



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

MAY

2006-2007

Dear Temple B'nai Abraham Community

After all the excitement of the Passover story, we now find ourselves in the period of the Omer. In making this shift, we move from elaborate seders and stories of plagues, pillars of cloud and fire, and parting seas; into a time characterized by counting and partial mourning practices. It can seem rather anti-climactic. By the time we finish counting off the 49 days of the Omer.... Actually, let's be honest... How many of us actually keep it up for that long...? Don't many of us lose focus partway into the Omer period? And then, 49 days after Pesach, many Jews aren't looking for and don't notice the arrival of another holiday – Shavuot – the celebration of the giving of the Torah at Sinai.

Shavuot is the lost holiday. In America, Hebrew schools tend to end before Shavuot arrives, and people often slow down their synagogue attendance for the summer. Shavuot is often an afterthought at best. More often, it is forgotten, leaving a great absence of memories.

This fact never ceases to surprise me, since Shavuot is one of my favorite Jewish holidays. For me, Shavuot is not such a blank slate. Instead it has beautiful associations – it carries with it treasured memories of my conversion to Judaism.

The synagogue was decorated with roses, the oneg was lavish with dairy desserts, the sanctuary was populated with friends who offered me blessings, and I was filled with joy. It was a day of firsts: I made challah with cinnamon and sugar wound into the braids, I was presented with my tallit, I held the Torah and led the congregation in the Shema, I gave a d'var torah.

That night, I spoke about the book of Ruth – the biblical text associated with Shavuot. Ruth was a Moabite woman who chose to join herself to the Jewish people and the Jewish God, saying to Naomi: "Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your god my god."

The pairing of the story of Ruth with the celebration of the giving of the Torah at Sinai is a reminder that giving and receiving torah is not just a one time event and is not only an encounter on a mountaintop. Ruth does not climb a mountain, alone, to meet God and receive instruction. Instead, Ruth finds torah in her relationship with Naomi, and in that relationship, in that connection, she learns about a people, a God, and a way of life that speak to her spirit.

There is torah in people, torah in relationships and connections with others. At the time of my own conversion to Judaism, I sensed this message in the story of Ruth. As years passed and my connection to Judaism settled deeply into my being, I began to discover this truth in new ways. Now, as I journey through rabbinical school, I have had new opportunities to learn this lesson in profoundly moving ways.

I spent last summer at a children's hospital in Atlanta, GA in a chaplaincy educational program, and this was where I first heard the phrase: "the living human document". The phrase was not meant to objectify people, but rather carried with it a sense of honor and respect for each encounter with a patient or family member as someone who has much to teach if we are able to be fully present with them and are open to learn. Each of us has a unique spirit and path through life, and if we can listen deeply to each other it broadens our experience and brings comfort.

I have carried this sense with me to TBA – eager to encounter each person, to listen and learn from your experiences. It has been a beautiful year for me at TBA, as each encounter has deepened my connection to peoplehood, broadened my understanding of torah, and taught me more about myself as rabbi. Moses was given Torah on Sinai; Ruth was given torah through her encounter with Naomi. We celebrate these revelations on Shavuot. This year, for me, the meaning of Shavuot expands to include the torah I have learned here at TBA, and it gives me additional cause for celebration as I add to the collection of beautiful memories that I carry.

Chag same'ach!
Rabbi Julie

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

President	Betsy Ramos
Exec. Vice Pres.	Charlie Weiss
Religious VP	Michael Rosen
Financial VP	Jennifer Carton
Secretary	Eileen Gale
Trustees:	
Religious School Chair	Susan Giachetti
Membership/Outreach Chair	Stewart Warren
Building Committee Chair	Stan Zeichner
Adult Education Chair	Rick Shain

**Sarah Seidel Sisterhood
Officers for 5766-67**

Co-Presidents	Bonnie Friedman & Debby Weiss
Treasurer	Shira Lowry
Financial Secretary	Rita Nissim
Record. Secretary	Ellen Wehrman
Corres. Secretary	Mimi Geller
Trustees:	
	Susan Giachetti
	Melissa Fattori

**SHABBAT SERVICES, YAHRZEITS
ONEGS**

Friday, May 4th Shabbat Services 7:30PM We will remember Louis Benson, father of Charyl Morginstin. Bess Light, mother of Patricia Light-Tolomeo
Light Candles 7:39PM

Saturday May 12th Shabbat morning services 9:30AM. 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, and Stanley Nadel, father of Irwin Nadel. No luncheon due to tonight's Murder Mystery fund raiser.

Friday May 18 Tot Shabbat/Pot luck dinner 6PM, Adult services 7:30PM. We will remember Joseph Harrison, father-in-law of Renee Harrison, Harry Pierce, father of Ira pierce, and Jacob Mervish, father of Shyrle Kushner.
Light Candles 7:53PM

Friday, May 25th Shabbat services 7:30PM We will remember Harry Brewis, great grandfather of Brian Epstein.
Light Candles 7:59PM

Friday June 1 Shabbat services 7:30PM Rabbi Julie leads. We will remember Genevive Maza, aunt of Sandra Cohen & George Groveman. **Light Candles 8:04PM**

Congregational meeting May 16th. We encourage all to attend. Policy is decided at these meetings. Your input is greatly appreciated

AROUND OUR TEMPLE NEWS

Saturday May 12	Murder Mystery
Wednesday May 16	Congregational Meeting
Thursday May 24 th	Hebrew School Graduation
Wednesday June 13	Congregational Meeting
Friday June 29	Member of Year Award

Welcome to new member Diane J. Weinberg.

The Temple and Sisterhood communities extend our condolences to Howard Barman and family on the passing of Howard's father William.

The Temple and Sisterhood communities extend our condolences to Ilene Miller, Rosalyn Miller and Phyllis Busch on the passing of Evelyn Miller, mother of Ilene and Rosalyn.

Tot Shabbat News

Tot Shabbat met in April to celebrate Shabbat and Yom Ha'Atzmaut, Israeli Independence Day. In addition to our potluck dinner, service and story reading, the children danced to Hava Nagila and decorated Israel shaped magnets.

The final dates on our calendar will be May 18 when we celebrate Shavuot, and June 8 when we learn about Havdallah. Although we are approaching the end of the calendar year of services, it's never too late to join us. Ours is a warm and supportive group of families that welcomes all new members.

For more information about Tot Shabbat or to join our pot luck RSVP list call Sharon Dauber 291-9169 or email sdauber@comcast.net.

Social Action

We have had very successful food deliveries to the Pine Motel once a month thanks to the gracious participation of the Hebrew School class.

Extra thanks to Ellen Wehrman and Susan Giachetti for helping with transportation. The next meal delivery will be Thurs., May 24.

Please let Marcy know if you are interested in helping with this activity through the summer (324-0571).

Our temple has made generous donations to the food pantry at St. Mary's thanks to all congregants who have contributed items! An even more valuable contribution: Elaine Trackman has become a volunteer at the food pantry! Her help is greatly appreciated. Anyone interested in volunteering, even one hour a month, please contact Elaine or call Bob Jacobus at 298-0494.

The granola bars project is also a big success, as our contribution to grocery bags delivered to 20 families at motels in the area once a month.

Keep those contributions coming! We need to replenish the food for the food pantry.

Marcy Schwartz

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

May 4 Marty and Rita Nssim and Neil & Karen Nissim
June 11 Sisterhood Covered Dish Randye Bloom & Marsha Dowshen

June 15 Osman Family in honor of Bat Mitzvah

June 29 Member of the Year Gerald and Madge Rosen and Is & 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.

Knitters Group

We will meet every fourth Monday at the home of Betsy Ramos. Please join us for a fun evening of kibitzing and knitting. The date for May will be May 29, Tuesday, due to Memorial Day being the fourth Monday in May.

Mazel Tov to our Member of the Year Rhea Goldman. Rhea will be honored at our June 29th services.

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 on-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.

Teen Group

The last two events of the year will be held in May:
Sunday, May 6 -- Canoeing, picnic and community clean up along the canal in Princeton
Sunday, May 20 -- Bonfire and cook-out
For more information, please contact Abbie and Sam Shain, 324-0571.

Gracie Allen's Classic Recipe for Roast Beef

1 large Roast of beef

1 small Roast of beef

Take the two roasts and put them in the oven.

When the little one burns, the big one is done.

SARAH SEIDEL SISTERHOOD NEWS

Grounds for Sculpture – April 29th 9:30am

Please meet at the temple at 9:30am so that we may carpool or at the grounds at 10:00am. Admission price is \$12.00 per adult. Grounds for Sculpture is a 35-acre sculpture park and museum. It is comprised of landscaped grounds and historic, renovated buildings which feature changing exhibitions of contemporary sculpture. There are two casual restaurants to choose from. For more details about Grounds for Sculpture go to www.groundsforsculpture.org.

Thank you to Kim Aubry for a wonderful and successful seder!

Sisterhood would like to thank Eileen Gale and Elaine Trackman for hosting a wonderful book review of Snow Flower and the Secret Fan.

Sisterhood Board meeting May 6th, 11:00am breakfast/brunch meeting at the home of Eileen Gale, 32 Thompson St. Bordentown.

Supermarket Gift Cards

Since the last Newsletter \$2750. gift cards were sold and the Temple made \$137.50. A big thanks to the following who bought the gift cards during this time period: Gale, Barman, Zeichner, Dowshen, Bonatti-Zotta, Trackman, Morganstin, Schwartz, Ramos, and Cantor.

If your name is not on the list please put forth the effort to contact me, 298-5306, and start supporting our temple. **Joel and Marsha Dowshen**

Important Temple Notes

We're still looking for someone to volunteer to be board secretary . Board secretary is a simple job; just need to attend the board meetings and take minutes.

Thank you everyone for making our Community Seder a success. A Community Seder is important to so many for so many different reasons. We had members, possible new members and guests. We had over 35 people including 7 children at the Community Seder; Moses even showed up to help deliver the 10 plagues. Rabbi Alex did a fabulous job leading and the food was delicious. I want to thank everyone for contributing with set up, clean up and having fun. With everyone helping we were out by 9pm...a record, I think. A special thanks to: Sheri Haines, Shira Lowery, Cheryl Morginstin, Sid Morginstin, Robin Affrime, Marcia Rosen and Mike Rosen. **Kim Aubry**

Donations

Temple

Yahrtzeit

William Trackman by Jay and Elaine Trackman
Rita Hodes by Randye Bloom and Michael Scolaro
Bernard Greenblatt by Michael and Marcia Rosen
Max Kessler by Henry and Rhoda Kessler
Leonard Greenblatt by Michael and Marcia Rosen
Belle Rosen by Gerald and Madge Rosen
Albert Dowshen by Joel and Marsha Dowshen
Flora Grassian by Marty and Rita Nissim
Irving and Frances Epstein by Rhea Goldman
Jack Harrison by Renee Harrison

In Memory Of

William Barman by Eileen Gale
Betsy Ramos

Evelyn Miller by Eileen Gale

Get Well

Steven Affrime by Sid and Charyl Morginstin

Sisterhood

In Memory of

Evelyn Miller by Jay and Elaine Trackman

A New book by Josh Zeitz is available on amazon.com

White Ethnic New York: Jews, Catholics and the Shaping of Postwar Politics

"This is an important book that will engage many readers with a persuasive yet controversial argument about a central feature of the postwar United States: the collapse of the New Deal coalition. The research is solid--at times stunning--and Zeitz writes with flair."--John T. McGreevy, Professor, University of Notre Dame, author of Parish Boundaries: The Catholic Encounter with Race in the Twentieth Century Urban North

Silk & TWEED Gifts & Decor

Beautiful Judaica is now being offered..

In addition to: Mary Francis Purses, Baby gifts, Jubilee Lamps and Jim Shore Collectibles.

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Store Hours - Open 12:00pm every day except Monday



R.S.V.P. by May 3rd to
Eileen Gale at 291-0220
or
Debby Weiss at 208-2084.

Please let us know if
you are interested in
playing a character.

The cost is \$20.00 per
person

Checks are to be made
out to the Temple and
sent to the Temple, c/o
Eileen Gale

Volunteers are needed
to help bake "finger
food". Desserts of your
choice will be shared
by all!

Temple B'nai
Abraham
cordially
invites you and
your friends to
A Murder Mystery
**Murder at the
Four Deuces**

seven o'clock in
the evening
Saturday, the
twelfth of May
Two thousand and
seven

Desserts, and
wine and cheese
will be provided

Invite your
friends for the
social event of
the year.

Who knows, the
murderer could
be you, or one
of your friends!

May
Iyar - Sivan

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
April 29 No Religious School Grounds for Sculpture meet at 9:30 at Temple to carpool		1	2	3 Hebrew School 4:30PM to 6:30PM	4 Shabbat Services 7:30PM Oneg hosts Marty & Rita, Neil & Karen Nissim	5
6 Joint Religious School 10 to 12 Sisterhood Board Breakfast Meeting 11am at home of Eileen Gale	7	8	9	10 Hebrew School 4:30PM to 6:30PM	11	12 Shabbat Morning Services 9am No Luncheon 7PM Murder Mystery
13 No Religious School <i>MOTHERS DAY</i>	14	15	16	17 Hebrew School 4:30PM to 6:30PM	18 Tot Shabbat/Pot Luck dinner 6PM Adult Services 7:30PM Rosh Chodesh	19
20 Religious School 9:30 to 10:30 Hebrew School 10:30 to 12:30	21	22	23 Shavuot	24 Hebrew School 4:30PM to 6:30PM Graduation 5:30 Dinner Shavuot Yizkor	25 Shabbat Services 7:30PM Rabbi Julie leads	26
27 No Religious School	28	29 Knitting Group 7:30 at Betsy Ramos home	30	31	June 1 Shabbat Services 7:30PM Rabbi Julie leads	June 2

HomeFront

*Send your mother a message love
And send someone else a message of hope
This Mother's Day, make a contribution to help a
homeless mother care for her children.*

There's no better way to show your mother how much you care than by helping someone else in her name. By giving a generous contribution to HomeFront, you can help homeless mothers right here in our community care for their children. Call 609-8989-9417 to make a contribution, and we will send your mother (or whomever you choose) a very special Mother's Day card honoring your gift in their name.



Country-Western
Two-Step

Foxtrot & Waltz

West Coast Swing



Swing

Couples/Singles Dance Classes

Instruction by Diane Weinberg

Thursday evenings & weekends ~ starting on 5/31

Academy Theater – adjacent to Mastori's Diner
Rte. 130 South at intersection of Rte. 206
Bordentown

www.movingtomusic.com

856-962-8511

dianedancer@snip.net



Remember the Congregational Meeting On May 16 at 7:30PM

RSVP for the Murder Mystery by May 3rd. A fun evening of murder and mayhem is in the works for all. Guests are encouraged to dress like Roaring Twenties molls and gangsters and/or politicians.