

B'nai Israel

The Newsletter of Temple B'nai Israel

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Rabbi's Corner

As I wish everyone at Temple B'nai Israel a happy Chanukah and a safe holiday season, I would like to share with you a blessing for the year ahead:

With God as our witness, may we each choose life this year. May we choose to stand firm this year and to let compassion win over apathy. May we choose to let love triumph over evil. And may we each move into this new year full of life, full of health, and full of hope.

Ken Yehi Ratzon. May it be God's Will.



L'shalom, Ben

From the President

We had our annual meeting on November 5th and elected or renewed the positions of several board members, including Valerie Meyerson, William Hindle, Carol Ellstein, Jim Line, and Hal Willens (all to two-year terms). In addition, the building committee presented a packet of information about the rabbi house that had previously been brought to the attention of to the board. The committee looked at several options, and the board of directors approved a fundraising plan that will support the eventual construction of a new rabbi house in the current location. For more on the building committee's project, see page two.

Additionally, income from dues is down as of late, owing to decreased membership, and the temple has not had a dues rate increase in many years. At the annual meeting, the board recommended, voted on, and approved the following dues increases: family membership going from \$600 to \$700; single membership from \$325 to \$375.

*L'shalom,
Gus*



Inside—

Events	2
Chanukah Party	2
Support Evelyn	2
Donations	3
Calendar	4

December Events

Fri., Dec. 1, 7:30 p.m. — **Shabbat Services**
w/ **Rabbi Ben Azriel**

Sat., Dec. 2, 11 a.m. — **Torah Study**

Sun., Dec. 3, 10 a.m. — **Sunday School**

Mon., Dec. 11, 7 p.m. — **Board Meeting**

Tues., Dec. 12 — **Chanukah Begins at Sundown**

Fri., Dec. 15, 6:30 p.m. — **Pre-Service Oneg**

Fri., Dec. 15, 7:30 p.m. — **Shabbat Services**
w/ **Rabbi Ben Azriel**

Sat., Dec. 16, 11 a.m. — **Torah Study**

Sun., Dec. 17, 10 a.m. — **Sunday School**

Chanukah Party

All are welcome to join us at Temple B'nai Israel for the annual Sunday School Chanukah party and latke cook-off on Sunday, December 17th at 11:30 a.m. Please bring a vegetarian dish to pass and your favorite menorah for a community candle lighting.

If you are interested in helping with latke preparation or have any further questions, please email Emily Stuchell at efreedland@hotmail.com.

Save the Date

The spring Purim Intergenerational Retreat will take place over the weekend of March 9th, 2018, in Sault Ste. Marie. For more, contact Carol Ellstein at cgeilstein@gmail.com. Registration information is forthcoming.

Building Committee Report

At the annual meeting last month, the building committee presented a packet of information about the proposed new rabbi house which had been previously brought to the attention of the board. The committee looked at three options:

1. Build a new house on site;
2. Buy a condo in town; or
3. Try to make do with the current residence, with necessary cosmetic and/or structural improvements.

The building committee strongly suggested to the board that the rabbi house be torn down, as it is not financially feasible to continue putting bandages on the current arrangement. The board of directors approved moving forward with a fundraising plan that will support building a new house on our property.

Support Schwartz Family

As the Schwartz's continue the fight for Evelyn's recovery and sustained good health, all of us at Temple B'nai Israel are looking for ways to assist their efforts. One way to do so is to consider making a donation to the GoFundMe Schwartz family fund at <https://www.gofundme.com/EvelynSchwartz>. In addition, you can get updates on Evelyn's journey at her Caring Bridge webpage (caringbridge.org/visit/evelynschwartz). Your continued support is greatly appreciated!

Donations Received



General Fund

Thomas & Nancy Sarosi
Sharon Walker
Carol Ellstein

Dues Increases

At the annual meeting in November, the board of directors approved the following dues increases:

Family membership: \$600 to \$700

Individual membership: \$325 to \$375

Reminder— 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 collects 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 serves as a place to post the specific needs of a person in our temple or of someone in the wider community. All ideas are welcome.

For times of bereavement and remembrance, the **Chevre 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 contact the editor at goldasa99@gmail.com, and the appropriate correction will be printed in the following issue.

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5778

Calendar of Events
 Kislev/ Tevet | December

2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wed.	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Nov. 26	27	28	29	30	Dec. 1 7:30 p.m. – Shabbat Services w/ Rabbi Ben Azriel 4:40	2 <i>Parshat Vayishlach</i> 11 a.m. – Torah Study
3 10 a.m. – Sunday School	4	5	6	7	8 4:39	9 <i>Parshat Vayeishev</i>
10	11 7 p.m. – Board Meeting	12 <i>Chanukah Begins</i>	13	14	15 6:30 p.m. – Pre-Service Oneg 7:30 p.m. – Shabbat Services w/ Rabbi Ben Azriel 4:39	16 <i>Parshat Mikeitz</i> 11 a.m. – Torah Study
17 10 a.m. – Sunday School 11:30 a.m. – Chanukah Party	18 <i>Rosh Chodesh Begins</i>	19	20 <i>Chanukah Ends</i>	21	22 4:42	23 <i>Parshat Vayigash</i>
24	25	26	27	28 <i>Fast of Tenth of Tevet</i>	29 4:47	30 <i>Parshat Vayeichi</i>
31 <i>New Year's Eve</i>						