

### Congrats from the URJ

I am delighted that the B'nai Israel family is celebrating its 120th anniversary. It is my pleasure, both personally and on behalf of the Union for Reform Judaism (U.R.J.), to add my own *mazel tov* and *yasher koach* to the many others I know you are receiving on this significant milestone in the life of your congregation.

Since its founding in 1896, Temple B'nai Israel has continually served the small community of year-round residents, as well as summer residents and visitors alike, providing an important Jewish presence in Petoskey and the surrounding resort communities. It stands, too, as a vital and precious link in our U.R.J. network of congregations throughout North America, as well as a long-time student pulpit for rabbinical students from the Cincinnati campus of our Reform seminary, Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. It is wonderful that Rabbi Maya and Menachem Leibovich are with you for the summer, and I am confident that they will continue to make significant and meaningful contributions to the Jewish living, learning, and celebrating you will do in the coming months. Our Reform Movement is honored indeed to count the community among our ranks and proud to claim it — and all of you — as our own.

*L'shalom,*  
Rick Jacobs, President  
of the Union for  
Reform Judaism

### Window Greeting Cards



The Temple is pleased to announce the launching of its new “Temple Window Greeting Cards,” which make great Rosh Hashanah/ New Year greeting cards.

They feature our windows in full color, as photographed by award winning photographer and Temple member Harold Willens. The cards are available at \$20 for a pack of eight, plus freight. They are also available in the lobby, at \$20 per pack, and a payment box is provided for your convenience.



### Tot Shabbat

Tot Shabbat will kick off this month with a community vegetarian potluck, during which we will welcome our new student rabbi, Ben Azriel. All ages are welcome to join, Friday, September 9th, at 5:30 p.m. Shabbat services will follow at 7:30 p.m.

**Thank You, Rav Maya**

We would like to express our deep appreciation to Rabbi Maya and to the entire congregation for their support during the Brit Bat of our granddaughter, Ivy Lake O'Neill. Although our son Justin and daughter-in-law Mia live in San Francisco, Northern Michigan has always been home in their hearts. To have our first grandchild named in such a beautiful ceremony will be a lifelong memory.

We are so very fortunate to have found this wonderful congregation.

—Susan Kroll and Ed O'Neill

**An Appreciation**

"I am back in my office after a lovely week in Northern Michigan, which began with my day in Petoskey. Thank you so much for inviting the Jewish Historical Society of Michigan—and me—to share in the celebration of your 120th anniversary. I was, and remain, truly overwhelmed with the amount of work your team put into researching and preparing for your celebratory weekend. *Mazel Tov!*"

—From Wendy Rose Bice, Executive Director of the Jewish Historical Society of Michigan.

**"Rabbi's Farewell," cont'd from p. 1**

This was the only day on which such liberal behavior was accepted from the young girls. Luckily, times have changed. As a female rabbi, I always search for Jewish stories that will empower our daughters and granddaughters, and so I find symbolism in the fact that I write this farewell note on, of all days, the 15th of Av. Firstly, Menachem and I feel blessed in sharing our summers with you. We are grateful for the warm welcome, the care, the many invitations, and the notes of gratitude.

It has been a full summer. We have had two b'not mitzvah, a naming of a baby, a funeral and a memorial service, eight sessions of Sunday Brunch and Learn, and I even got to be a visiting rabbi in jail. We celebrated 120 years of B'nai Israel with so many volunteers who made it a weekend of love and pride. It is hard to believe how quickly the ten weeks have passed by. They have been very meaningful to Menachem and me. We miss our family and will soon be home.

If any of you happen to journey to Israel, please be in touch. We shall see you again, God willing, next year. Much love on the 15th of Av, and all the days after.

*L'shalom,*  
Rabbi Maya

For times of bereavement and remembrance, the **Chevra 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.