



October/November 2010

# Temple B'Nai Israel

## Temple Board

Sally Cannon, President  
231-547-0817

Gail Willens, Vice-Pres.  
231-548-1412

Tom Johnson, Secretary  
231-487-1661

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231-525-9250

Bev Holden  
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231-347-5402

Lori Schulman  
231-547-1226

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## Rabbi's Corner

There is a scene in the movie, "The Frisco Kid", where Avram, the young, bumbling, Polish rabbi played by Gene Wilder, is talking to a Native Americans, Chief Gray Cloud, played by Val Bisoglio.

The Chief asks Avram, "What does [your God] do?"

"He... He can do anything!" Avram replies.

"Then why can't he make rain?" asks Chief Gray Cloud.

"Because he doesn't make rain. He gives us strength when we're suffering. He gives us compassion when all that we feel is hatred. He gives us courage when were searching around blindly like little mice in the darkness... but He does not make rain!"

Suddenly, there is crack of thunder and a downpour erupts. Avram shrugs, "Of course... sometimes, just like that, he'll change His mind."

The scene humorously illustrates the apparent capriciousness of God when it comes to the weather. Watching this scene following the High Holidays, I was reminded of a lightning storm that startled Jill, me, and the dog around 2am. The cold, wet, and windy week was dramatically different from the week of sun and beautiful weather that accompanied us last year at this time. The experience teaches us, try as we might to document and recognize patterns in the weather from year-to-year, God may just change his mind.

In spite of Avram's insistence that our God does not make rain, much of our religion has its roots in the changes of the seasons. Anthropologists of Judaism argue that Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur developed out of a need to purify ourselves of sin so that God would provide a bounty for the upcoming Sukkot Harvest.

(See Rabbi – continued on page 5)



Brent & Jill in Jerusalem

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## Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the congregation is scheduled for Sunday, November 7th, 12:15PM. We will begin with a Motzi with the Religious School families and enjoy a Bagel nosh lunch. The meeting will follow will begin shortly thereafter.

We all contribute to make our temple the wonderful place it is; your participation in our Annual Meeting will ensure you have a say in the future plans. You can take an active part in the realization of the Temple goals.

On the agenda will be presentation of proposed Temple budgets, election of board members and officers, and various departmental reviews. It is possible that board seats may be vacated by current board members. If you are interested in serving on the Temple Board, and are a member in good standing, please contact Tom Johnson at 487-1661.

## Upcoming Fall Events

Fri., Oct. 1, 5:30 PM – **Tot Shabbat**  
 Fri., Oct. 1, 7:30 PM – **Shabbat Service**  
 Sun., Oct. 3, 10:00 AM – **Religious School**  
 Mon., Oct. 11, 7:00 PM – **Board Meeting**  
 Sun., Oct. 17, 10:00 AM – **Religious School**  
 Sat., Oct. 23, 10:00 AM – **Johnson Bar Mitzvah**  
 Fri., Nov. 5, 5:30 PM – **Tot Shabbat**  
 Fri., Nov. 5, 7:30 PM – **Shabbat Service**  
 Sun., Nov. 7, 10:00 AM – **Religious School**  
 Sun., Nov. 7, 12:15 PM – **TBI Annual Meeting**  
 Sun., Nov. 21, 10:00 AM – **Religious School**  
 Wed., Dec. 1 – **First Night of Hanukah**  
 Sun., Dec. 5, 10:00 AM – **Religious School**  
 Fri., Dec. 10, 5:30 PM – **Tot Shabbat**  
 Fri., Dec. 10, 7:30 PM – **Shabbat Service**  
 Sun., Dec. 12, 10:00 AM – **Religious School**

## Religious School

The Religious School program has gotten off to a wonderful start. All the students are acclimating to our schedule and seem to be enjoying themselves. The hayride at Bill’s Farm Market was a new adventure that everyone loved. “It was the amusement park hayride,” stated Anne Johnson, “it was a blast!” The families saw a big part of the farm and visited the pumpkin and gourd patches. After the hayride the families enjoyed cider, apples and donuts.

On Sunday we were able to use the gourds to decorate the Sukkah, along with sunflowers and corn stalks. We then were able to celebrate with the lulav and etrog and eat a potluck potpourri in our lovely outdoor structure.

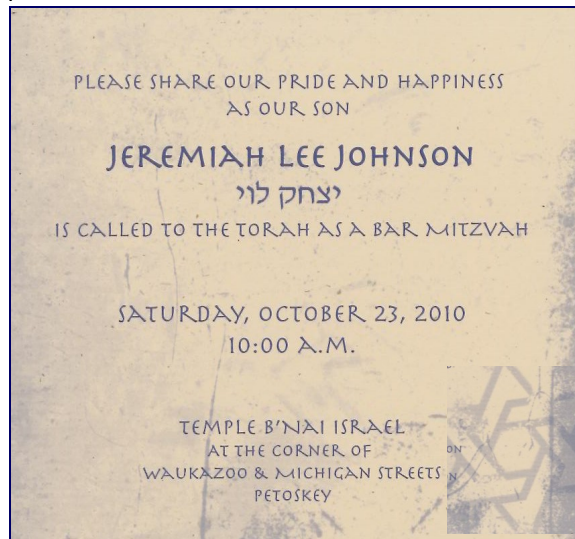
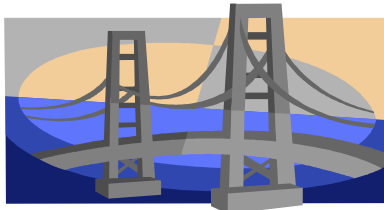
For questions about the Religious School Program, contact Val at 231-487-1661.



*Valerie Meyerson and Tom Johnson are proud to announce their son, Jeremiah, becoming a Bar Mitzvah. Please join them in the celebration.*



*This past Labor Day Temple member Dr. Josh Meyerson ran over the bridge with the Governor. He was delighted to reach the finish line and see that the race was named in memory of long time Temple member, Larry Rubin! Mazol Tov on a great finish Josh!*





## Donations Received

### General Fund

Gerald Lorence  
Gershon & Jeannie Weiner  
Dr. Michael & Rita Lindemann  
C & J Endowment – Great Cincinnati Foundation  
Julian & Carol Magnus  
Michael, Beth, Rachel, & Jack Silver

## PJ Library Comes to Petoskey!

The PJ Library is now available for children through age 8, who live in the greater Temple B’Nai Israel area.. The PJ Library is a subscription program where children can receive age appropriate books and CD’s to add to their personal libraries. The monthly subscription program from the PJ Library is partially funded through the Growing Jewish Families grant from the Detroit Jewish Women’s Foundation. For information about the program contact Emily Stuchell at 231-487-1017 or sign your child up at [www.pjlibrary.org](http://www.pjlibrary.org).



## Temple Beth Emeth Students Visit Petoskey

Cantor Annie from Temple Beth Emeth, Ann Arbor, brought her high school youth group to Petoskey for a visit. The youth group performed some songs and then taught our families songs and dances, which we were then able to perform for each other. Our students had the chance to play their instruments and learn some Jewish songs. We had clarinets, saxophones, drums, accordion, guitars, xylophones, percussionists and many singers and dancers! Many thanks to Cantor Annie and her students, we had a wonderful musical morning.



## 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 (Leaves \$100 Each, Stones \$1000 each) ☐
- ☐ Aubrey & Gerald Meyerson Perpetual Kaddish Fund ☐
- ☐ Donor Wall Tile Fund (Tiles \$48 each plus freight) ☐
- ☐ Tribute Fund (packets of 5 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:

Gus Paz, Treasurer  
Temple B’Nai Israel  
PO Box 2416  
Petoskey MI 49770

*Articles for the monthly newsletter are welcome. Please submit any articles by the 10th of the month. Although not everything will fit, I will try to include as much as I can. If an article is not date sensitive, it may be saved for the following month. Send newsletter information to Val at: [meyerson\\_954@charter.net](mailto:meyerson_954@charter.net).*



## Senator Levin Visits Petoskey

During a recent visit to Northern Michigan, U.S. Senator Carl Levin made a point to visit with our Temple community in Petoskey. The Senator spoke to a full-house about the latest legislative developments in Congress, including his work as Chair of the Senate Armed Services Committee. He also answered audience questions on foreign policy and Israel. He noted that he and his brother, U.S. Congressman Sander Levin are now the longest serving brothers, surpassing the Kennedy's, to serve on the Hill.

At the end of his talk, Joan Karff asked Carl where his commitment to "tikkun olam" came from? He replied "it was definitely his Detroit Jewish upbringing and his father and uncle's dedication to public service."



## WELCOME

We have a few new members to our Temple B’Nai Israel Community – please welcome:

1. Emily and Stephen Stuchell of Petoskey. Stephen is a potter and Emily will be teaching in our Religious School program.
2. David and Marcy Wolf. David and Marcy have three children, Tara, Ryan and Hayley. Mr. Wolf is the new GM of the Odawa Casino and Resort.
3. Rachel Goodstein of Rogers City and Chicago.



## New High Holiday Torah Covers Unveiled



The New High Holiday Torah covers were unveiled at Rosh Hashanah to the delight of all those in attendance. When the Rabbi opened the ark doors, there were audible sighs of astonishment at the beauty of the covers. "The fabric is just beautiful. The Torahs are shimmering," stated Roseann Paz.

The covers were designed and created by Mary Jean Meyerson. The large Torah cover is made in memory of Joan Chodak, from her many friends. The small Torah cover was made in honor of the Meyerson family and the back screen was made in honor of all the Temple women.

Mrs. Meyerson designed the covers and back drop to pull in the theme of the blue frame found on the windows and then added the sweet symbol of apples and honey for our delight. She wove the Torahs and the back drop together with a blue and silver Yad like band, made with some of the trim from the original covers. The beautiful white fabrics are quite unique as well. Mrs. Meyer-

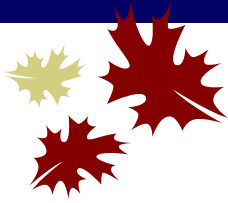
son hunted throughout the fabric shops of Chicago looking for the perfect white fabrics to help illuminate the Torahs. Her time was worth it, as the fabric truly does shine.

The Hebrew lettering at the top of the back screen states, "Let us enter your gates" and the bottom Hebrew lettering states, "Remember us for life."

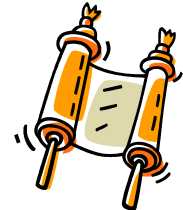
We will always be blessed with the memories of Joan Chodak and all the wonderful women of the Temple every year upon opening the ark during the High Holiday season.

Thank you Mary Jean Meyerson, for your beautiful work.





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wed.	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sept. 26	27	28	29	30 Simchat Torah	Oct. 1 5:30 Tot Shabbat 7:30 Shabbat Service 7:03	2
3 10:00 Religious School	4	5	6	7	8 6:50	9
10	11 7:00 Board Mtg	12	13	14	15 6:38	16
17 10:00 Religious School	18	19	20 Yitzak Rabin Memorial Day	21	22 6:26	23 10:00 Johnson Bar Mitzvah
24	25	26	27	28	29 6:15	30



*(Rabbi – continued from page 1)*

Indeed, Sukkot represents the change from the hot, dry summer to the cold, rainy winter in Israel. The Lulav sounds like a crackling downpour when we shake it, may have originally have been the Jewish equivalent of a Native American rain dance. Although it may not be immediately apparent, when we perform Jewish rituals, we emphasize a deep connection to the natural world.

In the past two years, Petoskey has felt the capriciousness of the weather: An unusually cold year was followed by an unusually warm one. A dry and sunny High Holidays by a windy and stormy one. We hope rain or shine you will come out for our fall holiday celebrations these next two months!

Shanah Tova,  
(Student) Rabbi Brent Gutmann

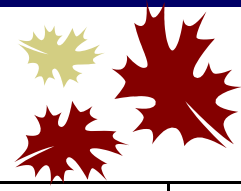
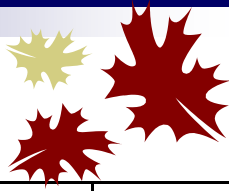
### Challahs Available

Simply Challah, by Emma Hindle, is offering freshly baked-to-order challah to people living in the Charlevoix and Petoskey area. Orders need to be placed by Wednesday of each week, to be delivered on Fridays. Petoskey orders can be picked up at the Temple after 4:00 pm and Charlevoix orders should contact Emma for delivery details.

Traditional Challah	\$5.00
w/Sesame Seeds	\$5.00
w/ Garlic Salt	\$5.00
w/ Everything	\$5.50



**To place your order call 231-622-1044.**



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wed.	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Oct. 31	Nov. 1	2 Election Day	3	4	5 5:30 Tot Shabbat 7:30 Shabbat Service 6:05	6
7 DST Ends 10:00 Religious School 12:15 TBI Annual Mtg.	8	9	10	11 Veteran's Day	12 4:56	13
14	15	16	17	18	19 4:49	20
21 10:00 Religious School	22	23	24	25 Thanksgiving Day	26 4:43	27

Temple B’Nai Israel  
PO Box 2416  
Petoskey, MI 49770

Located at the corner of Waukazoo &  
Michigan or on the web at:  
[www.templebnaiisraelofpetoskey.org](http://www.templebnaiisraelofpetoskey.org)