

# Temple B'nai Abraham

Temple President  
Brian Epstein

Rabbi  
Julie Pfau

Sarah Siedel Sisterhood President  
Robin Affrime



## 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

Game Night 6:30 pm	12/8
Temple Board Meeting 10:15am	12/11
Sisterhood Meeting 7:30pm	12/14
To Shabbat 6pm	12/16
Hanukkah Celebration 9:30am	12/18
Blood Drive 2:30pm-7:30pm	12/19

## **“The Temple Shofar”**

**December, 2016**

### **Rabbi's Message**

When I look around my apartment, I notice that I have several menorahs prominently displayed on bookshelves, dressers, and shelving units in virtually every room. I seem to have more menorahs than I do Shabbat candlesticks and kiddush cups. It surprises me to notice this. After-all, Shabbat comes every week, and Hanukkah is only once a year, so why would I have more menorahs than Shabbat ritual objects? Perhaps it is because Hanukkah is one of the Jewish Holidays that non-Jews are aware of, so it is more likely that I will receive a menorah as a gift. Maybe it is because there is something symbolically powerful about lighting candles in the darkness of winter. I don't know the reason for the proliferation of menorahs in my apartment, but each one has a memory associated with it.

My first hanukkiyah is still one of my favorites, purchased from the gift shop of Mount Zion Temple, the synagogue that I attended during my first year of study for conversion to Judaism. I vividly recall my first time lighting Hanukkah candles – I felt so tentative and awkward with this new ritual, and didn't know a single song, but I was enchanted by the flickering lights upheld by the artistically rendered branches of a tree (especially as a contrast to the frigid South Dakota winter on the other side of the window pane).

Another hanukkiyah found on my shelves - a tiny brass colored menorah with lions standing on either side of the base, holding the tablets of the ten commandments between them. The branches of the menorah have a pattern on them that makes them appear like the trunks of palm trees. The candleholders at the top of each branch have holes that are too small for standard-size Hanukkah candles, requiring special effort to obtain smaller candles to fit it. This, the smallest menorah I have ever owned, is enormous in meaning. It was a gift from a woman on hospice that I was blessed to get to know over a period of several months when I was a chaplain. She wanted me to have something to remember her by each year at Hanukkah. She died only a few weeks after giving me this gift, but the lessons I learned from her will be with me always. Perhaps the most profound lesson I learned from accompanying her at the end of her life was about the power of relationships to inspire hope and bring meaning even at the most difficult times. Facing illness and death with courage and dignity, her family and friends brought light to her every day, and her love inspired them in return. The light of her life will never burn out so long as those who knew and loved her continue to be warmed by her memory. Years later, I continue to be warmed by her memory when I light the candles in her hanukkiyah.

**Rabbi's Message continued on page 4**



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

***~ Max Eastman***

## Temple Donations

### High Holiday Pledges

- Phyllis Chudoff
- Andrew Trackman
- Robin & Steve Affrime
- Randye Bloom & Michael Scolaro

### Yahrzeits

- Robin & Steve Affrime, Yahrzeit of Joseph Rothman
- Shiela Lamonsoff, Yahrzeit of Norman Lamonsoff
- Eileen Gale, Yahrzeit of Mark Blatt
- Brian & Maribeth Epstein, Yahrzeit of Lillian Brewis
- Marsha & Joel Dowshen, Yahrzeit of Abraham Zackler
- Marcia & Michael Rosen, Yahrzeits of Gertrude Herzog, Gerald Rosen
- Marsha & David Caldwell, Yahrzeits of Joseph Caldwell, Samuel Gerson, Eddie Caldwell, Minnie Kleger
- In memory of Jay Trackman from Mr. & Mrs. Myron Samuel
- In memory of Richard Nitzberg from Renee Harrison and family

### Get Well

- Eileen Gale from Charyl & Sid Morginstin, Michael Scolaro & Randye Bloom, Elaine Trackman

### Honors

- Sandra Cohen In Honor of Russell's Bar Mitzvah

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## Annual Blood Drive:



As a part of our community action, Temple B'nai Abraham will sponsor an American Red Cross blood drive on Monday, December 19, 2016 in a bloodmobile parked at the Temple, from 2:30 to 7:30 PM. If each of you makes an effort to provide one pint of blood either by yourself or by sending a family member, friend, or neighbor, we will meet our collection goal. The holiday season is traditionally a difficult time for meeting the blood needs of patients. To make an appointment to give blood on December 19, please call 298-6485 or go to [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) and enter sponsor code Temple B'nai Abraham. Also, we need to have a Temple member at our building throughout the drive. If anyone is available to sit at the Temple for a few hours that day, please contact Randye. Thank you.

## Sisterhood News & Announcements

Shalom Friends. The Sarah Seidel Sisterhood met on Monday night the 21st of November. The meeting focused on making flower arrangements. Member, Karen Nissim and daughter Mia, guided us through making beautiful center pieces fit for any Thanksgiving table. Karen brought in a diverse selection of flowers and step by step showed us how to place them. Each arrangement was uniquely attractive and well-designed. The people who attended truly enjoyed the evening and left with their own creations.

The December meeting will be **Wednesday December 14th at 7:30.** We will make bag lunches to supplement the meals for the people living at the Pine Motel. The Pine Motel folks are the recipients of the meals we deliver monthly. The meals are prepared by people from the Crosswicks Friends and Methodist churches and delivered by TBA members.

After a short business meeting we will then move onto reading and discussing a short story based on the People and Stories/Gente y Cuentos program that sponsors reading literature in community settings. This will be lead by member Marcy Schwartz. It should be an interesting thought provoking evening and I guarantee you will have a social evening that will make you feel good.

At our January meeting we will celebrate a belated Hanukah by having a re-gifting party. Be prepared to bring a new, wrapped gift that doesn't suit you, but someone else might really love! Have a happy and healthy holiday season. I'm looking forward to seeing you soon.

~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 Donations

- In honor of Karen Nissim and the flower arranging program. From Linda Osman

## Thank you!

Thank you to Karen and Mia for offering the flower arranging class! As always, everyone was excited and pleased with the evening.

### 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



## 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***

## Tikkun Olam / Social Action

We continue our interfaith efforts to relieve hunger in the area: Elaine Trackman volunteers regularly at the St. Mary's Food Pantry, we deliver meals monthly that are prepared by the Crosswicks Friends' Meeting House to the Pine Motel, and we collect granola bars and canned tuna for monthly grocery bag donations to the motels. We have been doing this together with other faith communities in the area for more than 10 years! Many thanks to all who donate regularly, and especially to the Affrimes and Liz Mitchell for help with meal delivery recently.

Our comrades in the grocery bag donations (each congregation collects one or two items, and a bag for each motel resident or family with all of these non-perishable items is distributed toward the end of the month) plan to give a holiday gift in Dec. to each child at the motels. They will be verifying the ages and genders of each to plan an appropriate gift. We would like to contribute to this effort with small generic gifts such as craft supplies, books, stickers, etc. Please consider a little something for these children and add it to the basket for food donations. We'll make sure that it reaches the families in need.

Any questions, or if you'd like to help, feel free to call Marcy at 609-324-0571.

## Rabbi's Message Continued



What are your special memories of Hanukkah? How do you celebrate it? Do you ever feel tentative or awkward, or is it all deeply ingrained? Do you have an abundance of menorahs full of associations with people and places from your past? Or do you have just one menorah that holds all of the memories for you? I invite you to call forth your own memories of loving relationships to warm you and illumine your way through difficult times, just as the lights of the candles will serve as counterpoint to the darkness and cold of winter.

Shalom,  
Rabbi Pfau

## Hebrew School

Greetings from the Education Director! Hebrew school is settling into a regular schedule after a long period of fall holidays. On Thursdays, we're exploring specific prayers in depth, including the Shema and the Havdalah blessings. On Sundays, we're practicing Hebrew in small groups and learning about Jewish holidays. (If you have a student in Hebrew school, ask them which holiday is traditionally regarded as the most important. The answer is sometimes surprising.)

For me, the highlight of our schedule is the model Erev Shabbat service that students take turns leading each week. Learning to lead a service involves a wide variety of skills, from prayer knowledge to vocal performance to ability to establish a peaceful and Shabbat-oriented mood. Students who aren't leading on any given week serve as the congregation, which is an important role too.

In the meantime, our youngest community members continue to enjoy songs, crafts, and pizza at Tot Shabbat, and our early-elementary school Sunday school students continue to learn Hebrew letters while acquiring an appreciation for Jewish objects and rituals. And, as always, our teens and older students lead groups, help teach, and provide valuable perspectives and insights.

Shalom,  
Jill Ratzan  
Education Director



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## Chanukah Party



Please join us for our annual family Chanukah party on Sunday, Dec. 18 from 9:30am-12noon. We'll have crafts, games, stories . . . and, of course, latkes! All are welcome - hope to see you there!

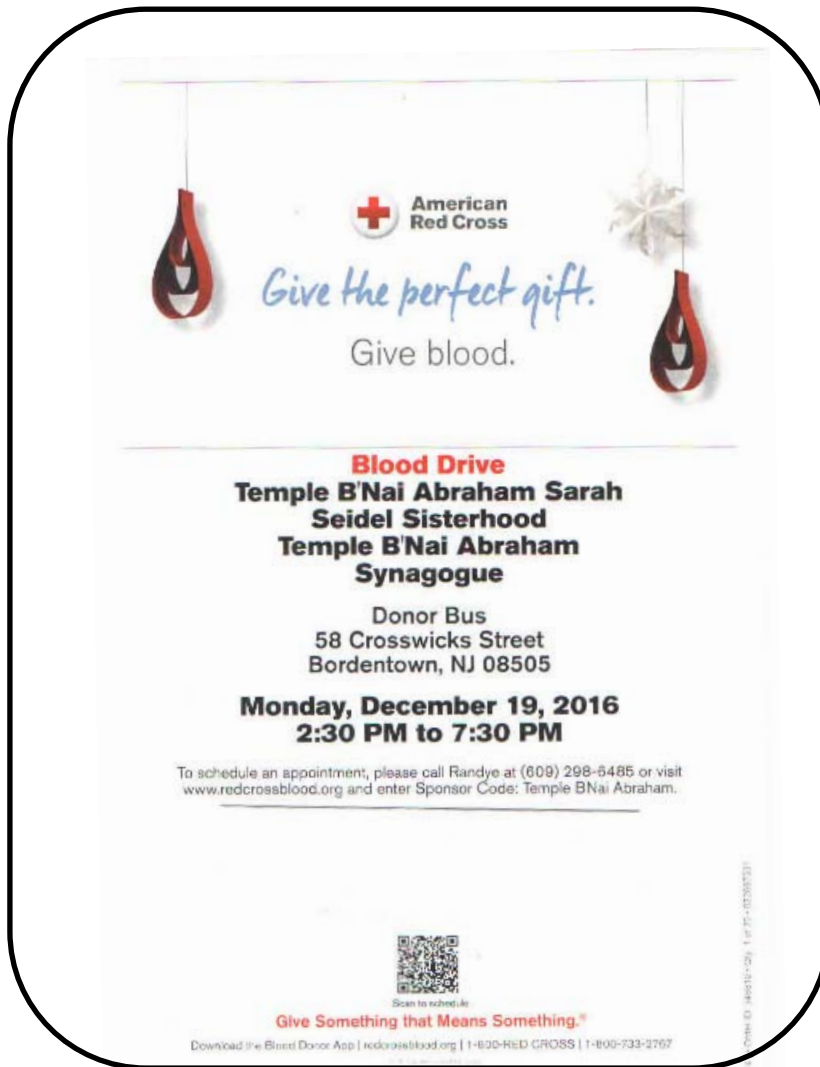
***“You have been my friend,”  
replied  
Charlotte.  
“That in itself is a tremendous thing.”***

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## Welcome New Members

Welcome new members, Michele Bakacs and David Kapsco and their sons Benjamin and Harrison from Hamilton.

**-E.B. White**



## Temple B'nai Abraham Logo Contest

Congratulations to Marsha Dowshen for her design being selected for the future logo of Temple B'nai Abraham. Her design actually has a long history with us prior to her capturing it and rendering it for us to use. We will post the design in the next newsletter. We are in the process of rendering the logo for the various formats.

Thank you to all who submitted designs.  
 Elaine Trackman  
 Mollie Cook  
 Sandy Schwartzbird  
 Marsha Dowshen

Stay tuned for more information.

Thank you.  
 Temple Board

## Yahrzeits for Winter 2016/2017

Week of Dec. 2 <sup>nd</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• John Duker, Father of Shiri Haines</li> <li>• Hyman Goldman, Father of Norman Goldman</li> <li>• Isaac Grassian, Father of Rita Nissim</li> <li>• Gerald Rosen, Father of Michael Rosen, Husband of Madge Rosen</li> <li>• Sidney Klepner, Father of Leonard Klepner</li> <li>• Jennie Rudenstein, Mother of Mildred Leary</li> <li>• Pauline Zackler, Mother of Marsha Dowshen</li> </ul>
Week of Dec. 9 <sup>th</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Laura Del Valle, Sister of Jennifer Weiskott</li> <li>• Samuel Morginstin, Father of Sid Morginstin</li> <li>• Minnie Kleger, Bonus Mother of Marsha Caldwell</li> </ul>
Week of Dec. 16 <sup>th</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Edward Caldwell, Brother of David Caldwell</li> <li>• Dorothy Gutstein, Wife of Herman Gutstein</li> <li>• Nathan Schwartz, Father of Phyllis Chudoff</li> </ul>
Week of Dec. 23 <sup>rd</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rebecca Gale, Mother-In-Law of Eileen Gale</li> <li>• Lillian Morginstin, Mother of Sid Morginstin</li> <li>• Pauline Schwartz, Grandmother of Phyllis Chudoff</li> <li>• Max Kamer, Father of Isadore Kamer</li> </ul>
Week of Dec. 30 <sup>th</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paul Cantor, Father of Ray Cantor</li> </ul>
Week of Jan. 6 <sup>th</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Janice Spiegel, Cousin of Linda Bowker</li> <li>• Ella Kessler, Mother of Henry Kessler</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 tallis (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 2016-17

December 10 <sup>th</sup>
January 21 <sup>st</sup>
February 11 <sup>th</sup> <b>Lunch &amp; Learn</b>

March 11 <sup>th</sup> <b>Josh Kunkler's Bar Mitzvah</b>
April 29 <sup>th</sup> <b>Mia Nissim's Bat Mitzvah</b>
May 13 <sup>th</sup>
June 3 <sup>rd</sup> <b>E. Gale &amp; R. Affrime B'not Mitzvah</b>

**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](mailto:raffrime@gmail.com) Home Phone Number: 609-499-1761*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Host Families</b>
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
<b>3/10-3/11/17</b>	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 <sup>nd</sup> Seder at TBA all purpose room	Kim Aubry
<b>4/28-4/29/17</b>	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	
<b>6/2-6/3/17</b>	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.)*  
**December, 2016 ~ Cheshvan 5777- Kislev**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 <b>No Hebrew School</b>	28	29	30	<b>Dec. 1</b> 4:30 pm Hebrew School	2 7:30 pm Shabbat Services	3
4 9 am Sunday School 10 am Hebrew School	5	6	7	8 4:30 pm Hebrew School <b>6:30 Game Night</b>	9	10 10:00 am Shabbat Services
11 9 am Sunday School 10 am Hebrew School <b>10:15am Temple Board Meeting</b>	12	13	14 7:30pm Sisterhood Meeting	15 4:30 pm Hebrew School	16 6 pm Tot Shabbat 7:30 pm Shabbat Services	17
18 9:30 am Hanukkah Celebration 	19 2:30-7:30pm Blood Drive 	20	21	22 <b>No Hebrew School</b>	23 7:30 pm Shabbat Services	24
25 <b>No Hebrew School</b>	26	27	28	29 <b>No Hebrew School</b>	30 7:30 pm Shabbat Services	31
<b>Jan. 1</b> <b>No Hebrew School</b>	2	3	4	5 <b>No Hebrew School</b>	6 7:30 pm Shabbat Services	7