

Kislev / Tevet 5777

December 2016

B'nai Israel

The Newsletter of Temple B'nai Israel

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From the President

As I write, the warm autumn days have ended, our first snow has fallen, and we are settling in for the warmth and light of our homes in early winter. In preparation for Chanukah, we must give thanks, but not forget the challenges ahead.

Many of us have felt lost, shocked, and concerned amid this year's events. Regardless of your political bent, it is clear that hatred and indifference has risen, with anti-Semitic sentiments becoming more open across the country. Confused, I asked Rabbi Maya for advice. "You have pointed to the right solution. Being together, spreading the message of tolerance and education is the only key, no hocus pocus solutions. Despair is out!" she wrote me. "I believe much of the rhetoric of elections will be changed into more rational, pragmatic behavior. Even if dark years are ahead, we as Jews have a mission and we have a higher echelon to respond to. You are blessed to belong to a warm family, both private and communal—they will be the source of your strength and the blessed work you do."

This communal family has had musical weekly lay-led services (a big thank you to the leaders and musicians), and monthly services by our fantastic student Rabbi Ben. In this way, as has happened for generations before us,
Continued on p. 2, "President"

Tree of Giving

We now have a permanent reminder of our Temple's giving spirit in the form of a Norfolk pine tree in our social hall. A basket near the tree will be used to collect items (non-perishable foodstuffs and personal care items), which will be taken to our local food pantry. If you would like to help, please deposit only non-expired items in the basket. In addition, the tree will serve as a place to post the specific needs of a person in our temple community or someone in the wider community. All ideas are welcome.



November Events

Fri., Dec. 2, 5:30 p.m. – Tot Shabbat

Fri., Dec. 2, 7:30 p.m. – Shabbat Services
w/ Rabbi Ben Azriel

Sun., Dec. 4, 10 a.m. – Sunday School

Fri., Dec. 9, 7:30 p.m. – Community Shabbat

Mon., Dec. 12, 7:00 p.m. – Temple
Board Meeting

Fri., Dec. 16, 7:30 p.m. – Community Shabbat

Sun., Dec. 18, 10 a.m. – Sunday School and
Chanukah Party

Fri., Dec. 23, 7:30 p.m. – Community Shabbat

Sat., Dec. 24 – Chanukah Begins

Sun., Dec. 25 – Dinner at China King Buffet

Fri., Dec. 30, 7:30 p.m. – Community Shabbat

Sat., Dec. 31 – Chanukah Ends

Women's Retreat

During the weekend of November 11th, nearly thirty women and girls enjoyed a wonderful Women and Girls Retreat in Munising. Reflecting our L'dor V'dor title, the girls were surrounded by Jewish women of all ages who doted on everything they did.

The retreat, which focused on finding and creating peace within ourselves and our communities, was facilitated by Dr. Margot Valles, an English faculty at M.S.U. and educator at Congregation Shaarey Zedek in East Lansing. Plans for the next two spring retreats—Women and Intergenerational—are currently underway.

Trees & Tribes

Thanks to the generous support of all those who contributed to the Trees and Tribes fundraiser, the cedars delineating the Jewish section in Greenwood Cemetery are now in place. Next spring, after the cedars have taken hold, we will install marker stones with plaques honoring the donors who sponsored the trees.

Cedars are still available for sponsorship. If interested, please contact Tom Johnson, Board Treasurer, at tjohnson9916@charter.net.

“President,” cont’d from p. 1

we gather as a community to support each other and reaffirm our unity.

We have reached out to our greater community, as well, participating in an area wide effort to bring awareness to the plight of the homeless in Emmet County, organizing a food and winter-clothing drive, and teaching, as Val Meyerson and Gail Willens did recently, local middle school students about Judaism and the Jewish people.

Our Congregation has been here, on the corner of Michigan and Waukazoo, for 120 years, and we will keep the Ner Tamid lit and our doors open for all to enter. By setting an example for our children and our community, we can help be part of the solution.

*Shalom, and may
you keep the fires lit
and the hearth warm,
Josh*

Donations Received

<p><u>High Holy Day Fund</u> Karen Adams</p>	<p><u>120th Anniv. Celebration</u> Karen Adams Rabbi Jonathon Biatch</p>
<p><u>Rabbinic Fund</u> Laurie Azriel-Prager and Howard Prager—<i>in honor of Rabbi Ben Azriel</i></p>	<p><u>Perpetual Kaddish Fund</u> Carol Ellstein and Joseph Wildberg—<i>in memory of Joan Karff</i></p>
<p><u>Patron-level Donors</u> Ira and Barbara Green Barbara Mayer Lori Katzman Andrea Page Harold and Linda Friedman</p>	<p><u>Rabbinic Fund</u> Rex Rosenhaus—<i>in honor of Donald Ward</i></p>

Tech Updates

The Temple is now using MailChimp, a free email distribution service, which allows for better management of our email list, a more polished presentation, and more privacy protection than our previous efforts. Members will be able to select to which lists they wish to subscribe (or unsubscribe). We look forward to improving our communications with our patrons through MailChimp.

Prayer Books

We have purchased forty Plaut Commentaries; twenty funded by the Ravitz foundation, twenty by the congregation. These commentaries replace the Soncino Chumash, which feature outdated language and are no longer reputable within mainstream contemporary Jewish worship. If interested in sponsoring a Plaut Commentary, please make a \$75 donation to the Prayer Book Fund, or contact the treasurer for more information.

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 (\$100 Per Leaf)
- Aubrey & Gerald Meyerson Perpetual Kaddish Fund
- Donor Wall Tile Fund (\$48 per tile, plus freight)
- Tribute Fund (packets of five 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:

Tom Johnson, Treasurer
 Temple B'nai Israel
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Corrections

This space is reserved each month for corrections. If any are seen, please contact Asa Gold at goldasa99@gmail.com, and the appropriate correction will be printed in the following issue.



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5777

Calendar of Events
 Kislev /Tevet | December

2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wed.	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Nov. 27	28	29	30	Dec. 1	2 5:30 – Tot Shabbat 7:30 – Shabbat Services w/ Rabbi Ben Azriel 4:40 	3 <i>Daylight Saving Time Ends</i> <i>Parshat Noach</i>
4 10 a.m. – Sunday School	5	6	7	8	9 7:30 – Community Shabbat 4:39 	10 <i>Parshat Lech-Lecha</i>
11	12	13	14	15	16 7:30 – Community Shabbat 4:40 	17 <i>Parshat Vayeira</i>
18 10 a.m. – Sunday School & Chanukah Party	19	20	21	22	23 7:30 – Community Shabbat 4:43 	24 <i>Chanukah Begins</i> <i>Parshat Chayei Sarah</i>
25 Dinner at China King Buffet	26	27	28	29	30 7:30 – Community Shabbat 4:48 	31 <i>Chanukah Ends</i> <i>Parshat Toldot</i>