



# Temple B'nai Abraham

Temple President  
Brian Epstein

Rabbi  
Julie Pfau

Sarah Siedel Sisterhood President  
Robin Affrime

“The Temple Shofar”

July, 2017

**Temple Officers**

**Temple President**

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**Chair, Building**

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**Chair, PR & Social Media**

Kim Ehrlich

**Recording Secretary**

**Important Dates**

Tot Shabbat 6pm 7/28

Shabbat 7:30pm 7/28

Important Fall Events

Shabbat 7:30pm 9/1

Hebrew School—  
Orientation & Family 9/7  
Orientation 5:30pm

Erev Rosh Hahanna 9/20  
7:30pm

Kol Nidre 6:15pm 9/29

## Rabbi's Message

Tisha B'Av, the 9th day of the month of Av, is a day of remembrance and mourning for the devastation experienced by ancient Jews as they experienced the destruction of the Temple and the loss of their way of life. Over time, Tisha B'Av was also identified as the date of other catastrophes in Jewish history.

Many contemporary Jews do not observe Tisha B'Av. This is often explained by its timing during the summer months. I think it is just as likely because many contemporary Jews do not share the assumptions of the observance. How many of us mourn the absence of the Temple? How many of us hope for the reinstatement of the Temple cult? How many of us believe in a God that inflicts such devastating traumas as punishment, as many of the traditional prayers suggest? If we do not share these assumptions, why would we observe Tisha B'Av in a traditional way?

And yet, there is a great deal of potential in Tisha B'Av. One strength is its honesty – its open acknowledgment of brokenness, of trauma, of grief, and the way rituals and liturgy can offer a container for those experiences to be acknowledged and felt in a communal context. While no longer seeing the absence of a Temple as a loss, there is a very real historical sense of communal grief that the Jewish people have experienced. Rituals of communal mourning that developed in association with that can be resources for acknowledging other areas of grief and tragedy. They can answer the call of Isaiah 40:1: “Comfort, oh comfort my people, says your God...”

This passage is the opening verse of the Haftarah that is read on the Shabbat following Tisha B'Av (Shabbat Naḥamu – the Shabbat of Comfort). This Haftarah is the first of seven Haftarot of Consolation that are read during the weeks between Tisha B'Av and Rosh

Hashanah. On the second Shabbat after Tisha B'Av, we read:

Isaiah 51:3 – “Truly the LORD has comforted Zion, comforted all her ruins; has made her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the Garden of the LORD. Gladness and joy shall abide there, thanksgiving and the sound of music.”

This passage reminds me of an alternative ritual that I once developed – “A Healing Gardening Service for Tisha B'Av.” The purpose of the ritual was to provide a space to link personal loss with communal loss, to come together in hope of spiritual healing and restoration. It involved reflecting on areas of personal loss and brokenness, and then planting seeds as a symbol of hope. When a seed is planted, it remains unseen for a period of time before growing into the light. It can be easy to forget it is there. But a desert is not transformed into a garden overnight, and until it becomes that garden, merely remaining conscious of the presence of these seeds of potential life can make a difference.

On Tisha B'Av there is grief but there is also ultimately a return to hope. The book of Lamentations is traditionally chanted, but the second to last verse is repeated to close the book –

Hashivenu adonai elekha venashuvah ḥadesh yameynu k'qedem.  
Bring us back to you, and we will return;  
renew our days as of old.

These words are a refrain that we will sing during the High Holidays. The work of teshuvah, of (re)turning, is ultimately a profoundly hopeful action. No matter where

Continued on Page 2



## Temple Donations

- In honor of Dr. Steve Lederman's retirement from Elaine Trackman

## Covered Dish

***“You never  
soar so high as  
when you stoop  
down to help a  
child or an  
animal.***

Thank you to everyone who attended covered dish. Between members and guests we had over 40 people!!! And there was a ton of excellent food- with a lot left over- but better too much than too little! Everyone was so happy to get together that it was hard to get everyone to stop talking for a short meeting and then a trivia game. Thanks to everyone who helped with clean-up. Really a fun night in every way. See you next year, Marsha and Randye

**-Jewish Proverb**

## Rabbi's Message Continued

we are in life, there is always hope for change. No matter how alienated we feel, there is always the potential to draw nearer to the divine. We can hold onto hope for a return to God or a return to our loved ones. We can have faith that we will someday return to our own true selves. We just need to remember that the seeds of potential are all there, patiently waiting to blossom.

This year, Tisha B'Av will begin on the evening of July 31st and end on the evening of August 1st. I invite you to use this day as an opportunity to reflect on the areas of brokenness in your own lives, and then imagine the potential for healing and transformation. Nurture that vision on each Shabbat of Consolation between Tisha B'Av and Rosh Hashanah. Let this hopeful vision offer you guidance as you prepare to do the work of teshuvah during the High Holidays this year.

Shalom,  
Rabbi Pfau



## Sisterhood News & Announcements

Shalom Friends,

Thanks for a wonderful Sarah Seidel Sisterhood year. I hope everyone had a great time at the Covered Dish. You all seemed to be having a good time and that's one of the purposes of the event. I thank Randye Bloom Scolaro and Marsha Dowshen for an exceptional job in planning and executing a marvelous evening. I'd also like to thank Linda Osman for planning a short trivia game for the fun of it and to give us a taste of what a good time we could have while raising

money for sisterhood. Look to the September newsletter for information on our fall schedule and for hosts and hostesses for the coming year. Until then, have a wonderful summer and I'll see you in the fall.

Fondly,  
Robin



***“Don’t be so humble—that you are not that great.”***

***-Golda Meir***

## Sisterhood Donations

- Get well Eileen Gale and Melanie Kunker from Marcy Schwartz and Rick Shain.
- Rejoicing with Elaine Trackman for award honoring Jay Trackman at Kimmel Center from Marcy Schwartz and Rick Shain
- Get Well to Robin Affrime from Phyllis and Steven Kamer
- Happy Birthday To Marlene Lavine from Elaine Trackman
- Congratulations on high school graduation to Noah Osman and Josh Grabenstein from Marcy Schwartz and Rick Shain
- Congratulations on college graduation to Justin Giachetti from Marcy Schwartz and Rick Shain

### **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



## Hebrew School & Tot Shabbat

Since Hebrew school is currently on summer break, I thought I'd use this month's space to talk about Tot Shabbat.

Tot Shabbat, as many of you know, is a monthly Friday night program for our youngest congregants and their families. Each program starts with a short service led by Rabbi Julie. We light candles, sing Shalom Aleichem, then sing one of a number of high-speed, movement-intensive songs. Moving around makes our hearts beat quickly! As we listen to our heartbeats start to calm, we say the Shema. Then everyone finds a parent or grandparent (or sometimes a sibling) to give them a blessing. Finally, we say kiddush and hamotzi . . . and break into the pizza, salads, and other noshes.

After dinner we make a craft, sometimes Shabbat-themed and other times focused on an upcoming holiday. If there's extra time, we read a story, play a game, or learn a song. Then there's everyone's favorite part of the evening: cleanup! (I've never seen a group of preschoolers so eager to vacuum as our Tot Shabbat'ers.)

***“As you teach,  
you learn.”***

***-Jewish Proverb***

Judaism has a lot to say about transitional moments both large and small . . . and the time between Tot Shabbat and the regular Friday night service is one little-noticed example. Adult congregants usually begin to arrive just as Tot Shabbat participants are leaving. I challenge those who find themselves in such a moment to stop and reflect on the various comings and goings (if that's possible while wrangling a tired child). What's special, unusual, or even holy about this liminal time?

Speaking of transitional moments, this summer marks the transition between my first and second years as Education Director. I look forward to another wonderful year at Temple B'nai Abraham!

B'shalom,  
Jill Ratzan  
Education Director

# SEE YOU IN SEPTEMBER!



## Temple Cookbook

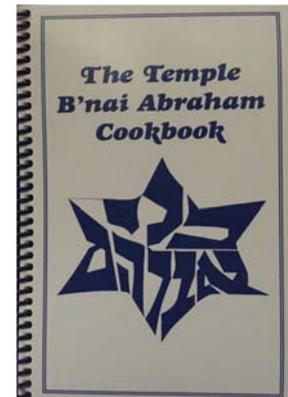
SALES ARE STALLING- AND WE ARE DEPRIVING THE TEMPLE OF \$6000!!! Please reserve your cookbooks today so that the Temple can receive the full benefit of this fundraiser. They really make great gifts for the new grad, bride or groom, first apartments, or hostess gifts- really, everyone loves a cookbook. Know any college kids moving into their first apartment? And there is a free e-book copy that you can get by following the directions on the cover page- how can it miss????!!

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.



***“Building a Jewish home means not only caring for those who live in that home but anyone who enters it.***

***-Anon***

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## Tikkun Olam / Social Action

### **Social Action -- Hunger Relief**

Please make a donation of food for the food pantry or our interfaith hunger relief efforts this month! TBA doesn't meet regularly in the summer, but food insecurity knows no seasons. Our neighbors need our support throughout the year. Items we need:

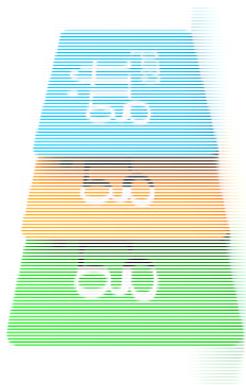
granola/cereal/breakfast bars  
canned tuna/chicken

other non-perishable food items and toiletries are also welcome.

We continue to deliver a hot meal to the residents of the Pine Motel during the summer, the first Thurs. of the month. Many thanks to Robin and Steve Affrime, Phyllis Chudoff, and Judy Schimmel for their on-going commitment to this important service. If you would like to join us (about an hour of your time, only once a month), please call Marcy: 609-324-0571.

Gratefully yours,  
Marcy Schwartz





## 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.

## Joy and Sorrow Cards

For a donation of \$3.50, we can send a card on your behalf for a birth or birthday, anniversary, mitzvah or get well or sorrow. Please contact Rita Nissim for details (609) 298-5357.

## Prayerbook Fundraising Drive

I recently took an inventory of the Shabbat prayerbooks that we have been using for some time. I found that one-third of them show a level of damage and wear to warrant replacement. For a donation of \$40 per book, you can purchase a new Shabbat prayerbook for Temple B'nai Abraham, and if you want to, you can have a dedication label displayed in it to honor or remember someone.

The High Holiday prayerbooks are fairly new and don't need replacement yet. They were purchased with a donation that allowed us to buy the whole set at once without any fundraising activity. Now, for a donation of \$20 per book, you can have a dedication label placed into one of the High Holiday prayerbooks. Some of the money raised from the labels will be put aside for future book purchases as they become necessary.

To participate in this fundraiser, please send a check made out to Temple B'nai Abraham to P.O. Box 245, Bordentown NJ 08505. Please specify if the donation is for a new Shabbat prayerbook or for a label in a High Holiday prayerbook. If you would like a dedication label, please provide the details for the dedication.

If there are any questions, please call me at 609-298-2799. If you email me (mjanrosen@comcast.net) it will probably take me longer to reply.  
Shalom.

Marcia Rosen  
Religious Committee Vice President



## Upcoming Yahrzeits 2017

Week of July 7 <sup>th</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anna Harrison, Mother-In-Law of Renee Harrison</li> <li>• Yettie Epstein, Great-Grandmother of Brian Epstein</li> <li>• Solomon Schaffer, Father of Rhoda Kessler</li> <li>• Joseph Josephson, Father of Sam Josephson</li> <li>• Jack Roth, Father of Elaine Trackman</li> <li>• Oscar Wasserman, Father of Linda Bowker</li> </ul>
Week of July 14 <sup>th</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Julie Kwait, Sister of Marcy Schwartz</li> <li>• Sam Shain, Father of Rick Shain</li> <li>• Max Light, Father of Patricia Light-Tolomeo</li> <li>• William Keiner, Father of Lillian Gutstein</li> <li>• Ethel Shipe, Great-Grandmother of Brian Epstein</li> <li>• Abraham Zeitz, Father of Carl Zeitz</li> </ul>
Week of July 21 <sup>st</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lester Bird, Father-In-Law of Sandy Schwartzbird</li> </ul>
Week of July 28 <sup>th</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jay Trackman, Husband of Elaine Trackman</li> <li>• Beatrice Busch, Mother of Phyllis Busch</li> <li>• Bernard Shain, Father of Betsy Ramos</li> <li>• Lulu Cohen, Grandmother of Sandra Cohen</li> <li>• Isadore Kamer, Husband of Phyllis Kamer</li> <li>• Alan Benson, Brother of Charyl Morginstin</li> </ul>
Week of August 4 <sup>th</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alice Mervish, Mother of Shyrle Kushner</li> <li>• Louis Rosenberg, Father of Ellen Wehrman</li> <li>• Norma Goldman, Mother of Maxine &amp; Philip Goldman</li> <li>• Louis Rudenstein, Father of Mildred Leary</li> </ul>
Week of August 11 <sup>th</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elaine Zeitz, Wife of Carl Zeitz</li> <li>• Abraham Kaiser, Father of Eileen Gale</li> <li>• Louis Rosen, Grandfather of Gerald Rosen</li> <li>• Marty Nissim, Husband of Rita Nissim</li> </ul>
Week of August 18 <sup>th</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Irving Speiser, Father of Bernie Speiser</li> <li>• Benjamin Epstein, Great-Grandfather of Brian Epstein</li> <li>• Celia Schwartz, Mother of Marcy Schwartz</li> <li>• Selma Bloom, Mother of Randy Bloom</li> </ul>
Week of August 25 <sup>th</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Norman Goldman, Father of Bonnie Goldman, Father of Jeff Goldman</li> </ul>
Week of Sept. 1 <sup>st</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bonnie Ross, Mother of Jack Ross</li> <li>• Julius Lederman, Father of Steven Lederman</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.

## 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. Packages of 10 cards can be purchased for \$15. If you are interested, please contact Judy Schimmel at [timeout4two@gmail.com](mailto:timeout4two@gmail.com) to place your order. The deadline for orders is September 19<sup>th</sup>. 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 Years 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 Years 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.

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## Hebrew & Sunday School Registration

It's time to register your students for Hebrew school and Sunday school for the 2017-2018 (5778) school year! Please visit <http://tinyurl.com/tba-school-5778> to register.

Our theme this year is Jewish Social Justice, and we're excited to combine our curriculum of Hebrew, prayer, and text study with a variety of field trips and other interactive activities. We'll also continue our regular holiday celebrations and our Thursday afternoon student-lead Shabbat services.

Sunday school, which meets Sunday mornings from 9:00am to 9:55am, is for students entering grades K-2. Hebrew school, which meets Sundays from 10:00am to 12:00pm and Thursdays 4:30pm to 6:30pm, is for students entering grades 3-7. We also have a teen volunteer program (with other teen activities to come!), and offer special instruction for students preparing for their Bar or Bat Mitzvah.

A complete school-year calendar, including start dates and special events, will be available shortly.

I'm happy to answer any questions you may have about school, the registration process, or any other topics.

Hope to see you at school!

B'shalom,  
Jill Ratzan  
Education Director

[jratzan@bnai-abraham.org](mailto:jratzan@bnai-abraham.org)



### Yom Kippur Community Booklet

If you would like to have your family and friends included in the community booklet for Yom Kippur, please complete the form that is in this newsletter and send it with your check payable to **Temple B'nai Abraham**, to Randy Bloom, 514 Reeder Avenue, Bordentown, NJ 08505. The cost is a minimum of \$2.00 per name. ALL proceeds go to the Temple, so please be as generous as you can. The fundraising goal is at least \$2000. If there is no change in your list, just send your check to Randy with a note that there is no change. Call Randy if you have any questions at 609-298-6485 or email her at [mikerandy@gmail.com](mailto:mikerandy@gmail.com).

An example of what a listing looks like:

Randy E. Bloom & Michael Scolaro, Jr.

honor: Jef, Emily, & Kori Bloom  
Palma Harwick

remember: Selma & Julius Bloom  
Mary & Michael Scolaro  
Pauline & William Hodes  
Minnie & Joseph Bloom  
Rita Hodes & Charles Stein  
Michael D. Burns  
Elaine B. Zeitz

This example would cost a minimum of \$32.00.

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Please include the following names in the community booklet:

HONOR

REMEMBER

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) of donor(s) as it is (they are) to appear in booklet:

Check enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_



**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.)*

**August, 2017 ~ Sivan — Tamuz 5777**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
July 23	24	25	26	27	28 6:00pm Tot Shabbat  7:30 pm Shabbat Services	29
30	31	August 1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	September 1  7:30 pm Shabbat Services	2