



Temple B'nai Israel

A Note From Our Spiritual Leader

As we enter Adar, the month when we celebrate Purim, the rabbis instruct us to increase our joy. Adhering to this message is not always easy especially when we are preoccupied with day-to-day concerns regarding health, family, finances and politics. Focusing on joy may seem tone deaf at this particular time when our hearts break for the victims of gun violence at MSU not so far from our doorstep, and for the countless victims of the recent earthquake in Turkey and Syria thousands of miles away. Yet our tradition still teaches *mishenikhnas adar marbin b'simchah*, "when Adar arrives, we increase our joy."

Like us, the rabbis of old and the generations of Jews who came before us had their share of worries, including those arising from violence and natural disasters, so the message of Adar is surely not telling us to put on rose-colored glasses and dismiss catastrophe. Esther and Mordechai, the main protagonists in the Purim story, did not stick their heads in the sand in the face of danger. They were well aware of Haman's evil plot; they took action and succeeded in saving the Jewish people.

But unlike the Purim story, the pathway to redemption often seems unfathomable in devastating circumstances. The rabbis' message of increasing our joy has to be reinterpreted to become more relatable, and rather urge us to increase the light in our lives. To let the light in is to acknowledge that we are not alone. We can turn to our friends and loved ones and support one another. Fueled by hope we can use our creativity to come up with ways of protecting our communities and imagine ourselves to be a force of change in creating a better world.

The Zohar assures us that God is with us in times of trouble. It says that the Shekhinah (the Divine Presence) is so near that She cries with us in our suffering. In allowing ourselves to be held in such intimacy, we open to the light of hope, not a benign hope but a hope of engagement and action, which we can embrace with joy. In that hope is also the light of love, that helps us acknowledge our own suffering and the suffering of others. It helps us remember the dead and care for the survivors in their grief.

The message of Adar also reminds us to savor the sweet moments and how precious they are. To hold the sweet with the bitter is to experience life in its fullness.

Blessings of Light and Love, and Chag Purim Sameach,

Hazzan Gabrielle

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EVENTS

- **March 10th** - 7pm - Kabbalat Shabbat
- **March 11th** - 10am Torah Study with Hazzan Gabrielle
- **March 12th** - 10am Sunday School
- **March 17th-19th** - LDVD Purim Retreat
- **March 20th** - 7pm TBI Board Meeting (Zoom)

L'Dor v'Dor

To see what the Consortium does, which congregations it serves, and who is on the Leadership Team, please check out our website at ldvd.net. The website also provides a calendar of all six congregations' schedules. For more information, contact Carol Ellstein at 517-881-0668 or cgeinstein@gmail.com

Purim Retreat

Intergenerational Jewish Weekend



Sault Ste Marie, Michigan
March 17-19, 2022
Best Western



Organized through the volunteer collaboration of the L'dor v'Dor Consortium (6 Synagogues of Northern Michigan and Ontario), funding from The Ravitz Foundation. Register at <http://bit.do/ldvdretreat>



L'Dor v'Dor



DONATIONS

Perpetual Kaddish

Mr. & Mrs. Jim & Betty Line
in memory of Ed Schultz

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in memory of Donald Wittenberg

General Fund

Robert & Alyssa Briggs
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Save the Date!

TBI's Community Passover Seder will be on **Saturday, April 8th**. If you planning to join us, please let us know how many will be attending by sending an email to tbipetoskey@gmail.com. A potluck Signup Genius will be sent mid March via our regular email blast.

| Funds Available | |
|--|--------------------------|
| Temple General Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> |
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| Circle which fund you are designating (above) and then mail your check and completed form to: Gus Paz, Treasurer Temple B'nai Israel PO Box 2416 Petoskey MI 49770 | |



Sunday School Visit to the library's Holocaust Exhibit

Temple B'nai Israel

PO Box 2416

Petoskey, MI 49770

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

For questions about programs, please contact:

Tot Shabbat: Lindsey - kaufmanlb@gmail.com

Shabbat and other events: Emily - efreedland@hotmail.com

March 2023

Adar/Nissan 5783

Su M Tu W Th F Sa

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|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|----|----|--------------------|--|---|
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 Candle: 6:11pm | 4 Parsha: Tetzaveh |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 Candle: 6:21pm 7pm Kabbalat Shabbat | 11 Parsha: Ki Tisa 10am Study w/ Gabrielle |
| 12 10am Sunday School | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 LDVD Purim Retreat Candle: 7:30pm | 18 LDVD Purim Retreat Parsha: Vayak'hel- Pekudei |
| 19 LDVD Purim Retreat | 20 7pm TBI Board Meeting | 21 | 22 | 23 Rosh Chodesh | 24 Candle: 7:39pm | 25 Parsha: Vayikra |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 Candle: 7:48pm | Parsha: Tzav |