



Temple B'nai Abraham

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Betsy Ramos

Chair, Building

Neil Nissim

Chair, Fundraising

Linda Osman

Recording Secretary

Susan Giachetti

Important Dates

Morning Shabbat 10 am	11/1
Tot Shabbat 6 pm	11/14
Sisterhood Meeting 7 pm	11/24

"The Temple Shofar"

November, 2014

Rabbi's Message

As we move into the month of *Heshvan* with its absence of holidays, we return to a sense of the specialness of each *shabbat* and the beautiful liturgy that we can encounter on a weekly basis. *Yedid Nefesh* is a powerful example that the regular words of our liturgy are not dry rote words, but are passionate expressions of deep longing and profound feeling.

Yedid Nefesh is a *piyyut*, or liturgical poem, written by R. Eleazar Ben Moses Azikri (1533-1600). Azikri was ordained in 1596 in Safed, but he did not hold any public leadership functions. Rather, he devoted his time to his own individual mystical activities (meditation, study, and writing), and to founding and leading two associations of mystics whose purpose was to eschew worldly pursuits and to dedicate themselves to things of God. Azikri and his fellows interacted with the public only for the purpose of promoting repentance – making public appearances in order to urge penitence, and ultimately authoring *Sefer H□aredim*, a text that was a culmination of the ethics and ideals of Azikri and his fellows. The poem, *Yedid Nefesh*, is one of four of Azikri's poems that appeared in this piece of literature, and it reflects his passionate desire for close communion with God. *Yedid Nefesh* is, literally, Azikri's love-song to God.

Azikri's spiritual practice was one of asceticism and solitude. He would spend one third of his day writing and the rest of the day engaging in a rather unique meditation practice – a practice which entailed sitting motionless and silent while wearing tefillin, and keeping his eyes "focused upon God." In doing so, Azikri sought to increase his *devekut*, his closeness to God. When, in the third stanza, the poet exclaims about how much he has longed to see the glory of God's majesty, these are not idle words. For at least some times in his life, Azikri spent two thirds of his waking hours literally focusing

his eyes on God (or at least trying to...). His desire to focus on God is also revealed in his unique approach to the acrostic style of *piyyut* writing – instead of stereotypically embedding his own name in the prayer as did most medieval poets, Azikri embedded the name of God.

In the third stanza, the poet urges God to hurry and respond to his profound longing. The poet has spent two-thirds of his waking hours looking to God, and he asks God to look back, to refrain from hiding. Azikri wants the relationship to have a kind of mutuality, if not equality. In the poem, Azikri speaks of himself as servant – thus it is clearly not an equal relationship. However, this does not mean it cannot be reciprocal and connected. Azikri wants to be the kind of servant who is seen by his master, not one of those servants who might as well be invisible to their masters except when they do wrong. Although servant imagery is explicit in parts of *Yedid Nefesh*, the dominant imagery is that of a love relationship – both in terms of biblical references and in terms of explicit wording. Connections to Shir HaShirim 1:4 are found in the first line of the *piyyut*, and also in the last stanza. In addition, Azikri expresses a sense of his being love-sick, pining away for God.

How often do we feel a sense of distance from God, a yearning to infuse our lives and our world with a sense of holiness and profound meaning? In such moments, we have familiar words to turn to that can express our deep longings. Next time you are at services, I encourage you to contemplate the words of *Yedid Nefesh* and allow this *piyyut* to be a vehicle to express your own deep longings for *devekut*, connection to God. And may we all find God compassionately turning toward us in response.

Shalom,
Rabbi Pfau

Sisterhood News & Announcements

Sisterhood News:

Thank you to Betsy Ramos and Linda Osman for their informative and interesting "Dos and Don'ts of Estate Planning"- we are all checking our documents to be sure that all is well. How fortunate we are to have members with such expertise in our organization!

Karen Nissim, florist extraordinaire, will hold her Thanksgiving centerpiece class on **Monday, November 24 at 7 p.m.** This is a very popular event and always fun and productive. Karen will provide the flowers, container, and any other materials that you need. The cost of the materials is \$45.00. If you pay by check, please make it payable to the Sarah Seidel Sisterhood. The cost is less than you would pay to purchase a Thanksgiving centerpiece of this quality- and you will be so proud to share it with your family and friends. Please make your reservation and send your check directly to Karen Nissim, 38 Thompson Street, Bordentown, NJ 08505, [609-298-4845](tel:609-298-4845)- karennissim@aol.com. Reservations must be received by November 17 so that Karen is able to purchase the necessary materials and flowers. Space is limited, so get your reservation in early.

Thank you to Eileen Gale and Karen Nissim for co-chairing Break-the-Fast- it was a huge success and we made a profit of \$183.00 due to some very generous participants!

A group of Sisterhood members will attend the Jewish Film Festival on **Sunday, November 9** for the showing of "Magic Men." Anyone is welcome to go, but tickets need to be purchased in advance. See more information in this newsletter.

Please come out to Shabbat services on **Friday, November 21** when we honor the Sisterhood. Marsha and David Caldwell will sponsor the oneg that evening in honor of

Marsha's parents.

I received a lovely note from Arlene Speiser. She is living in Delray Beach, Florida, about ten minutes from her daughter, Amy, and her grandsons. We wish all of them health and happiness.

See you November 24, Randye

Blood Drive:

The annual blood drive will be held **Monday, December 22 from 2:30 to 7:30**. If you are able to make phone calls to potential donors, distribute posters, or help that day, please contact Randye. If each of you provides one pint of blood either from you, a family member, friend, or neighbor- the drive will be a huge success! Please schedule your appointment today. Thank you.

Yom Kippur Booklet:

A huge thank you to everyone who participated in the Yom Kippur booklet this year- 42 individuals or families!! All of the money is not quite collected, but we have gone over our goal of \$1500 [actually will collect just over \$1600 after a few more checks come in]. Your support is most appreciated!

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

Robin Affrime

Susan Giachetti



"What the caterpillar perceives is the end, to the butterfly is just the beginning."

- Anon

Tot Shabbat

Friday evenings, 6:00 PM
Coming Up: November 14th
Children ages 6 and under (siblings are welcome)

Tot Shabbat 2014-2015

This year will be an exciting year of new projects and new learning! Each month will address an individual theme with a paired craft. Children can take their craft home to remind them to practice Jewish values in and out of the synagogue. We hope you can join us!

If you need any additional information, or would like to volunteer to help clean up or set up, please contact Josh Krulwich-Klatt at: joshuakrulwich@gmail.com.

***“Anyone who
has never made
a mistake has
never tried
anything new.”***

- Albert Einstein

Memorial & Sisterhood Donations

- Happy Birthday to Iz Kamer from Rita Nissim
- Happy Birthday to Ellen Weiner from Rita Nissim

Rutgers Jewish Film Festival

Date From Wednesday, October 29, 2014
To Sunday, November 09, 2014

Event Description The Allen and Joan Bildner Center for the Study of Jewish Life at Rutgers is proud to present the 15th annual Rutgers Jewish Film Festival, which will run from Wednesday, October 29 through Sunday, November 9, 2014. The festival features a diverse array of dramatic and documentary films from around the world, and most screenings feature guest speakers, including filmmakers and scholars. The festival will be held at the Regal Cinema Commerce Center, 2399 Route 1 South, North Brunswick, NJ. For further information about films or to purchase tickets online, please visit our **website <http://BildnerCenter.Rutgers.edu/film>**.



Temple Donations



High Holiday Pledges:

Kim Ehrlich and Eliot Cook
Stew Warren
Rhea Goldman,
Randye Bloom, & Michael Scolaro
Ronnie & Stan Zeichner,
Karen Davis
Phyllis Chudoff
Jay and Elaine Trackman

- Robin & Steve Affrime, yahrtzeit Seymour Affrime
- Brian & Maribeth Epstein, yahrtzeit Anette Brewis, Jerome Epstein
- Arlene Speiser, yahrtzeit Deanne Klein, Pearl Fishman
- Mike & Marcia Rosen, yahrtzeit Gerald Rosen
- Rhoda & Henry Kessler, yahrtzeit of Molly Schaffer
- Stan and Ronnie Zeichner, honor of Ronnie's 70th birthday
- Mike & Marcia Rosen, honor of Greg Rosen's shofar blowing

***“A good deed
brightens a dark
world.”***

-Anon

Tikkun Olam / Social Action

Please help us continue our hunger relief efforts in the wider community! There are three ongoing projects, and no contribution is too small!

- Any contributions of non-perishable foods are welcome for the St. Mary's food pantry.
- Donations of granola bars and cans of tuna or chicken are welcome for the monthly grocery bags that are distributed to residential motels in the area. Each house of worship donates a large number of one or two items, and a grocery bag filled with food is delivered at the end of the month when food stamps and money get low.
- Come along for meal delivery: on the first Thursday of the month, we deliver dinners to the Pine Motel prepared by the Friends Meeting House in Crosswicks.
It's very rewarding to have been collaborating with our friends and neighbors in the area for the past NINE YEARS (!) in these essential projects to help those in need.

Thank you to everyone who has helped and donated in the past and continue to do so.



Upcoming Oneg Services

Please join us on Saturday, November 1st and Friday, November 21st for a Oneg following services.



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.

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 Randye and Robin on this cookbook, please send us an email to let us know how you would like to help [Randye: mikerandye@gmail.com; Robin: raffrime@gmail.com].

If you have a recipe that you would like to be considered for the cookbook, go to 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 reci-

pes 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.

**“Deeds of giving
are the very founda-
tions of the
world.”**

**- Jewish saying de-
rived from the
Mishna, Pirkei
Avot 1:2**

Host List for Shabbat Services 2014-2015

If you are unable to host on your date, please switch with someone else and let Randy know. You are responsible for finding a replacement. Thank you.

Date	Event	Host families
Nov. 1	Shabbat morning lunch	Affrime/Zeichner
Nov. 21	Erev Shabbat Oneg Sisterhood Shabbat	Marsha & Dave Caldwell In honor of Marsha's Parents
Dec. 6	Shabbat morning lunch & learn	Morginstin/Coleman
Dec. 12	Erev Shabbat Oneg	Berson/Fink
Jan. 10	Shabbat morning lunch	Schimmel/Eric & Kristi Schwartz
Jan. 23	Erev Shabbat Oneg	Carlis/Rosenthal
March 6	Erev Shabbat Oneg	Barman/Gale
March 14	Shabbat morning lunch	Epstein/Weiskott
April 10	Erev Shabbat Oneg	B. Goldman/R. Goldman
April 18	Shabbat morning lunch	Ehrlich-Cook/to be determined
June 13	Shabbat morning lunch & learn	Rosen/Kunkler
June 26	Erev Shabbat Oneg Member of the Year	Schwartz-Shain/Weiss

Hosts for Sisterhood Meetings

January	Giachetti/Lowry
March	Benowitz/Roth
May	Light-Tolomeo/Wehrman
June	Covered dish

Yahrzeits for Fall 2014

Week of Friday October 31 st	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sol Kushner, Father of Ellen Benowitz Joseph Caldwell, Father of David Caldwell Bettie Schwartzberg, Mother of Sandy Schwartzbird Myrna Morris, Wife of Ron Morris Samuel Gerson, Grandfather of Marsha Caldwell Gertrude Herzog, Grandmother of Michael Rosen, Mother of Madge Rosen Walter Harrison, Husband of Renee Harrison
Week of Friday November 14 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Selma Densky, Mother of Sharon Coleman Abraham Zackler, Father of Marsha Dowshen Helen Roseman, Mother of Renee Harrison Lillian Brewis, Great- Grandmother of Brian Epstein
Week of Friday November 21 st	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lee Nissim, Wife of Marcel Nissim Norman Lamonsoff, Father of Karen Nissim, Husband of Sheila Lamonsoff Joseph Rothman, Father of Robin Affrime Alma Sacks, Mother of Faith Hupfl John Duker, Father of Shiri Haines Hyman Goldman, Father of Norman Goldman Isaac Grassian, Father of Rita Nissim Gerald Rosen, Father of Michael Rosen, Husband of Madge Rosen Sidney Klepner, Father of Leonard Klepner Jennie Rudenstein, Mother of Mildred Leary
Week of Friday November 28 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pauline Zackler, Mother of Marsha Dowshen Laura Del Valle, Sister of Jennifer Weiskott

Old Prayer Books & Kippot

Old prayer books, Tallim, 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

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.

Morning Services 2014-15

November 1 st
December 6 ^h
January 10 th
February 14 th Ethan Weiss' Bar Mitzvah

March 14 th
April 18 th
May 23 rd Rachel Aubry's Bat Mitzvah
June 13 th



**TEMPLE
B'NAI ABRAHAM**

58 Crosswicks
PO Box 245
Bordentown, NJ 08505

609.298.1527
www.bnai-abraham.org

<i>Shabbat morning services begin at 10:00 a.m. (when there are B'nai Mitzvah, services begin at 9:30 a.m.)</i> November, 2014 ~ Cheshvan 5775 - Kislev 5775						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 No Hebrew School	27	28	29	30 4:30 pm Hebrew School	31	Nov. 1 10 am Shabbat Services
2 9 am Sunday School 10 am Hebrew School	3	4	5	6 No Hebrew School	7 7:30 pm Shabbat Services	8
9 No Hebrew School	10	11	12	13 4:30 pm Hebrew School	14 6:00 pm Tot Shabbat 7:30 pm Shabbat Services	15
16 9 am Sunday School 10 am Hebrew School	17	18	19	20 4:30 pm Hebrew School	21 7:30 pm Shabbat Services	22
23 9 am Sunday School 10 am Hebrew School	24	25	26	27 No Hebrew School	28 7:30 pm Shabbat Services	29
30 No Hebrew School	Dec. 1	2	3	4 4:30 pm Hebrew School	5	6 11 am Shabbat Lunch & Learn