



Temple B'nai Abraham

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Rabbi

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“The Temple Shofar”

April, 2016

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Recording Secretary

Susan Giachetti

Important Dates

Lunch & Learn 11am	4/2
Sisterhood Shabbat 7:30pm	4/8
Board Meeting 10am	4/10
Game Night 6:30 pm	4/12
Tot Shabbat 6pm	4/15
Second Night Seder 6pm	4/23

Rabbi's Message

When talking to another person, how often does it happen that we *think* we are speaking the same language, only to find out partway through the conversation that we really weren't understanding each other at all? Sometimes we don't ever realize we were having two entirely different conversations, and both parties have the mistaken idea that they understood the other...

I find this frequently happens in connection with Jewish practices, and particularly with dietary observances around Pesach. Passover can be one of the most confusing times, and opportunities for miscommunication abound as different people use the same words with radically different understandings of what they mean. To people of different ethnic backgrounds and varying levels of observance “kosher for Passover” might mean things as diverse as: abstaining from bread but eating anything else; avoiding anything with the potential to become leavened, including beverages containing corn syrup; allowing or disallowing legumes; observing a form of ethical kashrut in which food is considered kosher only if it has been raised organically and/or humanely, regardless of whether it follows orthodox kashrut standards; or observing a form of kashrut signified by an official seal from a rabbinic body. The permutations could go on and on..... How is it that we can use the same words and mean such completely different things?!

There is a story in the Babylonian Talmud (Nedarim 66b) that highlights the sometimes amusing mishaps that result between a husband and wife of different ethnic backgrounds. Jews who lived in Babylonia and Jews who lived in the region

of Israel spoke closely related languages (Aramaic and Hebrew), but sometimes words that sounded the same in both languages actually had different meanings:

A certain Babylonian man who moved to the land of Israel married a woman from there. He said to her, “Cook me two hooves [*talfei*].” She cooked him two lentils [*telofhei*]. He became angry with her. The next day, he told her, “Cook me a neck [*geriva*].” She cooked him a *geriva*-measure of grain [about eight liters]. He said to her, “Go bring me two gourds [*botzinai*].” She brought him two lamps [*botzinai*]. He said to her, “Go break them over the head of the gate [*reisha' de-bava*]!” Bava ben Buta was sitting on the gate and judging. She went and broke them on his head [*reisha de-Bava... ben Buta*]. [Bava ben Buta] said to her, “Why did you do that?” She responded: “Thus my husband commanded me.” He said, “Since you did the will of your husband, God will bring out from you two sons like Bava ben Buta.”

In this story, miscommunication results in sometimes amusing mishaps – a few botched meals and a mistaken response to a request. But we also see a more painful mishap – having lamps broken over one's head would have to hurt....! Bava ben Buta seems to take it in stride – there is no explicit expression of anger, just a question: *Why* did you do that...? When he hears her reply, he doesn't respond in an explicitly angry manner either. Instead, he tells her she will have sons like himself – which seems on the surface like a perfectly courteous wish for her.

Continued on page 5



***“Sometimes
people put up
walls, not to keep
others out, but to
see who cares
enough to break
them down.”***

***Banana
Yoshimoto***

Lunch and Learn, Saturday, 4/2, 11:00am

I'm sure you all read the big news last December about the teshuvah issued by the Conservative Movement's Rabbinical Assembly Committee on Jewish Law and Standards that kitniyot are permitted to Ashkenazi Jews during Pesach... But perhaps not...

If the preceding paragraph sounded like another language, if you have ever been confused about Jewish laws and customs related to food during Passover, or if you would like to deepen the knowledge that you already have, please come to our April Lunch and Learn program! We will study the biblical texts that form the basis of Pesach observance, and then explore the diversity of practices that have evolved in different Jewish communities and different periods of history.

Throughout it all, we will keep in mind and crucial question of what this can mean for us today, both personally and communally, and how we can engage meaningfully with Pesach.

Tot Shabbat

**Friday evenings, 6:00 PM
Coming Up: April 15th
Children ages 6 and under (siblings are welcome)**



Tot Shabbat 2015-16

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!

Sisterhood News & Announcements

Thank you to Debby Weiss for leading the March Sisterhood meeting. The movie, "Fill the Void", led to an interesting discussion of different customs and ways of life.

The next meeting is *THURSDAY, MAY 26 *and* Rabbi Julie* will be our speaker. This is always a thought-provoking evening and, as usual, men are invited to attend. We need volunteers to host the meeting- please contact Randye if you are able to help.

The* Sisterhood Shabbat *will be held *Friday, April 8* at 7:30. Please

come out as we honor the work the women of the Temple do throughout the year. The Oneg will be hosted by Bonnie Goldman and Rhea Goldman.

The Nominating Committee, Eileen Gale, Rhea Goldman, and Judy Schimmel, are preparing the slate of officers for the May election. The slate will be published in the May newsletter and we will vote on May 26. The new officers will be inducted at covered dish at June 13.

Have a sweet Passover, Randye

Sisterhood Officers

Sisterhood President
Randye Bloom

Vice President
Debby Weiss

Treasurer/Financial Scty
Marcy Schwartz

Recording Secretary
Robin Affrime

Corresponding Secretary
Patricia Light-Tolomeo

Trustees
Eileen Gale
Susan Giachetti



Sisterhood Donations

- Happy Birthday to Renee Harrison from Phyllis Kamer
 - In memory of Jerrold Kalstein's father from Sid Morginstin
-

Sisterhood Shabbat, Friday, 4/8, 7:30pm

Please join us for a special Erev Shabbat service to honor the Sisterhood and all of the important contributions they make to our community!

**“What the caterpillar perceives is the end, to the butterfly is just the beginning.”
- Anon**



Temple Donations

- Rhoda and Henry Kessler Yahrtzeit Max Kessler
- William and Carol Engel Memory of Iz Kamer
- Len and Liz Klepner - Yahrtzeit of Sidney Klepner
- Rhea Goldman Yahrtzeit Sylvia Goldman
- Marcia & Michael Rosen, Yahrtzeit Leonard Greenblatt
- Brian & Maribeth Epstein Yahrtzeit Selma Levitsky
- Brian & Maribeth Epstein Yahrtzeit Howard Brewis
- Eileen Gale Yahrtzeit Rebecca Gale
- Rita Nissim Yahrtzeit Rebecca Shemesh
- Rhea Goldman Yahrtzeit Frances Epstein
- Rhea Goldman Yahrtzeit Irving Epstein
- Marcia & Michael Rosen, Yahrtzeit Charles Herzog

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.

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.

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.

Rabbi's Message Continued

One of the main troubles I see in the story has to do with how the husband and wife respond to each other. Don't they realize they are running into a language barrier?! She never stops to double-check whether her understanding matches his, and he never tries to double-check whether he has actually succeeded in making himself understood. He gives an order as he understands it, and she obeys as she understands it, and there is no real communication in the process. Even worse, he gets angry with her over making the wrong dinner for him, and as the misunderstandings increase he tells her in his anger to break the perfectly good lamps she fetched just because it wasn't what he wanted. The wife, for her part, doesn't stop to question him even when obeying his command would mean hurting someone else.

In the story, the husband and wife come from different countries with different dialects. In our day, we come from different denominations, which might feel like different countries, and even within a denomination we find vast ranges of practice. It might be helpful to remember that we are all Jews and we use a lot of the same words, but that sometimes our different contexts mean the same words have different meanings. Sometimes the vast differences can seem comical and the differences don't always seem to have much real impact.

In the Jewish community, as in the story, I think the real consequences come when we fall into the same traps of not really trying to understand each other, of reacting in anger when our understandings don't match up, and

of blindly doing what someone else tells us to do without stopping to check whether it is something we really would want to do.... If someone cooks us a meal, at Passover or any other time of year, that doesn't fit with our understanding of kosher, can we decline the food without anger or judgment? When we are the host (or the guest for that matter), can we remember to double check about how another Jew understands the word "kosher" so as to avoid potential for mishaps and bad feelings? Beyond kashrut, this could be helpful with any range of Jewish words and practices.

To me, Bava ben Buta is the most helpful figure in the story. Although he is perhaps a bit enigmatic and even odd, he at least seems to make an attempt to understand the person he is encountering. The husband gets angry over a botched meal, but Bava ben Buta exercises restraint even after a seemingly random attack. He asks the woman why she did what she did, he listens to her explanation, and his response seems kinder than any of the others. The husband never bothers to ask why, and the miscommunications continue. Perhaps he, and we, could learn from Bava ben Buta about clear communication and restraint. In any case, we can learn from the story of this husband and wife that even if we think we are speaking the same language with another Jew we could very well be wrong. Being mindful of that reality could help us avoid some comical, and some painful, mishaps with our extended Jewish family.....

Shalom,
Rabbi Pfau



Chocolate Seder, Sunday, 4/17, 10am

The Hebrew School will once again hold a Chocolate Seder in advance of Passover as a way for the students to learn about the structure of the Passover Seder in a fun and tasty way. More details will follow.





Passover Seder

Save the Date for our Community Passover Seder

**Saturday April 23 - 2nd night of Passover
6pm at Temple B'nai Abraham**

Families, children and guests are invited to join the community to enjoy the story of Passover led by Rabbi Julie.

The cost for a full dinner:

Adults - \$35

Children (10 to 15yr.) - \$15

Children (5 to 9yr) - \$10

Children under 5 - Free

Please call or email your reservation by April 6th
Kim Aubry at kimaubry@gmail.com or 609-499-3158

THE NEW YORKER



Game Night—Tuesday 4/12, 6:30pm



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. There will be several options of card and board games to play, but if you have a particular game you'd like to play and introduce to people, feel free to bring it. We'll see what grabs people's interest!

Yahrzeits for Spring 2016

Note:	We are in a leap year, so there are 2 months of Adar: Adar I and Adar II. If a yahrzeit date falls within Adar I, the yahrzeit is repeated within Adar II.
Week of April 1 st	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Abe Kaufman, Grandfather of Phyllis Busch Leslie (Leah) Cantor, Mother of Paul Cantor Irving Epstein, Father of Rhea Goldman
Week of April 8 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rebecca Shemesh, Mother of Marty Nissim Ida Gerson Caster, Grandmother of Marsha Caldwell Arthur Fishman, Father of Arlene Speiser William Trackman, Father of Jay Trackman
Week of April 15 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mildred Josephson, Mother of Mark Josephson Haskell Hait, Father of Lauren Mann Mary Bird, Mother-In-Law of Sandy Schwartzbird Frances Epstein, Mother of Rhea Goldman Charles Herzog, Grandfather of Michael Rosen, Father of Madge Rosen
Week of April 22 nd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bess Light, Mother of Patricia Light-Tolomeo Jack Harrison, Brother-In-Law of Renee Harrison Seymour Affrime, Father of Steve Affrime
Week of April 29 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Albert Dowshen, Father of Joel Dowshen
Week of May 6 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flora Grassian, Mother of Rita Nissim Martin Leichter, Uncle of David Caldwell Belle Rosen, Mother of Gerald Rosen, Grandmother of Michael Rosen
Week of May 13 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lawrence Silverman, Father of Marsha Caldwell Madge Rosen, Mother of Michael Rosen

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

April 2 nd
May 14 th
June 4 th



**TEMPLE
B'NAI ABRAHAM**

58 Crosswicks
PO Box 245
Bordentown, NJ 08505
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, 2016 ~ Adar II—Nisan 5776

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 No Hebrew School	28	29	30	31 No Hebrew School	1	2 11:00 am Lunch & Learn Oneg by: Kunkler/Kranger
3 No Hebrew School	4	5	6	7 2:30 Adult B'nei Mitzvah Class 4:30 pm Hebrew School	8 7:30 pm Shabbat Services Honoring Sisterhood Oneg by: B.Goldman/R.Goldman	9
10 9 am Sunday School 10 am Hebrew School 10am Board Meeting	11	12 6:30pm Game Night ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣	13	14 2:30 Adult B'nei Mitzvah Class 4:30 pm Hebrew School	15 6:00 pm Tot Shabbat 7:30 pm Shabbat Services	16
17 9 am Sunday School 10 am Hebrew School	18	19	20	21 No Hebrew School	22 No Shabbat Services	23 6:00 2nd Night Seder
24 No Hebrew School	25	26	27	28 No Hebrew School	29 7:30 pm Shabbat Services	30