



# Temple B'nai Abraham

Temple B'nai Abraham  
President – Robin Affrime

**The Temple Shofar**  
Rabbi Julie Pfau

Sarah Seidel Sisterhood  
President - Faith Hupfl

APRIL 2011

## Rabbi's Message

I am delighted that Temple B'nai Abraham will be having a retreat in May. The retreat will offer a range of opportunities and modalities for people to deepen their sense of connection with God, with their Jewish identity, and with their community. In preparation for the retreat, I have been spending some time reflecting more deeply on my own understanding of God and how it gives life to my Jewish identity.

My preferred theology for understanding and talking about God is as *tahalikh ha-tz'michah*, the process of growth. So, for me, learning more about God means learning more about growth – how it happens, where it happens, what it looks like, what helps it, what hinders it, etc. One of the most accessible ways to learn about growth is through contemplation of the natural world, and gardening metaphors speak powerfully to me about how God operates. From them, I learn how to garden my own life and spirit, and how to be a rabbi-gardener who can assist others in the task of gardening their own lives – so that we can all work together to bring about the most beautiful growth of God into the world.

I sometimes find it ironic that this is primary spiritual metaphor, given that I do not have a garden and have no practical experience with gardening actual plants.... Instead, I collect books about trees and flowers and read a variety of gardening books – all with an eye for gardening spirits. Recently, I have been enjoying a book called *Zen and the Art of Gardening*, by Gill Hale.

In a section called “struggle,” the author quotes Elizabeth von Armin: “I feel sorry for plants that are obliged to make a struggle for life in uncongenial situations because their owner wishes all things.” Hale goes on to observe: “If we attempt to grow plants in conditions which are unnatural for them, or in soils which they would not naturally choose, we have a struggle on our hands to keep them healthy. I have read that if you replace soil in a bed, say remove alkaline soil and replace it with acid, that you can grow azaleas, but over time, the rain and the earthworms move the soil downwards and the chalk and alkaline rock from below filters throughout it. It would be much better to move to another area to fulfill your dreams or go with the flow where you are.”

How many of us take the opposite tactic when it comes to

gardening our own or others' lives? Sometimes the urge to be other than who and what we are can be a form of slavery – more subtle, certainly, than the slavery to which our ancestors were subjected in Egypt – but slavery nonetheless. All too often, we are our own harsh taskmasters and pharaohs – expecting all things, hardening our hearts to our spiritual yearnings, and impeding the growth of God into the world.

The importance of accepting and living out who we actually are is a powerful spiritual lesson, one that is echoed in the famous Hasidic tale about Zusya. It is only when Zusya is on his deathbed that he discovers the truth – in the world to come, he will not be asked why he wasn't a Moses. Instead, he will be asked: “Why were you not Zusya?”

As we enter the Jewish month of Nisan – the month of Passover, the month of our liberation from slavery – we can ask of ourselves: What kind of plant am I? What is my most natural habitat for growth? What can I do to accept who I am and nurture my spirit? How can I be free?

Shalom,  
Rabbi Pfau



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
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## Sarah Seidel Sisterhood Officers

President	Faith Hupfl
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### Trustees:

Susan Giachetti	Phyllis Chudoff
Elaine Trackman	Eileen Gale

## Yahrzeit List

### March 25

Rebecca Shemesh, mother of Marty Nissim

### April 8

William Trackman, father of Jay Trackman  
Mildred Josephson, mother of Mark Josephson

### April 15

Charles Herzog, father of Madge Rosen  
Frances Epstein, mother of Rhea Goldman  
Mary Bird, mother-in-law of Sandy SchwartzBird  
Bess Light, mother of Patricia Light-Tolomeo

### April 22

Jack Harrison, brother-in-law of Renee Harrison  
Seymour Affrime, father of Steve Affrime  
Flora Grassian, mother of Rita Nissim

### April 29

Albert Dowshen, father of Joel Dowshen

### May 6

Belle Rosen, mother of Gerald Rosen



## Services for the month of April

April 1- 7:30PM

Oneg hostess Anita Berson in Honor of Mindy Fink's  
(?) birthday

April 8- 6:00PM Tot Shabbat and dinner  
7:30PM Shabbat Services

April 16-10:00am Shabbat Morning Services  
Hostesses Elaine Trackman and Renee Harrison

April 19-Community Second Seder  
Hostess Kim Aubry (see Seder information)

April 22-7:30PM Shabbat Services

April 29-7:30PM Shabbat Services

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.)



WITH OUR HEBREW SCHOOL

There will be a MATZOH BAKING FACTORY on Sunday April 10 at 10 AM. The MATZOH FACTORY will be conducted by RABBI DAVID DUBOV of the Chabad of Princeton. Though this is for the Hebrew School, adults may also attend. Adults are asked to contact Sid Morginstin ([sidmorgy@verizon.net](mailto:sidmorgy@verizon.net)) at least a week before and to make a small donation to help defray costs (which are being covered by Sid).

The Temple and Sisterhood communities wish a speedy and healthy recovery to Berny Speiser and Sid Lavine.

**Thank you Rona Goldberg for volunteering to be our next editor of the newsletter.**

Rona will be doing the newsletter on a trial basis for us. To help Rona with this new endeavor, please send articles when requested in a timely manner. Her email address is: [ronagoldberg@aol.com](mailto:ronagoldberg@aol.com).

## Tot Shabbat News

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, or would like to volunteer to help clean up or set up, please contact Marla Hoffman [rhynestonegrl@gmail.com](mailto:rhynestonegrl@gmail.com)



Friday, April 8 -- Pesach  
Friday, May 6 -- Israel  
Friday, June 10 -- Family

## Temple B'nai Abraham's Community Passover Seder

**Tuesday April 19 6 pm**

at Temple B'nai Abraham  
led by Rabbi Julie Pfau

The Community Seder is fun, friendly and welcoming for adults, children and guests so please join us.

The cost for a full dinner will be:

Adults - \$30  
Children (10 to 15yr.) - \$15  
Children (5 to 9yr) - \$10  
Children under 5 - Free

The early deadline for reservations is April 1. Space is limited so sign up early.

The community is welcome plus any guests. If you would like to help plan, set up or clean up please let me know.

Please email Kim Aubry for reservations at [kimaubry@gmail.com](mailto:kimaubry@gmail.com) or call 609-841-8965.

All dinners must be prepaid so please mail checks to Kim Aubry: 930 Hamilton Ave. Roebing, NJ 08554 and make checks out to Temple B'nai Abraham.

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.



## 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

## Healing 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.

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!

## SAVE THE DATE!!!!

### Temple B'nai Abraham's 1st Annual Community Spirituality Retreat May 15, 2011 10 a.m.- 4 p.m

Renew your faith and reconnect with your spirituality along with your fellow temple members and their families. Attend seminars, participate in fun activities, spend time together as we all find increased meaning in temple life and Judaism!

**BE SURE TO CHECK YOUR MAILBOX FOR  
MORE DETAILED INFO COMING SOON!**

Interested in assisting or would like more info. now-- call Linda Osman (609)291-0355 or send an email to [Attyosman@verizon.net](mailto:Attyosman@verizon.net)

## Sisterhood News

Sisterhood Meeting April 11, 2011  
Time : 7:30pm

As we approach Passover and are probably thinking about our Holiday menu, it would be "deliciously" nice for everyone to share a favorite holiday recipe with each other. Pick out one of your favorite Passover recipes, print some copies if you are able, to bring and share with your fellow Sisterhood Members this month. During the program, we will also hear from our members who recently had the pleasure of visiting the newly renovated Museum Of American Jewish History in Philadelphia, PA, as they happily share their experience of their visit there. This is the only museum in America dedicated to preserving the American Jewish

experience. [http://www.nmajh.org/about\\_the\\_museum/index.htm](http://www.nmajh.org/about_the_museum/index.htm)

Hostesses are Betsy Ramos and Eileen Gale

The Sisterhood would like to thank Mimi Gellar and Ellen Wehrman for a wonderful evening. Mimi shared with us a bit of her history as well as Israel's history and how her father was instrumental in the American participation of founding the Jewish state. Ellen shared some of her unique past as well and as always enlightening us with humor. Ellen and her family have a rich past and we are fortunate that her family found their way into Bordentown and the TBA family

## Temple Donations

**Get Well** to Berny Speiser from Eileen Gale, Elaine and Jay Trackman, Michael Scolaro and Randy Bloom

**In Honor Of**

Mindy Fink on her 60th birthday from Anita Berson  
Eileen Gale on her 70th birthday from Anita Berson

**In Memory of**

Kenneth Segal father of Shira Lowry from Randy Bloom and Michael Scolara

**Yahrzeit Donations:**

IMO Charles Herzog father, from Madge Rosen

IMO William Trackman, father, from Jay and Elaine Trackman

IMO Seymour Affrime father, from Steven and Robin Affrime

IMO Albert Dowshen, father, from Joel and Marsha Dowshen

## Sisterhood Donations

### In Memory Of

Kenneth Peter Segal, father of Shira Lowry from the following:

Jay and Elaine Trackman, Sid and Charyl Morginstin, Neil and Karen Nissim, Susan and Tom Giachetti, Phyllis and Is Kamer, Faith Hupfl, Marcy Schwartz and Rick Shain and Family, Eileen Gale and Ellen Wehrman

**In Memory of** Janet Beckerman from Barbara and Jeff Streisfeld

**Get well** Sid Lavine from the following families:

Jay and Elaine Trackman, Rita. Nissim, Sid and Charyl Morginstin, Rhoda and Henry Kessler, Phyllis and Is Kamer, and Eileen Gale

**Get well** Sandy and Jonathan Kaplan from Sheila Lamonsoff

**Get well** Jay Lamonsoff from Rita Nissim

**Get Well** Ira and Beverly Susswein from Is and Phyllis Kamer.

### Sisterhood Joy and Sorrow

Cards of sympathy, good cheer, or mazel tov, are available through Sarah Seidel Sisterhood at a cost of \$2.50 minimum. Contact Rita Nissim at 298-5357.

### Temple Joy and Sorrow

Cards of sympathy or good wishes are available through Temple B'nai Abraham at a cost of \$5 minimum. Contact Randy Bloom at 298-6485.

### Torah Prayer Books (Chumashim)

For those interested in purchasing a torah prayer book in honor of or in memory of someone, the cost is \$75. You may also sponsor our existing Siddur at a cost of \$35.00. Please call (298-0437) or email Betsy Ramos:

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

### 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, NJ and indicate whether it is for a special occasion and whether you would like the synagogue to send an acknowledgment to someone. If it is a non-temple member, please provide his/her/their name(s) and address

### Memorial Plaques

Memorial plaques are available. To order, please send the following information IN WRITING to Sid Morginstin, plaque chairman (PO Box 8101, Trenton NJ or e-mail Sidmorgy@verizon.net. (1) English name of deceased (2) Hebrew name of deceased. (3) Date of death in the Gregorian (English) calendar. After the plaque has been put up, you will be billed. Plaques will not be moved from one board to another.

## Sisterhood Program for May

### Sisterhood Book Review

May 9th, 2011

*The Zookeeper's Wife* by Diane Ackerman.

Jan and Antonia Zabinski were Polish Christian zookeepers horrified by Nazi racism, who managed to save over three hundred people. Yet their story has fallen between the seams of history. Drawing on Antonia's diary and other historical sources, best-selling naturalist Diane Ackerman vividly re-creates Antonia's life as "*the zookeeper's wife*," responsible for her own family, the zoo animals, and their "*Guests*"--resistance activists and refugee Jews, many of whom Jan had smuggled from the Warsaw Ghetto. Ironically, the empty zoo cages helped to hide scores of doomed people, who were code-named after the animals whose cages they occupied. Others hid in the nooks and crannies of the house itself. Jan led a cell of saboteurs, and the Zabinskis' young son risked his life carrying food to the Guests, while also tending an eccentric array of creatures in the house) pigs, hare, muskrat, foxes, and more). With hidden people having animal names, and pet animals having human names, it's small wonder the zoo's code name became "The House Under a Crazy Star." Yet there is more to this story than a colorful cast. With her exquisite sensitivity to the natural world, the author explores the role of nature in both kindness and savagery, and she unravels the fascinating and disturbing obsession at the core of Nazism: both a worship of nature and its violation, as humans sought to control the genome of the entire planet.

You may buy a copy at Barnes or Noble or check your local library. This is a very interesting book and we hope you can join in the discussion.

APRIL 5771 ADAR - NISAN						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 7:30pm Shabbat Services Oneg Shabbat Anita Berson Hostess 7:01 Candle lighting	2
3 9-10 SS 10-12 HS Temple Board Meeting 10am At President's home	4	5	6	7 4:30-6:30 HS	8 6pm Tot Shabbat 7:30pm Shabbat Services 7:09 Candle lighting	9
10 9-10 SS 10-12 HS Matza Factory	11 Sarah Seidel Sisterhood 7:30 Betsy Ramos and Eileen Gale Hostesses	12	13	14 4:30-6:30 HS	15 7:16 Candle lighting	16 10:00 Shabbat Services Elaine Trackman and Renee Harrison Lunch Hostesses
17 9-10 SS 10-12 HS	18	19 Community Seder 6:30pm	20	21 No Hebrew School	22 7:30pm Shabbat Services 7:16 Candle lighting	23
24 No Hebrew School	25	26	27	28 4:30-6:30 HS	29 7:30pm Shabbat Services 7:33 Candle lighting	30

## REMEMBER

Temple B'nai Abraham 1st Annual Community Spirituality Retreat

May 15, 2011

## Sisterhood Oneg Schedule

<b>APRIL</b>				
Fri	1-Apr	7:30 PM	Erev Shabbat	Anita Berson & Friends
Mon	11-Apr	7:30 PM	Sisterhood Program	Betsy Ramos and Eileen Gale
Sat	16-Apr	10:00 AM	Shabbat Morning	Elaine Trackman & Renee Harrison
Tue	19-Apr	6:30 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	10:00 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	Goldberg Family in honor of Noah's Bar Mitzvah
Sat	4-Jun	9:30 AM	Shabbat Morning	Noah Goldberg Bar Mitzvah
<u>Mon</u>	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