



Temple B'nai Abraham

Temple B'nai Abraham
President – Robin Affrime

The Temple Shofar
Rabbi Julie Pfau

Sarah Seidel Sisterhood
President - Faith Hupfl

February 2011

Rabbi's Message

In the secular calendar, the biggest complication falls in the month of February – keeping the calendar in synch with the seasons means periodically adding a single day to the month of February. In the Jewish calendar, things are a bit more complicated – an entire month is added to the calendar for seven of every nineteen years. Instead of giving a separate name to this additional month, it is a duplication of an existing month – the month of Adar. Thus, in leap years, we have Adar I and Adar II. This year, we are in one of those leap years, and the first day of Adar I falls on February 5th.

The month of Adar is, of course, the month in which we celebrate Purim. So what happens when we have two months of Adar? On the 14th of the second Adar, we celebrate Purim fully, while the 14th of the first Adar became known as Purim Katan – Little Purim. Adar I and Purim Katan often pass unnoticed in the cycles of the Jewish calendar, but they hold a range of possibilities. Because there is very little associated with Purim Katan in terms of ritual, there are possibilities for innovation. Some Jewish communities throughout history have used Purim Katan as a time to commemorate their own experiences of danger and rescue. Other contemporary communities use the opportunity to hold adult-oriented programs and fund-raising events that are in keeping with the carnivalesque spirit of Purim – farcical, subversive, irreverent, carrying a sense of everything being turned upside down.

The entire month of Adar (I or II) can often carry a sense of these themes. When I think of Adar, I am more conscious of the unexpected and more in tune to things that hover on the fringes of, or even disrupt, the typical flow of my routine. In a leap year, this awareness can be heightened.

The unexpected is often contemplated with uneasiness, and many of us are not eager for disruptions to our comfortable routines. But there can also be great potential in these moments of discovery. Someone recently shared a text with me that highlights the potential to discover the holy when and where we least expect it. It is just a single line that shows up periodically in the Zohar, one of the mystical texts of the Jewish tradition. It is an exclamation of wonder and delight: “Until now I didn't know that you had all these concealed jewels in your hands!” In the Zohar, the concealed jewels represent a kind of mystical experience and wisdom that is a treasure to be sought, and the seekers are often surprised to discover that it is in the least likely of places. Sometimes the people we least expect may be the ones who have profound spiritual insight. The discovery can turn our expectations upside down, in the most delightful kind of way.

As we journey through these next two months of Adar, may each of us be blessed to discover concealed jewels at every turning. May we discover them when we least expect them and when we are most in need of them.

Shalom,
Rabbi Pfau

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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

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Religious School Chair	Linda Osman
Membership Chair	Kim Aubry
Building Chair	Eileen Gale

Yahrzeit List

February 4

Max Kessler, father of Henry Kessler
Nathan Goldman, father of Maxine & Philip Goldman
Rose Kaiser, mother of Eileen Gale

February 11

Selma Levitsky, great aunt of Brian Epstein

February 18

Howard Brewis, great grandfather of Brian Epstein
Leonard Greenblat, brother of Marcia Rosen
Ruth Killian, fellow-in-law of Sharon Coleman
Sylvia Goldman, mother of Bonnie & Jeffrey
Goldman

February 25

Abe Kaufman, grandfather of Phyllis Busch

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.



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.

Tot Shabbat News

Our great Tot Shabbat 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, February 18 -- Torah

Friday, March 18 -- Purim

Friday, April 8 -- Pesach

Friday, May 6 -- Israel

Friday, June 10 -- Family



Blood Drive News

We collected 30 pints of blood towards the goal of 50 at the blood drive held December 29. Since so many drives were cancelled as a result of the weather- these pints were really needed. Thank you to Rhea Goldman and Linda Osman who volunteered to make phone calls- special thank you to Hannah, Aaron, and Noah Osman who worked with Linda to get through an extra long list of names! A extra special thank you to Robin Affrime and Marsh and Joel Dowshen for donating blood the day of the drive. Your participation as phone caller or donor was greatly appreciated!

Sisterhood News

"My Cookies Are Better than Your Cookies" Fundraiser

The tally for the second annual cookie baking fundraiser is in: after prize money and the donation to the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen, Sisterhood cleared just over \$500.00. Congratulations again to Shira Lowry and Kim Aubrey for their creativity and hard work, and to all the Sisterhood volunteers and bakers. Our donation to TASK of \$500.00 was received with warm thanks. Read on:

Dear Members of the Sisterhood,

On behalf of the Board, staff, and most significantly the patrons of the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen,, please accept our sincere gratitude for the donation in the amount of \$500.00. Once again, it was a pleasure working with you on the cookie contest, although I think I may have gained two pounds that day. We hope to see all of you again next year!

With gratitude,

Dennis Micai, Executive Director



Social Action

Keep those boxes of granola bars coming, along with any other contributions for the food pantry! Thank you to all who have been donating!

Marcy Schwartz

Mazal tov to Marla Hoffman on the birth of her son, Leo!

The Board decided to experiment with a new start time for Shabbat morning services. It was thought that beginning at 10:00 am instead of 9:30 am might increase the likelihood of people arriving on time. We will be interested in people's responses to the alternative start time, and will take note of whether it accomplishes the goal. We will then evaluate whether to make the new time permanent. (However, when there are B'nai Mitzvah, we will still begin at 9:30 am since there are additional pieces of the service.)

Sisterhood Donations

In Memory Of

Lee Nissim from Donna and Neil Streisfeld, the Teppers
Dick Walters from Charyl and Sid Morginstin, Phyllis
Chudoff, Elaine and Jay Trackman, Randy Bloom and
Michael Scolaro
Michele Trackman from Linda and Mark Osman, Shyrle
and Sol Kushner
Gerald Rosen from Linda and Mark Osman
Ron Ollstein from Sid and Charyl Morginstin
John Nunes from Charyl and Sid Morginstin

Rejoicing With You

Maribeth and Brian Epstein on the arrival of your darling
daughter from Randy Bloom and Michael Scolaro and
the Schwartz-Shain family
Shyrle and Sol Kushner, Happy Anniversary, from Renee
Harrison, Rita Nissim, Phyllis and Is Kamer

Get Well

Phyllis Kamer: From Rita Nissim, Elaine and Jay
Trackman, Phyllis Chudoff

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.

Healing List

The list has become quite long. On January 15, 2011 we will start again with a new list. Please contact Sid at 609-456-9508 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.

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!

FEBRUARY 2011 ADAR I 5771

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3 4:30-6:30 HS	4 Rosh Chodesh Shabbat Evening Service 7:30 pm Candle lighting 5:03 pm	5
6 9-10 SS 10-12 HS	7	8	9	10 4:30-6:30 HS	11 Candle lighting 5:11 pm	12 Shabbat Morning Service 10:00 am
13 9-10 SS 10-12 HS	14 Sisterhood Program	15	16	17 4:30-6:30 HS	18 Tot Shabbat 6:00 pm Shabbat Evening Service 7:30 pm Candle lighting 5:19 pm	19
20 9-10 SS 10-12 HS	21	22	23	24 4:30-6:30 HS	25 Shabbat Evening Service 7:30 pm Candle lighting 5:27 pm	26
27 9-10 SS 10-12 HS	28					

Sisterhood Oneg Schedule

FEBRUARY				
Fri	4-Feb	7:30 PM	Erev Shabbat	Charyl Morganstin & Sandy Swartzbird
Sat	12-Feb	9:30 AM	Shabbat Morning	Marcia Rosen & Madge Rosen
Mon	14-Feb	7:30 PM	Sisterhood Program	Faith Huplf
MARCH				
Sat	5-Mar	7:30 PM	Erev Shabbat	Marsha Dowshen & Rita Nissim
Fri	11-Mar	10:00 AM	Shabbat Morning	Jen Carton & Stacy Deitch
Mon	14-Mar	7:30 PM	Sisterhood Program	Eileen Gale & Betsy Ramos
APRIL				
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	10:00 AM	Shabbat Morning	Elaine Trackman & Renee Harrison
Tue	19-Apr	6:00 PM	2nd night community Seder Passover	Kim Aubry & others
MAY				
Mon	9-May	7:30 PM	Sisterhood Program- Book Review	Rita Nissim & Mimi Gellar
Sat	14-May	10:00 AM	Shabbat Morning	Anita Berson & Sonia Fenick
Fri	27-May	7:30 PM	Erev Shabbat	Rhea Goldman & Bonnie Goldman
JUNE				
Fri	3-Jun	7:30 PM	Erev Shabbat	Bar Mitzvah
Sat	4-Jun	9:30 AM	Shabbat Morning	Noah Goldberg
<u>Mon</u>	13-Jun	6:15 PM	Sisterhood Pot Luck	Marsha Dowshen & Randye Bloom
Fri	24-Jun	7:30 PM	Member of the Year	Debby Weiss & Marcy Schwartz