

Shevat/Adar 5780

February 2020

B'nai Israel

The Newsletter of Temple B'nai Israel

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Letter from the President

Happy New Year -

If you have met me, you have heard my mantra of “nothing is easy.” And these days, that is certainly true. Our world is confounding. I am one of those naïve people who wonder why we just can’t all get along. I truly do not understand why it is so hard to love thy neighbor. Why is it that some people feel the need to try and force other people to live a different life than the one they were born to live?

The growing, visible, antisemitism is cause for concern. We have been securing the Temple physically and procedurally. I’m not sure this will stop an attack here in Petoskey, but maybe the deterrent is all we need. As we begin this journey into 2020, my goal is to put aside the strife and violence that seems to be a daily occurrence in this world. The one true constant that we can be sure of is that we cannot change the behavior of other people, only our own. Temple B’Nai Israel will not only continue to review and update our security protocol, but we also plan to continue to be a strong part of our community.

This past season we held a joint security workshop with our friends from the Presbyterian Church. We also assisted with a community Thanksgiving meal. This coming spring, we will once again lead a Passover Seder with our church friends. We will visit Petoskey Middle School and share a little bit of Jewish history and culture with all seventh graders. We hope to continue to partner with the community in these and other ways, to strengthen our bonds locally. In these small ways, we become an integral part of our community, sharing with others who we are as a people. My hope is for a safe and fulfilling year in this new decade for all of us in and around Petoskey and all the world.



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L'Chaim,
Valerie Meyerson

February Events

Fri., Feb. 7, 7:30pm – Shabbat Services with Rabbi Maddy

Sat., Feb. 8, 11am – Torah Study followed by potluck dairy brunch

Sun., Feb. 9, 10am – Sunday School

Sun., Feb. 9, 11:30am – Tu B'Shevat

Mon., Feb., 10, 7pm – Board Meeting

Fri., Feb. 21, 7:30pm – Shabbat Services with Rabbi Maddy

Sat., Feb. 22, 11am – Torah Study followed by potluck dairy brunch

Sat., Feb. 22, 6pm – Ask Dr. Ruth

Sun., Feb. 23, 10am – Sunday School

Rabbi Maddy on Tu B'Shevat

Tu Bi'Shvat is the Jewish New Year of trees. The holiday is observed on the 15th (tu) of the Hebrew month of Shvat. It was originally celebrated in ancient Israel as an agricultural festival marking the emergence of spring. In the 17th century, Kabbalists added a Seder meal ritual to the celebration of Tu Bi'Shvat, similar to Passover. Tu Bi'Shvat has also become a tree-planting festival, in which Jews around the world plant trees, at home and in Israel, in honor and in memory of their loved ones.*



ADONAI SAID, "LET THE EARTH BRING FORTH GRASS, THE HERB YIELDING SEED, AND THE FRUIT TREES YIELDING FRUIT AFTER ITS KIND, WHOSE SEED IS ON THE EARTH," AND IT WAS SO. AND THE EARTH BLOSSOMED WITH GRASS, HERBS AND TREES, AND GOD SAW THAT IT WAS GOOD.

GENESIS 1:9-13

One day, a man was walking along the road when he saw another man planting a carob tree. The first man said: This tree, after how many years will it bear fruit? The man planting the tree replied: It will not produce fruit until seventy years have passed. The first man was shocked and said: Is it obvious to you that you will live seventy years, that you expect to benefit from this tree? The planter replied: "I myself found a world full of carob trees. Just as my ancestors planted for me, I too am planting for my descendants."

TALMUD, TAANIT 23A:15

Character is like a tree and reputation like a shadow. The shadow is what we think of it; the tree is the real thing.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

All Religions, arts and sciences are branches of the same tree.

ALBERT EINSTEIN



WE MUST BE AWARE OF THE FRAGILITY OF OUR ENVIRONMENT AND THE INTERCONNECTEDNESS OF HUMANITY'S WELL-BEING WITH THE EARTH. AS JEWS, WE HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT AND SUSTAIN GOD'S CREATION.

Rabbi David Saperstein

*Source: reformjudaism.org; adapted by student rabbi, Madeline Anderson

Tu B'Shevat

Tu B'Shevat is the celebration of The New Year for Trees! Join us at the congregation for a Seder on Sunday, February 9th at 11:30 AM. Learn about the four types of fruit we eat and what are their meanings. Also known as the Israeli Arbor Day, this celebration recognizes our commitment to the environment with traditional planting of trees in Israel. Everyone is welcome! Kid friendly!

All Temple events, including Sunday School sponsored programs, are open to all!

For questions about programs, please contact:

Tot Shabbat: lindsey-kaufmanlb@gmail.com

Shabbat and other events:

efreedland@hotmail.com

Jewish History of Camp Petosega

Leonard Baruch, director of a Detroit based Jewish Camp Farband and his head counselor, Bertrand Sandweiss, bought Camp Petosega in 1955, including a 32-foot cabin cruiser yacht. All of the cabins were given Jewish names. According to the Michigan Jewish History 2008 article, "every Friday night--before everyone prepared for Shabbat services--a refrigerated truck would arrive with kosher meat."

The article stated that, "although the camp's neighbors had little experience with Jews, they soon became friendly. Once, the kitchen burned down and neighbors helped rebuild the facility in ten days. During that time, buses took kids to a nearby school for meals." Bertrand Baruch stated in his 2010 written history of Camp Petosega that "we thought we made the correct decision in developing a top notch summer camp for Jewish children; although there were no restrictions. . . No camper could ever forget going to Mackinac Island via our cabin cruiser. We are very proud of the campers and counselors who spent so many summers enjoying the pleasures of Camp Petosega."

2020 Rabbi Weekends

Maddy will be in town on the following weekends: February 7-9, February 21-23, March 6-8, April 24-26, May 15-17, May 29-31, June 5-7.

Summer weekly services with Maya and Menachem begin June 19.

Donations Received

General Fund

Mrs. Elizabeth Frey
 Harold and Linda Friedman
 Rabbi Samual Karff
 Gloria Levine: IHO Val becoming President
 Barbara Mayer: IHO Val becoming President
 Eve Reider & James Novick
 Dr. and Mrs. Hal Willens
 Dr. and Mrs. Jerome Sitzer
 Mr. and Mrs. Henry Wineman

Perpetual Kaddish Fund

Mrs. Sandra Glazier IMO Dr. Melvin Lester
 Mr. and Mrs. Line IMO Edward Schultz
 Joseph Wildberg IMO Myrtle Wildberg
 Mr. Jason Page IMO Jinks Jervey Page

Levine Memorial Fund

William and Shirley P Holles: IHO Gloria Levine

Newsletter Fund

Mrs. Elizabeth Fry
 Mr. and Mrs. Franklin Kasle

Alvin's Helping Hand

Jennifer Eis

Temple Expansion Fund

Dr. Louis and Sally Cannon
 Mrs. Gilda Cohen and Leonard Senkfor
 Ms. Rachel Goodstein
 Mr. and Mrs. Franklin Kasle
 Kate Melbey and Bret Huntman
 Dr. and Mrs. Pulcer
 Dr. and Mrs. Hal Willens
 Hank and Anita Schneider IHO Meredith and Al Ernst's
 Grandson's Bar Mitzvah
 Mrs. Andrea Page

LDvD Inter-Generational Retreat

All are invited to the L'Dor v'Dor Northern Michigan Consortium's 2020 Intergenerational Purim Retreat, March 13-15 2020, at the Best Western Hotel in Sault Ste Marie MI.

Our usual events include Shabbat observance, the ever-zany Purimspiel, a delicious hamantaschen contest, snowshoeing and XC skiing, David Contorer's update of Hebrew Free Loan options, lively musical jam sessions, and congregational sharing. Featured activities include separate presentations for children and adults on klezmer music and history by Yale Strom and Elizabeth Schwartz; and presentations on cyber security and personal/congregational safety by security expert Col. Steve Bucci.

The retreat is partially funded by a generous grant from The Ravitz Foundation, with support from Hebrew Free Loan.

Participants will only pay for their own travel and hotel costs. Hotel subsidies are available on request. Contact Carol Ellstein for more information.

Please register for the retreat by March 1 at <http://bit.do/ldvdretreat>

Funds Available

- Temple General Fund Newsletter Fund
- Prayer Book Fund Rabbi House Fund
- Irene Gordon Memorial Fund Security Fund
- Lee and Miles Jaffe Memorial Fund
- Religious Education Fund
- Stacy McCracken Memorial Youth Enrichment Fund
- Alvin's "Helping Hand" Rosenhaus Memorial Fund
- Aubrey & Gerald Meyerson Perpetual Kaddish Fund

Named Donations Available

- Tree of Life Fund (\$100 Per Leaf)
- Memorial Wall (\$180 per plaque)

**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

Ask Dr. Ruth

You won't want to miss joining our amazing group of temple women at TBI, the evening of Saturday, February 22, 2020 at 6:00 pm for a little noshing and schmoozing, along with the screening of the 2019 documentary Ask Dr. Ruth, about the iconic sex therapist, author and media celebrity, Dr. Ruth Westheimer. As she prepares to celebrate her 91st birthday, the film chronicles the life of this contemporary, groundbreaking Jewish woman and Holocaust survivor that will be sure to illuminate and inspire! (Explicit language is occasionally used.) The program includes a dinner and dessert potluck. (Wine and chocolate, welcome!) We will begin the evening with Havdallah led by our HUC-JIR student rabbi, Maddy Anderson. Please RSVP to Naomi Behrmann at nabermann@gmail.com or (248) 608-2480; or Pam Ovshinsky at povsh@yahoo.com






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Located at the corner of
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www.TempleBnaiIsraelofPetoskey.org

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Calendar of Events
 Shevat/Adar | February

2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wed.	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Jan. 26 10am – Sunday School	27	28	29	30	31  5:27	Feb. 1
2	3	4	5	6	7 7:30pm – Shabbat w/ Rabbi Maddy  5:37	8 11am – Torah Study followed by potluck dairy brunch
9 <i>Tu B'Shevat</i> 10am – Sunday School 11:30 am – Tu B'Shevat	10 <i>Tu B'Shevat</i> 7pm – Board Meeting	11	12	13	14  5:47	15
16	17	18	19	20	21 7:30pm – Shabbat w/ Rabbi Maddy  5:57	22 11am – Torah Study followed by potluck dairy brunch 6pm – Ask Dr. Ruth
23 10am – Sunday School	24	25 <i>Rosh Chodesh</i>	26 <i>Rosh Chodesh</i>	27	28  6:07	29