



Temple B'nai Abraham

Temple President
Brian Epstein

Rabbi
Julie Pfau

Sarah Siedel Sisterhood President
Robin Affrime

“The Temple Shofar”

December, 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

Shabbat Morning 10am	12/9
Shabbat service & Community Menorah Lighting	12/15
Community Hanukkah Celebration 10 am	12/17
TBA Blood Drive 2:30pm-7:30pm	12/18

Rabbi's Message

Yedid Nefesh is a *piyyut*, or liturgical poem, written by R. Eleazar Ben Moses Azikri (1533-1600). Azikri was ordained in 1596 in Safed, but he did not hold any public leadership functions. Rather, he devoted his time to his own individual mystical activities (meditation, study, and writing), and to founding and leading two associations of mystics whose purpose was to eschew worldly pursuits and to dedicate themselves to things of God. Azikri and his fellows interacted with the public only for the purpose of promoting repentance – making public appearances in order to urge penitence, and ultimately authoring *Sefer Haredim*, a text that was a culmination of the ethics and ideals of Azikri and his fellows. The poem, *Yedid Nefesh*, is one of four of Azikri's poems that appeared in this piece of literature, and it reflects his passionate desire for *deveikut*, for close communion with God. *Yedid Nefesh* is, literally, Azikri's love-song to God.

Azikri's spiritual practice was one of asceticism and solitude. It is taught that, during one stage of his life, his spiritual practice was to spend a third of his day writing and the rest of the day engaging in a rather unique meditation practice – a practice which entailed sitting motionless and silent while wearing *tefillin*, and keeping his eyes “focused upon God.” In doing so, Azikri sought to increase his *deveikut*, his closeness to God. When, in the third stanza, the poet exclaims about how much he has longed to see the glory of God's majesty, these are not idle words. For at least some periods in his life, Azikri spent two thirds of his waking hours literally focusing his eyes on God (or at least trying to...).

Azikri's desire to focus on God is also revealed in his unique approach to the

acrostic style of *piyyut* writing. It was common for Medieval poets to write using acrostics, and they typically spelled the author's name. In contrast to the stereotypical model, Azikri embedded the four letter name of God in his poem. The editors of our *siddur* highlighted the acrostic by framing the letters YHVH in artistic boxes with *shabbos* symbols inside them – a setting sun, *shabbat* candles, a *kiddush* cup, and *challah*. (The Hebrew is on page 7 of our *siddur*; the translation is on pages 4, 6 and 8.)

Azikri's plea is for a compassionate response to his passionate devotion. In the third stanza, the poet urges God to hurry and respond to his profound longing. The poet has spent two-thirds of his waking hours looking to God, and he asks God to look back, to refrain from hiding. Azikri wants the relationship to have a kind of mutuality, if not equality. In the poem, Azikri speaks of himself as servant – thus it is clearly not an equal relationship. However, this does not mean it cannot be reciprocal and connected. Azikri wants to be the kind of servant who is seen by his master, not one of those servants who might as well be invisible to their masters except when they do wrong. Although servant imagery is explicit in parts of *Yedid Nefesh*, the dominant imagery is that of a love relationship – both in terms of biblical references and in terms of explicit wording. Connections to Shir HaShirim 1:4 are found in the first line of the *piyyut*, and also in the last stanza. In addition, Azikri expresses a sense of his being love-sick, pining away for God.

We might not spend two-thirds of our day sitting silent and motionless with eyes peeled for our beloved Source, and many haven't

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even seen *tefillin*, much less know what to do with them. But I think many of us can relate to the deep longing expressed in Azikri's poem. Human beings long to be seen, recognized, and responded to with compassion. It is sometimes easier to experience this longing in relationship to other human beings, since it is easier to verify the reality of the connection. With the divine, it can take keener vision, as well as patience and persistence. When we feel distant from God, and feel a thirst to infuse our lives and our world with a sense of

holiness and profound meaning, we have familiar words to turn to that can express our deep longings. Next time you are at services, I encourage you to contemplate the words of *Yedid Nefesh* and allow this *piyyut* to be a vehicle to express your own deep longings for *deveikut*, connection to God. And may we all find God compassionately turning toward us in response.

Shalom,
Rabbi Pfau

**"The future
belongs to those
who believe in
the beauty of
their dreams."**

**-Eleanor
Roosevelt**

Hebrew School & Tot Shabbat

Hanukkah is right around the corner!

Below is our special event schedule for the month of December. Please note that this schedule includes some minor changes to the original school calendar.

Friday, Dec. 15 6:00pm-9:00pm:

Tot Shabbat, Menorah Lightings, and Shabbat Eve Service

Tot Shabbat will begin at 6:00pm with a community menorah-lighting. Please bring a menorah (we have lots of regular candles, but if your menorah takes specially-sized candles, please bring those too). We'll also be lighting menorahs before the Shabbat Eve service at 7:30pm.

Sunday, Dec. 17 10:00am-12:00noon: Hanukkah Celebration

All TBA families are invited to join us on Sunday, Dec. 17 from 10am-12noon for our community Hanukkah celebration (in lieu of regular Hebrew school and Sunday school). Parent and grandparent volunteers are needed to help run craft, game, and cooking stations, especially latke-making. (Latke-makers should plan to arrive at 9:30am to ensure enough time to prepare, cook, and eat latkes!) Please let me know if you can help out.

Thursday, Dec. 21 - Sunday, Dec. 31: Winter Break

Regular school schedules resume on Thursday, Jan. 4.

B'shalom,
Jill Ratzan
Education Director



Sisterhood News & Announcements

Shalom Friends,

Our November sisterhood meeting was Monday night, November 20th and with help from Karen Nissim, members and guests made beautiful flower arrangements. Though I didn't have the pleasure of attending I saw some beautiful arrangements on Face Book. Thank you to Karen for helping to make the evening so special. Thank you also to Linda Osman for being hostess and president for the evening.

Cookbooks are on sale for \$15 each. I always turn first to our SSS cookbook when looking to make something special for a dinner party or dessert and usually find just the right recipe to make for family and friends. Remember Hanukah is here and cookbooks make great gifts! For cook books contact Randy at 298-6485.

Thank you to Eileen Gale, Laurel Harris and Marc Brotman for the luncheon after Saturday services on November 4th.

Congratulations to Joseph Pollard on his Bar Mitzvah and a thank you to the Schwartz Pollard family for a delicious oneg.

Congratulations to Hayley Schwartz on her Bat Mitzvah and thank you to Christy and Eric Schwartz for a lovely luncheon.

Our next Saturday service will be Saturday 12/9/17. Caroline Ehrlich and Betsy Ramos will host.

The next meeting of the Sarah Seidel Sisterhood will be Wednesday January 10th. The theme will be Hanukah Revisited. Please come with a gift you received that isn't quite right for you, but is suitable for re-gifting. Last year we had a great time! Hostesses for the evening are Nina Glanz and Susan Roth.

If you are not yet a member but are interested in joining Sarah Seidel Sisterhood, bring a check for \$30 to any sisterhood meeting or send it to the temple care of sisterhood. We look forward to making new friends and having new members.

A long standing sisterhood fundraiser is to send out joy or sorrow cards. If you would like a card sent to someone for joy or sorrow, contact Rita Nissim at 298-5357. The cost of the cards is \$3.50 each. The money can be sent to temple care of sisterhood.

I look forward to seeing you soon. Be well.
Robin Affrime
raffrime@gmail.com



Friendship is born at that moment when one person says to another: "What! You too? I thought I was the only one."

-C.S. Lewis

Sisterhood Officers

Sisterhood President
Robin Affrime

Vice President
Linda Osman

Treasurer/Financial Scty
Marcy Schwartz

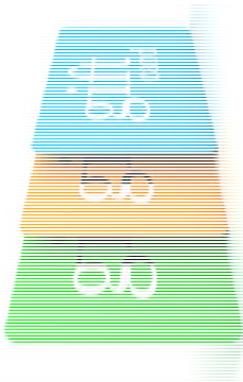
Recording Secretary
Marsha Caldwell

Corresponding Secretary
Patricia Light-Tolomeo

Trustees
Eileen Gale
Susan Giachetti

Sisterhood Donations

- Get well to Jean Bergman from Sheila Lamonsoff
- Get well Randy Bloom from Elaine Trackman
- Get well Steven Affrime from the Morginstins
- In memory of Helen Adelman from Rita Nissim, Elaine Trackman, Phyllis Kamer and Renee Harrison



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

*“It is not joy
that makes us
grateful, it is
gratitude that
makes us
joyful.”*

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.

-Unknown

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



Temple Cookbook

Hanukkah is coming- a perfect time to give someone a Temple Cookbook!!

Latke recipes included!!! It even makes a great stocking stuffer!! And there are wonderful soups for this winter. What a great way to celebrate our community and 100th anniversary.

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.



***“Worries go
down better
with soup.”***

-Jewish Proverb

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





LIFE'S A GIFT. GIVE MORE OF IT. **DONATE BLOOD.**

Blood Drive



Temple B'nai Abraham will sponsor an American Red Cross blood drive on Monday, December 18, 2017 at Temple B'nai Abraham, 58 Crosswicks Street, Bordentown, from 2:30 to 7:30 PM. If you are able to assist at the Temple that day, please let Randye know. If each Temple family makes itself responsible for one unit of blood- we will more than make our goal. So please ask family and friends if they are able to donate and have them schedule an appointment. Walk-ins are permitted, but those with an appointment get taken first. The holiday season is traditionally a difficult time for meeting the blood needs of patients, so the success of this drive is important. Donating blood is a unique opportunity to reach out and directly contribute to saving a life. To make an appointment to give blood on December 18, please call 298-6485 or go to www.redcrossblood.org and enter sponsor code Temple BNai Abraham. Thank you.

American Red Cross

Maximize your donation.
Help more patients.

Power Red

A Power Red donation is ideal for O-, O+, B- and A- donors. Ask a Red Cross staff member for more details.

Upcoming Yahrzeits 2017

Week of Dec. 1 st	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Samuel Morginstin, Father of Sid Morginstin Minnie Kleger, Bonus Mother of Marsha Caldwell Edward Caldwell, Brother of David Caldwell
Week of Dec. 8 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dorothy Gutstein, Wife of Herman Gutstein Nathan Schwartz, Father of Phyllis Chudoff Rebecca Gale, Mother-In-Law of Eileen Gale Lillian Morginstin, Mother of Sid Morginstin Pauline Schwartz, Grandmother of Phyllis Chudoff
Week of Dec. 15 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Max Kamer, Father of Isadore Kamer
Week of Dec. 22 nd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paul Cantor, Father of Ray Cantor Janice Spiegel, Cousin of Linda Bowker
Week of Dec. 29 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ella Kessler, Mother of Henry Kessler Lawrence Bowker, Husband of Linda Bowker and Father of Jonathan Bowker Eudell Rod, Friend of Linda Bowker
Week of Jan. 5 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aaron Schwartzberg, Father of Sandy Schwartzbird Evelyn Rothman, Mother of Robin Affrime Blanche Cantor, Mother of Ray Cantor

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 \$40. A tallis (prayer shawl) can be purchased for \$60. Please contact Marcia Rosen at: mjanrosen@comcast.net

Memorial Plaques

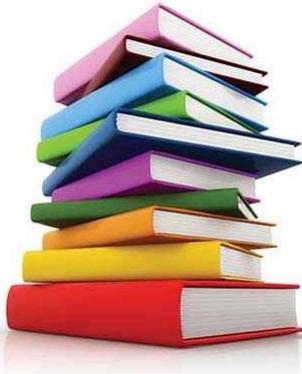
Plaques are available for \$250. To order a plaque, send the following to TBA: Marcia Rosen, Plaque Chairman PO Box 245 Bordentown, NJ 08505 or: mjanrosen@comcast.net.

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 2017-18

December 9th
January 20 th
February 24 th Jadon Baer's Bar Mitzvah
March 24 th

April 21 st
May 26 th E. Gale & R. Affrime B'not Mitzvah
June 2 nd Brandon & Gavin Rosenblatt B'nei Mitzvah



“the books I have read were composed by generations of fathers and sons, mothers and daughters, teachers and disciples. I am the sum total of their experiences, and so are you.”

~Elie Wiesel

Children’s Book Drive!

Jadon Baer, a B'nei Mitzvah student, is proudly participating in a book drive for The Bridge of Books Foundation (BoB). Operating as a 501(c)(3), the organization’s mission is to provide an ongoing source of new and gently used books to underserved kids throughout New Jersey to support literacy efforts and encourage a love of reading. The organization's name comes from the belief that a book, like a bridge, can take a child to new places - today in his or her imagination and tomorrow through literacy skills!

We are looking to collect:

- ❖ New and gently used books for kids from birth through age eighteen
- ❖ If a book makes sounds, it must work
- ❖ If a book has parts, it must be complete

We are not looking to collect:

- ❖ Adult books, textbooks, encyclopedias, coloring books, used work books or magazines
- ❖ One exception – Bridge of Books will accept parenting books!

A collection box will be placed at Temple Abraham from September 24th to October 8th. Please be a part of these efforts to bring the world and all its possibilities to New Jersey’s at-risk children through books. To learn more about The Bridge of Books Foundation, please visit www.bridgeofbooksfoundation.org.

Thank you for giving the gift of literacy!

Volunteers Needed

Our wonderful temple community is need of volunteers. Please consider a board position or helping with the web site, newsletter or social media. We need help around the building with managing the trash and updating the sign board and other easy tasks. Please contact Brian Epstein and he will find an appropriate task that you can contribute to. Remember we are a community run organization. If you are not already doing something , it is time to step up. We cannot do it all alone.



Thank you in advance for helping.

ep@bnai-abrahm.org

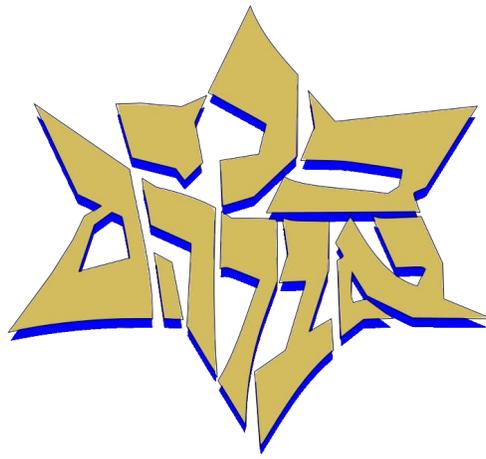


**Temple B’nai Abraham and Sarah Seidel Sisterhood
Host List for Shabbat Services and Sisterhood Meetings
2017-2018**

*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
12/9/17	Shabbat Morning Luncheon	Caroline Ehrlich & Betsy Ramos
12/10/17	Latke Brunch	Josh Affrime & Family
12/15/17	Friday Night Oneg	Schecter & Barman Families
1/10/18	Sisterhood Meeting	Nina Glantz & Susan Roth
1/20/18	Shabbat Morning Luncheon	Mann & Kunkler Families
2/09/18	Friday Night Oneg	Josh and Colleen Affrime & Kranger Family
2/23-2/24/18	Jadon Baer Bar Mitzvah	The Baer Family
3/02/18	Friday Night Oneg: Purim	Mindy Fink & Weiskott Family
3/14/18	Sisterhood Meeting	Susan Zaveloff & Marsha Caldwell
3/24/18	Shabbat Morning Luncheon	Giachetti & Rosen Families
3/31/18	2 nd Seder at TBA all purpose room	Kim Aubry
4/16/18	Sisterhood Meeting	Phyllis Chudoff & Sharon Coleman
4/21/18	Shabbat Morning Luncheon	Epstein & Bakacs/Kopsco Families
4/27/18	Friday Night Oneg	Carlis & Cohen Families
May TBD	Sisterhood Meeting	Rhea Goldman & Bonnie Goldman
5/25-5/26/18	Adult B’nai Mitzvah	Eileen Gale & Robin Affrime
6/11/18	Sisterhood Annual Covered Dish	Randy Bloom & Marsha Dowshen
6/29/18	Friday Night Oneg: Member of the Year	Schwartz-Shain & Weiss Families

Temple B'nai Abraham



Sarah Seidel Sisterhood

58 Crosswicks Street, Bordentown NJ 08505

December 5, 2017

Dear Congregation B'nai Abraham,

It's hard to believe that it is already December. We've started school, celebrated the Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, our 100th anniversary, Sukkot, Thanksgiving and are quickly moving toward Chanukah and 2018.

We've been working hard on improvements to the Synagogue and attached apartment. As you may have noticed, we replaced the crumbling front steps of both the Synagogue and apartment for both safety and appearance. We have also focused our efforts and capital funds on upgrading the apartment to make it comparable with other rentals in the Bordentown area. During the High Holidays and our centennial celebration, I mentioned that I would be starting a donation campaign in order to help cover some of our expenditures and lost rent for the year. That time is now.

Let's work together to raise \$10,000 this year. I know it is a lot to ask, but I have faith in our community that this is an achievable goal. We are fortunate to enjoy a vibrant, active community at a fraction of the cost of nearby synagogues that are struggling to keep their doors open. I feel this is due to our energetic, caring, and open community unique to this synagogue. I know that we all want to keep making investments into the synagogue to maintain our joy and enthusiasm for Judaism and community.

I'm also pleased to announce that the Rosen and Epstein families have agreed to a challenge grant. The first \$2,000 donated will be matched dollar for dollar by each family. This means that your donation will be tripled when making it early in the campaign! Please mark "Project \$10,000" on your donation when sending them in so that we know it should go to the campaign.

With that I wish you a happy and healthy holiday season and joyous new year!

Thank you for your generosity,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Brian Epstein'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Brian Epstein
President - Temple B'nai Abraham



December 2017

Kislev 5778—Tevet 5778

**TEMPLE
B'NAI ABRAHAM**

58 Crosswicks
PO Box 245
Bordentown, NJ 08505
609.298.1527
www.bnai-abraham.org

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
26 No School	27	28	29	30 2:00pm Adult Hebrew 4:30pm Hebrew School	1 7:30pm Shabbat Services	2
3 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Hebrew School	4	5	6	7 4:30pm Hebrew School 6:30pm Game Night	8	9 10:00am Shabbat Morning Service
10 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Hebrew School	11	12	13	14 4:30pm Hebrew School	15 6:00pm Shabbat Services 7:30pm Shabbat Services	16
17 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Hebrew School	18 	19	20	21 No School	22 7:30pm Shabbat Services	23
24 No School	25	26	27	28 No School	29 7:30pm Shabbat Services	30
31 No School	1	2	3	4 4:30pm Hebrew School	5 7:30pm Shabbat Services	6