



# Temple B'nai Israel

## A Note From Our Spiritual Leader

We are now in the middle of the seven-week period of counting the omer. The counting begins on the second night of Passover and ends right before Erev Shavuot. In Torah, the omer refers to the first offering of the new barley harvest, made on the second day of Passover. The next new grain offering was made on Shavuot in the form of 2 loaves made from the new wheat harvest.

The post-temple Shavuot festival that we celebrate today is no longer focused on an agricultural harvest, but rather, the rabbis reinterpret it as marking the time of the giving of the Torah at Sinai. In the kabbalistic vision, the counting of the omer invites us to see ourselves as traveling through the wilderness like the Israelites. The 49 days gives us an opportunity to work on ourselves and refine our character in preparation for Shavuot when we renew our commitment to receiving Torah and being in a covenantal relationship with God.

In the kabbalistic system of counting, each week of the omer relates to a specific Divine attribute of the tree of life: *hesed* (loving kindness), *gevurah* (power, judgment), *tiferet* (beauty, glory, inner balance), *netzach* (triumph, endurance), *hod* (splendor, gratitude, acknowledgement), *yesod* (foundation, creative impulse) and *malkhut* (authority, mastery, manifestation). On each day of the omer, we are to focus on the relationship of a single attribute embedded within the attribute of the week (e.g. *chesed within chesed*, *gevurah within chesed*, etc). There are books and apps available to explore embarking on this particular psycho-spiritual journey (see resources below).

We begin the first week of this month focused on *netzach*, the quality of endurance, that helps us keep the fires of faith, enthusiasm and inspiration aflame in our daily actions. Hope is embedded in endurance and in the belief that there is light at the end of the tunnel, that there is a higher purpose to our actions, that something good will come out of our effort and that there is nobility in the very act of trying.

Wishing you many blessings on your omer journey and a happy Shavuot.

Hazzan Gabrielle

**Books:** *The Counting of the Omer* by Simon Jacobson and *Counting the Omer: A Kabbalistic Meditation Guide* by Min Kantrowitz.

**Apps:** *My Omer*

**Music:** *Sefirat HaOmer Niggun*, <https://youtu.be/S8hCiPI1tMQ>

### TEMPLE BOARD

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YOU'RE INVITED

# STORIES OF EXILE

AT PETOSKEY DISTRICT LIBRARY

**APRIL 24** STORIES BY YENTA MASH  
W/SUZANNE SHUMWAY

**MAY 22** STORIES BY CHAVA ROSENFARB  
W/HANNAH MILLS FROM ZEKELMAN  
HOLOCAUST CENTER

**JUNE 26** STORIES BY JACOB GLATSTEIN

**5:00PM – 6:30PM • CLASSROOM**



**PETOSKEY DISTRICT LIBRARY**

500 E Mitchell St  
Petoskey  
petoskeylibrary.org

The Petoskey District Library and the Yiddish Book Center invite you to explore stories translated from Yiddish that share experiences of displacement, migration, and diaspora.

We have copies of the books available for participants. Please R.S.V.P. by April 15 by calling 231.758.3148 or email [nkessler@petoskeylibrary.org](mailto:nkessler@petoskeylibrary.org)



# EVENTS

- **May 5th - 7pm** - Shabbat Service
- **May 6th - 10am** - Torah Study with Hazzan Gabrielle
- **May 7th - 10am** - Sunday School
- **May 8th - 7pm** - TBI Board Meeting (Zoom)
- **May 21st - 10am** - Sunday School (Final for School Year)

# DONATIONS

## Perpetual Kaddish

Mrs. Melvy Lewis  
in memory of Milford T. Lewis

## General Fund

### Diamond Level Plus Plus

Mr. & Mrs. Foreman  
Mr. Charles Kiefer

# 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 [cgellstein@gmail.com](mailto:cgellstein@gmail.com)

### 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  Stacey McCracken Memorial Youth Enrichment Fund   
 Alvin's "Helping Hand" Rosenhaus Memorial Fund  Aubrey and Gerald Meyerson Perpatual Kaddish Fund

### Named Funds Available

- Tree Of Life Fund (\$100 per leaf)   
 Memorial Wall (\$180 per plaque)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 My Contribution is in the honor or memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

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

# 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

## May 2023

Ayar/Sivan 5783

Su M Tu W Th F Sa

	1	2	3	4	5 <b>7pm</b> Kabbalat Shabbat <b>Candle:</b> 8:33pm	6 <b>10am</b> Study w/ Gabrielle <b>Parsha:</b> Emor
7 <b>10am</b> Sunday School	8 <b>7pm</b> TBI Board Meeting	9	10	11	12 <b>Candle:</b> 8:41pm	13 <b>Parsha:</b> Behar- Bechukotai
14	15	16	17	18 Yom Hashoah	19 <b>Candle:</b> 8:50pm	20 <b>Parsha:</b> Bamidbar
21 Rosh Chodesh <b>10am</b> Sunday School	22	23	24	25	26 <b>Candle:</b> 8:56pm	27 <b>Parsha:</b> Shavuot
28	29	30	31			