties that bind us to one another and to stand as individuals and leaders to give the gifts and extend the hand of support and sustenance to all.

In March, I shall be celebrating with everyone in Petoskey in spirit, as I remain in Cincinnati for interviews for placement. Michael Weinstein and his family will be coming back to Petoskey as a special treat to reconnect with old friends and new. Enjoy!!!

Chag Sameach Purim,
Have a wonderful Purim with family and friends,

Tami U. Elliott
Rabbinic Intern, Temple B'nai Israel

In order to understand life it is not only necessary not to be indifferent to men, but not to be indifferent to flocks, to trees. One should be indifferent to nothing.

Remy de Gourmont
French novelist, poet, playwright, and philosopher (1858-1915)

We live lives surrounded by abundance. We take so many things for granted until they are gone. One of my teachers taught me a lesson which I shared with the Religious School students last week. When Moses was walking in the desert, he came across a burning bush that burned and was not consumed. Most of us, if we were walking along, would pass by a bonfire and give it a glance and continue on our way.

GROWING JEWISH FAMILIES Update

By Nancy Dwan, GJF Coordinator 348-9148

All three "threads" of the Growing Jewish Family programming are growing strong, weaving together and strengthening our connections. Read on for highlights of events past and those planned for the future.

Tot Thread

Last Month On Friday, February 13th, six families gathered for a Tu B'Shevat Tot Shabbat! (Although many photos were taken, no images are available due to a photo development mishap.) Student rabbi Tami Elliott helped the children assemble a felt stuffed torah, complete with eyes, nose, and mouth. Snacks and the meal featured tree foods such as apples, avocados, olives, bananas, and more. Tot Shabbat services were held in the sanctuary with Tami providing songs and dance. Each family went home with a yam to sprout into a plant and instructions for growing other plants from seeds and beans.



This Month Student rabbi Tami Elliott will not be visiting our Temple in March. Instead of our usual Friday "Tot Shabbat," we invite families with young children to join our Temple community on Sunday, March 8th for our annual Purim carnival. There will be games and activities for all ages. Please refer to the calendar for more information.

Teen Thread



Last Month Our first event sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit occurred on the evening of January 25th. Five local teens gathered at the Northern Lights Recreation Center for mini-golfing, arcade games, and food. The pizza and cake were great, as was the conversation initiated by M.S.U. student Eric Awerbach. Teens and adults collectively read a story about a real teenager struggling with her Jewish identity. It was thought provoking and resulted in insightful

comments by the participants. Everyone is looking forward to future programming.

This Month Jeff Surowitz of the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit has arranged for four Jewish Teen Connection events to take place in our region over the next four months. The next gathering will take place in Traverse City at Timberlee Hills Water Park on Sunday, March 1st, from 1-4 p.m. Area teens will meet at 10484 S. Timberlee Drive for a kosher lunch and "schmooze." Then, according to Jeff's flier, we'll tube our tuchuses off! Note that this event will be FREE of CHARGE owing to a generous grant from the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit's Ravitz Statewide Outreach Initiative. Please contact Eric at 248-568-1856 or awerbuc!@msu.edu for more information or if you plan to attend. Other dates to mark on your calendar are April 5th, May 10th, and June 14th. Most likely the April and May events will take place in the Petoskey region while the June event may be located in Traverse City.

Rosh Chodesh Thread

Last Month Artist Joanne Kondino, of The Three Pines Studio in Cross Village, led twelve women in a silk challah cover workshop on Sunday February 22. Joanne is a very talented artist and art educator and hosted a wonderful event on a gorgeous sunny afternoon. I am very excited that so many women from our region were interested in creating a ceremonial work of art relevant to Jewish religious observance. Please let me know if you have ideas for future workshops or other cultural experiences.



This Month Plans are underway for a Rosh Chodesh event for the month of March. The topic, date, and location are still pending and will be communicated to you via e-mail and/or telephone.

As Purim is a holiday of upside down or opposites, my message this month follows a similar theme. To begin, last November, 2008 Tom Johnson and I attended the Regional Biennial in Grand Rapids, MI, where I was installed as a member of the Northeast Lakes Regional Council of the Union of Reform Judaism. One of my responsibilities is to serve as a liaison for our Temple in matters regarding the governing of our region and our relationship to the national movement, including their efforts to best serve and support Reform congregations.

Lately, a major topic of concern has been the U.S. financial downturn and how it may effect the Union, its congregations and the many individuals and families who make up their members. Our congregations remain one of the few safe places where our members can find "sanctuary," comfort and help. Yet it may also be a time of scarcity of resources for congregations. To help, URJ has set up the following website with some ideas and resources at: <http://urj.org/leadership/finance>.

Rabbi Steven L. Mills and Deputy Director, Shelley Schweitzer, our Regional Office has set-up an amazing new series of calls, which give all leaders and members of our region an opportunity to hear from Reform Movement leaders at the national level. It is called "Tuesdays with . . ." Leadership call series. So far there have been conversations with Rabbi Eric Yoffie, URJ President and Peter Weidhorn, Chairman of the URJ Board of Trustees. For the complete schedule, how to participate and to download an audio version of past calls—go to www.urj.org/nelc. Rabbi Jan Katzew, Director, Dept. of Lifelong Jewish Learning will be the speaker on April 21, 2009. The conference call begins live at 12:00 p.m.

Rabbi Yoffie's office issued a call for action to Reform Jews to become more active at the state level for health care reform. (See his sermon at <http://urj.org/Articles/index.cmf?=&id=17449>). In response, the Reform Movement has created "Health-Care for All," a Reform-wide initiative, partnering with the Religious Action Center, to facilitate getting involved in health care reform in every state. Our region is holding a special training session, "Convening the Conversation," to provide members with a model to moderate dialogue on health care reform in our congregations and beyond. It is being held on Sunday, March 1, 2009 at Temple Israel in Columbus, OH. Please let me know if you would like to attend or set up a webinar connection.

On April 19-22, 2009, the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism holds it's flagship Social Justice conference, the Consultation on Conscience in Washington, D.C. This brings together U.S. Senators, Representatives, national and international policy

makers and opinion leaders, to explore issues central to our movement's values. This is an exciting and informative event, especially if you care about how we as Reform Jews can strengthen our collective voice in the legislative process. For more info go to www.rac.org and again, please let me know if you'd like to attend!

Stateside, the Michigan Jewish Conference, the legislative advocacy and community relations arm of the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit, will be holding its annual legislative reception in Lansing, on March 25, 2009 from 5-7 p.m. MJC will also hold the annual State of Michigan Holocaust Commemoration Program in the Capital Rotunda, on April 22, 2009 at Noon. It includes members of the Michigan survivors' community and is lead and attended by legislators' and members of the Jewish community.

Closer to home, our Temple was invited by the Char-Em United Way to serve on the Emergency Food and Shelter Allocation Board which approves funding requests to non-profit and human service agencies in Charlevoix and Emmet counties. In conjunction, I also volunteered at Project Connect, a collaboration of area human services and business communities which offer a range of health and human services on one day, under one roof to residents in need.

I started this article by referencing Purim, which reminds us of the Jewish values of standing up against injustice, such issues such as poverty and hunger, women's rights and persecution and human rights, to name a few. (See "Turning Injustice on its Head: A Social Action Guide for Purim," from the Religious Action Center.) Perhaps this article isn't exactly a message of opposites, but it certainly was a smattering of happenings in our community and in the larger Jewish and Reform Movement communities. For more info on social action programs for college students and teens, including the Reform Movement's "Nothing But Nets," program to fight malaria, please visit the RAC's website listed above.

Now it's your turn. Please let me (and our Newsletter Editor) hear from you about your specific needs and concerns and also the many ways you are serving your community, as well as your ideas for Tikkun Olam, or creating a "shenere and besser velt." You can call or email me at: 231.622.8611/povsh@yahoo.com.

Happy Purim and Happy Spring!
Pam Ovshinsky

P.S. Also check-out "Greening Reform Judaism," a website designed to serve as a portal for green resources.

■ VOICES OF THE NEXT GENERATION ■

Northern Minority

by Kylah Johnston

(An Essay Written for Harbor Springs High School Journalism Class)

Life comes with challenges. Schoolwork, tough coaches, and messy rooms tend to be on the top of most highschoolers' list of troubling annoyances. For me, the challenge I face every day is something that affects me much more than failing a class or getting grounded. It changes the way I act, feel, and live.

30,000 people in Emmet County, and I am one of the 150 estimated Jews. This is a true minority. But once you enter our small Synagogue on the corner Waukazoo and Michigan in downtown Petoskey, the one surrounded by two Christian Churches and a Christian elementary school, you find that there is no shortage of ruach, or spirit of the Jewish people.

I am Jewish, a minority. Or as they say online, I'm an "other" because there aren't enough of us to make up our own section.

Did you know that there is a Jewish Synagogue in Petoskey? Did you also know that Temple B'nai Israel is the only Synagogue until you hit Alpena, Traverse City, or Hancock in the Upper Peninsula? Obviously, this is much different than walking down the block and seeing up to three Christian Churches on one intersection.

Other religions don't bother me. I'm open to everyone's beliefs and all faiths, but that doesn't mean living up

As a Jew, I am very proud of my religion and background. But as much as I love teaching people about my traditions, it's frustrating when you are the only person in your high school that knows what the Torah is. By the way, the Torah is our most holy book and contains the Old Testament. here isn't difficult for me.



While walking down the street, you don't hear people speaking Hebrew. This is because no one up here can speak conversational Hebrew fluently. As a Jew, I want to further my studies and learn to speak Hebrew as well as possible, but with my resources it's more difficult than you would think.

As it stands, I can read the ancient language well, but do not understand most of it. To get my fill of the language, I attend a Jewish summer camp every year.

The connection I feel with the friends I make there is extremely strong. We have the same sense of humor, same values, and our minds just work the same way. I'm on the same rhythm as they are, and while my friends in Harbor Springs are amazing, our roots are different.

As I said before, I love sharing Jewish traditions. Every Passover, Chanukkah, and all of the other important Jewish holidays, I let my friends experience a little bit of Hebrew and have them over for celebrations. I know how important their holidays are as well, and enjoy taking in their holidays as cultural experiences.

It's hard to explain the feeling I have on Judaism. I love the culture and am extremely proud to be a Jew. The laws are strict, but meaningful, and the culture is rich in tradition and celebration. Though difficulties do occur, and though not often, discrimination can come along, my religion is part of who I am and I love it.

■ FIRST-TIME JEWISH EXPERIENCE SUBSIDY FUND ■



The Ed Ravitz Statewide Outreach Initiative is designed to strengthen Jewish identity and promote Jewish continuity in Michigan Jewish communities outside Metropolitan Detroit and Ann Arbor.

By applying for either the Jewish Summer camp or the Israel Trip subsidy, you will automatically be put into a lottery for a full scholarship to a 2-week session at an approved Jewish Overnight Camp for Summer 2009, or \$2000 towards an approved Israel program.

All applications must be received by March 16, 2009. The Lottery Drawing will be held on March 19, 2009.

Applications (and additional information) are available on-line at www.jewishdetroit.org/statewide

Happy Birthday!

The secret of eternal youth is arrested development.

Alice Roosevelt Longworth
U.S. Author and Wit (1884-1980)

3/03	Dr. Arthur Klass
3/06	Ann Zousmer
3/11	Gene Guttman
3/11	Bette Rosenhaus
3/17	Lee Katlein
3/27	Karly Ellison
3/28	Jack Solomon
3/29	Bette Ran
3/30	Ira Green

Children's Birthdays!

I have found the best way to give advice to your children is to find out what they want and then advise them to do it.

Harry S Truman
33rd U.S. President (1884-1972)

3/3/89	Andrew Willens
3/7/89	Neil Garson
3/7/89	Seth Garson
3/24/08	Ida Eleanor Dwan

Happy Anniversary!

Marriage is the only adventure open to the cowardly.

Voltaire
French author & satirist (1694 - 1778)

3/14/41	Sherman & Martha Friedman
3/14/63	Dr. Franklin & Judith Kasle
3/22	Sandra & George LaLonde
3/27/48	Rhoda & Charles Lampert

MAZEL TOV!

... to VAL MEYERSON, Librarian at the Charlevoix Public Library. The Library has just been awarded a certificate of completion for meeting the excellent level requirements of the Quality Services Audit Checklist. To earn this certification, the Library had to demonstrate its ongoing work to excel in seven categories of achievement, including human resources; governance/administration; services; collection development; technology, facilities and equipment; and public relations/marketing. The Charlevoix library is one of only four Michigan libraries to achieve this level of service, and first of its size. We are very proud of the Library and especially of VAL for all of her dedication and innovative programs she has introduced at the Library.

... to NCMC English professor, SUZANNE SHUMWAY, who presented "Dickens, Insolvency and the Way We Live Now" as part of North Central Michigan College's luncheon lecture series on February 6, 2009.

... to BJ SHAWN, who was recently pictured as part of the Petoskey News Review's article on women members of the Rotary.

... to KYLAH JOHNSTON, member of the Harbor Springs High School ski team. The girls' squad advanced to the state finals in Marquette and placed 4th overall in the State Championship!

CONTRIBUTIONS TO TBI

Due to space constraints, our "TBI Donation Form" will not appear in this edition. It will be back next month (or you could use a previous month's form)




Your contributions are accepted year-round—for additional information, please Gus Paz, Temple Treasurer.

Temple B'nai Israel
c/o Gus Paz, Treasurer
5940 Resort Pike Road
Petoskey, MI 49770

In addition, contributions to the Sisterhood should be sent to:

Val Meyerson
3942 Lorraine
Petoskey, MI 49770

MARCH 2009

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 1-4 p.m. Teen Scene in Traverse City,	2	3	4	5	6 6:11 p.m. 7 p.m. Services w/Rabbi Michael Weinstein	7
8 10 a.m. Religious School 11:30 a.m. Purim Party	9 7 p.m. Temple Board Meeting 	10	11	12	13 6:19 p.m.	14
15 10 a.m. Religious School	16	17	18	19	20 6:27 p.m.	21
22 <hr/> 29	23 <hr/> 30	24 <hr/> 31	25	26	27 6:35 p.m.	28

THE TEMPLE BOARD



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Thank you for your generosity to Temple B'nai Israel!

MEYERSON PERPETUAL KADDISH FUND

IN MEMORY OF CAROL ENGELMAN

Emily Meyerson & Harry Kitchen
Rosalyn Goldstick

IN MEMORY OF JINKS JERVEY-PAGE

Emily Meyerson & Harry Kitchen
Rosalyn Goldstick

IN MEMORY OF DR. JOEL HAMBURGER

Berta and Marvin Molasky
To Tilda and their four sons

TEMPLE SISTERHOOD

IN MEMORY OF CAROL ENGELMAN

Carol Ellstein and Joe Wildberg
Berta and Marvin Molasky

EDUCATION FUND

IN MEMORY OF CAROL ENGELMAN

Sisterhood of Temple B'Nai Israel
Dr. & Mrs. Harold Willens
Carol Engelman's love and energy and kindness will be remembered. We will miss her.

IN MEMORY OF JINKS JERVEY-PAGE

Sisterhood of Temple B'Nai Israel
Dr. & Mrs. Harold Willens
Jinks Jervy-Page, a very wonderful person will be missed by all those she touched.

ENGLEMAN EDUCATION FUND

IN MEMORY OF CAROL ENGELMAN

Gail Shulman
Thinking of you and the boys at this very sad time.

NEWSLETTER FUND

Elizabeth Frey

GENERAL FUND

Elizabeth Frey
Judi & Don Davie

IN MEMORY OF CAROL ENGELMAN

Lois & Mort Stanley
Tami Elliott
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IN MEMORY OF JINKS JERVEY-PAGE

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Gus & Rosanne Paz
Tami Elliott
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Dear Wife, Mother, Daughter-in-law & Friend.

CONGREGATION B'NAI ISRAEL

Established 1896
Corner of Michigan and Waukazoo

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Petoskey, MI 49770

*Important Dated Material—
Please Open Immediately!*

On-Line: www.templebnaiisraelofpetoskey.org

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- Newsletter Editor: Elisa Seltzer
- Rabbinic Intern: Tami Elliott

AFFILIATED WITH



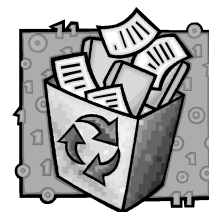
Union of American Hebrew Congregations



Union for Reform Judaism

RECYCLE! RECYCLE!

At our Tu B'Shevat Seder, we discussed the many ways to help the earth by recycling. One new way that we have not used recently is the recycling of grocery tapes from Oleson's Market. Each of these may seem to have little value, but when they are all added together, we will receive cash refunds from Oleson's. So, when you buy groceries there, please save the register receipts for us



Also, if you purchase any Spartan brand product, save the bar code (UPC) from each box or can. Altho they are only worth two cents each, and it takes 1000 to redeem, still, when added up, the \$20 will count up, and -- it is that much less in your own recycling bin. The Spartan brand items may be purchased from either Oleson's or Glen's, but only Oleson's grocery slips are used.

Bring your Oleson's grocery slips and your UPC's to Temple and Rosalyn will add them up and recycle for cash.