

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

Tot Shabbat 6pm 5/5

Trivia Night
7pm 5/6

TBA Board Meeting
10am 5/7

Shabbat Morning
Service 10am 5/13

Congregational
Meeting 7:30pm 5/17

Game Night 6:30pm 5/25

Shabbat Morning
Service 10am 6/3

“The Temple Shofar”

May, 2017

Rabbi's Message

After all the excitement of the Passover story, we now find ourselves in the period of the Omer. In making this shift, we move from elaborate seders and stories of plagues, pillars of cloud and fire, and parting seas; into a time characterized by counting and partial mourning practices. It can seem rather anti-climactic.

By the time we finish counting off the 49 days of the Omer.... Actually, let's be honest... How many of us actually keep it up for that long...? Don't many of us lose focus partway into the Omer period? And then, 49 days after Pesach, many Jews aren't looking for and don't notice the arrival of another holiday – Shavuot – a biblical harvest festival that evolved into a celebration of the giving of the Torah at Sinai.

Shavuot is the lost holiday. In America, Hebrew schools tend to end before Shavuot arrives, and people often slow down their synagogue attendance for the summer. Shavuot is often an afterthought at best; frequently it is forgotten entirely, leaving a great absence of memories.

This fact never ceases to surprise me, since Shavuot is one of my favorite Jewish holidays. For me, Shavuot is not such a blank slate. Instead it has beautiful associations – it carries with it treasured memories of my conversion to Judaism.

The synagogue was decorated with roses, the oneg was lavish with dairy desserts, the sanctuary was populated with friends who offered me blessings, and I was filled with joy. It was a day of firsts: I made challah with cinnamon and sugar wound into the braids, I was presented with my tallit, I held the Torah and led the congregation in the Shema, I gave a d'var torah.

That night, I spoke about the book of Ruth – the biblical text associated with Shavuot. Ruth was a Moabite woman who chose to join herself to the Jewish people and the Jewish God, saying to her mother-in-law, Naomi: “Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your god my god.” At the time of my conversion to Judaism, I never could have imagined that someday I would be a Rabbi, enrolled in a PhD program and writing a dissertation about the Book of Ruth!

Once again this year I will be offering an educational program at the May Sisterhood meeting, to which the entire community is invited. The program will take place on Thursday, May 18 at 7:30pm. Since this will be less than two weeks before Shavuot, it is an ideal time to learn more about the holiday, and its rituals and texts. Of course, the Book of Ruth will figure prominently in our study! This short book (only four chapters) tells a compelling story that can speak to a variety of contemporary concerns. It is full of societal and interpersonal conflict, as the main characters must navigate xenophobia and poverty in the aftermath of profound personal losses. You will also discover that the story is far more risqué than most people realize...! (So expect some adult themes to be a part of the discussion...)

I am delighted to explore more deeply with you one of my favorite holidays, and to share with you the first fruits of my study of the Book of Ruth. I hope to see many of you there!

Shalom,
Rabbi Pfau



***“The most
common way
people give up
their power is
by thinking they
don’t have
any.”***

-Alice Walker



Temple Donations

- Marsha & Joel Dowshen, Yahrzeit of Albert Dowshen
- Robin & Steve Affrime Yahrzeit of Seymour Affrime
- Renee Harrison Yahrzeit of Jack Harrison
- Patricia Light-Tolomeo Yahrzeit of Bess Light
- Marcia & Michael Rosen Yahrzeits of Madge Rosen, Leon Herzog, Bernard Greenblatt
- Rhea Goldman Yahrzeit Frances Epstein
- Get well to Charyl Morginstin from Eileen Gale
- Get well to Robin Affrime from Eileen Gale and Art Guyer; Michael Scolaro and Randy Bloom
- In memory of Lee Ratzan from Elaine Trackman; Michael Scolaro and Randy Bloom; Eileen Gale
- In honor of Mark and Fay Josephson becoming grandparents from Eileen Gale; Michael Scolaro and Randy Bloom

Congregational Meeting—May 17

It is an election year, we are taking nominations for our board seats. Nominations will close at the Congregational meeting on the 17th. Self nominations or nominations of others are welcome and can be sent to info@bnai-abraham.org. We will be looking at a revised version of our bylaws on May 17th as well.

The second congregational meeting will be on June 14th where we will be voting for the board members. We'll also be voting on the bylaws presented at the May 17th congregational meeting.

Nominations can be made for:

- i. President
- ii. Executive Vice-President
- iii. Religious Vice-President
- iv. Financial Vice-President
- v. Secretary



Sisterhood News & Announcements

Shalom Friends.

At our last sisterhood meeting we discussed the book, The Little Paris Book Shop. Some people liked the book, some people, not so much, but the conversation was very interesting and I'm glad that I had an opportunity to listen to the ideas of others.

COOKBOOKS are available from Randye. Call her at 298-6485 or email her at 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 6th at 7:00 p.m. This BYOB event is open to members and non-members. Bring your own team of up to 4 people, hook up with some old or new friends that night or bravely be your own individual team. This event, modeled after British Pub Trivia Nights, looks to be a really fun evening. We will have a light dinner including salad and dessert, and of

course, you are welcome to bring a bottle of wine for your pleasure. It is also a fundraiser for sisterhood. Please try to save the date and join us for a fun evening. If you are interested in attending, contact Linda Osman at attyosman@verizon.net. Tickets are \$20 per person. Don't be shy, tell your friends about it!

If you are interested in baking a dessert for the evening, let Linda know when you make your reservation.

Shabbat morning services are Saturday May 13th. Sandy and Bruce SchwartzBird and Stan and Ronnie Zeichner are hosts.

Rabbi Julie Pfau will be the speaker at our next sisterhood meeting. The date has been changed to Thursday night May 18th. Again, please save the date.

Robin Afrime



“Strive not to be a success, but rather to be of value.”

-Albert Einstein

Sisterhood Donations

- Speedy recovery to Robin Afrime from Elaine Trackman, Renee Harrison, Charyl Morginstin and Marcy Schwartz and Rick Shain
- Speedy recovery to Renee Harrison and Charyl Morginstin from Marcy Schwartz and Rick Shain
- Get well to Charyl Morginstin from Robin Afrime
- Get well to Marvin Eisenberg from Sheila Lamonsoff
- Rejoicing with you to Mia Nissim on her bat Mitzvah from Robin and Steve Afrime
- In memory of Jill Ratzan's father Kee Ratzan from Marcy Schwartz and Rick Shain, and Robin and Steve Afrime.

Sisterhood Officers

Sisterhood President
Robin Afrime

Vice President
Linda Osman

Treasurer/Financial Scty
Marcy Schwartz

Recording Secretary
Marsha Caldwell

Corresponding Secretary
Patricia Light-Tolomeo

Trustees
Eileen Gale
Susan Giachetti



Hebrew School

A few weeks ago, I'd asked a question about a spring Hebrew school event and received the reply, "Oh right, you don't know about that yet. We tend to forget that you haven't been here forever." So do I!

Supernaturalism can be a troublesome concept for Reconstructionists. Does God interfere directly in the world? Did the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; of Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel, and Leah, bring me this perfect job as Temple B'nai Abraham's Education Director, Tot Shabbat Coordinator, and High Holidays Assistant? Or did Rabbi Julie, the TBA Board, and I connect entirely through our own power? My preferred interpretation is that Divine energy was at work here, but in a subtle and mysterious form. No blazing fire or blaring horns, but the immanent Divinity we sing about in the prayer Shalom Aleichem: "from deep within us . . . blessing us with shalom."

This year in Hebrew school and Sunday school, we've observed Jewish holidays, used art and music to study prayer, practiced Hebrew skills, and held student-led model Shabbat services each week. We've started each day of Hebrew school with song, silence, and blessing, and closed each Shabbat with a multisensory Havdalah service. We've cast our past mistakes into moving water at Rosh Hashanah, visited the California redwoods via Skype for Tu B'shevat, performed a Purim play, and enjoyed a chocolate-themed model Passover seder. Next year, we'll continue these activities as well as adding in social action practices, an exciting field trip, and a series of partnerships with the larger Bordentown community.

Thank you to the teen teachers, the parent and grandparent volunteers, Rabbi Julie, the TBA Board, the Sarah Seidel Sisterhood, and all TBA members who have helped make this year's Hebrew school experience so meaningful. My largest sense of gratitude, though, is for my wonderful students: for their perpetual curiosity, energy, inquisitiveness, engagement, and creativity - but most of all, for simply being themselves.

Next year at Temple B'nai Abraham!

B'shalom,
Jill Ratzan
Education Director

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

***-Dr. Loretta
Scott***

A Note of Appreciation

*Thank
You!*

Jill Ratzan and the Ratzan family would like to express their gratitude to the Temple B'nai Abraham community for the thoughtfulness, donations, and presence following the recent passing of Lee Ratzan z"l. Your support during this difficult time is much appreciated by Jill and family.

Temple Cookbook

We have sold enough cookbooks to begin to make our profit!!!

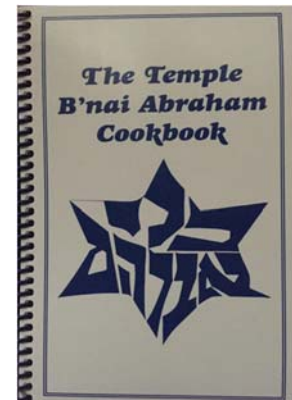
Please reserve your books today so that the Temple can receive the full benefit of this fundraiser. Bridal showers, graduates, and Mother's or Father's Day are all great occasions to give someone a cookbook. We will be selling them at the Bordentown Street Fair on Sunday.

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

To reserve your copies, contact Randye at 609-298-6485 or mikerandye@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.



***"Don't judge
each day by the
harvest you
reap but by the
seeds that you
plant."***

***-Robert Louis
Stevenson***

Tikkun Olam / Social Action

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.

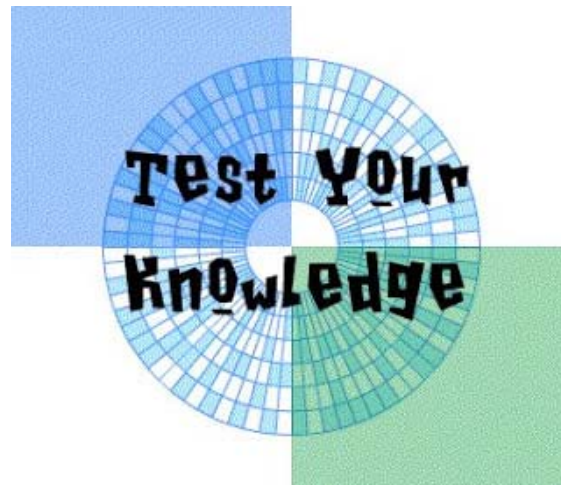
Gratefully yours,
Marcy Schwartz

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



SARAH SEIDEL SISTERHOOD PRESENTS

TRIVIA NIGHT



MAY 6, 2017

7 P.M.

OPEN TO MEMBERS AND NON-MEMBERS

\$20. PER PERSON

Dinner and dessert will be served.

BYOB

Join us for a fun evening of pub trivia... test your knowledge against the rest of the crowd... Sports, History, Literature, Pop Culture, Music...

·Play in teams up to 4 people, or individually ·Prizes awarded

DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO WIN?

RSVP LINDA (609)[558-7723](tel:6095587723)/Attyosman@verizon.net

By 5/3



**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
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	
6/3/17	Shabbat Morning Luncheon	Robin Affrime/Eileen Gale
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

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.



Yahrzeits for Spring/Summer 2017

Week of May 5 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lawrence Silverman, Father of Marsha Caldwell • Madge Rosen, Mother of Michael Rosen, Wife of Gerald Rosen • Leon Herzog, Brother of Madge Rosen, Uncle of Michael Rosen • Frances Novak, Mother of Blanche Cantor • Lewis Maniloff, Friend of Phyllis Chudoff • Mary Gross, Aunt of Shyrle Kushner • Philip Kushner, Father of Sol Kushner
Week of May 12 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Louis Benson, Father of Charyl Morginstin • Gertrude Urken, Sister of Henry Kessler
Week of May 19 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arlene Schwartz, Mother of Phyllis Chudoff • Ann Zeitz, Mother of Carl Zeitz • Samuel Kleger, Bonus Father of Marsha Caldwell • Bernard Greenblatt, Father of Marcia Rosen • Julia Affrime, Mother of Steve Affrime • Rita Hodes, Aunt of Randy Bloom
Week of May 22 nd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joseph Harrison, Father-In-Law of Renee Harrison • Jacob Mervish, Father of Shyrle Kushner • Marian Silverman, Mother of Marsha Caldwell
Week of June 2 nd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harry Brewis, Great-Great-Grandfather of Brian Epstein

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 2017

May 13 th 10am
June 3 rd 10am



**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.)*

May, 2017 ~ Iyyer—Sivan 5777

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
April 30 9 am Sunday School 10 am Hebrew School	May 1	2	3	4 4:30 pm Hebrew School	5 6 pm Tot Shabbat 7:30 pm Shabbat Services	6 7PM TRIVIA NIGHT 
7 9 am Sunday School 10 am Hebrew School 10:15am TBA Board Meeting	8	9	10	11 4:30 pm Hebrew School	12	13 10:00am Shabbat Morning Services
14 9 am Sunday School 10 am Hebrew School	15	16	17 Congregation Meeting 7:30pm	18 4:30 pm Hebrew School 7:30pm Sisterhood Meeting 	19 7:30 pm Shabbat Services	20 10am Bordentown Street Fair
21 9 am Sunday School 10 am Hebrew School 10am Bordentown Street Fair	22	23	24	25 6:30pm Game Night 	26 7:30 pm Shabbat Services	27
28	29	30	31	June 1	2	3 10:00am Shabbat Morning Services