



Temple B'nai Abraham

Temple President

Brian Epstein

Rabbi

Julie Pfau

Sarah Siedel Sisterhood President

Robin Affrime

“The Temple Shofar”

January, 2017

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

Temple Board Meeting 10:15am	1/8
Sisterhood Meeting 7:30pm	1/9
Morning Services 10am	1/14
Tot Shabbat 6pm	1/20

Rabbi's Message

This year we have been engaging in discussions about how to celebrate our community's 100th anniversary, and the conversations have reminded me of a Talmudic saying that has been put to song:

Amar Rabbi Yehuda: Al tis'takel ba'kan'kan, eleh b'mah sh'yesh bo.
Rabbi Yehuda said: Look not at the vessel, but rather what it contains.

I believe that Rabbi Yehuda's saying is an important one for any synagogue community, and provides a great deal to reflect on as we move through our 100th year.

Each Jewish community is a vessel – they come in all shapes, sizes, and configurations. For example: some communities own buildings, others rent; some prioritize Friday services, others are Shabbat morning oriented; some have memberships that are large or small or predominantly in one age category or another; board configurations vary, as do the sizes of rabbinic and/or cantorial staff; etc. There are so many variations in the externals of the vessels that it would be easy to get caught up in the specifics of how the vessel looks, to focus on the externals of the vessel and never bother to closely examine the contents. But that would be to miss out on what is most important.

A synagogue is a vessel that is able to hold everything we hold dear, everything we want to share amongst ourselves - both with those who visit us and with the larger community. Each vessel, each community, contains its own unique mixture of relationships, values, rituals, and customs. Engaging with the contents is what has the potential to touch our spirits and transform our lives.

In the many years of its existence, Temple B'nai Abraham has undergone many changes, but has at its core remained a close-knit community. People might come to our community for the first time for any numbers of reasons, but they stay for the sense of meaning and lasting relationships they have formed.

As we journey through the cold dark days of winter, I invite everyone to contemplate the light and warmth at the core of our community, and call to mind some of the stories that exemplify it. Please consider contributing to the oral history project that some of our adult and teen members are organizing, so that we can honor the diversity and beauty of who and what we hold dear at Temple B'nai Abraham. I also invite you to consider: How can each of us continue to add to our vessel, and actively reach out to share that content with all who come?

Shalom,
Rabbi Pfau



***“What we learn
with pleasure
we never
forget.”***

-Alfred Mercier



Temple Donations

High Holiday Pledges

- Elaine Trackman

Yahrtzeit/Joy/Sorrow

- Rita Nissim - Yahrtzeits of Lee Nissim, Isaac Grassian, Marcell Nissim
- Ronnie & Stan Zeichner, - Yahrtzeit of Bernard Zeichner
- Len and Liz Klepner Yahrtzeit of Sidney Klepner
- Marsha & Joel Dowshen, - Yahrtzeit of Pauline Zachler Marcia &

Get Well

- Ronnie & Stan Zeichner - Healing for Stan Zeichner

Other

- Betsy Ramos - Donation for Calendar ad

Hebrew School

From the Education Director

As a new secular year and a new semester of Hebrew school and Sunday school begin, this is a good time to reflect on the semester just past. Students have studied holidays and prayers, practiced performing rituals, developed Hebrew reading skills, and learned about contemporary and historical Jewish practices.

These are important and valuable subjects.

But some of our most interesting material has come from the tangents we've taken away from these core topics.

For example, a discussion about the themes of Chanukah recently led to a spirited conversation on Jewish-American assimilation. An explanation of why mezuzot are often displayed on a diagonal brought up themes of compromise and other ways to acknowledge differences of opinion, and a lesson about the Shema inspired us to think about the distinction between simply hearing a message and actively listening to it. All of these concepts are especially meaningful because of the ways they can extend beyond their original contexts into multiple areas of students' Jewish (and secular) lives.

May the new semester bring new knowledge, new joys, new perspectives, and many opportunities for new learning.

Shalom,
Jill Ratzan

Sisterhood News & Announcements

Shalom Friends. The Sarah Seidel Sisterhood met on Wednesday night the 14th of December. Members worked together to make lunches for the residents of the Pine Motel. After that, Marcy Schwartz presented a story and discussion based on the People and Stories/Gente y Cuentos program that sponsors reading literature in community settings. Rhea Goldman and Bonnie Goldman were our hostesses. Linda Osman ran the business portion of the meeting. Thank you all for helping to make the meeting a success!

Our January meeting is scheduled for Monday night January 9th at 7:30 and will be an opportunity for you to re-

gift something that is new, but not quite you. We are calling it Hanukah Revisited. Our hostesses for the evening are Nina Glanz and Eileen Gale. I look forward to seeing you then.

Some other things to look forward to are a Trivia Night sometime in the spring, the publication of our latest cookbook and in the fall, the celebration of Temple B'nai Abraham's 100th Anniversary.

I hope your new year was happy and safe. I'm looking forward to seeing you soon.

Robin Affrime



“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

- Happy birthday Mimi Geller from Phyllis Kamer

Thank You

Thank you to Mia Nissim and Ethan Weiss for leading us in services. Well done!

Annual Blood Drive:

Blood Drive: The blood drive held December 19 went well. Special thanks to Temple members Robin Affrime, Kim Aubry, Marsha Caldwell, and Randy Bloom who donated blood. And extra special thanks to Robin and Steve Affrime who stayed at the drive so that Randy would not be there by herself. Robin jumped in to handle reception when the volunteer did not appear. Really- above and beyond! Thank you so much.

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.

**“Be the change
you wish to see
in the world.”**

**-Mahatma
Gandhi**

Tikkun Olam / Social Action

Our on-going hunger relief efforts were in full force around the winter holidays! Many thanks to Robin and Steve Affrime for helping with monthly meal delivery to the Pine Motel, and to the Sisterhood for preparing 42 bag lunches delivered to the motel later in the month. The TBA community gathered some lovely toys and gifts for children at the motel as well -- our partners in this project from the Baptist Church will match gifts with a list of the children (according to age, gender, etc.). And lots of contributions for the food pantry and the monthly grocery bags for the motel--to which we contribute granola bars and canned tuna--have been a big help.

So let's begin 2017 with renewed energy and commitment to ease the difficulties of those around us: please continue your generous donations of food items, and the many helping hands that make this possible.

Gratefully yours,
Marcy Schwartz

(any questions or want to join in? feel free to call me at 609-324-0571)

The Best Chanukah Presents....

By: [Asher Schwartz](#)

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Yahrzeits for Winter 2016/2017

Week of Dec. 30 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paul Cantor, Father of Ray Cantor
Week of Jan. 6 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Janice Spiegel, Cousin of Linda Bowker Ella Kessler, Mother of Henry Kessler
Week of Jan. 13 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 Jan. 20 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evelyn Rothman, Mother of Robin Affrime Blanche Cantor, Mother of Ray Cantor Bernard Zeichner, Father of Stan Zeichner
Week of Jan. 27 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Julius Bloom, Father of Randye Bloom Jacob Epstein, Great-Uncle of Brian Epstein Marcel Nissim, Husband of Lee Nissim Shyrle Kushner, Mother of Ellen Benowitz, Wife of Sol Kushner Jennie Groveman, Mother-In-Law of Seena Groveman Ethel Speiser, Mother of Bernie Speiser Ellen Wehrman, Sisterhood Member Minnie Gutstein, Mother of Herman Gutstein Rose Wasserman, Mother of Linda Bowker Ida Josephson, Mother of Sam Josephson Minnie Kaufman, Grandmother of Phyllis Busch Harry Gutstein, Father of Herman Gutstein Joseph Schwartz, Grandfather of Phyllis Chudoff
Week of Feb. 3 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Judy Leslie, Friend of Marcia Rosen Rose Goldberg, Mother of Phyllis Kamer

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

January 14 th
February 11 th Lunch & Learn
March 25 th

March 11 th Josh Kunkler's Bar Mitzvah
April 23 rd Mia Nissim's Bat Mitzvah
May 13 th
June 3 rd E. Gale & R. Affrime B'not Mitzvah



**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
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
4/21, 4/23/17	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**

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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.)*
January, 2017 ~ Tevet 5777– Sh'vat 5777

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Jan. 1 No Hebrew School	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 9 am Sunday School 10 am Hebrew School 10:15am Temple Board Meeting	9 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;"> 7:30pm Sisterhood Meeting </div>	10	11	12	13	14
15 9 am Sunday School 10 am Hebrew School	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 9 am Sunday School 10 am Hebrew School	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 9 am Sunday School 10 am Hebrew School	30	31	Feb. 1	2	3	4