

Temple B'nai Abraham

Temple President
Charlie Weiss

Rabbi
Julie Pfau

Sarah Siedel Sisterhood President
Randy Bloom

“The Temple Shofar”

December, 2015

Temple Officers

- Temple President**
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- VP, Religious Committee**
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Kim Ehrlich
- Recording Secretary**
Susan Giachetti

Important Dates

Lunch & Learn 11am	12/5
Shabbat & Hanukah Celebration	12/11
Sisterhood 7:30pm	12/14
Game Night 6:30 ppm	12/15

Rabbi’s Message

This year I am thinking and writing about Jewish meditative practices. Studying meditation often reveals that meditative practices share many similarities across religious traditions – breathing, for example, can’t be owned by any one tradition...! Often what makes a meditation practice distinctly Jewish is more about the focus used for meditation rather. Last month I wrote about Hebrew letters as a focus.

This month, it is fitting to think about light, about flame, as a focus for meditation. After all, it is the month of Kislev and the month of December. Christmas lights are already going up in some places, corresponding to the shorter days and encroaching darkness. In synagogue, we light shabbat candles each week year-round, but soon we will be adding more lights to drive back and beautify the growing darkness. In our homes and in our synagogue, we will gather to sing and share yummy latkes as we light our menorahs.

How powerful, and seemingly universal, is the urge to find and create light! It is a powerful metaphor for our lives. Every human being cycles through times of warmth and growth, into cold times of dormancy and struggle. In the dark wintertimes of our lives, we all need the reminder that light returns – especially during the winters that last longer than others.

I am reminded of part of a poem by Abraham Ibn Ezra:

I want to serve You, but my ill-fortune prevents me;
I look for Your light in the dark of my folly.
In You I rejoice wherever I may be;
In my vagabond life Your word is a candle in the road.
(from Twilight of a Golden Age: Selected Poems of Abraham Ibn Ezra)

Candles, whether Shabbat candles or the candles placed in a menorah during Hanukkah, can be a powerful focus for meditation. As we gaze upon the gentle flickering flames, they can illumine our souls, bringing light and warmth and comfort, reminding us always of hope.

When ill fortune seems to block us from experiencing the fullness of life, and even when we are caught up in thoughts and behaviors that we know are foolish – wherever we may be on our journeys – there is a light that can bring us hope. Sometimes the light might shine bright enough to dispel the darkness, but we know it doesn’t always work that way – sometimes the darkness remains. Our Hanukkah candles won’t make the season turn, and we know that many more days and weeks of darkness will remain. But although the candles won’t make the darkness leave, they will bring beauty into the place of darkness.

Imagine the loveliness of your most cherished menorah when it is full of candles. Imagine the feeling of warmth when you sit next to the flames. Imagine the community with whom you will gather

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Blood Drive

Temple B'Nai Abraham will sponsor an American Red Cross blood drive on Monday, December 21, 2015 in a bloodmobile parked in front of the Temple. Please go to www.redcrossblood.org to make an appointment to give blood. If you are unable to give blood, please recruit family or friends to donate. If each Temple family makes an effort to donate or find a donor for one pint of blood, we will make our goal.

If anyone is available for an hour or two on December 21 between 1 and 8 pm to sit at the Temple, please let Randye know. We keep the building open during the blood drive and a Temple member needs to be there. Thanks so much for your support.

***“Write it on
your heart that
every day is the
best day in the
year.”***

***- Ralph Waldo
Emerson***

TBA Website

Please go to the Temple B'nai Abraham website at www.bnai-abraham.org to view the latest calendar of events, subscribe to our announcements and newsletter as well as find useful information about our community.

Healing List

The Healing List been cleared of all names from last year. Please send me any names you would like to have on the list. egale10@verizon.net.

Shabbat & Hanukkah Celebration

Hebrew School Hanukkah News...

In addition to the Community Hanukkah Celebration on Friday 12/11, students in the Hebrew School will learn how to make latkes and apple sauce on Thursday 12/10 during regular school hours. Special thanks to Robin Affrime for volunteering to lead our students in such a fun activity! After practicing in school, we hope some families will try their hand at home, and perhaps bring some latkes to the community celebration on Friday night!



Sisterhood News & Announcements

The films I saw at the Rutgers Jewish Film Festival were quite worthwhile. "The Train" was a short film that featured Eli Wallach [his last film before his death] and reminded us to pay attention to the present and the people with us rather than our phones. "To Life" was a fascinating German-Jewish love story written after World War II. According to Professor Aine Zimmerman from Hunter College, who talked about the film after the showing, this is an important genre of literature in Germany. It was a most enlightening afternoon- I am sorry that many of you were unable to attend.

The next Sisterhood meeting will be held Monday, December 14 at 7:30. Chanukah is over the night before, but we will have a "regift" exchange- so bring something that you wish to regift- wrapped- and let the fun begin! The program will be Marcy Schwartz leading us in the reading of a story by Nadine Gordimer. It will be a fun and interesting evening.

Hope to see you December 14-
Randy

Sisterhood Officers

Sisterhood President
Randy Bloom

Vice President
Debby Weiss

Treasurer/Financial Scty
Marcy Schwartz

Recording Secretary
Robin Affrime

Corresponding Secretary
Patricia Light-Tolomeo

Trustees
Eileen Gale
Susan Giachetti

Memorial & Sisterhood Donations

Sisterhood Donations:

- Happy birthday to Elaine Trackman from Ellen Wiener
- In memory of Margo Masciantoni from Ted and Joanne Lutz
- In memory of Morty Goldstein from Renee Harrison

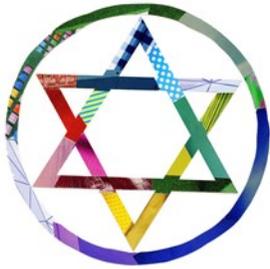


Temple Donations

- In honor of Susan & Bruce Brazer becoming grandparents from Michael Scolaro & Randy Bloom
- In honor of Carole Gray's 80th birthday from Michael Scolaro and Randy Bloom
- Get well to Bonnie Goldman from Elaine and Jay Trackman, Rita Nissim, Sid and Charyl Morginstin, The Kamer Family
- Get well to Ellen Benowitz from Charyl and Sid Morginstin

***"Deeds of giving
are the very
foundations of
the world."
- Jewish saying
derived from
the Mishna,
Pirkei Avot 1:2***

Game Night, Tuesday 12/15, 6:30pm



Please join us for the first in a regular series of game nights this year! This is an informal venue to play games and socialize outside of the context of services. Please feel free to bring Jewish or non-Jewish friends who love games, and anything (dairy/vegetarian) you might want for munchies! If enough people come, we can have multiple tables of people playing different games. This month people will be bringing several options of games to play: Ticket to Ride, Carcassone, Munchkin, and StarFluxx. If you have another game you'd like to play and introduce to people, feel free to bring it too. We'll see what grabs people's interest!

Community Hanukkah Celebration Friday, December 11th, at 6:00 pm

***“May the lights of
Hanukkah usher in
a better world for
all humankind.”***

-Author Unknown

Please join us on Friday, December 11th at 6:00 pm as we welcome Shabbat and celebrate the sixth 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 welcome Shabbat.

Isaac Gold, 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 Kabbalat Shabbat prayers and Mourner's Kaddish.

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 ordering pizza to supplement, and request that people bring a few dollars to contribute to the cost.

Please RSVP to Shira Lowry and let her know how many adults/children will attend and what food contribution you plan to bring, so that she can plan appropriately. Please RSVP via email with “Hanukkah” in the subject line to shiralowry@gmail.com, or you may call or text her at 609-288-0389.

Chag sameach!



Rabbi's Message Continued



to sing and bask in their glow. Imagine all of these feelings coming to you in every season on your meandering road, bringing you beauty, companionship, and comfort.

I invite you this month to meditate on the lights of Shabbat candles, at synagogue and in your homes. When you light the menorah, sit in the light of the candles and just breathe for awhile. Take in the quiet beauty and the sense of peace. May each of you discover that God is a candle on your road – bringing warmth and beauty wherever you may be!

Shalom,
Rabbi Pfau



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.

Lunch and Learn - Saturday, December 5th, 11:00am-12:30pm



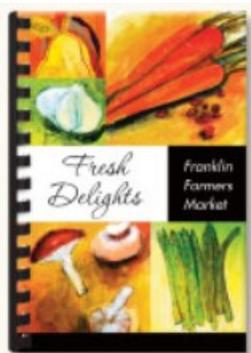
Our December Lunch and Learn program will begin with an exploration of the origins and development of Hanukkah. Hanukkah has become a prominent Jewish celebration, associated with themes of religious freedom and miraculous light. But studying the oldest texts that tell about the events associated with the holiday shows that it was a much more complicated and conflicted story than the version that is usually portrayed today. How did we get from there to here? And how can the Hanukkah story inform our present moment?

Adult B'nai Mitzvah Class



Rabbi Julie has agreed to teach an adult B'nai Mitzvah Class. Some people will be working on learning to read Hebrew while others will be working on learning prayers. We hope to have a group B'nai Mitzvah ceremony sometime in the fall of 2016 or spring of 2017; the date has not yet been decided. If you are interested in participating in the class please contact Rabbi Julie at rabbijulie@gmail.com or Robin Affrime at raffrime@gmail.com. The participants learning Hebrew are meeting on Sunday for the month of October. The focus on prayers will begin in December on Thursday 12/3, 12/10, and 12/17/15 from 2:30 until 4:00. If you are working and this time of day isn't possible for you, please, still get in touch so we will know of your interest and could possibly make accommodations. I know I am excited at the idea of learning from Rabbi Julie how to correctly say the prayers, and to chant a portion of the Torah.

Temple Cook Book Update



The temple cookbook has been making a lot of progress over the last few months. Many members have been adding their family's cherished recipes, while others have been securing valued recipes from our last cookbook by typing them in to the program. We would like to close the recipe gathering by the end of December. If you have a recipe(s) that you would like included, you can self type them into www.typensave.com. As a contributor you can use the user name: TBAS and password: plate294 (no space between plate and 294). Click on **Add Recipes**. Then you will be able to add, spell check, preview and save your recipes. Check the recipe writing tips for measurement abbreviations. If you do not feel comfortable adding the recipes yourself, but would like your special dishes included please email or call Randye rendelfendel@gmail.com or 298-6485; or Robin raffrime@gmail.com or 499-1761, and we'd be happy to put them in for you.

Yahrzeits for Winter 2015

Week of November 27 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edward Caldwell, Brother of David Caldwell Dorothy Gutstein, Wife of Herman Gutstein Nathan Schwartz, Father of Phyllis Chudoff
Week of December 4 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rebecca Gale, Mother-In-Law of Eileen Gale Lillian Morginstin, Mother of Sid Morginstin Pauline Schwartz, Grandmother of Phyllis Chudoff Max Kamer, Father of Isadore Kamer
Week of December 11 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
Week of December 18 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paul Cantor, Father of Ray Cantor Ella Kessler, Mother of Henry Kessler
Week of December 25 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lawrence Bowker, Husband of Linda Bowker, Father of Jonathan Bowker Eudell Rod, Friend of Linda Bowker
Week of January 1 st	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evelyn Rothman, Mother of Robin Affrime Blanche Cantor, Mother of Ray Cantor
Week of January 8 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bernard Zeichner, Father of Stan Zeichner Julius Bloom, Father of Randy Bloom Jacob Epstein, Great-Uncle of Brian Epstein Marcel Nissim, Husband of Lee Nissim Shyrle Kushner, Mother of Ellen Benowitz Jennie Groveman, Mother-In-Law of Seena Groveman Ethel Speiser, Mother of Bernie Speiser Minnie Gutstein, Mother of Herman Gutstein Rose Wasserman, Mother of Linda Bowker Ida Josephson, Mother of Sam Josephson Minnie Kaufman, Grandmother of Phyllis Busch

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 2015-16

December 5 th
January 9 th
February 13 th

March 12 th
April 2 nd
May 14 th
June 4 th



Shabbat morning services begin at 10:00 a.m.
 (when there are B'nai Mitzvah, services begin at 9:30 a.m.)
December, 2015 ~ Kislev—Tevet 5776

**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
29 No Hebrew School	30	December 1	2	3 4:30 pm Hebrew School	4	5 11:00am Lunch & Learn
6 9 am Sunday School 10 am Hebrew School	7	8	9	10 4:30 pm Hebrew School	11 6:00pm Shabbat Eve Service & Hanukkah Celebration 	12
13 9 am Sunday School 10 am Hebrew School	14 7:30pm Sisterhood Program 	15 6:30pm Game Night 	16	17 4:30 pm Hebrew School	18 7:30 pm Shabbat Services	19
20 9 am Sunday School 10 am Hebrew School	21	22	23	24 No Hebrew School	25	26
27 No Hebrew School	28	29	30	31 No Hebrew School	1	2