



Temple B'nai Abraham

Temple B'nai Abraham
President – Robin Affrime

The Temple Shofar
Rabbi - Julie Pfau

Sarah Seidel Sisterhood
President - Faith Hupfl

5770 CHESHVAN-KISLEV

NOVEMBER 2009

Rabbi's Messages

After an intense succession of holidays, we now find ourselves in a lull in the Jewish calendar – the Jewish month of Heshvan. Our last holiday was Simhat Torah, which fell on October 11th this year, and our next holiday will be Hanukkah, which will begin on the evening of December 11th. The cycle of holidays – from Rosh Hashanah to Yom Kippur and through Sukkot to Simhat Torah – has carried us on a powerful spiritual journey of celebration and transformation:

* During the High Holidays we moved through the process of teshuvah – gazing into the depths of our brokenness so that we might move through that brokenness into a place of transformation.

* During Sukkot, we experienced the incomplete structure of the *sukkah*, but through that incompleteness we were able to see the splendor of the stars, to feel the brisk Fall air, and to notice colorful leaves dancing in and out of its interior with the breeze.

* On Simhat Torah we heard the last words of Moses before his death and then we heard once more the story of creation – we had the opportunity once again to marvel over the vault of the heavens; the sun, stars, constellations, galaxies; every kind of seed-bearing plant; the diversity of life that thrives on land, in the sea, and in the air.

At each stage of the journey we have been confronted with the reality of life's fragility, uncertainty and incompleteness, but we have also been directed to the beauty that exists even in the midst of such unsettling realities. These cycles of the Jewish calendar have taken us on a truly powerful journey.

It seems jarring then to suddenly find ourselves in this lull. Was that it? Is the journey over? A few intense weeks of spiritual ascent and then back to our normal routines? Is it like summer break from school? Perhaps we are on vacation from the spiritual life...?

The answer might be “yes” if we only understand the spiritual journey as a series of momentous events and only see evidence of spiritual progress in the movement from deep valleys to soaring mountain tops. But the cycle of Torah readings that occur during this lull in the calendar point us to a different kind of spiritual reality. Each year after Simhat Torah, we are invited to embark on a whole series of spiritual journeys through hearing the stories of our spiritual ancestors.

Sometimes their journeys involved momentous events, but they were also full of mishaps and periods of seemingly fruitless wandering. The *Sefat Emet* taught:

The human being is called a walker, always having to go from one rung to another. For habit makes things seem natural, and this sense of “nature” hides the inner light. This is true even of Torah and the commandments: when we do them out of habit, they become our nature, and we forget their inward meaning.... Therefore, the blessed Holy One renews each day the work of Creation. The person has to search and seek out this renewal...

(as translated by Arthur Green in
The Language of Truth)

As you read and hear the stories of the treks of our spiritual ancestors, look beyond the plain surface meaning that we can so habitually get stuck in. Instead, search for the inward meaning. Seek carefully for the most subtle signs of holiness and for some of the diverse ways that these people experienced God – whether it be in the digging and re-digging of wells, in dreams, in the midst of interpersonal conflict, in times of anxiety, in the desert, in a visit from strangers, in an offer of assistance... As you search and seek for these signs in their journeys, you just might learn how to find the hidden light in your own walk through life.

Shalom,
Rabbi Julie



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

www.jrf.org



New Members:

Ira Levinton

601 Park Street, Apt 6B

Bordentown, NJ 08505

Temple B'nai Abraham Officers

Officers:

President	Robin Affrime
Executive Vice President	Charlie Weiss
Religious Vice President	Sid Morginstin
Financial Vice President	Mike Rosen
Recording Secretary	Susan Giachetti
Past President	Betsy Ramos

Trustees:

Religious School Chair	Linda Osman
Membership Chair	Rhea Goldman
Building Chair	Eileen Gale
Adult Education Chair	Kim Aubry

SAVE THE DATE TOT SHABBAT

A Tot Shabbat Friday evening begins with candle lighting, *kiddush*, and *motzi*, and a meal we share together, followed by a short service, a story, and then an activity. And every Tot Shabbat ends with a craft or game.

Tot Shabbat Dates:

November 20

December 18

January 29

February 26

March 26

April 23

May 14

June 18



Anyone who wants to stop by and experience the fun of Tot Shabbat is welcome. Be sure to tell anyone you know who might be interested in coming.

Yahrzeit List

November 6

Lillian Brewis, great-grandmother of Brian Epstein

Selma Densky, mother of Sharon Coleman

Helen Roseman, mother of Renee Harrison

Abraham Zackler, father of Marsha Dowshen

November 13

John Duker, father of Shiri Haines

Meyer Gale, father-in-law of Eileen Gale

Norman Lamonsoff, father of Karen Nissim,
husband of Sheila Lamonsoff

Joseph Rothman, father of Robin Affrime

Alma Sybil Sacks, mother of Faith Hupfl

Helen Schwartzberg, sister-in-law of Sandy
SchwartzBird

November 20

Hyman Goldman, father of Norman Goldman

Issac Grassian, father of Rita Nissim

Sidney Klepner, father of Len Klepner

Jennie Rudenstein, mother of Mildred Leary

Pauline Zackler, mother of Marsha Dowshen

November 27

Samuel Morginstin, father of Sid Morginstin

If there is a name that you would like added to the synagogue's *yahrzeit* list, please contact Sid Morginstin at 609-298-2891. You will receive a card annually reminding you of your *yahrzeit*, and the name will be announced at services at which time you will be able to recite *Kaddish*.

The Religious Chair, Sid Morginstin, is asking for a volunteer to be responsible for changing the Temple sign board. This is not that much work -- about 15 minutes once a week on Sunday.

You would have to track the temple schedule [a copy will be provided] in order to know what to put on the sign. This sign is an important part of our efforts to get new members. Sid will show you how to do change the sign -- it is easy once you get the hang of it. Please call or e-mail Sid Morginstin.

Thank you

DEAR TEMPLE AND SISTERHOOD
COMMUNITY,

THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR PRAYERS, BEST WISHES, CARDS AND CALLS. I AM GETTING STRONGER EVERY DAY. WITH WARM FEELINGS AND APPRECIATION, EILEEN

Supermarket Gift Card Program

Please remember to purchase Supermarket gift cards for 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 Marsha and Joel Dowshen and they will see that you will receive them in a timely manner. 609-298-5306.



You can send your checks directly to the Dowshens at 502 Farnsworth Avenue, Bordentown, NJ 08505 with your order amount and supermarket noted.

SAVE THE DATE **SATURDAY MORNING** **SHABBAT SERVICES**

November 14

December 5

January 23

February 6

March 20

April 10

June 12

Saturday Morning Shabbat Services
begin at 9:30 am. Please join us.

SISTERHOOD NEWS

The next Sisterhood Program will be on November 23rd at 7:30 pm. Please come out for a night of educational floral design and fun.

Learn how to make your own Thanksgiving fresh flower centerpiece for your table. Your cost will be \$28 which will send you home with a \$100 retail centerpiece. You may bring your own container if you would like.

Please RSVP by November 20, 2009 to Karen Nissim (609) 298-4845. Payment should be sent in full to Karen Nissim, 38 Thompson Street Bordentown, NJ 08505, by November 20, 2009. There will be no refunds sent after a cancellation date of November 20, 2009.

Social Action

Keep those granola bars coming! And other non-perishable food items for the community food pantry at St. Mary's are also very welcome!

We still deliver meals to residents at the Pine Motel the last Thurs. of each month around 5:00. If anyone is available to help with this from time to time, please call Marcy at 324-0571. It would be very helpful to have a couple extra hands and drivers for times when schedules get complicated. This is a very rewarding gesture that takes only about an hour once a month! It is part of our interfaith service with the Crosswick's Methodist Church.

Get rid of those old clothes! St. Mary's is having a clothing drive until Nov. 10 -- leave all contributions next to the food pantry building (small white building in their parking lot).

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL **NEWS**

SUNDAY SCHOOL

9:00 - 10:00 A.M.

HEBREW SCHOOL

SUNDAYS 10:00 - 12:00 NOON

THURSDAYS!

4:30 - 6:30 P.M.

SNACK LIST FOR 2009

DEITCH FAMILY - NOVEMBER

WEISS FAMILY - DECEMBER

PLEASE CALL SUSAN GIACHETTI
609-259-7348 OR LINDA
OSMAN 609-298-2726
WITH ANY QUESTIONS



International Jewish Film Festival

The 10th annual Rutgers New Jersey Jewish Film Festival will be held from Nov. 1-10 at the Regal Cinema in North Brunswick. Featured films are from Israel, France, Peru and other countries.

Donations

Temple

In Memory of

Molly Schaffer, mother of Rhoda Kessler from Rhoda and Henry Kessler

Myrna Morris, wife of Ronald from Ronald Morris

Jerome Epstein from Maribeth and Brian Epstein

Annette Brewis from Maribeth and Brian Epstein

Selma Densky from Sharon Coleman

Norman Lamonsoff from Karen & Neil Nissim

Norman Lamonsoff from Sheila Lamonsoff

Norman Lamonsoff from Rita Nissim

Lillian Brewis from Brian & Maribeth Epstein

Marty Nissim from Rhea Goldman

In Honor of

The marriage of Nate Zeitz to Alyson from Elaine and Jay Trackman; Rhea Goldman; Marcy Schwartz and Rick Shain and family

Marsha and Joel Dowshen in honor of their new grandson, Abyl from Rhea Goldman

Get Well to

Ted Lutz from Elaine and Jay Trackman; Michael Scolaro and Randy Bloom

Sisterhood

In Memory of

Dorothy Nissim from Barbara and Jeffrey Streisfeld, Phoebe and Jeffrey Nissim, Marc and Rachel Nissim

Get Well to

Madge and Jerry Rosen from the Temple and Sisterhood community

Madge and Jerry Rosen from Robin and Steve Affrime;

Evelyn Rothman; Michael Scolaro and Randy Bloom

Ted Lutz from Renee Harrison, Steve and Robin Affrime,

Eileen Gale, and Phyllis Chudoff

Eileen Gale from the Morginstins and Phyllis Chudoff

Susan Giachetti from Eileen Gale and Phyllis Chudoff

Mr. and Mrs. Rosen from Phyllis Chudoff and Eileen

Gale

Rejoicing with you on arrival of grandson Abyl Miro, to

Marsha and Joel Dowshen from: Elaine and Jay

Trackman, Rita Nissim, Renee Harrison, Phyllis Chudoff,

Charyl and Sid Morginstin, Steve and Robin Affrime

Eileen Gale, and Evelyn Rothman.

Membership Chairperson Needed

The Temple is in need of a new membership chairperson. The person would be responsible for contacting potential members by telephone, and or email; sending out new member packets, and attending monthly Board meetings. An outgoing, friendly personality would come in handy. It is a wonderful way to become involved in the inner workings of our Temple, and to get to know the people in our community. If you think you might be interested contact Robin at 609-499-1761, any evening.

Mazel Tov to

My Cookies Are Better than Your Cookies!

The cookie contest held on Oct. 18 raised funds for the Sisterhood as well as for the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen. Some 80 recipes were entered, 10 judges helped taste and award prizes, and the all-you-can-eat cookie party was a wonderful success! Our earnings were just under \$1400.00, and TASK will get \$500.00 leaving the Sisterhood with a gain of about \$895.

Many thanks to Kim Aubry and Shira Lowry for their creativity and dedication, and to all the volunteers who helped out.

High Holy Day Pledges

Randy Bloom and Michael Scolaro

Jack Ross

Phyllis Chudoff

Elaine & Jay Trackman

Ronnie & Stan Zeichner

Rhea Goldman

Brian & Cathy Carlis

Linda Bowker

Betsy Ramos

Rita Nissim

Robin & Steve Affrime

Renee Harrison

Marcy Schwartz

Richard Shain

Marcia and Mike Rosen

Mindy Fink

NOVEMBER 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 HEBREW SCHOOL	2	3 ELECTION DAY	4	5 HEBREW SCHOOL	6 Service 7:30 pm 4:33 pm Candle lighting	7
8 HEBREW SCHOOL	9	10	11 VETERANS DAY	12 HEBREW SCHOOL	13 7:30 pm Bar Mitzvah Jake Hupfl 4:27 pm Candle lighting	14 9:30 am Bar Mitzvah Jake Hupfl
15 HEBREW SCHOOL	16	17 Rosh Chodesh Kislev	18 Rosh Chodesh Kislev	19 HEBREW SCHOOL	20 Tot Shabbat 6:00 pm Service 7:30 pm 4:21 pm Candle lighting	21
22 HEBREW SCHOOL	23 Sisterhood Meeting 7:30 pm	24	25	26 THANKS- GIVING	27 Service 7:30 pm 4:17 pm Candle lighting	28
29 NO HEBREW SCHOOL	30					

TEMPLE B'NAI ABRAHAM

BAR/BAT MITZVAH GUIDELINES

This year will mark a milestone in your family, as one of the Jewish Life Cycle events will occur. Your son/daughter will become a Bar/Bat Mitzvah.

The following are the guidelines for this event for both the Bar/Bat Mitzvah families, as well as your son/daughter.

Selecting the date

1. **Date.** A date for the Bar/Bat Mitzvah should be selected *at least* one calendar year before the event. The date should be chosen through discussion with the Rabbi and the Religious Chair.
2. **Meeting with the Rabbi.** In September of the year before the Bar/Bat Mitzvah, all Bar/Bat Mitzvah families having Bar/Bat Mitzvahs for the following year, will meet with the Rabbi to discuss Bar/Bat Mitzvah training, responsibilities of the Bar/Bat Mitzvah child and his/her family. A member of the sisterhood and synagogue boards should attend this meeting as well. One month before the Bar/Bat Mitzvah, the Rabbi will meet with each family again to discuss the plans for that particular Bar/Bat Mitzvah.

Bar/Bat Mitzvah training and responsibilities of the Bar/Bat Mitzvah child

1. **Training.** The Rabbi will be responsible for training the Bar/Bat Mitzvah child. In the event that the child requires additional training or training over the summer, a list of tutors can be supplied to assist in the training.
2. **Determining child's participation.** The Rabbi, along with the Bar/Bat Mitzvah child and his/her parents, will determine the portions of the service for Friday night and Saturday morning for which the Bar/Bat Mitzvah child will be responsible to lead. Provisions can be made for learning disabled or handicapped children to accommodate them for any special needs for that child's Bar/Bat Mitzvah. See attached outline for typical Bar/Bat Mitzvah service.
3. **Tape of blessings/prayers.** The Rabbi will prepare, as needed, a tape of blessings/prayers and the Haftorah portion (if to be recited in Hebrew).
4. **Speech.** The Bar/Bat Mitzvah child will prepare a speech, with the assistance of the Rabbi, for the Saturday morning service.
5. **Responsibilities during preceding years.** The Bar/Bat Mitzvah child will be expected to:
 - a. Regularly attend Hebrew School at Temple B'nai Abraham for at least a year prior to the Bar/Bat Mitzvah year (exception will be considered if the child has received prior training at another synagogue)
 - b. Regularly attend Hebrew School and/or meet with a tutor twice weekly during the year leading up to the Bar/Bat Mitzvah
 - c. Attend services at least twice per month for at least 10 Friday night services and 8 Saturday morning services, including all other Bar/Bat Mitzvahs at Temple B'nai Abraham that year
 - d. Perform a Tzedakah or Community Service project of his/her choice sometime during the year leading up to his/her Bar/Bat Mitzvah.
 - e. Assist in other community events at Temple B'nai Abraham during the year leading up to his/her Bar/Bat Mitzvah
6. **Charitable donation.** It is recommended that the Bar/Bat Mitzvah donate 5 – 10 % of his/her cash gifts to the charity of his/her choice.

Responsibilities of the Bar/Bat Mitzvah family

1. Oneg Shabbat and Kiddush. The Bar/Bat Mitzvah family is responsible to host the Oneg Shabbat on Friday night and the Kiddush on Saturday morning. The family should talk to the Sisterhood President if they have any questions concerning what is expected as to either the Oneg Shabbat or the Kiddush. See attached guidelines for more details.
2. Capacity of synagogue. The sanctuary can seat 70 – 75 people. The downstairs can be utilized for an overflow and will seat an additional 30 – 40 people who can watch the service on closed circuit TV. The family will be responsible for setting up and taking down the folding chairs upstairs and downstairs, as well as distributing and collecting the prayer books for use downstairs.
3. Fully paid dues. All dues, school tuition, and pledges must be fully paid prior to the event.
4. Aliyot and Honors. Aliyot and Honors for the Friday night service and the Saturday service will be chosen by the family. Prior to the Bar/Bat Mitzvah, the family should provide a list to the Rabbi of those chosen to perform those honors. See attached guidelines for more details.
5. Program. While not required, the use of a program is recommended. The family would prepare the program. Prior to the event, the Rabbi should review the program for accuracy. A sample program can be provided.
6. Photographs. No photos are allowed to be taken on Shabbat. If you want photos of your family, the Bar/Bat Mitzvah child, and the Rabbi at the synagogue, you will need to make arrangements with the Rabbi to have them taken during the week or on the Friday afternoon before Shabbat.
7. Video. You may utilize the synagogue's video camera to video the event, if you make arrangements for someone to provide and install the tape for the camera. If you expect more than 70 people to attend, you need to make arrangements with the Religious Chair to set up the video camera so that guests can watch from downstairs.
8. Flowers. If the family would like to decorate the synagogue with flowers, it is their responsibility to purchase and arrange for delivery of the flowers. Typically, a large floor display is purchased to fit under the ark on the bima and small arrangements or plants are purchased to decorate the tables downstairs. After the Bar/Bat Mitzvah, the flowers should be removed by the family, unless other arrangements are made with the Sisterhood. Upon request, recommendations for a florist can be provided.
9. Yarmulkes and tallit. The family is responsible to order the yarmulkes for the Bar/Bat Mitzvah and the tallit for the Bar/Bat Mitzvah child. Often, tallit is purchased by a grandparent or a family member as a gift for the child. (Yarmulkes should be ordered three months in advance to avoid a rush charge.) Upon request, more information about where to purchase these items can be provided. Parents are asked to take the excess yarmulkes with them after the ceremony. A few may be left for Temple use.
10. Parental speeches. While not required, typically one or both parents make a speech during the Saturday service.
11. Candy. Traditionally, candy is thrown at the Bar/Bat Mitzvah child after he/she finishes reading the haftorah. Soft candy only should be used. Younger children can be asked to give out the candy and the Rabbi will invite any child under bar-mitzvah age to come collect the candy afterwards. Please be sure to check the Bima after the service for excess candy and take any remaining candy home.
12. Honorarium for Rabbi. The family should discuss an honorarium with the Rabbi or consider a contribution to the synagogue in honor of the event. Upon request, more information concerning a suitable honorarium or contribution can be provided. Typically, the Rabbi would also be invited to your child's reception.
13. Assistance to other Bar/Bat Mitzvah families. It is expected that the families of the Bar/Bat Mitzvahs occurring in the same school calendar year should assist each other in the set up, serving, and clean up of the Oneg Shabbat and Kiddush.
14. Attendance at services. It is expected that the parents will attend services at least one time per month with their child during the year leading up to the Bar/Bat Mitzvah.

Jewish Family and Children's Service of Greater Mercer County
HANNUKAH BEGINS SUNDOWN FRIDAY NIGHT DECEMBER 11TH
CHRISTMAS IS DECEMBER 25TH
You are Invited to Participate in

L.I.G.H.T.S. 2009

(Love Is Getting Holiday Toys to Share)

In our community there are families that are unable to afford to give their children Holiday gifts. There are also elderly people who cannot enjoy the holidays because they are alone. Through the LIGHTS program all these people will be able to celebrate the Holidays this year.

A gift card is a most useful gift, since many of those families are in need of winter clothes and shoes, and choosing sizes and styles can be difficult. Also, by giving the parents gift cards we empower them with the ability to provide gifts for their children. We suggest gift cards to purchase items from the following stores: Walmart, Old Navy, Kohl's, JCPenny, Target, Best Buy, and Toys R Us. Even Mall Certificates or Movie Theaters are good. Finally, if you make out a check to JFCS for \$25 - \$50, we will purchase transportation gift certificates so that seniors can go to the doctors, grocery store and run other errands.

New this year parents will be able to come "shop" at JFCS - empowering parents in choosing the gift or gifts which are most suited for their children. Shopping begins December 7th - please be sure that gifts arrive at our agency no later than Tuesday December 3.

When purchasing gift cards or gifts, we suggest a spending limit of \$50, although any amount \$10 or more, will be much appreciated.

While we recommend gift cards, some families still prefer to purchase actual gifts requested by families. If you would like to adopt a family to purchase gifts please contact Debra Levenstein at 609-987-8100 or debral@jfcsonline.org The names of the recipients are kept confidential. We request, for security reasons, that all gifts come UNWRAPPED.

If you have any other questions, please call
Debra Levenstein at JFCS (609) 987-8100 or send an email to debral@jfcsonline.org

Shabbat Oneg and Sisterhood Meeting Hosts

NOVEMBER				
Mon	9-Nov	6pm	Sisterhood Program	board
Fri	13-Nov	7:30 PM	Erev Shabbat	Bar Mitzvah
Sat	14-Nov	9:30 AM	Erev Shabbat	Jake Hupfl
DECEMBER				
Fri	4-Dec	7:30 PM	Erev Shabbat	Bar Mitzvah
Sat	5-Dec	9:30 AM	Shabbat Morning	Aaron Osman
Mon	14-Dec	7:30 PM	Sisterhood Program -	program Fenick & Harrison
JANUARY				
Mon	11-Jan	7:30 PM	Sisterhood	
Fri	22-Jan	7:30 PM	Erev Shabbat	Bar Mitzvah
Sat	23-Jan	9:30 AM	Shabbat Morning	Mitchell Fechter
FEBRUARY				
Sat	6-Feb	9:30 AM	Shabbat Morning	Rosen/Rosen
Mon	8-Feb	7:30 PM	sisterhood program	program Wehrman & Belonzi
Fri	12-Feb	7:30 PM	Erev Shabbat	Sharon Coleman & Scheindlinger
MARCH				
Mon	8-Mar	7:30 PM	Sisterhood	board
Fri	10-Mar	7:30 PM	Erev Shabbat Honoring Board Members	Rhea Goldman & Phyllis Chudoff
Sat	20-Mar	9:30 AM	Shabbat Morning	Saltstein & Reyes
Tues	30-Mar	6:00 PM	2nd night community Seder Passover	Kim Aubry
APRIL				
Sat	10-Apr	9:30 AM	Shabbat Morning	DiChiara & Kobrin
Mon	12-Apr	7:30 PM	Sisterhood	program - Speiser & Shwatzbird
Fri	16-Apr	7:30 PM	Erev Shabbat	Ramos/Gale
MAY				
Mon	10-May	7:30 PM	Sisterhood	board
Sat	22-May	9:30 AM	Shabbat Morning	Bryan Goldberg & Rona Goldberg families
Fri	21-May	7:30 PM	Erev Shabbat	Hebrew School
JUNE				
Fri				
Mon	14-Jun	7:30PM	Sisterhood Pot Luck	Dowshen & Bloom
Sat	12-Jun	9:30 AM	Shabbat Morning	Trackman & Giachetti
Fri	25-Jun	7:30 PM	Member of the Year	Weiss & Shain-Schwartz