



January 2011

Temple B'Nai Israel

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Rabbi's Corner

Tractate Rosh Hashana of the Talmud tells us the Jewish people have not one, not two, but four different new years. One of those New Years, Tu B'shevat, which corresponds to January 20, 2011, is for the trees.

Why are trees so special that they deserve a New Year of their own? It is easy for us to come up with an answer. We love trees! But did you know that the Hebrew word for tree occurs over 150 times in the bible and that over 100 different kinds of trees, shrubs and plants are named? Trees were also loved by our Hebrew ancestors. Terebinth and oak dots the hills of Judah and Samaria. The cedars of Lebanon were prized for their majesty. The very first psalm teaches us, the man who delights in Torah shall be like a tree rooted deeply near a stream of water, growing strong and luxuriant. So, why wouldn't trees deserve their own New Year?

The recent forest fire in Northern Israel reminds us of the importance of our environment, and we mourn for the more than 40 Israelis that lost their lives. Far be it from us to neglect the trees or our planet or the lives of those lost in this disaster, because when we do as such, we also neglect Torah.

How can you make a difference? The Union of Reform Judaism (URJ) has partnered with the Association of Reform Zionists of America (ARZA) to create the Carmel Fire-Israeli Relief Fund. If you have not made a donation to yet, please consider a donation for your New Year's resolution. Visit <http://www.arza.org/news/israel/fund/>.

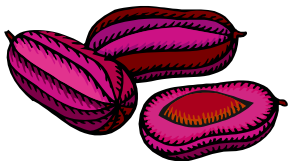


Brent & Jill in Jerusalem

Happy New Year!

Kul tuv, All the Best,

(Student) Rabbi Brent Gutmann



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Rosh Chodesh Programming Continues

"May it be Your will... that You renew this month for us for good and for blessing." So states the traditional Rosh Chodesh prayer that augers the beginning of a new Hebrew month. An adaptation of Mezorah Publications' Stone Edition of the Chumash adds: "On a deeper level, Rosh Chodesh symbolizes renewal, the ability of the Jewish People to rise up from oblivion and restore itself to its past greatness." Other sources note that modern approaches to Rosh Chodesh involve women-centered observances.

With feminine renewal and restoration in mind, Sisterhood/Mishpacha is pleased to announce our 2011 Rosh Chodesh schedule. The new year's offerings will include four events, organized on a seasonal basis. The three academic-year events will use last year's
(See Rosh Chodesh on page 2)

Upcoming Events

Sun., Jan. 9, 10:00 AM – **Religious School**
 Mon., Jan. 10, 7:00 PM – **Board Meeting**
 Fri., Jan. 21, 5:30 PM – **Tot Shabbat**
 Fri., Jan. 21, 7:30 PM – **Shabbat Service**
 Sun., Jan. 23, 10:00 AM – **Religious School**
 Sat., Jan. 23, 11:30 AM – **Tu B'Shevat Seder**



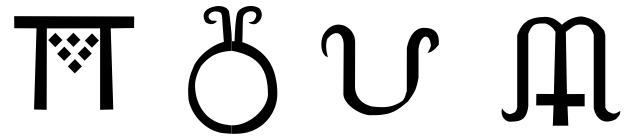
*Annual **Tu B'Shevat Seder** will take place on Sunday, January 23rd, at 11:30 AM. Join us for this annual celebration of our trees and share in the delight of the different types of fruit they bear. For more information about the Seder, or to volunteer your assistance, contact Val Meyerson, 231-487-1661.*



Rosh Chodesh *(cont. from page 1)*

small-group format to explore women's roles in promoting Jewish values via cooking, family relationships, and spirituality/worship. Our summer event will feature a brunch-anchored exploration of Temple B'nai Israel's heritage through its architecture and art. In keeping with Sisterhood/Mishpacha's evolving aim to appeal to all TBI members, women's guests (e.g., children, men, friends) will be invited to participate in the summer's Rosh Chodesh events.

Best of all: TBI's 2011 Rosh Chodesh program will be made possible through a grant from the Ravitz Small Michigan Jewish Communities Initiative, under the auspices of the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit. Sisterhood/Mishpacha is thrilled to be a grant recipient; we couldn't do this without their support! Look for the first program to occur in mid/late Winter. Additional information will become available closer to the date.



RAC Celebrates 50 Years in Pursuit of Justice

This month the Religious Action Center (RAC) which is the Reform Movement's social conscience and moral voice in Washington D.C. is celebrating its 50th Anniversary in conjunction with Martin Luther King Day.

The RAC was born out of the Civil Rights Movement, created by the Union of Reform Judaism and the Central Conference of Rabbis. It has since played a leading role in every major social justice campaign. The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights was long housed at the Center and for 30 years, almost every piece of civil rights legislation was strategized and organized at the RAC. In fact, the historic Civil and Voting Rights Acts of 1964 & 1965 were drafted in the RAC's conference room. To learn more about the history and accomplishments take a moment to watch the short video at: <http://rac.org/index.cfm?>. Like the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, the Reform Movement has embraced the principle: "the time to act is now--that each of us must play an active role in "tikkun olam" - the repair of the world - as part of our daily lives."

A key focus of the RAC's 50th is building for the future. In an effort to double the number of people on their advocacy and legislative networks in what has been dubbed "50,000 Voices for Justice," the RAC is sponsoring a contest open to all Reform congregations.

Every congregation that registers 50 new people on the RAC's network (18 for small congregations) between now and the 2011 Biennial in November, will receive a free copy of "Tzedek Tirdorf: The Social Action Songbook."

Two congregations - one that registers the highest percentage of its congregants and one that registers the largest number of people - will be offered an expense paid social justice program weekend. The weekend will include a visit from RAC Director Rabbi David Saperstein or URJ President Eric Yoffie, joined by renowned Jewish folk musicians Rick Recht or Dan Nichols.

It will take a community wide effort to win the grand prize and our Temple community has a great shot! Please consider joining the RAC Advocacy network, "50,000 Voices for Justice" contest. Go to the RAC's website at: <http://rac.org/spreadtheword/>. Let this be the year "we stop waiting for the world to change" and join together to "create the change we want to see in our world, today." (John Mayer). Best wishes for a healthy and happy New Year!

Pam Ovshinsky



Donations Received

General Fund

In Memory of Charles Lampert

Liz Frey
Gail & Hal Willens
Seymour & Sarah Lampert
Dottie Harwood
Kathryn & Richard Lenter
Sylvia & Bernard Cohen
Dennis & Nancy Liefer
Austin & Faye Kanter
Harriet & Richard Shapack
Sisterhood of Temple B'Nai Israel

In Memory of Marvin Winkleman

Gail & Hal Willens
Sisterhood of Temple B'Nai Israel

Aubrey & Gerald Meyerson Perpetual Kaddish Fund

In Memory of Charles Lampert

Berta Molasky
John & Barbara Mayer

Tree of Life

In Memory of Val & Ron Greenberg's Mom

Rosanne & Gus Paz

*Thank you from Lampert/Hubert Family for Tray of
Pastries during Shiva for Charles Lampert.*

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.

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



Mazol Tov for two of the Dwan – Gold girls!
Olive Dwan designed the button for the Crooked Tree
Art Center's New Year's Eve bash and Esmae Gold was
honored as the Sugar Plum Fairy in the Dance the
Halls holiday performances. Congratulations!



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wed.	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Jan. 2	3	4	5	6	7 4:55	8
9 10:00 Religious School	10 7:00 Temple Board Meeting	11	12	13	14 5:03	15
16	17	18	19	20 Tu B'Shevat	21 5:30 Tot Shabbat 7:30 Shabbat Service 5:12	22
23 10:00 Religious School 11:30 Tu B'Shevat Seder	24	25	26	27	28 5:22	29

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