



Temple B'nai Abraham

Temple B'nai Abraham
President Robin Affrime

The Temple Shofar
Rabbi Julie Pfau
May 2012

Sarah Seidel Sisterhood
President Randye Bloom

RABBI'S MESSAGE

In the Jewish calendar, we are in the period of the omer – a daily count that marks the days from Passover until we receive the Torah at Shavuot. It is a time to focus on the journey – from slavery to freedom, from liberation to revelation, from the familiar into the unknown. After the Exodus, the Jews found themselves in what was, for them, completely uncharted territory. They were propelled quite abruptly from the lives they had known and it was difficult for them to maintain faith in the promise of freedom. We all face difficult journeys at some point in our lives – sometimes ones that we have chosen (and that are no less difficult because of that choice), and sometimes ones that have been thrust upon us. Setting out into the unknown seems inevitably to create anxiety, even when the hoped for outcome is highly desirable. The period of the omer is a reminder to us to hold on to faith as we continue on the journey. We are not traveling aimlessly and alone, but have the potential to experience revelation and encounter G-d in new ways along the path.

This year, I set out on a new path as I began study for a PhD at Temple University. When I set out on this path, I was deeply excited at the prospect of living out my two passions – one rabbinic and one academic – through continuing to serve as the Rabbi at Temple B'nai Abraham (TBA) while pursuing my degree. I had hoped that choosing to study in Philadelphia would mean that I could potentially continue as the Rabbi of this beloved community for the next 4 to 6 years, or even beyond if I found academic work in the Philadelphia area. What I discovered this year is that the journey has not been what I expected. I thought I was setting out on a familiar path – after all, I had served as Rabbi and Education Director for TBA during my prior degree program. This year, I discovered that a PhD program is considerably more intense than a rabbinic program, and that I will not be

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
Technical Chair	Brian Epstein

able to successfully maintain my fellowship while continuing to serve TBA as I have up to now, nor will I be the most effective Rabbi and Education Director while maintaining my academic and teaching load for the next three years.

In recognition of this, I made a proposal to the board that the Rabbi and Education Director parts of my position be separated and that we hire someone to fill the role of Education Director. Because our current Teacher has accepted another position, I proposed to take a portion of my salary to add to the teacher salary, so that the new Teacher would also be the Education Director. Doing so would allow me to continue to serve TBA as Rabbi, while insuring that the Hebrew School would be taken care of, and without jeopardizing my academic performance.

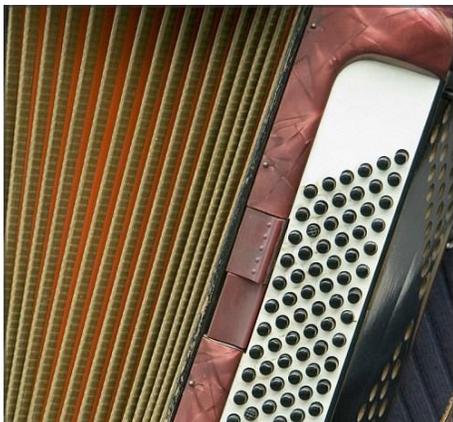
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The board is currently conducting a search to hire an Education Director/Teacher for next year. They are being quite resourceful in casting a wide net for the search, including advertising at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, and I am confident that this search process will be fruitful. There are many skilled educators out there, and I am optimistic that we will retain a strong educator who can guide our school. I want to affirm my commitment to the families and children of TBA – although I will not be the Education Director, I will still be present at the Hebrew School and involved in your lives.

For the last several years, it has been a deep privilege to journey with all of you. As much as through Torah discussions and communal prayer, I have encountered G-d through participating in your lives – through being present in times of profound loss and in moments of joy, and even in the ordinary moments when glimpses of holiness shone through. Now we find ourselves at a crossroads in our journey, and the omer calls us to remember that we are not alone on this journey. As we set out into what is, for us, uncharted territory, I have faith that we will encounter G-d in new ways, and it is my hope that everyone will be pleased with how things develop so that our relationship can continue as long as possible.

As we move forward, please do not hesitate to be in touch with me about any questions or concerns. I know that the board will also want to hear from you as they evaluate how the process is going next year and as they make decisions about next steps.

Shalom,
Rabbi Pfau



WELCOME!

We welcome aboard a new newsletter editor, **Shari Kantor**. All articles for the newsletter (12-point Garamond font, single space between sentences and paragraphs) should be sent to Shari at spkcreative@gmail.com with a cc to Eileen Gale.

Shari and her newlywed husband, Paul, live in Mount Laurel and are new to the Temple this year. In addition to being a wordsmith, Shari is an abstract artist with an online gallery at www.spkcreative.com. Paul is a manager with a theatrical background and an outstanding singing voice.

Thank you Shari for taking on this very important position!

From the President

In April, Temple B'nai Abraham rocked the house! The Odessa Klezmer Band played for us at a fundraiser that we held at the Carslake Community Center on Crosswicks Street in Bordentown. It was a fantastic night! The music was a lot of fun; people danced and clapped and had a great time. Community members donated delicious desserts and there was so much really tasty food. Belatedly, it was suggested to me that we should have asked people to bring a copy of the recipe they made and our cookbook fundraiser would be half done. It would have been a first-rate idea. Too bad I didn't think of it.

The most important part of the fundraiser for me was the effort put forth by so many TBA members. First, I would like to thank the organizational team: Eileen Gale, Phyllis Chudoff, Karen Nissim, Marsha Caldwell, Judy Margulies and Steve Affrime. Together, we planned and organized. A huge thank you goes out to all of them. They did a magnificent job arranging and shopping for what we needed. My appreciation does not end there. I would also like to thank Sid Morginstin, Art Guyer, Dan Affrime and Neil Nissim for their help setting up, moving the heavier items and readying the community room for the party.

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I also appreciate the many, many people who took the time to prepare something delicious that would tempt the appetites of all present. There are too many people to name, but know that your hard work was noted, enjoyed and appreciated.

I would like to thank both the community members and friends who joined us and helped to make the evening a resounding success. I think people had a fun time and the Temple was able to raise some money to add to our budget. For TBA, the evening was a win/win. Thank you all.

Our next big event will be on Sunday, June 3, 2012. TBA will be hosting Rabbi Sholom Leverton and Rabbi Julie Pfau as they talk about the DNA of Judaism and how we got from the Bible to present day. The exciting program will be followed by a dairy dinner. Please mark your calendar; you will not want to miss this. Rabbi Leverton was very interesting and entertaining at our Spiritual Retreat last year, and we all know what a good speaker we have in our own Rabbi Julie. I expect the afternoon will be highly enjoyable and will give our membership another opportunity to get to know each other and develop new friendships.

One final note, we have two important community meetings coming up. We only meet formally twice a year, in May and in June. On Wednesday, May 16th, at 7:30 p.m., we will meet in our own community room to listen to and discuss the budget planned for the 2012/2013 fiscal year. The following month, on Wednesday, June 13th, we will meet again to vote on the planned budget. I sincerely hope that you will mark your calendar and make an effort to attend these meetings. The board values your input on the running of the Temple.

Mazel Tov!

Congratulations to our High School graduates, all from Northern Burlington Regional High School. **Jeff Liebman** will be attending Lehigh University. **Nicole Liebman** will be attending the University of Vermont. **Hannah Osmond** will be attending Mason University. We will honor these outstanding students at Services on May 11th.



The Sisterhood will sponsor a discussion with the Rabbi on Thursday, May 17th at 7 p.m. at the Temple. Rabbi Julie Pfau will discuss the Reconstructionist view of living wills, organ donation and cremation. This will be an interesting and thought provoking discussion. The meeting is open to anyone interested — Sisterhood membership is not required — and men and teens are welcome. Refreshments will be served.

Sisterhood News

Twelve Sisterhood members gathered April 16th to discuss what new routes the Sisterhood might explore. We have several ideas for activities next year that we hope will include more of our community.

The next meeting is Thursday, May 17th, at 7 p.m. Rabbi Pfau will discuss the Reconstructionist view of living wills, organ donation and cremation. This will be an interesting and thought-provoking discussion. The meeting is open to anyone interested — Sisterhood membership is not required — and men and teens are welcome.

Rita Nissim, Financial Secretary, and Mimi Geller, Corresponding Secretary, will leave their positions on the Board in June after many years of fine service. We are grateful for the time and effort they have devoted to this organization

A short Sisterhood meeting will be held after the Rabbi's discussion to elect officers. We determined at the April meeting that we will try an experiment over the next year and adopt the Temple model that combines the duties of the Treasurer and Financial Secretary. If you wish to fill the Corresponding Secretary vacancy, please contact Randye. The slate follows:

President	Randye Bloom
Vice President	Debby Weiss
Treasurer	Marcy Schwartz
Financial Secretary	Marcy Schwartz
Recording Secretary	Ellen Wehrman
Corresponding Secretary to be	determined May 17
Trustees	Phyllis Chudoff, Eileen Gale, Susan Giachetti, Elaine Trackman

Sisterhood fundraiser: Look on page 5 for information regarding a yard sale on the Temple lawn on May 20th (the day of the Bordentown craft fair).

Sarah Seidel Sisterhood Officers

President	Randye Bloom
Vice President	Debby Weiss
Treasurer	Marcy Schwartz
Financial Secretary	Marcy Schwartz
Record. Secretary	Ellen Wehrman
Corres. Secretary	TBD May 17
Trustees:	Phyllis Chudoff Eileen Galle Susan Giachetti Elaine Trackman



Supermarket Gift Card Program

Mother's Day is a great time for sharing and giving. Please share yourselves with the Temple by purchasing your gift cards from Acme or ShopRite for your Mother's Day celebration. Please send a check to Dowshen, 502 Farnsworth Avenue, Bordentown, NJ 08505 or call (609) 298-5306. Your cards will be sent to you the same day.

Tot Shabbat News

The next Tot Shabbat will be on Friday, May 11th at 6:00 p.m. and 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 at rhynestonegrl@gmail.com.



Save the Dates

2012 Tot Shabbat Program

May 11: Lag B'Omer theme

June 1: Shavuot theme

2012 Shabbat Morning Services

May 5

June 23

2012 Oneg Hosts

May 5: Lunch, Marcia Rosen and Madge Rosen

May 17: Sisterhood Program Faith Huplf and Marsha Rosen

2012 Congregational Meeting

May 16: Open to all, 7:30 p.m.

What to Do With Old Prayer Books and Kippot

No doubt you have some old prayer books, taleisim, kippot or other religious items that are no longer needed. The question always arises as to what to do with them. If they are no longer useable or no one in the family wants them, the proper procedure is to bury them. I will place a box in the Temple (by the stairs); please place these items into the box. Before the summer, I will bring the box to the local Chabad House. Rabbi Leverton will take care of its burial. There is a charge for this service, which I will cover. However, if you would like to make a small (no more than \$5) donation, I would appreciate it. Thanks.

The question of recycling the books usually arises. Many, myself included, feel that it would be better to place the books into the paper recycling than burying them. However, the Jewish law is that these must be buried. There is a concern that the paper will be turned into toilet paper.

Another question concerns kippot. The rule, as explained to me by a couple of rabbis, is that if the kippah was never used it may be discarded. Once it has been used, it must be buried.

Sid Morginstin, Religious Chair



Siddur and Tallit Donations

A new siddur (prayer book) can be purchased in honor of or in memory of someone for \$35; a tallis (prayer shawl) can be purchased for \$60. Please contact Sid Morginstin at sidmorgy@verizon.net.

Memorial Plaques

Plaques are available for \$250. To order a plaque, send the following to Sid Morginstin, Plaque Chairman, PO Box 8101, Trenton, NJ 08650 or sidmorgy@verizon.net: English name of loved one, Hebrew name of loved one and 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. Sid would like to send in the order soon, so please get him the info by mid-May.

You Got Stuff?

We all have "Stuff." Let's all make a profit on unwanted "Stuff."

How? On May 20th, at 10 a.m., the second day of the Bordentown Street Fair, bring a table and your "Stuff" (no clothing), glassware, books, toys, doodads, etc., to the Temple. We will setup on the lawn — bring and man your own table. Share a portion of your profits as a donation to the Temple.

Benefits: you get rid of your "Stuff" and have a fun day, make a donation and have extra money to spend on more "Stuff."

For more information, call Elaine Trackman or Eileen Gale, who are listed in the Temple phone list.

Sisterhood Donations

Happy Birthday:

Renee Harrison from Phyllis and Is Kamer

Rejoicing With:

Elaine and Jay Trackman on the engagement of their son **Marc** to **Sharon Miller**

Get Well:

Steven Affrime and **Randy Bloom** from Marcy Schwartz and Rick Shain

Steven Affrime from Faith Hupfl

Randy Bloom from Elaine and Jay Trackman

Arnold Gelfman from Phyllis and Is Kamer

Harriet Gould from Phyllis and Is Kamer, Renee Harrison and Rita Nissim

Sol Kushner from Phyllis and Is Kamer

Marlene Lavine from Elaine and Jay Trackman and Rita Nissim

Speedy recovery to our friend and long-time member who is recovering from heart surgery at University of Pennsylvania Hospital, **Sol Kushner**

In Memory Of:

Florence Braneck from Linda Bowker

Mr. Charmatz's brother from Phoebe and Jeff

Nissim **Shryle Kushner** from Bonnie Goldman and Steve Lederman

Arnold Ropeik from Renee Harrison and Rita Nissim

Temple Donations

In Memory Of:

Flossie Lubawitz from Bettie and Jimmy Schwartzberg,

Sandy SchwartzBird and Bruce Bird

Bella Setzman from Bettie and Jimmy Schwartzberg, Sandy SchwartzBird and Bruce Bird

To **Adam Woldow and family** for **Doris Woldow** from Elaine and Jay Trackman



Yahrzeits for May 2012

May 4th

Mary Gross, aunt of Shyrlé Kushner

Leon Herzog, brother of Madge Rosen

Philip Kushner, father of Sol Kushner

Frances Novak, mother of Blanche Cantor

May 11th

Louis Benson, father of Charyl Morginstin

Arlene Schwartz, mother of Phyllis Chudoff

Gertrude Urken, sister of Henry Kessler

May 18th

Julia Affrime, mother of Steve Affrime

Bernard Greenblatt, father of Marcia Rosen

Joseph Harrison, father-in-law of Renee Harrison

Rita Hodes, aunt of Randy Bloom

Stanley Nadel, father of Irwin Nadel

Ann Zeitz, mother of Carl Zeitz

May 25th

Jacob Mervish, father of Shyrlé Kushner

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!

Shabbat morning services begin at 10:00 a.m. (when there are B'nai Mitzvah, services begin at 9:30 a.m.)

MAY 2012 ~ IYYAR/SIVAN 5772

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>29 9 a.m. Sunday 10 a.m. Hebrew School</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3 4:30 p.m. Hebrew School</p>	<p>4 5:31 p.m. Candle Lighting</p>	<p>5 10 a.m. Shabbat Hosts Marcia Rosen And Madge Rosen 6:42 p.m. Havdalah</p>
<p>6 9 a.m. Sunday 10 a.m. Hebrew School</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11 Honoring High School Graduates 4:24 p.m. Candle Lighting 6 p.m. Tot Shabbat 7:30 p.m. Shabbat</p>	<p>12 5:35 p.m. Havdalah</p>
<p>13 9 a.m. Sunday 10 a.m. Hebrew School</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16 Congregational Meeting open to all, 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>17 4:30 p.m. Hebrew School Sisterhood Meeting with Rabbi Julie speaking on DNA of Judaism, 7 p.m.</p>	<p>18 Hebrew School Graduation 4:18 p.m. Candle Lighting 7:30 p.m. Shabbat</p>	<p>19 5:29 p.m. Havdalah</p>
<p>20 9 a.m. Sunday 10 a.m. Hebrew School</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 4:13 p.m. Candle Lighting 7:30 p.m. Shabbat</p>	<p>26 5:25 p.m. Havdalah</p>
<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>1 4:11 p.m. Candle Lighting 7:30 p.m. Shabbat</p>	<p>2 5:22 p.m. Havdalah</p>