



Temple B'nai Abraham

Temple B'nai Abraham
President – Betsy Ramos

The Temple Shofar
Rabbi - Julie Pfau

Sarah Seidel Sisterhood
President - Shira Lowry

5769 ADAR-NISAN

MARCH 2009

A Message From Rabbi Julie

Near the end of March is Rosh Hodesh Nisan – the beginning of the month of Nisan. The month of Nisan is most well-known for being the month in which we celebrate Passover. But there is another Jewish association with this month – there is a special blessing to be said during it. With the coming of Spring, we begin to look for budding and flowering trees. During Nisan, when seeing a flowering tree for the first time, this blessing is said:

Baruch atah adonai eloheyenu melekh ha-olam she-lo chisar b'olamo k'lum u'vara vo b'riot tovo v'ilanot tovim l'hanot ba-hem b'nei adam.

*Blessed are you, YHVH our god ruler of the universe:
Your universe lacks nothing, and You created in it good creatures and good trees that people may find pleasure in them.*

I wrote last month about blessing, and I want to continue to focus on blessings as we move through the season of Purim and into the season of Passover. This time, I would like to share with you some blessings that I have written – ones that have some affinity with the traditional blessing for the month of Nisan.

The first is a blessing written for an individual to say at any time – at times when hope is needed, at times of transition, or as a blessing to start the day with.

*kol zera tov she-nizra b'chayai
y'vatzbetz y'lavlev v'yifrach*

*May every good seed that has been planted in my life
sprout, delicately begin to bloom, and then blossom.*

The second blessing I will share with you this month is a *misheberach*. The traditional *misheberach* prayer that takes many forms for different occasions. It asks the one who blessed our ancestors to bless us – when we come up for an aliyah during the Torah service, when we are sick, when we celebrate a milestone in our lives. The one I have written is general enough to be used on any occasion, and

it uses natural imagery to talk about God's working in our lives.

*May THE SOURCE that blessed the entire world
and filled it with diverse and abundant life
bless _____.*

*May THE PROCESS OF GROWTH grow through the soil
of your spirit and life so that your spirit will flourish, and
your life will yield lavish fruits and blossoms.*

*May you be open to THE PROCESS OF GROWTH and
may your soil/self be generously cared for, nurtured, and
watered.*

*May every good seed that has been planted in your life
sprout, delicately begin to bloom, and then blossom.*

*May you delight in this growth, and may it strengthen you,
and may its produce emanate abundantly to the world for
blessing.*

And let us say: Amen.

I offer this blessing for all of you this month – may you all be cared for and nurtured, may you discover much beauty in your lives and experience delight.

Shalom,
Rabbi Julie

In the interest of increasing her accessibility, Rabbi Julie has reserved times each week when she will be available for your phone calls and to respond to your non-emergency communications. Those times are:

Sundays 8:00 - 9:00 pm

Mondays 8:00 - 9:00 pm

Thursdays 3:45 - 4:30 pm

For urgent and time sensitive communications, please note this in the subject line of emails and leave a voicemail as well. Rabbi Julie will be checking phone messages each day, and, in case of an emergency, will respond in a timely manner.



Temple B'nai Abraham is affiliated with
the Jewish Reconstruction Federation.

www.jrf.org

Temple B'nai Abraham Officers

President:	Betsy Ramos
Executive VP:	Robin Affrime
Religious VP:	Sid Morginstin
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Recording Secretary:	Shiri Haines
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Corres. Secretary	Mimi Geller
Trustees:	
Susan Giachetti	Phyllis Chudoff
Elaine Trackman	Eileen Gale

Community Passover Seder



**Thursday, April 9
6pm**

at Temple B'nai Abraham, led
by Rabbi Julie Pfau

Join us for an evening of good food, good story, and good wine while we break matzah as a community.

The cost for a full dinner will be: Adults - \$30
Children (10 to 15yr.) - \$15, Children (5 to 9yr) - \$10
Children under 5 - Free

The deadline for reservations is March 27.

The community is welcome plus any guests. Please email Kim Aubry for reservations at kimaubry@gmail.com or call 609-841-8965. and all dinners must be prepaid so please mail checks to Kim Aubry, 930 Hamilton Ave. Roebling, NJ 08554 and make checks out to Temple B'nai Abraham.

We are still looking for set-up, serving and clean-up volunteers. Please email me if you are interested or have questions or special requests.

Family Shabbat Dinner

March 27th 6:30 pm

Join us for a Shabbat Potluck Dinner together at the synagogue. This will be instead of the regular Erev Shabbat service. Light Shabbat candles! Say kiddush and motzi together! Sing Songs! Share in a special Shabbat experience with your Temple B'nai Abraham family a potluck meal together.



Please bring your favorite Shabbat Candleholder, candles, and Kiddush cup. This meal will be dairy, please do not bring meat.

RSVP to Shiri Haines at slhaines2@yahoo.com or (609) 440-5954 by March 18th with your food contribution and number of attendees.

Shabbat Service Dates and Times



Friday, March 6

Tot Shabbat at 6:00 p.m.

Shabbat Evening Service at 7:30 p.m.

Friday, March 13

Learners Minyan at 7:00 pm

Shabbat Evening Service at 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 21

Shabbat Morning Service at 9:30 a.m.

Friday, March 27

Shabbat Potluck Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

Shabbat Candle Lighting Time

Friday, March 6 th	5:35
Friday, March 13 th	6:43
Friday, March 20 th	6:51
Friday, March 27 th	6:58

Save the Date!

Upcoming Shabbat Morning Services

April 25th

May 16th

June 20th

THOU SHALT NOT MISS THIS FILM!

**Saturday, March 14
6:00 pm**

The Temple B'nai Abraham Jewish Film Series will feature Cecil B. DeMille's immortal sword and sandal epic "**The Ten Commandments**," to put you in the frame of mind for Passover.

Prepare to spend 40 years wandering in the Sinai wilderness; or at least 219 minutes of sitting on our Temple chairs, which may seem like 40 years. To make these 40 years bearable for all, instead of subsisting on manna, we will nosh on pizza, desserts, and other refreshments. (Worshippers of the Golden calf beware.) We can guarantee everyone else a rollicking good time. All are welcome! There is no cost for this evening!

March Oneg Shabbat and Sisterhood Hosts

March 13 **Oneg** - Shiri Haines & Mindy Fink
March 21 **Luncheon** - Phyllis Chudoff

If you are unable to serve on the date assigned to you, you are responsible for finding a substitute. Please inform the Sisterhood President that another person/family will take your place (Shira Lowry (609) 440-9753
shira.lowry@berwickoffray.com)

SOCIAL ACTION NEWS

We continue our collaborative contributions to help with hunger relief in the area, thanks to many helping hands in our congregation. Please continue to support these efforts! Boxes of GRANOLA BARS are always welcome and go to needy families at the motels once a month (with other grocery items donated by other area congregations). Other non-perishable donations for the food pantry are also a big help.

The last Thursday of the month, Hebrew School students help deliver meals to the Pine Motel. A TBA highlight returns on Sunday, March 22, when Sunday School students will make lunches for the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen. It's very meaningful to keep up these activities during such a difficult economic period. If you have any questions or would like to help with food delivery or any other social action activity, please call Marcy at (609) 324-0571.



Welcome to our new member:

Susan L. Minnick
50 Second Street
Bordentown
609-744-6025

דברנו עם נדב

YAHREZEITS

March 6

Selma Levitsky, great aunt of Brian Epstein
Howard Brewis, great grandfather Brian Epstein

March 13

Leonard Greenblatt, brother of Marcia Rosen
Esther Reichlin, grandmother of Peter Reichlin, and long time temple family member
Sylvia Goldman, wife of the late Norman, mother of Bonnie Goldman and Jeffrey Goldman, mother-in-law of Rhea Goldman

March 20th

Abe Kaufman, grandfather of Phyllis Busch
Irving Epstein, father of Rhea Goldman,
Rebecca Shemesh, mother of Marty Nissim

March 27

William Trackman, father of Jay Trackman
and for the first week in April

April 3

Mildred Josephson, mother of Mark Josephson, wife of Sam
Charles Herzog, father of Madge Rosen
Frances Epstein, mother of Rhea Goldman

DONATIONS

In Memory of

Ella Kessler from Rhoda and Henry Kessler
Marvin Siegel from Sid and Charyl Morginstin
Jessie Rubin from Phyllis and Is Kamer

In Honor of

Evelyn Rothman's 85th birthday from Phyllis Chudoff,
Sandy Schwartzbird, and Eileen Gale

Happy Birthday

Madge Rosen from Elaine and Jay Trackman
Rhoda Kessler from Phyllis and Is Kamer

Get Well

Sarah Kimmelman from Elaine and Jay Trackman

Happy Retirement

Berny Speiser from Elaine and Jay Trackman

Congratulations

Ronnie and Andrew Smulian on your son's engagement
from Rita and Martin Nissim

Sisterhood News

Interested Sisterhood members will be
"Easing on down the Road"
to see
"The Wiz" at The Kelsey Theater
at Mercer County Community College on
Sunday, March 15 at 2:00 pm
\$16.00

Please **RSVP by Friday, March 6**
to Shira Lowry (609) 324-0072 or
Faith Hupfl (609)259-1485.

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"My Cookies are better than Your Cookies" Contest

A Sarah Seidel Sisterhood Fundraiser

Sarah Seidel Sisterhood has started a cookie baking contest to raise money for the Temple. **October 1, 2009** is the day of the contest. We are in the creating and formulating stage of the fundraiser.

If you would like to contribute your skills and talents to this, we would love to have you. Here are just some of the things we need:

1. Companies/people to be sponsors, to be an in-kind sponsor, donate prizes.
2. Someone that is technically skilled for website development.
3. People to promote and share this with friends
4. Ideas from bakers or people who enter contests

Contact if interested or have questions or ideas: Kim Aubry at kimaubry@gmail.com, call 609-499-3158 or Shira Lowry at shira.lowry@berwickoffray.com or 609-324-0072.

ADULT EDUCATION

WITH RABBI JULIE

During our Learner's Minyan on March 13th, we will learn about Kaddish Yatom – the Mourner's Kaddish. This will be a chance to talk about your questions and concerns, as well as to share your own experiences. We will start at 7:00 pm and have half an hour of learning before the start of our Shabbat service.

Adult Education

Learner's Minyan future dates:
April 3rd & May 8th

TOT SHABBAT NEWS

We start the evening with candle lighting, *kiddush*, and *motzi*, and then share a meal together before moving into a short service, a story, and an activity. The children have been enjoying the continuing adventures of Sammy Spider as he learns (with them) about Jewish life and rituals. And, of course, every Tot Shabbat ends with time for crafts or games.

Anyone who wants to stop by and experience the fun of Tot Shabbat is welcome, and be sure to tell anyone you know who might be interested in coming. Here are the upcoming dates and themes:

April 10th – Passover
May 22nd – Shavuot
June 12th – Israel

Please contact: Karen Nissim:
(609) 298-4845 neiln64@aol.com
or Rachael Schwartz:
eslrachel@verizon.net to RSVP.



MISHEBERACH LIST

At Temple B'nai Abraham, our PRAYER FOR HEALING is done in a very special way, the Rabbi looks around the room and those in the sanctuary announce the names of those who need a special prayer for healing. If someone cannot attend the service, however, the names that they would have mentioned are missed. This unique process makes everyone present feel a special participation in the service but can be time-consuming and tedious for some.

If you desire a healing prayer to be said for someone, you may send the name(s) to Sid Morginstin along with your name. He will put a list together and the Rabbi will read the names from the Bima. Then she will ask for other names to be announced by those present. The name will stay on the Misheberach List for a month or unless you ask for it to be removed sooner.

GIFT CARD PROGRAM

It has been a slow year for gift cards. Please contact Marsha Dowshen 298-5306 to get your grocery store gift cards and support Temple B'nai Abraham every time you shop.

Directory Correction:

Shyrle Kushner 609-448-3479

March 2009

Adar-Nisan 5769

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1</p> <p>Sunday School 9:00 - 10:00 am Hebrew School 10:00 am – 12:00 noon</p>	2	3	4	<p>5</p> <p>Hebrew School 4:30 – 6:30 pm</p>	<p>6</p> <p><u>Tot Shabbat</u> 6:00 pm</p> <p><u>Friday Night Services</u> 7:30 pm</p>	7
<p>8</p> <p>Hebrew School 10:00 am – 12:00 noon Sunday School 11:00 am – 12:00 noon</p> <p>Purim Celebration 12:00 noon – 2:00 pm</p>	9	10	11	<p>12</p> <p>No Hebrew School</p>	<p>13</p> <p><u>Adult Ed Learner's Minyan</u> 7:00 pm</p> <p><u>Friday Night Services</u> 7:30 pm <i>Oneg by Shiri Haines & Mindy Fink</i></p>	14
<p>15</p> <p>No Sunday or Hebrew School</p> <p>Sisterhood "The Wiz" 2:00 pm</p>	16	17	18	<p>19</p> <p>Hebrew School 4:30 – 6:30 pm</p> <p>Temple Board Meeting 7:00 pm</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p><u>Shabbat Morning Services</u> 9:30 am <i>Luncheon by Phyllis Chudoff</i></p>
<p>22</p> <p>Sunday School 9:00 - 10:00 am Hebrew School 10:00 am – 12:00 noon</p>	23	24	25	<p>26</p> <p>Rosh Hodesh Hebrew School 4:30 – 6:30 pm</p> <p><i>Food Delivery</i></p>	<p>27</p> <p><u>Shabbat PotLuck Dinner</u> 6:30 pm</p>	28
<p>29</p> <p>Sunday School 9:00 - 10:00 am Hebrew School 10:00 am – 12:00 noon</p>	30	31				

Temple B'nai Abraham Purim Carnival

Sunday, March 8, 2009

Noon - 2:00 pm

**Admission: \$4.00 donation per person
(maximum \$20.00 per family)**

**Includes: Food, Games & Craft
Pizza, Salad, Hamantashen, Drinks, and more**

Food Pantry Donations (canned food, cereal) will be collected

1 raffle ticket for the Guess the Candy Jar

Costume Contest – Prize Awarded

Gift Basket Raffle - \$2.00 a ticket or 3 for \$5.00

**RSVP to sgiachetti@aol.com
Susan Giachetti – (609)259-7348**

**All donations will go to the St. Mary's Food Pantry
Last year we were able to donate \$200.00 to this worthy cause.**