



Temple B'nai Abraham

Temple B'nai Abraham
President – Betsy Ramos

The Temple Shofar
Rabbi Alex Lazarus-Klein

Sarah Seidel Sisterhood
Co-Presidents
Bonnie Friedman & Debby Weiss

5766-5767

JANUARY

2006-2007

Dear Temple B'nai Abraham Community

One of my favorite sections of the Reconstructionist prayer book, *Kol Haneshamah*, is in the back. There, the editors include readings on various topics including: prayer, nature, exodus and social action. While the majority of these are from Jewish authors and sources, there are several that are not. Topping this list are the two found on pages 816 and 817: a letter from George Washington sent to the Hebrew Congregation of New Port and Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I have a dream speech" given on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial on August 28, 1963.

Reconstructionism, more than any other American Jewish denomination sees itself as truly American. As we learned in Rabbinical school, we were the first denomination actually founded in this country. Mordecai Kaplan believed fervently in melding American values, of Democracy and Freedom, with Jewish values, Torah and Mitzvot.

While it is no longer a novel approach, fifty years ago, being American and Jewish was not always an easy thing to do. Kaplan specifically tried to put together Jewish responses to American holidays. He even published a book in 1961 entitled, "The Faith of America: Prayers, Readings and Songs for the Celebration of American Holidays."

So, it goes without saying, that a Reconstructionist prayer book would include readings from Washington and King, in addition to readings for the Fourth of July, Thanksgiving, Labor Day and Memorial Day. Nor, would it be unusual to come to a Reconstructionist service on a holiday weekend and hear Adon Olam (the final prayer in the service) sung to the tune of the *Star Spangled Banner* or *America the Beautiful*.

Martin Luther King Day (this year on Monday, January 15), is one of the easiest holidays to translate into Judaism. King, after all, often used metaphors from the Torah, and has a holiday in his honor dedicated to community service projects, a.k.a. Mitzvot.

On Sunday, January 21, our B'nai Abraham Hebrew school will take a break from our normal studies of Hebrew and Torah to turn our attention to a Mitzvah project. This year we will be putting together several activities including visiting our neighboring retirement complex Claire Estates to help out with the seniors there. If you are interested in participating come by the Temple in the morning between 10 and 12.

In addition, that Shabbat, Saturday, January 20, we have the great pleasure of having Cantor Daniel Green visiting our services. Cantor Green, who recently retired from a congregation in Toms River New Jersey, is Cantor Avi's father and was our guest this year on the second day of Rosh Hashanah. He brings a beautiful voice and a long history of involvement in the Reconstructionist movement, including serving years ago as the Cantor at the Society for Advancement of Judaism, Mordecai Kaplan's congregation in New York City. A special thank you goes to Sid and Charyl Morginstin for making this possible.

I leave you with the final paragraph of Martin Luther King's speech, "when we allow freedom to ring, when we let it ring from every village, from every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children, black and white, Jew and Gentile, Protestant and Catholic, will be able to join hands and sing the words of the old Negro spiritual: 'Free at last! Free at last! Thank God almighty, we are free at last!'"

B'Shalom,
Rabbi Alex

**Temple B'nai Abraham
Officers for 5766-67**

President	Betsy Ramos
Exec. Vice Pres.	Charlie Weiss
Religious VP	Michael Rosen
Financial VP	Jennifer Carton
Secretary	Eileen Gale
Trustees:	
Religious School Chair	Susan Giachetti
Membership/Outreach Chair	Stewart Warren
Building Committee Chair	Stan Zeichner
Adult Education Chair	Rick Shain

**Sarah Seidel Sisterhood
Officers for 5766-67**

Co-Presidents	Bonnie Friedman & Debby Weiss
Treasurer	Shira Lowry
Financial Secretary	Rita Nissim
Record. Secretary	Ellen Wehrman
Corres. Secretary	Mimi Geller
Trustees:	
	Susan Giachetti
	Melissa Fattori

**SHABBAT SERVICES, YAHRZEITS
ONEGS**

Friday December 29th, Shabbat Services 7:30PM
Light Candles 4:23PM

Friday January 5th Shabbat Services 7:30PM Oneg
Shabbat, Phyllis Chudoff and Robin Afrime hosts. We
will remember Lawrence Bowker, husband of Linda,
Eudell Rodd, friend of Linda Bowker, and Ethel Speiser,
mother of Bernie. Light Candles 4:29PM

Friday January 12th, Shabbat Services 7:30PM . Rabbi
Julie Pfau will lead. We will remember Blanch Cantor,
wife of Paul, and Bernard Zeichner, father of Stan.
Light Candles 4:36PM

Saturday January 20th Sabbath Morning Services
9:30AM **Special Guest Cantor, Cantor Daniel Green,**
father of Avi Green, our High Holiday Cantor. Luncheon
to follow. Susan Giachetti and Deena Kobrin hosts. We
will remember Julius Bloom, father of Randy, Ella
Kessler, mother of Henry, Rose Wasserman, mother of
Linda Bowker, Ida Josephson, mother of Sam, and these
past members, Jennie Groveman Minnie Gutstein,
Minnie Kaufman.

Friday January 26th . Tot Shabbat 6PM Pot Luck dinner.
Adult Services 7:30PM We will remember Rose
Goldberg, mother of Phyllis Kamer, and Harry Gutstein,
and Albert Reichlin . Light Candles 4:52PM

Friday February 2nd. Shabbat Services 7:30PM We will
remember Morris Herzog, brother of Madge Rosen and
Morris Miller, father of Ilene & Roslyn Miller.
Light Candles 4:19PM

AROUND OUR TEMPLE NEWS

SPECIAL GUEST ON JANUARY 20TH SHABBAT
MORNING SERVICES
**CANTOR DANIEL GREEN, father of Avi Green who
comes here on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur,
WILL BE LEADING SERVICES WITH RABBI ALEX.
Cantor Green was a colleague of Sid Morginstin's
father. This will be a beautiful service and invite all
to join us.**

Knitting Group starts this month.

Food delivery is on January 25th at 5:15PM

Tot Shabbat News

Tot Shabbat met in December to celebrate Hanukkah.
We ate latkes, sang holiday songs, heard the story "The
Hanukkah Mice" by Ronne Randall, and made
Hanukkah door hangers. Thank you to Rabbi Alex for
treating all the kids to a new dreidel.

Tot Shabbat will meet again on January 26, from 6:00 -
7:30 to celebrate Tu B'Shvat, the Birthday of the trees,
and to join together for our pot luck dinner, child friendly
service, story and craft.
Future Tot Shabbat services will be held on February 23
when we celebrate Purim, and March 30 when we
celebrate Passover.

For more information about Tot Shabbat or to join our pot
luck RSVP list call Sharon Dauber 291-9169 or email
sdauber@comcast.net.

Items for February newsletter due by January 17th

CALLING ALL TEENS!!!

Social Action

Calling all granola bars!!!! Please continue to donate boxes of granola bars -- help us remain part of the interfaith effort to feed hungry, needy families in the area. We need 20 boxes a month for this project, and in Nov. we only had 11 by the time the grocery bags of assorted items (other items supplied by other congregations) needed to be assembled and given out. The food pantry needs our help as well! Any non-perishable goods will be contributed to the area food pantry.

Hebrew School kids have had several service projects for senior residents at the Clare Estate in Bordentown in December and January -- mazel tov to the students for their caring and creative work! *Marcy Schwartz*

2005-2006 Host List for Oneg Shabbats Luncheons and Sisterhood Meetings

- January 5** Phyllis Chudoff and Affrime Family
January 20 Luncheon Giachetti and Kobrin Families
February 2 Bonnie Friedman and Popko Family
February 10 Luncheon Albanese & Ehrlich-Cook Families
March 9 Shira Lowry & Berny & Arlene Speiser Family
March 16 Liebman B'nai Mitzvah- Betsy Ramos
March 26 Sisterhood Meeting Patricia Light-Tolomeo & Bonnie Goldman
April 13 Marty & Rita Nissim and Neil & Karen Nissim
April 28 Luncheon Fechter and Aubry Families
May 4 William & Roni Goldberg and Brian & Bethann Goldberg
May 12 Luncheon Madge & Jerry Rosen and Marcia and Michael Rosen
June 11 Sisterhood Covered Dish Randye Bloom & Marsha Dowshen
June 15 Osman Family in honor of Bat Mitzvah
June 29 Member of the Year Rhea Goldman and Iz & Phyllis Kamer

NOTE

If an Oneg is canceled due to inclement weather, your responsibilities may be moved to another date. If the date assigned to you is not a good date for you, **YOU** are responsible for finding a replacement.

Programs and Services Available to Temple and Sisterhood Members

Sisterhood Joy and Sorrow

Cards of sympathy, good cheer, or mazel tov, are available through Sarah Seidel Sisterhood at a cost of \$2.50 minimum. Contact Rita Nissim at 298-5357.

Temple Joy and Sorrow

Cards of sympathy or good wishes are available through Temple B'nai Abraham at a cost of \$5 minimum. Contact Sharon Dauber at 291-9169.

Torah Prayer Books (Chumashim)

For those interested in purchasing a torah prayer book in honor of or in memory of someone, the cost is \$75. If interested, please call or e-mail Betsy Ramos. You may also sponsor our existing Siddur at a cost of \$35.00.

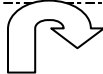
General donations For anyone interested in making a general donation to the synagogue that does not fit into any of the above categories, of course, the synagogue will be happy to accept the donation. You may send a check to Temple B'nai Abraham, P.O. Box 245, Bordentown, NJ and indicate whether it is for a special occasion and whether you would like the synagogue to send an acknowledgment to someone. If it is a non-temple member, please provide their name and address

Memorial Plaques

Memorial plaques are available at \$200 each. To order, please send the following information IN WRITING to Sid Morginstin, plaque chairman, (PO Box 8101 Trenton NJ or e-mail Sidmorgy@verizon.net. (1) English name of deceased (2) Hebrew name of deceased. (3) Date of death in the English calendar. Once the plaque has been put up, you will be billed. Plaques will not be moved from one board to another.

Cat's Meow Temple Collectors plaque

Sarah Seidel Sisterhood has available the Cat's Meow Collectors plaque of our Temple for sale at \$10.00. The plaques are imprinted on the back with the date of our establishment, and signed by the artist. Contact Eileen Gale at 291-0220.



Programs of Interest In January

Bordentown's Interfaith Dialogue Group will be meeting again on Thursday, January 18 at 7 PM at the United Methodist Church of Crosswicks. This month's topic will be interfaith dialogue itself, how can we be sensitive to the other. For those of you who haven't been to one of our meetings, this is a wonderful way for Muslims, Jews and Christians to converse together in a safe environment.

Please contact Rabbi Alex for more information.

Also, those of you interested in the topic, please mark your calendars for Sunday, February 25 at 2 PM where our Temple will be hosting an Interfaith Dialogue Program including Turkish food and fervent discussion on a topic to be determined.

Donations

Temple

Yahrtzeit

In Memory of

Norman Lamonssoff, father of Karen Nissim – donation to the Tot Shabbat fund from Karen and Neil Nissim

Sisterhood

Get Well

Stephen Klepner from Jay and Elaine Trackman

HIGH HOLIDAY PLEDGES

Sandy Cohen
Gerry and Madge Rosen
Joel and Marsha Dowshen
William and Rona Goldberg

Knitters Group January 22nd, 2007

We are starting our knitters group on January 22nd at the home of Temple president, Betsy Ramos at 7:30pm. All are invited to join the group, from the very beginner to the pros, and those inbetween.

If you already know how to knit, please bring your current project. If you want to learn, just bring yourself. Rhea Goldman and Eileen Gale will provide practice yarn and needles as well as some simple scarf and purse patterns for ideas.

You can get directions to Betsy's home when you RSVP to Betsy so we have an idea of how many to expect. Looking forward to "knitting" with you. (298-0437)

Eileen and Betsy

Hebrew and Religious School Notes

The Hebrew School will learn about the mitzvah of Tzedakah. The students will work on creating Tzedakah boxes that will be placed in the synagogue. The children will also work in participating in a Martin Luther King Day of Service. The Sunday School students will work on creating a mitzvah tree to hand up in the synagogue and show the mitzvah that they have done in and outside the synagogue.

Aria Lazarus, Hebrew School director and teacher will be sideline for about 6 weeks. Rabbi Alex will fill in for her. It seems she broke her foot.

Passover Seder

Kim Aubry has volunteered to chair the annual Passover Second Seder this year. Please call Kim to offer your help. Thank you Kim.

Supermarket Gift Cards

In order to understand the financial benefit the Gift Card program has on the Temple we will now give you monthly reports.

In the month of November we sold a total of \$2,250. gift cards and the Temple made \$112.50. Participating members were: Kamer, Weiss, Trackman, Gale, Rhea Goldman, Dowshen, Wehrman, Cantor

In the month of December we sold a total of \$3,300.. The temple made \$165. Participating members were: Madge Rosen, Zeichner, Bonatti-Zotta, Trackman, Dauber, Rhea Goldman, Schwartz, Ramos, Weiss, Swartzsbird, Gale, Dowshen, Bonnie Goldman, Cantor.

It is a painless way for the Temple to make money. We hope more will start getting gift cards. Just give me a call 298-5306. It is so EASY!

Many thanks to all who make the effort to get the gift cards!

Marsha and Joel Dowshen

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

90th Birthday Bash

We are planning on having a birthday bash sometime in the spring to celebrate our 90th birthday. We're working on the date and still need committee members to work on this event. If you are willing to help, please contact Charlie Weiss at 609-802-2766 or charlie@jande.org.

BOARD MEMBERS NEEDED

We are looking for people to fill some of the slots on the temple board, particularly the treasurer position. Please consider volunteering to help. We are a small community and we all need to help in some way to keep this temple going. Even if you're a new member, please consider volunteering for the board. Please call Betsy Ramos 609-298-0437 or bramos@capehart.com to advise if you are interested in serving.

Betsy Ramos

SARAH SEIDEL SISTERHOOD NEWS

Thank you Marcy for a delightful stress free evening of Yoga which was enjoyed by all. In March the Sisterhood will be holding a book review on the book Snow Flower and the Secret Fan by Lisa See. The book can be bought at Amazon.com or any bookstore and is available at the local library.

Please remember to pay your 2006-2007 Sisterhood dues now.

Temple B'nai Abraham and Sarah Seidel Sisterhood embroidered Tablecloth

Many of our new members of both the Temple and Sisterhood have never seen our special embroidered tablecloth. The cloth was started many years ago and has been an ongoing fundraiser for the sisterhood.

The cloth is very delicate and is used on special occasions during the year. Phyllis Chudoff has taken on the task of embroidering names on the cloth. Very soon, Mimi Geller, Sandy SchwartzBird, Bonnie Goldman, and Phyllis Chudoff will have their names added to this very special tablecloth.

Won't you join them and the many Sisterhood and Temple members, past and present, who have signed their names? The donation is \$5.00 to the Sisterhood.

jester's

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Bordentown Historical Society Open House Holiday Tour

Randy Bloom, Sid Morginstin and I would like to thank everyone who helped make our participation in the Bordentown Historical Society Open House Holiday Tour such a success. Almost 200 people visited Temple B'nai Abraham on December 9, 2006 between 5:00 PM and 9:00 PM. Many had never been inside a Jewish temple before, and all were impressed by what they saw and heard. Robin and Steve Affrime, Evelyn Rothman, Randy Bloom, Eileen Gale, Cheryl and Sid Morginstin, and Mike Rosen were our knowledgeable "tour guides". Jay and Elaine Trackman provided very interesting historical information about our congregation. Betsy Ramos completed the transformation of our Temple by hanging pictures and plaques upstairs and downstairs.

The "hit" of our tour was the incredible display of about 35 menorahs and dreidels. Our visitors were amazed at the variety of shapes, sizes and materials. Special thanks to all of you who let us borrow your personal possessions.

Rhea Goldman

Our President's thanks.....

We had a very successful open house at the recent Bordentown Holiday Tour. A special thanks to Rhea Goldman for spearheading our committee. Thanks also to all who helped with the tour: Randy Bloom, Sid and Cheryl Morginstin, Eileen Gale, Mike Rosen, Steve and Robin Affrime, Evelyn Rothman. We had about 200 people come through the temple on December 9 and all were impressed at our lovely facility

January
Tevet-Shevat 5767

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
December 31 NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL	1	2	3	4 Hebrew School 4:30PM to 6:30PM	5 Shabbat Services 7:30PM Oneg hosts Phyllis Chudoff and Affrime Families	6
7 Religious School 9:30 to 10:30 Hebrew School 10:30 to 12:30	8	9	10	11 Hebrew School 4:30PM to 6:30PM	12 Shabbat Services 7:30PM Rabbi Julie leads	13
14 NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL	15	16	17	18 Hebrew School 4:30PM to 6:30PM	19	20 Shabbat morning Services 9:30am Guest Cantor Daniel Green Luncheon hosts Giachitti & Kobrin Families
21 Religious School Community Service Project 10 to 12	22	23	24	25 Hebrew School 4:30PM to 6:30PM Mitzvah Run 5:15-6:30	26 Tot Shabbat/Pot Luck dinner 6PM Adult Services 7:30PM	27
28 Religious School 9:30 to 10:30 Hebrew School 10:30 to 12:30	29	30	31	February 1 Hebrew School 4:30PM to 6:30PM	February 2 Shabbat Services 7:30PM Oneg hosts Popko and Friedman Families	February 3