



Affiliated with the
Jewish Reconstructionist
Movement

Temple B'nai Abraham

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Rabbi

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Chair, Fundraising

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Recording Secretary

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Important Dates

Congregational Meeting	5/7
Tot Shabbat	5/16
Sisterhood Meeting	5/22
Brian Epstein — Torah & Technology	5/23
Saturday Service- Brendon Weiskott's Bar Mitzvah	5/31

"The Temple Shofar"

May, 2014

Rabbi's Message

As we enter the secular month of May, we are in the midst of the counting of the Omer – the ritual counting of the 49 days from our liberation (Passover) until our receiving of revelation at Mt. Sinai (Shavuot). As with other sacrifices that could no longer be offered after the destruction of the Second Temple, the rabbis transformed a Temple offering into a spiritual act. In this case, what was initially a daily offering of grain became an act of spiritual preparation for revelation – a verbal count each night, accompanied by a blessing, replacing the physical act of waving grain.

As I write, it is the 12th Day of the Omer, and so far I have managed to maintain my count every day since the beginning of the Omer period this year! Usually I lose track of the count sometime in the range of 7-10 days, so it is remarkable that I have been staying with it more consistently this year. I think the reason is that I have been relating to the ritual differently this year.

Previously, I have tried many different books of meditations and mystical interpretations of each day of the Omer as a way to try to bring meaning to the practice and hopefully keep me motivated to stick with it for the entire 49 days. But what invariably happens is that I forget to count one night, and then feel that I have failed in the mitzvah and give up for the remaining 39 days or so. I have often wondered if I will ever in my life manage to complete this mitzvah!

Different authorities have divergent interpretations of the command in Leviticus 23:15-16. It says that there should be seven complete weeks – but what does it mean that the weeks should be "complete"? According to one view, if a day is missed then the seven weeks would not be complete, and the mitzvah would not have been performed. An-

other approach is to view each day as its own entity. The dispute boils down to whether this is one mitzvah containing 49 distinct acts, or whether it is 49 distinct mitzvot – one for each day.

This year, I am approaching my count of the Omer with an attitude of simplicity and gentleness. In prior years, I was taking the approach of viewing the count as one mitzvah made up of 49 separate acts. When I missed a day, there was no longer a reason to continue, I would give up and invariably have some mental judgments about my "failure" to fulfill the mitzvah. I realized that my prior attempts to make the count "meaningful" sometimes were an impediment – I might remember that it was time to count but be away from home and without my meditation book, so I would refrain from counting in that moment, intending to do so when I got home, but then forget. This year, I decided that I would count at whatever moment I remembered to count, and let go of the need to do anything more. It has worked! This year I also decided to take the approach of viewing each day as a separate mitzvah, so that if I do forget one night, I don't have to give up.

The spiritual life does not thrive on feelings of failure and on acts of giving up. I might not be counting with a deep mystical focus this year, but the count has felt more deeply connected and positive this year. I can't help wondering if an attitude of simplicity and gentleness might keep me connected to the practice longer and more consistently than my prior attitude of judgment. For me it is the Omer, for others it could be other aspects of Jewish ritual or prayer. I think it is worth contemplating through the Omer and beyond: how can we bring more simplicity and gentleness to our spiritual lives and our Jewish practices?

Shalom,
Rabbi Pfau

Sisterhood Officers

Sisterhood President
Randye Bloom

Vice President
Debby Weiss

Treasurer/Financial Scty
Marcy Schwartz

Recording Secretary
Ellen Wehrman

Corresponding Secretary
Patricia Light-Tolomeo

Trustees
Susan Giachetti
Susan Roth

Sisterhood News & Announcements**Sisterhood News:**

We will hold our May Sisterhood meeting on **Thursday, May 22**. Rabbi Julie Pfau is back by popular demand. Please join us for an interesting evening.

Slate of Officers for 2014-2015:

President:: Randye Bloom
Vice-President:: Debby Weiss
Treasurer & Financial Secretary: Marcy Schwartz
Recording Secretary: Ellen Wehrman
Corresponding Secretary: Patricia Light-Tolomeo
Trustees: Susan Giachetti, Robin Afrime

Thank you to the Nissim family for a great time learning and baking together!



“Deeds of giving are the very foundations of the world.”

~ Jewish saying derived from the Mishna, Pirkei Avot 1:2

Sisterhood Donations

- In memory of Joe Nardone from Charyl and Sid Morginstin
- In memory of Bob Gibson from Charyl and Sid Morginstin
- Rejoicing with Mike and Marie Rosenberg on birth of their grandson, Louis Rosenberg from Elaine and Jay Trackman, Rita Nissim, Charyl and Sid Morginstin, and Michael Scolaro and Randye Bloom.
- Congratulations to Abbie and Sam Shain for college graduation. from Jay and Elaine Trackman.

Services Information

Please email Rabbi Julie if any of your family members will be graduating from High School or College this year, so that they can be included in the annual service honoring our graduates.

Please join us for Friday night services at 7:30pm on May 23rd, as Brian Epstein shares with us words of Torah and technology!

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.

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.

Let's plan ahead for the summer! Temple may not be so active in July and August, but hunger knows no season. So please bring in a few extra items in the coming months so we can keep up our commitment to the interfaith effort at hunger relief. We will make sure that all donated food is delivered to the St. Mary's food pantry and to the motel residents. For the motel grocery bags, remember that our items are granola bars and canned tuna or chicken. Thank you for your support! It really does make a difference.

A Note of Appreciation

Subject: Bordentown Area Motel Ministry

Dear Friends,

I just wanted to thank you all and give you an update on our ministry. As an update, this past Monday we delivered meals, 35 grocery bags, and hygiene products to the Pines and the Riverfront. We did not have enough food to get to Laurel Notch. There were more people at the Riverfront than I had seen in a long time, including a family of 6 in room 14. That is an upstairs room, so if anyone goes to the Riverfront, please make sure you knock loud enough for them to hear. Thanks.

And thank you all. We started giving out grocery bags in March of 2006, so we have been doing this for eight years now, and have not missed a delivery, even with the economy that we all have been dealing with. That is 96 deliveries, with an average of 35 to 40 bags each delivery, and extra hygiene products when we have them. By my calculations, we have delivered close to \$70,000 worth of groceries and hygiene products, with every cent going directly to the less fortunate. And that does not include the meals that many of us are delivering. While there is always more to do (like get to Laurel Notch next month), I think it is important to take a moment to look back and be glad we have been able to share what the Good Lord has given us in this way.

Thank you all for your continued support for this ministry,

Anne

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

~ Walt Whitman

Temple Donations

- In memory of Eliot Satz from Robin and Steve Affrime
- in memory of Harvey Goodstein from Michael Scolaro & Randy Bloom

Thank you to Neil Nissim, Eileen Gale and Brian Epstein who have been instrumental in insuring the Temple’s maintenance, fire and building permits and alarm system are current.

Old Prayer Books & Kippot

Old prayer books, Tallis, 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.

Congregational Meeting: **Wednesday, May 7th, 7:30 pm**

One of the benefits — and obligations — of being a member of a smaller congregation is reflected in the opportunity to have an influential voice, to contribute to a vision, and to support your fellow congregants.

Our congregational meetings are a critical part of the process that keeps our synagogue operating with its unique brand of democracy. I urge everyone not to underestimate the importance of your individual contribution, to embrace this responsibility, and to please attend our annual meeting.

Thank you,

Charlie Weiss
President

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

Yahrzeits for Spring 2014

May 2 nd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Belle Rosen, Mother of Gerald Rosen
May 9 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leon Herzog, Brother of Madge Rosen • Frances Novak, Mother of Blanche Cantor • Mary Gross, Aunt of Shyrle Kushner • Philip Kushner, Father of Sol Kushner
May 16 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Louis Benson, Father of Charyl Morginstin • Gertrude Urken, Sister of Henry Kessler
May 23 rd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arlene Schwartz, Mother of Phyllis Chudoff • Ann Zeitz, Mother of Carl Zeitz • Bernard Greenblatt, Father of Marcia Rosen • Julia Affrime, Mother of Steve Affrime • Rita Hodes, Aunt of Randy Bloom
May 30 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joseph Harrison, Father-In-Law of Renee Harrison • Jacob Mervish, Father of Shyrle Kushner

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.

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: May 16th - Care of the Environment
Craft: Watering Can Decor

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@google.com.



B'nai Mitzvah

For his Bar Mitzvah project, Brendon Weiskott is raising money for Susan G. Komen for the Cure. He will also be taking part in one of their 5K events during May. If you are interested in joining in for the 5K, please contact Jennifer Weiskott at jweisk23@comcast.net. Please also consider making a donation to support the cause – Brendon's donation page can be found at http://www.info-komen.org/site/TR/Events/HeadquartersSite?pxfid=284103&fr_id=1120&pg=fund.

Mazel Tov on Brendon's accomplishment of achieving his Bar Mitzvah!



Monthly Oneg Hosts

May 30th / May 31st

Weiskott Family in honor of Brendon's Bar Mitzvah

YOUR KIDS DESERVE THE ADVENTURE OF JEWISH CAMP. THIS SUMMER YOU CAN AFFORD IT.

Paying for camp can be difficult, especially if your family does not qualify for scholarships. **BunkConnect** makes it easy, matching eligible families with available overnight camp sessions at special introductory prices from 40-80% off.

BunkConnect launches in February 2014 with over 35 camps participating. Don't miss this chance to give your kids the summer of a lifetime.

www.BunkConnect.org

IT'S AS EASY AS 1-2-3:

- 1
Take the online eligibility quiz.
 Eligibility is based on more than just your income. Families of all Jewish backgrounds are welcome.*
- 2
Search for the right experience.
 Customize camp results based on your child's grade, session length, and more.
- 3
Contact your selected camps.
 And once you've found the perfect one, reserve your spot to lock in your rate.

* Jewish day school families welcome.

FOUNDATION FOR JEWISH CAMP
BUNKCONNECT™

FOUNDATION FOR JEWISH CAMP
one happy camper™



Katz JCC Cherry Hill

August 10-15



Join Our Team! Get in on the action!

Play

Join our South Jersey delegation of over 250 local Jewish athletes.
Group sports ages 13-16 • Individual sports ages 12-16*

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baseball • Basketball - Boys & Girls • Bowling* • Dance* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lacrosse - Boys & Girls • Soccer - Boys & Girls • Special Needs Competition • Star Reporter* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swimming* • Table Tennis* • Tennis* • Track*
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Host

Be one of the 500 community members who open your home to 1,000 visiting athletes.

Volunteer

Over 2,500 volunteers will make this event spectacular for our community, guests and visitors.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evening Activities • Security • Medical 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Relations/Social Media • Food • Transportation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening Ceremonies • Venue Managers/Athletics
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Learn more at www.katzjccmaccabi.org



**TEMPLE
B'NAI ABRAHAM**

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PO Box 245
Bordentown, NJ 08505

609.298.1527
www.bnai-abraham.org

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Shabbat morning services begin at 10:00 a.m. (when there are B'nai Mitzvah, services begin at 9:30 a.m.)</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">May, 2014 ~ Iyyar, 5774/Silvan, 5774</p>						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p style="text-align: center;">27</p> <p>9 am Sunday School</p> <p>10 am Hebrew School</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">28</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">29</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">30</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">1</p> <p>4:30 pm Hebrew School</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">2</p> <p>7:30 pm Shabbat Services</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">3</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">4</p> <p>9 am Sunday School</p> <p>10 am Hebrew School</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">5</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">6</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">7</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;"> <p>7:30 pm Congregational Meeting</p> </div>	<p style="text-align: center;">8</p> <p>4:30 pm Hebrew School</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">9</p> <p>7:30 pm Shabbat Services</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">10</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">11</p> <p>9 am Sunday School</p> <p>10 am Hebrew School</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">12</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">13</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">14</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">15</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">16</p> <p>6:00 pm Tot Shabbat</p> <p>7:30 pm Shabbat Services</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">17</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">18</p> <p>9 am Sunday School</p> <p>10 am Hebrew School</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">19</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">20</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">21</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">22</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;"> <p>7:30 pm Sisterhood Meeting</p> </div>	<p style="text-align: center;">23</p> <p>7:30 pm Shabbat Services</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">24</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">25</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">26</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">27</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">28</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">29</p> <p>4:30 pm Hebrew School</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">30</p> <p>7:30 pm Shabbat Services</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">31</p> <div style="border: 2px dashed black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <p>9:30 am Brendon Weiskott Bar Mitzvah</p> </div>