



Temple B'nai Abraham

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Rabbi

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Betsy Ramos

Chair, Building

Neil Nissim

Chair, Fundraising

Linda Osman

Recording Secretary

Susan Giachetti

Important Dates

Shabbat Lunch & Learn 11am	12/6
Board Meeting 10:15am	12/7
Sisterhood 7:30pm	12/15
Shabbat/Hanukkah 6pm	12/19
Blood Drive 2:30-7:30pm	12/22

"The Temple Shofar"

December, 2014

Rabbi's Message

The JRC (Jewish Reconstructionist Communities) is engaging in a *Tikkun Middot*, character cultivation, program this year. The *Tikkun Middot* program is a program of learning and meditation oriented toward cultivation of positive character traits. The underlying assumption of the work is that when our individual character and behavior are elevated, we will also more effectively do the work of *tikkun olam*, repair of the world. Toward that end, the JRC is suggesting a different *middah*, or character trait, on which to focus each month.

I have been mulling over the *middah* mentioned in the JRC's last message – the *middah* of *behirah* or the choice point. This is the moment in which a person's free will is enacted to either engage in behavior that is life-affirming, compassionate, or just, or to engage in behavior that is unjust, callous, or life-denying. One article that I read described the *behirah* point as being comparable to the battlefield of a pre-modern war – it is the place at which struggle is enacted. That conflict might be supported or hindered by what happens behind the lines, but ultimately it is enacted at the battlefield.

One passage that is sometimes quoted in connection with the *middah* of *behirah* is found in our siddur – it is Selection I in the section of paragraphs to be read after the Shema. That passage concludes with the words:

*Ha-idoti va-chem ha-yom et ha-shamayim
v-et ha-aretz, ha-chayyim v'ha-mavet
natati l'fanekha, ha-b'rachah v'ha-q'lalah
u'vacharta ba-chayyim l'ma'an tichyeh atah
v'zar'ekha.*

I call as witness concerning you both heaven and earth, both life and death, that I have placed in front of you a blessing and a curse.

Choose life, that you may live, you and your seed

Sometimes choosing life is a very literal act of choosing to engage in behaviors that will sustain life rather than risking death – choosing to take required medications or engage in treatments to sustain life despite the discomfort involved, choosing to reject behaviors that are detrimental to health despite strong urges to the contrary. These are not always easy choices to make, and the metaphor of battle can feel quite apt. Choosing life can also be a more subtle action – a choice to cultivate a more positive attitude, to redirect one's thinking, to cry instead of suppressing pain, even to set aside pride and seek comfort.

The *behirah*, or choice point, is found in that sliver of a moment when a habitual or impulsive reaction can be interrupted. For example, when driving the *behirah* is in the heartbeat between feeling irritation at being cut off and transitioning into an aggressive reaction. Sometimes the moment for *behirah* can pass quickly and be easy to miss. Cultivating self-awareness behind the lines is crucial for noticing the myriad *behirah* points that we encounter on the frontlines of our lives.

Is there an area of your life where you would like to do better at choosing life? Start by paying close attention to your habitual thoughts and behaviors related to that area. Watch and listen closely for the heartbeat of a moment where the *behirah*, the choice point, can be found. Once you find it, your odds of changing the choice improve dramatically!

Shalom,
Rabbi Pfau

Community Hanukkah Celebration



**“Age is foolish
and forgetful
when it
underestimates
youth.”**

- J.K. Rowling

Community Hanukkah Celebration
Friday, December 19th, at 6:00 pm

Please join us on Friday, December 19th
at 6:00 pm as we welcome Shabbat and
celebrate the fourth night of Hanukkah.

We have scheduled
our Tot Shabbat program to coincide
with our annual Hanukkah celebration, so
this will be a wonderful opportunity for
people to spend time with folks they may
not always have an opportunity to get to
know.

We will begin our evening downstairs by
lighting Hanukkah candles and singing
some Hanukkah songs together, and then
will split into separate groups to wel-
come Shabbat.

Josh, our Education Director
and Tot Shabbat coordinator, will keep
the Tot Shabbat children downstairs for
a Tot Shabbat service while the adults go
upstairs for some of our Kabba-
lat Shabbat prayers and Mourner's Kad-
dish.

Then everyone will join together for a potluck
meal. There will be a Hanukkah craft for the
children, games of dreidel, and plenty of time
for the adults to socialize. Of course, adults
who wish to play dreidel are also welcome to
join in the games....

Please bring your menorah (or two or three...),
lots of candles, and a food contribution (latkes
will be especially welcome!!!). We will be or-
dering pizza to supplement, and request that
people bring a few dollars to contribute to the
cost.

Please RSVP to Josh Krulwich-Klatt (203-470-
3745, joshuakrulwich@gmail.com) and let him
know how many adults/children and what food
contribution you plan to bring, so that he can
plan appropriately for the craft and how much
pizza to order.

Chag sameach!

Hebrew School Director's Message



We are now at that time of year when
the days are shorter and the weather is
colder. The High Holidays started out the
Jewish Year in Autumn by providing us
with time to reflect on our lives as we
started transitioning into fall and the
school year. We continued on toward
Sukkot. We reflected upon traditional
notions that both the Israelites who left
Egypt and Jewish farmers who were har-
vesting their crops lived in these imper-
manent structures. Now we are coming
upon two holidays: Thanksgiving and
Chanukah.

Thanksgiving and Chanukah are more alike than
you would think. The first Chanukah was like
Thanksgiving since it was a celebration of the
Jewish harvest festival of Sukkot during a time
when Jews could not properly celebrate.

I hope that you have a great Thanksgiving holi-
day with your families and look forward to cele-
brating Chanukah when we will come together
as a community and bring in light and celebra-
tion in the midst of the darkness of winter.

Josh Krulwich-Klatt

Sisterhood News & Announcements

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.

Sisterhood News:

Thank you to Karen Nissim for so generously volunteering her time and expertise to the annual Thanksgiving centerpiece meeting. It can't be easy to consistently design a wonderful centerpiece and gather all of the necessary materials, as well as lead a productive and fun class. We greatly appreciate your efforts! And thank you to your two fine assistants, Mia and Corrine!

The Sisterhood Sabbath service was just lovely! Rabbi Julie compared the blessing of the Sisterhood with the blessings given to Jacob and Esau in the Torah portion. Then the Sisterhood members who were present went onto

the bimah for a blessing. The blessing was for all Sisterhood members- not just those present- so I hope all of you felt the joy of the moment. Thank you, Rabbi Julie, for your support and appreciation of our efforts.

We will pick the book that the Sisterhood will read next month. So far, I am leaning towards The Ambassadors, by George Lerner, but I would love to have more feedback. If you have a preference, please let me know before the next meeting. Also, if you would like to serve on the nominating committee for the May election of Sisterhood officers, please let me know.

The next Sisterhood meeting will be held Monday, January 12, 2015. We may show a movie from the Rutgers Jewish Film Festival. More information in the next newsletter. Put the date on your calendar and let's hope the weather is good!

And don't forget to sign up for the blood drive or find someone else who can sign up- the need for blood is great at this time of year.

Happy Hanukkah, Randye

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

Healing List

The Healing List is starting anew. All names have been deleted and we ask if you want a name on the list to please email Eileen Gale at egale10@verizon.net—subject: “Healing List”. The list will be updated every two months. Thank you, Eileen

Temple Donations



- Rita Nissim, yahrtzeits of Lee Nissim and I Grassian
- Sheila Lamonsoff in memory of Norman Lamansoff
- Robin & Steve Affrime in memory of Joseph Rothman
- Renee Harrison, yahrtzeits of Walter Harrison and Helen Roseman
- Brian & Maribeth Epstein, yahrtzeit of Lillian Brewis
- Len and Liz Klepner, yahrtzeit of Sidney Kaplan
- Marsha & Joel Dowshen, yahrtzeits of Pauline and Abraham Zackler
- Marsha & David Caldwell, yahrtzeits of Joe Caldwell and Samuel Gerson

HIGH HOLIDAY PLEDGES:

Susan & Thomas Giachetti 2 Prayer Books by Sandy SchwartzBird
 Andrew Trackman
 Mindy Fink

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.

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

-Anon

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

Special Thanks:

Thank you to the Kunklers for food delivery -- they've been coming through nearly every month! Also, thank you, Rabbi Julie for participating at the interfaith dialogue event. Thank you to Marcy Schwartz for all that you do!

Tot Shabbat



Friday evenings, 6:00 PM
Coming Up: January 16
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.



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.

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

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

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.

Yahrzeits for Winter 2014

Week of December 5 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Samuel Morginstin, Father of Sid Morginstin Minnie Kleger, Bonus Mother of Marsha Caldwell Edward Caldwell, Brother of David Caldwell
Week of December 12 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dorothy Gutstein, Wife of Herman Gutstein Nathan Schwartz, Father of Phyllis Chudoff Rebecca Gale, Mother-In-Law of Eileen Gale Lillian Morginstin, Mother of Sid Morginstin Pauline Schwartz, Grandmother of Phyllis Chudoff
Week of December 19 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Max Kamer, Father of Isadore Kamer
Week of December 26 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paul Cantor, Father of Ray Cantor
Week of January 2 nd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ella Kessler, Mother of Henry Kessler Lawrence Bowker, Husband of Linda Bowker & Father of Jonathan Bowker Eudell Rod, Friend of Linda Bowker
Week of January 9 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evelyn Rothman, Mother of Robin Afrime Blanche Cantor, Mother of Ray Cantor

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

Lunch & Learn program on 12/6

Please join us on Saturday morning, 12/6 at 11:00am for a Lunch and Learn program in place of a regular Shabbat morning service. This will be an opportunity to learn about how biblical scholarship explains the origins and development of the Bible, and the social and historical context that it grew out of. We will look at the bible, not as a book handed down on Mt. Sinai, but rather as a complex and evolving response to the conflicts and crises of the ancient world. In the process, we will study and discuss a handful of biblical passages that represent some of those moments.

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.

Morning Services 2015

January 10 th	April 18 th
February 14 th Ethan Weiss' Bar Mitzvah	May 23 rd Rachel Aubry's Bat Mitzvah
March 14 th	June 13 th

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.



**American
Red Cross**

Temple B'Nai Abraham

Synagogue

Monday December 22nd 2014

2:30PM-7:30PM

58 Crosswicks Street

Bordentown NJ 08505

This drive will be on the Donor Bus!

To sign up online

www.redcrossblood.org



Shabbat morning services begin at 10:00 a.m.
 (when there are B'nai Mitzvah, services begin at 9:30 a.m.)
December, 2014 ~ Kislev 5775 - Tevet 5775

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesd	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 No Hebrew School	1	2	3	4 4:30 pm Hebrew School	5	6 11:00am- 1pm Shabbat Lunch & Learn
7 9 am Sunday School 10 am Hebrew School 10:15 Board Meeting	8	9	10	11 4:30 pm Hebrew School	12 7:30 pm Shabbat Services	13
14 9 am Sunday School 10 am Hebrew School	15 Sisterhood 7:30pm	16	17	18 4:30 pm Hebrew School	19 6:00 pm Shabbat Services & Hanukkah Celebration	20
21 9 am Sunday School 10 am Hebrew School	22 Blood Drive 2:30-7:30 Carslake Community Center	23	24	25 No Hebrew School	26 7:30 pm Shabbat Services	27
28 No Hebrew School	29	30	31	1 No Hebrew School	2 7:30 pm Shabbat Services	3

BUSINESS NAME

58 Crosswicks
 PO Box 245
 Bordentown, NJ 08505

609.298.1527
 www.bnai-abraham.org