



Temple B'nai Abraham

Temple B'nai Abraham
President – Robin Affrime

The Temple Shofar
Rabbi - Julie Pfau

Sarah Seidel Sisterhood
President - Faith Hupfl

5770 IYYAR-SIVAN

MAY 2010

From Rabbi Julie

The Religious Committee and the Board have been examining some of our ritual policies this year, and so far, there are two important developments that have grown out of that exploration. One conversation centered on our policies about wearing a kippah during services, and how we communicate that to visitors and members; and another the Kiddush prayer that we say on Erev Shabbat.

Kippot

B'nai Abraham is an egalitarian community—a place where men and women are equal participants in all aspects of the ritual life of our community. Yet, somehow, our policy regarding head coverings did not reflect that reality. The policy maintained a different standard for men and women. The policy required men to wear a head covering and to be actively informed of that fact, while not requiring women to wear one or to be actively encouraged to do so. This difference is not in keeping with egalitarian principles.

The policy also did not seem to fit with our desire to be a welcoming community. Some visitors experienced varying degrees of distress when approached with a requirement to wear a kippah, regardless of their comfort level with the practice. In order to be a community that welcomes people who might only be beginning a journey toward involvement in Jewish life, we shifted the focus of our policy to encourage everyone to engage in the practice of wearing a kippah during prayer, but to allow people the ability to choose based on their degree of comfort and their readiness to challenge their comfort-zones.

We want to encourage both men and women to broaden and deepen their engagement with Jewish life, and this includes the practice of wearing a kippah. Therefore, a new sign has been posted near the kippot that indicates this shift. Just as all members and guests are encouraged to wear a kippah during services, we want to encourage members to take time to get to know visitors to our community, and to broach the subject of their religious observance with sensitivity and respect. Feel free to let people know that we encourage everyone to wear kippot, but let that come in the context of getting to know who they are and where they are coming from.

Kiddush

Some have expressed frustration and confusion over the practice of using the traditional wording of the Kiddush when we have a Reconstructionist prayer book that has different wording. The Board decided that we will use the Reconstructionist version of the Kiddush for the rest of this year on a trial basis. It can feel awkward at first to use new words, but we are a community full of adaptable people, and the congregation has already successfully made the transition to the Reconstructionist version of the Aleynu.

Please give the new words a try over the next two months, see how it feels, and see how your feelings evolve with time. Notice whether the shift makes you pay more attention to what you are saying in the prayer and contemplate what you think about those words. The traditional version says that God chose us and set us apart from all other peoples; the Reconstructionist version says that God called us to God's service. What do you think of these different wordings? Does either message speak to you? I would love to hear your responses to the shift over the next few months, and will bring them back to the Board as we continue to explore the place of this prayer in our community.

What's Next?

Over the coming year, we will be re-visiting the subject of the role of our non-Jewish members and guests in our community. There are policies that have been in place for several years, and the Religious Committee and Board would like to have a broader conversation about those policies, whether they still reflect the culture and practices of our community, and whether they are in keeping with our vision for the future. The Religious Committee will be forming a group to discuss these matters and would like the group to include Jewish and non-Jewish participants. We are also exploring making this a theme for several adult education sessions next year. Please be in touch with me and with Sid if you are interested in participating.

We would like to involve as many voices as possible in these and other conversations related to the ritual life of our community. If you are interested, please consider attending the meetings and being an active part of the discussion!

Shalom,
Rabbi Julie

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~ Temple Shofar Editor ~ Shiri Haines slhaines2@yahoo.com ~



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

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

May 14

Joseph Harrison, father-in-law of Renee Harrison
Harry Pierce, father of Ira Pierce
Jacob Mervish, father of Shyrle Kushner

May 21

Harry Brewis, great great grandfather of Brian Epstein

May 28

George Groveman, father-in-law of Seena Groveman

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.

Rabbi Julie is Graduating!!!

Rabbi Julie will graduate from the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College on Sunday, June 6th. The B'nai Abraham community is invited to attend the graduation ceremony, which will be held at 2:30 pm at Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel, 8339 Old York Road, Elkins Park, PA 19027. A reception will follow the ceremony.

Pulpit Exchange

Temple B'nai Abraham will be participating again in the pulpit exchange that is organized by the Bordentown Ministerium (the clergy association for the Bordentown area). How the pulpit exchange works is that area clergy are paired up, and each pair trades congregations on the designated day. Since we don't have Sunday morning services, we can't do an actual trade the way the other clergy do. Instead we invite the person we are matched with to give the sermon at our Friday night Shabbat service, and our rabbi gives a sermon at their church service on Sunday morning.

This year we have been matched with Pastor Elizabeth Vaneekhoven of Fieldsboro United Methodist Church (200 Second Street, Fieldsboro, New Jersey 08505; 609-291-5594). Pastor Vaneekhoven will visit us on Friday, May 28 to deliver a sermon during our services. Rabbi Julie will deliver a sermon at Fieldsboro UMC on Sunday, May 16 at their 9:00 am service. This is an opportunity to build relationships with other people of faith in Bordentown and is a wonderful interfaith learning experience. Please come out and welcome our guest at the 28th service, and show your support for this program!

Congregational Meeting

It is that time of year again; a time for us to think back on the year behind us and to look ahead to the year to come. Our community has held strong during these past months when we had to spend money to restore our property to a more respectable state. It was not a decision easily made in these tough financial times, but one that was necessary. I applaud you for supporting the Board in this decision.

I invite you to continue your support by attending the two up-coming congregational meetings to discuss where we are headed for the future. Our first meeting will be on **Thursday evening May 13th at 7:30 pm** in the Temple all purpose room. At this meeting the Board will present the budget for the coming year. On **Thursday evening, June 17th at 7:30 pm**, we will again meet in the all purpose room to vote on the proposed budget.

We are a very small community and your presence and vote are very important to us. Please make your best effort to attend these meetings and express your hopes and desires for the coming year.

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.



TEMPLE BOOK SALE IS COMING

Sunday, MAY 16
9:30 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.

SNEAK PEEK!
TEMPLE AND SISTERHOOD MEMBERS
ONLY!

SATURDAY, MAY 15th
7:30 P.M.

ADMISSION:
\$5 PER PERSON/\$10 PER FAMILY
Light Refreshments
BROWSE AND BUY – FILL A BROWN BAG
FOR \$10!

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

June 12
Saturday Morning
Shabbat Services begin at 9:30 am.
Please join us.

Thinking of you with our best wishes
for good health and speedy recovery:

Jay Trackman
Susan Giachetti
Rita Nissim
Karen Nissim
Bernie Speiser
Faith Hupfl
Gerry Rosen
Madge Rosen

Rosh Hashanah Honey Gifts

It's not too early to start thinking about gifts of honey for Rosh Hashanah. Help others celebrate the New Year's tradition of apples dipped in honey, and help your community at the same time.

Commemorate this time with friends and family by sending a gift of honey.

Sarah Seidel Sisterhood is offering gift boxes which can be sent to friends and relatives, literally worldwide, to offer L'Shana Tova for the New Year.

Each gift jar contains eight ounces of delicious golden certified pure kosher honey and your signed gift card.

The package is an exceptional value at \$10 for one or \$18 for two. All proceeds will benefit Sarah Seidel Sisterhood.

Contact Debby Weiss - (609) 208-2084 for any questions. debby@jande.org

All orders must be received by July 1, 2010

Social Action

Hunger Relief



Please keep those granola bars coming, as well as any other non-perishable items for the food pantry!

TBA has made significant contributions to local hunger relief, and in these difficult economic times, it is especially important to think of others. Our commitment to meal delivery at the Pine Motel with the Crosswicks Methodist Church and Crosswicks Friends' Meeting continues on the last Thursday of each month. Would anyone like to join in, maybe during the summer months? Any questions, feel free to contact Marcy Schwartz or Robin Affrime.

SISTERHOOD NEWS

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!

There will be a Sisterhood Board meeting held at the Temple on Monday, May 10 at 7:00 pm, followed by a general sisterhood meeting at 7:30 pm. It is another "Bring Your Own Craft" night, hosted by Ellen Wehrman and Faith Hupfl. The annual Sisterhood Potluck Dinner will take place on Monday, June 14 at 6:30 pm and will be hosted by Marsha Dowshen and Randy Bloom.

The Hebrew School graduation date has been changed back to its original date of Friday, May 21 and the Oneg will be hosted by the Hebrew School families. Best wishes to all of the graduates!

The Oneg list for the remainder of the year is as follows:

Saturday, June 12 - Shabbat Morning at 9:30 am
Trackman and R. Nissim

Friday, June 25 - Member of the Year at 7:30 pm
Abby and Sam Shain

Search through your recipes for your favorite cookies, as before we know it Kim Aubry and Shira Lowry will be hard at work on the Second Annual "My Cookies are Better than your Cookies" contest which will take place next fall. We trust that many Sisterhood members will be assisting in this Sisterhood fundraising event, as it is important to have lots of hands available to ensure its continued success!

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.

Burlington County Hadassah Chapter is sponsoring a FUN DAY, with a choice of 3 days, Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday, June 7, 8 or 9, from 10:30 am to 4:00 pm, at the Dolphin diner, Rte. 130 North, Burlington, NJ. For \$20 per ticket, attendees may enjoy a continental breakfast, play card or Mah Jong games, with a break for luncheon, choosing from 4 entrees, desserts and beverages. Proceeds will support Hadassah's extraordinary Humanitarian Efforts. For tickets, call Paula at (609) 424-0403 or Sheila at (609) 291-0396.

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.

Temple Donations

In Memory of

Rita Hodes from Randy Bloom and Michael Scolaro

In Honor of

50th anniversary of Rhoda and Henry Kessler from Jay and Elaine Trackman

Sisterhood Donations

Get Well

Faith Hupfl from Elaine and Jay Trackman, Charyl and Sid Morginstin, Marcy and Rick Shain-Schwartz
Shelly Cutler from Phyllis and Is Kamer

In Memory of

Bruce Sattan from Charyl and Sid Morginstin

May 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 HEBREW SCHOOL 9-12 noon	3	4	5	6 HEBREW SCHOOL	7 Shabbat Service 7:30 pm Candle lighting 7:41 pm	8
9 HEBREW SCHOOL 9-12 noon	10 Sisterhood Board Meeting 7:00 pm & General Meeting 7:30 pm	11	12	13 HEBREW SCHOOL Congregational Meeting 7:30 pm	14 Tot Shabbat 6:00 pm Shabbat Service 7:30 pm Rosh Chodesh Sivan Candle lighting 7:48 pm	15
16 Sisterhood Book Sale 3-7:30 pm HEBREW SCHOOL (place and time TBD)	17	18 Erev Shavuot Candle lighting 7:52 pm	19 Shavuot I	20 Shavuot II HEBREW SCHOOL	21 Shabbat Service 7:30 pm Hebrew School Graduation Candle lighting 7:54 pm	22
23 HEBREW SCHOOL 10-12 noon	24	25	26	27	28 Interfaith Shabbat Service 7:30 pm <i>Oneg Shabbat</i> Candle lighting 8:00 pm	29
30	31 MEMORIAL DAY					