



Temple B'nai Abraham

Temple B'nai Abraham
President – Robin Affrime

The Temple Shofar
Rabbi Julie Pfau

Sarah Seidel Sisterhood
President–Randy Bloom

February 2012 - Shevat 5772

Rabbi's Message

As many of you are aware, this year I began coursework for a PhD in Religion at Temple University. For the past month, I have been contemplating the multitude of intellectual passions that draw me toward deeper study, as I engage in the process of discerning which direction to follow for my dissertation. I am drawn, time and again, to the writings of Medieval Jewish rabbinic poets who wrote so extensively in discussion of our sacred texts but also expressed themselves through a creative medium. In their poetry, the mystical experience of the sacred is powerfully conveyed – an experience that may sometimes get buried in the midst of lengthy explications of a biblical text.

As we approach Tu B'Shevat, our New Year for Trees (which falls on February 8th this year), I would like to share a poem by a thirteenth century Jewish mystic, Yosef Gikatilla – “The Nut Garden” (as printed in Peter Cole’s *The Dream of the Poem: Hebrew Poetry from Muslim and Christian Spain 950-1492*).

The Nut Garden

The Nut Garden holds things felt and thought,
and feeling for thought is always a palace –

Sinai with flames of fire about it,
burning though never by fire devoured.

On all four sides surrounded so,
entrance is barred to pretenders forever.

For one who learns to be wise, however,
its doors are open toward the East:

he reaches out and takes a nut,
then cracks its shell, and eats....

Tu B'Shevat was celebrated by medieval kabbalists through a mystical seder that highlighted the spiritual qualities revealed by different kinds of fruits and nuts. The Nut Garden” was not written as part of such a seder, but his use of the nut as a metaphor for the numinous experience of the divine is in keeping with the mystical imagery associated with the holiday.

The inexperienced might not recognize the nourishment that lies within such a hard shell, or may prefer to find fare that is simpler to eat. Moses might have been deterred by the burning bush or by the fiery mountain. It can be challenging to see through the barriers that block us from the deepest core of sacred experience. But the poem suggests that reaching the sacred core may be as simple as eating a nut.

May we all experience such divine nourishment!
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
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The Temple and Sisterhood community extend our condolences to The Kushner and Benowitz families on the loss of beloved wife and mother and long time member of our Temple and Sisterhood, Shyrle Kushner

Tot Shabbat News

The next Tot Shabbat will be on Friday, February 24th at 6:00. It will include candle lighting, potluck 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.



Yahrzeits for February

February 3

Rose Goldberg, mother of Phyllis Kamer
Morris Herzog, brother of Madge Rosen

February 10

Morris Miller, father of Ilene & Roslyn Miller
Jerry Urken

February 24

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

March 2

Selma Levitsky, great aunt of Brian Epstein
Arthur Fishman, father of Arlene Speiser
Rose Klepner, mother of Len Klepner

2012 Tot Shabbat Programs

February 24 – Purim theme
March 23 – Passover theme
April 13 – Shabbat theme
May 11 – Lag B'Omer theme
June 1 – Shavuot theme

Temple Donations

In Memory of Shyrle Kushner from Jay and Elaine Trackman, Randy Bloom and Michael Scolaro, and Eileen Gale
In Memory of Rose Kaiser from Eileen Gale
In Memory of Jacob Epstein from Brian & Maribeth Epstein
In Memory of Julius Bloom from Randy Bloom
In Memory of Bee Busch from Howard Barman
In Memory of Alan Barman from Howard Barman
In Memory of Ella Kessler from Rhoda & Henry Kessler
In Memory of Evelyn Rothman from Steve & Robin Affrime
In Memory of Pauline Zackler from Marsha & Joel Dowshen
In Honor of Steve Affrime on his 65th Birthday from Eileen Gale and Art Guyer
In Honor of Jay Trackman from Howard Barman

The Osman family would like to express our gratitude and appreciation for all of the love and support shown to Noah and our entire family during his Bar Mitzvah celebration. Special thanks to Rabbi Julie, Jay Trackman, the entire Board, Debby, Susan, Faith, Robin, Karen, and all the other wonderful women who assisted following the Onegs! Temple B'Nai Abraham is truly a special place and we are proud to be a part of this community

HIGH HOLIDAY PLEDGE
Howard Barman

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!

Sarah Seidel Sisterhood Officers

President	Randye Bloom
Vice President	Debby Weiss
Treasurer	Marcy Schwartz
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Susan Giachetti	Phyllis Chudoff
Elaine Trackman	Eileen Gale

Sisterhood News



Blood Drive report- We collected 21 pints of blood at the blood drive on December 28th. Not as much as we hoped, but a huge help to the Red Cross nonetheless. Thank you to Marsha Caldwell, Rhea Goldman, and Faith Hupfl for making phone calls and setting up appointments to donate blood. We could not have done this without you!

There is no Sisterhood meeting in February. In March we will have a book group. This year we thought it would be fun to make this a Temple wide event and add the participation of men and teens. The Temple B'nai Abraham selection is *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak- "By her brother's graveside, Liesel Meminger's life is changed when she picks up a single object, partially hidden in the snow. It is *The Grave Digger's Handbook*, left there by accident, and it is her first act of book thievery." Please join us for discussion and refreshments on Monday, March 12th.

The Sisterhood mourns the loss of longtime member Shyrle Kushner. Shyrle was a dedicated and active member of the Sarah Seidel Sisterhood for decades. She was one of the women who insisted that the Sisterhood look at investing in certificates of deposit when they became available and her guidance helped the Sisterhood manage its money so that today it can provide the Temple "extras." Our sympathy to her husband of 66 years, Sol, and family. Shyrle's daughter, Ellen Benowitz, is a third generation member of the Sisterhood, following in the footsteps of her grandmother, Alice Mervish [remember her baking- yum], and her mom. We will miss Shyrle, may she rest in peace.

The kitchen is looking terrific! We still need to pick out new hardware and paint the kitchen, but the new cabinets and counter tops look wonderful and having heat in the kitchen is fabulous!!! Thank you to Eileen Gale, Robin Affrime, and Linda Osman for their hard work. Eileen particularly made this happen by myriad phone calls to vendors- you really made a difference, Eileen!

Please try to attend the Sabbath services that will honor the Sisterhood on Friday, February 17.

Supermarket Gift Card Program



Make a New Year's Resolution to support our Temple by purchasing your gifts cards from Acme or ShopRite. 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.

Sisterhood Donations

Speedy Recovery Jay Trackman from Sheila Lamonsoff

Speedy Recovery Randy Bloom from Robin and Steven Affrime and Eileen Gale

Rejoicing with you Ray and Cindy Cantor from Eileen Gale on the engagement of your son.

In Memory of Roz Gross's mother from Renee Harrison

In Memory of Shyrle Kushner : from Karen and Fran Sutter, Is and Phyllis Kamer, Newt and Sandy Parks, Robin and Tony Zak, Renee Harrison, Barbara and Jeff Streisfeld, Marsha and Joel Dowshen, Marlene and Sid Lavine, Robin and Steven Affrime, Ted and Joanne Lutz

Rejoicing with The Osmans in honor of Noah's Bar Mitzvah from Marsha and Joel Dowshen, Robin and Steven Affrime and Eileen Gale

The Healing List is again being renewed. Please send your request to Sig Morginstin at sidmorgy@verizon.net.

ONEG SHABBAT HOSTESS LIST

February 2012

Saturday Feb. 11 Shabbat Morning Services

Lunch hostesses: Kim Aubrey & Liz Mitchell

Friday Feb. 17 Shabbat Services 7:30 PM

Honoring Sarah Seidel Sisterhood Members

Hostesses: Phyllis Chudoff and Eileen Gale

Embroidered Tablecloth

Join in on one of the traditions of our temple by having your names embroidered on the tablecloth that you may have seen adorn our Oneg table. The cost of having your family's name added is \$5.00. Contact Phyllis Chudoff at pchudoff@hotmail.com for inclusion for a lasting memory of our Temple.

Events in the planning for our Temple and Sisterhood Communities

The Second Annual Temple B'nai Abraham Retreat is coming soon! Any members that would like to join the Retreat Committee can email Linda Osman at Attyosman@verizon.net
More details to follow in next month's news letter!

SAVE THE DATE

Temple B'nai Abraham

Community Seder is Saturday April 7th

(2nd night of Passover) For information or reservations please contact

Kim Aubry at kimaubry@gmail.com or 609-499-3158

Coming Soon

*Evening of Klezmer Music
And Dessert*

More information in the February newsletter

Siddur and Tallit Donations

A new Siddur (prayer book) can be purchased in honor of or in memory of someone for \$35.00; a Tallit (prayer shawl) can be purchased for \$60. Please contact Sid Morginstin sidmorgy@verizon.net

Memorial Plaques

Plaques are available for \$250.00. To order a plaque, send the following information 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.

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.)

FEBRUARY 2012 ~ TEVET 5772

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 9 am – Sunday 10 am - Hebrew	30	31	Feb 1	2 4:30 pm - Hebrew	3 7:30 pm - Shabbat	4
5 9 am – Sunday 10 am - Hebrew	6	7	8	9 4:30 pm – Hebrew Temple Board Meeting 7:30	10	11 10am. Shabbat Morning Services Hosts Kim Aubrey and Liz Mitchell
12 9 am – Sunday 10 am - Hebrew	13	14	15	16 4:30 pm - Hebrew	17 7:30 pm – Oneg Shabbat Honoring SSS	18
19 9 am – Sunday 10 am - Hebrew	20	21	22	23 4:30 pm - Hebrew	24 6 pm – Tot Shabbat 7:30 pm - Shabbat	25
26 9 am – Sunday 10 am – Hebrew	27	28	29	Mar 1 4:30 pm - Hebrew	2 7:30 pm - Shabbat	3