



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
Debbie Weiss

5765-5766

February

2005-2006

While Ashirah and I were in Costa Rica, we saw many types of animals and plants that we had never seen before. In the cool, ashen air of Arenal (one of the most active volcanos in the world), we saw black and gold toucans perched on the tallest tree tops. From our hotel room there, we heard the cry of the howler monkeys, tiny primates no larger than a house cat than are capable of cries louder than a stampede of gorillas. In the cloud forest of Monteverde, we were lucky enough to see the famous quetzal, the national bird of Guatemala that bird-watchers come from the world over to catch a glimpse of her majestic green and red plume. And, on the beaches of Manuel Antonio we saw the slow climb of the three-toed sloth, a remarkable animal that sleeps twenty hours of every day, and when not moving looks exactly like a collection of leaves.

What we did not see, and what we could not have seen, is a small amphibian known as the golden toad. These bright, orange toads were discovered by scientists in 1964. Spending most of their lives underground they would emerge once a year to thousands of eggs in a few select shallow pools in the mountains of Costa Rica. In 1987, scientists counted fifteen hundred golden toads, the next year only ten, and the year after only one. Since that time, not a single golden toad has been found. For all intents and purposes, these animals are extinct; killed not by hunting or pollution, but by subtle changes in temperature caused by Global warming (see "Butterfly Lessons" by Elizabeth Kobert in the 1/9/06 edition of *The New Yorker*).

In Ecclesiastes Rabbah, a collection of Rabbinic Midrashim (interpretations) from the 2nd century, the following story is told: "After creating the world, God led Adam around the Garden of Eden and said, 'Look at My works. See how beautiful they are, how excellent! For your sake I created them all. See to it that you not spoil or destroy my world - for if you do, there will be no one to repair it after you.'"

Thousands of years before there were environmentalists or theories about global warming, our ancestors created a holiday dedicated to trees and plants. On the fifteenth day of the month of Shevat, Tu B'Shevat (the Hebrew letters Tet and Vuv are equal to the number fifteen), Jews gather together for a seder not so unlike the seder on Passover. Just like on Passover there are four cups of wine and just like on Passover we eat a variety of food we do not usually eat the rest of the year. This time instead of Matzah we eat a variety of fruits and nuts ranging from pomegranates and coconuts to carobs and figs. Some of these have hard outside shells, some have pits, but no shells, and some can be eaten whole. And, while we eat, we drink from wine or grape juice, starting with winter white and moving to the dark red of summer and fall.

During the Tu B'Shevat seder, we remember all of the gifts that come from trees. Outside the temperature is cold and miserable. How lucky are we as human beings to enjoy such bounty even in the middle of the winter. As we do so, let us remember the golden toad and all the other animals that are in our care. For as the Midrash states, if we spoil or destroy the world, there will be no one to repair it after us. The B'nai Abraham Tu B'Shevat seder will occur on Sunday, February 12th between 10-12. This is a wonderful way to not only eat unusual fruits and nuts, but to get to know the B'nai Abraham Hebrew school. Just let me know if you are interested. We'd love to have you.

Kov Tov, Rabbi Alex

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

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 Jill Popko
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**SHABBAT SERVICES, YAHRZEITS
ONEGS**

**Friday, January 27th Tot Shabbat Services
6:00Pm, Adult Services 7:30PM**

We will remember Bernard Zeichner, father of Stan, Julius Bloom, father of Randy, Ella Kessler, mother of Henry, Rose Wasserman, mother of Linda Bowker, Ida Josephson, mother of Sam, Jennie Groveman, Minnie Gutstein Light Candles 4:54PM

Friday, February 3rd Light Candles 5:02PM

Saturday, February 4th Shabbat Morning Services 9:30AM. We will remember Minnie Kaufman, grandmother of Phyllis Busch, and remember Harry Gutstein. **Lunch hosts** Ramos & Fattori Families

Friday, February 10th Shabbat Services 7:30pm

We will remember Rose Goldberg, mother of Phyllis Kamer, Albert Reichlin, Morris Herzog, brother of Madge Rosen **Oneg Shabbat hosts** Zeichner and Marsh Families. Light Candles 5:11PM

Friday, February 17th, Shabbat Services 7:30PM

We will remember Morris Miller, father of Ilene & Roslyn Miller Light Candles 5:19PM

Friday, February 24th Tot Shabbat Services 6:00PM, Adult Services 7:30PM

We will remember Max Kessler, father of Henry Light Candle 5:27PM

Friday March 3rd Shabbat Services 7:30PM

We will remember Marion Bergman, mother of Michael, Jane Black, mother of Leonard, Nathan Goldman, father of Maxine & Phillip, Rose Kaiser, mother of Eileen Gale Light Candles 5:35PM

Hebrew and Religious School Info

No Hebrew school on February 5th, and 19th
Snack Assignments for the year

February	Bonnie Friedman
March	Deena Kobin
April	Melissa Fatori
May	Debbie Schulkin

Sunday, February 12th TuBishvat Seder 10 to 12

Interfaith Gathering

Please mark your calendars. There will be a second interfaith gathering on March 9th at 7:30 PM at the Methodist Church of Crosswicks. This is a wonderful way for Jews, Christians, and Muslims in the Bordentown area to gather and discuss our faiths. A planning meeting will occur at our temple on February 16 at 7 PM. Please let me know if you are interested in participating in the planning process.

Rabbi Alex

Tot Shabbat News

Tot Shabbat will meet on January 27 from 6:00-7:30 p.m. to celebrate Shabbat and learn about mitzvot. All Tot Shabbat families are asked to bring a non-perishable food item to donate to the food bank as a concrete example of the mitzvot we can do. The children will also hear the story "You can do a Mitzvah" by Judith Groner, and will make special mitzvah craft.

As last month's article was submitted prior to our Hanukkah celebration, I did not have the opportunity to thank Randi and Mike Fechter for bringing bags of gelt and dreidels for all the kids. It was a perfect addition to gelt holder night and the children loved the thoughtful treats!

Tot Shabbat will meet again on February 24 when we celebrate Purim, March 31 when we learn about Passover, and April 28 when we learn about Israel.

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

I'm happy to report that we have finally established contact with the St. Mary's food pantry. The Hebrew School students helped bring over all of our contributions in mid-January, and the volunteers at the food pantry are extremely gratified that Temple B'nai Abraham is participating in this important effort. We plan to bring over our contributions on a monthly basis, so please continue filling the box in the fall! All donations are appreciated, but in particular, the pantry runs low on:

- breakfast cereal
- pancake mix
- peanut butter and jelly
- low salt prepared foods
- low sugar prepared foods (for diabetics)

We continue to deliver hot meals through HomeFront on the last Thurs. of each month, with the help of the Methodist Church in Crosswicks. It is very rewarding to work together with other members of the community in these projects.

If you would like to help, or have any ideas for expanding service in the community, please contact me at any time. *Marcy Schwartz*

Temple Blood Drive

We collected 37 pints of blood towards our goal of 50 pints at the blood drive on December 28, 2005. Thanks go to Eileen Gale, Mimi Geller, Arlene Speiser, and Debbie Weiss who helped by making phone calls to potential donors. Special thanks to members of the Temple who donated blood that day: Joel Dowshen, Marsha Dowshen, and Arlene Speiser. Thank you if you distributed posters, talked to neighbors or friends, etc. Everything you do helps. This year the blood was especially necessary because the few snowy days in December really affected the blood supply in the area. Thanks for your help.

Randy Bloom

Bonei Kehillah/Community Builders' Award

JRF Mid-Atlantic Region's Evening of Celebration

On Saturday, March 25, 2005, Mishkan Shalom, 7:30PM Reconstructionists synagogues (and Temple B'nai Abraham) across three states will honor our congregations' lay leadership -- while enjoying nosh, schmooze, music and dance -- at the Evening of Celebration on March 25. The Jewish Reconstructionist Federation's annual Middle Atlantic region fundraiser and award ceremony will be held in an exciting new space, JRF affiliate Mishkan Shalom in northwest Philadelphia's Roxborough section.

The centerpiece of the evening will be presentation of the Bonei Kehillah/Community Builder's Award to outstanding lay leaders selected from the 21 congregations in the JRF Middle Atlantic region. The Award celebrates the people who have contributed in extraordinary ways to help Mid-Atlantic Reconstructionist communities grow and to live our values of Torah, Tefillah, and Tikkun Olam.

The board of Temple B'nai Abraham is proud to announce this year's honoree will be Sid Morginstin. Please mark your calendars and come out to support him on March 25th."

Sarah Seidel Sisterhood

Sisterhood Meeting – Monday, February 13th at 7:30pm at the Temple. Patricia Light-Tolomeo and Ellen Wehrman are the hostesses for the evening. Marcy Schwartz will be leading us in a yoga session! Just wear comfortable clothes and bring a towel, blanket or mat. We will do some exercises that can be done sitting in a chair, for anyone who prefers not to sit on the floor. So come one and all.

Sisterhood Meeting and Event Dates

February 13	Yoga
March 6	Women's Space Speaker
May 8	Sisterhood Meeting-Game Night
June 12	Covered Dish

Cookbook Fund Raiser

Please submit your recipes for the upcoming Sisterhood cookbook! Both members and non-members are welcome to participate. In fact, the more the better! Just remember to submit kosher recipes (no meat & milk, no pork or shellfish). Also, don't forget your favorite Passover recipe!

Around our Temple and Sisterhood

Mazel Tov to Ellen Wehrman on her upcoming retirement from the Bordentown Regional School system. Ellen, who has taught many of our children, has been a teacher for 44 years. Also, Mazel Tov to Phyllis Chudoff on her upcoming retirement from the Roebling School system. Phyllis has taught for 40 years.

Thank you Mae Silver for passing on to the Sisterhood a lovely punch bowl set.

Does anyone have a computer armoire that they are no longer using? We are looking for an attractive place to keep a new computer. Please contact Debby Weiss if you would like to donate one. Thank you! 208-2084 or debby@jande.org

Homefront needs our help. B'nai Abraham is part of a larger project to collect groceries to distribute to families in need in the area. Our specific mission is to collect granola bars. Other area churches are gathering other items that will be brought together at one location at the end of the month. Help do your part in fighting hunger in Bordentown. Please leave the boxes of granola bars next to the stairs. More details will follow.

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.

February 4 Luncheon Ramos & Fattori Families

February 10 Tu B'Shvat Zeicher & Elizabeth Marsh

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, daughter of Bonnie Friedman

June 30 Member of the Year

July 1st Bar Mitzvah of Gary Bergman son of Michael & Sara Bergman

If Oneg is cancelled due to inclement weather, your responsibilities may be moved to another date.

Donations Temple

In Memory of:

Selma Bloom – Gertrude Rand and Rosalie Vilk

Dr. Norman Lamonsoff – Leah Suzanne Kaplan, Marcella & Irving Kaplan

Yahrtzeit

In Memory of:

Julius Bloom – Randy Bloom and Michael Scolaro

Lawrence Bowker, Rodd Eudell, Rose Wasserman - Linda Bowker

Sisterhood Joy and Sorrow

In Memory of

Dr. Norman Lamonsoff - Vic & Betsy Ramos

In Honor of

**Rabbi Alex and Ashirah's marriage
Lynn and Victor Wasserman
Eileen Gale**

The Temple and Sisterhood communities extend our condolences to our former Rabbi, Michael (Plotnick) Tayva on the passing of his father Dr. Samuel Plotnick.

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 (Cumashim)

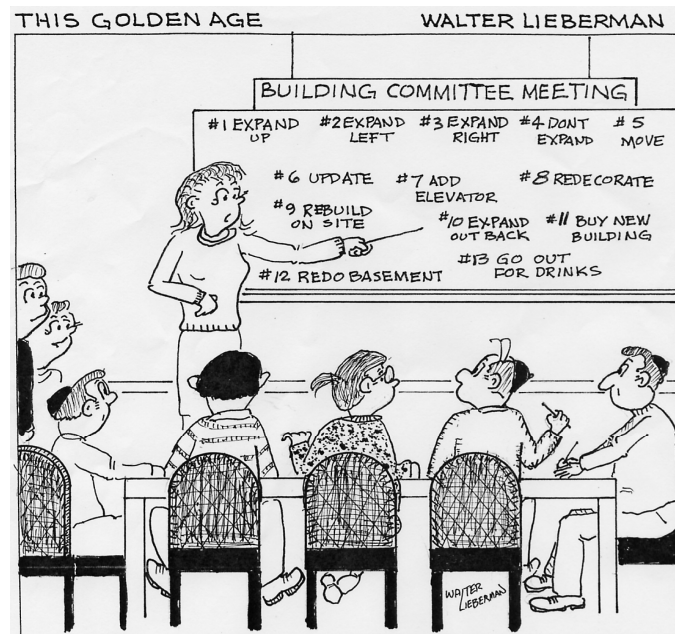
For those interested in purchasing a torah prayer book in honor of or in memory of someone, the cost is \$75. If interested, please call or e-mail Betsy Ramos. You may also sponsor our existing Siddur at a cost of \$35.00.

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

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.



THERE ARE EIGHT OF US HERE. HOW DID WE GET THIRTEEN OPINIONS?

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
February Shevat 5766			1	2 Hebrew School 4:30PM to 6:30PM	3	4 Shabbat Morning Services 9:30am Luncheon Hosts Ramos and Fattori Families
5 NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL	6	7	8	9 Hebrew School 4:30PM to 6:30PM	10 Shabbat Services 7:30PM Oneg Hosts Zeichner and Marsh Families	11
12 Religious School Joint classes 10 to 12 TuBishvat Seder	13 Sarah Seidel Sisterhood Yoga presented by Marcy Shein- Schwartz Come dressed for the Class	14	15	16 Hebrew School 4:30PM to 6:30PM	17 Shabbat Services 7:30PM	18
19 NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL	20	21	22	23 Hebrew School 4:30PM to 6:30PM	24 Tot Shabbat Services and Pot Luck Dinner 6PM Adult Services 7:30PM	25
26 Religious School 9:30 to 10:30 10:30 to 12:30 Adult Ed to follow	27	28	March 1	March 2 Hebrew School 4:30PM to 6:30PM	March 3 Shabbat Services 7:30PM	March 4