



# Temple B'nai Abraham

Temple B'nai Abraham  
President – Robin Affrime

**The Temple Shofar**  
Rabbi - Julie Pfau

Sarah Seidel Sisterhood  
President - Faith Hupfl

5770 KISLEV-TEVET

DECEMBER 2009

## Rabbi's Messages

Recently, I was sitting in the library at school – daydreaming instead of studying... (Somehow the term “daydreaming” didn’t seem to apply even though it was before 5 pm, since darkness was already falling.) As I sat gazing out the window at bare tree branches, I was distracted from my musings by movement outside the nursing home next door. Normally foliage would block my view, but through the bare branches I was able to see three men hanging lights on the shrubbery in front of the building. It seemed as if they were preparing to play jump rope as they swung the long strings of lights back and forth to build up momentum to toss them over the tall bushes. Soon we too will be adding *our* lights to drive back and beautify the growing darkness. In our homes and in our synagogue, we will gather to sing and share yummy food as we light our candles. How powerful, and seemingly universal, is the urge to find and create light!

It is a powerful metaphor for our lives. Every human being cycles through times of warmth and growth, into cold times of dormancy and struggle. In the dark wintertimes of our lives, we all need the reminder that light returns – especially during the winters that last longer than others.

I am reminded of part of a poem by Abraham Ibn Ezra:

I want to serve You, but my ill-fortune prevents me;  
I look for Your light in the dark of my folly.  
In You I rejoice wherever I may be;  
In my vagabond life Your word is a candle in the road.

(As translated by Leon J. Weinberger in  
*Twilight of a Golden Age: Selected Poems of  
Abraham Ibn Ezra*)

When ill fortune seems to block us from experiencing the fullness of life, and even when we are caught up in thoughts and behaviors that we know are foolish – wherever we may be on our journeys – there is a light that can bring us hope. Sometimes the light might shine bright enough to dispel the darkness, but we know it doesn’t always work that way – sometimes the darkness remains. Our Hanukah candles won’t make the season turn, and we know that many more days and weeks of darkness will remain. But although the candles won’t make the darkness leave, they will bring beauty into the place of darkness.

Imagine the loveliness of your most cherished menorah when it is full of candles. Imagine the feeling of warmth when you sit next to the flames. Imagine the community with whom you will gather to sing and bask in their glow. Imagine the satisfaction produced by delicious latkes. Imagine all of these feelings coming to you in every season on your meandering road, bringing you beauty, companionship, and comfort.

May each of you discover that God is a candle on your road – bringing warmth and beauty wherever you may be!

Shalom,  
Rabbi Julie



## New Members

Marsha and David Caldwell  
39 Van Drive, Bordentown  
609-298-3390

Marsha: [rodrunner@aol.com](mailto:rodrunner@aol.com)  
David: [xpraetor@aol.com](mailto:xpraetor@aol.com)



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

[www.jrf.org](http://www.jrf.org)

### 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	Kim Aubry
Building Chair	Eileen Gale

## Yahrzeit List

### **December 4**

Dorothy Gutstein, wife of Herman Gutstein  
Nathan Schwartz, father of Phyllis Chudoff

### **December 11**

Max Kamer, father of Isadore Kamer  
Lillian Morginstin, mother of Sid Morginstin

### **December 18**

Charles Hicks, maternal grandfather of Sara Blann

### **January 1, 2010**

Lawrence Bowker, husband of Linda Bowker  
Eudell Rod, friend of Linda Bowker  
Ethel Speiser, mother of Bernie Speiser

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.

## **SAVE THE DATE**

### **SATURDAY MORNING SHABBAT SERVICES**

December 5                      January 23

February 6                      March 20

April 10                          June 12

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

# Temple B'nai Abraham and Sarah Seidel Sisterhood

**American Red Cross  
Blood Drive**

**Wednesday,**

**December 30, 2009**

**Carslake Community  
Center**

207 Crosswicks Street - Bordentown

**2:30pm – 8:30pm**



Temple B'nai Abraham and Sarah Seidel Sisterhood will sponsor an American Red Cross blood drive on Wednesday, December 30 from 2:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Carslake Community Center, Senior Center, 207 Crosswicks Street, Bordentown. Our goal is fifty pints of blood- very manageable if each family makes an effort to be sure that one family member, friend, or neighbor goes to the blood drive. Last year we were successful and collected just over fifty pints of blood. This is an annual community/social action function for the synagogue and your support will make a difference. We need volunteers to make phone calls, put up posters, spread the word, and, if you can, give blood. Please call Randye Bloom at 609-298-6485 to volunteer today. Thank you

## **Supermarket Gift Card Program**

SALES AT A RECORD LOW

Every time you go food shopping and don't use Gift Cards the Temple is not making 5% of your sale!!! Gift Card sales are way off. Where are all of you? Is it too much of an effort to write a check? The Temple really needs this money and all you have to do is buy your groceries. GUILT is what you should feel the next time you shop and don't use the Gift Cards.



Either call 298-5306 or send a check (made out to the Temple) to Dowshen 502 Farnsworth Ave. Bordentown NJ 08505. The cards will be mailed to you the next day.



# Community Hanukkah Celebration

**December 18 6:00 pm**

Please join us **Friday, December 18th at 6:00 pm** as we welcome Shabbat and celebrate Hanukkah. Since it will be the 8th night of Hanukkah, it should be especially lovely as we come together to light so many candles!

We have scheduled our Tot Shabbat program to coincide with our annual Hanukkah celebration, so this will be a wonderful opportunity for people to spend time with folks they may not always have an opportunity to get to know.

We will begin our evening by lighting Hanukkah candles and singing Hanukkah songs together, and then will split into separate groups to welcome Shabbat. Marla, our new Tot Shabbat coordinator, will take the Tot Shabbat children downstairs for a Tot Shabbat service while the adults remain upstairs for some of our Kabbalat Shabbat prayers and Kaddish. Then everyone will join together for a potluck meal. The Tot Shabbat children will return to the sanctuary for a story and some Hanukkah games, while the adults continue to visit together downstairs.



Please bring your menorah (or two or three...) and a food contribution. Latkes will be especially welcome!!!

## Temple Donations

Len & Liz Klepner yahrtzeit of Sidney Klepner  
Linda Bowker yahrtziets of Rose Wasserman,  
Lawrence Bowker, and Eudell Rod

# TOT SHABBAT & RELIGIOUS SCHOOL NEWS

Marla Hoffman, who has been teaching in our Hebrew School, was recently hired to coordinate our Tot Shabbat program so that we can create a strong connection between it and the Religious School. As a long-time Jewish educator, Marla will be bringing an age-appropriate educational component to the Tot Shabbat activities - from the service to the crafts and activities. If you have a chance to be around the Religious School or to come to services on a Tot Shabbat week,



please look for Marla and take time to get to know her!

And, since no paid employee can ever do the job alone, please also keep an eye out for and say "thank you" to the volunteers who bring so much fun, warmth and beauty to our community through Tot Shabbat and Religious School activities: Karen Nissim and Rachel Schwartz rescued our Tot Shabbat program from disappearing last year, and have continued to bring continuity and life to it this year. Justin and Marissa Giachetti, Len Klepner, Thea Popko, Jay Trackman, and Sam and Abbie Shain have together volunteered countless hours to teach and tutor students in our school - in often inspiring ways. Susan Giachetti and Linda Osman have been Education Co-Chairs this year and it is hard to imagine how the school would run smoothly without all their work. We are blessed to have so many amazing volunteers!



# 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 Randye Bloom at 298-6485.

## 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 (298-0437) or e-mail Betsy Ramos at [bramos@capehart.com](mailto:bramos@capehart.com). 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 \$250.00 each. To order a plaque please send the following information IN WRITING to Sid Morginstin, plaque chairman, PO Box 8101, Trenton, New Jersey, 08650 or e-mail [Sidmorgy@verizon.net](mailto:Sidmorgy@verizon.net). You will need the following information: (1) English name of loved one, (2) Hebrew name of loved one, and the (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.



## 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.

## SISTERHOOD NEWS

Our next Sisterhood meeting is scheduled for December 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm at Temple B'nai Abraham

We are having a Yoga class instructed by Marcy Schwartz.

No previous experience is necessary, some exercises can be done sitting in a chair (for anyone who does not want to or can't sit on the floor), and bring a mat or towel and a blanket for the relaxation, and wear loose



fitting, comfortable clothes (sweats, etc.). If you have or haven't participated in the past, you should give this a try. This is very fun, informative and relaxing program that Marcy is kind enough to share with us.

## DECEMBER 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
				HEBREW SCHOOL	<b>Bar Mitzvah Aaron Osman 7:30 PM</b>  4:15 PM Candle Lighting	<b>Bar Mitzvah Aaron Osman 9:30 PM</b>  18 Kislev Vayishlach
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
HEBREW SCHOOL				HEBREW SCHOOL  Temple Board 7:00 PM	<b>Service 7:30 PM</b>  Hanukkah: 1 Candle  4:15 PM Candle Lighting	25 Kislev Vayeshev  Hanukkah: 2 Candles
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
HEBREW SCHOOL  Hanukkah: 3 Candles	SISTERHOOD MEETING 7:30 PM Hosted by the Fenick & Harrison Families  Hanukkah: 4 Candles	Hanukkah: 5 Candles	Hanukkah: 6 Candles	HEBREW SCHOOL  Hanukkah: 7 Candles  Rosh Chodesh	<b>COMMUNITY HANUKKAH CELEBRATION (with Tots) 6:00 PM</b>  Hanukkah: 8 Candles  Rosh Chodesh  4:17 PM Candle lighting	2 Tevet Miketz  Hanukkah: 8th Day
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
HEBREW SCHOOL				<b>NO HEBREW SCHOOL</b>	<b>Service 7:30</b>  4:20 PM Candle lighting	9 Tevet Vayigash
27	28	29	30	31		
<b>NO HEBREW SCHOOL</b>				<b>NO HEBREW SCHOOL</b>		

# Shabbat Oneg and Sisterhood Meeting Hosts

<b>DECEMBER</b>				
Fri	4-Dec	7:30 PM	Erev Shabbat	<b>Bar Mitzvah</b>
Sat	5-Dec	9:30 AM	Shabbat Morning	<b>Aaron Osman</b>
Mon	14-Dec	7:30 PM	Sisterhood Program -	program Fenick & Harrison
<b>JANUARY</b>				
Mon	11-Jan	7:30 PM	Sisterhood	
Fri	22-Jan	7:30 PM	Erev Shabbat	<b>Bar Mitzvah</b>
Sat	23-Jan	9:30 AM	Shabbat Morning	<b>Mitchell Fechter</b>
<b>FEBRUARY</b>				
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
<b>MARCH</b>				
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
<b>APRIL</b>				
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
<b>MAY</b>				
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
<b>JUNE</b>				
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