



February 2011

Temple B'Nai Israel

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Rabbi's Corner

In the second week of January, our community was saddened by events surrounding two Jewish figures, Debbie Friedman and U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords.

Debbie Friedman was born in Utica New York and raised in Minnesota. Her musical and liturgical talent became apparent at a young age at OSRUI camp, the first Reform summer camp. As we all know, she went on to become one of the most influential Jewish musicians of the twentieth century. Her loss on to pneumonia was sudden and tragic.

Gabrielle Giffords was born in Tucson Arizona to a Jewish father and Christian-Science mother. Since 2001, she has identified as Jewish. She is a member of Congregation Chaverim, a Reform Congregation, in Tucson. After a noteworthy term in the Arizona congress, she rose to become Arizona's first Jewish U.S. Congresswoman. On January 8, she was shot, along with nineteen others, while meeting congregants at a local Safeway. As of this article's writing, six of those people have died. Although Gabrielle Giffords appears to be recovering, her condition remains serious.

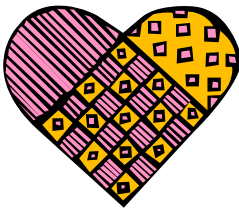
We are saddened by Debbie's loss, but we are shocked by Rep. Gifford's. The alleged shooter, Jared Lee Loughner, espoused belief in the "Zionist Occupation Government" conspiracy theory. This conspiracy theory argues that the U.S. Government is taking orders from the Israeli government. It is virulently anti-Semitic and plays a role in various militant groups west of the Mississippi. Basically, it identifies Jews as the antichrist and says that we must be killed for the messiah to appear.

How does Judaism direct us to respond? There is a *midrash*: when Miriam led the

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Brent & Jill in Jerusalem



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Rosh Chodesh Returns!

Thru a small grant from the Ravitz Small Jewish Communities Initiative we are pleased to announce two newly scheduled programs. Please mark your calendars:

Rosh Chodesh Adar - **Sunday, February 20, 1:30-3:30 p.m.** "Jewish By Choice." Come share your experiences about the joys and challenges of raising Jewish children in interfaith households in a small rural community! This program will be facilitated by local psychologist and Temple member Dr. Carol Ellstein. A delicious assortment of snacks and beverages will be served. Although Rosh Chodesh is usually geared for women, men are strongly encouraged to attend and participate in this special event. Child care an option. Please let us know.

Rosh Chodesh Nissan - **Saturday, April 16, 1:30-3:30 p.m.** "In the Kitchen with Jill." Back by popular demand! Come see "what's cooking" as our Temple Rebbetzin and HUC-JIR grad

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Upcoming Events

Fri., Feb. 11, 5:30 PM—Tot Shabbat

Fri., Feb. 11, 7:30 PM—Shabbat Service

Sun., Feb. 13, 10:00 AM—**Religious School**

Mon., Feb. 14, 7:00 PM—Board Meeting

Sun., Feb. 20, 1:30 PM—**Rosh Chodesh**

“Jewish by Choice”

Sun., Feb. 27, 10:00 AM—**Religious School**



Rosh Chodesh *(cont. from page 1)*

student, Jill Gutmann takes us on a journey of the history of Jewish cooking. And if we're lucky, she may help us whip up a few Passover delicacies along the way! An afternoon that's sure to nourish body and soul.

Questions and RSVPs should be directed to Sisterhood/
Mishpacha President Carol Ellstein (231-525-9250 or [cge-
llstein@gmail.com](mailto:cge-
llstein@gmail.com)) or Rosh Chodesh Coordinator Pam Ovshin-
sky (231-622-8611 or povsh@yahoo.com). Sandy LaLonde is
our phone-tree contact: 231-439-9772.

SAVE THE DATE:

Second Annual Sisterhood/Mishpacha Summer Celebration - Sunday Brunch, July 24th. Featuring the stories behind our Temple art. Special guests to be announced.

A Note from Rabbi Daniel J. Fellman on the Events in Tucson, AZ.

We have all been pained by the events in Tucson, AZ this past month. As Americans, acts of violence against citizens gathered to discuss issues of the day leave us wondering what happened to the clause in the First Amendment about the right to peaceful gatherings. And as Jews, this act of violence provides a stark reminder of the perils faced by any society.

Over the last couple of years, rhetoric has sunk lower and lower, as too many have vilified those with whom they do not agree. Our society seems to have forgotten the difference between opponents and enemies. Those with whom we disagree on a particular issue or set of issues are not our enemies — we do not wish them harm. Rather, we see them as adversaries. We view those with whom we may hold even the deepest of disagreements as the opposition, but never threats to our very existence.

Ours is a nation built on the freedom to disagree. We Americans gave the world the unique gift of a representative democracy where all are free to support or oppose a policy without threat of retribution. That gift has languished of late, and today we live in a world where the other side is no longer a respected rival but now viewed as evil, one to be destroyed.

In the new reality of hate-language and flaring tempers, bashing of one's adversary has become not just a tool but too often, a lauded attribute. Arguments, yell-

ing, language of guns and violence and retribution have become all too common in our national discourse. No wonder that unstable souls have come to see violence as a viable option in the midst of devolving discourse.

We Jews have been down this road before. Our sages teach that the destruction of the Great Temple in Jerusalem came about because of *Sinat Hinam*, senseless hatred. Too easily our ancestors fought with each other, and society crumbled. The lack of trust, lack of respect, lack of humanity resulted in destruction of all that we knew and held sacred.

We Jews, who are the inheritors of this legacy of destruction, have a role to play in the healing of America in 2011. We who are Rodfei Shalom, seekers of peace, must at this time reach out to our

neighbors, those with whom we agree and those with whom we disagree, and develop new bonds of trust, dignity, and respect.

Our nation needs our unique Jewish perspective, and I hope and pray that as a community we can reach out, one by one, and help in the healing of our country, relationship by relationship, interaction by interaction.



New Garbage Removal Process

1. Recyclable material is placed in the bins under the micro-wave. When the bins are full, individuals are asked to take the recyclables home for their curbside pick up and return the bins empty.
2. Garbage removal: Waste Management bags have been purchased and placed in the kitchen. The Petoskey Public Library has agreed to let us put our bags inside their protective gates in the alley (NOT in their bins, just inside the gates). Consolidate the garbage used into one Waste Management bag and remove the garbage after locking up the Temple. Thank you for helping out!



Donations Received

General Fund

Richard & Madelon Weber,
In honor of Sally Cannon

Newsletter

Albert & Harriet Colman,
In memory of M. Winkleman

Albert & Harriet Colman,
In memory of C. Lampert

Challahs Available

Simply Challah, by Emma Hindle, is offering freshly baked-to-order challah to people living in the Charlevoix and Petoskey area. 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.



(cont. from page 1) **Rabbi's Corner**

Hebrews in dance and song after the Egyptians drowned in the Red Sea, the angels began to rejoice as well, yet God rebuked His angels. The angels protested, "But look how your children Israel have triumphed." God responded, "The Egyptians are also my children." The *midrash* teaches us, "Let the Merciful One rebuke Satan." (*Kiddushin* 81b)

On the other hand, we are commanded, "Blot out the memory of Amalek from under the heaven!" (*Shemot* 17:14) Wherever evil resides, we must destroy it. The Torah teaches us to respect the life of every person as unique, because those who destroy even a single person have destroyed the image of God. "Whoever saves a single life, it is as though they have saved the entire world." (*Sanhedrin* 4:5)

We continue to pray for the recovery of Gabrielle Giffords. We pray, may the memory of Debbie Friedman be for a blessing. We seek protect every person as unique, and find solace in our believe that God, the Source of life, redeems all.

Kul tuv, (Student) Rabbi Brent Gutmann



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: _____

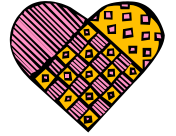
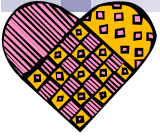
Phone: _____

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



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wed.	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Jan. 30	31	Feb. 1	2	3	4 5:32	5
6	7	8	9	10	11 5:30 Tot Shabbat 7:30 Shabbat Service 5:42	12
13 10:00 Religious School	14 7:00 Temple Board Meeting	15	16	17	18 5:52	19
20 1:30 Rosh Chodesh "Jewish by Choice"		22	23	24	25 6:02	26
27 10:00 Religious School	28	March 1	2	3	4 6:21	5

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Located at the corner of Waukazoo &
Michigan or on the web at:
www.templebnaiisraelofpetoskey.org