

B'nai Israel

The Newsletter of Temple B'nai Israel

Temple Board

Gus Paz, President
(231) 347-5131

Valerie Meyerson, Vice-President
(231) 881-7676

Mark Rothman, Treasurer
(231) 373-2349

Jamie Schwartzfisher, Secretary
(231) 881-0729

Emily Stuchell, Mishpacha
(231) 330-4396

Carol Ellstein
(231) 525-9250

William Hindle
(231) 499-3340

Elisa Seltzer
(231) 330-1086

Jim Line
(906) 440-3888

Hal Willens
(231) 548-1412

Ben Azriel, Student Rabbi
(847) 452-5157
Asa Gold, Newsletter Editor
goldasa99@gmail.com

Rabbi's Corner

During my first weekend in Petoskey, I ended my sermon by saying, "Thank you for welcoming me into your home." In the two years since, I have made thirty-one trips to Petoskey which have given me the opportunity to realize something very important: I love this work.

Before starting at H.U.C., when I was asked where I wanted my rabbinate to end up, I would reference my love for business, camp, and youth—and that I would likely end up in one of those fields. However, the Petoskey community has made me realize the work of a congregational rabbi is fruitful, inspiring, and holy. I have been invited into people's lives during the most solemn periods (even officiating at a funeral for the first time), but have also celebrated great occasions with this community, welcoming new families, new children, and new moments of blessing during life-cycle events. **Continued on p. 2, "Rabbi Note"**



From the President

Shavuot (the Feast of Weeks) is celebrated seven weeks after Passover, this year from May 19th to May 21st. It was originally a harvest festival, but now also commemorates God giving the Torah to the Jews.

On the first day of Shavuot, following a community potluck dairy brunch at 11 a.m., Rabbi Ben will lead us in a celebration of the holiday. The tradition is to indulge in dairy items and study Torah until midnight. We will perform a modified version, doing Torah study until around 1 p.m. The Temple will provide the bagels and blintzes, while the community will bring other dairy or pareve dishes. For more on Shavuot and our celebration of it, see p. 3.

L'shalom, Gus



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May Events

Fri., May 4, 5:30 p.m. — Tot Shabbat

Fri., May 4, 7:30 p.m. — Shabbat Services w/ Rabbi

Ben Azriel

Sat., May 5, 11 a.m. — Torah Study

Sun., May 6, 10 a.m. — Sunday School

Sun., May 6, 2 p.m. — Temple Beth El Open House

Mon., May 14, 7 p.m. — Temple Board Meeting

Fri., May 18, 7:30 p.m. — Shabbat Services w/ Rabbi

Sat., May 19, 11 a.m. — Shavuot Brunch

Sat., May 19, 12 p.m. — Shavuot Torah Study

Sun., May 20, 10 a.m. — Sunday School

Host a Rabbi

If you want to get to know (or get to know *better*) our new student rabbi or returning summer rabbi, you can invite them to your house for dinner! Our student rabbi will be available on Saturdays, and our summer rabbi will be available most of the week throughout the season. This is a nice way for the rabbis to get to know our community and for our community to get to know our rabbis. Please feel free to give them a call and make arrangements; their phone numbers are listed on the front page of each newsletter on the left-hand side.

Retreat Registration

Registration is now open (see below) for the L'Dor v'Dor Intergenerational Retreat, which will take place on the weekend of August 24th at the scenic and rustically serene Clear Lake Educational Center in the central upper peninsula. The theme is "Putting the Pieces Together," encouraging participants to discuss their unique and varied journeys to and within Judaism. Resources will be available for interfaith families and individuals considering conversion. To register, visit <http://bit.do/wildretreat>. For more information, contact Carol Ellstein at cgellstein@gmail.com.

"Rabbi's Note," cont'd from p. 1

For over ninety years, this community has had student rabbis. Why do students return to Cincinnati year after year? Why are they so eager for September, when they can once again serve in Petoskey? It is because this place has so much love for its students and their continued growth. This community understands the role it plays in the formation of the next generation of Jewish leaders. Student rabbis come and go, spending one, two, maybe three years here, but one constant is this community's readiness to welcome new student rabbis, and support them throughout the year.

My experience has been no different. For that I want to express my profound gratitude. This community has made me realize my love for rabbinical work, and has led me to rethink the future of my rabbinate. You all have allowed me to grow; you have allowed me to challenge you; and you have challenged me. You have given me both words of compliment and much needed critique. Petoskey was my home for these past two years. Words seem inadequate to convey my gratitude for all those who have put so much into this community, making it the home that it is—to Jews and to all peoples. There are so many volunteers who put their heart and soul into this community through teaching, performing, leading, organizing, and programming. To each of you, I give thanks for giving all that you do.

Our synagogue is the home to all who enter. May its doors remain open to all who call it home, and may it continue to be a house of prayer, a place of learning, and a shelter of peace.

*B'shalom v'ahava,
Ben*

Shavuot Celebration

Shavuot, which begins on May 19th, is the culmination of the period between Passover and the Shabbat on which God gave the exiled Israelites their first Torah. There are myriad ways to celebrate this holiday (with, for example, the tradition of adorning the synagogue in fresh flowers); this year, the temple is holding a Shavuot potluck brunch, followed by the customary Torah study. Attendants are asked to bring dishes to pass (either dairy—which is eaten as a reminder of the Israelites inability to slaughter their cows on Shabbat—or non-dairy). The temple will provide bagels and blitzes. Brunch begins at 11 a.m.; Torah study at noon.

Temple Open House

Temple Beth El of Alpena has invited Temple B'nai Israel's members and friends to visit their beautifully renovated synagogue at the congregation's open house.

Our own temple has its roots in Alpena, from where in 1875 Sam Rosenthal, a member of the town's Jewish community, left for Petoskey, in which he would establish his mercantile business.

The open house will take place on Sunday, May 6th, from 2 to 4 p.m. All are welcome to attend!

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

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.

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.

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

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

5778

Calendar of Events
 Iyar / Sivan | May

2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wed.	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
April 29	30	1	2	3	4 5:30 p.m. – Tot Shabbat 7:30 p.m. – Shabbat Services w/ Rabbi Ben Azriel 8:32	5 <i>Parshat Emor</i> 11 a.m. – Torah Study
6 10 a.m. – Sunday School 2 p.m. – Temple Beth El Open House	7	8	9	10	11 8:41	12 <i>Parshat Behar-Bechukotai</i>
13	14 7 p.m. – Board Meeting	15	16	17	18 7:30 p.m. – Shabbat Services w/ Rabbi Ben Azriel 8:49	19 <i>Parshat Bamidbar</i> 11 a.m. – Shavuot Brunch 12 p.m. – Shavuot Torah Study
20 10 a.m. – Sunday School	21	22	23	24	25 8:56	26 <i>Parshat Naso</i>
27	28	29	30	31	June 1 9:03	2 <i>Parshat Behaalotecha</i>