



# Temple B'nai Abraham

Temple B'nai Abraham  
President – Betsy Ramos

## The Temple Shofar

Rabbi Alex Lazarus-Klein  
Student Rabbi - Julie Pfau

Sarah Seidel Sisterhood  
President - Shira Lowry

5768

JANUARY

2007

On the first day of every Hebrew month, Jewish women all over the country and the world come together to celebrate Rosh Chodesh. Under the gaze of the barely visible moon, they study Judaism, talk, eat, laugh and cry together. They range in ages from teenagers to seniors, and in Jewish affiliation from Reform, to Orthodox, to unaffiliated. They are united by the desire to be together.

Rosh Chodesh, meaning the head of the month, has traditionally been a minor festival. Starting in the 1970's, Jewish feminists reclaimed it as a woman's holiday. In 1986, Peninah Adelman's *Miriam's Well: Rituals for Jewish Women Around the Year*, widened the circle to include more and more women. These Rosh Chodesh groups are a source of hope and healing for their members, a way of bonding in a way that is uniquely feminine.

My wife, Ashirah, has been part of a Rosh Chodesh group for the past two years. I know once a month she will leave me to go to a friend's house. Sometimes we will host, and I will have to vacate the house, so that they can be alone. Depending on the night, five to ten women will gather to be together in a meaningful way. One member of the group will be in charge of leading, generally picking a topic dealing with the Torah portions that month or with an upcoming holiday. When she comes back, I know she will be buzzing from the conversation they had that night.

Over the course of the two years, my wife has become very close to the members of the Rosh Chodesh group. These women along with their husbands and partners are our closest friends in the area we live in Philadelphia. Many of the women have had children, and we have been there with them, to help support them. We have also been there when group members have lost relatives or moved away. In my busy schedule, I don't if I will be able to see these

friends, however it is comforting knowing that Ashirah has a built-in time with them.

This past month, Ashirah led the group. It was the beginning of the month of Tevet. During Tevet we begin the book of Shemot, or Exodus. In English Shemot, means names. She and the members of the group discussed the meaning behind their own names. In this way, they connected directly with the names listed in the Torah.

On January 8<sup>th</sup>, her group will meet again. This time it will be the beginning of the month of Shevat, the month where we celebrate the holiday of Tu B'Shevat, the Jewish arbor day. Whether or not you are a woman, or are part of a Rosh Chodesh group, I encourage you to think about the moon. Think about transitions, moving from one month to another. How quickly life moves. Finding time to be together is so, very important.

For women interested in finding out more. I would encourage you to go to [ritualwell.org](http://ritualwell.org), where there is an excellent article by Ruth Berger Goldstein and Merle Feld. Here is the last paragraph:

“Starting, and growing, a Rosh Chodesh group can seem a daunting task. Yet, with a bit of knowledge and resourcefulness, many women have been able to help groups get off the ground, and many groups have not only been born, but have thrived. We have found that being part of a Rosh Chodesh group has been a very special experience of community that we didn't find in other parts of our Jewish lives—a unique opportunity to lead and be led, to grow and to experiment, to learn and to teach, to struggle and to celebrate with our sisters.”

B'Shalom, Rabbi Alex



Temple B'nai Abraham is affiliated with The Reconstruction Movement



## Shabbat Services for November

**Saturday January 5** 9:30AM Shabbat Morning Services  
Lunch hosts Zeichner and Eileen Gale families

**Friday January 11** 7:30PM Shabbat Services

*Light Candles 4:30*

**Friday January 18** 7:30PM Shabbat Services.

*Light Candles 4:38*

**Friday January 25** 6:00PM Tot Shabbat/Pot Luck  
Dinner, Adult services 7:30PM

*Light Candles 4:46*

**Friday February 1st.** 7:30PM Shabbat Services Oneg  
Shabbat host families Speiser and Fechter. Rabbi Julie  
leads services.

*Light Candles 4:55*

### Temple B'nai Abraham Officers

President:	Betsy Ramos
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### Sarah Seidel Sisterhood Officers

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Elaine Trackman	Eileen Gale

### Tot Shabbat

Tot Shabbat met in December to celebrate Hanukkah and Shabbat. In addition to our dinner and abbreviated service, the children heard and sang with the story, "I Have a Little Dreidel" by Maxie Baum. A big thank you to Mrs. Karen Nissim for leading the craft activity. Under her guidance the children made and decorated Hanukkah shaped cookies, and they had a wonderful time of it!

Our next Tot Shabbat service will be January 25 when we celebrate Tu B'Shevat, the birthday of the trees. Future services will be held February 29 when student Rabbi Julie Pfau leads our group with a special focus on Sabbath rituals, and March 21 when Rabbi Alex returns for some Purim fun.

As always our group is open to new members and new ideas. To make referrals for either or for more information about Tot Shabbat call Sharon Dauber 291-9169 or email [sdauber@comcast.net](mailto:sdauber@comcast.net).

## YAHREZEITS

### January 4th

We will remember Bernard Zeichner, father of Stan Zeichner, Julius Bloom, father of Randye Bloom, Ella Kessler, mother of Henry Kessler, founding family member and Jennie Groveman, founding family member.

### January 11th

We will remember Rose Wasserman, mother of Linda Bowker, past members Minnie Gutstein, Ida Josephson, mother of Sam Josephson, and Harry Gutstein.

### January 18th

We will remember Rose Goldberg, mother of Phyllis Kamer, Morris Herzog, brother of Madge Rosen, and past member Albert Reichlin, father of Peter Reichlin.

### January 25th

We will remember Morris Miller, father of Ilene & Roslyn Miller.

Welcome new Temple members Greg, Faith and Jacob Hupfl. They reside in Allentown and Jacob attends our Hebrew School.

### SOCIAL ACTION

Thanks to all who have been contributing granola bars for the motel families. We have been keeping up our monthly commitment to add to the grocery bags organized by our interfaith community. Our other monthly commitment of meal delivery to the Pines Motel with the Crosswicks Methodist Church is also going strong. The bar and bat mitzvah students have been a helpful and cheerful presence each last Thursday of the month. Many thanks to the students and to Robin Affrime, Ellen Wehrman, and Susan Giachetti for their assistance in driving and delivery. All those we serve are immensely grateful for the food. Anyone interested in helping with food delivery please contact Marcy at 324-0571.



## With our School

### Snacks for 2007-2008

January	Shira Lowry
February	Debbie Reyes
March	Kim Aubry
April	Linda Osman
May	Jen Carton

Snack suggestions: Juice, Water bottles, Baked chips, Pretzels, Cookies, Fruit, Veggies

## Knitting-Crafting Group

The next meeting will be January 28th at the home of Eileen Gale. Please RSVP to Eileen at 291-0220, 32 Thompson St., Bordentown, egale10@verizon.net

## Gift Card Program

The Temple needs your support. Please make the effort and call 298-5306. **Marsha and Joel Dowshen**

The temple acknowledges the generous gift of three beautiful books to the temple library by Ron Morris and his late wife Myrna. The three books are: Illustrated Haggadah, The Works of Josephus translated by William Whiston, and Historical Atlas of the Jewish People

Ron hopes the Hebrew School students will enjoy them. Please take a look at them on our shelves the next time you are at temple. Many thanks, Ron!



## Donations

### Temple

#### *In Memory of*

**John Duker**, father of Sheri Haines

**Walter Harrison and Helene Roseman** from Renee Harrison

**Bernard Zeichner** from Ronnie and Stan Zeichner

**Eudel Rod, Larry Bowker and Rose Wasserman** from Linda Bowker

**Morris Herzog** from Gerry and Madge Rosen

#### *Prayer Books*

Presented to Temple B'nai Abraham and to Sarah Seidel Sisterhood from Is and Phyllis Kamer in honor of Is recovery from his recent illness.

#### *In Honor Of*

**Rabbi Alex Lazarus-Klein** for his guidance, leadership, and encouragement on the journey of Sheri Haines' conversion from Sheri Haines

**Rabbi Marjorie Berman** for her teaching, thoughtfulness, and for making Sheri Haines' conversion day experience so amazing and meaningful from Sheri Haines.

**My new family at B'nai Abraham** for their continued welcome, support, and friendship from Sheri Haines

**To commemorate the birth of Josef Yitzhak Zeichner to Dov and Chanie Zeichner**, grandson of Stan & Ronnie Zeichner from Stan and Ronnie Zeichner

### Sisterhood

#### *In Memory of*

**Clive Feigenbaum** from Sid and Charyl Morginstin

**Elsie Hafer mother of Rick Shain** from Randye Bloom and Michael Scolaro

Eileen Gale

#### *Get Well*

**Sandy SchwartzBird** from Sid and Charyl Morginstin

#### *Rejoicing with you*

**Barbara and Jeff Streisfeld on Birth of granddaughter** from Randye Bloom and Michael Scolaro

#### *In Honor Of*

**Phyllis Chudoff** from Evelyn Rothman

## High Holiday Donations Received

**Michael and Marcia Rosen**

**Betsy Ramos**

# Commemorative, Limited Edition Print Celebrating the 90th Anniversary of Temple B'nai Abraham 8 x 10 Matted

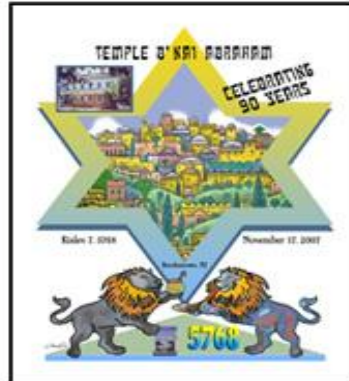
only **\$20** each

**Available in 2 full color styles**

Designed by Temple Member, Sandy SchwartzBird

To order your print, call Sandy at 609-585-3257

You can view the prints at the Temple starting Thursday, November 29th.



## Oneg Shabbat and Sisterhood Hosts

January 5	<b>Luncheon</b> Zeichner & Eileen Gale Families
January 18	<b>Oneg</b> B. Goldberg and W. Goldberg Families
February 1	<b>Oneg</b> Speiser and Fechter Families
February 9	<b>Oneg</b> G. Rosen and M. Rosen Families
February 11	<b>Sisterhood</b> Mimi Geller & Rita Nissim
March 10	<b>Sisterhood</b> Bonnie Goldman and Rhea Goldman
March 14	<b>Oneg</b> Osman and Kamer Families
March 29	<b>Luncheon</b> Kaplow and Aubry Family
April 4	<b>Oneg</b> Rachel Schwartz and Affrime Families
April 19	<b>Luncheon</b> Trackman and Weiskoff Families
May 3	<b>Oneg</b> Grabenstein and Lowry in Honor of Bat Mitzvah
May 12	<b>Sisterhood</b> Renee Harrison and Sandy SchwartzBird
May 16	<b>Oneg</b> Ronnie Bradbury and Jennifer Carton Families
May 30	<b>Oneg</b> Giachetti Family in honor of B'nai Mitzvot
June 9	<b>Sisterhood Covered Dish</b> Randye Bloom and Marsha Dowshen
June 13	<b>Oneg</b> Popko Family in honor of Bat Mitzvah

If you are unable to attend and provide refreshments on the date that was assigned to you, it is your responsibility to switch with someone. Please note that any leftover food must be removed from the temple and not left in the refrigerator.



## Teen Group

The joint teen group (with Princeton's String of Pearls and Belle Mead's Kehillat Shalom) has a full list of activities scheduled for the next few months. Highlights for the winter include:

January 19th-- Homefront Grocery Packing

February 8th-- New York trip to B'nai Jeshuan

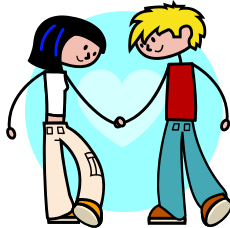
February 23rd-- Rollerskating

March 1st-- "The Flood"-- Musical at Princeton University

March 15th-- Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Environmental Project

March 29th-- Shul-in at Kehillat Shalom

Call Sam and Abbie Shain with any questions: 324-0571.



## Around our Temple

The Temple and Sisterhood communities send our condolences to the Shain family on the loss of Rick's mother Elsie Hafer.

Mazel Tov to the Nissim family on the birth of Samantha Rose, grand-daughter of Barbara and Jeff Streisfeld and the great-grand-daughter of Lee and Marcel Nissim.

Mazel Tov to Stan and Ronnie Zeichner on the birth of grandson Josef Yitzhak Zeichner

Mazel Tov to Brittany Friedman who has been invited by People to People Student Ambassadors to travel to Europe - Germany, Russia, Czech, Latvia, and Warsaw. She will visit the Czar's palace, the Berlin Wall, the site of the 1936 Olympics, the Warsaw Ghetto site and two concentration camps. It is a huge honor as this is by nomination only



## SARAH SEIDEL SISTERHOOD

Our next meeting will be February 11, 2008.  
Thank you Elaine Trackman and Ellen Wehrman for the enjoyable and thought provoking book review on The Faith Club. If you are still thinking about reading this book, please do so. It brings out many questions about all religions and how we look at each of them.  
Our jewelry fundraiser was a success and many of us were able to do our holiday shopping while enjoying a delightful feast.  
Don't forget to vote for Ellen Wehrman at the next Bordentown Regional School Board elections.

I am happy to announce that Joshua Zeitz will be running for election as a representative for New Jersey opposing Chris Smith. Josh is the son of our beloved Elaine and Carl Zeitz. We will have more in our upcoming newsletters on Josh's campaign. This editor is with you 100% Josh. Your Editor Eileen

**JANUARY 2008**

**TEVET - SHEVAT 5768**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
December 30  No RELIGIOUS SCHOOL	December 31  Happy New Year 	1	2	3  <u>HEBREW SCHOOL</u> 4:30PM - 6:30PM	4	5  <u>SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES</u> 9:30AM - 11:30 - 6:30PM ZEICHNER & GALE FAMILIES LUNCH HOSTS
6  No RELIGIOUS SCHOOL	7	8  ROSH CHODESH SHEVAT	9	10  <u>HEBREW SCHOOL</u> 4:30PM - 6:30PM	11  <u>FRIDAY NIGHT SERVICES</u> 7:30PM	12
13  RELIGIOUS SCHOOL 10:30-12:30	14	15	16	17  <u>HEBREW SCHOOL</u> 4:30PM - 6:30PM	18  <u>FRIDAY NIGHT SERVICES</u> 7:30PM ONEG HOSTS B. GOLDBERG AND W. GOLDBERG FAMILIES	19  <u>TEEN GROUP HOMEFRONT GROCERY PACKING</u>
20  No RELIGIOUS SCHOOL	21	22	23	24  <u>HEBREW SCHOOL</u> 4:30PM - 6:30PM	25  <u>FRIDAY NIGHT SERVICES</u> TOT SHABBAT 6PM POT LUCK DINNER ADULT SERVICES 7:30	26
27  <u>HEBREW SCHOOL - TU</u> <u>B'SHEVAT</u> <u>SEDER</u> (10:30AM - 12:30PM)	28  KNITTING CRAFTERS MEETING EILEEN GALE'S HOME 7:30 	29	30	31  <u>HEBREW SCHOOL</u> 4:30PM - 6:30PM FOOD DELIVERY 5:15- 6:15	FEBRUARY 1  <u>FRIDAY NIGHT SERVICES</u> 7:30PM HOSTS FAMILIES SPEISER AND FECHTER FAMILIES RABBI JULIE LEADS	FEBRUARY 2