



Temple B'nai Abraham

Temple B'nai Abraham
President – Betsy Ramos

The Temple Shofar

Rabbi Alex Lazarus

Sarah Seidel Sisterhood
Co-Presidents-Bonnie Friedman
Debbie Weiss

5765-5766

DECEMBER

2005-2006

Several years ago an e-mail circulated in cyberspace that began, "Continuing the current trend of large-scale mergers and acquisitions, it was announced today at a press conference that Christmas and Chanukah will merge." The e-mail detailed the creation of a new fifteen-day holiday called Chrismukah. Rituals such as Santa Claus and the dreidel would be shared by both Jews and Christians, only now the letters on the dreidel would be in Latin. And, instead of spelling out "a great miracle happened there," would simply say, "miraculous stuff happens." Likewise, popular Christmas carols would now be sung partially in Yiddish, like for example, "Oy Vey, All Ye Faithful." While fictitious, the e-mail was a good demonstration of how our holidays today, both Christian and Jewish, have become increasingly commercialized by corporations and others trying to make a buck. In order to fight this trend, especially in a year when Chanukah and Christmas do coincide, here are 5 good causes to support in the coming year. All of them are listed on the JRF website (www.jrf.org) and are affiliates of the Reconstructionist movement.

Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life (COEJL) - The Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life was founded in 1993 to promote environmental education, scholarship, advocacy, and action in the American Jewish community. COEJL is sponsored by a broad coalition of national Jewish organizations.

Jewish Coalition Responding to HIV / AIDS in Africa - The Jewish Coalition Responding to AIDS in Africa is a project of the American Jewish World Service. It is a coalition of Jewish organizations and congregations convened to educate the American Jewish community on the dimensions and dangers of the HIV/AIDS pandemic, to provide a strong, unified Jewish voice in the debates and to work on issues related to HIV/AIDS in Africa.

MAZON - Founded in 1985, MAZON ('food' in Hebrew) is a national, nonprofit agency which provides food, help, and hope to hungry people of all faiths and backgrounds. It allocates donations from the Jewish community to the most effective hunger relief organizations in the United States, Israel and in poor countries worldwide.

Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice - National Christian, Jewish and other religious organizations work through the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice to ensure reproductive choice through the moral power of religious communities.

TZEDEC Campaign of the Shefa Fund - Established in 1988, The Shefa Fund has capitalized more than \$12 million in Jewish institutional investments in community development banks, credit unions and loan funds which provide credit for housing and business development in credit-starved neighborhoods.

In this season of giving, I encourage you to also give back. May our collective voices help to heal the world. Kol tuv, (all the best)

Rabbi Alex

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**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	Shira Lowry
Financial Secretary	Rita Nissim
Record. Secretary	Ellen Wehrman
Corres. Secretary	Mimi Geller
Trustees:	
	Jill Popko
	Susan Giachetti

**SHABBAT SERVICES, YAHRZEITS
ONEGS**

Friday, December 2nd Shabbat Services

7:30PM We will remember Hyman Goldman, father of Norman Goldman, Joseph Rothman, father of Robin Affrime, Issac Grassian, father of Rita Nissim, Sidney Klepner, father of Len Klepner, Jennie Rudenstein, mother of Mildred Leary.
Light Candles 4:18PM

Friday, December 9th Shabbat Services

7:30 PM. We will remember Pauline Zackler, mother of Marsha Dowshen, Samuel Morginstin, father of Sid Morginstin.
Light Candles 4:17PM
Friday, December 16th Light Candles 4:19PM

Saturday, December 17th Shabbat Morning Services 9:30AM

We will remember Nathan Schwartz, father of Phyllis Chudoff and Dorothy Gutstein. Luncheon to follow, Marty & Rita Nissim and Neil & Karen Nissim hosts families.

Friday, December 23rd Tot Shabbat Services 6:00PM Chanukah Program, Adult Services 7:30PM

We will remember Lillian Morginstin, mother of Sid, Max Kamer, father of Isadore. Oneg sponsored by Rabbi Alex and Ashirah in honor of their wedding.
Light Candles 4:22PM

Friday, December 30th Shabbat Services

7:30PM We will remember Charles Hicks, Maternal grandfather of Sara Blann. **Chanukah Program,** Curtis & Kim Aubry and Brian and Maribeth Epstein Oneg hosts families.
Light Candles 4:27PM

Hebrew and Religious School Info

No Hebrew school on December 4th, 18th, 25th, and 29th.

Snack Assignments for the year

December	Betsy Ramos
January	Linda Osman
February	Bonnie Friedman
March	Deena Kobin
April	Melissa Fatori
May	Debbie Schulkin

Adult Education Program

The "Jewish Alive and American" program is suspended for December but will begin again in January. Please contact Rabbi Alex to let him know you are interested in this very informative discussion.

Thank you Debbie and Charlie Weiss for donating the cost of the babysitting service for all of the high holiday services.

Editors' note: My apologies for omitting thank you to Patricia Light Tolemo, Rhea Goldman, and Aria Lazarus for helping with Break the Fast.

Happy Chanukah

Tot Shabbat News

We were greeted with a wonderful turnout for our November Tot Shabbat. After our pot luck dinner, candle lighting, and family friendly service the children heard the story "Shabbat Shalom" by Michelle Shapiro Abraham. The children then colored in a special Shabbat picture pasted to poster board which was then cut up into a home made puzzle. A big thank you goes to Sam Shain for contributing the idea of turning a picture into a puzzle, and to both she and her sister Abbie for being our helpers for the night. We look forward to them joining us for many more nights of Tot Shabbat fun.

Our next Tot Shabbat will be on December 23 from 6:00-7:30 when we celebrate Chanukah. In addition to our usual service we will have some special Chanukah activities for the children to learn about and enjoy this fun time of the Jewish year.

Mark your calendars for our January 27 when we focus on Mitzvot (good deeds) and February 24 when we celebrate Purim.

For more information about Tot Shabbat or to join our pot luck RSVP list please speak to Rabbi Alex or call Sharon Dauber 291-9169. In addition, if there is anyone who would be interested in contributing or leading a craft idea or story reading we would love to hear from you.

Sharon Dauber 291-9169

Social Action

Food Pantry donations are encouraged! Please contribute non-perishable items to the box in the temple near the stairs.

The Sunday/Hebrew School students will be preparing bag lunches for the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen in the coming weeks. The teen group is planning to volunteer to serve food there as well in the near future.

Volunteers are needed for food delivery for HomeFront on Thurs., Dec. 29 -- please contact Marcy Schwartz and Rick Shain if you are available to help (324-0571).

Around our Temple and Sisterhood

Temple B'nai Abraham and Sarah Seidel Sisterhood extend our condolences to the following:

Ted and Joanne Lutz on the passing of Joanne's Grandmother

Steve and Robin Affrime on the passing of Steve's Aunt.

The Community was very sadden to learn of the death of our former rabbi, Steven Tucker, killed in a one-car accident in California. Rabbi Tucker served our congregation as a Conservative Rabbi about 20 years ago. He and his wife and family were the first to have residency in our home next door. Gabrielle was an active member of our sisterhood, once leading a program on preparing for Passover. Elaine Trackman's daughter Karen was married by Steven. Elaine remembers him as a warm, loving and caring man. He was the attending Rabbi for many Bar Mitzvahs. He was instrumental in teaching Sister Florence of Poor Clare's Monetary, Hebrew in our Hebrew class as well as privately. He was the first of the Temple Rabbis to participate in the Bordentown Clergy's breakfast. Even though he was part-time for us, living next door made him a part of our community. We all have fond memories of his days here and our hearts are with his family. Steven became a Rabbi for Temple Beth El in East Windsor for 4 years before moving to California where he was the Rabbi at Temple Ramat Zion for 13 years.

Cards may be sent to their home in California: Gabrielle Tucker, 17178 Superior St. Northridge, CA 91325.

I hope everyone has been enjoying our new children's siddur, Kol HaNoar. We will be using them each month in the service following Tot Shabbat and also, in part, on regular Shabbat morning services. I would appreciate any feedback that you have about the siddur. Also, if you would like to purchase copies either go to the JRF website (www.jrf.org) or sign the list downstairs at the Temple. If we purchase more than 22 books, we will receive a \$4 discount on each book. The regular price is \$22 for JRF affiliates. Please see me if you need more information.

Rabbi Alex

2005-2006 Host List for Oneg Shabbats and Sisterhood Meetings

Please find your name and date. It is your responsibility to find substitutes if you cannot attend your date.

- December 17** Luncheon Rita Nissim & Karen Nissim
December 30 Chanukah Aubry & Epstein Families
January 13 Susan Giachetti & Deena Kobrin
January 21 Luncheon Joanne Lutz & Elaine Trackman
February 4 Luncheon Zeichner & Fattori Families
February 10 Tu B'Shvat Betsy Ramos & Elizabeth March
February 13 Meeting Patricia Light-Tolomeo & Ellen Wehrman Yoga Class
March 6 Meeting bonnie Goldman & Rhea Goldman Woman's Space
March 18 Luncheon Albanese & Bergman Families
April 7 Shira Lowry & Debbie Schulkin
April 22 Luncheon
May 5 Arlene Speiser & Jennifer Carton
May 8 Meeting Linda Osman & Renee Harrison Game Night
May 27 Luncheon
June 2 Hebrew School Graduation Hebrew School Families
June 12 Covered Dish Randye Bloom and Marsha Dowshen
June 16, & 17 Brittany Friedman Bat Mitzvah, Bonnie Friedman
June 30 Member of the Year
If Oneg is cancelled due to inclement weather, your responsibilities may be moved to another date.

Sisterhood Meeting and Event Dates

December 28	Blood Drive
January 9	Sisterhood Meeting
February 13	Yoga
March 6	Women's Space Speaker
May 8	Sisterhood Meeting-Game Night
June 12	Covered Dish

The next Sisterhood Board Meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 12th at 7:30.

Sarah Seidel Sisterhood

What a treat! Eileen Gale, Rhea Goldman and Robin Affrime put together a magnificent High Tea at our latest Sarah Seidel Sisterhood meeting. Lemon Meringue tarts, chocolate filled cream puffs, nut crescents, rugulah, cereal thrillers, to name a few goodies, and a variety of teas, graced a beautiful table setting. Moderated by Elaine Trackman, a lively and thoughtful discussion of the book, "The Queen's Fool," followed the tea.

The next project for Sisterhood is a fundraiser making and selling **Chanukah cards** from several **Hebrew students' drawings. These wonderful holiday cards will be available for purchase at Temple** after the Thanksgiving holiday and the proceeds will benefit our Hebrew school students by raising funds toward a much needed computer for the school. Thank you to all who participated in our September fundraiser - Jewish Cooking and the Honey Pots. The honey pots raised \$130 and the cooking class yielded \$150. Minus expenses, these funds contributed toward a donation to Temple to help pay the student Hebrew school assistants.

Please join us in welcoming Shira Lowry as the newly installed Treasurer of Sisterhood. Shira volunteered to fill the position sadly vacated by Elaine Zeitz. Any Sisterhood members with receipts for reimbursement please mail them to Shira or contact her at 324-0072.

A joint important event sponsored by **Temple B'nai Abraham and Sarah Seidel Sisterhood** is the **American Red Cross Blood Drive** organized by Randye Bloom on December 28th at the Carslake Community Center, Senior Services Room, 209 Crosswicks Street, Bordentown, from 2:30 to 8:30 PM. This is an annual event that the Jewish community sponsors at this time because of the decline in blood donations during the holiday season. Please tell your family and friends about the blood drive and encourage them to participate. Our goal is 50 pints [last year we collected 44 with the goal of 50]. If each family makes itself responsible for one pint of blood we will surpass our goal. Please call Randye, 298- 6485, to volunteer to distribute posters, make phone calls, or make an appointment to give blood on December 28. You can also make an appointment by logging on to www.pleasegiveblood.org/donate and entering sponsor code 6Y44.

In light of all the recent world tragedies, donating blood is more important now than ever. There are approximately 50 families in our Synagogue and over 50 Sisterhood members. If every family donated one pint of blood, collectively Temple Bnai Abraham and Sarah Seidel Sisterhood members could make a significant impact. Please be generous and give the gift of life. Let's work together to make this drive a success.

High Holiday Donations/Pledges

Stan and Roni Zeichner
Randy Bloom and Michael Scolara
Celeste and Brad Rosenberg
Kevin Smith
Martin and Rita Nissim
Andrea Browne
Jeffrey Goldman
Jay and Elaine Trackman
Betsy Ramos
Gerald and Madge Rosen
Vera Weinman Martin
Anatoly and Regina Ginsberg
Joel and Marsha Dowshen
Robert and Robin Albanese
Michael and Mellisa Fattori
Rhea Goldman
Rona and William Goldberg
Bonnie Goldman & Steven Lederman
Michael & Marcia Rosen
Jennifer Carton
Jack and Sandy Ross

A Message from Nate Zeitz

Dear Rabbi,

I had a visit to B'Nai Abraham's online site this evening and was touched to see the number of donations made and reference to the building fund that has been created in my mother's memory.

To The Members of Temple B'nai Abraham:

Hello from New York. On behalf of my brother and father, we extend our heartfelt gratitude and thanks to all of you for the support and immeasurable friendship you extended to our family this past summer and of course to my late mother who is probably rolling her eyes at me for doing this because modesty was her nature. There simply are not enough words to describe how happy I am knowing my mother touched so many of you in our closely-knit Jewish community and that she will be missed. As a child, when my mother brought me to Friday evening services or to temple for the high holidays (because it was she who taught me the significance of being Jewish and being involved in our community), I often wondered who the different names were on the windows inside the temple. And as I have grown older, I came to realize they were the names of late members who had made an important contribution to the temple's growth throughout the years. I could not be more proud knowing

how important a role my mother played within the temple and that the continued growth and expansion of the temple in years ahead will exist in her memory. To you all, many of whom I have known for so many years (even though we have not seen each other in a long while, perhaps since I was much younger), I say thank you - *Nate Zeitz*.

Donations

Elaine Zeitz Building Fund

Victor & Betsy Ramos
Gerald & Madge Rosen

Temple

In Memory of:

Selma Bloom, mother of Randy Bloom

Viola & Ralph Curcione
Dr. Stanley & Mrs. Sally Bagan
John Wagner & Nancy Baran

In Memory of:

Rabbi Steven Tucker - Eileen Gale

Yahrtzeit

In Memory of:

Gertrude Herzog - Gerald & Madge Rosen
Abraham Zackler - Joel & Marsha Dowshen
Pauline Zachker - Joel & Marsha Dowshen
Sidney Klepner - Len & Liz Klepner

Sisterhood Joy and Sorrow

In Memory of:

Rabbi Steven Tucker - Is & Phyllis Kamer, Marty & Rita Nissim
Steven Affrime's aunt - Eileen Gale
Joanne Lutz's grandmother - Charyl & Sid Morginstin, Phyllis & Is Kamer, Jay & Elaine Trackman, Phoebe & Jeff Nissim
Sherman Gould - Gert & Victor Bonatti-Zotta
Good Luck in your new Home Bonnie Friedman - Jay & Elaine Trackman

Special Project

If you or someone in your family made a physical donation. i.e. torah cover, plaque, candlesticks, etc., to the Temple or Sisterhood, please call Elaine Trackman with any information. We are compiling a list of items that have been donated over the past years

A Message from our Temple President

Use of Temple e-mail list

The Temple has compiled an e-mail list with the addresses of the majority of our members. The Board has received several inquiries as to its appropriate use. This list was compiled primarily so that the temple could send out its newsletter electronically in an effort to save costs. A secondary use was to be able to send out emergent announcements such as the announcement of a death or a scheduling change that arose after the newsletter was printed. Last month, the Board passed a policy which does limit the use of this list to those two purposes so as to avoid our members being inundated with routine announcements and potentially asking to have their names being removed from the list. Any routine announcements should continue to be published in our newsletter, posted to our website, or announced at services. Logistically, our emergent announcements and newsletters are sent out by our "webmaster" Brian Epstein. The protocol for a member to send an emergent announcement via our e-mail list would be to first request permission from either the President or, if unavailable, our Vice President. This will save Brian from being placed in an awkward position of having to determine if the use is truly emergent or not.

Betsy Ramos

The Jewish Community Foundation of Princeton Mercer Bucks will once again be awarding college scholarships for local Jewish students who will be graduating high school in June 2006. The scholarships are structured as "book awards" to cover the expenses of books, computers, and other instruction materials. Each award is a maximum of \$4,000 for four years of college. Awards are based on financial need as documented by the FAFSA.

The program is administered together with the Jewish Family and Children's Service of Greater Mercer County. For more information and to receive application forms, please contact Edna Silberman at the JFCS: 609-987-8100 or ednas@jfcsonline.org. Deadline for applications 5/1/06

Notes of Interest

Dear B'nai Abraham Folk:

Ashirah and I would like to thank the Temple B'nai Abraham community for the warm support we've received leading up to our wedding, December 4th. In honor of this simcha, we would like to invite you to Saturday Morning services on December 3rd starting at 10 AM at Germantown Jewish Centre-<http://www.germantownjewishcentre.org> in Philadelphia. We will be joining the Dorshei Derekh Minyan, Reconstructionist community, for our aufruf upstairs in the Marcus Auditorium. Yiddish for "calling up," the Aufruf (pronounced "oof-roof") includes the bride and groom being called up to the Torah and chanting the Haftarah together. Germantown Jewish Centre is located on 400 West Ellet Street, Philadelphia, PA.

Directions from Bordentown- Take 295 South to the Walt Whitman Bridge. Get on 76 West and get off at the Lincoln Drive exit (just after the highway splits at Rt. 1 the Rosevelt Blvd.). Follow the signs to Lincoln Drive (middle lane) and continue on Lincoln Drive for several miles. Go left onto Mccallum Avenue (just after Green Street, there will be a turn lane) and follow that straight several blocks until Ellet Street. Turn right on Ellet, the synagogue will be a block down on your right.

Hope to see you there, *Alex and Ashirah*

p.s. - I will be away starting Friday, December 2 until Monday, December 19. Afterward we will be sponsoring a Kiddush on Friday, December 23rd at Temple B'nai Abraham. Please come and celebrate with us then as well.

Potato Latkes

5 lg. potatoes, peeled, 1 large onion, 4 eggs, 1/3 cup matzo meal, 1 tsp. salt, 1/4 tsp. pepper, 1/3 cup oil for frying.

Grate potatoes and onion on the fine side of grater, or in food processor or in blender with a little water added to it. Add eggs, mix well. Add matzo meal and seasoning, mix well. Heat oil in pan, then add mixture. When golden brown, turn over and brown other side.

JRF News

We are delighted to announce that JRF received official confirmation to run an independent Reconstructionist slate in the upcoming World Zionist Congress elections that began Nov. 15, 2005 and end Feb. 28, 2006. This is a "shehehiyanu" moment for our movement as we will bring our own independent voice to the table for the first time.

The World Zionist Congress meets in Jerusalem June 19-22, 2006. Here is your opportunity to help the Reconstructionist movement earn seats at the WZC. JRF's campaign has begun in earnest. We ask you to vote for the Reconstructionist slate. Detailed information on our platform and slate is available on the JRF website www.jrf.org. Please follow these simple steps to help send as many Reconstructionist delegates as possible to the 2006 World Zionist Congress.

Visit <http://www.azm.org> to vote. If you haven't already registered, you'll be asked to register and pay \$7. For more information about the Reconstructionist WZC election campaign please check our website at www.jrf.org or contact Rabbi Shawn Zevit, Director of Outreach and External Affairs, at szevit@jrf.org or Isabel Dekoninck, JRF intern at idekoninck@jrf.org or call JRF at 215-782-8500.

CALLING ALL TEENS!!!

Temple B'nai Abraham teens have been enjoying participating in a joint teen group with two other Reconstructionist congregations: the Jewish Community Center of Belle Mead and String of Pearls in Princeton. All teens post-bar/bat mitzvah are welcome. This fall's activities have included a shul-in at JCCBM, a bowling party, and an eating tour in New York City. Future plans include volunteer activities, movies, and museum tours. The next event will be held Sunday, December 11 at 2:00 -- details to be announced. Please contact Rabbi Alex or Marcy Schwartz for more information.

SAVE THE DATE

The JRF Mid-Atlantic Region's 8th
Annual

Torah & Chocolate:

An Evening of Adult Jewish Learning

**Havdalah, Engaging Classes,
Delicious Desserts***

Saturday, January 14, 2006

At the Reconstructionist
Rabbinical College, Wyncote, PA

Doors open at 6:30pm

*Send us your favorite chocolate recipe!!! Include with it a little blurb not only about the baker, but also about your Reconstructionist community. We will then put these recipes together in a Torah and Chocolate cookbook we will distribute during the event. And, for those of you who are able to bring your dessert on that Saturday night, you will receive free admission to our event and be entered into our bake-off contest. In this way, we seek to not only improve the quality of our desserts, but also learn more about who we are and what we have to offer one another. All recipes should be sent to Rabbi Alex Lazarus at alazarus@jrf.org.

**Check back soon for registration
information and session descriptions.**

Go to www.jrf.org/midatlantic.

For More Information Contact: Rabbi Alex
Lazarus, Mid-Atlantic Regional Director 215-
782-8500 ext. 25, alazarus@jrf.org

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
DECEMBER Cheshvan Kislev 5766				December 1 Hebrew School 4:30PM to 6:30PM	December 2 Kislev Shabbat Services 7:30PM Rosh Chodesh	December 3
4 Rabbi Alex and Ashirah's wedding No Religious School	5	6	7	8 Hebrew School 4:30PM to 6:30PM	9 Shabbat Services 7:30PM	10
11 Religious School Joint classes 10 to 12	12	13	14	15 Hebrew School 4:30PM to 6:30PM Board Meeting 7:30PM to 9:00PM	16	17 Services 9:30am Luncheon Rita Nissim & Karen Nissim Hosts Adult Ed
18 NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL	19	20	21	22 Hebrew School 4:30PM to 6:30PM	23 Tot Shabbat Services and Pot Luck Dinner 6PM Adult Services 7:30PM Oneg sponsored by Rabbi and Mrs. Lazarus	24
25 NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL First Chanukah Light	26 Two Lights in the evening	27 Three Lights in the evening	28 Four Lights in the evening	29 NO HEBREW SCHOOL Five Lights in the evening	30 Shabbat Services And Chankah Celebration 7:30PM Aubry and Epstein Families Hosts Six lights	31 Seven Lights in the evening
January 1 NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL Eight Lights in the evening	2	3	4	5 Hebrew School 4:30PM to 6:30PM	6 Shabbat Services 7:30PM	7