

Temple B'nai Abraham

Temple B'nai Abraham
President Robin Affrime

The Temple Shofar
Rabbi Julie Pfau
June 2012

Sarah Seidel Sisterhood
President Randy Bloom

RABBI'S MESSAGE

As we move into the summer months and things slow down a bit at Temple B'nai Abraham, I wanted to share a poem by Solomon Ibn Gabirol, an Andalusian Jewish philosopher and poet who lived and wrote in Muslim Spain in the 11th century. The poem is entitled "Three Things" and a translation has been printed in Peter Cole's *The Dream of the Poem: Hebrew Poetry from Muslim and Christian Spain 950-1492*:

Three Things

*Three things meet in my eyes
and keep the thought of you always before me:*

*the skies, which make me think of your Name,
as they bear faithful witness for me;*

*the place where I stand, which brings my mind
back to the land you extend beneath me;*

*and bless, my soul, my Lord at all times
for heart's reflection within me.*

Often it is our activities that function to keep thoughts at the forefront of our minds – thoughts of school predominate as we work on an assignment, thoughts of work as we commute, thoughts of family as we cook a meal or shop, thoughts of the next errand that we need to run. In similar fashion, sometimes we think of G-d because one of those errands is dropping off a child for Hebrew School, or we have a board meeting or there is a service to attend. I believe that engaging in Jewish community is an act of engaging with the holy, although I admit that it might not always seem like an obvious correlation when the activities become stressful. But if our thoughts follow our actions, then the act of showing up at Temple might increase the likelihood that we will entertain thoughts of G-d, in all the diverse ways we understand G-d.

When all that synagogue related activity slows down, it might seem like we are taking a hiatus from the sacred along with all the sacred work of community building and Jewish educating. Ibn Gabirol's poem reminds me that thoughts of G-d can come from some of the most basic sources. We can ground ourselves in our spirituality by being mindful of the soil beneath our feet, and the act of walking can be a meditation. We can experience transcendence by lifting our

*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

eyes to the heavens, basking in the warmth of sunlight or the awe of a thunderstorm. I would add to these the possibility of experiencing holiness through contemplation of trees or the scent and silky petals of a flower. Although he forgot to mention these, Ibn Gabirol ultimately brings us back to something even more basic – he reminds us that we can be reminded of the divine by seeing its reflection within our own hearts and souls.

Our most basic and repetitive action – that of breathing – can be a constant reminder of the ultimate Source of Life.

Through mindfulness, we can transform each breath into an expression of gratitude for the blessing of our lives. Then, when things get busy and our activities might lead our thoughts elsewhere, these three inescapable things – the earth, the sky, our own inner selves – can keep our thoughts centered. May the coming months be filled with such opportunities for blessing!

Shalom,
Rabbi Pfau
From the President

At the June Congregational meeting I will be stepping down as president. I have made this decision because I find that my focus and attention need to be turned inward toward my family. But, I do so with a bittersweet feeling, I have been privileged to be president of Temple B'nai Abraham for the past three years and it has truly been a wonderful experience. The board has been, and will be, comprised of hard-working, caring people who give of their time to help make TBA a warm, welcoming Jewish community.

Together we have renovated the rental property next door; provided new signage for the front of our building; worked to keep up our old, lovely building and, with the financial backing of the good women of the Sarah Seidel Sisterhood, we now have a beautiful new kitchen.

We have also sponsored our first spiritual retreat, raised a few dollars being entertained by Klezmer music and are in the process of planning an exciting lecture on the "DNA of Judaism" from two different rabbinical perspectives. Though our building might be old, there is nothing old about how we view the future of Temple B'nai Abraham.

I would like to thank each and every board member for their hard work and dedication. This unique board got on well and was able to discuss ideas without anger or aggression. They dedicated themselves to giving whatever time they had to helping make our temple experience positive and hospitable. Thanks to each and every one of you for all that you do for the members of our community.

In the coming year we will continue to have a diligent group of members leading us to the future. Many board members will continue on to complete their terms, while others will be moving around to take on the challenge of new positions. Our new board is as follows: President Charlie Weiss; Executive Vice President Linda Osman; Financial Vice President Mike Rosen; Religious Vice President Sid Morginstin; Past President Betsy Ramos and Recording Secretary Susan Giachetti; and the following Trustees: Kim Aubry, Membership Chair; Brian Epstein, Adult Education Chair; resident technology specialist, Neil Nissim, House Chairperson and myself, Robin Affrime, Hebrew School Liaison.

We are losing a very special board member to semi-retirement. Eileen Gale, who has mastered running the House Chair for many years, has chosen this time to step down. We will miss her presence at board meetings, but we know we'll still see her putting her time and energy into the community in other ways.

And, I would like to welcome Neil Nissim as our new House Chairperson. Neil has been a member of Temple B'nai Abraham for practically his whole life and I am delighted to see him follow in the footsteps of his parents

by becoming a leading member of our congregation.

I would also like to add that Rabbi Julie will be returning to be our spiritual leader, and that we are thrilled that she will be continuing on with us. We are in the process of interviewing a new rabbinic intern to be Educational Director, to teach in our Hebrew School and to assist Rabbi Julie when she is away from our community.

In closing, I just want to say thank you. My experience as President of Temple B'nai Abraham was met with warmth and encouragement and I will always be grateful for the support shown me by the board and congregation members.

Shalom,
Robin Affrime

Mazel Tov!

Congratulations to the following graduates:

Gregory Davis, grandson of Elaine and Jay Trackman

Michael Mayln, grandson of Phyllis and Is Kamer

Alex Pinkus, grandson of Rita Nissim

New Education Director

There will be a new Education Director starting in September.

Kami Knapp has accepted the position of Education Director/Teacher, including the responsibilities of Tot Shabbat and "Pulpit Intern." We are looking forward to working with Kami.

Sisterhood News

Thank you to Rabbi Julie for the interesting and thought provoking discussion at the May meeting. We really appreciate the time and effort you took to help us learn about the Reconstructionist perspective on issues that we grapple with in our lives.

If it's June, it's covered dish! Please join us at our annual covered dish supper on June 11, 2012 at 6:15 p.m. at the Temple. The covered dish assignment list is attached to the newsletter. If we missed your name, we apologize. Just call Marsha or Randye to tell us know what you are bringing. If we included your name and you do not wish to be included, please call us to tell us that you will not be there. It is really important that you let us know if you cannot attend so that we can make reassignments if necessary. Also, please bring granola bars, cans of tuna or any other items for the food pantry. We will enjoy the supper even more if we know that we are also helping to feed people in need. Looking forward to seeing you June 11th!

Temple B'nai Abraham Yom Kippur Booklet:
You will find the form for the Yom Kippur Booklet attached to this newsletter. This is a booklet that Randye puts together for the High Holidays in which you honor or remember your loved ones. The cost is a minimum of \$2.00 a name (that has not changed in 20 years) and every dollar collected goes directly to the Temple. Last year we added just over \$1000.00 to the Temple coffers- let's work together to do that again. Please return the form to Randye with your check by August 1. Thanks so much.

We want to be sure that we have an accurate list of who has been honored as member of the year. The first ten years are a bit unclear, so please e-mail Randye at mikerandye@gmail.com with any corrections. Thanks!

1995: Bee Busch, Jay Trackman, Louis Rosenberg

1996: Sid Morginstin

1997: Unknown

1998: Eileen Gale

1999: Unknown

2000: Rita and Marty Nissim

2001: Unknown

2002: Unknown

2003: The Congregation (not sure)

2004: Elaine Zeitz (Elaine may have been honored earlier, but this is a guess)

Sarah Seidel Sisterhood Officers

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

Supermarket Gift Card Program

Father'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 Father'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, June 1st 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 Date

2012 Tot Shabbat Program

June 1: Shavuot theme, Tot Shabbat, 6.p.m.; Regular services, 7:30 p.m.

2012 Shabbat Services

June 8: Shabbat, 7:30 p.m.

June 23: Shabbat Luncheon Services, 10 a.m.;

Charyl Morginstin and Sandy SchwartzBird host

June 29: Member of the Year Services; Marcy Schwartz and Ellen Wehrman

2012 Congregational Meeting

June 13: Open to all, 7:30 p.m.

Temple Fundraiser

If you would like to have your family and friends included in the community booklet for Yom Kippur, please complete the form below and send it with your check, made **payable to Temple B'nai Abraham**, to Randye Bloom, 514 Reeder Avenue, Bordentown, NJ 08505. The cost is \$2.00 per name. All names must be submitted in writing to ensure proper spellings and designations. Forms and checks must be received by **August 1, 2012**. *This is the only information that you will receive about this project, so please clip it from your newsletter.* An example of what a listing looks like:

Randy E. Bloom & Michael Scolaro, Jr.
honor: Jef, Emily & Kori Bloom
Palma Harwick
remember: Selma & Julius Bloom
Mary & Michael Scolaro
Pauline & William Hodes
Minnie & Joseph Bloom
Rita Hodes & Charles Stein
Michael D. Burns
Elaine B. Zeitz

This example would cost \$32.00.

Please include the following names in the community booklet:

Honor	Remember

Name(s) of donor(s) as it is (they are) to appear in booklet:

Check enclosed \$ _____ .00

Annual Covered Dish Supper
Monday, June 11, 2012
6:15 p.m.

Please bring appropriate serving dish and utensils. Thank you!

VERY IMPORTANT: YOU MATTER! If you are unable to attend, are unhappy with the dish that you are assigned (we are open to other possibilities) or are bringing a guest (\$5.00), please let us know. Call Randye at (609) 298-6485 or Marsha at (609) 298-5306. Thank you.

Robin Affrime	blintzes
Kim Aubry	corn bread
Ellen Benowitz	your choice
Anita Berson	fruit pie
Randy Bloom	ice, milk, etc.
Phyllis Chudoff	stuffed shells
Sharon Coleman	multi-grain bread
Marsha Dowshen	tabouli
Eileen Gale	deviled eggs
Mimi Geller	dessert
Susan Giachetti	dessert
Nina Glanz	appetizer of choice
Bonnie Goldman	anything chocolate
Rhea Goldman	salad of choice
Renee Harrison	your choice
Faith Hupfl	chips and hummus
Phyllis Kamer	cookies
Shari Kantor	mandel bread
Shelia Lamonsoff	chocolate-covered strawberries
Marlene Lavine	your choice
Patricia Light-Tolomeo	green salad with citrus
Shira Lowry	appetizer of choice
Yelena Uzlyaner Masoti	rugelach
Charyl Morginstin	iced tea and seltzer
Karen Nissim	appetizer of choice
Rita Nissim	spinach soufflé
Linda Osman	asparagus quiche
Betsy Ramos	veggie pizza
Madge Rosen	appetizer of choice
Marcia Rosen	cheese and crackers
Susan Roth	Greek salad
Judy Schimmel	tuna salad
Marcy Schwartz	pasta primavera
Sandy SchwartzBird	fruit salad
Arlene Speiser	assortment of olives
Elaine Trackman	vegetable dish
Ellen Wehrman	main course with salmon
Ellen Weiner	your choice
Debra Weiss	whitefish salad and mini-bagels

P.S. PLEASE BRING GRANOLA BARS, TUNA OR OTHER ITEMS FOR FOOD PANTRY

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. **If there are enough items I will give the box to Rabbi Leverton on June 3rd.** 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

Yahrzeits for Summer 2012

June 1st

Harry Brewis, great-great-grandfather of Brian Epstein

June 8th

George Groveman, father-in-law of Seena Goldman

Genevive Maza, aunt of Sandra Cohen

June 15h

Robert Gale, husband of Eileen Gale

Bernard Fink, father of Mindy Fink

Edith Trackman, mother of Jay Trackman

Estelle Epstein, grandmother of Brian Epstein

June 22nd

Claudette Fishmann, mother of Linda Osman

Bernie Speiser, husband of Arlene Speiser

Marion Greenblatt, mother of Marcia Rosen

June 29th

Aaron Cohen, grandfather of Sandra Cohen

Joan Sandusky, sister of Marcy Schwartz

Anna Harrison, mother-in-law of Renee Harrison

July 6th

Yettie Epstein, great-grandmother of Brian Epstein

Solomon Schaffer, father of Rhoda Kessler

Joseph Josephson, father of Sam Josephson

Jack Roth, father of Elaine Trackman

Oscar Wasserman, father of Linda Bowker

July 13th

Julie Kwait, sister of Marcy Schwartz

Sam Shain, father of Rick Shain

Max Light, father of Patricia Light-Tolomeo

William Keiner, father of Lillian Gutstein

Abraham Zeitz, father of Carl Zeitz

Lester Bird, father-in-law of Sandy SchwartzBird

July 20th

Beatrice Busch, mother of Phyllis Busch

Bernard Shain, father of Betsy Ramos

July 27th

Alan Benson, brother of Charyl Morginstin

Lulu Cohen, grandmother of Sandra Cohen

Alice Mervish, grandmother of Ellen Benowitz

August 3rd

Lou Rosenberg, father of Ellen Wehrman

Norma Goldman, mother of Maxine & Philip Goldman

Louis Rudenstein, father of Mildred Leary

Elaine Zeitz, wife of Carl Zeitz

August 10th

Abraham Kaiser, father of Eileen Gale

Louis Rosen, grandfather of Gerald Rosen

Marty Nissim, husband of Rita and father of Neil Nissim

August 17th

Benjamin Epstein, great-grandfather of Brian Epstein

Celia Schwartz, mother of Marcy Schwartz

Selma Bloom, mother of Randy Bloom

Norman Goldman, father of Bonnie and Jeff Goldman, father-in-law of Rhea Goldman

August 31st

Bonnie Ross, mother of Jack Ross

Julius Lederman, father of Steven Lederman

Arthur Coleman, father of Lenny Coleman

Jerome Epstein, grandfather of Brian Epstein

Jack Bagan, father of Elaine Zeitz

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.)

JUNE 2012 ~ SIVAN/TAMMUZ 5772

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	31	1 6 p.m. Tot Shabbat 7:30 p.m. Shabbat 8:03 p.m. Candle Lighting	2 9:11 p.m. Havdalah
3 9 a.m. Sunday 3 p.m. DNA of Judaism lecture with dairy dinner	4	5	6	7 7 p.m. Temple Board Meeting	8 7:30 p.m. Shabbat 8:07 p.m. Candle Lighting	9 9:10 p.m. Havdalah
10 9 a.m. Sunday	11 6:15 p.m. Sisterhood covered dish	12	13 7:30 p.m. Congregation Meeting	14	15 7:30 p.m. Shabbat 8:11 p.m. Candle Lighting	16 9:19 p.m. Havdalah
17 9 a.m. Sunday	18	19	20	21	22 7:30 p.m. Shabbat 8:13 p.m. Candle Lighting	23 10 a.m. Shabbat Luncheon to follow 9:21 p.m. Havdalah
24 9 a.m. Sunday	25	26	27	28	29 7:30 p.m. Shabbat Lighting Member of the Year Oneg honoring Betsy Ramos 8:13 p.m. Candle Lighting	30 9:21 p.m. Havdalah