



Affiliated with the  
Jewish Reconstructionist  
Movement

# Temple B'nai Abraham

Temple President

Charlie Weiss

Rabbi

Julie Pfau

Sarah Siedel Sisterhood President

Randy Bloom

## Temple Officers

### Temple President

Charlie Weiss

### Executive Vice President

Brian Epstein

### VP, Finance & Treasurer

Michael Rosen

### VP, Religious Committee

Marcia Rosen

### VP, Membership Devlp.

Kim Aubry

### Chair, Religious School

Robin Afrime

### Chair, Adult Education

Betsy Ramos

### Chair, Building

Neil Nissim

### Chair, Fundraising

Linda Osman

### Recording Secretary

Susan Giachetti

## Important Dates

Tot Shabbat 2/7

Saturday Service 2/15

## “The Temple Shofar”

February, 2014

### Rabbi's Message

On this one year anniversary of my fire, I have been reflecting on the many blessings I have encountered over the last year and the incredible generosity and supportiveness of this community. One year later, I am comfortably settled into my new apartment, and all around me are tangible reminders of the many people who reached out. For example, every time I turn on a light, use the microwave, eat at the table in my kitchen, or curl up under a warm blanket, I am reminded of your caring. That is a lot of reminders!

There is a blessing in our morning liturgy that expresses some sense of the gratitude that I feel:

*Baruch atah adonay eloheynu chey ha'olamim  
she'asah li kol tzorki.*

Blessed are you, THE GENEROUS, our God,  
life of all the worlds, who acts for all my  
needs.

However, this blessing doesn't quite express my feelings – it doesn't express my desire to offer blessing specifically for the *people* of this community! Sometimes Jewish tradition doesn't have the precise words and prayers to express our experience of holiness today. Perhaps the ancient rabbis were trying to avoid creating a system that would require that the recipients of *tzedakah* give back or be otherwise obligated to those who give. But it also means that there are no words in our tradition that echo the sense of holiness that can be experienced through receiving acts of caring. On this one year anniversary, that absence is jarring!

Similarly, there was no traditional blessing established by the ancient rabbis for the act of giving *tzedakah* or engaging in social justice work. The rationale I have encountered for this absence is that blessings are meant to be said over actions that are about to be completed, and the task of repairing the world is one that cannot be completed through one act. However, contemporary Jews have created blessings for *tzedakah* and *tikkun olam*, repair of the world, that are worded so that they do not imply the task is over.

Since members of our community are deeply committed to a whole variety of *tikkun olam*, I wanted to share a few examples of blessings that have been created to further elevate the activities in which so many of you engage!

*Baruch atah YHVH eloheynu melech ha'olam  
asher kideshanu bemitzvotav vetzivanu lirdof tzedek.*

Blessed are you, ETERNAL ONE, our God, the sovereign of all worlds,  
who has made us holy with your mitzvot, and commanded us to pursue justice.

The above blessing was on the website for the URJ. Its similarity to the traditional candle lighting blessing might make it easier to remember, and it is broad enough to encompass acts beyond the giving of charitable donations. Another broadly applicable blessing is found on [rituallwell.org](http://rituallwell.org):

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**Sisterhood Officers****Sisterhood President**

Randy Bloom

**Vice President**

Debbly Weiss

**Treasurer/Financial Scty**

Marcy Schwartz

**Recording Secretary**

Ellen Wehrman

**Corresponding Secretary**

Patricia Light-Tolomeo

**Trustees**

Susan Giachetti

Susan Roth

**Sisterhood News & Announcements****Blood Drive:**

The blood drive was a success in spite of the inclement weather. Special thanks to Temple members Robin Affrime, Kim Aubry, Marsha Caldwell, Joel Dowshen, Marsha Dowshen, Judy Margulies, Sid Morginstin, Rachel Schwartz, and Michael Scolaro for coming out to donate blood. Special thanks to Rhea Goldman for making blood drive phone calls and to Bonnie Goldman for helping at the Temple the day of the drive. Together we made a difference!

Thanks, Randy

**Sisterhood News:**

The Gatekeeper's, the film we viewed at the January Sisterhood meeting was quite thought provoking and disturbing. We met six leaders of Israel's secret service, the Shin Bet, which has dealt with conflict amid the quest for peace for nearly 50 years. The men [we only heard from men in the film] discuss the challenging truths and consequences of their counterterrorism mission. It confirmed what many of us thought, but always with the wish that if we had more information we might be more hopeful. Instead we learned that the people who have more information share our thoughts. A very powerful presentation! Special thanks to Brian Epstein, who installed the equipment that allowed us to comfortably view the film. Thanks also to Patricia Light-Tolomeo who ordered the film from Netflix, and to Marsha Caldwell, who provided refreshments. It was a most successful evening.

The next Sisterhood meeting will be held Monday, March 10. We will discuss *I Am Forbidden* by Anouk Markovits, a novel about being a woman in the Satmar community, and *Unorthodox* by Deborah Feldman, a memoir about growing up in the Satmar community. Robin Affrime and I found these books to be disturbing and thought-provoking and we look forward to discussing them with you. The books that Randy ordered from Better World Books are circulating and both books are also available through the library. If you want to borrow Randy's copies, please let her know.

Please participate in the personalized Haggadah fundraiser. There is more news in this newsletter and flyers at the Temple. Just order directly from the company and indicate that you are affiliated with Sarah Seidel Sisterhood, Temple B'nai Abraham and we will get credit for your order. These are great for kids, but also for a family that wants to do a Seder service with the basics presented in a straightforward format.

Take care and have a good month, Randy

**Other News**

THE OTHER  
JOSH COHEN  
A NEW MUSICAL



The Paper Mill Playhouse, Millburn, NJ – [papermill.org](http://papermill.org) – 973.315.1680

**THE OTHER JOSH COHEN**

Losing Everything is Just the Beginning

**Feb 19 – Mar 16**

In this hilarious original musical comedy, good guy Josh Cohen is caught in a lifelong battle with bad luck. He's single, broke, and woefully underemployed when his apartment is robbed. But then a mysterious letter arrives that could change his life forever. Don't miss this delectable new musical as it makes its way from Off Broadway to the Paper Mill stage.

*"Superb and sweetly funny, brisk and satisfying, spandex-tight writing and crackling comic delivery. It's an endearing and consistently funny crowd pleaser. Buy tickets now."* – New York Times

## Temple & Sisterhood Donations

- To Sam Shain in honor of her college graduation from Elaine and Jay Trackman
- To Stephen Benowitz in honor of becoming Mayor of Bordentown Township from Eileen Gale and Art Guyer, Elaine and Jay Trackman, Rita Nissim
- In memory of Evelyn Rothman from Robin and Steve Affrime
- In memory of Eudell Rod, Larry Bowker and Rose Wasserman from Linda Bowker
- In memory of Rose Goldberg from Phyllis and Isadore Kamer
- In memory of Pauline Zackler from Marsha and Joel Dowshen
- In memory of Ralph Walk from Judy Schimmel
- In honor of Stephen Benowitz, Mayor of Bordentown from Phyllis and Is Kamer

## Donations

Temple Cards - If you wish to have a Temple joy or sorrow card sent in honor or memory of someone, please contact Randye Bloom by e-mail or phone. She will need the name and address of the person receiving the card, the occasion, and name of the honoree or deceased. The minimum donation is five dollars. There are get well cards as well as cards for any occasion. The donation for the card may be sent directly to Mike Rosen with a notation of what it is for and the check is payable to the Temple.

## Yahrzeits for Winter 2014

Feb. 7 <sup>th</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Selma Levitsky, Great-Aunt of Brian Epstein</li> </ul>
Feb. 15 <sup>th</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Howard Brewis, Great -Grandfather of Brian Epstein</li> <li>• Leonard Greenblatt, Brother of Marcia Rosen</li> <li>• Ruth Killian, Mother-In-Law of Sharon Coleman</li> <li>• Sylvia Goldman, Wife of Norman Goldman</li> </ul>
Feb. 21 <sup>st</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Abe Kaufman, Grandfather of Phyllis Busch</li> <li>• Leslie (Leah) Cantor, Mother of Paul Cantor</li> <li>• Irving Epstein, Father of Rhea Goldman</li> </ul>
Feb. 28 <sup>th</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rebecca Shemesh, Mother of Marty Nissim</li> </ul>

## Old Prayer Books & Kippot

Old prayer books, Tallisim, kippot, or other religious items that are no longer needed should be buried. Please place these items into the box (by the sanctuary stairs). Items will be brought to the local Chabad House for burial. \$5 donations are appreciated.

## Siddur & 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 Marcia Rosen at: [mjanrosen@comcast.net](mailto:mjanrosen@comcast.net)

## Memorial Plaques

Plaques are available for \$250. To order a plaque, send the following to TBA: Marcia Rosen, Plaque Chairman PO Box 245 Bordentown, NJ 08505 or: [mjanrosen@comcast.net](mailto:mjanrosen@comcast.net).

English name of loved one, Hebrew name of loved one and date of death in the English calendar. Once the plaque has been installed, you will be billed. Plaques will not be moved from one board to the other.



## Supermarket Gift Card Program

It is always the season for sharing and giving. Please share with the Temple by purchasing your gift cards from Acme or ShopRite for your New Year's celebration.

Please make checks payable to **Temple B'nai Abraham** and send to: **Marsha Dowshen / 502 Farnsworth Ave., Bordentown, NJ 08505 / (609) 298-5306**. Your cards will be sent to you the same day.

## Tot Shabbat

Friday evenings, 6:00 PM  
 Coming Up: February 7<sup>th</sup> - Friendship  
 Craft: Friendship Key Chains



Includes 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 Kami Knapp at: [kami.knapp@googledoc.com](mailto:kami.knapp@googledoc.com).

**“The habit of giving only enhances the desire to give.”**

~ Walt  
 Whitman

## Tikkun Olam / Social Action

TBA continues to make meaningful contributions to hunger relief in our area, and YOU can be part of it! Here are ways to help:

- Donating boxes of granola bars or cans of tuna or chicken for our monthly contribution to grocery bags for motel residents.
- Any non-perishable food items are welcome for the St. Mary's Food Pantry, just place them in the baskets at the temple.
- We deliver hot meals prepared by the Friends Meeting in Crosswicks to the Pine Motel on the first Thurs. of every month.
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All of these efforts are interfaith collaborations with area worship centers. Together we can make a difference!

Thank you to Robin and Steve Affrime, the Weiss family, the Kunkler family, Marcy Schwartz, Rick Shain and Ellen Wehrman for their continued help with meal delivery.



## Monthly Oneg Hosts

February 15 <sup>th</sup>	Aubry / Saltstein
February 21 <sup>st</sup>	Barman / Chudoff

## Fundraising

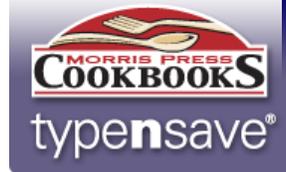
### EXCITING NEWS!!

We have finally begun the temple and sisterhood fundraiser cookbook. The first Temple B'nai Abraham cookbook was printed in the 1970s, the second in 1987, and now we will commemorate our centennial year. We are working with a company called Morris Press and have the ability to type recipes directly into the website with a specific password that denotes our project. Anyone will have the ability to type their recipes into the project and then a small committee will review the recipes and do final editing. This will help us avoid 6 brisket recipes and 20 brownie recipes. It is important that the book be well balanced with a variety of appetizers, vegetables, soups, salads, entrees, and desserts. We might also want to have a specific area for Holiday fare. If you are interested in working with Randy and Robin on this cookbook, please send us an email to let us know how you would like to help [Randy: [mikerandy@gmail.com](mailto:mikerandy@gmail.com); Robin: [raffrime@gmail.com](mailto:raffrime@gmail.com)].

If you have a recipe that you would like to be considered for the cookbook, go to [www.typensave.com](http://www.typensave.com) and insert the **username: TBAS** and the **password: plate294**. Anyone can contribute a recipe and we highly

encourage you to put in recipes from your treasured family traditions. A few guidelines: Recipes must be able to be made kosher so no pork, ham, or bacon, and the recipe cannot include both meat and milk together. That said, recipes can be adjusted to be made kosher. If you have a recipe that you would like to share, but aren't sure if it is kosher or how it can be adapted, please contact us. This is a labor of love and we will be more than happy to help you.

We encourage everyone in the Temple B'nai Abraham community to be a part of this fundraiser by contributing recipes. In order for this to be a successful fundraiser and to cover the first printing, each member or family of temple and/or sisterhood will be responsible for buying a minimum of 5 books that the member can either give as gifts or sell to friends and family. The exact cost per book is not yet determined, but we hope to keep it in the \$10.00 range. This cookbook will represent the entire Temple B'nai Abraham community and family and friends - so please join in and share your best recipes.



**“Coming together is a beginning, Keeping together is progress & Working together is success.”**

**~Henry Ford**

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Blessed are you, YHVH, Source of Abundance, for providing us with the financial and spiritual ability to give. All humanity participates in the flow of riches that come in and go out. May we use our resources well, and may this exchange be fair and equal. Blessed are you, Provider of Manna, who enriches us all.

Either of these blessings could be said by members of our community when bringing contributions to the synagogue for the food drive, when delivering food to those in need, when making an online charitable donation, or engaging in any activity that promotes justice in our broken world. As a recipient of some of your amazing acts of caring this last year, I can attest that all of these kinds of actions bring blessing into the world and are worthy of sanctification!

Shalom,  
Rabbi Pfau



**TEMPLE  
B'NAI ABRAHAM**

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PO Box 245  
Bordentown, NJ 08505

609.298.1527  
www.bnai-abraham.org

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

**February, 2014 ~ Adar I**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>26</b>  9 am Sunday School  10 am Hebrew School	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>  No Hebrew School	<b>31</b>  7:30 pm Shabbat Services	<b>1</b>
<b>2</b>  9 am Sunday School  10 am Hebrew School	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>  4:30 pm Hebrew School	<b>7</b>  6:00 pm Tot Shabbat  7:30 pm Shabbat Services	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b>  9 am Sunday School  10 am Hebrew School	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>  4:30 pm Hebrew School	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>  10:00 am Shabbat Morning Services
<b>16</b>  No Hebrew School	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>  4:30 pm Hebrew School	<b>21</b>  7:30 pm Shabbat Services	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b>  9 am Sunday School  10 am Hebrew School	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>  4:30 pm Hebrew School	<b>28</b>  7:30 pm Shabbat Services	<b>1</b>