

# B'nai Israel

The Newsletter of Temple B'nai Israel

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## Rabbi's Corner

As this school year ends and I reflect on my experiences, I am extraordinarily grateful for all of the opportunities and growth that being a part of the Petoskey community has afforded me. It is with great excitement that I will return to Petoskey come the 2017-18 school year, following what should be another great summer with Rav Maya. I look forward to returning not just once, but twice a month in the year to come. Together with the input of the congregation and board, I will help begin new projects and add greater depth in class opportunities over the year to come. My final visit of this year will be on May 19th, and I look forward to joining the Petoskey community this fall for the 5778 High Holiday services.



*L'shalom, Ben*

## From the President

This is my first message as Acting President since Josh's stepping down, due to some lingering health issues. We wish him all the best in his recovery.

Last month, we held our Passover Seder, led by Rabbi Ben and the Sunday School students, who studied hard for this duty. Brisket (of great acclaim) and many other great dishes were enjoyed by all. Across town, another Passover Seder was held, at the First Presbyterian Church. Led by Carol Ellstein, my wife Rosanne, and me, the seder was attended by over sixty people, who all had a great time. Many thanked us for sharing our culture and traditions with them.

On a different note, I am proud to announce that our current student rabbi, Ben Azriel, will be returning next year to lead bi-weekly services and help add to the Sunday School program, developing more social action projects and community outreach.

*L'shalom, Gus*



## Inside—

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| Events          | 2 |
| Housing Request | 2 |
| Women's History | 2 |
| Donations       | 3 |
| Calendar        | 4 |

## May Events

Sun., May 7, 10 a.m. — **Sunday School**  
 Mon., May 8, 7 p.m. — **Temple Board Meeting**  
 Fri., May 19, 5:30 p.m. — **Tot Shabbat**  
 Fri., May 19, 7:30 p.m. — **Shabbat Service**  
                                   **w/ Rabbi Ben Azriel**  
 Sun., May 21, 10 a.m. — **Sunday School**  
 Fri., May 26 — **Rosh Chodesh**  
 Wed., May 31 — **Shavuot**  
 Sat., June 3 — **Shavuot Campout**

## Housing Request

Rav Maya's daughter Avishag, son-in-law Benny, and grandchildren Itamar, five, and Yoav, two-and-a-half, will be visiting us this summer from approximately August 10th to August 24th, and are looking for rented accommodation in the Petoskey vicinity during that time. There are no specific requirements. If you know of an opening or would like more information, please email Rav Maya at [ravmaya@gmail.com](mailto:ravmaya@gmail.com).

## Women Who Made a Difference

*Editor's Note: The following is the second installment in the ongoing series of biographies called "Women Who Made a Difference," written by several volunteer temple historians, chronicling the lives of active and influential women of Temple B'nai Israel. This month's subject is Irene Gordon.*

Irene Goldstein Gordon grew up in Petoskey with her Aunt Minnie and Uncle Alick Rosenthal, who had no children of their own. After graduating high school, she attended Columbia College in Chicago, where she eventually settled with her husband and two children, Henriette and Gloria Gordon. Though distant, Irene still helped her Uncle Alick operate the S. Rosenthal & Sons department store during summer vacations and accompanied him on Chicago buying trips during the offseason. After her uncle died, in 1939, Irene returned to manage the store until, in the early '60s, she closed it permanently. Still, life as a mother and prominent local businesswoman was not enough for the energetic Irene; she also served as President of the Petoskey Historical Society, a member of the Petoskey Girl Scouts Board, and President of the B'nai Israel Sisterhood. Irene remained involved with the Temple until her death, in 2004, at the age of 105.

## Save the Date

Save the date for these upcoming retreats!

October 20th-22nd: Intergenerational Retreat in Manistique, featuring Klezmer music training with Yale Strom and Elizabeth Schwartz

November 10th-12th: Women's Retreat, locale to be determined. Women and girls of all ages welcome.

## 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. This 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](mailto:tjohnson9916@charter.net).

### Donations Received

**General Fund**

Charles Kiefer

This summer, we will be fundraising for our **Rabbinic Fund**, which will help build our capital balance for this and future summer seasons.



President Gus Paz (standing) and Carol Ellstein (far right) lead a Passover Seder at the First Presbyterian Church last month.



For times of bereavement and remembrance, the **Chevra Kadisha** group stocks items, including Shiva candles, Kria ribbons, and *yarhtzeit* candles. Items are stored in the basement bookshelf. To purchase or learn more, please contact Sally Cannon or Carol Ellstein.

### 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  
PO Box 2416  
Petoskey MI 49770

### Corrections

This space is reserved each month for corrections. If any errors are seen, please the editor at [goldasa99@gmail.com](mailto:goldasa99@gmail.com), and the appropriate correction will be printed in the following issue.


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**5777**

**Calendar of Events**  
 Iyar / Sivan | **May**

**2017**

| Sunday                        | Monday                             | Tuesday | Wed.                 | Thursday | Friday   | Saturday                                 |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------|----------------------|----------|--|--|
| April 30                      | May 1                              | 2       | 3                    | 4        | 5  | 6<br><i>Parshat Acharei-Kedoshim</i>     |
| 7<br>10 a.m. – Sunday School  | 8<br>7 p.m. – Temple Board Meeting | 9       | 10                   | 11       | 12<br>8:34    | 13<br><i>Parshat Emor</i>                |
| 14                            | 15                                 | 16      | 17                   | 18       | 19<br>5:30 – Tot Shabbat<br>7:30 – Shabbat Services w/ Rabbi Ben<br>8:50  | 20<br><i>Parshat Behar-Bechukotai</i>    |
| 21<br>10 a.m. – Sunday School | 22                                 | 23      | 24                   | 25       | 26<br><i>Rosh Chodesh</i><br>8:57   | 27<br><i>Parshat Bamidbar</i>            |
| 28                            | 29                                 | 30      | 31<br><i>Shavuot</i> | June 1   | 2<br>9:04   | 3<br><i>Parshat Naso Shavuot Campout</i> |