



Temple B'nai Abraham

Temple B'nai Abraham
President – Robin Affrime

The Temple Shofar

Rabbi Julie Pfau

Sarah Seidel Sisterhood
President–Randy Bloom

July 2011

RABBI'S MESSAGE

During June, I was delighted to lead a chanting service in place of one of our regular Friday night services. It was heartening to see so many people who were willing to try on a different spiritual experience! In the days when I was a "Jew in the Pew," I was sometimes annoyed when rabbis made significant changes to our regular practices. This personal inclination made me especially respectful of all those who attended our experimental service!

There were many styles that we explored during the service – one chant was only a single word, some included English, we tried a call and response kirtan chant, and we even managed to do a chant with more than one part. Each chant was followed by a period of silence, and there were meditative readings interspersed throughout the service. In addition to experimenting with a variety of styles of chanting, we also tried out a different configuration for the sanctuary, with a cluster of chairs up front and only the first few rows of pews used. I sat on a stool instead of standing at the lectern, and we even had one person who sat on the top step of the bimah. The Religious Committee and Board are eager to receive feedback on any and all aspects of the service, to determine whether and how to have another chanting service, and to find out if there are elements of the chanting service that we can integrate in other services.

Although I have been involved in countless chanting services over the past several years, this was my first time to lead one, and I wanted to share a bit about how I experienced the service. I was at a bit of an advantage over most of those who attended, since I at least had previous familiarity with all of the chants. However, instead of being distracted by doing something new myself, I found myself being distracted by thoughts about how everyone else was doing with so many new things. If there is one thing we can all have in common, I imagine it is the tendency to find something to be distracted by during prayer...! One of our tasks, as people who pray, is to

notice these tendencies in ourselves and strive to transcend them.

Somehow, in the midst of my stray thoughts and concerns about how people were reacting, the experience of the chanting was able to sink in. I noticed this most profoundly at the moments when we said a few traditional Friday night prayers – Barechu, Shema, Kiddush, and Mourner's Kaddish. For rabbis and others who say the traditional prayers on a regular basis, sometimes the prayers can become a reflex. I have often considered this a blessing – I love it when I know a prayer so well that I don't have to look at it, but can close my eyes and get lost in it, or even say it when I am far from a siddur. The flip side of that blessing is the potential for the prayers to become so reflexive that we say them by rote. Leading a Friday evening service week after week, it is inevitable that some prayers will be said reflexively sometimes. I often notice this with the Kiddush, since it comes closer to the end of the service, after so many other prayers, after the D'var Torah, and even after announcements. During the chanting service, when we rose for the Kiddush, I felt profoundly peaceful and powerfully open to the prayer in a way that I haven't experienced in quite some time. It wasn't just one more prayer crammed in toward the end of the service, but rather a beautiful touchstone. That, to me, was the gift of our chanting service – I cherish such moments when a prayer can feel completely renewed!

Sometimes the chant is the interlude of connection amidst traditional prayers, and sometimes the chant is itself an opening for a powerful connection to the traditional prayers.

Shalom,
Rabbi Pfau

**Make plans to join us on August
5th for our Summer Service.**



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 |

Sarah Seidel Sisterhood Officers

| | |
|---------------------|----------------|
| President | Randy Bloom |
| Vice President | Debby Weiss |
| Treasurer | Marcy Schwartz |
| Financial Secretary | Rita Nissim |
| Record. Secretary | Ellen Wehrman |
| Corres. Secretary | Mimi Geller |

Trustees:

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Susan Giachetti | Phyllis Chudoff |
| Elaine Trackman | Eileen Gale |

Yahrzeits for July-August

July

- July 1 - Claudette Fishmann, mother of Linda Osman
 July 3 - Joan Sandusky, sister of Marcy Schwartz
 July 5 - Marion Greenblatt, mother of Marcia Rosen
 July 10 - Aaron Cohen, grandfather of Sandra Cohen
 July 14 - Anna Harrison, mother-in-law of Renee Harrison
 July 15 - Solomon Schaffer, father of Rhoda Kessler
 Yettie Estein, great grandmother of Brian Epstein
 July 16 - Joseph Josephson, father of Sam Josephson

- July 17 - Jack Roth, father of Elaine Trackman
 Oscar Wasserman, father of Linda Bowker
 July 22 - Julie Kwait, sister of Mary Schwartz
 Sam Shain, father of Rick Shain
 July 23 - Max Light, father of Patricia Light-Tolomeo
 July 26 - Abraham Zeitz, father of Carl Zeitz
 July 28 - Lester Bird, father-in-law of Sandy SchwartzBird

August

- August 4 - Beatrice Busch, mother of Phyllis Busch
 Bernard Shain, father of Betsy Ramos
 August 5 - Lulu Cohen, grandmother of Sandra Cohen
 August 7 - Alan Benson, brother of Charyl Morginstin
 August 11 - Alice Mervish, mother of Shyrle Kushner
 August 12 - Lou Rosenberg, father of Ellen Wehrman
 August 13 - Norma Goldman, mother of Maxine and Philip Goldman
 August 14 - Louis Rudenstein, father of Mildred Leary
 August 17 - Elaine Zeitz, wife of Carl Zeitz
 August 19 - Abraham Kaiser, father of Eileen Gale
 Louis Rosen, father of Gerald Rosen
 August 21 - Marty Nissim, husband of Rita, father of Neil Nissim
 August 28 - Benjamin Epstein great grandfather of Brian Epstein
 Celia Schwartz, mother of Marcy Schwartz
 August 30 - Selma Bloom, mother of Randy Bloom
 August 31 - Norman Goldman, father of Bonnie & Jeff Goldman, father-in-law of Rhea Goldman

The Temple and Sisterhood communities extend our heartfelt sympathy to Arlene Speiser and family on the passing of Bernie.

From the Religious Chair HEALING LIST

In September, I am going to restart the **HEALING LIST** anew. All names now on the list will be removed. Please resend the names you want to SIDMORGY@VERIZON.NET. The list now has about 75 names. Please inform me when a name can be removed.

Thank You
Sid Morginstin, Religious Chair.

Temple Donations

In Memory of Rita Hodes from Randye Bloom
In Memory of Frances Epstein from Rhea Goldman
From the Schwartz-Shain Family **In Memory of**
Joan Sandusky, sister of Marcy
Julie Kwait, sister of Marcy
Sam Shain, father of Rick
In Memory of Joseph Harrison from Renee
Harrison
In Memory of Norman Lamonsoff and Marty
Nissim from Sheila Lamonsoff.
In Memory of Jack Roth, father of Elaine
Trackman and Edith Trackman, mother of Jay
Trackman from Elaine and Jay Trackman
In Memory of Gertrude Urken from Rhoda and
Henry Kessler
A donation of **Four Aytz Chaim in honor of the**
Bar Mitzvah of their grandson Noah Myer
Goldberg was made by Rona & William Goldberg
Thank you Noah Goldberg for donating the food
basket from your Bar Mitzvah to the Food Pantry.
Everything was much appreciated. Good Job.

President's Message

Shalom Friends,

Again we are approaching a new year in the history of Temple B'nai Abraham. This past year was busy for the board as we discussed ways in which we could boost community participation and then planned and executed our first spiritual retreat. It turned out to be a fun and fulfilling day for all who attended. But, what will this coming year hold in store for our community?

We are planning to hold another community retreat. The event this past year was such a great success that we would like to build on the enthusiasm that was created and hold another one in the spring. Again it will likely be in May, and if you have any suggestions for workshops or would like to be a member of the team that puts it together please let us know, as we would be happy to have additional volunteers. At our next board meeting we will finalize a date so you can mark your calendar. Over the summer we will be working on replacing our signage with something nicer and more visible; a combination of a large sign on the lawn stating our name and a smaller sign on the building itself that lists upcoming activities. We hope to have it in place by early fall.

Many different kinds of fundraisers have been discussed over the past few years, but none seemed to be a good fit for our community. Ultimately we have decided to put together a new cook book. Members of Sarah Seidel Sisterhood and Temple B'nai Abraham put one together many years ago. But, time flies and it has been more than 20 years since it was published. We feel it is time to share our cooking expertise with the community and the greater public, and hopefully, to make some money for the temple. If you have great recipes you want to share, feel you have organizational skills, or an interest in getting to know more community members and would like to be a part of this committee please let me know. We will put together a committee in the fall. We will be looking for recipes so begin thinking about the food you prepare for the holidays: Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur-Break the Fast, Hannukah and Passover to name a few. We want to showcase those family recipes that your family looks forward to eating each year. I would like to welcome Marcy Schwartz as a member of our House committee. She will be working with Eileen Gale to keep our synagogue and the adjoining house in good repair. Thank you, Marcy, for volunteering your time to work on this committee.

On a personal note, Steve and I would like to thank everyone for your congratulations on the recent birth of our granddaughter, Eva (Evelyn Veronica Affrime). We are grateful to be a part of a warm, caring community. Receiving a card from Rita Nissim, who sends Joy and Sorrow for the sisterhood or from Randye Bloom Scolaro, who does the same for the temple is like receiving a warm, fuzzy, hug. Thanks so much.

~ Robin Affrime

Supermarket Gift Card Program



The supermarket Gift Card Program continues all summer long. Please send a check to Dowshen, 502 Farnsworth Avenue, Bordentown, NJ 08505 or call 298-5306. Your cards will be sent to you the same day. Get with the program and help the Temple with the easy source of income.

Sisterhood News

The Sisterhood held their annual Covered dish on June 13th. Our hostesses Randy Bloom and Marsha Dowshen presented a fabulous menu for all to enjoy. Rhea Goldman excelled in the installation of the new Sisterhood Officers for 2011-12 year. We wanted to share the quotes Rhea presented to each officer in a beautiful frame:

Randye – President ~ *“Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart.”* ~Elizabeth Andrew

Debby – Vice President ~ *“You give but little when you give of your possessions. It is when you give of yourself that you truly give.”* ~Kahlil Gibran

Marcy - Treasurer ~ *“We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.”* ~Winston Churchill

Rita – Financial Secretary ~ *“Success in life has nothing to do with what you gain in life or accomplish for yourself. It's what you do for others.”* ~Danny Thomas

Mimi – Corresponding Secretary ~ *“Those who can, do. Those who can do more, volunteer.”* Author Unknown

Ellen – Recording Secretary ~ *“Volunteers are seldom paid; not because they are worthless, but because they are PRICELESS!”* ~Author Unknown

New Year Card Fundraiser

Sisterhood member's dues for the upcoming year have to be received by September 14th so their name (or family member's names) can be included on the Temple New Year card. Sisterhood dues are \$30.00 (which includes the cost for the card). If you are not a sisterhood member the cost for your New Year card is \$5.00. Send your payment to Rita Nissim, 5 Germantown Rd., Bordentown, NJ 08505. Payment needs to be received by September 14th for inclusion in the card.

If you want to change the info you had in last year's card, please email the change to Sandy SchwartzBird at schwartzbird6@verizon.net. This information also needs to be received no later than September 14th. All new info has to be entered into the computer, the cards need to be printed and then mailed so they can be received BEFORE the holiday begins.

Test Your Organizational Skills on July 24th

Please join us to clean out and organize the temple kitchen. This may not sound as fun as say cleaning your own kitchen but this is a chance to help out and hopefully have some laughs! Please join us on Sunday, July 24 around 10am RSVP to Debbie Weiss.

Sisterhood Donations

Prior to his death, **Thinking of You and Get Well Wishes** were sent to Bernie Speiser from Phyllis Chudoff, Eileen and Art, Robin and Steve Affrime, and Sandy and Bruce Bird

Get Well Madge Rosen from Elaine and Jay Trackman, Randye Bloom and Mike Scolaro, Phyllis Chudoff, Robin and Steve Affrime, Marcy Schwartz and Rick Shain, Eileen Gale, Marsha and Joel Dowshen

Rejoicing with Linda Osman for Member of the Year from the Schwartz-Shain family and Eileen Gale

In Memory Of Helene Lipinski from Barbara and Jeff Streisfeld and Phoebe and Jeff Nissim

In Memory Of Carolyn Bell from Phoebe and Jeff Nissim

In Memory Of Dr. H. Moses from Renee Harrison, **Good Luck** Sandy and Bruce in your new Florida home from the Schwartz-Shain family

Rejoicing with Rona and William Goldberg on the Bar Mitzvah of their grandson Noah from Phoebe and Jeff Nissim

Rejoicing with Josh Zeitz and Angela Ferrante on the birth of their daughter Lily from the Schwartz-Shain family

Mazel Tov to Robin and Steve and the Affrime family on their new arrival, daughter and granddaughter, Evelyn Veronica Affrime, born on June 27th, from Eileen Gale, Charyl and Sid Morginstin, Elaine and Jay Trackman, Phyllis Chudoff, Marsha and Joel Dowshen

Rejoicing with Josh and Colleen Affrime on the birth of “Eva” from Eileen Gale and Art Guyer

Rejoicing with Ray and Cindy Cantor on the marriage of their daughter Jennifer from Robin and Steve Affrime, Eileen Gale and Art Guyer

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!

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

Memorial Plaques

Plaques are available for \$250.00. To order a plaque, send the following to Sid Morginstin, Plaque Chairman at PO Box 8101, Trenton, NJ 08650 or Sidmorgy@verizon.net: #1 English name of loved one, #2 Hebrew name of Loved one, and #3 Date of death in the English calendar. Once the plaque has been put up, you will be billed. Plaques will not be moved from one board to the other. If you would like to order now, a new order will be sent soon, so please get the information to him ASAP



Mark your Calendar!

Please join us on August 5th for our Summer Service. There will be an Oneg Shabbat in honor of the baby naming of Robin and Steve Affrime's granddaughter, Eva



Are You Interested in Traveling to Israel, Summer 2012?

Temple B'nai Abraham is contemplating a Temple trip to Israel for late June or early July 2012 – next summer. This will be a 10-day trip. Sid Morginstin is handling the arrangements with an organization that specializes in such tours. At this point, the itinerary is being developed and the costs not yet set. The tours will include the major Jewish and Christian sites. More details will be available later. For now, Sid needs to know about how many would be interested. If you would be interested please contact Sid at SIDMORGY@VERIZON.NET or 609-456-9508. This is **NOT** a commitment just an expression of interest. Your children are definitely invited. We need about 15-20 people to make the trip viable. This is open to all -- you **do not** need be a Temple or Sisterhood member to join the trip.

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.)

JULY 2011 SIVAN/TAMUZ 5771

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------------------------|--------|---------|-----------|----------|---|--|
| | | | 29 | 30 | 1 Candle lighting 8:13 pm | 2 Rosh Chodesh 9:24 pm-Havdalah |
| 3 Rosh Chodesh | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 Candle lighting 8:11 pm | 9 9:23 pm - Havdalah |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 Candle lighting 8:08 pm | 16 9:19 pm - Havdalah |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 Candle lighting 8:03 pm | 23 9:14 pm - Havdalah |
| 24 | 24 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 Candle lighting 7:57 pm | 30 9:08 pm – Havdalah |
| 31 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 Shabbat Services Oneg Shabbat Candle lighting 7:49 pm | 6 9:00 pm - Havdalah |

Sisterhood Joy & Sorrow Fundraiser

The Sisterhood has 4 new cards for sale for their Joy & Sorrow fundraiser. The cards are \$2.50 each and were designed by Sandy Schwartzbird for our Fundraiser.

To order, please send your info and payment to Rita Nissim.

Email: RitaNis35@aol.com

Address: Rita Nissim, 5 Germantown Rd., Bordentown, NJ 08505

