



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

March

2005-2006

In David A. Teutsch's new book on Tzedaka (charitable giving) put out by the Center for Jewish Ethics at RRC, he writes, "giving tzedaka is both an obligation and an honor. Jewish tradition expects that everyone in a community – even a person who receives support from tzedaka funds – will give something to others. How much, of course, depends on one's means and circumstances."

Last month a small contingent from B'nai Abraham's Hebrew school, including three student teachers, Livia Popko, Abby and Sam Shain, and four others went to hear Rabbi Teutsch speak at JRF's Mid-Atlantic Regional Educator's Day at Mishkan Shalom in Philadelphia. There he emphasized the importance of teaching our children, at a very early age, about the importance of Tzedaka. He encouraged parents to talk openly about where they contribute and even including children in the process of deciding where to give. Suggestions he gave included: making the Tzedaka box prominent in the house, giving donations in honor of a person's birthday, and creating a weekly or monthly ritual of putting money in the Tzedaka box.

How perfect was it for the teacher's in our school to hear this discussion so close to the holiday of Purim. In addition to being a time of celebration, it is also a time of giving. One of the most important Mitzvot (good deeds) on Purim is Matanot l'Evyonim or gifts to the poor.

There is a prophetic precept to give at least two gifts to two poor people on Purim; that is, one gift to each. And even a poor person who himself has to ask for Charity, is required to do so. This obligation is fulfilled through any type of gift; whether of money, of food or drink, or even of clothing. One should, however, try to give a substantial gift. For if one gives a gift of money it should be sufficient for the recipient to buy bread weighing at least three eggs.

At Temple B'nai Abraham, we fulfill the Mitzvah of Matanot l'Evyonim at our annual Purim carnival. This is where the B'nai Mitzvah class sets up a variety of booths including face painting, basketball, and bean bag toss and watches as the fun begins. The money that is raised goes to a Tzedaka of their choosing. The carnival will take place on Monday, March 13th at 6 PM. Afterward we will go up to the sanctuary and read the Megillah. Note – there will be a costume contest, so please come prepared.

I am also delighted to announce that the week before Purim we will be participating in three activities related to interfaith dialogue. After all, it was on Purim where lack of dialogue nearly led to the extermination of our people. To this end, please come out to the United Methodist Church of Crosswicks at 7:30 PM on March 9 where Muslims, Jews and Christians will discuss faith for the second time this year.

Next, on the weekend of March 10-12th B'nai Abraham will participate in the Bordentown Pulpit Exchange. All over the city, ministers from different churches will be visiting each other and giving talks. This year, Reverend William H. Walker, Ph.D., from the Sykesville Presbyterian Church in North Hanover Twp and the Plumsted Presbyterian Church will give the sermon at our 7:30 service on March 10th. And, then on, Sunday March 12, I will visit Reverend Walker's two churches, 9:30 AM at Sykesville in North Hanover and 11:00 AM at Plumsted in New Egypt. Please come support this important Bordentown activity.

***Kol tuv,
Rabbi Alex***

Message from our President Betsy Ramos

The Board has been following our budget closely and it is apparent that we will have a shortfall this year unless we are able to put together a fundraiser by June or more people buy significant amounts of supermarket gift cards. It is also apparent that without a large increase in new members for next year, we will be faced with raising dues again to pay for our ever increasing operating costs. The Board has been discussing a few different options. One of our ideas which we'll be implementing next month is to permit advertising in our newsletter. For now, it'll only be open to our members but we would consider selling ads to local businesses as well. Another option is to give members a choice between either a dues increase or mandatory purchase of a given amount of supermarket gift cards. The figure would depend on your status as a single, family, or Hebrew school family. Of course, the members would need to vote on this increase at the end of this year. We also need to have 1 or 2 fundraising events throughout the year to pay for the costs in our budget. Many of you have heard me say before how lean our budget is. As an example, we've had to do various minor repairs in the temple and the tenant's space. None were large, but in total, well exceeded our budget. We just don't have any excess to pay for extra items such as ordinary repairs or a normal salary increase for our rabbi. Please see the items I've put in the newsletter concerning advertising and fundraising. We also need to focus on obtaining new members. Even another 10 families would make a difference in our budget and in people available to help out. I welcome all suggestions on any of these items. Please call me at 298-0437 or e-mail me at bramos@capehart.com.

Passover Seder

We are looking for someone to chair this event or two people to be co-chairs. The temple usually holds a Seder on the second night at the temple but we need a chair or co-chairs to organize the event. The chair(s) orders the food and organizes the set up and clean up. If you're willing, please call Betsy Ramos 298-0437 or e-mail her at bramos@capehart.com.

Advertising in newsletter

We will be selling advertising space in our newsletter. Cost will be \$25/month for a business card ad (about 1/8th of a page). You can advertise either your business, an upcoming event (i.e., such as a concert or a play), or it could be an item such as a congratulation ad for a bar/bat-mitzvah. Please e-mail Eileen Gale by the 15th of the month with any ads at egale10@verizon.net. Call Eileen with any questions 291-0220. We will consider larger ads, space permitting.

JRF Community Builder Award

As you know, we've chosen Sid Morginstin as our honoree for this year. The event is on March 25, 2006 at 7:30 pm at Mishkan Shalom in Phil, PA. Tickets are \$90 each. Everyone should have received an invitation. Tables are offered at a lower price - at \$810/table. If you're planning on attending, please contact Betsy Ramos at 298-0437 or e-mail her at bramos@capehart.com. If we can get a table, we can all save some money on our tickets.

Also, we are looking to purchase a tribute ad to honor Sid. We need to raise \$200. We are looking for donations to pay for the ad - even \$5 or \$10 would be appreciated. Please call or e-mail Betsy to let her know if you can contribute.

Fundraiser needed

For those of you who read my President's message, you found out that we need to have a fundraiser for the year to make up a shortfall. We've have some unexpected extra costs this year in repairs to the temple and our tenant's space and not as much in donations as in prior years. We're looking for ideas for a fundraiser and also hopefully some people who would help out. Please contact Betsy Ramos with any ideas. Her number is 298-0437 or e-mail bramos@capehart.com.

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.

It is my pleasure as Religious Vice President to congratulate Sid Morginstin on being chosen as the **Bonei Kehillah, Community Builder** recipient for this year. Sid is very deserving of this honor as he works tirelessly for the benefit of our congregation and our building.

Many newer members might think Sid is just that good natured guy who is often found at services and other community functions, but he is really much more than that. Sid is the one who changes the sign in front of the temple, takes care of the yahrtzeit list and makes sure that the yahrtzeit board is correctly lit. He is our constant gabbi as we change rabbis every few years. Sid is one of a group of people who put up and take down our succah each year, and he has made the arrangements for keeping our torah in good repair and buying our new, lighter weight torah.

Sid is also the individual who is responsible for many of the beautiful pieces of art work that hang in our community room. The art work belongs to him and his lovely wife, Charyl, and they generously allow us to share in the beauty of these pictures.

Sid has also helped me to set up and clean up our community Seder. Oops! I wasn't supposed to say that! Oh well, Sid, too late. Everyone knows you're a great guy, always willing to lend a hand and eager to work towards making our Temple B'nai Abraham community the very best it can be. From the bottom of my heart, and I'm sure I speak for many others, thank you so very much. **Robin Affrime**

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.

March 6 Meeting Bonnie Goldman & Rhea Goldman
Woman's Space

March 10 Interfaith Services Oneg-Debbie Weiss and
Randye Bloom

March 18 Luncheon Albanese & Bergman Families

Postponed Sisterhood meeting March 20th Yoga
Class hostesses Patricia Light-Tolomeo and Ellen
Wehrman

April 7 Ellen Marsh & Debbie Schulkin

April 22 Luncheon

May 5 Arlene Speiser & Jennifer Carton

May 8 Meeting Linda Osman & Renee Harrison Game
Night

May 26th Bar Mitzvah Services Barman Family

May 27 Bar Mitzvah

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.

Tot Shabbat News

Tot Shabbat met on February 24 to celebrate Shabbat and learn about Purim. Following our pot luck dinner and abbreviated service, the children heard a Purim story and made their own shalach manot baskets, that featured the four mitzvot of Purim (send gifts of food, listen to the Megillah, give gifts to the needy and eat a festive meal). The children's baskets were also filled with treats provided by the parents. Thanks to all who participated in the fun!

Tot Shabbat will meet again on March 31 when we learn about Passover, April 28 when we learn about Israel, and May 19 when we celebrate Lag B'Omer. *Sharon Dauber*

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

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.

Programs available to Burlington and Mercer Counties Temple members from the Mercer County-Bucks Jewish Federation

Jewish Family & Children's Service of Greater Mercer County 609-987-8100

Pre-Registration is required for these programs:

Project reemployment- Contact Shelly Brook	No fee
New Mom's Group- Contact Debra H. Levenstein	fee
Women Managing Change-Contract Shelly Brooks	fee
Jewish Bereavement Group – Contact Debra H. Levenstein	No fee
Social Skills for 6-9 year olds- Contact Paget Berger	fee

Scholarship Opportunities

There are several scholarship opportunities for an Israeli trip and for college. Application deadline for college scholarships is May 1, 2006. Contact Wendy P. at 987-8100 or wendyp@jfcsonline.org. for information on the various scholarships and to request an application.

Women's Freedom Seder will be Monday, April 3, 2006 at Adath Israel Congregation. There are registration forms at the Temple. The cost for this year's Seder is \$40.00 if received by March 10th and \$45 after March 10th. and they must be received by March 20th. For more information contact Debra H. Levenstein at 987-8100.

Donations Temple

In Memory of:

Dr. Norman Lamonsoff

Jonathan and Sandi-Ellen Kaplan

Elaine Zeitz

H & J Williams-Builder, Inc.

Edward & Jackie Abelman Cohen

Yahrtzeit

In Memory of:

Rose Kaiser- Eileen Gale

Morris Herzog – Madge and Gerald Rosen

Ella Kessler – Henry and Rhoda Kessler

Sisterhood

In honor of:

Sid Moginstin for his Community Builders' Award from

Gertrude and Vic Bonati-Zotta

Ellen Wehrman on her retirement by Jay and Elaine

Trackman

Birth of Corine Naomi Nissim from

Ellen Weiner

Sid and Charyl Morginstin

TOT SHABBAT PERMANENT COLLECTION

Note: This is a new donation account to help fund the Tot Shabbat activities.

In honor of:

Birth of Corine Naomi Nissim from Michael and Sharon Dauber

Social Action

Please contribute boxes of granola bars to the temple for our participation in a Bordentown-wide effort to deliver monthly bags of groceries to families in temporary housing at area motels. All the congregations in the area are each contributing one item, and the bags of food will be prepared and delivered.

We continue to collect items for the local food pantry as well. Thank you to everyone for supporting these important efforts for the community!

-breakfast cereal

-pancake mix

-peanut butter and jelly

-low salt prepared foods

-low sugar prepared foods (for diabetics)

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

Marcy Schwartz (324-0571)

SARAH SEIDEL SISTERHOOD

There are two Sisterhood meetings in March, the first one is on March 6th at 7:30pm.

Sarah Seidel Sisterhood Welcomes All For an Evening of Awareness on Monday March 6th at 7:30pm. Hostesses are Bonnie Goldman and Rhea Goldman.

We encourage men and teens to attend as well.

Domestic violence and sexual assault are not just women's issues, and they are not just individual or family problems. Violence against women is a human issue, and a social problem. It's up to the community to take a stand against abuse, hold abusers accountable for their behavior and protect victims.

Please join us on March 6 at Temple B'nai Abraham to hear a speaker from Womanspace, a leading nonprofit agency in Mercer County, New Jersey that provides comprehensive services to individuals and families impacted by domestic and sexual violence. We ask that everyone that attend please bring a pair of socks – all sizes for women and children, make-up, books, and games for all ages..

Womanspace is a membership organization. Members may participate in the election of the Board of Directors and receive reports about the organization at the Annual

Meeting. Our members are committed to our financial stability, believe in our mission and sustain us as we work to provide services to victims of domestic and sexual violence and their families. No victim of domestic violence or sexual assault is turned away due to an inability to pay.

Programs include crisis intervention, emergency shelter, counseling, court advocacy and housing services. Womanspace receives funding from the State of New Jersey, the County of Mercer and the United Way of Greater Mercer County and contributions from individuals, organizations, foundations and corporations

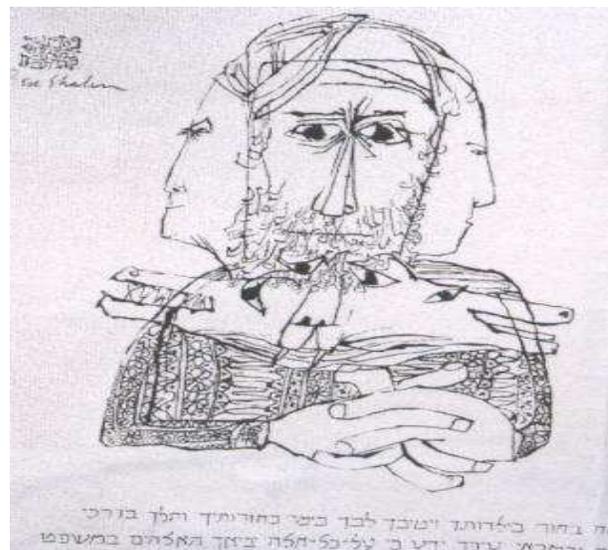
The second March Meeting:

Sisterhood Meeting – Monday, March 20th at 7:30pm at the Temple. 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!

Remember the cookbook.....

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!

Ben Shahn picture donated by Joanne and Ted Lutz



The quotation under the drawing is from Ecclesiastes 11:9"

Rejoice, O young man, in thy youth; and let thy heart cheer thee in the days of thy youth, and walk in the ways of thine heart, and in the sight of thine eyes, but know thou, that for all these things God will bring thee into judgement.

**MARCH
ADAR-NISSAN
2006**

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
			1	2 Hebrew School 4:30PM to 6:30PM	3 Shabbat Services 7:30PM	4
5 Religious School 9:30 to 10:30 10:30 to 12:30	6 <i>Sarah Seidel Sisterhood Woman Space Hostesses Bonnie Goldman & Rhea Goldman</i>	7 High Tea Planning Meeting 7PM	8	9 Hebrew School 4:30PM to 6:30PM	10 Interfaith Pulpit Exchange 7:30PM Oneg Hosts Debbie Weiss and Randye Bloom	11
12 Religious School 9:30 to 10:30 10:30 to 12:30	13 Purim Carnival 6-7PM and Megelliah Reading 7-9PM	14	15	16 Hebrew School 4:30PM to 6:30PM Temple Board Meeting 7:30pm	17	18 Services 9:30am Luncheon Hosts Albanese and Bergman Families Adult Ed
19 NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL	20 <i>Sarah Seidel Sisterhood Yoga Class Hostesses Ellen Wehrman and Patricia Light-Toleleo Come dressed for activity</i>	21	22	23 Hebrew School 4:30PM to 6:30PM	24	25 JRF Evening of Celebration 7:30PM Mishkan Shalom, Phil. Pa. Sid Morginstin Honoree
26 Religious Schoo 9:30 to 10:30 10:30 to 12:30	27	28	29	30 Hebrew School 4:30PM to 6:30PM	31 Tot Shabbat Services and Pot Luck Dinner 6PM Adult Services 7:30PM	