

**5765-5766**

**August**

**2004-2005**

Now that I am entering my third year at Temple B'Nai Abraham, I think that it is a good time to reflect on my experience in Bordentown. These past two years have been two of the happiest years of my life. On a personal level, I've graduated rabbinical school, moved twice, become engaged, seen my sister, Mara, married, and my other sister, Aria, graduate college. As a rabbi, I've led more than a hundred services, and presided over twenty life cycle events, including 10 B'Nai Mitzvah, 3 baby namings, 4 weddings, 2 conversions, 7 funerals, and 2 unveilings. With each service and each life cycle event I've learned more about the role of rabbi and its important function in the community. I feel very lucky and privileged to be present in some of the most intimate and important moments in people's lives.

But, the experience that taught me the most about the Temple B'Nai Abraham family came just a few weeks ago. It was only a day after my sister's wedding when I stood beside my Grandmother Clara's bedside. Still tired after a long weekend of celebration, I intended just to stop by on the way to the first of Mara and Chad's Sheva Brachot, seven nights of blessing in honor of the newly married couple. But, there in the Martin's Run Care Center I saw a woman hanging on to the last few hours of life. My grandmother's eyes were blinking up and down, unable to close, and her hands, holding on to the metal bars of the hospital bed, shaking with anxiety. While I had served as a chaplain for a year at a nearby nursing home, and had sat with many people on the edge of death, including my grandfather, my zhede, only four years before, nothing could prepare me for this moment.

Temporarily I froze, scared at seeing my grandmother in such a state. Then I held her hand, kissing the fingers, and sang with her, her favorite songs. For a few minutes, she passed in and out of consciousness, managing to sing with me some of the words. Then I told her about my sister's wedding, how happy she looked under the Chupah, dancing with her beloved. This is what she had been waiting for. I told her it was all right to let go, singing the Shema. I let her kiss my cheek and tell me she loved me. My sisters and later my mother sat with her, until she finally passed in the middle of the night.

I was suddenly struck with a mission. The funeral would be the next day in Harrisburg and afterward we would need Shiva minyanim in my parent's home. During Shiva the mourner is not supposed to leave their home, people must come to them to help them say the mourner's kaddish. Knowing that our family is small and that we would have trouble making a minyan on our own, I contacted as many people as I could to spread the word. On the top of my list was Temple B'Nai Abraham. I contacted our new president Betsy Ramos to send the e-mail, and Elaine Trackman to jumpstart the phone tree.

I expected a few Bordontownites to make the forty-five minute trek to West Philadelphia. I never expected the turnout that we got. On the first night, one came, then 10, then another 8, and finally 3 more on the last night. All in all, over twenty TBA members came to my parent's house, bringing food and love. This is not counting all the sympathy cards and donations to the Temple that we received in the mail.

My family and I were overwhelmed by the support from TBA. I cannot express how grateful I am to be part of such a Mentschlik community. As it says in the Talmud, "Happiness shared is doubled, and sadness shared is cut in half." May the spirit of Bordentown endure in good times and bad, and together, may we all do our part in repairing the world.

TEMPLE B'NAI ABRAHAM

**Temple B'Nai Abraham  
Officers for 5765-66**

**President** Betsy Ramos  
**Exec. Vice Pres.** Charlie Weiss  
**Religious VP** Robin Affrime  
**Financial VP** Jennifer Carton  
**Secretariat** Eileen Gale  
**Trustees:**  
**Religious School Chair** Susan Giachetti  
**Membership/Outreach Chair**  
Brian Epstein  
**Building Committee Chair**  
Stan Zeichner  
**Adult Education Chair** Jill Popko

**Sarah Seidel Sisterhood  
Officers for 5765-66**

**Co-Presidents** Bonnie Friedman  
and Debby Weiss  
**Treasurer** Elaine Zeitz  
**Financial Secretary** Rita Nissim  
**Record. Secretary** Ellen Wehrman  
**Corres. Secretary** Mimi Geller  
**Trustees:**  
Jill Popko  
Susan Giachetti

**SHABBAT SERVICES, YAHRZEITS  
ONEGS**

**Friday September 2nd Shabbat Services  
7:30 PM Oneg Shabbat** hosts: Popko and  
Trackman Families

**Friday September 9th Shabbat Services  
Shabbat Services 7:30PM**

**Friday September 16th Services and  
Temple Open House 7:30PM Oneg  
Shabbat** hosts: Bonnie Friedman and Weiss  
Families

**Saturday September 24th Shabbat  
Morning Services 9:30AM Luncheon and  
Adult Education follows - Jewish Alive  
and American** - host to be announced next  
newsletter

**Friday September 30th Tot Shabbat/Pot  
Luck Dinner 6PM, Regular Adult Services  
7:30PM** We will remember Ruth Pierce,  
mother of Ira Pierce

**October High Holiday Schedule  
Rosh Hashana**

Monday, October 3rd 7:30PM  
Tuesday, October 4th 1st Day Morning  
Services 9:30AM, Tashlich 12:30PM - Baby  
Sitting available only in morning  
Evening Services 7:30PM  
Wednesday October 5th - 2nd Day Rosh  
Hashana Services 9:30AM

**Yom Kippur**

Wednesday October 12th Kol Nidre 6:30PM  
Thursday October 13th Morning Services  
9:30AM, Yizkor 11:30AM  
Mincah/Ne'Leh 5:00PM Break the Fast 7:00PM  
Baby sitting available only in morning

**Message from Our President**

I look forward to starting the new year as your new President. We basically have a brand new Board as well. While the board retained some of our members, just about everyone on the temple board is in a new position. We're all learning our "jobs" now but we've been working hard over the summer to effect a smooth transition. We are looking into attracting some new members and will be doing some repair work to our synagogue over the summer and probably into the new year. Later in the year, I'd like to tackle some thornier issues such as expansion of our membership and facility. If anyone is interested in serving on any of our committees, we would be happy to have you. We always need help! Please let me know. I'd also be happy to discuss with any of you ideas for new programs or services that we can offer our members, ideas to upgrade our facility, or ideas to attract new members. You can call me at 609-298-0437 or e-mail me at [bramos@capehart.com](mailto:bramos@capehart.com).

*Betsy*

## TEMPLE B'NAI ABRAHAM

### **Hebrew and Religious School Info**

Temple B'nai Abraham invites families of Hebrew school aged students (6-13) to come to this year's open house on Sunday, September 18, 2005, between 10:00 AM and 12 PM. This will be an opportunity to meet with the teachers, learn about our program, and sign up for school this year. All students in Hebrew and Sunday school are expected to attend. Light refreshments will be served provided by our new Hebrew School chair Susan Giachetti. For more information, feel free to e-mail or call Rabbi Alex Lazarus (267)-259-9154 or "[mailto: rabbialex@bnai-abraham.org](mailto:rabbialex@bnai-abraham.org)" "

**Sunday** September 18th Open House, Registration and Orientation with Parents and Children 10AM to 12noon

**Thursday** September 22nd Hebrew School 4:30 to 6PM

**Sunday** September 25th **NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL**

**Thursday** September 29th Hebrew School 4:30 to 6PM

**Sunday** October 2nd Religious School 9:30 to 10:30, Hebrew School 10:30 to 12:30

### **Tot Shabbat News**

Our first Tot Shabbat of the year will be on September 30, 2005 from 6:00-7:30 We will begin the night with a pot luck dinner followed by an abbreviated, child friendly Shabbat service. The children will also hear a story about Rosh Hashanah and make a wind sock with Jewish stickers and designs to help celebrate the Jewish New Year. All children and their families are welcome to join us, and as always this service is open to non-members as well.

Tot Shabbat is also scheduled to meet on November 18, and December 23 so mark your calendars and be sure to join us as we learn about the Jewish Holidays in the most family friendly service available for the little ones.

For more information about Tot Shabbat or to join our pot luck RSVP list, call Sharon Dauber at 291-9169. *Sharon*

### **Adult Ed Program**

This year Temple B'nai Abraham will continue our "Jewish Alive and American" thirty session introduction to living a committed Jewish life in the late twentieth century. JA&A offers opportunities for asking questions about ultimate meaning and mundane day-day reality. We will explore our relationship to Jewish life and envision the role Judaism can or does play in our lives. The class will meet twice a month, either on Saturday or Sunday afternoons for one hour each session (On Sunday we will meet between 1-2 PM and Saturday between 12:30-1:30 PM). The following dates have been tentatively selected: 9/24, 10/9, 10/23, 11/12, 11/20, 12/17, 1/8, 1/21, 2/4, 2/26, 3/18, 3/26, 4/22, 4/30 and 5/21. All those interested in learning about Judaism, its roots, its history and texts and the opportunities Judaism offers to live, learn, celebrate, pray and relate to life's challenges in a Jewish way, today, please contact Rabbi Alex Lazarus - 267-269-9154, rabbialex@bnai-abraham.org.

*Rabbi Alex*

### **Website calendar**

We will be updating our website this fall and making it more interactive. Our major change will be a calendar which will have the dates of all events at the synagogue. Our web site is [www.bnai-abraham.org](http://www.bnai-abraham.org). This will be another resource for our members to get dates and times for upcoming events. Any changes to the temple calendar must be sent through our Board secretary, Eileen Gale. You can reach her at 291-0220 or egale10@netscape.com.

**Break the Fast** will be Thursday October 13th. All are invited to participate at the close of Yom Kippur services. The cost is \$10.00 per adult, children 6-12, \$5.00, with children under 5 free. You will be asked to provide a prepared covered dish and to help set up or clean up. **Reservations must be made to attend.** Please call Rita Nissim at 298-5357 by October 1st.

## TEMPLE B'NAI ABRAHAM

### **RELIGIOUS COMMITTEE**

An updated YAHRZTEIT list is on the bulletin board. It is sorted by the deceased's last name. Please check it carefully. If you find any errors, or wish to add a name, please give me the information in WRITING. You can send an e-mail to ["LEADSTAMP@AOL.COM"](mailto:LEADSTAMP@AOL.COM). Please use "YAHRTZEIT LIST UPDATE" as the subject. I need the name of the deceased, the date of death, the relationship to you, and your name.

Cantor Avi Green will be back with us this year for the High Holidays. The Rabbi, Avi, and I are already working on the service plan.

If you do not desire an honor (an Aliyah, English reading, or Ark opening/closing), please remind me when you come into the service.

Last year, I was asked how I decide who gets an Aliyah. I use a priority system: (1) Current board members (2) Past board members (3) Members who regularly attend services. If you desire an Aliyah or any other honor, please ask. (This is especially true for those who sit downstairs.) I start giving out the Aliyahs early in the service.

We seem to be missing some prayer books. Please check around your homes for any prayer books that you might have.

It is OK if you take a prayer book home. Please notify either Jay Trackman, Rabbi, or myself and return it back as soon as possible.

Speaking of which, we have about 24 of the old Silverman Sabbath and Festival prayer books. The Rabbi asked if he could give them to another congregation. The Religious Committee approved this request.

*Thank you, Sid Morginstin*

Should Temple B'Nai Abraham allow electronic music on Shabbat?

That's a question that the religious committee has been pondering for the past few months. There are people on both sides of this traditional coin. Some say that we already allow music, and therefore electronic music should be no different. It has even been brought up that it was allowed at a Bar Mitzvah in the recent past and our policy should therefore allow it. I would like to say that the situation is that simple but actually it is not. There are members of our congregation who would not be comfortable with electronic music being played during Shabbat. Reconstructionist synagogues differ in their approach to electronic music during services.

So for the time being the religious committee recommends that we do not allow this type of music during Shabbat, but instead plan some non-Shabbat occasions when we use and enjoy this type of musical program.

If you have an opinion you would like to share or discuss please contact me at 609-499-1761.

Robin Affrime  
Religious VP

### ***Electronic newsletter***

Starting with the September issue, those of you who have e-mail addresses, will receive your newsletter electronically. The printing and postage costs are substantial for the temple, not to mention the labor involved to send out the newsletters each month. We are still working on the logistics but we expect to send out the first electronic newsletter around September 1. Of course, our members without e-mail will still receive a print copy in the mail.

## TEMPLE B'NAI ABRAHAM

### **SARAH SEIDEL SISTERHOOD CALLING ALL WOMEN**

1. Do you desire to foster a sense of communal responsibility?
2. Want to sponsor and encourage youth activities?
3. Aspire to engage in civic and philanthropic activities?
4. Care to stress ethical and religious practices in everyday living?
5. Desire to promote the welfare of our congregation and religious school?
6. Wish to participate in educational and cultural programs while developing social relationships with like minded women?

If you answered yes to one or more of these questions, then Sarah Seidel Sisterhood is for you! We have an exciting year of activities, events and fundraisers planned for this year.

Join us at our first meeting on SEPTEMBER 12th, 7:30 pm at the Temple. Dress casually because we will be making Honey Pots to sell at our first fundraiser - Jewish Cooking! (If you have fabric, pinking shears, please bring them.)

Dues to join Sisterhood are \$25.00 per year. The relationships you form and the contributions you will make to the congregation and community - Priceless!

*We hope to see you there.*

### **FROM OUR SISTERHOOD CO-PRESIDENTS**

We are honored, excited, and *a bit overwhelmed* by the appointment as Sisterhood Co-Presidents. We have been working very well together to gain a deeper understanding of the essence of Sisterhood and the importance of this organization's role in our synagogue and our community. We have been received with warmth, welcome and generosity as we acclimate to our new positions. Our goals are to develop female relationships by providing stimulating and fun programs, to contribute to the expansion and enhancement of our synagogue through financial and service contributions, to aid in improving the lives of women, children and families across all generations and religious affiliations, and to connect with the community at large.

In addition to the established services that

sisterhood already provides such as the newsletter, oneg, joy and sorrow cards, Shiva services, telephone notification chain, and Bar/Bat Mitzvah gifts, we have developed a varied program of events throughout the year. We have created five fundraisers (***the first, scheduled on 9/22, is an adult/child Jewish cooking class and Pot O' Honey sale for the holidays*** - see Calendar) as well as three community outreach events in addition to our standard blood drive. (*Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure is the first of these events scheduled on October 16th, 2005*)

We would like to thank all committee chair persons and members who have graciously agreed to continue on in their positions - some held for many, many years now! We congratulate and welcome all new and returning members of the Temple Board and Committees. We look forward to working together with them to improve our temple, enhance our community and connect with the community at large.

### **JUST A SNIFF...**

**Parent/Child Jewish Cooking Experience - Thursday, September 22 at Temple, 7:30 pm** (All are welcome - single adults, couples, etc)

Have fun with your child(ren) learning how to create delectable Jewish cuisine! There will be three cooking stations to entice all ages and palettes. For a \$25.00 donation you can join the fun, support the congregation and learn how to create (and eat) yummy food - just in time for the holidays! *Note: Any Hebrew students who will remain to participate with parents will be fed pizza and salad prior to the event.*

Another year long fund raiser project:  
Cookbook Revised  
*Bonnie & Debby*

The **New Year Cards** will be printed on September 15<sup>th</sup>. If you have not made a request and paid your \$5.00 to Rita Nissim, your name will not appear on the card. Please contact Rita if you would like to participate at 298-5357 as soon as possible.

TEMPLE B'NAI ABRAHAM

**Sisterhood Meeting and Event Dates**

September 12th Hosts Sandy SchwartzBird  
and Ellen Wehrman  
September 22 Cooking Class  
October 10 Sisterhood Meeting  
October 16 Race for the Cure  
November 14 High Tea/Book Review  
December Blood Drive  
January 9 Sisterhood Meeting  
February 13 Sisterhood Meeting-Yoga  
March 6 Sisterhood Meeting-Women's  
Space Speaker  
May 8 Sisterhood Meeting-Mah Jong  
Partners  
June 12 Covered Dish

The Oneg Shabbat and Sisterhood hosts list will be published in the next newsletter. When you host an Oneg or Sisterhood meeting, please bring your favorite recipe in writing along with any brief commentary on it to be included in our end of the year COOKBOOK!

***Around our Temple and Sisterhood***

**Shryle and Sol Kushner** send a special thank you to all for the kind get well cards and donations.

**From our newest convert.....**

Thank you, everyone, so very much for the good wishes, affection and of course, the delicious cake the night of my conversion. Shortly thereafter, I was talking with a friend about this congregation and realized how fortunate I was to have started coming here, and for those who took an interest in me. Thanks especially to our Rabbi Alex for everything, and especially to Marcy Schwarz and Jay Trackman for coming to Shir Ami for the "beit din" and witnessing my teuvelling in the Mikvah. Next stop, Bar Mitzvah... Shalom, Gilad Benyamin ben Avraham v'Sarah  
*Kevin Smith*

The Temple and Sisterhood communities wish a hearty **Mazel Tov to Bill and Louise Thompson** on the marriage of their son. Thank you **Phyllis Chudoff** for donating stamps for mailing our first newsletter.

**July/August 2005 Donations Temple Fund**

***In Memory of:***

**Abraham Zeitz:** Carl and Elaine Zeitz  
**Lou Rosenberg:** Ellen Wehrman  
**Louis Rosen:** Gerald and Madge Rosen  
**Bee Busch:** Phyllis Busch and Ilene Miller  
**Sol Schaffer:** Rhoda and Henry Kessler  
**Max Light:** Patricia Light-Tolomeo  
**Clare Locke ( Rabbi's grandmother):** Michael and Sharon Dauber & Family, Marcy Schwartz & Rich Shain, & family  
**Noreen Goldenberg:** Phyllis and Is Kamer  
**Thomas Jaichner:** Rita and Marty Nissim  
**Frances Epstein (Mother)** Rhea Goldman  
**Prayer Book Fund**

***In Memory of:***

**Bernard Black:** Leonard Black  
**Clare Locke (Rabbi's grandmother):** Betsy Ramos

***In Honor of:***

**Marriage of Jeffrey Goldman and Shirley Littleford:** Betsy Ramos  
**Sid and Marlene Lavine 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary:** Jay and Elaine Trackman  
**Sisterhood Joy and Sorrow**

***In Honor of:***

**Bill and Louise Thompson's son's marriage:** Jay and Elaine Trackman  
**Rita Nissim's birthday:** Marlene and Sid Lavine  
**Michael Rosen for a job as President that was so successful:** Sid and Charyl Morginstin, Phyllis and Is Kamer  
**Barbara and Jeff Streisfeld on son's marriage:** Is and Phyllis Kamer  
**Rabbi Alex and Ashirah** on your recent engagement: Sid and Marleen Lavine, Is and Phyllis Kamer

***Get Well Wishes:***

**Sherman Gould:** Sol and Shyrley Kushner  
**Bob Stone:** Lee and Marcel Nissim

***In Memory of:***

**Clare Locke:** Sid and Charyl Morginstin, Eileen Gale, Phyllis and Is Kamer, Joanne and Ted Lutz, Robin and Steve Affrime, Phyllis Chudoff, Marty and Rita Nissim, Jay and Elaine Trackman, Randy Bloom and Michael Scolaro, Sid and Marlene Lavine  
**Mildred Josephson:** Bonnie Goldman and Steve Lederman, Jeffrey Goldman and Shirley Littleford

## TEMPLE B'NAI ABRAHAM

### ***Programs and Services Available to Temple and Sisterhood Members***

#### **Sisterhood Joy and Sorrow**

Cards of sympathy or good cheer, mazel tov, are available through Sarah Seidel Sisterhood at a cost of \$2.50 minimum.

#### **Temple Joy and Sorrow**

Cards of sympathy or good wishes are available through Temple B'Nai Abraham at a cost of \$5 minimum. Prayer books can also be purchased for honoring or remembering a loved one. Contact Sharon Dauber at 291-9169.

#### **New Year Card**

Sisterhood sponsored New Year card is designed by Sandy SchwartzBird. You may have your name included in the card by calling Rita Nissim at 298-5357. The cost is \$5.00. Contact Rita Nissim at 298-5357

#### **Cat's Meow 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. These plaques were sold at The U and I Book Store for many years. Contact Eileen Gale at 291-0220 for your plaque.

#### **Break The Fast**

Each year at the conclusion of Yom Kippur services, The Sarah Seidel Sisterhood sponsors a community break the fast. **Reservations are required** by calling Rita Nissim at 298-5357. The cost is \$10 for adults, \$5 for children 6-12, free for children under 5. Each family/member will be asked to provide a prepared food to share and help set up or clean up.

#### **Super Market Gift Cards.**

Please remember to purchase Supermarket gift cards for the Acme and Shop Rite. This fundraiser is ongoing throughout the year. The gift cards are purchased at dollar for dollar value. The Temple receives 5% making this is a great way to support our temple. Contact Joel Dowshen and he will see that you will receive them in a timely manner. 298-5306.

#### **Postage Stamps**

The Temple has purchased \$.37 stamps from Sid Morginstin at a discount and are available for sale for your use at face value. You may contact our Treasurer Jennifer Carlton if you would like to purchase any. She can be reached at 324-8358.

# SEPTEMBER 2005

ELUL 5765

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 Shabbat Services 7:30PM Oneg hosted by Popko and Trackman Families	3
4	5	6	7	8	9 Shabbat Services 7:30PM	10
11	12 Sarah Seidel Sisterhood Sandy Schwartz/Bird and Ellen Wehrman hosts 7:30PM	13	14	15	16 Services and Temple Open House 7:30PM Hosts Bonnie Friedman and Weiss Families	17
18 Religious School and Hebrew School Orientation Students and Parents 10 to 12	19	20	21	22 Hebrew School 4:30PM to 6:30PM	23	24 Shabbat Morning Services 9:30AM Lunch & Adult Ed Jewish Alive and American Hosts to be announced
25  <b>NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL</b>	26	27	28	29 Hebrew School 4:30PM to 6:30PM	30 Tot Shabbat Services and Pot Luck Dinner 6PM Adult Services 7:30PM	<b>October 1</b>
10/2 Religious School 9:30 to 10:30 10:30 to 12:30	10/3 Rosh Hashana Services 7:30PM	10/4 Rosh Hashana Morning Services 9:30AM, Tashlich 12:30PM Evening Services 7:30PM Baby Sitting Available for Morning Services	10/5 Rosh Hashana Morning services 9:30AM	10/6 Hebrew School 4:30PM to 6:30PM	10/7 Shabbat Services 7:30PM	10/8