

Temple B'nai Abraham

Temple President

Brian Epstein

Rabbi

Julie Pfau

Sarah Siedel Sisterhood President

Robin Affrime



“The Temple Shofar”

September, 2016

Temple Officers

Temple President

Brian Epstein

Executive Vice President

Charlie Weiss

VP, Finance & Treasurer

Michael Rosen

VP, Religious Committee

Marcia Rosen

VP, Membership Devlp.

Kim Aubry

Chair, Religious School

Liz Mitchell

Chair, Adult Education

Chair, Building

Neil Nissim

Chair, PR & Social Media

Kim Ehrlich

Recording Secretary

Important Dates

Hebrew School Orientation 5:30pm	9/1
Tot Shabbat 6pm	9/9
Sisterhood 7:30pm	9/12
Game Night 6:30pm	9/15
Shabbat Morning Services 10am	9/17
Selichot 7:30pm	9/24
Erev Rosh Hashana Service 7:30pm	10/2
Rosh Hashana Morning Service 10am	10/3
Tashlich ≈1pm	10/3
Rosh Hashana Day Two Service 10am	10/4

Rabbi's Message

The month in the Hebrew calendar that precedes the High Holidays is the month of Elul. Elul is a time of deep self-reflection, a time of listening for God. During Elul, we lay the groundwork for the transformations we hope to experience during the Days of Awe. In communities that hold daily services, the *shofar* is blown throughout the month. The blasts of the *shofar* begin to pierce through the fog in which we often find ourselves as we go about our routines. During Elul, the *shofar* calls us to begin the work of *teshuvah*, of turning from harmful behaviors, insensitive habits, caustic attitudes.

The spiritual preparation of Elul culminates with the saying of *seliḥot* – prayers for forgiveness that are added to the cycle of daily prayers. *Seliḥot* literally means “forgiveness” and refers to the prayers themselves, but it can also refer to a particular service that takes place on a Saturday night leading up to Rosh Hashanah. Which Saturday night can vary from year to year depending on what day of the week begins Rosh Hashanah – if Rosh Hashanah begins on a Sunday night or Monday night, then the *Seliḥot* service takes place on the Saturday night 8-9 days prior to the holiday; otherwise, the *Seliḥot* service takes place on the Saturday immediately prior Rosh Hashanah. The reason is so that there are at least three days prior to Rosh Hashanah for saying *seliḥot* prayers.

The *Seliḥot* service includes many of the “greatest hits” from High Holidays – first and foremost, chanting the 13 Attributes; but also *Avinu Malkeynu*; the confessional

prayers, *Ashamnu* and *Al Ḥet*; and a variety of other options such as *Shema Koleynu* and *HaNeshamah Lakh*. The service ends with the blowing of the *shofar*.

The central prayer of the service is the 13 Attributes:

*adonai adonai el raḥum v'hanun,
erekh apayim, v'raḥ ḥesed v'emet
notzer ḥesed la'alafim,
nosei avon va'fasha v'hata'ah v'naqeh*

The 13 Attributes prayer has been beautifully rendered into English, in a way that it can be sung to the same melody as the Hebrew, by Rabbi Burt Jacobson:

Shechina, Shechina, Compassion and
Tenderness
Patience, Forbearance, Kindness, Awareness
Bearing love from age to age,
Lifting guilt and mistakes, and making us free.

The 13 Attributes is a powerful mantra to hold in the days leading into Rosh Hashanah. It is reassuring to imagine ourselves worthy of patience despite our persistent flaws; to imagine ourselves deserving of kindness, tenderness, compassion; to imagine that we can be free. Small wonder that this prayer is a central focus of *Seliḥot*!

Rabbi's Message Continued on page 8



President's Message



Welcome to the 2016-2017 year at Temple B'nai Abraham. This is my 12th year at the Synagogue and I'm honored to be chosen to serve as President for the year ahead.

I would like to thank Charlie Weiss for his leadership over the past 4 years and am very happy that he will be staying on as Vice President for the year to come. I would also like to thank former board members Susan Giachetti and Betsy Ramos for their service as Secretary and Adult Education Chair last year. This year, Kim Ehrlich is taking over the role as Secretary in addition to her duties chairing PR for the Temple. I would also like to thank the other members on our all volunteer board, Michael Rosen, Marcia Rosen, Kim Aubry, Liz Mitchell, Neil Nissim, Rabbi Jule Pfau and Sisterhood president Robin Affrime for their continued service to this community. We couldn't do it without you!

As you may know, Temple B'nai Abraham was founded in 1917 and operated at the homes of our congregants until we purchased the building at 58 Crosswicks in 1918. This means that we will be celebrating our 100th year anniversary, which is an awesome achievement! I am excited to see the celebratory activities that will be coming up for this joyous year.

Jill Ratzan will be joining us this year as Educational Director and Hebrew School teacher. She will be re-working our curriculum and starting afresh with new lessons and activities for the year. Jill will also be leading our Tot Shabbat programs once a month on Fridays. Please help me give her a warm welcome to our community.

We are continuing our membership drive from last year in the hopes of growing the Synagogue by 10% over the two year period. This will help us to sustain our operational expenditures for the years to come. We have been reaching out to the Bordentown community to get our name out by attending things like the Bordentown street fair, the Green fair and by hosting a monthly game night at the synagogue, open to anyone. Word of mouth is a great way to get new membership along with the social media campaign we are also running. It is my hope to report a 10% growth by the end of year, we could use your help to do so. If you are interested in volunteering, or have an idea for how to gain membership, please email us at info@bnai-abraham.org

We have a bit of a breather this year with High Holidays starting in October, but I wanted to remind you that Shabbat services start the first week of September. On behalf of the Board, we look forward to seeing you then!

Thank you,
Brian Epstein

***“A smile is the
universal
welcome.”***

~ Max Eastman



Hebrew School

The Hebrew School Orientation and Family Education program is on Thursday, September 1 at 5:30pm. Teen teachers are to arrive at 4:30pm

Sisterhood News & Announcements

September brings with it all the hustle and bustle of the new school year, the start of Sunday school, Hebrew school, and Shabbat services. It will also bring our first sisterhood meeting. We will be meeting on the second Monday in September, 9/12/16 at 7:30. Our program for the evening promises to be a lot of fun! Sisterhood member, Phyllis Chudoff, who is multi talented, will be teaching us how to make fantastic gift bags! They are really lovely, and when I've made them in the past I was extremely proud of what I had produced. You will need to bring a scissors, a pencil, and a ruler if possible. Phyllis will be supplying all the other needed supplies including templates for our use and for future gift bag crafting. I sincerely hope you will join us for the event. For questions please call Robin: 609-499-1761.

Also beginning early in the year is a fundraiser designed to make New Year's easier for you, and some small profit for the sisterhood. Elaine Trackman and Judy Schimmel created a lovely card that uses a depiction of our beautiful stained glass windows. To order your cards, 10 cards for \$15. Please contact Judy at timeout4two@gmail.com by the 19th of September to place your orders. We will be certain that you get your cards in plenty of time to mail them for the holiday.

Our first Oneg will be will be September 9th following services which begin at 7:30. Steve and I will be bringing the goodies. I hope to see you there.

We will also have Shabbat Morning services followed by a Luncheon supplied by Sharon Coleman, and Ken Sandler on Saturday September 17th. Remember if you have any problem with the date assigned to you, please make arrangements to switch with someone else.

On Saturday evening the 24th of September we will have a Selichot service with fruit and cheese served at 7:00 before the service begins.

The host/hostess list will be printed in this first newsletter. Please make note of when you will be assigned to help with the oneg or luncheon. Again, if the date is not good for you, please make arrangements to switch with someone in the sisterhood or congregation.

I look forward to working with the sisterhood to plan interesting and fun activities, and to raise money to help our own Temple B'nai Abraham as we slide into our 100th year.

~ Robin



“You are not alone, and I am not alone. We are in a Sisterhood, together, and together we can make it.”

- author unknown

Sisterhood Officers

Sisterhood President
Robin Affrime

Vice President
Linda Osman

Treasurer/Financial Scty
Marcy Schwartz

Recording Secretary
Marsha Caldwell

Corresponding Secretary
Patricia Light-Tolomeo

Trustees
Eileen Gale
Susan Giachetti

New Members

Please welcome our newest members and Hebrew school student:
Tara & Jason Schechter and Samantha from Bordentown

Temple Donations



***“The habit of
giving only
enhances the
desire to give.”***

***~ Walt
Whitman***

IN MEMORY OF JAY TRACKMAN:

Bloom, Randye & Scolaro, Michael
Bordentown Library Association
Bowker, Linda
Christine & Patrick Bucco
Dowshen, Marsha & Joel
Elaine & Roy Gilmartin
Ellen Weiner
Epstein, Brian & Maribeth
George & Lynn Karr
Helen and Deborah Campbell
Helen Lucia
Marlene & Sidney Lavine
Phyllis Trackman
Rhea Goldman
Rhoda & Henry Kessler
Rosen, Marcia & Michael
Susan & Evan Goldstein

GET WELL:

Jeff Goldman, Michael Scolaro, Eileen Gale FROM RHEA GOLDMAN
Jeff Goldman from Randye Bloom and Michael Scolaro

Brian and Maribeth Epstein in honor of Temple's 100 Anniversary

YAHRTZEITS:

Bloom, Randye & Scolaro, Michael - yahrtzeit Selma Bloom
Phyllis Busch - yahrtzeit of Bee Busch
Rhoda & Henry Kessler - yahrtzeit Solomon Shaffer
Rita Nissim, Yahrtzeit Marty Nissim
Rosen, Marcia & Michael yahrtzeit Louis Rosen

Sisterhood Donations

- In memory of Jay Trackman from Cheryl and Sid Moraganstin, Robin & Steve Affrime, Renee Harrison, Phyllis Kamer, Jeff & Phoebe Nissim, Sid & Marlene Levine, Sheila Lamonsoff and Frances & Karen Sutter
- Get well Eileen Gale from the Morganstins, the Affrimes and Randye Bloom
- Get well Mike Scolaro from the Morganstins, the Affrimes

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.



Hebrew School—Introducing Jill Ratzan



**“As you teach,
you learn.”**

**~ Jewish
Proverb**

When I first became serious about Jewish practice, some of my friends scoffed. "You live in the twenty-first century," they said. "You're a scientist. You don't believe any of that religious stuff really works, do you?"

Yes, I do. But maybe not in the sense that people think.

In Proverbs 3:18, we read "*Etz chaim hi lamachazichim bah*," "She [the Torah] is a tree of life to those who hold fast to her." This is usually interpreted as a metaphor: "hold"ing the Torah means studying its text and implementing its ideas. But what if physically holding a *sefer Torah* (a Torah scroll) could change your life?

This summer marks my fourth anniversary volunteering at a local food pantry. I sort and shelve donations, pack bags, and coach and train volunteers. But up until recently, I didn't carry crates of cans. I'd decided that the crates were too heavy for me—without ever even trying to lift one. *I'm not the kind of person who can do that*, I'd told myself. *And that'll never change*.

Last year at Simchat Torah, I had the opportunity to participate in a *hakafah* for the first time—that is, I was given a *sefer Torah* to carry as part of a celebratory parade. A Torah scroll is heavy! But I learned how to balance it. And, in the center of a whirling circle of revelers, I held the scroll and danced.

On my next food pantry shift, I decided to try lifting a crate of cans. I picked up the crate and supported it with my right shoulder, just as I would have a Torah. *Huh*, I said to myself. *It turns out that I am the kind of person who can do this. Change is possible*.

Now I carry crates of cans all the time. Participating in the traditional ritual of holding—and dancing with—a Torah scroll has given me confidence to help my community in new and productive ways.

As the start of the Jewish year approaches, I hope you'll join me in reflecting on ways that "hold"ing our tradition can help us all challenge our perceived limitations, both physically and metaphorically.

This stuff really works.

Jill Ratzan is excited to join the Temple B'nai Abraham community as Education Director, Tot Shabbat coordinator, and High Holidays assistant as she begins the process of applying to rabbinical school. She'd love to hear from you at jratzan@bnai-abraham.org.



More Sisterhood News



“How lovely to think that no one need wait a moment; we can start now, start slowly changing the world!”
— Anne Frank (diary entry, 1944)



Shalom friends. I am excited to be starting a new year. Just like a new notebook, as yet unwritten, holds the promise of poetry or prose, lists or notes; a new year of sisterhood holds the promise of fun and stimulating things to come. Though not all of our year’s programs are planned there are a few that I’d like to share.

On Monday the 12th of September. Phyllis Chudoff will be teaching us to make adorable gift bags! You will need to bring a scissors, and a ruler would be handy. Sisterhood will provide all other materials needed. It turns out, anyone can make their own bags for birthdays or holidays with just a little bit of instruction and some fun materials.

On November 21st, sisterhood member, Karen Nissim will work with us to make a beautiful flower arrangement suitable for any Thanksgiving table. I am so excited that Karen will be available to help us to make our own arrangements. In the past I’ve felt so proud by the work of my own hands, thanks to the help of Karen, of course! The cost of this activity will be posted in the November newsletter.

Hanukah is late this year, beginning on December 24th. So, we’ll have our Hanukah Revisited gift exchange on Monday the 9th of January. Be prepared to bring a re-gift and to take one home with you. Last year we had a wonderful time, laughing and enjoying the spirit of re-gifting.

In March we’ll do a book club. Look to the newsletter as time gets closer for the specific book we will read and discuss. If you’ve read anything great recently, please email me the name of the book so the board can check it out.

In May on Thursday the 11th, we can all look forward to listening to our own Rabbi Julie. Her topic of discussion will be posted as we get closer to the meeting.

Finally, save the date for the Sisterhood Covered Dish to be held on Monday June 12th of 2017.

As I said, these are not all of the events planned for the year, simply a glimpse of things to come.

Yahrzeits for Summer 2016

It is with a heavy heart that we mourn the passing of Jay Trackman. Jay was surrounded by his family and Rabbi Julie, at peace in his home.

Week of Sept. 2 nd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Benjamin Epstein, Great-Grandfather of Brian Epstein Celia Schwartz, Mother of Marcy Schwartz Selma Bloom, Mother of Randy Bloom Norman Goldman, Father of Bonnie Goldman, Father of Jeff Goldman
Week of Sept. 9 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> none
Week of Sept. 16 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bonnie Ross, Mother of Jack Ross Julius Lederman, Father of Steven Lederman Arthur Coleman, Father of Lenny Coleman Jerome Epstein, Grandfather of Brian Epstein Jack Bagan, Father of Elaine Zeitz
Week of Sept. 23 rd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anette Brewis, Great-Aunt of Brian Epstein Pearl Fishman, Mother of Arlene Speiser Samuel Densky, Father of Sharon Coleman Zelda Goldman, Mother of Norman Goldman Deanne Klein, Sister of Arlene Speiser Ida Goldman, Wife of Hyman Goldman Rose King, Friend of Sandy Schwartzbird Erwin Mann, Father of Steven Mann
Week of Sept. 30 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harry Roseman, Father of Renee Harrison Elinore Roth, Mother of Elaine Trackman Frank Schwartz, Uncle of Phyllis Chudoff

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 2016-17

September 17 th
November 12 th Russell Cohen's Bar Mitzvah
December 10 th
January 21 st
February 11 th Lunch & Learn

March 11 th Josh Kunkler's Bar Mitzvah
April 29 th Mia Nissim's Bat Mitzvah
May 13 th
June 3 rd E. Gale & R. Affrime B'not Mitzvah

Rabbi's Message Continued

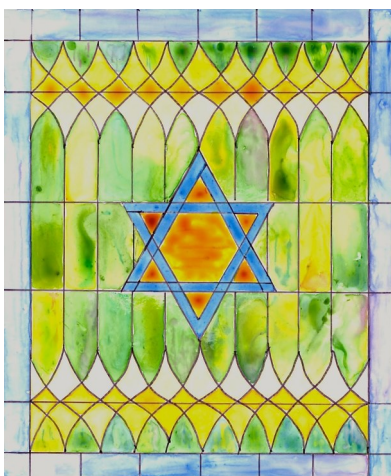


In some ways, the Selihot service serves as a refresher course – reminding everyone in advance some key melodies for the holidays so that it will be easier to join in once Rosh Hashanah arrives. But, of course, the function of the service is much more profound than just that. It is a refresher course in *teshuvah*, in the concepts of repentance, forgiveness, and transformation – concepts that can all too easily get lost from our consciousness over the course of the year. Toward that end, some congregations incorporate guided meditation, ritual, or other activities into the Selihot service in order to assist individuals in attendance to deeply and personally begin to engage in the process *teshuvah*.

Temple B'nai Abraham will be having a Selihot service for the first time this year on Saturday, September 24th at 7:30pm, and I want to encourage you to attend! We will, of course, touch on some of the “greatest hits” of High Holidays as we communally orient ourselves toward the High Holidays, and we will also be engaging in a ritual that will facilitate your own personal spiritual shift into the Days of Awe – all with the kavanah of embracing and deeply internalizing the message of the 13 Attributes.

Shalom,
Rabbi Pfau

New Year's Card



This fall Sarah Seidel Sisterhood will be hosting a fundraiser. We have a beautiful New Year's card designed by Elaine Trackman and Judy Schimmel that we want to offer to temple and sisterhood members. The card, attached, is a lovely depiction of our stained glass windows. These very special cards are 10 cards for \$15. If you are interested, please contact Judy Schimmel at timeout4two@gmail.com to place your order. The deadline for orders is September 19th. This will give us time to produce the cards and get them to you for the holiday. Then, send a check payable to Sarah Seidel Sisterhood to treasurer, Marcy Schwartz, at 110 Prince Street. On the memo line write New Year's card so Marcy will know why she has received your check.

There will be two versions of the card produced. One will be the New Year's card and will say L'Shanna Tovah, another will simply say Shalom and can be used as a general greeting card. The art is beautiful and I'm sure you will enjoy using these cards. Both kinds of cards will be available in packs of 10 for \$15.

We hope you will enjoy these cards and support this fundraiser.

**Temple B’nai Abraham and Sarah Seidel Sisterhood
Host List for Shabbat Services and Sisterhood Meetings
2016-2017**

If you are unable to host on your date, **please switch with someone** and let Robin know. **You are responsible for finding a replacement.**
Contact me with any other concerns you might have. Email address: raffrime@gmail.com Home Phone Number: 609-499-1761

Date	Event	Host Families
9/9/16	Friday Night Oneg	Affrime Family
9/17/16	Shabbat Morning Luncheon	Sharon Coleman/ Ken Sandler
9/24/16	Selichot Evening Service 7PM Fruit and Cheese	Judy Schimmel
10/3/16	Rosh Hashanna Honey cake, wine and grape juice	Affrime/ Osman Families
10/4/16	Rosh Hashanna Luncheon	The Rosen Family
10/12/16	Break the Fast	The Nissim Family
11/11-11/12/16	Russell Cohen Bar Mitzvah	The Cohen Family
11/21/16	Sisterhood Meeting Nosh	Phyllis Chudoff/Eileen Gale
12/2/16	Friday Night Oneg	Caldwell/Erickson Families
12/10/16	Shabbat Morning Luncheon	Mitchell/Lowry Families
12/14/16	Sisterhood Meeting Nosh	Rhea Goldman/Bonnie Goldman
1/6/17	Friday Night Oneg	Mindy Fink/ Anita Berson
1/9/17	Sisterhood Meeting Nosh	Nina Glanz/ Susan Giachetti
1/21/17	Shabbat Morning Luncheon	Osman/Ramos Families
2/11/17	Tu Bishvat Seder and Luncheon	Seder: Rosen Luncheon: Barman and Rochester Families
2/24/17	Friday Night Oneg	Aubry/ Josh Affrime Families
3/10-3/11/17	Josh Kunkler Bar Mitzvah	The Kunkler Family
3/11/17	Adult Purim Party at TBA all purpose room	Affrime/Chudoff
3/13/17	Sisterhood Meeting Nosh	Nissim/Lamonsoff Families
3/25/17	Shabbat Morning Luncheon	Epstein/Ehrlich Families
4/11/17	2 nd Seder at TBA all purpose room	Kim Aubry
4/28-4/29/17	Mia Nissim Bat Mitzvah	The Nissim Family
5/11/17	Sisterhood Meeting	Patricia Light-Tolomeo/Susan Zaveloff
5/13/17	Shabbat Morning Luncheon	Stan Zeichner/Sandy SchwartzBird
5/19/17	Friday Night Oneg: Hebrew School Advancement	Weiskott/Schwartz Families
5/20/17	Bordentown Street Fair Table	
5/21/17	Bordentown Street Fair Bake Sale	
6/2-6/3/17	Adult B’nai Mitzvah	Eileen Gale/Robin Affrime
6/12/17	Sisterhood Annual Covered Dish	Randy Bloom/Marsha Dowshen
6/30/17	Friday Night Oneg: Member of the Year	Schwartz/Shain/Weiss Families



**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.)*
September, 2016 ~ Av 5774-Elul 5775

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	31	Sept. 1 Hebrew School - Orientation & Family Education 5:30pm-7pm	2 7:30 pm Shabbat Services	3
4 No Hebrew School	5	6	7	8 4:30 pm Hebrew School	9 6:00 pm Tot Shabbat 7:30 pm Shabbat Services Oneg:Affrime	10
11 9 am Sunday School 10 am Hebrew School	12 7:30pm Sisterhood Meeting	13	14	15 4:30 pm Hebrew School 6:30 pm Game Night	16	17 10:00 am Shabbat Services Oneg: Coleman/ Snadler
18 9 am Sunday School 10 am Hebrew	19	20	21	22 4:30 pm Hebrew School	23	24 Selichot Services 7:30pm Oneg: Schimmel
25 9 am Sunday School 10 am Hebrew	26	27	28	29 4:30 pm Hebrew School	30 7:30 pm Shabbat Services	1
2 No Hebrew School Erev Rosh Hashanah 7:30 pm services	3 Rosh Hashanah 10:00 am Services 1:00pm Tashlich	4 Rosh Hashanah 10:00 am Lunch & Learn Oneg: Rosen	5	6 4:30 pm Hebrew School 6:00pm Tashlich	7 7:30 pm Shabbat Services	8