



Temple B'nai Abraham

Temple B'nai Abraham **The Temple Shofar** Sarah Seidel Sisterhood

5765-5766

MAY

2005-2006

Counting down to big events is almost as American as apple pie. On New Year's Eve, to every major holiday, to important store sales, to personal milestones, to the beginning and end of summer, etc., etc... One of my favorite countdowns is the countdown kindergarten students do every year to mark the last 100 days of school. In the school where I worked in Orlando, they would put tiny laminated little feet in the hallway leading up to the school entrance. Seeing the excitement of all of these five and six year-olds increased my own excitement that the end of the school year was approaching.

In Judaism, we too have our share of countdowns. There is the month leading up to the high holidays, the minutes leading up to sunset on Shabbat, and the years spent in the wilderness before we could enter the Promised Land. However, no countdown is more sanctified in Judaism than the 49 days between Passover and Shavuot. This period of seven weeks is called the Counting of the Omer. An Omer is a unit of measurement. On the second day of Passover, in the days of the Temple, an omer of barley was cut down and brought to the Temple as an offering. This grain offering was referred to as the Omer.

What makes this countdown particularly important is that it is commanded in the Torah (Lev. 23:15). The Mitzvah or commandment during the Omer is simply to state the count of the Omer in both weeks and days during the evening service. For example, on May 1st, the 19th day of the Omer, we would say, "Today is the nineteenth day, making two weeks and five days of the Omer." And, while our focus during this time is primarily on the 49th day, and the holiday of Shavuot, there are many other important milestones along the way. The 12th day of the Omer is Yom Hashoah, or Holocaust Memorial Day, on the 19th day of the Omer is Yom Hazikaron, or Remembrance Day in Israel commemorating lost soldiers, and on the 20th day of the Omer is Yom Ha'atzmaut, Israel Independence Day. Most importantly is Lag B'Omer, a holiday that is dedicated specifically to the 33rd day of the Omer. While the majority of the Omer is a period of mourning, on Lag B'Omer Jews picnic and light bonfires marking the beginning of Summer.

As you can see, this is a busy time on the Jewish calendar. Our Temple is brimming with activity including several life cycle events, a visit from the teen group (on May 12th), several Tot Shabbats, and the third interfaith dialogue between Muslims, Christians, and Jews on Thursday, May 11th at the United Methodist Church of Crosswicks at 7 PM.

I am also proud to say that our Hebrew School graduation will coincide this year with the holiday of Shavuot, on Friday, June 2. The traditional time for school graduations, this is a wonderful opportunity to see our Hebrew school students in action leading the service.

As a final note, I am pleased to say that I have accepted a new position at the Jewish Outreach Partnership of Philadelphia (www.jopp.org) as the Director of Community Partnership. I no longer will be working for the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation. I want to assure you that I will be staying at Temple B'nai Abraham next year and hopefully beyond. However, as the new position is full-time, I will have to cut down my hours in Bordentown, specifically in relation to the Hebrew School. What that means we are still trying to figure out.

This new position at JOP is very exciting and will enable to work with the Jewish community on a much broader scale. It will also enable Ashirah and I to stay in the area long term. I would love to talk to you more about the position and hope the specific details of my work with TBA will be clarified in the very near future. Happy Omer Counting, Kol Tuv, B'shalom, *Rabbi Alex*

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

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**Sarah Seidel Sisterhood
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**SHABBAT SERVICES, YAHRZEITS
ONEGS**

**Friday, April 28th Tot Shabbat Services 6PM Pot Luck
Dinner Adult Services 7:30PM.** We will remember Belle Rosen, mother of Gerald Rosen, and Harriet Hicks, maternal grandmother of Sara Blann.

Light Candles 7:34PM

Friday May 5th Shabbat Services 7:30PM We will remember Frances Novak, mother of Blanche Cantor. *Oneg Shabbat hostess Jennifer Carton and Arlene Speiser along with Marty & Rita Nissim and Neil and Karen Nissim in honor of baby naming.*

Light Candles 7:41PM

Friday May 12th Shabbat Services 7:30PM We will remember Mary Gross, aunt of Shyrle Kushner, Philip Kushner, father of Sol Kushner, Louis Benson, father of Charyl Morginstin. *We will host teens and families from String of Pearls and Jewish Community Center of Belle Mead. Oneg Shabbat sponsored by the Shain family.*

Light Candles 7:48PM

**Friday, May 19th Tot Shabbat Services 6PM Pot Luck
Dinner Adult Services 7:30PM** We will remember Gertrude Urken, sister of Henry Kessler, Ann Zeitz, mother of Carl Zeitz, Bernard Greenblatt, father of Marcia Rosen, Julia Affrime, mother of Steve Affrime, Rita Hodes, aunt of Randy Bloom, Stanley Nadel, father of Irwin Nadel

Light Candles 7:55PM

Friday May 26th Shabbat Services 7:30PM We will remember Joseph Harrison, father-in-law of Renee Harrison, Harry Pierce, father of Ira Pierce, Jacob Mervish, father of Shyrle Kushner, *Oneg Shabbat hosted by Barman Family in honor of son Daniel's Bar Mitzvah*

Light Candles 8:01PM

**Saturday May 27th, Bar Mitzvah of Daniel Barman
9:30AM**

**Friday June 2nd Shabbat Services 7:30PM Hebrew
School Graduation** We will remember George Segal, friend of Michael Bergman. *Oneg sponsored by the Hebrew School parents*

Light Candles 8:06PM

Hebrew and Religious School Info

**No Hebrew school on Sunday, May 14th, and on
Sunday May 28.** Hebrew School ends on June 2, where the students will be leading the services and receiving end of the year certificates.

Snack Assignments for May Debbie Schulkin

"Parking on grassy area"

Many of us park on the grassy area next to the synagogue - those brave enough to risk losing a muffler. However, please do not park on this area when the ground is wet. It leaves deep ruts on the ground that have to be fixed and reseeded.

Tot Shabbat News

Tot Shabbat will meet on April 28 from 6:00-7:30 p.m. to celebrate Shabbat and learn about Israel in honor of Yom HaAtzma'ut or Israeli Independence Day. Following our pot luck dinner and family friendly service, the children will hear the story "Let's visit Israel" by Judy Groner and color an Israeli placemat.

Tot Shabbat will meet again on May 19 when we celebrate Lag B'Omer, and our last Tot Shabbat of the year will be June 9 when we learn about the Torah in honor of Shavuot.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING May 17th at 7:00PM

The Temple and Sisterhood community extend our sympathy to the Kushner Family on the passing of Shyrle's brother Norman Mervish.

Social Action News

Please mark your calendars for Friday, May 12, when Temple B'nai Abraham will be hosting the teen group members and their families at a shabbat service.

A group of members from TBA volunteered in April at the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen where they served lunch to 377 people! Thanks to Elaine Trackman, Ellen Wehrman, Marcy Schwartz, Livia Popko, Ben Bergman and Abbie and Sam Shain who all participated. In May the Hebrew School students will make bag lunches for TASK patrons paid for by funds they raised at the Purim carnival.

The last Thurs. of the month the bar and bat mitzvah students continue to deliver food prepared by the Crosswicks Methodist Church to residents at a motel through HomeFront.

Hebrew School students also help deliver the temple's contributions to the St. Mary's food pantry. Thanks to all for donating food items -- let's keep it up!

Teen Group News

Friday, May 12, TBA will host the teens and their families from String of Pearls and Jewish Community Center of Belle Mead at our Shabbat service. Please join us -- especially those families with teens. This year's seventh graders will be eligible to join the teen group next year, so come and meet some new friends! Let Marcy know if you are willing to bring something for the oneg that night (324-0571).

Marcy Schwartz (324-0571)

Bordentown Community Players presents the comedy
Incorruptible

Rancocas Valley Regional High School, Mt. Holly, New Jersey

April 21, 22, 28, 29 May 5, 6, 7

Showtime 8 PM; matinee on 5/7 at 2 PM

Adults \$15.00 seniors/students \$10.00

Buy tickets at door or for advance purchase, call Betsy Ramos

298-0437 or bramos@capehart.com

Passover is over (hope you had a wonderful one) and it's about time to think about stocking up on all the leavened stuff, etc. No better time to get your Supermarket Gift Cards (Acme and ShopRite) and Certificates (Marrazzos).

Just send us a check (to Temple B'nai Abraham), give us a call or e-mail and we'll get them right off to you. Five percent (5%) of everything you spend comes right back to the Temple. It couldn't be easier. We're waiting. Joel and Marsha Dowshen 298-5306 or e-mail jfdowshen@comcast.net

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.

May 5 Arlene Speiser & Jennifer Carton
May 8 Ellen Wehrman and Pat Light-Tolemeo
May 12 Shain Family and Teen Group
May 26th Barman Family
May 27 Bar Mitzvah Daniel Barman
June 2 Hebrew School Graduation Hebrew School Families
June 9th Member of the Year Program Randy Bloom, Marsha Dowshen, Sandy SchwartzBird, Marcy Schwartz, Charyl Morginstin
June 12 Covered Dish Randy Bloom and Marsha Dowshen
June 16 Bonnie Friedman
June 17 **Brittany Friedman Bat Mitzvah,**
June 23
June 30 Sara and Michael Bergman
July 1st **Gary Bergman Bar Mitzvah**

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

AROUND THE TEMPLE NEWS

Shyrlle and Sol Kushner gratefully acknowledge your kind thoughts and donations in memory of Shyrlle's brother, Norman Mervish.

Karen and Neil Nissim cordially invite the community to attend the baby naming of their daughter Corrine Naomi, sister to Mia Isabella, on May 5th. Proud grandparents are Sheila Lamonsoff and Marty and Rita Nissim.

Mazel Tov to Member of the Year Len Klepner. We will honor Len at services and Oneg on June 9th.

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. If you would like to order one please send the following information IN WRITING to Sid Morginstin, plaque chairman, (PO Box 8101 Trenton NJ or e-mail: leadstamp@aol.com). (1) English name of deceased (2) Hebrew name of deceased. This is usually given as their Hebrew name and the Hebrew name of the parents; for example ITZHAK BEN AVRAHAM V'SARAH. If you do not have the Hebrew names, provide the English names. The Rabbi and Sid will do their best to get Hebrew names. (3) Date of death in the English calendar. Sid will be able to get the date on the Hebrew calendar. DO NOT include payment. Once the plaque has been put up, you will be billed. Our plaque chairman, would like to order at least three plaques at a time.

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.

RELIGIOUS ITEMS BURIAL

No doubt we all have old kippot, prayer books and what ever else sitting in our homes. I am often asked what should be done with them? The proper course of action is to bury them in a cemetery. If you have any of these, please place them in a small box labeled "TO SID: FOR BURIAL". Place the box in the temple (or better yet, drop it off at my house: 849 East Drive Bordentown -- leave it by the BACK door). Once I get a large enough accumulation, I will bring it to Rabbi Leverton of the Chabad of the Windsor for burial. In the past he has handled this for us.

On the kippot: The rule is, once it has been used, it must be buried. If a kippah has never been used it may be thrown out.

On books: Nowadays with recycling, one might think that it would be better to place the books with our paper recycling. I did raise this point to a couple of rabbis. All stated that the books must be buried.

SARAH SEIDEL SISTERHOOD

The next Sisterhood meeting will be May 8th. The program will be Game Night. Sounds like a lot of fun so come for this "girls not out" with the ladies. 7:30PM

Donations

Temple

In Honor of:

Sid Morginstin for Bonei Kehillah award
Steve Lederman and Bonnie Goldman

Yahrtzeit

In Memory of:

Charles Herzog	Gerry and Madge Rosen
Belle Rosen	Gerry and Madge Rosen
Flora Grassian	Marty and Rita Nissim
Jack Harrison	Renee Harrison
Rose Goldberg	Is & Phyllis Kamer
Bess Light	Patricia Light-Tolomeo
Albert Dowshen	Joel and Marsha Dowshen

Sisterhood

Get Well Wishes to Iris Ayash

Marcel and Lee Nissim
Jeff Nissim and Phoebe Nissim
Jeff and Barbara Streisfeld

In Memory of:

Renee Krieger

Renee Harrison

Norman Mervish

Jay and Elaine Trackman

Tom and Irene Sarnecki

Marcel and Lee Nissim

Sid and Charyl Morginstin

Is and Phyllis Kamer

Renee Harrison

Mimi Geller

Eileen Gale

Randy Bloom and Michael Scolaro

Message from our President

We have our 2 annual congregation meetings coming up on May 17 and June 14 at 7:00pm. We will be presenting our budget to the congregation at that time. As I've mentioned before, it will likely include some type of dues increase so that we can pay for our operating expenses. Please come to the meetings and give us your input.

Also, I am happy to report that our rabbi, Alex, will be staying on as our rabbi for next year. Although he has left the JRF and taken another job at the Jewish Outreach Partnership, he has committed to staying on as our rabbi. However, it will necessitate him cutting back on his Hebrew School responsibilities somewhat. (He will still be involved but not to the same extent.) We will be either reorganizing and/or hiring some new teaching staff to fill in for the days he is unavailable. We are also exploring as a possibility hiring a rabbinical student to relieve Alex from leading some services - so he can get a free weekend once in awhile!

Betsy Ramos

May 2006

Iyar-Silvan 5766

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
APRIL 30 Sunday School 9:30-10:30 Hebrew School visiting JCC of Belle Mead leaving at 10:30	MAY 1	MAY 2	May 3 Happy Birthday Israel 58 years	MAY 4 Hebrew School 4:30PM to 6:30PM	MAY 5 Shabbat Services 7:30PM Baby Naming ceremony for Neil & Karen Nissim's new daughter Oneg Shabbat	MAY 6
7 Combined Hebrew/Sunday School 10-12 Yom Ha'atzmaut Israeli Independence Day	8 Sarah Seidel Sisterhood Game Night 7:30PM Ellen Wehrman & Pat Light- Tolemeo hosts	9	10	11 Hebrew School 4:30PM to 6:30PM Interfaith Dialogue at United Methodist Church of Crosswicks 7PM	12 Shabbat Services 7:30PM	13
14 NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL	15	16 LAG B'OMER	17	18 Hebrew School 4:30PM to 6:30PM	19 Tot Shabbat Services and Pot Luck Dinner 6PM Adult Services 7:30PM	20
21 Religious School 9:30 to 10:30 10:30 to 12:30	22	23	24	25 Hebrew School 4:30PM to 6:30PM	26 Shabbat Services 7:30PM Oneg hosts Barman Family in honor of Daniel's Bar Mitzvah	27 Services 9:30am Bar Mitzvah of Daniel Barman
28 NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL ROSH CHODESH SIVAN	29 MEMORIAL DAY	30	31	June 1 Hebrew School 4:30-6:30PM	June 2 Shabbat Services 7:30PM Hebrew School Graduation Oneg Hosts Hebrew School Families	June 3