



# Temple B'nai Abraham

Temple President

Charlie Weiss

Rabbi

Julie Pfau

Sarah Siedel Sisterhood President

Randye 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

Liz Mitchell

### Chair, Adult Education

Betsy Ramos

### Chair, Building

Neil Nissim

### Chair, Fundraising

Linda Osman

### Recording Secretary

Susan Giachetti

## Important Dates

2nd night Seder	4/4
Morning Services 10am	4/18
Sisterhood Meeting 7:30pm	4/19
Tot Shabbat 6pm	4/24

## "The Temple Shofar"

April, 2015

### Rabbi's Message

Lately I have been returning to mediation that is rooted in my preferred theology for understanding and talking about God – as *tahalikh ha-tz'michah*, the process of growth. In order to attune my spirit to holiness and become mindful of the presence of the divine in the world and in my life, I reflect on growth – how it happens, where it happens, what it looks like, what helps it, what hinders it, etc.

One of the most accessible ways to learn about growth is through contemplation of the natural world, and gardening metaphors speak powerfully to me about how God operates. From them, I learn how to garden my own life and spirit, and how to be a rabbi-gardener who can assist others in the task of gardening their own lives – so that we can all work together to bring about the most beautiful growth of God into the world.

I sometimes find it ironic that this is my primary spiritual metaphor, given that I do not have a garden and have no practical experience with gardening actual plants.... Instead, I collect books about trees and flowers and read a variety of gardening books – all with an eye for gardening spirits. One of my favorites is a book called *Zen and the Art of Gardening*, by Gill Hale.

In a section called "struggle," the author quotes Elizabeth von Armin: "I feel sorry for plants that are obliged to make a struggle for life in uncongenial situations because their owner wishes all things." Hale goes on to observe: "If we attempt to grow plants in conditions which are unnatural for them, or in soils which they would not naturally choose, we have a struggle on our

hands to keep them healthy. I have read that if you replace soil in a bed, say remove alkaline soil and replace it with acid, that you can grow azaleas, but over time, the rain and the earthworms move the soil downwards and the chalk and alkaline rock from below filters throughout it. It would be much better to move to another area to fulfill your dreams or go with the flow where you are."

How many of us take the opposite tactic when it comes to gardening our own or others' lives? Sometimes the urge to be other than who and what we are can be a form of slavery – more subtle, certainly, than the slavery to which our ancestors were subjected in Egypt – but slavery nonetheless. All too often, we are our own harsh taskmasters and pharaohs – expecting all things, hardening our hearts to our spiritual yearnings, and impeding the growth of God into the world.

The importance of accepting and living out who we actually are is a powerful spiritual lesson, one that is echoed in the famous Hasidic tale about Zusya. It is only when Zusya is on his deathbed that he discovers the truth – in the world to come, he will not be asked why he wasn't a Moses. Instead, he will be asked: "Why were you not Zusya?"

As we approach Passover and celebrate liberation from slavery, we can ask of ourselves: What kind of plant am I? What is my most natural habitat for growth? What can I do to accept who I am and nurture my spirit? How can I be free? And from there: How can I work to liberate others so that they too may grow to their fullest potential?

Shalom,  
Rabbi Pfau

## Sisterhood News & Announcements

### Sisterhood News:

Thank you to Michael and Marie Rosenberg for their extremely generous donation to the Sisterhood in memory of Ellen Wehrman. There are no words to express how much we will miss her.

We accomplished quite a bit at the March meeting. Brown bag lunches were prepared for distribution to the people who are living at the Pine Hotel as our Purim project- to fulfill the mitzvah to feed those in need.

Those in attendance approved a motion to put some of the money collected in Ellen's memory towards a tree planted by the Shade Tree Committee this spring. We hope that the tree will be planted near her home on Park Street, however, we will need to work with the Committee to determine the proper spot. A stone marker with her name will be placed near the tree. Although half the people in attendance had not read the book, the discussion of \*The Ambassadors\*, by George Lerner, was interesting. Those

of us who read the book found it well written and thought-provoking. The relationships explored and the portrait of a marriage were quite compelling. It was also a treat to get some of the "insider" stuff from Marcy Schwartz, a dear friend of the author and reader of early drafts. A good read.

Thank you to Ellen Benowitz for hosting the meeting.

Nominating Committee: Eileen Gale, Rhea Goldman, and Elaine Trackman are beginning to get a slate of officers together. Please make every effort to help in any way that you can.

Rhea Goldman has presented framed Chagall windows to the Temple that were in the home of Harriet and Sherman Gould. Thank you to the Gould family for the donation and to Rhea for having them reframed.

We will not meet in April. Have a sweet Pesach! Randye

### **Sisterhood Officers**

#### **Sisterhood President**

Randye Bloom

#### **Vice President**

Debby Weiss

#### **Treasurer/Financial Scty**

Marcy Schwartz

#### **Recording Secretary**

available

#### **Corresponding Secretary**

Patricia Light-Tolomeo

#### **Trustees**

Robin Affrime

Susan Giachetti



## Sisterhood Fundraiser

On May 2<sup>nd</sup>, Temple B'nai Abraham will again host singer/songwriter, Denise Moser. If you attended her last concert at TBA in 2013, you will remember that she has a beautiful voice which she applies to her clever and melodious songs. Besides writing and singing her songs, Denise Moser is a writer of flash fiction, creative writing workshop facilitator, and a cantorial singer. Her intention as a writer is to tell the unflinching truth (but not always the facts) and to touch people's kindred places – to create bridges from heart to heart. You can hear some of her songs, watch videos and read her blog at her website. [denisemosermusic.com](http://denisemosermusic.com). We look forward to hosting Denise again, so save the date. More information will follow in our next newsletter.

**“Nothing is  
Impossible, the  
word itself says  
“I’m Possible”!”**

**- Audrey  
Hepburn**



## Temple Donations



- In honor of Ethan Weiss becoming a Bar Mitzvah from Fran and Ned Meyer [grandparents]
- Get well to Rabbi Julie Pfau from Elaine and Jay Trackman, Eileen Gale
- In memory of Michael Ehrlich from Eileen Gale, Anita Berson, Michael Scolaro and Randy Bloom, Peak Environmental, Betsy and Alan Fishkin, PerformCare, Margaret O'Gorman and Mike Hunninghake, Heyer, Gruel & Associates, PA, Yetta and Morris Gelber

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## Sisterhood Donations

***“No act of kindness, no matter how small is ever wasted.”***

***~Aesop***

- Get well to Rabbi Julie from Marcy Schwartz and Rick Shain, Elaine and Jay Trackman, Rita Nissim
- Happy Birthday to Renee Harrison from Phyllis and Is Kamer
- In memory of Michael Ehrlich from Neil and Karen Nissim, Marcy Schwartz and Rick Shain

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## Tikkun Olam / Social Action

Please help us continue our hunger relief efforts in the wider community! No contribution is too small!



- Any contributions of non-perishable foods are welcome
- 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.

## Yahrzeits for Spring 2015

Week of April 3 <sup>rd</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bess Light, Mother of Patricia Light-Tolomeo</li> <li>Jack Harrison, Brother-In-Law of Renee Harrison</li> <li>Seymour Affrime, Father of Steve Affrime</li> </ul>
Week of April 10 <sup>th</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Albert Dowshen, Father of Joel Dowshen</li> </ul>
Week of April 17 <sup>th</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Flora Grassian, Mother, Rita Nissim</li> <li>Martin Leichter, Uncle of David Caldwell</li> <li>Belle Rosen, Mother of Gerald Rosen, Grandmother of Michael Rosen</li> </ul>
Week of April 24 <sup>th</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lawrence Silverman, Father of Marsha Caldwell</li> </ul>
Week of May 1 <sup>st</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Leon Herzog, Brother of Madge Rosen, Uncle of Michael Rosen</li> <li>Frances Novak, Mother of Blanche Cantor</li> <li>Mary Gross, Aunt of Shyrle Kushner</li> <li>Philip Kushner, Father of Sol Kushner</li> </ul>

### Old Prayer Books & Kippot

Old prayer books, Tallitim, 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)

## Morning Services 2014-15

April 18 <sup>th</sup>
May 23 <sup>rd</sup> <b>Rachel Aubry's Bat Mitzvah</b>
June 13 <sup>th</sup>

### 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.

## 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](mailto:egale10@verizon.net)—subject: “Healing List”. The list will be updated every two months. Thank you, Eileen



## 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.

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### Host List for Shabbat Services 2014-2015

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

Date	Event	Host families
April 10	Erev Shabbat Oneg	B. Goldman/R. Goldman
April 18	Shabbat morning lunch	Ehrlich-Cook/to be determined
May 22	Erev Shabbat Oneg	Kim Aubry & Family
May 23	Shabbat morning lunch	Kim Aubry & Family
June 13	Shabbat morning lunch & learn	Rosen/Kunkler
June 26	Erev Shabbat Oneg Member of the Year	Schwartz-Shain/Weiss

### Hosts for Sisterhood Meetings

May	Light-Tolomeo
June	Covered dish



**TEMPLE  
B'NAI ABRAHAM**

58 Crosswicks  
PO Box 245  
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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.)*  
**April, 2015 ~ Nisan 5775—Iyyar 5775**

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