

Temple B'nai Israel

Newsletter

“A Little Temple with a Big Heart”



**Serving Jewish families in and around
Monroe County, Michigan since 1954**

**Winter Edition
Dec. / Jan. / Feb.
2023-2024 / 5784**

Our Temple President

Harris Sacks



Temple Officers

President / Harris Sacks
Vice President / Jack Katz
Treasurer / April Ruttenberg
Secretary / Sue Pickens

Temple Board Members

Lynne Goodman
Jack Nida
Wayne Ruttenberg

Worship Schedule

All Services will be In Person and Via Zoom

Friday, December, 1st at 7:30 pm
Rabbi Shena Potter Jaffee will lead us in prayer
Oneg will be provided by Sue & Harris Sacks

Friday, December 15th at 7:30 pm
Rabbi Shena Potter Jaffee will lead us in prayer

Friday, January 19th at 7:30 pm
Jack Katz will lead us in prayer

Friday, February 2nd at 7:30 pm
Rabbi Shena Potter Jaffee will lead us in prayer

Friday, February 16th at 7:30 pm
Jack Katz will lead us in prayer

All Services Will Start Promptly at 7:30 pm

Any questions about our worship schedule, please contact
Harris Sacks at (734) 735-6110

Donations

Nathan Banker, Michelle Driscoll, Dr. Edward Feldman, Jim Geierman,
Sam Potter, Wayne Ruttenberg, Jewish Federation of Toledo.

Thank You All for Your Generosity!

Announcements

Get Well Soon

We would like to continue to wish our Dear Friends and Temple Members
Lou and Peggy Rosenberg a Refuah Shlema.

Thank You

We would like to thank Sue Pickens for providing the wonderful variety of food
for the Breaking of the Fast on Monday, September 25th after
Yom Kippur Services. It was fantastic!

Election Results

Congratulations to Harris Sacks for securing another 2 year term as President.

Congratulations to Jack Nida and Wayne Ruttenberg for securing another 2 year term as Board Members.

Temple B'nai Israel Social Club

Please join us, usually on Tuesday's, when the Temple's Social Club meets for lunch at various local restaurants at 12:15pm. We choose a different restaurant every week to help support our local establishments during these difficult economic times. Some of the restaurants we have frequented are Michigan Bar & Grill, R Diner, Mugsy's, Monroe Grill, Front Street Diner, Rice N Shine, Trapperz, Dairy Queen, A&W, Gander's Family Restaurant, etc.

Contact Jack Nida by email at
yadontknowjack@yahoo.com for details

Please Join Us!

Oneg Sign Up

“Oneg” means “Delight.” According to the prophet Isaiah, Shabbat shall be a Delight. Having something sweet to nosh on, Delight was added to Shabbat.

Please sign up at Shabbat Services if you would like to bring something sweet to nosh on for future oneg's. We ask that you keep it small and simple.

A challah, if possible, plus whatever else you prefer to bring.

Providing an Oneg is a Mitzvah!

Hanukkah Party

Sunday, December 10th at 3:00 pm
Temple B'nai Israel

Will you and your family be attending?
Yes or No.

If yes, how many will be attending?

As this is a Pot Luck, could you bring something?
Yes or No.

If yes, the committee will contact you and suggest something you could bring.
If you haven't done so already, please inform either Lynne, Sue or April, ASAP!

Lynne Goodman at irvlock@sbcglobal.net

Sue Pickens at lpickens@chartermi.net

April Ruttenberg at ruttenberg@sbcglobal.net

Thank You for Helping Us Make Our Hanukkah Party a Success!

Temple Landscaping Update

Photos taken by Wayne L. Ruttenberg

The temple landscaping has been completed! We hope everyone is happy with the outcome and will enjoy the beauty for seasons to come!



Board Meeting

Next Temple Board Meeting Will Be Sunday, January 28th at 4 pm.

Newsletter Deadline

**Deadline to submit anything for the
Spring Edition of the Temple Newsletter is
Sunday, February 18th.**

Only one item per newsletter per person please.

Our Temple Newsletter is published online only, four times a year.

**Please email any submissions to Jack Nida at
yadontknowjack@yahoo.com**

Rabbi Shena (Potter) Jaffee

Rabbi with a passion to enhance community by helping people find their own way to the beauty and joy of Jewish life.



If you have any special honors, life events, personal or professional, that you would like the Rabbi to share with the Congregation, please email her at shenapotterjaffee@gmail.com

Upcoming US & Jewish Holidays and Observances

Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day

Thursday, December 7th

Commemorating the attack on Pearl Harbor in Hawaii during World War II, 82 years ago.



Hanukkah

Begins at Sunset
Thursday, December 7th at 5:00 pm

Ends Nightfall
Friday, December 15th at 5:00 pm

Hanukkah, the Holiday of Lights, celebrates the miracle of oil that lasted eight days and continues to illuminate our lives today.



U.S. National Guard Birthday

Wednesday, December 13th

On this date in 1636, the first militia regiments in North America were organized in Massachusetts.



Bill of Rights Day

Friday, December 15th

The United States of America ratified the [Bill of Rights](#), the first ten amendments to the [U.S. Constitution](#), confirming the fundamental rights of its citizens.



First Day of Winter

Thursday, December 21st at 4:48 pm

Marking the first day of winter in the Northern Hemisphere.



Tenth of Tevet

Begins Sunrise
Friday, December 22nd at 7:58 am

Ends at Nightfall
Friday, December 22nd at 5:35 pm

A fast day commemorating the Babylonian siege on Jerusalem, setting in motion the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem.



New Year's Day

Monday, January 1st

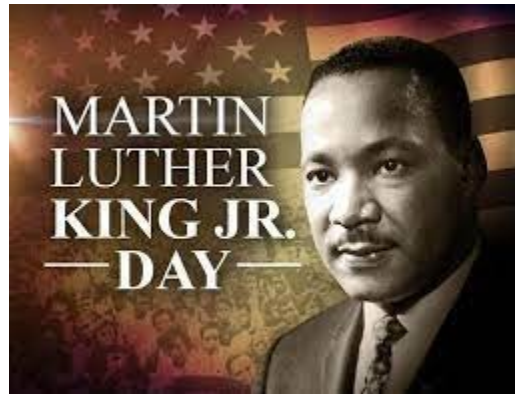
Marking the start of a new year according to the Gregorian calendar.



Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Monday, January 15th

Celebrating the life and legacy of a man who brought hope and healing to America.



15 Shevat

Thursday, January 25th

The 15th of Shevat on the Jewish calendar is the day that marks the beginning of a “new year” for trees.



Groundhog Day

Friday, February 2nd

This is the half way point between winter and spring. If Woody the Woodchuck emerges and sees his shadow, Michigan can expect six more weeks of winter weather according to legend. But, if Woody doesn't see his shadow, we can expect warmer temperatures and the arrival of an early spring. Michigan's official groundhog has an accuracy rate of 67%.



National Bagel and Lox Day

Friday, February 9th

Recognizing a popular Jewish American bagel combination.



Valentine's Day

Wednesday, February 14th

Today, lovers express their affection with greetings and gifts.



Washington's Birthday

Monday, February 19th

Celebrating George Washington, the first President of the United States.



Upcoming Birthdays



December

Jack Katz, David Manor, Doris Nida, Jack Nida, Laura Nida, Lou Rosenberg,
Peggy Rosenberg

January

Gary Kaye, Jolene Yourist

February

Debbie Nida

Upcoming Anniversaries

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

December

None

January

None

February

None

Upcoming Yahrzeits



December

Jack Boone, Yetta Braverman, Max Carp, Rose Carp, Lois Cenker, Moses Cenker, Abraham Cohen, Dora Colman, Norma Elconin, Laura Feigner, Ruth Feldman, Marjorie Gartner, Violet Hamerman, Herman Hertzlich, Eva Felman Joffa, Sadie Katz, Chris Messer, Denise Meniers, **Howard Michaels**, Leo Perelman, Sylvia Pick, Josephyne Lucille Price, Manual Rome, Douglas Rosen, Bertram Ruttenberg, Stanford Schwartz, Selma Seligson, Lawrence Shohrer, Myron Siegel, Anna Sisman, Marc Sisman, Janet Snyder, Janice Tabaka, Daryl Thompson, Samuel Vertman.

January

Nini Braunstein, Florence Bittker Ellias, Sol Eppstein, Ida Freeling, Betty Goldberg, Deborah Goodman, Jeffrey Griffin, Walter Gronberg, Jack Kessler, Dr. Joseph Kahn, Ralph Katz, Faye Levitt, Betty London, Jerry J. May, **Howard Michaels**, Isadore Mulias, Dora Nerowsky, Elizabeth Roth, Jacob Sacks, Anna Sadick, Esther Sadick, Thelma Schmolka, Malka Schwartzberg, Arnold Seligson, Bertha Sherman, Oscar Sisman, Karen Sue Thompson, Leah Vertman, Esther Yudowin, Herbert Zable, Alvin Zelsman.

February

Percy Philip Boone, Rivi Brandman, Bella Ellias, Malcolm Ellias, Strauss Gantz, Joseph Jacobs, Dora Katz, Frank Katz, Jacob David Katz, Emil Klein, Samuel David Klein, Philip Krawitz, Connie B. Mason, **Howard Michaels**, Deborah Neville, Blossom Peck, Irving Rosen, Sally Rotenberg, Edward Roth, Adolph Snyder, Dave Sadovitz, Harry Sands, Emma Schmolka, Rene Sevigny, Melvin E. Siegel, Harriet Sisman, James E. White, Isadore Yudowin, Benjamin Zable.

Of Interest to Our Congregation

The Craft Guild / Fiber Mill

Do you love to knit? Then the Craft Guild / Fiber Mill is the perfect place for you!

Gather around the fireplace for a chat and knit away with the unique alpaca yarn made and purchased at the Mill.

Make new friends and meet the folks who make your beautiful, one of a kind yarn.

In addition to alpaca items, local entrepreneurs sell at the store as well. When you shop at the Craft Guild / Fiber Mill, money goes directly back into our community.

The Mill receives Huacaya Alpaca fleece from area farms. Workers with Special Needs take this fleece and turn it into unique items. Yarn, rug yarn, rugs, batting, and shoe inserts are some of the products made locally in Monroe, MI.

Alpaca products made and sold in Monroe, Michigan.

Knitting classes open to the public.

14461 S. Telegraph Rd.
Monroe, MI 48161
(734) 322-2020

Store hours

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday
9 am to 2 pm

Closed Thursday, Saturday and Sunday

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Turning Challenges into Opportunities!

Photos from High Holiday Services

Photos taken by Wayne L. Ruttenberg



Simchat Torah Photos

Photos taken by Wayne L. Ruttenberg
Written and shared by Wayne L. Ruttenberg



Simchat Torah, also spelled Simhat Torah, celebrates and marks the conclusion of the annual cycle of public Torah readings, and the beginning of a new cycle. Simchat Torah is a component of the Biblical Jewish holiday of Shemini Atzeret, which follows immediately after the festival of Sukkot in the month of Tishrei. The observance is held on the last day of Sukkot, when the yearly cycle of Torah reading is completed and the next cycle is begun. Torah scrolls are removed from the ark and carried through the synagogue seven times.

We spent Friday night services at Temple Shomer Emunim for Simchat Torah. They paraded the Torah's around the temple, even I carried a Torah around the temple. They then took one Torah and completely unwound the scroll and read the first and last portion. The torah was then rewound and placed in the ark.

I took several photos of the event while holding up a section of the Torah.

The Shofar

Photos taken by Wayne L. Ruttenberg
Written and shared by Wayne L. Ruttenberg

Labor Day marks the end of summer. It is a time to take that last dip in the pool, family gatherings and the last barbeque of the season. Hot dogs, hamburgers and grilled chicken usually fill the air. The next day most schools start their new year.

This year was different. Chabad of Toledo was sponsoring an event to make your own Shofar. It seemed unique enough that we decided to give up the end of

summer tradition and attend their event. There was a good size gathering of families with their children to learn about building a shofar. One doesn't exactly build a Shofar but it is a horn removed from a horn of a ram or another "kosher" animal and processed to produce that well known sound.

The preferred source is the ram, for the following reasons:

1. It evokes the ram that was offered instead of Isaac, bringing to light the merit of Abraham who was ready to sacrifice his only son for G-d.
2. Its bent shape symbolizes the humility we feel as we stand before G-d.

A horn when it is removed is solid, the horn is soaked in water to remove the marrow from the horn, and this can take several weeks to complete. Once this inner material is removed then a measurement is taken and the tip of the horn is cut off, the end is hollowed out resulting in a usable shofar. Sometimes a hole is drilled to complete the air flow.

For this event the horns were already hollowed out and the ends needed to be cut off. The outside of the horns were sanded and a lacquer or varnish was applied resulting in a completed Shofar.

After everyone had completed their shofar, Chabad served a spaghetti dinner and a local bee keeper discussed the harvesting of honey. All in all it was a pleasant way to spend the afternoon even though there wasn't a barbeque.

A little more background on the Shofar

According to the Chabad website there are ten reasons why we blow the Shofar. The leading Jewish sage in the tenth century C.E., Saddia Gaon, listed ten major ones, each with a scriptural basis. Rabbi Sa'adia explained that the sound of the shofar should call to mind:

1. On Rosh Hashanah we coronate G-d as King of the world. The shofar's trumpeting call heralds this exciting event.
2. Its piercing wail serves to awaken slumbering souls that have grown complacent.
3. It evokes the shofar blasts that were heard when G-d descended on Mount Sinai and gave us the Torah.
4. It echoes the cries of the prophets who urged Israel to mend their ways and return to G-d and His commandments.

5. It reminds us of the war cries of our enemies as they broke into the Temple in Jerusalem and destroyed it.
6. Made of a ram's horn, the shofar recalls the near-sacrifice of Isaac, who was saved when G-d showed Abraham a ram to bring as an offering in his stead.
7. Its loud piercing sound humbles us and fills us with awe before G-d.
8. It foreshadows the Day of Judgment at the end of days, which the prophet describes as "a day of shofar and alarm against the fortified cities and against the high towers."
9. It gives us hope, mirroring the sound of the "great shofar" that will call together the Jewish people who are scattered to the corners of the earth at the time of the coming of Mashiach.
10. It reminds us of the "Revival of the Dead", about which we read, "dwellers of the earth... a shofar is sounded you shall hear."

While all of these ten are true and excellent interpretations, and are good to have in mind before or during the actual moments of the shofar-blowing, we cannot single out one of them or even all of them collectively as the real reason why the shofar is blown on Rosh Hashanah. The official reason is quite simple; G-d instructed in the Torah that the shofar should be blown "on the first day of the seventh month". But He did not confide in us what this commandment signifies to Him.

The shofar blower stands at the bimah, and begins by reciting a collection of verses from the Psalms followed by two blessings: The first blesses G-d, "who sanctified us with His commandments and commanded to hear the voice of the shofar." The second is the blessing of Shehecheyanu, thanking G-d for granting us yet another year of life, allowing us to blow the shofar once again.

The shofar blowing contains a series of three types of blasts: tekiah, a long sob-like blast; shevarim, a series of three short wails; and teruah, at least nine piercing staccato bursts. The primary shofar blowing consists of 30 blasts.





Jews for Judaism

Shared by Jack Nida

Jews for Judaism is an international organization that focuses on preventing Jews from converting to other faiths and reclaiming those who have already converted. It provides counseling services, education, and outreach programs to all Jewish denominations. It was established in 1985 by Rabbi Bentzion Kravitz.

The name Jews for Judaism was developed from "Jews for Jesus", one of the principal missionary organizations it was founded to counteract. One of its prominent early members, Larry Levey, was a Jewish convert to Christianity who then converted back to Judaism and led the Baltimore office of Jews for Judaism for a number of years. In addition to its activities in response to Christian missionaries, Jews for Judaism has also been noted for its critiques of the Kabbalah Centre.

Jews for Judaism has two North American offices, located in Los Angeles, California and Toronto, Ontario

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My Jewish Learning

Why Does the Mezuzah Go On a Diagonal?

Shared by Jack Nida

A slanted mezuzah is a great example of a compromise in Jewish law, Shira. It might look screwy to you, but it's actually a demonstration of two legal authorities literally meeting in the middle.

Way back in the 11th century, [Rashi](#), a French rabbi and commentator, opined that when you put up your mezuzah, it should be hung vertically. But then Rashi's grandson came along. He's known as [Rabbenu Tam](#), and he wrote that a mezuzah should be affixed horizontally, because the [Ten Commandments](#) and the scrolls were kept horizontally in the ark in the [Temple](#).

A hundred and fifty years later [Rabbi Jacob Ben Asher](#), also sometimes called the Tur, was writing his book of Jewish law, the *Arbaah Turim*. In it, Ben Asher suggests that the way to hold by the precedents of both Rashi and Rabbenu Tam was to split the difference, and affix your mezuzah at a slant (pointing into the room.)

Three hundred years later this view was codified again by the [Rema](#), an commentator, who noted that slanting a mezuzah had become the common custom among [Ashkenazi Jews](#). ([Sephardi](#) and [Mizrahi](#) Jews today still hang their mezuzot vertically.)

It's rare to find a Jewish custom that was so clearly developed as a compromise between two different interpretations of one commandment. When you put up your mezuzah on a slant, think of how you're acknowledging the ways multiple voices and perspectives are welcome and encouraged in Jewish life.

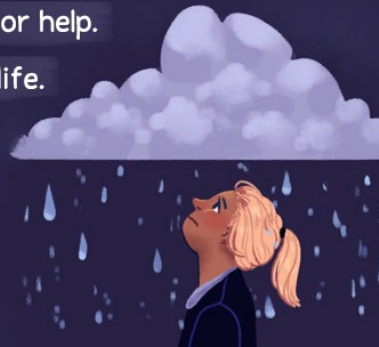
Positive Affirmations

POSITIVE AFFIRMATIONS For When You Have A Bad Day

- It's just a bad day, it will pass. I'll be fine.
- I don't have to be perfect all the time.
- Taking small steps is also progress.
- People love me and appreciate me.
- It takes strength to ask for help.
- It's a bad day, not a bad life.

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On the Lighter Side



"And remember, if you need anything I'm available 24/6."

Corrections from the Previous Newsletter

None

Our Congregation

Our congregation was formed in 1952.

Our temple was completed in 1954.

Currently there are approx. 8 families, 9 singles and 2 associate members in our congregation, as well as the Jewish Federation.

We are independent and not affiliated with any national organization.

Our congregation is non-denominational.

We are affordable! Yearly dues are \$350.00 and may be paid yearly, quarterly (\$87.50) or monthly (\$30.00).

Normally, our services are led by a lay person, but we also have a Rabbi during the high holidays and various times throughout the year.

Services are normally held on the 3rd Friday of July, August and September
The 1st and 3rd Friday's of October thru June.

Services are approximately 1½ hours in length.

Our Temple has its own Lighted Parking Lot

Questions and Concerns

If you see anything that has been forgotten, misplaced or misspelled in this newsletter, please email the information to
Jack Nida at yadontknowjack@yahoo.com

If ya don't know Jack, you're misinformed!

Welcome to our Temple!

**Located Near the Beautiful Shores of Lake Erie
in Michigan's Cornerstone
&
The Only Jewish Temple in Monroe County!**



Harris (734) 735-6110 / Jack (734) 731-5515
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Newsletter prepared by Jack Nida, Board Member