

B'nai Israel

The Newsletter of Temple B'nai Israel

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Rabbi's Corner

Someone asked me recently what cause I would be willing to get arrested for. The question came up in a discussion about a sit-in demonstration in the lobby of one of the United States Congress buildings, in support of the adoption of a bill to protect the “Dreamers” movement (to grant citizenship to children of illegal immigrants).

When asked the question, I struggled to determine just what that cause might be—the cause for which I would be willing to get arrested. It is not that I don’t feel passionately about certain causes; I am just not sure I would be willing to go to jail for any particular one. It is a question I continue to struggle with and one which I invite everyone to join in discussion over in these next months, and beyond. **Continued on p. 2, “Rabbi’s Corner”**



From the President

We have a busy couple of months approaching! We have Purim starting on February 28th, and in March, the Sunday School has their Fabulous Purim Festival, which you will not want to miss! For more, see p. 3.

A few days later, the Intergenerational Purim Retreat will take place over the weekend of March 9th in Sault Ste. Marie. My wife, Rosanne, and I have attended several of these L’Dor v’Dor retreats in the past and have found each of them to be a very rewarding and thoroughly enjoyable experience.

At sundown on Friday, March 30th, Passover begins, and our Community Seder will be held on Saturday the 31st at 4:30 p.m. We hope to see you all there, or at the upcoming Shabbat services and Torah studies with Rabbi Ben, whom we are now lucky to have up in Petoskey twice a month.

L’shalom, Gus



February Events

Fri., Feb. 9, 5:30 p.m. — **Tot Shabbat**
 Fri., Feb. 9, 7:30 p.m. — **Shabbat Services w/
 Rabbi Ben Azriel**
 Sat., Feb. 10, 11 a.m. — **Torah Study**
 Sun., Feb. 11, 10 a.m. — **Sunday School**
 Mon., Feb. 12, 7 p.m. — **Board Meeting**
 Fri., Feb. 23, 7:30 p.m. — **Shabbat Services w/
 Rabbi Ben Azriel**
 Sat., Feb. 24, 11 a.m. — **Torah Study**
 Sun., Feb. 25, 10 a.m. — **Sunday School**
 Wed., Feb. 28 — **Purim Begins at Sundown**

“Rabbi’s Corner,” cont’d from p. 1

During my past visit to Petoskey, there was much discussion based around Martin Luther King Jr. Day and civil acts that can better our community; our own community decorated and filled ceramic pots with flower seeds, delivering them to the Women’s Resource Center and local retirement communities, where they served to liven up many rooms.

As I took part in this *mitzah*, I was reminded of the question posed at the beginning of this note. I also thought about what time is right for unrest and when smaller, civil acts, like decorating ceramic pots, are necessary. I wonder just how we can connect civil dissent (getting arrested) and civil acts. As we study the story of the Exodus and Purim in the coming months, we recognize that these are stories about our own ancestry being strangers and disadvantaged, much like the Dreamers. Let us then engage in discussion about what our religion has to say about these topics and how, through an understanding of the Jewish tradition, we can better our communities with both sit-ins and ceramic pots.

L’shalom, Ben

March Events

Fri., March 2, 7:30 p.m. — **Shabbat Services
 w/ Rabbi Ben Azriel**
 Sat., March 3, 11 a.m. — **Torah Study**
 Sun., March 4, 10 a.m. — **Sunday School**
 Sun., March 4, 11:30 a.m. — **Purim Celebration**
 Fri.-Sun., March 9-11 — **Intergenerational
 Purim Retreat**
 Mon., March 12, 7 p.m. — **Board Meeting**
 Fri., March 16, 5:30 p.m. — **Tot Shabbat**
 Fri., March 16, 7:30 p.m. — **Shabbat Services
 w/ Rabbi Ben Azriel**
 Sat., March 17, 11 a.m. — **Torah Study**
 Sun., March 18, 10 a.m. — **Sunday School**
 Fri., March 30 — **Passover Begins**
 Sat., March 31, 4:30 p.m. — **Community
 Passover Seder**

Purim Retreat

This year’s Intergenerational Purim Retreat will take place over the weekend of March 9th at the Best Western hotel in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. This event has been organized through the volunteer collaboration of the L’Dor v’Dor Consortium—a group of seven synagogues located throughout Northern Michigan and Ontario—along with support from the Jewish Women’s Foundation and the Ravitz Foundation. Everyone is looking forward to another weekend retreat filled with family, food, and faith, and we hope you can join us.

For more information, contact Carol Ellstein at cgellstein@gmail.com. Registration information is forthcoming.

Donations Received

Newsletter Fund Elizabeth Frey	General Fund Elizabeth Frey Brian Gelb
Temple Expansion Fund Henry Schneider	Gustavo & Rosanne Paz Richard & Madelon Weber Gail & Hal Willens
Rabbinic Fund Carol Ellstein & Joseph Wildberg—to offset the cost of semi-monthly pulpit Henry Schneider	Perpetual Kaddish Fund Sandra Kupfer—in memory of Miriam Davidson Andrea Page—in memory of Jinks Jervey Page

Purim Festival

Temple B'nai Israel will be holding a Purim celebration on March 4th. Sunday School classes will take place at the regularly scheduled 10 a.m., and the Purim Festival will begin at 11:30 a.m. Join us for games, food, and homemade *hamantaschen*! If you have any questions, please contact Jamie Schwartzfisher at jschwartzfisher@northernhealth.org or (231) 881-0729.

Rabbi House Committee

At last November's Annual Meeting, the Building Committee recommended that the rabbi house be torn down, based on its current financial infeasibility. The Board of Directors approved a fundraising plan to support the construction, and a Rabbi House Fundraising Committee has been formed. Its first meeting will take place in March. The members of the committee are: **Carol Ellstein; Gus Paz; Josh Meyerson; Hal Willens; Hank Schneider; Anita Schneider; Bonnie Fishman; Steve Fishman; Rachel Goodstein.** Stayed tuned for more updates on the committee and the progress of the new rabbi house.

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:

Mark Rothman, Treasurer
 Temple B'nai Israel
 PO Box 2416
 Petoskey MI 49770

B'nai Israel in the News

Temple B'nai Israel was featured on 7&4 News last month! The news program interviewed Val Meyerson for a primetime piece on the Michigan State Police and their efforts to improve community involvement, including engaging with religious institutions. Trooper Corey Hebner, who led our Active Shooter Training, was also featured. Val did wonderfully, and there was fabulous coverage of the synagogue (inside and out).

To view the story, visit: <http://upnorthlive.com/news/local/state-police-launch-program-to-partner-with-local-religious-groups>.

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Located at the corner of
 Waukazoo Ave. & Michigan St.
www.TempleBnaiIsraelofPetoskey.org

5778

Calendar of Events
 Shevat / Adar | February

2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wed.	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Jan. 28 10 a.m. – Sunday School 11:30 a.m. – Tu B'Shevat Seder	29	30	31 <i>Tu B'Shevat</i>	Feb. 1	2 5:30	3 <i>Parshat Yitro</i>
4	5	6	7	8	9 5:30 p.m. – Tot Shabbat 7:30 p.m. – Shabbat Services w/ Rabbi Ben Azriel 5:41	10 <i>Parshat Mishpatim</i> 11 a.m. – Torah Study
11 10 a.m. – Sunday School	12 7 p.m. – Board Meeting	13	14	15 <i>Rosh Chodesh</i>	16 5:51	17 <i>Parshat Terumah</i>
18	19	20	21	22	23 7:30 p.m. – Shabbat Services w/ Rabbi Ben Azriel 6:01	24 <i>Parshat Tetzaveh</i> 11 a.m. – Torah Study
25 10 a.m. – Sunday School	26	27	28 <i>Purim Begins at Sundown</i>	Mar. 1	2 6:10	3 <i>Parshat Ki Tisa</i>