



Temple B'nai Abraham

Temple President Charlie Weiss	Rabbi Julie Pfau	Sarah Siedel Sisterhood President Randye Bloom
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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

- Tot Shabbat 6:00pm 5-Jun
- Adult Shabbat Eve Service 7:30pm 5-Jun
- Sisterhood Covered Dish 6:15pm 8-Jun
- Shabbat Eve Service 7:30pm 12-Jun
- Board Meeting 9:30am 14-Jun
- Congregational Meeting 7:30pm 17-Jun
- Shabbat Lunch & Learn 11:00am 20-Jun
- Shabbat Services Member of the Yr 7:30pm 26-Jun

"The Temple Shofar" June, 2015

Rabbi's Message

This June will be the fifth anniversary of my graduation from rabbinical school, and June 20th will be the Shabbat with the Torah portion that corresponded with my graduation – Parashat Korach. In some ways, this might have been seen as an inauspicious Torah portion for a rabbinical school graduation. After all, it relates the story of a group of people who challenged Moses' leadership, claiming that *all the people* are holy, only to have the earth open up and swallow them en masse. As Reconstructionist rabbis, we too espouse the idea that all the people are holy, that communal and ritual leadership should be shared among community members rather than concentrated in only a few hands. Anyone should feel empowered to approach the divine, to engage with every aspect of ritual and prayer, to lead a shiva minyan or shabbat service. When planning our graduation ritual, we joked that, given our inclusive ideology, perhaps we should just plan to have the earth open up and swallow us...

Obviously that didn't happen... Instead, we focused on one part of the parashah that offered beautiful metaphors for spiritual growth. According to the myth, the dispute over leadership is resolved by having each tribal leader bring a staff to the Tabernacle, where a miracle would transform one staff to indicate the chosen leader. It is the *form* of the miracle that captivated me – it is a *blossoming* staff that becomes a symbol of authority to exercise spiritual leadership. Twelve nondescript staffs are placed in the most holy place – in the presence of the Tablets of the Covenant, in the presence of God. They are twelve seemingly lifeless staffs – one for each of the twelve tribes. But in the

presence of God, in the presence of Torah, one of those twelve staffs comes to life, and in so doing signifies the spiritual leadership of its owner. The story demonstrates that immersion in the divine and proximity to Torah have the potential to animate the mundane.

This blossoming does not happen all at once. The Medieval French commentator, Rashbam, points out that the process happens in stages – when Moshe first brings out the staff, there are buds visible on it, but no more; as it comes into the presence of all the people of Israel, flowers begin to bloom right before their eyes; then, finally, ripened almonds are produced. It is important that the passage mentions not just the end product of fully ripened fruit, but every manifestation of the growth process. Some of that growth happens in the privacy of the most holy place, and some of the growth happens in the presence of witnesses.

So too with spiritual growth – blossoming occurs in many stages, in private and in public. In every moment, each of us is simultaneously budding, flowering, and producing fruit to share with and nourish the world. And sometimes the presence of community is the necessary ingredient that enables an individual growth process to reach fruition. This is why we have public ceremonies to mark what might otherwise be mundane transitions such as graduation and life cycles such as Bat/Bar Mitzvah. Anyone becomes a Jewish adult merely by reaching the requisite age, but there is something powerful about sharing that moment within community.

I am delighted that some of our adult members will be celebrating B'nei Mitzvah next year. I look forward to the process of study, where I will witness the beginning buds of new growth; to the public ceremony, where we will all see those buds flower. And in the years to

Sisterhood News & Announcements

We had a good turnout at the May Sisterhood meeting. Rabbi Julie talked about the Sanctification of the Moon, Kiddush Levanah. This is a blessing said on the new moon, preferably the Shabbat after the seventh day. According to the Talmud it is a blessing that men say, but we discussed why women should say it and various ways to observe the ritual- including listening to Leonard Bernstein's Psalm 148. Most of us had never heard of the tradition of sanctifying the moon and found it fascinating. Thank you, Rabbi Julie, for continuing to educate us.

The Sisterhood made the decision to give the Temple up to \$5000 towards the new security system. It is hoped that it will be installed this summer.

The slate of officers was elected and will be installed at covered dish by Ellen Benowitz [thank you for volunteering, Ellen]. You should have received your invitations to covered dish, which will be held Monday, June 8 at 6:15. There is also a list of assignments in the newsletter. Please be sure to let us know if you need to change your assignment, are unable to attend, or are bringing guests.

Looking forward to seeing you June 8! Take care, Randye

Yom Kippur Community Booklet Fundraiser

As we approach the High Holy Days, we think about those we love- both those still with us and those who have entered eternity. The form for the Yom Kippur Community booklet is included in this newsletter. Please return it to Randye by AUGUST 1. If you wish to just "renew" what you had last year, let Randye know that.

This is an important fundraiser for the Temple, so you are encouraged to contribute more than the \$2.00 minimum per name if you are able to do so.

All of the money collected goes to the Temple. Thanks so much for your support.

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 Donations

- In memory of Louise Thompson from Marcy Schwartz and Richard Shain, Elaine and Jay Trackman, Michael Scolaro and Randye Bloom, Charyl and Sid Morginstin
- Get well to Mindy Fink from Marcy Schwartz and Rick Shain, Michael Scolaro and Randye Bloom
- In memory of Dave Lipkin from Renee Harrison
- Rejoicing with Curtis and Kim Aubry in honor of Rachel's Bat Mitzvah from Marcy Schwartz and Rick Shain

***"Nothing is
Impossible, the
word itself says
"I'm Possible!"
- Audrey
Hepburn***

**ANNUAL COVERED DISH SUPPER
MONDAY, JUNE 8, 2015
6:15 pm**

VERY IMPORTANT- YOU MATTER!! If you are unable to attend, are unhappy with the dish that you are assigned [we are open to other possibilities], or are bringing a guest [\$5.00], please let us know. Call Randye [298-6485] or Marsha [298-5306]. Thank you.

PLEASE BRING GRANOLA BARS, TUNA, OR OTHER ITEMS FOR FOOD PANTRY

PLEASE BRING
APPROPRIATE
SERVING DISH
AND UTENSILS

Robin Affrime	blintzes
Kim Aubry	pie of choice
Ellen Benowitz	chocolate chip cookies
Anita Berson	cake
Randye Bloom	ice, milk, wine, diet coke
Marsha Caldwell	eggplant parmesan
Phyllis Chudoff	quiche of choice
Sharon Coleman	tuna salad
Marsha Dowshen	quinoa salad
Eileen Gale	deviled eggs
Mimi Geller	lemon squares
Susan Giachetti	appetizer of choice
Nina Glanz	vegetable of choice
Bonnie Goldman	anything chocolate
Rhea Goldman	artichoke torte
Renee Harrison	guacamole and chips
Faith Hupfl	your choice
Phyllis Kamer	dessert of choice
Shelia Lamonsoff	chocolate covered strawberries
Marlene Lavine	your choice
Patricia Light-Tolomeo	salad of choice
Shira Lowry	dessert of choice
Judy Margulies	cheese, olives, and crackers
Yelena Uzlyaner Masoti	rugelach
Elizabeth Mitchell	spinach lasagna
Charyl Morginstin	seltzer
Karen Nissim	appetizer of choice
Rita Nissim	frittata
Linda Osman	hummus and pita chips
Betsy Ramos	veggie pizza
Marcia Rosen	stuffed grape leaves
Susan Roth	Greek salad
Judy Schimmel	broccoli dish
Marcy Schwartz	rice dish
Sandy SchwartzBird	fruit salad
Elaine Trackman	cole slaw
Debra Weiss	tabouli
Susan Zaveloff	your choice

Rabbi’s Message Continued

come, the entire community will be blessed by the spiritual fruits that result. But for all members of B’nai Abraham, there are ample opportunities for growth by being a part of loving community. I would like to offer each of you blessings that my classmates and I offered to those present at our graduation five years ago:

May the Blessed Holy One deepen your connection with your community and with the divine. May you be filled and surrounded with an always budding love, and may you be upheld and strengthened by strong bonds of caring. May you feel empowered to share your Torah and add your voice, filled with an appreciation for the significance of your contributions. May your lives flourish and bear much fruit, bringing abundant blessings to one another. V’nomar: Amen.

Shalom,
Rabbi Pfau



Congratulations

The community wishes Mazal Tov to Aaron Osman on his High School graduation. Next year he will be attending University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg, VA.

Our High Holiday assistant the last two years, Kate Cook, will graduate from RRC on June 7th with a Master of Arts in Hebrew Letters and Rabbinic Ordination, and our Education Director, Joshua Krulwich-Klatt will graduate with a Master of Arts in Jewish Studies. For anyone who would like to attend the graduation ceremony, it will be held at 2:30pm on Sunday, June 7th at Temple Sinai, 1401 N. Limekiln Pike, Dresher, PA.



I hope your dreams take you...
to the corners of your smiles,
to the highest of your hopes,
to the windows of your opportunities,
and to the most special places
your heart has ever known."

Tot Shabbat



Friday evenings, 6:00 PM
Coming Up: JUNE 5th
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: joshuakrulich@gmail.com.

*“Art washes
 away for the
 soul the dust of
 everyday life.”*

~Picasso

Morning Services 2014-15

June 13th
Lunch & Learn



Temple Donations

- In memory of Michael Ehrlich from Sandy and Bob Zimmerman
- In memory of Anne Goldfarb from Anita Berson
- Get well to Mindy Fink from Anita Berson
- In honor of Rita Nissim from the Nissim Family

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.

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

~Aesop



A Note of Thanks

Abridged :

From: Anne Kettner
Subject: Bordentown Area Motel Ministry

Dear Friends,

I just wanted to thank you all and give you an overview of our ministry. As an update, this past Monday we delivered meals, 35 grocery bags, and hygiene products to the Pines, Riverfront, and Laurel Notch. As usual, the Pines is almost full, there are a lot of people at the Riverfront, and more than usual at Laurel Notch.

And as we started doing this in March, this is my annual summary of what we have been able to do together. We gave out our first bag of groceries in March of 2006, so we have been doing this for nine years now, and have not missed a delivery, even with the economy that we all have been dealing with. That is 108 deliveries, with an average of 35 to 40 bags each delivery. Each bag contains: peanut butter, jelly, cereal, crackers, granola bars, 3 canned meals, shelf-stable milk, dried soup, hygiene products, and bagels when we have them. By my calculations, we have delivered close to \$80,000 worth of groceries and hygiene products over the years. That dollar amount does not include the meals that many of us are delivering, and the extras that each congregation has done. 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

Yahrzeits for Summer 2015

Week of June 5 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - George Groveman, Father-In-Law of Seena Groveman - Genevive Maza, Aunt of Sandra Cohen
Week of June 12 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Robert Gale, Husband of Eileen Gale - Bernard Fink, Father of Mindy Fink - Edith Trackman, Mother of Jay Trackman - Estelle Epstein, Grandmother of Brian Epstein
Week of June 19 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Claudette Fishmann, Mother of Linda Osman - Joan Sandusky, Sister of Marcy Schwartz - Bernard Speiser, Husband of Arlene Speiser - Marion Greenblatt, Mother of Marcia Rosen
Week of June 26 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Aaron Cohen, Grandfather of Sandra Cohen - Anna Harrison, Mother-In-Law of Renee Harrison - Yettie Epstein, of Great- Grandmother of Brian Epstein - Solomon Schaffer, Father of Rhoda Kessler
Week of July 3 rd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Joseph Josephson, Father of Sam Josephson - Jack Roth, Father of Elaine Trackman - Oscar Wasserman, Father of Linda Bowker - Julie Kwait, Sister of Marcy Schwartz - Sam Shain, Father of Rick Shain

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.

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



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.

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
June 20	Shabbat morning lunch & learn	Rosen/Kunkler
June 26	Erev Shabbat Oneg Member of the Year	Schwartz-Shain/Weiss

Thank you to everyone who participated in making each and every oneg special! Our community is strengthened by your participation and you are greatly appreciated.



Shabbat morning services begin at 10:00 a.m.
 (when there are B'nai Mitzvah, services begin at 9:30 a.m.)
June, 2015 ~ Sivan 5775—Tamuz 5775

**TEMPLE
B'NAI ABRAHAM**

58 Crosswicks
 PO Box 245
 Bordentown, NJ 08505
 609.298.1527
 www.bnai-abraham.org

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
May 31	June 1	2	3	4	5 6:00 pm Tot Shabbat 7:30 pm Shabbat Services	6
7	8 6:15 pm Sisterood Covered Dish	9	10	11	12 7:30 pm Shabbat Services	13
14 9:30am Board Meeting	15	16	17 7:30 pm Congrega tional Meeting	18	19	20 11:00am Lunch & Learn
21	22	23	24	25	26 7:30 pm Shabbat Services Member of the Year	27
28	29	30	July 1	2	3	4