



# Temple B'nai Abraham

Temple B'nai Abraham  
President – Robin Affrime

**The Temple Shofar**  
Rabbi - Julie Pfau

Sarah Seidel Sisterhood  
President - Faith Hupfl

5770 NISSAN-IYYAR

APRIL 2010

## HAPPENING!!!!!!

### TEMPLE BOOK SALE

IS COMING

MAY 16<sup>th</sup>

BOOKS, CDs, DVDs (No textbooks, please!)

DONATION DROP-OFF:  
TEMPLE B'NAI ABRAHAM  
TUESDAY, MAY 11 and THURSDAY, MAY 13  
3 P.M. - 7:30 P.M.

SUNDAY/HEBREW SCHOOL  
PARENTS/GUARDIANS  
DROP-OFF YOUR DONATIONS TOWARDS  
THE FRONT OF THE ALL-PURPOSE ROOM  
WHEN YOU BRING OR PICK-UP YOUR  
STUDENT ON SUNDAY, MAY 9.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND  
DONATIONS!

QUESTIONS?  
CALL: LINDA (609) 655-2152 or  
MARCIA (609) 298-2799

### SATURDAY MORNING SHABBAT SERVICES

April 24

June 12

Saturday Morning

Shabbat Services begin at 9:30 am.

Please join us.

## 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!

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!

The Temple and Sisterhood Families wish Faith Hupfl a speedy recovery from her automobile accident.



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

### **April 2**

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

### **April 9**

Albert Dowshen, father of Joel Dowshen  
Ida Reichlin  
Flora Grassian, mother of Rita Nissim

### **April 16**

Belle Rosen, mother of Gerald Rosen  
Harriet Hicks, maternal grandmother of Sara Blann

### **April 23**

Leon Herzog, brother of Madge Rosen  
Mary Gross, aunt of Shyrle Kushner  
Philip Kushner, father of Sol Kushner

### **April 30**

Louis Benson, father of Charyl Morginstin

### **May 7**

Gertrude Urken, sister of Henry Kessler  
Arlene Schwartz, mother of Phyllis Chudoff  
Ann Zeitz, mother of Carl Zeitz  
Bernard Greenblatt, father of Marcia Rosen  
Julia Affrime, mother of Steve Affrime  
Rita Hodes, aunt of Randy Bloom

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.

## Learner's Minyan

We have 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 April, the Learner's Minyan will take place on Friday the 16th, at 7:00 pm. This is the Shabbat service in which we will honor the Sisterhood, so it will be a wonderful evening to come to services, and come early!

Please let me know if you have a particular prayer that you would like to learn more about and discuss, and we can make that a focus in May.

## Temple Donations

### **In Memory of**

Rose Klepner from Len and Liz Klepner  
Francis and Irving Epstein from Rhea Goldman  
Charles Herzog from Madge and Gerald Rosen

### **Marty Nissim Memorial Fund**

Joanne and Ted Lutz

## Sisterhood Donations

### **Get Well**

Berny Speiser from Phyllis Chudoff

### **Happy Birthday**

Renee Harrison from Phyllis and Is Kamer

Rejoicing with Phoebe and Jeff Nissim, Lee & Marcel Nissim and Amy & Jeff Kagan on the arrival of baby Sophie Kagan from Phyllis and Is Kamer.

### **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.

# From Our Rabbi Julie

With the second day of Passover, we began the period of *Sefirat HaOmer*, the counting of the 49 days between Passover and Shavuot. During each of these 49 days, a blessing is said just prior to announcing which day of the Omer it is. Here is the blessing followed by a few examples of the formula used for counting:

*Baruch atah adonai eloheynu melech ha-olam, asher kideshanu bemitzvotav, vetzivanu al s'firat ha-omer.*

Blessed are you, Adonai, our God, the sovereign of all worlds, who has made us holy with your mitzvot, and commanded us concerning the counting of the Omer.

This is the sixth day of the Omer.

This is the eleventh day, making one week and four days of the Omer.

This is the thirty-seventh day, making five weeks and two days of the Omer. (etc...)

There are varying rationales for engaging in such a count. In the Torah, there is an agricultural association to the counting – on the second day of Passover a sheaf of barley would be brought as an offering, while Shavuot involved an offering from the first wheat harvest. In rabbinic times, *Sefirat HaOmer* came to be associated with a time of preparation for receiving the Torah on Shavuot. For the medieval Jewish mystics, these 49 days provided an opportunity for experiencing unification with God and a deeper understanding of the many ways God can be experienced.

All of these explanations can sometimes feel difficult to relate to. For this, we should say a blessing every day and count using a rather awkward formula?! What could that possibly accomplish?! This year I was given a new insight into the practice. I will be graduating from rabbinical school this June, and some members of my class have countdown clocks on their computers so we will always know exactly how many days (and hours and minutes and seconds...) remain before our graduation. Having a constant reminder can actually serve an important function. It highlights where we have come from and where we are heading – in the midst of all the details of our final preparations, it

can be easy to lose sight of that. When our schedules feel overwhelming, it can give us hope to know that a good end is in sight. Most importantly perhaps, it brings a feeling of celebration into the present. We can feel a sense of joy and excitement as *if* we were at that moment already.

Counting connects us with our anticipation and our hopes, and it can help sustain us during our times of wandering. The excitement and joy I feel about my coming graduation from rabbinical school gives me a glimmer of the feelings I can experience from the spiritual and ritual practices of Judaism. That truly is worth a daily blessing!

Shalom,  
Rabbi Julie

## SISTERHOOD NEWS

The next Sisterhood Program will take place at the Temple on Monday, April 12 at 7:30pm. We will be having a book review discussion. The book is "Sarah's Key" by Tatiana DeRosney. There will be a general meeting then Elaine Trackman and Eileen Gale will lead the group in the discussion. It should prove to be an eye opening and interesting discussion.

### 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.

### 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](mailto:bramos@capehart.com).

# Social Action



Calling all granola bars! Please continue to donate boxes of granola bars for our hunger relief project. Here is the March update from Anne Kettner who coordinates the interfaith grocery bag project, where the granola bars we donate are destined:

"I wanted you to know we delivered 37 grocery bags, along with 65 meals, and some hygiene products to the motels last Monday. The Pines appears to be full, the Riverfront didn't seem as full as usual, but that is always difficult to tell. At the Laurel Notch, we just dropped off the last few grocery bags to the manager and asked her to make sure the families got them. As always the people are so grateful for the food. I know they enjoy the meals, but the grocery bags mean so much to the folks. The people at the Riverfront come out to the vans, and the ones who we know look in the van and pick out a bag that has a particular cereal or cracker that they like, or we make sure that their bag has the Parmalat milk. And that little gesture changes things for them. They got the "special" bag, and that has made their day. What seems like such a small thing to us means a lot to these people who have so little."

Thanks to Rick Shain and Robin Affrime for their help with monthly meal delivery to the Pine Motel. We continue to deliver meals prepared by volunteers from the Crosswicks Friends Meeting and the Crosswicks Methodist Church the last Thursday of the month.

## 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.

# From Our President

This year is going by so quickly, but I wanted to update you on some of the things that have been happening in the past months and to give you a preview of what is to come.

The renovations to the rental were completed and a lovely family moved in to take residence. There is new laminate flooring on both the first and second floors, the walls are as smooth as if they were new, the kitchen boasts new cabinets, and the bathroom has been heated and it too has a new and improved look. Our contractor put in a chair rail and painted the living and dining rooms a two tone neutral color. Any tenant would be proud to live there.

I hope everyone had a joyous Passover and was able to spend time with family and loved ones. Steve and I celebrated the first night at home with our children and the second night at the synagogue with our Temple family. Rabbi Julie led a lovely Seder that involved everyone including the children. Kim and Sid did a fabulous job taking care of the food and readying the all-purpose room for the evening. The food was delicious, and plentiful. We received the best compliment from a guest of Madge Rosen who said that our Seder felt more like a family Seder than a Temple Seder. Thank you to Kim, Sid, and Rabbi Julie for a wonderful evening and to the cleanup crew who helped to put the all-purpose room and kitchen back together.

Please mark your calendar for the upcoming congregational meetings in May and June. We will meet Thursday, May 13 at 7:30 pm for the budget presentation and Thursday, June 17 at 7:30 pm for the congregational vote on the budget. I look forward to seeing you all there.

## April 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<b>1</b> Pesach III Omer 2  <b>NO HEBREW SCHOOL</b>	<b>2</b> Pesach IV Omer 3  <b>Shabbat Evening Service 7:30 pm</b>  Candle lighting 7:06 pm	<b>3</b>  Pesach V Omer 4
<b>4</b>  Pesach VI Omer 5  <b>NO HEBREW SCHOOL</b>	<b>5</b>  Pesach VII Omer 6	<b>6</b>  Pesach VIII Omer 7	<b>7</b>  Omer 8	<b>8</b>  Omer 9  HEBREW SCHOOL	<b>9</b>  Omer 10  <b>Shabbat Evening Service 7:30 pm</b>  Candle lighting 7:13 pm	<b>10</b>  Omer 11
<b>11</b>  Omer 12  HEBREW SCHOOL  HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY	<b>12</b>  Omer 13	<b>13</b>  Omer 14	<b>14</b>  Omer 15  Rosh Chodesh IYYAR	<b>15</b>  Omer 16  HEBREW SCHOOL  Rosh Chodesh IYYAR	<b>16</b>  <b>Learner's Minyan 7:00 pm</b>  <b>Shabbat Evening Service 7:30 pm</b> <i>Honoring the Sisterhood Board</i>  Candle lighting 7:20 pm	<b>17</b>  Omer 18
<b>18</b>  Omer 19  HEBREW SCHOOL	<b>19</b>  Omer 20  ISRAEL MEMORIAL DAY	<b>20</b>  Omer 21  ISRAEL INDEPENDENCE DAY	<b>21</b>  Omer 22	<b>22</b>  Omer 23  HEBREW SCHOOL	<b>23</b>  Omer 24  <b>Tot Shabbat 6:00 pm</b>  Candle lighting 7:27 pm	<b>24</b>  Omer 25  <b>Shabbat Morning Service 9:30 am</b>
<b>25</b>  Omer 26  HEBREW SCHOOL	<b>26</b>  Omer 27	<b>27</b>  Omer 28	<b>28</b>  Omer 29	<b>29</b>  Omer 30	<b>30</b>  Omer 31  <b>Shabbat Evening Service 7:30 pm</b>  Candle lighting 7:34 pm	

