
January 2020

Temple Beth-El

Serving Judaism in Northeast MI since 1891 at

125 E. White Street, Alpena, MI 49707

www.TempleBethElAlpena.org

Hello, Temple Beth-El Website Visitors,

It is a pleasure to provide you with the latest TBE news.

WE GIVE THANKS

- **Service Leaders** Our lay leaders deserve much thanks for their time & effort in preparing for each service. They – and we – are becoming more familiar with the Eit Ratzon siddur, a beautiful enhancement to our Shabbat services.
 - **Gift Givers** Members and friends continue to be very generous to TBE. We greatly appreciate the beautiful upholstered chair for the Rabbi's quarters, the 22-volume Talmud, various Judaica, silver candlestick holders and trays. A very special "thank you" to St. Paul Lutheran Church for their very generous "Outreach Donation" which will be applied to our Guest Rabbi/Cantor program.
 - **Website Update** Please note our new website address is TempleBethElAlpena.org
 - **Goodbye Facebook** For a number of reasons, TBE no longer has a Facebook presence.
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Please note that our mailing address is:

P.O. Box 55

Presque Isle, MI 49777

Visitors

Visitors – Jewish as well as non-Jewish - are always welcomed at Temple Beth-El.

Please call 989-595-3544 for further information such as Shabbat service dates and times.

GREAT EVENTS!

Judaism 101 Seminar In response to a variety of inquiries about Judaism, the Board of Trustees hosted a Judaism 101 Seminar for those who expressed interest in learning more about Torah, Shabbat 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 Torah-based classes were deemed "excellent" by participants who expressed their desire for additional educational programs.

Chanukkah What a joyous Chanukkah party it was! On Sunday, December 29, we joined together for fun & feast. The community room was beautifully decorated and everyone brought a delicious dish to share, including scrumptious latkes. One of our guests entertained us with music and song, the candles were lit, and laughter filled the room with dreidels a'spinnin'.

Guest Rabbis We are pleased to announce that Rabbi Howard Morrison, who is the father of one of our members and senior Rabbi of Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue in Toronto, Canada, will once again bless us with his wit and wisdom at Shabbat service in March.

In addition to our popular Guest Rabbi program, we look forward to a very special Shabbat service and concert with Cantor Nina Fine of FL who will join us in June.

GRANT STORIES

FEMA: Out of 18 applicants, TBE is one of 4 MI organizations awarded a FEMA Non-profit Security Grant. This \$19,570 grant will enable us to maximize the security of our property and synagogue. Before funding is received, there are many training programs and reports that must be completed. Our Security Chief and other TBE members attended the first mandatory training class in Lansing on October 2. They must also participate in several webinars and complete many reports in the grant process.



Thank you

for your interest in Temple Beth-El, a synagogue where Hashem and His Torah are honored, where the customs and traditions of the various branches of Judaism are blended and respected in our services, and where peace and harmony reign among our members.

Inquiries are always welcome.

Please contact us at:

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RAVITZ FOUNDATION INITIATIVE FOR SMALL MICHIGAN JEWISH COMMUNITIES: Once again, the Ravitz Foundation has been very generous to TBE. In addition to funding our Guest Rabbi program, their \$4,000 grant will allow us to further enhance the security of TBE. A grant application was submitted to continue our Guest Rabbi program through 2020.

COMSTOCK FUND: We are very grateful to the First Congregational United Church of Christ of Alpena's Comstock Fund for their generous grant of \$1,500 for the electrical rewiring project. The estimated cost to replace the knob-and-tube electrical wiring is more than \$9,000.

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF NE MICHIGAN: A grant application has been submitted for funding for the electrical rewiring to replace the antiquated knob-and-tube wiring in the sanctuary.

JUST A THOUGHT...

During our Yom Kippur service, we read a passage from the Gates of Repentance called "Silent Confession" that is thought-provoking. It states: "I have also neglected my duties to my community. The Jewish people is only a remnant of what it was, a fragment of what it might have been. It needs strength to rebuild itself and to carry on the task entrusted to it by a hundred generations. Have I been a source of this strength? Have I enhanced its good name? Have I shared fully in its life? Have I even acquainted myself sufficiently with the history of my people and the teachings of my faith?" Folks, this TBE Jewish community needs you. If you are Jewish or are interested in helping this Jewish community, please contact us and let us know what area you can and would like to share *your strength* to help us carry on. It may be as simple as joining us at Shabbat services so we have a Jewish minyan.

IMPORTANT REMINDER...

We gratefully accept monetary gifts which are *essential* to sustain our synagogue. Checks, payable to Temple Beth-El, may be sent to Dr. Gregg Resnick, 110 Arbor Lane, Alpena, MI 49707 or secure payment may be made via PayPal or credit/debit card at our website at www.TempleBethElAlpena.org