



Temple B'nai Abraham

Temple B'nai Abraham
President – Robin Affrime

The Temple Shofar
Rabbi - Julie Pfau

Sarah Seidel Sisterhood
President - Faith Hupfl

5770 TAMUZ-EIUL

August 2010

Rabbi's Message

Ready or not, here they come... The High Holy Days are arriving so early this year that it almost feels as if they might sneak up on us and catch us by surprise, shrieking "Tag, you're it!"

Coming just days after Labor Day, the Jewish New Year will be over by the time our Religious School students have their first day of class, without having a chance to prepare our students. It can feel jarring when the cycle of the Jewish calendar doesn't match up with the rhythm we expect in the secular calendar.



Although our students might miss the opportunity to prepare for the holidays in school this year, the rhythm of the Jewish calendar gives all of us an entire month to prepare on our own – the month of Elul. Traditionally, the 10 days between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur are a time to fully internalize and cement the spiritual and relational work that was already begun during the preceding month of Elul. This year, Elul begins on August 10th and 11th.

Elul is a time of deep self-reflection, a time of listening for God. During Elul, we lay the groundwork for the transformations we hope to experience during the Days of Awe. In communities that hold daily services, the *shofar* is blown throughout the month. The blasts of the *shofar* begin to pierce through the fog in which we often find ourselves as we go about our routines. During Elul, the *shofar* calls us to begin the work of *teshuvah*, of turning from harmful behaviors, insensitive habits, caustic attitudes.

There are many different mechanisms for doing the inner work of Elul. Some choose to take on a

meditation practice, others read books that highlight themes of the High Holy Days, and still others sit down and formally take stock of the state of their relationships. There are probably as many ways to prepare as there people.

This year I will be studying *Tomer Devorah*, The Palm Tree of Devorah – a 16th century text by the prominent Jewish mystic and kabbalist, Rabbi Moshe Cordovero. In some circles, it is customary to study this work during the month of Elul and during the 10 Days of Awe. The text emphasizes the human potential to imitate God through study and cultivation of God's attributes. It lends itself particularly well to the task of preparation for the High Holy Days because it begins with an exploration of the 13 attributes of God that we chant so frequently during services. It goes on to demonstrate how human ethical behavior may be learned from God's attributes as manifested through the 10 *sefirot* of the kabbalistic system – thus, the text teaches a deeper understanding of kabbalah even as it provides helpful insights in the realm of ethics. My hope is that studying this text will lead me to a deeper self-awareness and a fervent responsiveness to God that I will be able to carry with me into the High Holidays.

The early timing of the High Holy Days this year makes Elul feel so much more crucial this year. To avoid being caught unprepared for doing the work of *teshuvah*, I plan to enter the month of Elul with more consciousness even than during other years. I want to encourage each one of you as well to seek out a practice that feels meaningful, a practice that will bring you to Rosh Hashanah feeling prepared instead of taken by surprise when the *shofar* calls you to *teshuvah*...

Shalom,
Rabbi Julie



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

President's Message

Shalom Friends,

I hope you are having a wonderful summer and that you are finding ways to stay cool. I am looking forward to a new year with new possibilities and new challenges. As a teacher I always find a new year to be exciting, and this year is no different. Professionally, I will be back in the classroom teaching First Grade. I'm really looking forward to creating a positive school environment for my students. Religiously the High Holy Days are very early this year; beginning right after Labor Day. I am looking forward to seeing everyone at services.

One of the challenges we face in the New Year is to replace the sign that will grace our property and tell everyone that we are a vibrant, religious community worthy of consideration. I know our community to be made up of very caring, hardworking people who want our Jewish community to thrive. Our sign has to say that. The board will make this a priority to find the sign that makes that statement.

Another priority I have set for myself this year is to plan a fundraiser. I have made some inquiries and would like to have a dinner or dessert evening with entertainment. It has been a few years since we have had a big gala and I think it will be fun to party together. If you are interested in working on this committee please contact me at raffrime@gmail.com. I am looking for two more people to help plan the festivities. I have some ideas, but look forward to

hearing what thoughts you might have.

I would like to welcome Brian Epstein to the board in the capacity of Adult Education chair. He will be working with Religious Committee member, Jay Trackman, to plan a series of conversations involving both our Jewish and Non-Jewish members. It has always been our priority to be accepting and understanding of all of our membership, this year we would like to hear more about how you feel. Look for postings in the newsletter for when these discussions will begin.

We are honored to have Rabbi Julie Pfau return to us this year as a graduate of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College. Rabbi Pfau brings a great wealth of skills and compassion to her responsibilities as rabbi and head of our religious school. We are blessed that she has chosen to stay in the area and to remain our religious leader. We can look forward to another year of fabulous sermons and out of the ordinary discussions.

I would like to welcome back two employees from last year. The first is Marla Hoffman. Marla will continue her roles as Hebrew School teacher and organizer of Tot Shabbat. We were very pleased that it worked out that Marla is able to stay with our TBA children. We also look forward to listening to Lori Feldstein Gardner as she assists with High Holiday services. Lori has worked with Sid Morginstin and Rabbi Pfau to prepare services for this year. I hope that we will see you there. We also welcome back our newsletter writer and editor, Shiri Haines, who delivers to us monthly all the news that is fit to print.

As we move forward to our new year I would like to offer my number should you feel that you need to speak with me concerning a temple or personal matter. I can be reached at 609-499-1761. I welcome your call. After school begins, the best time to reach me is after 5 pm.

I wish you my best for a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year.

Robin

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Mazel Tov to Eileen Gale on the  
birth of her new granddaughter,  
Ruby Gale Hilliard.

## Yahrzeit List

### August 13

Selma Bloom, mother of Randye Bloom  
Norman Goldman, father of Bonnie & Jeff Goldman,  
mother-in-law of Rhea Goldman

### August 20

Bonnie Ross, mother of Jack Ross  
Julius Lederman, father of Steven Lederman

### August 27

Arthur Coleman, father of Lenny Coleman  
Jerome Epstein, grandfather of Brian Epstein  
Jack Bagan, father of Elaine Zeitz  
Anette Brewis, great aunt of Brian Epstein

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.

## HIGH HOLY DAY SCHEDULE

### EREV ROSH HASHANAH

WEDNESDAY SEPT 08 7:30 PM

### ROSH HASHANAH I

THURSDAY SEPT 09 9:30 AM  
TASHLICH 12:30 PM

### ROSH HASHANAH II

FRIDAY SEPT 10 9:30 AM  
SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE 7:30 PM  
*BUILD SUKKAH*

SUNDAY SEPT 12 9:30 AM

### YOM KIPPUR

FRIDAY SEPT 17 6:30 PM  
SATURDAY SEPT 18 9:30 AM  
YIZKOR 12:00 NOON  
AFTERNOON SERVICE 5:00 PM

SUNDAY SEPT 19  
SCHOOL DECORATES SUKKAH

### Address Corrections

|                                                                |                                                                             |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Deena Kobrin<br>957 Highway 33, #177<br>Trenton, NJ 08690-2727 | Lee and Marcell Nissim<br>333 Elmwood Avenue, # 4006<br>Maplewood, NJ 07040 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|

### 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).

## Healing List

It is a new year, so we will start again with a new list. Please contact Sid at 609-456-9508 or e-mail [sidmorgy@verizon.net](mailto:sidmorgy@verizon.net) with the names of those you desire to put on the list. Also, please tell him when the name can be removed. Sid makes an effort to contact you about 2 months after adding a name, however, sometimes he is very busy, so, please contact him if there are any changes. The list can get long very fast.

## 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.



## 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.

Letter from St. Mary's Community Food Pantry to the Hebrew School

Dear Benefactors:

On behalf of St. Mary's Community Food Pantry volunteers and patrons, thank you for the \$108.00 check from the eldest class of the Temple B'Nai Abraham Hebrew School. We are truly grateful and appreciate the work and planning involved.

Please extend my thanks to the class for selecting our food pantry -- and helping us to feed the needy of our community.

Sincerely,  
Rev. Michael J. Burns, pastor

## From Our Religious Vice President

The revised YAHRZEIT list is now on the bulletin board. Please check to be sure your loved one's information is correct. Please send me changes in writing or on the phone. If you tell me verbally in person, I am afraid I may not remember to make the change.

Before you inquire of me concerning the accuracy of the Yahrzeit date, please read the following important information.

The Yahrzeit date is based upon the Hebrew date of death and is the same Hebrew date every year. The English date varies every year. For example, Yoseph Ishkabible died on July 23, 1999. In 1999, on that date, the Hebrew date was 10 AV. The secular date in 2000, was August 11; in 2001, it was July 30; in 2002, it was July 19; and in 2003 it was August 08. So you see, the Hebrew date is the same, but the English Date changes every year.

This happens because the English calendar is a Solar calendar and based on the Earth's rotation around the sun, while the Hebrew calendar is a Lunar calendar and based on the moon's cycle. In some years, Hebrew lunar months have 29 days and in other years the same months have 30 days. Then, to make it even more complicated, for two out of every seven years there is a leap year when a whole month (ADAR II) is added. This is done to keep all the holidays in line with the seasons stated in the Torah for each holiday.

If Yoseph Ishkabible died on March 10, 2003, the Hebrew date would be 06 ADAR II 5763. That year was a leap year. The following year, 2004, the Yahrzeit was February 28, and in 2005, another leap year, the Yahrzeit was March 17.

If your loved one passed away in the March/April, please double check the date of death carefully. I would like to have the exact date of death: MONTH/DAY/YEAR. In more traditional communities, the time of day is checked. As you may know, the Jewish day starts at sunset. We are not that exacting here.

Each August I update the computer Yahrzeit Database. The Database has the Hebrew date of death (MONTH & DAY). I add in the equivalent English dates for the upcoming year and the Shabbat when it will be read. If the Yahrzeit should fall on a Saturday, Sunday, or Monday, I enter the preceding Friday. For Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, I enter the following Friday.

This list goes to the Rabbi for the announcements, to Elieen Gale and Shiri Haines for the newsletter and to Phyllis Chudoff who sends out the reminder cards. As you know, we have a Saturday morning service in place of the Friday night service once a month. Per agreement, Phyllis will always note the FRIDAY DATE on the cards. Please

check the newsletter for when the service will be held. If you cannot make the designated date, it is OK to say Kaddish on the closest Friday (or Saturday).

By the way, it is traditional that one makes a donation to the temple on the Yahrzeit in memory of your loved one. After all, in the Yizkor service, we do promise to give charity in the name of the deceased.

If you would like a memorial plaque, please provide the following in WRITING: (1) the deceased's English name, (2) the deceased's Hebrew name, (3) the English date of death, and (4) the deceased parent's Hebrew names. I can get the Hebrew date for you. If you do not have the Hebrew names, please supply the English names. I will consult with the Rabbi. The cost for each plaque is \$250. You will be billed after I order the plaque and place it on the board. I generally wait until I have at least three plaques before placing an order. By the way, plaques MAY NOT be moved from one board to another.

Sid Morginstin  
Religious VP  
609-456-9508 or [sidmorgy@verizon.net](mailto:sidmorgy@verizon.net)

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!

### 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.

## Temple Donations

### In Memory Of

Bee Busch, mother of Phyllis from Phyllis Busch  
Bess and Max Light, parents of Patricia Light-Tolomeo  
from Patricia Light-Tolomeo

Louis and Ellen Rosenberg, parents of Ellen Wehrman,  
Louise Thompson and Michael Rosenberg from  
Louise Thompson

Joan Sandusky from Marcy & Rick Schwartz-Shain

Julie Kwait from Marcy & Rick Schwartz-Shain

Sam Shain from Marcy & Rick Schwartz-Shain

Lou & Ellen Rosenberg from Louise Thompson

Bess & Max Light from Patricia Light-Tolomeo

Bee Busch from Phyllis Busch

Mira Sominskaya from Yelena Masotti

Edith Trackman from Jay & Elaine Trackman

Jack Roth from Jay & Elaine Trackman

Anna Harrison from Rene Harrison

Sol Schaffer from Rhoda & Henry Kessler

Louis Rosen from Madge & Jerry Rosen

Mira Sominskaya from Yelena Masotti and Sasha

### In Honor Of

Rabbi Julie's Graduation from Randye Bloom & Michael  
Scolaro

Trackman's Anniversary from Yelena Masotti

Elaine and Jay Trackman's wedding anniversary from  
Yelena Masotti and Sasha

Ted and Joanne Lutz's grandson from Robin and Steve  
Affrime

Their 60th anniversary from Phyllis & Iz Kamer

Purchase of chumush in honor of Phyllis and Is Kamer's  
anniversary from Elaine and Jay Trackman

## Sisterhood Donations

### In Memory of

Steven Speiser from Randye Bloom and Mike Scolaro

Richard La Motta from Lee and Marcel Nissim

Elliott Ross from Randye Bloom and Mike Scolaro,

Charyl and Sid Morginstin, Phoebe and Jeff Nissim and  
Elaine and Jay Trackman

### Get Well

Victor Ramos from Susan and Tom Giachetti, Elaine and  
Jay Trackman, Charly and Sid Morginstin

Sol Kushner from Sid and Charyl Morginstin

Jeffrey Goldman from Renee Harrison, Elaine and Jay  
Trackman, Marcia and Joel Dowshen, Charyl and Sid  
Morginstin

### Rejoicing with you

Aaron and Mary Rosenberg on your engagement from  
John and Ellen Wehrman

Marsha and Joel Dowshen on son Matt's marriage from  
Eileen Gale

Ted and Joanne Lutz on the arrival of Chelsea Summer  
from Elaine and Jay Trackman and Phyllis and Is Kamer  
Phoebe and Jeff Nissim on the arrival of Julia Brooke  
Nissim from Phyllis and Is Kamer, Jay and Elaine  
Trackman.

Marc and Rachel Nissim on the arrival of Julia Brooke  
Nissim from Phyllis and Is Kamer

Lee and Marcel Nissim and Barbara and Jeff Streisfeld on  
the arrival of Benjamin Ezra and Julia Nissim from Elaine  
and Jay Trackman and Phyllis and Is Kamer

Abbie and Sam Shain for member of the year from

Charyl and Sid Morginstin and Elaine and Jay Trackman.

Rabbi Julie on her graduation from Arlene and Berny  
Speiser and the Schwartz-Shain family.

**Happy Anniversary** to Elaine and Jay Trackman from  
the Schwartz-Shain family and Charyl and Sid Morginstin

## Outstanding Volunteer Opportunity at TBA

Do you like our services? Would you like to have a  
voice in what happens in services or holidays? The  
Religious Committee is where it all happens and we  
need your help!

The Religious Committee:

- Helps out in planning and directing the High Holy  
Day Services.
  - *Sid has this down to a science. There is not  
much work, other than helping make the honor  
cards.*
- Keeps the sign board up-to-date.
  - *If you live nearby you could change the sign  
board.*
- Helps build and take down the Sukkah.
- Backs up Sid in leading Shiva services.
  - *Sid usually covers these, but cannot always  
make it each night. This is easy; there is a  
service outline & guide.*
- Has very few meetings each year!
- Attends services and helps out when needed.

Religious Committee Members **DO NOT**:

- Have to lead services unless you want to.
  - *Rabbi Julie generally does not take off when  
Sid is not available to cover.*
  - *If you can help lead services, especially the  
singing, you are absolutely welcome to do  
so! Mindy and Mike are great at this.*
- Need to be well versed in Jewish Law, though  
some knowledge would be helpful.

Join us and find a new dimension to synagogue life!

Contact Sid at [sidmorgy@verizon.net](mailto:sidmorgy@verizon.net) or (609) 456-  
9508

## SEPTEMBER 2010 TISHRE 5771

| Sunday                                                                                  | Monday         | Tuesday | Wednesday                                                                                 | Thursday                                                                                  | Friday                                                                                                                            | Saturday                                                                                                                          |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|---------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                         |                |         | 1                                                                                         | 2<br>HS Open House / Parent Orientation<br>6:30 pm                                        | 3                                                                                                                                 | 4                                                                                                                                 |
| 5                                                                                       | 6<br>LABOR DAY | 7       | 8<br>Erev Rosh Hashana<br><br>Evening Service<br>7:30 pm<br><br>Candlelighting<br>7:02 pm | 9<br>Rosh Hashana<br><br>Morning Service<br>9:30 am<br><br>Taschlich<br>12:30 pm (approx) | 10<br>Rosh Hashana 2<br><br>Morning Service<br>9:30 am<br><br>Shabbat Service<br>7:30 pm<br><br>Candlelighting<br>6:59 pm         | 11<br>3rd of Tishrei<br>Ha'Azinu                                                                                                  |
| 12<br><br>Fast of Gedaliah<br><br>9-10 SS<br>10-12 HS<br><br>Sukkah Building<br>9:30 am | 13             | 14      | 15                                                                                        | 16<br>4:30-6:30 HS                                                                        | 17<br>Erev Yom Kippur<br><br>Kol Nidre<br>6:30 pm<br><br>Candlelighting<br>6:48 pm                                                | 18<br>Yom Kippur<br><br>Morning Service<br>9:30 am<br>Yizkor<br>12:00 noon (approx)<br><br>Afternoon & Evening Service<br>5:00 pm |
| 19<br><br>9-10 SS<br>10-12 HS<br>Decorate Sukkah                                        | 20             | 21      | 22<br>Erev Sukkot<br><br>Candlelighting<br>6:39 pm                                        | 23<br>Sukkot I<br>4:30-6:30 HS                                                            | 24<br>Sukkot II<br><br>Tot Shabbat<br>6:00 pm<br>Shabbat Service<br>7:30 pm<br><b>ONEG in Sukkah</b><br>Candlelighting<br>6:36 pm | 25<br>17th of Tishrei                                                                                                             |
| 26<br><br>9-10 SS<br>10-12 HS                                                           | 27             | 28      | 29<br>Hoshana Raba<br>Candlelighting<br>6:28 pm                                           | 30<br>Shmini Atzeret<br><br>4:30-6:30 HS<br><br>Simchat Torah Service 5:30 pm             |                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                   |

## Hebrew School Volunteer Form – 2010-2011 school year

Name (s) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Parents are an important part of a child's Jewish education, but so is the community as a whole! The active participation of both families and congregants is critical to the strength of our school program. Please check the areas in which you would be willing to help and mail/drop off the form to the Temple. Or email the rabbi ([rabbijulie@gmail.com](mailto:rabbijulie@gmail.com)) with the areas you can help.

We greatly appreciate your involvement and support!!

\_\_\_\_\_ General School Assistant

We need people who can help our teachers on an as-needed basis with programs and projects.

\_\_\_\_\_ Substitute Teacher

We need people who can fill in when our teachers need to miss a school session.

\_\_\_\_\_ I can fill in to teach Hebrew letters and vowels

\_\_\_\_\_ I can fill in to teach basic Hebrew reading skills

\_\_\_\_\_ I can fill in to teach a non-Hebrew lesson

\_\_\_\_\_ Hebrew Helpers

We need volunteers who are willing to serve as reading partners for our students during Hebrew class (Thursday 4:30-5:30 and Sunday 10:00-11:00). If you can sound out words and offer an encouraging smile, you have all the skill you need!

\_\_\_\_\_ I can help regularly

\_\_\_\_\_ I can help occasionally, or for a few weeks

\_\_\_\_\_ Bnei Mitzvah Helpers

We can always use more volunteers who know some of the prayers we do on Friday nights and Saturday mornings, and can help students practice them. Volunteers with an ability to read voweled Hebrew would also be able to help students review reading of their Torah and Haftarah.

\_\_\_\_\_ I can help with prayers

\_\_\_\_\_ I can help with reading

\_\_\_\_\_ Teen Class Coordinator

We have been exploring the possibility of having a teen class, but need a volunteer to take charge. The format is open, but may include monthly meetings and/or occasional field trips.

\_\_\_\_\_ Special Events Coordinator

We can always use help in coordinating special holiday programs at the school:

\_\_\_\_\_ Chanukah \_\_\_\_\_ Tu B'Shevat \_\_\_\_\_ Purim

\_\_\_\_\_ Model Passover Seder \_\_\_\_\_ Field Trip (To Be Announced)

\_\_\_\_\_ Arts resource person in the area(s) of \_\_\_\_\_

We are always looking for people who have special talents in the arts (visual arts, music, storytelling, creative movement, drama) who would like to work with our kids occasionally or serve as a resource person for us as we plan for the children.