



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 & Debby Weiss

5766-5767

DECEMBER

2006-2007

Dear Temple B'nai Abraham Community

The miracle of Chanukah has been something of long debate in our tradition. Originally, the miracle was about the triumph of a small band of Maccabee warriors over the mighty Greek army in the 2nd Century BCE. Approximately, four centuries later a new story was developed involving a small amount of oil that lasted for eight days. In this newsletter column, I would like to reveal to you the real miracle, a story that I have shared several times with our Bordentown community.

Once upon a time, Jewish children lived happily in their homes in Jerusalem. Within the walls of the old city, they played together, ate together, and enjoyed the wonderful gifts of freedom and peace. Everyday in the early morning they would gather, by the walls of the Temple to watch the High Priest light the Menorah. He would stand in his regal attire all the way at the top of the highest wall as the sun shown off of the golden candelabra. Afterward, the children would go happily off to school, always looking over their shoulders to see the slow burning of the oil in the distant sky.

One winter, war came to Jerusalem and all the children were confined to their individual houses. It was a terrible winter with blustery winds that seemed to cut right through the walls of the city like a knife. There were no sounds of happy children playing outside and certainly no lighting of any menorah by the High Priest.

When the war finally came to an end, the children slowly made their way out into the streets. They greeted each other quietly. Slowly, they made their way back to their schools and into classrooms. However, the sadness of the war period did not fade so easily. Something had been stolen from their lives and did not seem to want to return.

On the first morning of the official beginning of school, the children, gathered by the walls of the Temple to witness the lighting of the menorah. However, when they looked up to see the High Priest he was nowhere to be found. Where was he? They ran up the steps of the Temple, higher and higher, until they reached the tallest wall of the highest tower. There they found the High Priest with his head buried in his hands on the floor, crying. "What's the matter?" they all asked together.

"I have no oil to light the Menorah." he told them.

At once, all the children turned around and ran to back to their houses. There they searched far and wide for any remaining oil and anything they found they brought back. They brought oil back on spoons and on thimbles, in socks and on rags, and if they were lucky in nearly empty bottles. One by one, they returned and gave what they could to the High Priest. Together, they generated enough oil to last eight days and longer, all the way until the first olive trees could grow in Jerusalem.

This Chanukah we have an opportunity to relive the miracle by bringing our own Menorahs to B'nai Abraham to light, not once, but twice. First, on Friday, December 15 at our Tot Shabbat Service and Pot Luck Dinner at 6 PM, followed by adult services at 7:30 PM. And, second at our Family Chanukah Program and Service on Friday, December 22, starting at 6 PM with candle lighting.

Wishing everyone a happy and joyous Chanukah celebration.

B'Shalom,
Rabbi Alex

**Temple B'nai Abraham
Officers for 5766-67**

President	Betsy Ramos
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	Susan Giachetti
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AROUND OUR TEMPLE NEWS

**SHABBAT SERVICES, YAHRZEITS
ONEGS**

Friday November 24th Shabbat Services 7:30PM We will remember Issac Grassian, father of Rita Nissim, Sidney Klepner, father of Len Klepner, Pauline Zackler, mother of Marsha Dowshen, Hyman Goldman and Jennie Rudenstein. **Light Candles 4:18PM**

Friday December 1st Shabbat Services 7:30PM We will remember Samuel Morginstin, father of Sid Morginstin. Oneg Shabbat hosts Morginstin and Klepner families. Rabbi Julie Pfau will lead. **Light Candles 4:15PM**

Saturday December 9th Sabbath Morning Services 9:30AM We will remember Nathan Schwartz, father of Phyllis Chudoff and Dorothy Gutstein. No Luncheon Today.

Friday December 15nd. Tot Shabbat 6PM Pot Luck dinner. Adult Services 7:30PM. First night of Chanukah. We will remember Lillian Morginstin, mother of Sid & Max Kamer, father of Is Kamer. **Light Candles 4:16PM**

Friday December 22 Shabbat Services 6PM. Latkes dinner and Chanukah celebration. We will remember Charles Hicks, maternal-grandfather of Sara Blann. **Light Candles 4:19PM**

Friday December 29th, Shabat Services 7:30PM **Light Candles 4:23PM**

Temple B'nai Abraham will be welcoming visitors from the Bordentown Historical Walking Tour on Saturday evening December 9th from 5 to 9PM.

The Temple and Sisterhood communities extend our condolences to Jerry and Madge Rosen on the passing of Jerry's sister Brenda Ganz

The Temple and Sisterhood communities extend our condolences to Sheri Haines on the passing of her father John Duker. Sheri has been coming to our services this year and is converting to Judaism.

Thank you to Mindelle and Ira Pierce for the donation of an illustrated children's Megillah ark.

Remember the Temple Blood Drive on Dec. 27th.

Tot Shabbat News

Tot Shabbat will meet on December 15, from 6:00 - 7:30 to celebrate Chanukah and Shabbat. We will have some special holiday activities in addition to our usual pot luck dinner, family friendly service, story and craft.

Future Tot Shabbat services will be held on January 26 when we celebrate Tu B'shevat, and February 23 when we celebrate Purim.

For more information about Tot Shabbat or to join our pot luck RSVP list call Sharon Dauber 291-9169 or email sdauber@comcast.net. Please also feel free to contact me should you be interested in contributing an activity idea or reading to the group.

Sharon Dauber

Items for January newsletter due by December 15th.

CALLING ALL TEENS!!!

The joint temple teen group gathers post-bar and bat mitzvah students for activities, field trips, films and service projects throughout the year. The participating temples are Temple B'nai Abraham, String of Pearls, and JCC of Belle Mead. Call Abbie and Sam Shain for details. 324-0571

Dec. 3: Walking and eating tour of New York City.
Call Sam or Abbie for information.

Social Action

Keep bringing in those **granola bars!** The bar and bat mitzvah group have been a great help in delivering hot meals for Home Front motel residents. **Thank you Ellen Wehrman for helping with the delivery.**

Food donations are always needed for the local food pantry as well.

2005-2006 Host List for Oneg Shabbats Luncheons and Sisterhood Meetings

- December 1** Morginstin and Klepner Families
December 9th Luncheon Zeichner and Trackman Families
December 9th **Historical Tour of our Temple**
December 11 **Sisterhood Meeting** Nina Glanz & Ellen Wehrman
January 5 Phyllis Chudoff and Affrime Family
January 20 Luncheon Giachetti and Kobrin Families
February 2 Bonnie Friedman and Popko Family
February 10 Luncheon Albanese & Ehrlich-Cook Families
March 9 Shira Lowry & Berny & Arlene Speiser Family
March 16 Liebman B'nai Mitzvah- Betsy Ramos
March 26 **Sisterhood Meeting** Patricia Light-Tolomeo & Bonnie Goldman
April 13 Marty & Rita Nissim and Neil & Karen Nissim
April 28 Luncheon Fechter and Aubry Families
May 4 William & Roni Goldberg and Brian & Bethann Goldberg
May 12 Luncheon Madge & Jerry Rosen and Marcia and Michael Rosen
June 11 **Sisterhood Covered Dish** Randy Bloom & Marsha Dowshen
June 15 Osman Family in honor of Bat Mitzvah
June 29 **Member of the Year** Rhea Goldman and Iz & Phyllis Kamer

NOTE

If an Oneg is canceled due to inclement weather, your responsibilities may be moved to another date. If the date assigned to you is not a good date for you, **YOU** are responsible for finding a replacement.

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. To order, please send the following information IN WRITING to Sid Morginstin, plaque chairman, (PO Box 8101 Trenton NJ or e-mail Sidmorgy@verizon.net. (1) English name of deceased (2) Hebrew name of deceased. (3) Date of death in the English calendar. Once the plaque has been put up, you will be billed. Plaques will not be moved from one board to another.

Cat's Meow Temple 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. Contact Eileen Gale at 291-0220.

UNDER THE MOON

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Temple B'nai Abraham and Sarah Seidel Sisterhood will sponsor an American Red Cross blood drive on December 27, 2006 at the Carlslake 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. We will meet our goal if each family makes itself responsible for one pint of blood. Please call Randye, 298-6485, to volunteer to distribute posters, make phone calls, or make an appointment to give blood on December 27. Let's work together to make this drive a success. Thank you. *Randye Bloom*

Donations

Temple

Yahrtzeit

In Memory of

Abraham Zackler and Pauline Zackler from Joel and Marsha Dowshen

Sidney Klepner from Len and Liz Klepner

Sisterhood

Rejoicing with You

Happy Anniversary of Karen and Neil Nissim

Jay and Elaine Trackman

Happy Anniversary Marty & Rita Nissim from Iz & Phyllis Kamer

Happy Birthday Marcel Nissim from Iz & Phyllis Kamer

Get Well

Robert Gale from Jay and Elaine Trackman

Lee Nissim from Jay and Elaine Trackman, Iz & Phyllis Kamer

In Memory of

Branda Ganz, sister of Jerry Rosen from Eileen Gale, Jay and Elaine Trackman, Sid & Charyl Morginstin

Paul Goldfarb, step-father of Charyl Morginstin from Joel and Marsha Dowshen, Jeff and Phoebe Nissim and Randye Bloom and Michael Scolaro

Al Brodsky from Jeff and Barbara Streisfeld

Lorraine G. Orland from Marty & Rita Nissim

HIGH HOLIDAY PLEDGES

Rhea Goldman
Bonnie Friedman

Betsy Ramos
Linda Bowker

Knitters wanted

Do you want to knit, crochet and like company while working on a project? Then we have a group for you. Join with your fellow temple/sisterhood members for knitting/crocheting and camaraderie. A marvelous group of ladies are going to get together to learn, re-learn and gather new patterns on a periodic basis (probably bi-weekly or monthly). We are beginners, intermediates and advanced (the heavy knitters) and invite you to roll that yarn with us. Dates and times are to be decided with most likely a January begin date. Call Betsy Ramos, 298-0437 or Eileen Gale, 291-0220, to sign up for our gatherings.

Hebrew and Religious School Notes

The December theme will be Hiddur ("Bring splendor (Hiddur) to the elders" (Leviticus 19:32)") The students will learn about the mitzvah of visiting the elderly. They will learn about what it would be like to be elderly and how they can help the elderly people in their community. They will also work on creating a show that will be presented at a local Nursing Home. The Sunday School will work on creating cards and flowers that will be brought to the nursing home along with stories of people visiting the elderly.

MASTORIS DINER

Routes. 130 and 206

Bordentown, NJ 08505

609-298-4650

Supermarket Gift Cards.

Please remember to purchase Supermarket gift cards for the Acme, Shop Rite and Marazzos. 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.

PLEASE NOTE: You can send your checks directly to Joel Dowshen at 502 Farnsworth Avenue, Bordentown, NJ 08505 with your order amount and supermarket noted.

Passover Seder

Kim Aubry has volunteered to chair the annual Passover Second Seder this year. Please call Kim to offer your help. Thank you Kim.

The Temple is on the Bordentown Historical Walking Tour

Temple B'nai Abraham will be one of the stops for the annual Bordentown Historical Society Holiday Rout on December 9 from 5 to 9 PM. The Holiday Rout committee projects about 500 to 600 people will participate in the festivities. With such a large number of participants, we have to keep things relatively simple, but we are very excited to be able to showcase our beautiful old building and our culture. Randy Bloom, Rhea Goldman, Charyl and Sid Morginstin, and Elaine and Jay Trackman have started the planning, but would love to have more ideas and volunteers. We are in need of hosts/hostesses throughout the evening to talk about our Temple and building, and to work in the kitchen getting light refreshments on trays and out to the social room (no baking required). We also would like to have a display of interesting and different menorahs and dreidels. Please bring your menorahs and dreidels to the Temple by December 8th (with your name on the bottom) and they will be available for you to pick up December 10- well in advance of Chanukah. We will have a handout available that tells the history of the Temple and information about some of the religious symbols that will be seen. **Please contact any of the committee members to volunteer your services or offer suggestions for the evening.** It is sure to be a fun evening and a great opportunity for us to reach out to the greater Bordentown community. Don't forget to bring your menorahs and dreidels to the synagogue! Thanks.

SARAH SEIDEL SISTERHOOD NEWS

Thank you to everyone who participated in our flower arranging class with Karen Nissim. The evening was fantastic and the flower arrangements that we made are unbelievably gorgeous. We would like to thank Randy Bloom and Marsha Dowshen for hosting our meeting. Also, a special thanks to Karen for her generosity as well as her superb instruction.

Marcy Schwartz will be leading us in a Yoga session on Monday December 11th at 8:00pm. Just wear comfortable clothes and bring a towel, blanket or mat. We will be doing 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!

Thank you Charyl Morginstin for the donation of several lovely platters.

In March the Sisterhood will be holding a book review on the book Snow Flower and the Secret Fan by Lisa See. The book can be bought at Amazon.com or any bookstore and is available at the local library.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

90th Birthday Bash

We are planning on having a birthday bash sometime in the spring to celebrate our 90th birthday. We're working on the date and still need committee members to work on this event. If you are willing to help, please contact Charlie Weiss at 609-802-2766 or charlie@jande.org.

Betsy Ramos

Temple B'nai Abraham and Sarah Seidel Sisterhood embroidered Tablecloth

Many of our new members of both the Temple and Sisterhood have never seen our special embroidered tablecloth. The cloth was started many years ago and has been an ongoing fundraiser for the sisterhood.

The cloth is very delicate and is used on special occasions during the year. Phyllis Chudoff has taken on the task of embroidering names on the cloth. Very soon, Mimi Geller, Sandy SchwartzBird, Bonnie Goldman, and Phyllis Chudoff will have their names added to this very special tablecloth.

Won't you join them and the many Sisterhood and Temple members, past and present, who have signed their names? The donation is \$5.00 to the Sisterhood.

Oliver a bistro

218 Farnsworth Ave
609-298-7177

Bordentown, NJ 08505
Fax 609-298-8802

The Hebrew School will be hosting the Chanukah Party on December 22 from 6:00-8:00pm. Please join us for latkes and dessert. You can bring your menorah from home for the candle lighting. It will be a nice evening to celebrate the holiday season. A short service will follow.

Sarah Seidel Sisterhood Chanukah Candle & Gift Wrap Sale

45 Multi Color Candles \$5.99

Set of 4 Beautiful designs of Chanukah wrapping paper
Each roll is 50 sq. ft \$12.99

Call or email your order to Shira Lowry. Don't worry about payment until delivery. Phone Shira at 324-0072 or shira@eksuccess.com.

Celebrating Chanukah

Kindle the Chanukah Menorah on each of the eight nights of Chanukah. For the dates, see the calendar. Use olive oil or paraffin candles-large enough to burn until half an hour after nightfall-for the lights of the Menorah.

Use a 'Shamesh' (service candle) to kindle the lights, and place it in its special place on the Menorah.

Before kindling the candles, recite the blessings
Place the menorah in a window for all to enjoy.

Chanukah Menorah Kindling Blessings

Bo-ruch A-toh Ado-noi Elo-hei-nu Me-lech Ho-olom A-sher Ki-de-sho-nu Be-mitz-vo-sov Ve-tzi-vo-nu Le-had-lik Ner Cha-nu-kah.

Blessed are You, L-rd our G-d, King of the universe, who has sanctified us by His commandments, and has commanded us to kindle the lights of Chanukah.

Bo-ruch A-toh Ado-noi E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech Ho-olom She-o-so Ni-sim La-avo-sei-nu Ba-yo-min Ho-heim Biz-man Ha-zeh.

Blessed are You, L-rd our G-d, King of the universe, who wrought miracles for our fathers in days of old, at this season.

Potato Latkes

Because of the great significance of oil in the history of Chanukah, Latkes-fritters fried in oil-are usually served.

- 5 large 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 a grater, or in food processor, or in blender with a little water added to it. Add eggs and mix well. Add matzo meal and seasoning and mix well. Heat oil in frying pan, then add mixture, 1 tablespoon at a time, into frying pan. When golden brown, turn over and brown other side.

jester's

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There are a few different spellings of Chanukah. This editor uses the spelling of my childhood. All ways are acceptable.

December
Kislev-Tevet 5767

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
November 26 NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL	November 27	November 28	November 29	November 30 Hebrew School 4:30PM to 6:30PM	December 1 st Shabbat Services 7:30PM Oneg hosts Morginstin and Klepner Families	December 2 nd
3 Religious School 9:30 to 10:30 Hebrew School 10:30 to 12:30	4	5	6	7 Hebrew School 4:30PM to 6:30PM	8	9 Shabbat morning Services 9:30am No Luncheon Bordentown Historical Tour 5 to 9PM
10 NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL	11 Sisterhood 7:30PM YOGA	12	13	14 Hebrew School 4:30PM to 6:30PM	15 Tot Shabbat/Pot Luck dinner 6PM Adult Services 7:30PM Ist Night of Chanukah Light 1 candle	16 Light 2 candles
17 Religious School 9:30 to 10:30 Hebrew School 10:30 to 12:30 Light 3 candles	18 Light 4 candles	19 Light 5 candles	20 Light 6 candles	21 Hebrew School 4:30PM to 6:30PM Light 7 candles	22 Chanukah Party and Latkes 6 to 8PM Short Service Light 8 candles	23
24 NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL	25	26	27	28 <i>No Hebrew School</i>	29 Shabbat Services 7:30PM	30
31 NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL	January 1	January 2	January 3	January 4 Hebrew School 4:30PM to 6:30PM	January 5 Shabbat Services 7:30PM	January 6