

Press Release 12/14/19: Judaism 101 Seminar

“There’s a Synagogue in Alpena?”

“There’s a synagogue in Alpena?!?!?!?” Yes, for more than 125 years, Temple Beth-El has been serving the sunrise side of Northern Michigan’s Jewish communities. As a result of the increase in tourism and new business opportunities in the area, more people are searching the worldwide web and discovering this historic jewel. In the past several months, Temple Beth-El received a variety of inquiries about Judaism. The interest in the world’s oldest monotheistic religion was sparked for many reasons: the results of a DNA test indicating Jewish ancestry, the recent knowledge of having a Jewish grandmother, the desire to worship with those who keep the Sabbath, or a longing to know more about this ancient religion.

The Board of Trustees, in accordance with the Temple’s mission to maintain their historic synagogue as a place of worship, Torah study, education and social and life-cycle events for the Jewish people of Alpena and area residents as well as foster, develop and share their Jewish presence in the interfaith community, recently hosted a Judaism 101 Seminar for those who expressed interest in learning more about Torah, Shabbat (Sabbath) services, and more. The first of the 3-part sessions, entitled “Judaism: The Basics”, was held on November 10 and explored what Jews believe about G-d. On November 17, participants in the second session learned about “The Sanctuary: from Artifacts to TzitZit”, and at the third session on November 24, “The Shabbat Service: Format and Etiquette” was explained. The lively, interactive, and very informative classes were deemed “excellent” by participants who expressed their desire for additional educational programs.

More information about the history of Temple Beth-El, including a beautiful video, is available at www.TempleBethElAlpena.wordpress.com