



# Temple B'nai Abraham

Temple President

Charlie Weiss

Rabbi

Julie Pfau

Sarah Siedel Sisterhood President

Randy Bloom

“The Temple Shofar”

May, 2016

## 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, PR & Social Media

Kim Ehrlich

### Recording Secretary

Susan Giachetti

## Important Dates

Board Meeting 10am	5/1
Interfaith Service 7pm	5/5
Congregational Meeting	5/11
Morning Shabbat 10am	5/14
Game Night 6:30pm	5/17
Tot Shabbat 6pm	5/20
Sisterhood/Adult Ed 7:30pm	5/26

## Rabbi's Message

With the second day of Passover, we began the period of *Sefirat HaOmer*, the counting of the 49 days between Passover and Shavuot. During each of these 49 days, a blessing is said just prior to announcing which day of the Omer it is. Here is the blessing followed by a few examples of the formula used for counting:

*Baruch atah adonai eloheynu  
melech ha-olam, asher kideshanu  
bemitzvotav, vetzivanu al s'firat ha-  
omer.*

Blessed are you, adonai, our  
God, the sovereign of all worlds,  
who has made us holy with your  
mitzvot, and commanded us  
concerning the counting of the  
Omer.

This is the sixth day of the  
Omer.  
This is the eleventh day, making  
one week and four days of the  
Omer.  
This is the thirty-seventh day,  
making five weeks and two days  
of the Omer. (etc...)

There are varying rationales for engaging in such a count. In the Torah, there is an agricultural association to the counting – on the second day of Passover a sheaf of barley would be brought as an offering, while Shavuot involved an offering from the first wheat harvest. In rabbinic times, *Sefirat HaOmer*, the counting of the Omer, came to be associated with a time of preparation for receiving the Torah on Shavuot.

The word for counting, *sefirah*, also has another association. It can also refer to distinct emanations of God. Diagrams and explanations of the *sefirot* are quite prominent in the Jewish mystical tradition. One teaching is that different aspects/attributes of God are manifest through each of 10 *sefirot* – 10 distinct emanations that ascend in levels from our earthly realm until reaching the most transcendent reality. And the flow goes both ways, as divine energy flows back down through these emanations until reaching us.

From the top down, the *sefirot* are: *keter*, crown; *hokhma*, wisdom; *binah*, understanding; *hesed*, lovingkindness; *gevurah*, discipline; *tiferet*, beauty; *netzah*, eternity; *hod*, splendor; *sod*, foundation; and *malkhut*, sovereignty. Each *sefirah*, each level, has a particular spiritual quality that can be a focus for meditation and connection with holiness. The lower 7 levels are believed to be the ones that are most accessible to humans, and this conveniently allows an association of one *sefirah* for each of the 7 days of the week. Since there are also 7 weeks of the Omer, this means that each week of the Omer is connected to a *sefirah*, an attribute of God.

Through different permutations of weeks and days, each day of the Omer comes to have its own unique spiritual quality as God's revelation draws closer and closer to humanity, culminating in Shavuot. Week one is associated with *hesed*, lovingkindness. The first day of the first week would be *hesed* within *hesed*; the second day of week one would be *gevurah*, discipline, within *hesed*; the third day of the first week would be *tiferet*, beauty, within *hesed*; etc... It might sound complicated, but that is why there are a variety of Omer counters to help keep track! They take a variety of forms – from works of art or booklets, to websites and phone apps.

For the medieval Jewish mystics who practiced these permutations, the 49 days of the Omer provided an opportunity for experiencing unification with God and a deeper understanding of the many ways God can be experienced. We might not share all the particular beliefs and ideology as the medieval mystics, but these days of counting can still offer us the opportunity for reflection on the ways that holiness is manifest in our lives. It is an opportunity for us to be mindful of the myriad kinds of revelation that we experience. I invite you to try out a mystical counting of the Omer. If the traditional format feels inaccessible, think about what attributes of holiness you would identify, and spend the days of the Omer meditating on these characteristics and watching with anticipation for the signs of their blossoming in your life.

Shalom,  
Rabbi Pfau



## TBA Announcement

Looking for volunteers to help us create a new logo for the synagogue in coordination with our 100th anniversary! We know we have artist, young and old with great talent. Please submit artwork to [president@bnai-abraham.org](mailto:president@bnai-abraham.org)

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## 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.

*“Alone we can  
do so little;  
together we can  
do so much.”*

*-Helen Keller*

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## Passover Seder

Thank you to everyone involved with this years Passover Seder. It was the best one yet!




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## Tot Shabbat

**Friday evenings, 6:00 PM**  
**Coming Up: May 20th**  
**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

The next meeting is **THURSDAY, MAY 26** and **Rabbi Julie** will be our speaker. She will discuss the role of meditation in various religions including Judaism. 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 on April 8 was just lovely. Rabbi Julie talked about the blessing of the Sisterhood and how appropriate it was that the date was also Rosh Chodesh. Bonnie and Rhea provided a wonderful oneg- totally a warm, uplifting, and spiritual evening. Thank you, Rabbi, for your kind words and continued support of the Sisterhood.

The Nominating Committee, Eileen Gale, Rhea Goldman, and Judy Schimmel, have prepared the slate of officers for the May 26 election. The slate is as follows:  
President Robin Affrime  
Vice- President Linda Osman  
Treasurer Marcy Schwartz  
Corresponding Secretary Patricia Light-Tolomeo

Recording Secretary Marsha Caldwell  
Trustees Eileen Gale and Susan Giachetti

Please be sure to come out to hear the Rabbi speak and to vote.

The Sisterhood extends our sincere sympathy to the family of Faith Hupfl as they mourn her untimely passing. Faith served as President of the Sisterhood from 2009 to 2011. With a ready smile and pleasant, positive attitude- she was really a lovely woman and will be missed.

This is not related to Sisterhood, but you might wish to know that the Ellen Rosenberg Wehrman Social Studies Award is in the process of being established and will be presented to an 8th grade boy and an 8th grade girl at the Bordentown Regional Middle School Awards Night. There will be an opportunity for people to donate to the fund, if they wish, more details will follow.

Looking forward to seeing you on May 26! 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



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## In Memory

It is with great sadness that we mourn the loss of Faith Hupfl. Faith was a temple member and former Sisterhood President who was most recently living in Florida with her family. We send our condolences to her son Jake, her sister Lisa Epstein-Sachs and the rest of her family and friends.

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## 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](mailto:egale10@verizon.net).

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

**- Anon**

## Sisterhood Donations



- In memory of Faith Hupfl from Randye Bloom
  - To Cheryl and Dennis Riley in honor of becoming grandparents from Michael Scolaro and Randye Bloom
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## Temple Donations

*“If you save one  
life, it is as though  
you save the  
world.”*

*-The Talmud*

- Elaine & Jay Trackman for the Yahrtzeit of William Trackman
  - Brian & Maribeth Epstein for the Yahrtzeit of Selma Levitsky
  - Brian & Maribeth Epstein for the Yahrtzeit of Howard Brewis
  - Robin & Steve Affrime for the Yahrtzeit of Seymour Affrime
  - Renee Harrison for the Yahrtzeit of Jack Harrison
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## Interfaith Dialogue May 5th, 7pm

The Interfaith Dialogue is set for **May 5th at 7pm** at 39 Park St in Bordentown. The topic will be: "What is the Role of Religion in the Political Process?" The panelists will be: John DeMasi, Gene Queval, Rabbi Julie Pfau, and Salim Mansar. Tell all your friends.

Be it the Black churches of the sixties or the evangelical churches of the eighties, religion has played a role in American politics. But what should that role be? How far should that role extend? Churches (and religions) have a right to express a point of view on a particular issue or issues, they may not endorse candidates or enmesh themselves too closely with a particular campaign. How far is too far? With tax exempt status, have churches become too politically active? Or are the restrictions unfair? How can concerns be balanced in a way that is fair to all sides? Is that even possible?



## Yahrzeits for Spring/Summer 2016

Week of May 6 <sup>th</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Flora Grassian, Mother of 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 May 13 <sup>th</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Harry Roseman, Father of Renee Harrison</li> <li>Elinore Roth, Mother of Elaine Trackman</li> <li>Frank Schwartz, Uncle of Phyllis Chudoff</li> </ul>
Week of May 20 <sup>th</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>Lewis Maniloff, Friend of Phyllis Chudoff</li> <li>Mary Gross, Aunt of Shyrle Kushner</li> <li>Philip Kushner, Father of Sol Kushner</li> </ul>
Week of May 27 <sup>th</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Louis Benson, Father of Charyl Morginstin</li> <li>Gertrude Urken, Sister of Henry Kessler</li> <li>Arlene Schwartz, Mother of Phyllis Chudoff</li> <li>Ann Zeitz, Mother of Carl Zeitz</li> <li>Samuel Kleger, Bonus Father of Marsha Caldwell</li> </ul>
Week of June 3 <sup>rd</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bernard Greenblatt, Father of Marcia Rosen</li> <li>Julia Affrime, Mother of Steve Affrime</li> <li>Rita Hodes, Aunt of Randy Bloom</li> <li>Joseph Harrison, Father-In-Law of Renee Harrison</li> </ul>
Week of June 10 <sup>th</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jacob Mervish, Father of Shyrle Kushner</li> <li>Marian Silverman, Mother of Marsha Caldwell</li> </ul>
Week of June 17 <sup>th</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Harry Brewis, Great-Great-Grandfather of Brian Epstein</li> </ul>

### 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 tallit (prayer shawl) can be purchased for \$60. Please contact Marcia Rosen at: [mjanrosen@comcast.net](mailto: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](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.

## Morning Services 2015-16

October 10 <sup>th</sup>
November 14 <sup>th</sup>
December 5 <sup>th</sup>
January 9 <sup>th</sup>
February 13 <sup>th</sup>

March 12 <sup>th</sup>
April 2 <sup>nd</sup>
May 14 <sup>th</sup>
June 4 <sup>th</sup>



**TEMPLE  
B'NAI ABRAHAM**

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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.)  
May, 2016 ~ Nisan-Iyyar 5776**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b>  9 am Sunday School  10 am Hebrew School  10am Board Meeting	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>  4:30 pm Hebrew School  7:00 pm Interfaith Dialogue Program	<b>6</b>  7:30 pm Shabbat Services	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b>  9 am Sunday School  10 am Hebrew School	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>  7:30 pm Congregational Meeting	<b>12</b>  2:30 pm Adult B'nei Mitzvah Class  4:30 pm Hebrew School	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>  10:00 am Shabbat Services
<b>15</b>  9 am Sunday School  10 am Hebrew School	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>  6:30 pm Game Night	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>  2:30 pm Adult B'nei Mitzvah Class  4:30 pm Hebrew School	<b>20</b>  6:00 pm Tot Shabbat  7:30 pm Shabbat Services	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b>  9 am Sunday School  10 am Hebrew School	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>  7:30pm Sisterhood Adult Education Program	<b>27</b>  7:30 pm Shabbat Services	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>June 1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>  7:30 pm Shabbat Services	<b>4</b>