



# Temple B'nai Abraham

Temple President

Brian Epstein

Rabbi

Julie Pfau

Sarah Siedel Sisterhood President

Robin Affrime

“The Temple Shofar”

April, 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

TBA Board Meeting 10am	4/2
Tot Shabbat 6pm	4/11
Community Seder 6pm	4/7
Shabbat Service Mia Nissim 7:30pm	4/28
Mia Nissim's Bat Mitzvah 10am	4/23
Game Night 6:30pm	4/27
Tot Shabbat 6pm	5/5

## Rabbi's Message

*“Students increase the wisdom and broaden the horizons of their teacher. Our Sages declared: ‘I learned much wisdom from my teachers and even more from my colleagues. However, from my students I learned most of all.’ Just as a small branch is used to light a large bough, so a small student sharpens the teacher’s thinking processes, until, through questions, s/he brings forth brilliant wisdom.” (Rambam, Mishneh Torah, Talmud Torah 5:13)*

The above teaching comes from one of the most prominent Jewish thinkers of the medieval period – Maimonides, Rabbi Moses ben Maimon, generally referred to as Rambam. Rambam was a 12th century physician, philosopher, commentator, and legal thinker who lived in the Sephardic world under Muslim rule. Rambam’s *Mishneh Torah* is a compilation of Jewish law that includes a diverse range of material – including laws about prayer, tzedakah, and education.

There is much that is culturally outdated in Rambam’s chapters on education, but some material is quite relevant to today’s concerns. For example, there are laws that mandate a teaching assistant for classes with more than 25 students, and a second teacher for more than 40. And there is an abundance of timeless gems such as the selection quoted above, or this earlier passage from 4:5:

*“A student should not be embarrassed because fellow students grasped the subject matter the first or second time, while s/he did not understand it until it was repeated a number of times. If s/he becomes embarrassed because of such matters, s/he will go in and out of the house of study without learning anything. Accordingly, the Sages of the previous generations stated: ‘A bashful person will not learn, nor should the short-tempered teach.’”*

One of my favorite activities at Temple B’nai Abraham is working with students of all ages. One of the best parts about teaching in our community is that it isn’t about grades. People come because they want to learn, and there is no institutional pressure about the speed of that learning process. We can collaboratively set flexible learning goals, and no one ever needs to feel as if they are failing. Because being Jewish should never be about failure! Synagogue should be a safe space to grow, and growth shouldn’t be rushed or criticized.

I love watching students grow. Because of my vantage point, I often get to see the first signs of growth even before a student does. It is powerful to see the budding confidence when a student too starts to see his or her own growth. One of the best things I learn from my students is more about who they are and how they grow. Teaching and learning, the back and forth of dialogue and questions, the frustrations and victories – all of these shared moments are a blessing to me.

This year we have had a variety of educational programs – an adult beginning Hebrew class, an adult Bnei Mitzvah class, and Lunch and Learn programs. I would like to find out what educational programs would be of interest to the community for the coming year. Is there interest in a Modern Hebrew class? Perhaps a monthly seminar-format class on a particular topic? Is anyone interested in studying Jewish history or Jewish literature?

Is there anything that you have always wanted to learn but have been too bashful to ask? Don’t be shy – send me an email. Nothing would delight me more than to have more students learning things they have always wanted to learn (even if they thought they never would)!

Shalom,  
Rabbi Pfau

## Temple Donations



- Bonnie Goldman, Yahrzeit of Sylvia Goldman
- Marcia & Michael Rosen, Yahrzeit of Lenny Greenblatt
- Arlene Speiser, Yahrzeit of Arthur Fishman
- Marsha & David Caldwell ,Yahrzeit of Ida Casta
- Len & Elizabeth Klepner, Yahrzeit of Rose Klepner
- Brian & Maribeth Epstein, Yahrzeits of Selma Levitsky & Howard Brewis
- Henry & Rhoda Kessler, Yahrzeit of Max Kessler

***“Education is  
the most  
powerful  
weapon which  
you can use to  
change the  
world.”***

***-Nelson  
Mandela***



## Hebrew School

"Do dogs and cats count in a minyan?" a Sunday school student asked at the end of class recently. Because Hebrew school students and teen assistants were just starting to arrive - and because Jewish tradition values multivocal discussion - I asked the older students for their thoughts.

The first issue they considered was age: would the dog or cat in question need to be thirteen in animal years or human years? Animal years made more sense to them, because otherwise only elderly cats and dogs would count. "Humans are created in the image of God, so only humans can count in minyans," someone suggested. "Only humans can say prayers, so only humans can count in minyans," someone else added. "What about humans who can't talk?" I countered. We decided that physically being able to speak wasn't as important as being able to bring kavanah, or intentionality, to prayer. But can dogs and cats have kavanah? Questions led to more questions. Younger students debated along with older students. What might have been quickly dismissed as a silly idea became the basis for a conversation about defining one's terms, the nature of God, and the purpose of prayer.

I'm honored to work with such thoughtful students and teens!

Jill Ratzan  
Education Director

## Sisterhood News & Announcements

Shalom Friends.

It is unfortunate that the winter weather interfered with our March sisterhood meeting. That meeting has been rescheduled for **Wednesday night April 19, 2017 at 7:30.** We will review the book The Little Paris Book Shop. "If you are looking to be charmed right out of your own life for a few hours, sit down with this wise and winsome novel"—Oprah.com. All are welcome and we hope you will come even if you didn't have a chance to read the book. It's just nice to get out and have a girls' night.

**\*\*\*COOKBOOKS** are available from Randye. Call her at 298-6485 or email her at [rendelfendel@gmail.com](mailto:rendelfendel@gmail.com). Cookbooks are \$15 each and we know you will be very pleased with your purchase(s).

**\*\*\*SAVE THE DATE: Trivia Night at B'Nai Abraham will be on Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.** This BYOB event is open to members and non-members. Bring your own team of up to 6 people or hook up with some old or new friends that night.

Robin Affrime

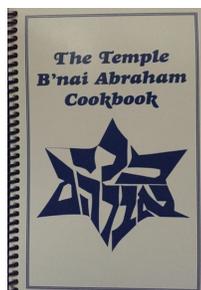


***"Good friends are like stars. You don't always see them, but you know they're always there."***

***- author unknown***

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## Temple Cookbook:



Passover is coming- do you have your Temple cookbook? There are wonderful Passover recipes including delicious desserts and Rabbi Julie's charoset.

If you are going to a Seder, the cookbook would be a terrific hostess gift.

Cookbooks are \$15.00 each. The checks are payable to Temple B'nai Abraham.

If each Temple or Sisterhood member purchases or sells just three books we will begin to make our profit.

To reserve your copies, contact Randye at 609-298-6485 or [mikerandy@gmail.com](mailto:mikerandy@gmail.com) or send a check to 514 Reeder Avenue, Bordentown, NJ 08505. You can pick up your books at Randye's house or they can be left at the Temple for pick-up at your convenience. Thank you for your support of this Temple fundraiser.

### 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



## Mia Nissim's Bat Mitzvah

Mia Nissim will be celebrating her bat-mitzvah on April 23. In preparation for her introduction into Jewish adulthood, Mia has been volunteering her time at The Clare Estate to learn how to give love and a caring hand to those in need of a little extra sunshine. In sharing her love of art, she has brought imagination and found memories back to the wonderful residents who live there. She had learned how important it is to grow old and still feel counted, cherished and taken care of with dignity. Mia is so excited to celebrate with her friends and family!

Mazel-Tov on Mia's great accomplishment on becoming a bat-mitzvah!

## Tikkun Olam / Social Action

***"We can't help everyone, but...everyone can help someone."***

***-Dr. Loretta Scott***

Please help us continue our hunger relief efforts in the wider community! There are three ongoing projects, and no contribution is too small!

- Any contributions of non-perishable foods are welcome for the St. Mary's food pantry.
- Donations of granola bars and cans of tuna or chicken are welcome for the monthly grocery bags that are distributed to residential motels in the area.
- Come along for meal delivery: on the first Thursday of the month, we deliver dinners to the Pine Motel prepared by the Friends Meeting House in Crosswicks.

Thank you to 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)



## Interfaith Dialogue - April 19, 7pm

Our Interfaith Dialogue will be April 19th from 7-9pm at Dorothea Dix Unitarian Universalist Community 39 Park Street in Bordentown. Mike Rosen will represent the temple on the panel. Our topic is: "Building Bridges While Defending Principles!"

## Hebrew School—Chocolate Seder

On Sunday, April 9, we'll be holding a "chocolate seder" during regular Hebrew school hours. This seder will take us through the events of a traditional Passover seder . . . but with all items made of chocolate. (Gluten-free and dairy-free substitutions will be provided - please let me know if your student has any other \*dietary restrictions\*.)



We're currently seeking \*parent volunteers\* to help the seder run smoothly. Please let me know if you're available to help.

\*Sunday school will be held as usual\* on April 9, and will also feature a special Passover activity.

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## ADL Speakers in Bordentown

The ADL (Anti Defamation League) has confirmed the date of \*April 2\*, to speak to the community of Bordentown. The meeting will still take place at the \*Dorthea Dix Universalist Unitarian Church\*. \*THE CHANGE IS THAT THE TIME WILL BE 5:00.\* I hope that if this is something you would be interested in being a part of, you will make it to the meeting. As I said in my last mention of this, the ADL is being called upon to speak to many, many communities so I consider us fortunate that we are able to be a part of the discussion that was organized by the group \*Bordentown Neighbors Acting Together.\*

*“The best index to a person’s character is how he treats people who can’t do him any good, and how he treats people who can’t fight back.”*

*-Abigail Van Buren*

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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.





**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

Date	Event	Host Families
4/11/17	2 <sup>nd</sup> 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



## Yahrzeits for Winter/Spring 2017

Week of Mar. 31 <sup>st</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mildred Josephson, Mother of Mark Josephson</li> <li>Faith Hupfl, Member of Congregation</li> </ul>
Week of April 7 <sup>th</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Haskell Hait, Father of Lauren Mann</li> <li>Mary Bird, Mother-In-Law of Sandy Schwartzbird</li> <li>Frances Epstein, Mother of Rhea Goldman</li> <li>Charles Herzog, Grandfather of Michael Rosen, Father of Madge Rosen</li> </ul>
Week of April 14 <sup>th</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seymour Affrime, Father of Steve Affrime</li> </ul>
Week of April 21 <sup>st</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Albert Dowshen, Father of Joel Dowshen</li> <li>Flora Grassian, Mother of Rita Nissim</li> </ul>
Week of April 28 <sup>th</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Martin Leichter, Uncle of David Caldwell</li> <li>Belle Rosen, Mother of Gerald Rosen, Grandmother of Michael Rosen</li> </ul>
Week of May 5 <sup>th</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lawrence Silverman, Father of Marsha Caldwell</li> <li>Madge Rosen, Mother of Michael Rosen, Wife of Gerald Rosen</li> <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>

### 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 2017

April 23 <sup>rd</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**

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, 2017 ~ Adar 5777—Nissan 5777—Iyyer 5777**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>April 2</b> 9 am Sunday School  10 am Hebrew School  <b>10 am Temple Board</b>	3	4	5	6 3 pm Adult Hebrew  4:30 pm Hebrew School	7 6 pm Tot Shabbat  7:30 pm Shabbat Services	8
<b>9</b> 9 am Sunday School  10 am Hebrew School	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 6pm 2nd Night Community Seder	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> No Hebrew School	<b>14</b> 7:30 pm Shabbat Services	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> No Hebrew School	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Sisterhood Meeting 7:30pm  	<b>20</b> 4:30 pm Hebrew School	<b>21</b> 7:30 pm Shabbat Services Mia Nissim Bat Mitzvah	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> 10am Mia Nissim Bat Mitzvah  	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 3 pm Adult Hebrew  4:30 pm Hebrew School  6:30pm Game Night	<b>28</b> 7:30 pm Shabbat Services	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> 9 am Sunday School  10 am Hebrew School  11am Adult Hebrew	<b>May 1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 3 pm Adult Hebrew  4:30 pm Hebrew School	<b>5</b> 6 pm Tot Shabbat  7:30 pm Shabbat Services	<b>6</b>