



Temple B'nai Abraham

Temple B'nai Abraham
President – Robin Affrime

The Temple Shofar
Rabbi - Julie Pfau

Sarah Seidel Sisterhood
President - Faith Hupfl

5770 ADAR-NISSAN

MARCH 2010

Temple B'nai Abraham's Community Passover Seder

led by Rabbi Julie Pfau

Tuesday, March 30 6 pm

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 is:

Adults - \$30

Children (10 to 15 yr.) - \$15

Children (5 to 9 yr) - \$10

Children under 5 - Free

The deadline for reservations is March 15.

The community is welcome plus any guests. If
you would like to help with set up or clean up or
for reservations, please contact Kim Aubry for
at 609-841-8965 or kimaubry@gmail.com.

All dinners must be prepaid so please make
checks payable to Temple B'nai Abraham and
mail them to Kim Aubry, 930 Hamilton Ave.
Roebing, NJ 08554.

SATURDAY MORNING SHABBAT SERVICES

March 20

April 10

June 12

Saturday Morning

Shabbat Services begin at 9:30 am.

Please join us.

ADULT EDUCATION WITH RABBI JULIE

We had some requests from congregants to continue the
monthly Learner's Minyan that we began last year. The
Learner's Minyan meets monthly at 7:00 pm prior to
Friday night services and provides a chance to focus on
a different prayer each month – learning more about
the prayer; learning technical details about how to do
the prayer; and talking through the questions, concerns,
and experiences that people have with the prayer.

During March, the Learner's Minyan will take place on
Friday the 12th, at 7:00 pm. This is the Shabbat service
in which we will honor the Temple Board, so it will be a
wonderful evening to come to services, and come early!

Topics and additional dates are being finalized and will
be publicized in the next newsletter. Please let me know
if you have a particular prayer that you would like to
learn more about and discuss!

SISTERHOOD NEWS

The next Sisterhood meeting will take place on March 8
at the Temple. There will be a Board meeting at
7:00pm, and the program will start at 7:30pm. We are
having a "Do your own thing night." Whether you are
working on a craft or project of your own (knitting,
crocheting, scrap booking, reading a book, etc.) please
bring it with you to work on. This will give everyone a
chance to see everyone's projects. This should be a
learning experience for all. Mimi Geller and Phyllis
Kamer will be graciously hosting this event.

On April 12 we will have a book review at the Temple at
7:30pm. There will be a general meeting prior to Elaine
Trackman leading the group in discussion. The book is
"Sarah's Key" by Tatiana DeRosney. Make plans to
purchase the book, or take it out from the Library, and
read it. Elaine Trackman will be leading the discussion,
along with another member or two. It should prove to
be an eye opening and interesting discussion. Arlene
Speiser and Sandy Schwartzbird will be hosting this
event.



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

March 5

Sylvia Goldman, mother of Bonnie Goldman and Jeffrey Goldman
Leonard Greenblat, brother of Marcia Rosen
Abe Kaufman, grandfather of Phyllis Busch
Ruth Killian, Sharon Colemans' daughter's mother in law
Esther Reichlin, founding temple member

March 12

Irving Epstein, father of Rhea Goldman
Laura Koningberg, mother of Janice Koningsberg-Steinhouse
Rebecca Shemesh, mother of Marty Nissim

March 19

Mildred Josephson, mother of Mark Josephson
William Trackman, father of Jay Trackman

March 26

Mary Bird, mother-in-law of Sandy SchwartzBird
Frances Epstein, mother of Rhea Goldman
Charles Herzog, father of Madge Rosen
Bess Light, mother of Patricia Light-Tolomeo

April 2

Seymour Affrime, father of Steve Affrime
Jack Harrison, brother-in-law of Renee Harrison

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.

In case a loved one dies, the following information will be helpful in thinking through what steps to take:

- 1) As soon as possible, please contact the Rabbi, the Temple President, and the Sisterhood President.
- 2) If you would like the Rabbi to officiate at the funeral, please ask the Funeral Director to contact the Rabbi when exploring possible dates and times.
- 3) There are many traditional Jewish practices that may offer guidance about the handling of the body, the funeral, and the burial. Please ask the Funeral Director to explore these options.
- 4) Resources about mourning, death, and dying are available from the Rabbi. There is also a synagogue document containing information about Jewish funeral procedures.

We hope this information will be needed as infrequently as possible!

Social Action



Many thanks to all temple members and Hebrew School families for donating granola bars for our monthly interfaith hunger relief project! They are delivered every month to families in transitional motels and they are greatly appreciated. Please keep them coming!

Meal delivery to the Pine Motel the last Thursday of the month continues. Thanks to Robin Affrime and Rick Shain for their help with delivery. Please let us know if you would like to join us in this endeavor. In these difficult economic times, it is a mitzvah to lend a hand. Thanks to our friends at the Crosswicks Methodist Church who prepare the meals every month.

Supermarket Gift Card Program



The gift card fund raiser is extremely important as a source of income for the Temple. We need more participation.

Everyone please take one minute to write a check and send it to Dowshen 502 Farnsworth Ave Bordentown, NJ 08505 or call 298-5306. Your cards will be sent to you the same day. Do it NOW!

Rabbi's Message

When talking to another person, how often does it happen that we *think* we are speaking the same language, only to find out partway through the conversation that we really do not understand each other at all? Sometimes we don't ever realize we were having two entirely different conversations, and both parties have the mistaken idea that they understood the other.

I find this frequently happens in connection with Jewish practices, and particularly with dietary observances around Pesach. Passover can be one of the most confusing times, and opportunities for miscommunication abound as different people use the same words with radically different understandings of what they mean. To people of different ethnic backgrounds and varying levels of observance "kosher for Passover" might mean things as diverse as: abstaining from bread but eating anything else; avoiding anything with the potential to become leavened, including beverages containing corn syrup; allowing or disallowing legumes; observing a form of ethical kashrut in which food is considered kosher only if it has been raised organically and/or humanely; or observing a form of kashrut signified by an official seal from a rabbinic body. The permutations could go on and on. How is it that we can use the same words and mean such completely different things?!

There is a story in the Babylonian Talmud (Nedarim 66b) that highlights the sometimes amusing mishaps that result between a husband and wife of different ethnic backgrounds. Jews who lived in Babylonia and Jews who lived in the region of Israel spoke closely related languages, but sometimes words that sounded the same in both languages actually had different meanings:

A certain Babylonian man who moved to the land of Israel married a woman from there. He said to her, "Cook me two hooves [*talfei*]." She cooked him two lentils [*telofhei*]. He became angry with her. The next day, he told her, "Cook me a neck [*geriva*]." She cooked him a *geriva*-measure of grain [about eight liters]. He said to her, "Go bring me two gourds [*botzinai*]." She brought him two lamps [*botzinai*]. He said to her, "Go break them over the head of the gate [*reisha' de-bava*]!" Bava ben Buta was sitting on the gate and judging. She went and broke them on his head [*reisha de-Bava ben Buta*]. He said to her, "Why did you do that?" She responded: "Thus my husband commanded me." He said, "Since you did the will of your husband, God will bring out from you two sons like Bava ben Buta."

In this story, miscommunication results in sometimes amusing mishaps – a few botched meals and a mistaken response to a request. But we also see a more painful mishap – having lamps broken over one's head would

have to hurt! Bava ben Buta seems to take it in stride – there is no explicit expression of anger, just a question: *Why* did you do that.? When he hears her reply, he doesn't respond in an explicitly angry manner either. Instead, he tells her she will have sons like himself – which seems on the surface like a perfectly courteous wish for her.

One of the main troubles I see in the story has to do with how the husband and wife respond to each other. Don't they realize they are running into a language barrier?! She never stops to double-check whether her understanding matches his, and he never tries to double-check whether he has actually succeeded in making himself understood. He gives an order as he understands it, and she obeys as she understands it, and there is no real communication in the process. Even worse, he gets angry with her over making the wrong dinner for him, and as the misunderstandings increase he tells her in his anger to break the perfectly good lamps just because it wasn't what he wanted. The wife, for her part, doesn't stop to question him even when obeying his command would mean hurting someone else.

In the story, the husband and wife come from different countries with different dialects. In our day, we come from different denominations, which might feel like different countries, and even within a denomination we find vast ranges of practice. It might be helpful to remember that we are all Jews and we use a lot of the same words, but that sometimes our different contexts mean the same words have different meanings. Sometimes the vast differences can seem comical and the differences don't always seem to have much real impact.

In the Jewish community, as in the story, I think the real consequences come when we fall into the same traps of not really trying to understand each other, of reacting in anger when our understandings don't match up, and of blindly doing what someone else tells us to do without stopping to check whether it is something we really would want to do. If someone cooks us a meal, at Passover or any other time of year, that doesn't fit our understanding of kosher, can we decline the food without anger or judgment? When we are the host (or the guest for that matter), can we remember to double check about how another Jew understands the word "kosher" so as to avoid potential for mishaps and bad feelings? Beyond kashrut, this could be helpful with any range of Jewish words and practices.

To me, Bava ben Buta is the most helpful figure in the story. Although he is perhaps a bit enigmatic and even odd, he at least seems to make an attempt to understand the person he is encountering. The husband gets angry over a botched meal, but Bava ben Buta exercises restraint even after a seemingly random attack. He asks the woman why she did what she did, he listens to her explanation, and his response seems kinder than any of

the others. The husband never bothers to ask why, and the miscommunications continue. Perhaps he, and we, could learn from Bava ben Buta about clear communication and restraint. We can learn from the story of this husband and wife that even if we think we are speaking the same language with another Jew we could very well be wrong. Being mindful of that reality could help us avoid some comical, and some painful, mishaps with our extended Jewish family.

Shalom,
Rabbi Julie

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.

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, and indicate whether it is for a special occasion and whether you would like the synagogue to send an acknowledgment. If it is a non-temple member, please provide their name and address.

Memorial Plaques

Plaques are available for \$250.00. To order a plaque, send the following to Sid Morginstin, plaque chairman at PO Box 8101, Trenton, New Jersey, 08650 or Sidmorgy@verizon.net: (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.

Bordentown Regional High School's Spring Musical

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat

The show is playing for three nights,

March 18, 19, 20

at the Bordentown Performing Arts Center, located in the high school at 318 Ward Avenue. The performances start at 7:30 each night. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$8 for senior citizens and students with ID. The Hebrew School will be attending Thursday, March 18 and will participate in a Q&A with one of the actors as well as a pizza dinner. The high school students have been working on the production for months, and it will surely be a great show. Hope to see you there!

Temple Donations

Joy and Sorrow

Rhea Goldman to Robin Affrime
Rhea Goldman to Marsha Dowshen

Yahrtzeit

Rhoda and Henry Kessler in memory of Max Kessler
Jay and Elaine Trackman in memory of William Trackman
Irene Harrison in memory of Jack Harrison

The congregation wishes Bernie Speiser
a speedy recovery

Sisterhood Donations

Get Well

Bruce Bird from Phyllis Chudoff, Robin and Steve Affrime, Elaine and Jay Trackman, Charyl and Sid Morginstin
Berny Speiser from Elaine and Jay Trackman, Renee Harrison, Charyl and Sid Morginstin
Steve Affrime from Charyl and Sid Morginstin, Tom and Susan Giachetti, and Phyllis Chudoff

Happy Anniversary

Shryle and Sol from Elaine and Jay Trackman

In Memory of

Linda Solomon, sister to Marsha Dowshen, from Susan and Tom Giachetti, Phoebe and Jeff Nissim, Elaine and Jay Trackman, Renee Harrison, Phyllis Chudoff, Rhea Goldman, Robin and Steve Affrime, Joanne and Ted Lutz, Charyl and Sid Morginstin, Phyllis and Is Kamer, Nina Glanz, Betsy and Vic Ramos, and the Schwartz-Shain Family
Evelyn Rothman from Arlene and Berny Speiser, Phyllis and Is Kamer, Charyl and Sid Morginstin, Phoebe and Jeff Nissim, Susan and Tom Giachetti, Rhea Goldman, Nina Glanz, Elaine and Jay Trackman, Renee Harrison and the Schwartz-Shain family

Rejoicing with You

Phoebe and Jeff Nissim on the birth of Sophie Kagan from Barbara and Jeff Streisfeld
Lee and Marcel on the birth of Sophie Kagan from Barbara and Jeff Steisfeld
The Osmans for their son's bar mitzvah from Eileen Gale
Phoebe and Jeff Nissim on the birth of grand-daughter Sophie Michal Kagan from Elaine and Jay Trackman

Torah Prayer Books (Chumashim)

A new Torah prayer book can be purchased in honor of or in memory of someone for \$75 or an existing Siddur may be sponsored for \$35.00. Please call (298-0437) or email Betsy Ramos: bramos@capehart.com.

March 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Shushan Purim	2	3	4 HEBREW SCHOOL	5 Service 7:30 pm 5:36 pm Candle lighting	6
7 HEBREW SCHOOL	8 Sisterhood Board Meeting 7:00 pm General Meeting 7:30 pm	9	10	11 HEBREW SCHOOL	12 Learners Minyan 7:00 pm Service 7:30 pm Honoring Temple Board 5:44 pm Candle lighting	13
14 HEBREW SCHOOL	15	16 Rosh Chodesh Nissan	17 ST. PATRICK'S DAY	18 HEBREW SCHOOL	19 6:51 pm Candle lighting	20 Service 9:30 am
21 HEBREW SCHOOL B'nai Mitzvah Parents Meeting 10:00 am	22	23	24	25 HEBREW SCHOOL	26 Tot Shabbat 6:00 pm Service 7:30 pm 6:58 pm Candle lighting	27
28 HEBREW SCHOOL Model Seder 10:00 am	29 Fast of the First Born Erev Pesach 7:01 pm Candle lighting	30 COMMUNITY SEDER Pesach Day 1	31 Pesach Day 2			

Shabbat Oneg and Sisterhood Meeting Hosts

<u>MARCH</u>				
Mon	8-Mar	7:30 PM	Sisterhood Program	Sisterhood Board
Fri	12-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
<u>APRIL</u>				
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 and Gale
<u>MAY</u>				
Mon	10-May	7:30 PM	Sisterhood Program	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
<u>JUNE</u>				
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

SAVE THE DATE!!!

FUNDRAISER!!

**TEMPLE BOOK SALE
SUNDAY, MAY 16, 2010
9:30 AM – 4:00 PM**

We are seeking donations of hardcover, softcover, paperback, adult and children's books, CDs and DVDs for the sale. So start collecting and boxing those books you're not going to read again and those cookbooks you've only used for one recipe!

Arrangements for making your donations will appear in the April newsletter.

For more information or if you have any questions, please contact Linda Bowker (609) 655-2152 or Marcia Rosen (609) 298-2799.