



# Temple B'nai Abraham

Temple B'nai Abraham  
President Charlie Weiss

The Temple Shofar  
Rabbi Julie Pfau  
July 2012

Sarah Seidel Sisterhood  
President Randy Bloom

From Rabbi Julie

One of the focal points of the Shabbat service is the Amidah – the standing prayer. It is a lengthy prayer that contains a number of variations depending on the day of the week and the occasion. These variations can make it almost unrecognizable as the same prayer to those who aren't aware of the basic underlying structure that gives it an overall unity. This year, I would like to focus a number of newsletter articles on the Amidah in order to increase people's understanding of this central prayer, and to offer insights and meditations that will help people connect to the prayer – whether it is prayed at home or during Shabbat services. This initial article will be somewhat more didactic in character as I will provide an explanation of the overall structure of the Amidah, while later articles will focus on specific blessings.

The Amidah consists of 7-19 thematic blessings depending on the day of the week and the occasion, and some of these sections receive special insertions on different holidays. In addition to these variable 7-19 sections, we typically precede the Amidah with a brief meditation (“*Adonai sifatai tiftach ufi yagid tehilatekha*” – “Open my lips, Beloved One, and let my mouth declare Your praise”), and we often add a concluding meditation that ends with the familiar *Oseh Shalom*. These bracketing meditations are not technically a part of the Amidah, but they may *feel* essential because at B'nai Abraham we sing them out loud together even when the Amidah itself is prayed silently.

The 7-19 blessings of the Amidah can be subdivided into three main sections – the first section is made up of the first three blessings and the last section is made up of the last three blessings, while the middle section varies from 1 to 13 blessings depending on the day of the week and the occasion. On Shabbat and holidays, the middle section contains prayers that highlight the special nature and holiness of the day. During the weekday Amidah, the middle section contains a series of 13 blessings that are requests on different themes.

Thus, the general structure for the Shabbat Amidah, with the Hebrew names and English translation of their

themes, is as follows:

Preceding Meditation

Initial Section:

1. *Avot v'Imahot* – Ancestors
2. *Gevurot* – God's Power
3. *Kedushat HaShem/Kedushah* –

God's Holiness

Middle Section(s):

4. On Shabbat: *Kedushat HaYom* – Holiness of the Day

[On a weekday this would be replaced with 13 blessings/petitions.]

Final Section:

5. *Avodah* – Worship/Temple Service
6. *Hoda'ah/Modim* – Thanksgiving
7. *Birkat HaShalom* – Blessing for Peace

Concluding Meditation

The themes of the blessings in the initial section and final section are consistent no matter what the holiday or day of the week, although there may be some insertions or slight variations in wording. The middle section is where there is the most diversity. On Friday nights the Amidah is prayed silently, but on Saturday mornings, when there is a minyan, it is our custom to join together out loud for the first three blessings of the initial section.

Next time we meet for *Erev Shabbat* services, I invite you to use the time to peruse the Amidah – pay attention to the structure of the prayer and the themes of the different sections; contemplate whether you would have chosen the same themes or the same ways of expressing those themes; consider whether/how following a fixed structure for a prayer might draw someone closer to God; and give particular note to any word, phrase, or paragraph that speaks to you or gives you comfort.

Shalom,  
Rabbi Pfau

# WELCOME KAMI KNAPP!

Shalom Chaverim,

I hope this letter finds you settling in to summer with much needed relaxation and fun!

My name is Kami Knapp and I am the new Education Director and Hebrew School Teacher at Temple B'nai Abraham. I am thrilled and honored to join the community at TBA and I am already busy brainstorming and planning for the upcoming Hebrew School year.

As I write this, I am busy moving my life from my hometown of Seattle, Washington to the East Coast so that I can begin rabbinical studies at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College this fall. As those of you who have made major moves know, this time is especially bittersweet, exciting and scary! But over the past few months, I have made wonderful connections with faculty, fellow students and TBA members, which spurs excitement and anticipation about all the amazing things that await me.

I hold both a Bachelors Degree and Masters Degree in International Studies. Over the past six years, I have taught in many synagogues with congregations of various ages. One of my most formative experiences was studying in London, where I counterbalanced anti-Semitism on campus with teaching at the West London Synagogue (WLS). I enjoyed working with the teens at WLS so much that I returned for two summers as the Coordinator of their summer camp in Kent.

Upon returning to Seattle, I continued to teach mostly 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders in various synagogues. I taught many subjects like Jewish literature, Torah study, Jewish ethics, Women in Judaism and Holocaust studies. I was inspired by the young adults I was working with and was amazed and inspired at their personal transformations and growth into their unique Jewish identities.

In 2009, I began work at a local mental health hospital. Although my time at the hospital was difficult and demanding, this work pushed me to pursue my calling of being a Rabbi. I realized I enjoyed helping others—I just wanted to be with people as they experienced the joys and sorrows, the disappointments and the successes of life. I believe strongly that these experiences are only heightened and made easier with Jewish values.

My Jewish education philosophy is simple: Hebrew School should provide an environment, rooted in Jewish values, in which our children are allowed to become the best they can be. In addition to helping children realize their individual potential, I strive to challenge each of them to think about life using Jewish values as their template. I believe that each child/young

*Temple B'nai Abraham is affiliated with the Jewish Reconstruction Federation. [www.jrf.org](http://www.jrf.org)*



## Temple B'nai Abraham Officers

### Officers:

<b>President</b>	Charlie Weiss
<b>Executive Vice President</b>	Linda Osman
<b>Religious Vice President</b>	Sid Morginstin
<b>Financial Vice President</b>	Mike Rosen
<b>Recording Secretary</b>	Susan Giachetti
<b>Past President</b>	Betsy Ramos

### Trustees:

<b>Religious School Chair</b>	Robin Affrime
<b>Membership Chair</b>	Kim Aubry
<b>Building Chair</b>	Neil Nissim
<b>Adult Education Chair</b>	Brian Epstein

adult has something unique to bring to this world and I strive to illuminate this uniqueness.

I believe a Jewish education is furthered not only in the synagogue and Hebrew School but also at home, so I hope you will join me in your children's Jewish education. I encourage active parent participation, whether in classes, services or communication and planning. You know your children the best, so please let me know if there is anything that would help me in working with your children. I am always available to talk and discuss your children's progress. If you have any questions, clarifications, concerns or suggestions, please know that I am always available and open to feedback.

Finally, I would like to express my sincerest gratitude in being welcomed into your community. Moving across the country to a new school, a new city and a new Jewish community is very intimidating and your faith in me as an Education Director and Teacher is invaluable. Thank you in advance for your patience and understanding as I make this big transition and know that I only strive to add to the wonderful community that I have already experienced at Temple B'nai Abraham. I look forward to meeting and working with your children and you.

B'shalom,  
Kami Knapp

The B'Nai Mitzvah class thanks everybody who came out to support the Purim Carnival. The proceeds were divided between two charitable organizations voted on by the Hebrew School students: \$125.00 to the Lung Cancer Alliance and \$125.00 to The ALS Assoc. of Greater Philadelphia. As usual, it was a fun event for all who participated!

Twenty-five people attended the DNA Seminar (How we got from the Torah to Today) held on June 3rd, which was very informative and entertaining. Rabbi Leverton and Rabbi Pfau each shared insight, humor and history, making for a wonderful afternoon and discussion. The dinner was delicious and allowed time for members to socialize in a relaxed atmosphere. A special thank you to committee members Eileen Gale, Randy Bloom Scolaro and Marcia Rosen for all of their efforts. Thank you as well to Sid and Charyl Morgenstern for donating Rabbi Leverton's fee. Thank you Marcia and Mike Rosen for donating a new dry erase board to the Temple/Hebrew School.

Shalom,  
*Linda Osman*

We are looking to bring some personal history into our all-purpose room. If you have any pictures from the past 25 years plus, we would love to borrow them to scan and reprint them. It would be helpful if you listed the occasion of the picture, the year it was taken and the names of the people in the photo. Please send these to: Temple B'nai Abraham, care of Robin Affrime, PO Box 245, Bordentown, NJ 08505. Please put your name on the back of each picture so that we can return it to you.

We are also looking for recipes so that we can create the next version of the Sarah Seidel Sisterhood Cook Book. These recipes can be sent to raffrime@gmail.com. If you are interested in working on the cookbook please let me know. I would love to work on this with others from our organization.

Thanks,  
*Robin Affrime*

## **Sarah Seidel Sisterhood Donations**

**Get well wishes** to Sol Kushner from Phyllis and Is Kamer, Elaine and Jay Trackman and Rita Nissim

### **In Memory Of**

Arnold Ropeik from Phyllis and Is Kamer

Al Oren's sister from Phyllis and Is Kamer

Patti Loomis' father from Phoebe and Jeff Nissim

**Rejoicing with** the Zak and Davis family upon graduation of their sons from college from Phyllis and Is Kamer

**Rejoicing with** Elaine and Jay Trackman on the graduation of their grandson from college and the engagement of their son Marc to Sharon Miller from Phyllis and Is Kamer and Phoebe and Jeff Nissim

**Rejoicing with** Robin Affrime for a job well done from Marcy Schwartz and Rick Shain

**Rejoicing with** Betsy Ramos for member of the year from Randy Bloom and Mike Scolaro

**Happy Birthday** to Marlene Lavine from Rita Nissim

**Donation in honor of sisterhood** from Elena Masoti

## **Temple Donations**

### **In Honor Of:**

**Betsy Ramos, Member of the Year**, from Eileen Gale and Art Guyer

### **In Memory Of:**

**Bee Busch** from Phyllis Busch

**Frances Epstein** from Rhea Goldman

**Robert Gale** from Eileen Gale

**Anna Harrison** from Rene Harrison

**Julie Kwait, Joan Sandusky, Celia Schwartz** and

**Sam Shain** from Marcy Schwarz and Rick Shain

**Jack Roth** and **Edith Trackman** from Jay and Elaine Trackman

**Trudie Urken** from Rhoda and Henry Kessler



## Sisterhood News

About thirty women attended covered dish in June—it was a delightful evening! We had the pleasure of honoring Mimi Geller and Rita Nissim for their long-time service to the Sisterhood. Patricia Light-Tolomeo volunteered to serve as our Corresponding Secretary—we are so happy to have her join the Board. Members were asked to think about activities that they would like to do in the coming year. Also, if anyone has items that they would like to see in the gift shop, they should let Randy or Shira Lowry know.

We need a volunteer to coordinate Break-the-Fast. If you expect to attend this year, think about volunteering to help put it together. If we get more than one person, we can split the duties. Please let me know if you are able to do this for the community.

The next Sisterhood meeting will be Monday, September 10, 2012. Hope to see you there.

Have a great rest of the summer,  
*Randy*

The revised YAHRZEIT list is now on the bulletin board. Please check it to make sure the data for your loved one is correct. Please give me any changes in WRITING or when I am talking to you on the phone. If you tell me verbally when we meet, I will NOT make the change.

Each August I take the book with the 150-YEAR CALENDAR home and update the computer Yahrzeit Database. The Database has the Hebrew date of death (MONTH & DAY). I add in the equivalent Secular dates for the upcoming year and the nearest Friday. If the Yahrzeit should fall on a Saturday, Sunday, or Monday, I enter the preceding Friday. For Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, I enter the subsequent Friday. I do not take into account when there are Saturday services or (as noted above) the Jewish date starting at night.

If you cannot make the designated date, it is OK to say Kaddish on the closest Friday (or Saturday).

I have always set it up to run from one Rosh Hashanah to the next. Please get any updates or changes to me by mid-July. If a loved one passed away since last September, please send me the information (name, relation to you, and date deceased) at [sidmorgy@verizon.net](mailto:sidmorgy@verizon.net). I want to double-check the information that I entered.

Thanks,  
*Sid Morginstin*

## Sarah Seidel Sisterhood Officers

<b>President</b>	Randy Bloom
<b>Vice President</b>	Debbie Weiss
<b>Treasurer</b>	Marcy Schwartz
<b>Financial Secretary</b>	Marcy Schwartz
<b>Record. Secretary</b>	Ellen Wehrman
<b>Corres. Secretary</b>	Patrica Light-Tolomeo
<b>Trustees:</b>	Phyllis Chudoff
	Eileen Galle
	Susan Giachetti
	Elaine Trackman

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:sidmorgy@verizon.net): English and Hebrew names of loved one, English and Hebrew names of loved one's parents (if you don't have the Hebrew names, Sid will ask the Rabbi) 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.

## Supermarket Gift Card Program

Every 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 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.

# 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:

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Check enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ .00

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

**JULY 2012 ~ TAMMUZ/AV 5772**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6 8:03 p.m. Candle Lighting	7 9:11 p.m. Havdalah
8	9	10	11	12	13 8:07 p.m. Candle Lighting	14 9:10 p.m. Havdalah
15	16	17	18	19	20 Summer Services 7:30pm 8:11 p.m. Candle Lighting	21 9:19 p.m. Havdalah
22	23	24	25	26	27 8:13 p.m. Candle Lighting	28 9:21 p.m. Havdalah
29	30	31	1	2	3 8:13 p.m. Candle Lighting	4 9:21 p.m. Havdalah

## **Yahrzeits for Summer 2012**

### **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 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**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 & 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