



Temple B'nai Abraham

Temple B'nai Abraham
President – Robin Affrime

The Temple Shofar
Rabbi Julie Pfau

Sarah Seidel Sisterhood
President - Faith Hupfl

December 2010

Rabbi's Message

While in Atlanta for a conference, I had the opportunity to pay a few visits to my old synagogue. I have been away long enough that I am no longer in tune with the rhythms of the community, and ended up coming an hour late one week – I had forgotten that once a month they begin early and have an abbreviated service followed by a potluck dinner and sing-a-long. I was so late that I missed the service, but I was delighted to share a meal and then join in the singing. One of the songs was a Talmudic saying:

Amar Rabbi Yehuda: Al tis'takel ba'kan'kan, eleh b'mah sh'yesh bo.

Rabbi Yehuda said: Look not at the vessel, but rather what it contains.

The message of the song spoke to the moment – during my visit, I couldn't help but notice how much the community had changed. The people I was eating with were mostly new to me, as were some of the traditions. But I noticed that, despite the changes in myself and the community, there was still something about it that felt like home. The vessel might have been different, but the contents were familiar. The community was welcoming. Congregants made a point of introducing themselves to those they didn't know. I was able to chat and sing with new people, but feel that I was a regular part of the group. There was still a joy in singing, in prayer, and in spending time together that I remembered from when I lived in Atlanta.

I believe that Rabbi Yehuda's saying is an important one for any synagogue community. A synagogue is a vessel that is able to hold everything we hold dear, everything we want to share amongst ourselves, with those who visit us, and the larger community. It can be easy to get caught up in the specifics of how the vessel looks, but that would be to miss out on what is most important – the warmth of caring relationships.

In the many years of its existence, Temple B'nai Abraham has undergone many changes, but has at

its core remained a close-knit community. People might come to our community for the first time for any numbers of reasons, but they stay for the sense of meaning and lasting relationships they have formed. As the days grow shorter and colder, I invite everyone to contemplate the light and warmth at the core of our community. How can each of us add to the vessel, and actively reach out to share that content with all who come?

Shalom,
Rabbi Pfau



Community Hanukah Celebration

Join us

Friday, December 3rd 6:30 pm

Welcome Shabbat and celebrate the third night of Hanukah.

We have scheduled our Tot Shabbat program to coincide with our annual Hanukah 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 downstairs by lighting Hanukah candles and singing some Hanukah songs together, and then will split into separate groups to welcome Shabbat. Marla, our Tot Shabbat coordinator, will keep the Tot Shabbat children downstairs for a Tot Shabbat service while the adults go 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 Hanukah games, while the adults continue to visit together downstairs.

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



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

Tot Shabbat News

This year we are continuing our great Tot Shabbat's! Services start at 6:00 p.m. and include, candle lighting, pot luck dinner, story time, a theme related craft, and songs. If you need any additional information, would like to get on the Tot Shabbat mailing list or would like to volunteer to help clean up or set up, please contact Marla Hoffman - rhynestonegrl@gmail.com

Friday, December 3 -- Chanukah
Friday, January 7 -- Tu B'Shvat
Friday, February 18 -- Torah
Friday, March 18 -- Purim
Friday, April 8 -- Pesach
Friday, May 6 -- Israel
Friday, June 10 -- Family



Yahrzeit List

December 3

Lillian Morginstin, mother of Sid Morginstin
Pauline Schwartz, grandmother of Phyllis Chudoff
Rebecca Gale, mother-in-law of Eileen Gale
Max Kamer, father of Is Kamer
Charles Hicks, maternal grandfather of Sara Blann

December 17

Ella Kessler, mother of Henry Kessler
Lawrence Bowker, husband of Linda Bowker

December 24

Eudell Rod, friend of Linda Bowker
Ethel Speiser, mother of Bernie Speiser
Evelyn Rothman, mother of Robin Affrime

December 31

Bernard Zeichner, father of Stan Zeichner
Jacob Epstein, great uncle of Brian Epstein
Julius Bloom, father of Randye 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.

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.

Religious School News

It is our tradition to have the families of our students supply drinks and snacks for Hebrew School and Sunday School. The list below indicates the month that you have been assigned:

December- Osman/Salstein
January- Deitch/Kunkler
February- Lowry/Schwartz
March- Mitchell/Nissim
April- Erickson/Stupak
May- TBD

Please provide juice boxes (best for portion control) or water bottles, and healthy snacks that are prepackaged (i.e. pretzels, sunchips, granola bars).

WE HAVE STUDENTS WITH FOOD ALLERGIES SO SNACKS CAN NOT CONTAIN PEANUTS, COCONUT OR COCONUT OIL.

You are buying for approximately 20 children. Divide this with your "partner" any way you both agree! If you can't do the assigned month, please contact another family to see if they can switch with you. Please deliver the food on or before the Thursday or Sunday prior to the 1st of the month.

Any questions, please contact me at (609)291-0355 or email Attyosman@verizon.net. Thanks! I'm sure the kids will appreciate your efforts!

Linda Osman
Religious School Co-Chair

President's Message

The Interfaith Thanksgiving Worship Service
Wednesday November 24th, 2010

Temple B'nai Abraham was again asked to participate in the Interfaith Thanksgiving Worship service. This year our host was Reverend Jay Rambo and the congregation of The First Baptist Church on Prince St. Many of the local churches and Temple B'nai Abraham took part in the service. There were beautiful hymns lead by the choir, tender prayers, thoughtful readings and an inspiring sermon delivered by the Reverend Robin Lostetter of the Presbyterian Church on Farnsworth Ave. I had the honor of providing the closing benediction. I chose to recite the Priestly Blessing; a blessing that my rabbi used each week to close Shabbat services.

It was an honor to be included in this extraordinary event. The church was packed with men, women and children who set aside their Thanksgiving readiness chores to gather together in a spirit of caring to give thanks for all that we have, even if some of us don't have as much as we had last year or two years ago. It didn't matter that the congregation was a diverse group of Protestants, Baptists, Catholics, Lutherans, Unitarians, Universalists, and even Jews. We were all united in how we felt about our relationships with each other and with G-d.

This is my first time attending this interfaith service though I've known about the existence of it for years. However, I always begged off with the excuse that I had too much to do to prepare for the holiday meal. It was very self important of me. I probably would have done the same again this year had Rabbi Julie been available to attend. She was not available and so ok, I said I would go. But, what I didn't expect was the impact the program would have on me. I felt profoundly connected to both G-d and the multi-cultural group of attendees.

We struggle week after week to attract a minyan for our Shabbat services. Why? What is wrong with us? Why do we think that shopping, errands, and chores are more important than the peace that can be attained by being a part of a prayerful community? Why do we feel so self important that we can't take the time to become connected? We talk about struggling with spirituality, and yet our actions belie our intentions. I don't mean to sound preachy, but I felt that I learned something at that program. Sometimes the most important thing a person can do is to show up; to be present.

Temple B'nai Abraham & Sarah Seidel Sisterhood American Red Cross Blood Drive



**Wednesday, December 29
8 am – 2 pm**

Tell your family, friends, and neighbors that we will sponsor a blood drive at Carlslake Community Center. We want to reach our goal of 50 donors, so each family needs to try to encourage at least one donor to donate blood. An appointment is recommended. They really try to accommodate them. Please make this effort. The need for blood is really critical at this time of year.

**Not sure if you can donate? Check out
Donor Eligibility Guidelines:**

[http://www.redcrossblood.org/donating-
blood.](http://www.redcrossblood.org/donating-blood)

CDC malaria map:

[http://www.cdc.gov/malaria/map/](http://www.cdc.gov/malaria/map)

**Bring picture identification and remember to
eat a healthy breakfast and drink plenty of
fluids before donating! If you have any
questions, please call Randy Bloom – 609-
298-6485**

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

A big thank you to all who have donated granola bars for our interfaith effort to relieve hunger in the area. Here is a recent message from Anne Kettner, from First Baptist Church in Bordentown, who coordinates this project:

Dear Friends,

Just a note to thank all of you for your faithfulness to our Motel Mission. This past Monday we were able to give out more food than I remember in a long time.

Thanks to you all for the extra you did. We had four cars full of provisions: meals, about 40 really full grocery bags (and they all had Parmalat milk!), extra boxes of food, bagels, soda, and some hygiene products.

One young man, maybe mid 20's who is apparently new to the Riverfront, came up to me and asked about the food, and I explained how the local congregations do what we can. He was so grateful, I don't remember his exact words but I'll try, "I didn't know there'd be food. All I had left was a Honeybun, and I was about to eat that, but I didn't know what I was going to do after I ate that. We could starve down here." But they don't, because of you all.

Keep those contributions coming! All contributions of general, non-perishable foods are also welcome for the food pantry too.

We are still delivering meals to the Pine Motel on the last Thursday of the month. Many thanks to Debby Weiss, Jaden Weiss and Marsha Caldwell for their help recently with the meal delivery. As in the message above from Anne, as we greet the motel residents and offer them dinner, we see a combination of relief and deep appreciation. We're proud that B'nai Abraham continues to support this meaningful and very necessary activity.

Marcy Schwartz

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Condolences to the Trackman family on the death of their daughter-in-law, Michele, after a long illness.  
May her memory be for a blessing.

The wake will be held Sunday, December 5, at the Koller Funeral Home, 6835 Ridge Ave. in Philadelphia. The funeral will be held the next day, Monday, December 6, at the Koller Funeral Home at 10 am. The burial will follow at Laurel Hill Cemetery, 3822 Ridge Ave. in Philadelphia. Everyone is invited back to Andy Trackman's house at 32 E Sedgwick St. in Philadelphia immediately following.

## Temple Donations

### In Memory Of

Jerry Rosen from Steve & Robin Affrime, Randye & Michael Scolaro, Eileen Gale, Jay & Elaine Trackman, William & Karen Wood, Betsy Anderson and Victor Ramos, Schwartz-Shein Family  
Lee Nissim from Steve and Robin Affrime

### In Honor Of

Robin and Steve Affrime's son's marriage from Randye and Michael Scolaro

## Donations to the Sisterhood

### In Memory Of

Lee Nissim from Steve & Robin Affrime, Steve & Ellen Benowitz, Randye Bloom & Mike Scolaro, Jr., Ann & Thomas Cody, Andrea & Douglas Dillon, Eileen Gale, Mimi Geller, Susan & Thomas Giachetti, Gould Family, Peter & Karen Granaldi, Renee Harrison, Faith & Jake Hupfl, Phyllis & Is Kamer, Gary & Gail Kushner, Sol & Shyrle Kushner, Sheila Lamonsoff, Dr. & Mrs. Lieberman, Joanne & Ted Lutz, Charyl & Sid Morginstin, Doris & Mickey Morren, Dr & Mrs. S. Lavine, Neil & Karen Nissim, Mildred Shemesh, Sena Z. Siegler, Sobelman Family, Risa Sparks, Karen & Frances Sutte, Elaine & Jay Trackman, Ellen Weiner, Bordentown Military Institute, and Robin & Tony Zak

Gerald Rosen from Charyl & Sid Morginstin, Renee Harrison, Sandra & Bruce Schwartz-Bird, Faith & Jake Hupfl, Susan & Tom Giachetti, Joanne & Ted Lutz, Eileen Gale, Karen & Neil Nissim, Warren & Johanne Rednor, Robin & Steve Affrime, Anita Benson, and Phyllis Chudoff

### Happy Birthday

Mimi Geller from the Morginstins, Eileen Gale, and the Kamers  
Esther Steinholtz from the Speisers

### Rejoicing With You

Ted & Joanne Lutz and Eileen Gale on arrival of grand children from the Speisers  
Steve & Robin Affrime on Danny's marriage to Kristen from the Speisers

### In honor Of

Alan Barman from Howard Barman

# Sisterhood News

There will be a Board Meeting at **7:00 pm on Monday, December 6**. The Board meeting will be followed by a Sisterhood Program starting 7:30 pm, which was creatively thought of by our Program Director, Anita Berson. The Program will be a "Re-Gifting Surprise Exchange." All members attending should bring a gift that they have previously received and which was not used. It should be something that you would like to "re-gift". Perhaps you had received a gift that may not have fit, was not a color you liked, or did not fit your personality, or style of your home. Each member attending should bring their item wrapped for a surprise gift exchange. We will look forward to hearing your anecdote about this gift or other odd gifts from holidays past. This Sisterhood event will be graciously hosted by Debby Weiss.



I would also like to thank Karen Nissim for her time and effort for sharing her talent at the last Flower Arranging event. I hope all enjoyed learning how to make a flower arrangement and that all were happy to have a beautiful arrangement to display for Thanksgiving. I hope everyone had a very happy holiday!

## 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.

## 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.

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!

## 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.
- 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.
- 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

**DECEMBER 2010    KISLEV – TEVET 5771**

| Sunday                                                | Monday                                                                                                                     | Tuesday                                           | Wednesday                                         | Thursday                                       | Friday                                                                                                                    | Saturday                                |
|-------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
|                                                       |                                                                                                                            |                                                   | 1<br>Chanukah<br>1 candle                         | 2<br>Chanukah<br>2 candles<br><br>4:30-6:30 HS | 3<br>3 candles<br><br><b>Evening<br/>Service and<br/>CHANUKAH<br/>PARTY<br/>6:30 pm</b><br><br>Candle lighting<br>4:16 pm | 4<br>Chanukah<br>4 candles              |
| 5<br>Chanukah<br>5 candles<br><br>9-10 SS<br>10-12 HS | 6<br>Chanukah<br>6 candles<br><br>Sisterhood<br>Board<br>7:00 pm<br><br>Sisterhood<br>Hanukkah Gift<br>Exchange<br>7:30 pm | 7<br>Rosh<br>Chodesh<br><br>Chanukah<br>7 candles | 8<br>Rosh<br>Chodesh<br><br>Chanukah<br>8 candles | 9<br>Chanukah:<br>8th Day<br><br>4:30-6:30 HS  | 10<br>Shabbat<br>Evening Service<br>7:30 pm<br><br>Candle lighting<br>4:15 pm                                             | 11                                      |
| 12<br>9-10 SS<br>10-12 HS                             | 13                                                                                                                         | 14                                                | 15                                                | 16<br>4:30-6:30 HS                             | 17<br>Candle<br>lighting<br>4:17 pm                                                                                       | 18<br>Oneg<br><b>Shabbat<br/>9:30am</b> |
| 19<br>9-10 SS<br>10-12 HS                             | 20                                                                                                                         | 21                                                | 22                                                | 23<br>No School<br>(Winter Break)              | 24<br><b>Shabbat<br/>Evening<br/>Service<br/>7:30pm</b><br><br>Candle lighting<br>4:20 pm                                 | 25                                      |
| 26<br>No School<br>(Winter Break)                     | 27                                                                                                                         | 28                                                | 29                                                | 30<br>No School<br>(Winter Break)              | 31<br><b>Shabbat<br/>Evening<br/>Service<br/>6:00pm</b><br><br>Candle lighting<br>4:25 pm                                 |                                         |

## Sisterhood Oneg Schedule

| <b>DECEMBER</b> |        |         |                                    |                                        |
|-----------------|--------|---------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Fri             | 3-Dec  | 7:30 PM | Erev Shabbat                       | Chanukah Party - HS                    |
| Mon             | 6-Dec  | 7:30 PM | Sisterhood Program                 | Debby Weiss                            |
| Sat             | 18-Dec | 9:30 AM | Shabbat Morning                    | Susan Giachetti & Kim Aubry            |
| <b>JANUARY</b>  |        |         |                                    |                                        |
| Mon             | 10-Jan | 7:30 PM | Sisterhood Program                 | Ellen Wehrman & Patricia Light-Tolemeo |
| Sat             | 15-Jan | 9:30 AM | Shabbat Morning                    | Linda Osman & Shira Lowry              |
| Fri             | 21-Jan | 7:30 PM | Erev Shabbat                       | Randy Bloom & Marcy Schwartz           |
| <b>FEBRUARY</b> |        |         |                                    |                                        |
| Fri             | 6-Feb  | 7:30 PM | Erev Shabbat                       | Charyl Morganstin & Sandy Swartzbird   |
| Sat             | 8-Feb  | 9:30 AM | Shabbat Morning                    | Marcia Rosen & Madge Rosen             |
| Mon             | 12-Feb | 7:30 PM | Sisterhood Program                 | Faith Huplf                            |
| <b>MARCH</b>    |        |         |                                    |                                        |
| Fri             | 4-Mar  | 7:30 PM | Erev Shabbat                       | Marsha Dowshen & Rita Nissim           |
| Sat             | 12-Mar | 9:30 AM | Shabbat Morning                    | Jen Carton & Stacy Deitch              |
| Mon             | 14-Mar | 7:30 PM | Sisterhood Program                 | Eileen Gale & Betsy Ramos              |
| <b>APRIL</b>    |        |         |                                    |                                        |
| Fri             | 1-Apr  | 7:30 PM | Erev Shabbat                       | Karen Nissim & Sheila Lamonsoff        |
| Mon             | 11-Apr | 7:30 PM | Sisterhood Program                 | Phyllis Chudoff                        |
| Sat             | 16-Apr | 9:30 AM | Shabbat Morning                    | Elaine Trackman & Renee Harrison       |
| Tue             | 19-Apr | 6:00 PM | 2nd night community Seder Passover | Kim Aubry & others                     |
| <b>MAY</b>      |        |         |                                    |                                        |
| Mon             | 9-May  | 7:30 PM | Sisterhood Program- Book Review    | Rita Nissim & Mimi Gellar              |
| Sat             | 14-May | 9:30 AM | Shabbat Morning                    | Anita Berson & Sonia Fenick            |
| Fri             | 27-May | 7:30 PM | Erev Shabbat                       | Rhea Goldman & Bonnie Goldman          |
| <b>JUNE</b>     |        |         |                                    |                                        |
| Fri             | 3-Jun  | 7:30 PM | Erev Shabbat                       | <b>Bar Mitzvah</b>                     |
| Sat             | 4-Jun  | 9:30 AM | Shabbat Morning                    | Noah Goldberg                          |
| Mon             | 13-Jun | 6:15 PM | Sisterhood Pot Luck                | Marsha Dowshen & Randy Bloom           |
| Fri             | 24-Jun | 7:30 PM | Member of the Year                 | Debby Weiss & Marcy Schwartz           |