



October 2015 Newsletter

**CONGREGATION
B'NAI ABRAHAM**

Volume 27, Issue 2
18 Tishrei - 18 Cheshvan 5776

FROM THE DESK OF THE RABBI

Friends,

As I offered during the Yom Kippur address to the Congregation, we have an exciting opportunity to travel together to Israel. Not only will this trip be a wonderful opportunity to be in Israel, but also an extraordinary opportunity to help Israel. As the most anchored Jewish community in our region, we have a responsibility to cooperate with our Christian neighbors to share in our collective spirit of Ahavat Y'Israel - a love of Israel. To kick off these types of efforts, we will be undertaking our interfaith trip with a national Christian leader. Reverend Bill Harter, who has been a friend of our Congregation for decades and is a personal friend of mine, is a leader in the Presbyterian Church to challenge efforts supportive of divestment from Israel. The BDS movement - Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement, is a contemptible effort that seeks to delegitimize the State of Israel. Most recently, our movement rabbinical leaders condemned the action of the Presbyterian Church (USA) General Assembly, by a vote of 310-303, to "selectively divest" from three companies that it claims "further the Israeli occupation in Palestine." Bill Harter is leading "our fight for Zionism" within his Church. He believes his Assembly does not accurately represent the voice of those in the pews. We wish to create a symbolic and real demonstration of the deep collective value held between Presbyterians and Jews. As a special add on, we will have also have the opportunity to learn in depth from experts on the ground addressing issues of Israel-Arab coexistence, Jewish pluralism and the Reform movement in Israel.

This trip is our way to support Bill's efforts and to thank him for being such a good friend to us over the years. The cost is \$3500 based on double occupancy, with a few additional fees that will add about \$500 to the trip. Breakfast buffet is included all days and dinner is included on most, if not all, evenings. The cost includes airfare, entrance fees to the various locations, tour guide, bus, and hotel accommodations (equivalent to the higher end hotels you would find in the US). Our guide is one of the best in Israel. Bill Harter has been to Israel over 40 times and I need not share with you the depth of my own connection to Israel. This is truly a trip of a lifetime.

We arrive in Israel on Friday, February 26th, relax in the hotel in the late afternoon and then head over to the Western Wall to welcome the Sabbath. We enjoy a private service together, along with dinner at the hotel.

On Saturday, we explore the Church of the Holy Sepulchre and retrace the Stations of the Cross along the Via Dolorosa. We then make our way to the revamped Israel Museum, which along the many exhibits includes the Dead Sea Scrolls and a huge model of ancient Jerusalem. This day concludes with a trip to the Knesset and perhaps, a meeting with a Knesset member, conditions permitting. Dinner provided at the hotel.

Sunday, we make our way to Hadassah Hospital, where we view the wondrous Chagall stained glass, then make our way to Ben-Yehudah street which is the pedestrian market full of many shops and activity. From here, we travel to have a tour of the majestic and historic campus of Hebrew Union College in Jerusalem in King David, complete with an overlook of Old City of Jerusalem. We will be joined by an expert, who will share with us some of the issues facing the Reform movement and issues confronting Jewish pluralism in Israel.

Monday morning is a tour of the vast holdings of Yad Vashem, the Holocaust Museum. From Yad Vashem, we make our way to the Jewish Quarter of the Old City. The Jewish Quarter is the main residential area for Jewish living in the hold city and has been inhabited by Jews for centuries. It contains remnants from ancient, medieval to modern times. We then have an opportunity to have dinner together, along with a session on Israeli-Arab coexistence efforts.

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Tuesday we descend to the Dead Sea, visit Qumran, where the Dead Sea Scrolls were written and found. We continue to Masada to ascend and descend by cable car, view the oasis of Ein Gedi and bathe in the Dead Sea. In the evening, we travel to Tel Aviv and have dinner.

Wednesday is a day of leisure in Tel Aviv. Tel Aviv is Israel's largest city. Enjoy the wonderful beaches, walk the promenades, shopping, movie theaters and entertainment. We will make available to you some ideas and guidance, but this is your opportunity to experience modern Israel, on your own terms. Dinner together at the hotel.

Thursday morning, we hear from an expert on the expanding and rising state of the Israel as an economic engine. If time permits, we intend to make our way to the Yitzchak Rabin Center, which tells the story of the State of Israel through the life of Rabin. We then travel to Independence Hall to where David Ben Gurion declared the formation of the Jewish State to the world in 1948 and learn in more depth the extraordinary circumstances leading to the formation of Israel. Our trip concludes with a meeting at the American Consulate in Tel Aviv, circumstances permitting. We have a nice dinner together at a port restaurant in Tel Aviv before making our way to Ben Gurion airport. We arrive back in the US on Friday.

Additional information on the trip will be provided in a mailing to the Congregation tentatively, we also plan to have an information session on Saturday, October 17th, 10:30AM, to be held in our social hall. Please email with any questions.

Let this be a year where we follow up on our annual pledge, "Next year in Jerusalem!"

Rabbi Plost

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Gathering for the High Holy Days is a highlight of the year. We get to connect with people we may not have seen for a while and through our worship we celebrate the beginning of a new year together, a year full of hope and promise. And as we confess our sins we do so in the loving and understanding arms of God and in the safe place of our sanctuary all together, knowing that none of us is perfect, but that redemption is truly available to those who make teshuva.

It truly takes an army to see that everything comes together on those days. I would like to thank the many people who helped out with the preparation for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services this year. and to all who participated in the services.

In particular, todah rabah to: Monda Sagalkin, Randi Numbers, Sandi Gagliardi, Gary Greenwald, Sharon Wagshal, David Loy, the CBA choir, singers from the Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, Doug Lieberman, Lisa Schiffman, Barbara Schwab, Kiriah Whitener, Ben Chlebnikow, Jerry Falke, Vic Kronstadt, Laura Wilson. A special thanks to Rabbi Plost for leading us in meaningful worship and leaving us with strong messages of hope.

Three extraordinary accomplishments took place from Rosh Hashanah to Yom Kippur: The David Kurtz family, the Bruce Greenwald family and the Judy Greenwald Cohen family purchased the new High Holy Day prayer books and named them in memory of Judy Donna Greenwald; Dan and Rachel Greenwald have pledged to established an endowed fund -- the Judy Greenwald Jewish Youth Fund; and the congregation launched the "90 for 90" campaign, which aims to raise \$90,000 for the temple in honor of Jeanne Jacobs 90th birthday. The campaign begins with Jeanne's bequest to establish the Harold and Jeanne Jacobs Fund -- another endowed fund group.

The congregation has an opportunity to meet a matching opportunity that was announced during the Yom Kippur Appeal. If you have not yet sent a pledge, please be sure you are included in the effort. Mail you donation to the temple office marked "YK appeal" on the check's memo line.

With the upcoming Sukkot and Simchat Torah/Consecration, we will have yet another opportunity to come together and share in the rituals that are physical manifestations of our devotion Judaism and to each other.

L'shana tova,

Rachel



NOTES FROM THE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

It was wonderful seeing so many students (and former students) at our Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services. Hope you can attend Congregation B'nai Abraham's sukkot dinner on October 2 at the home of Betsy Rosenthal and Pete Sherman.

The school calendar is "chock-full" for the month of October! Our first regular class will take place on Sunday, October 4, and it will include a fun-filled special presentation by one of our congregants...details to follow. The following Friday, of course, the congregation will celebrate Simchat Torah and we will have our traditional Consecration ceremony for the youngest pupils.

No classes on October 11-- of course -- but look forward to a terrific family activity event on October 18! **BE PREPARED TO BRING ALL YOUR CREATIVE SKILLS.**

Finally, we shall end the month on October 25 with a regular religious class schedule.

Chag sameach!

DONATIONS

Endowment Fund

In memory of Odell Rosen
 In memory of Odell Rosen
 In memory of Odell Rosen
 In memory of Odell Rosen
 In memory of Odell Rosen

by Andy Pike & Barbara Sarslik
 by Hannah & Ed Baer
 by Robin & David Handler
 by Sharon Wagshal
 by Janet & Mansoor Emral Shaool

General Fund

Mazel tov on the marriage of Lisa & Dan Schiffman
 Mazel tov on the engagement of Rabbi Plost & Michelle Rosenbluth

by Bunky & Richard Kurtz
 by Bunky & Richard Kurtz

Chai Fund

In memory of Odell Rosen

by Joan & Doug Becker

ONEGS - OCTOBER SCHEDULE

- Friday October 2 Sharon & Lew Metzner, Chairs ; Fern & Joe Cunningham, Heather & Paul Green, Michelle Rosenbluth, Ashley & David Rosenthal
- Friday October 9 Stacie Noll, Chair; Kim & Dave Hanan, Peg Marfilus & Doug Lieberman, Javier Tellez
- Friday October 16 Carrol & Ira Lourie, Chairs; Brigie & Dick Greenwald
- Friday October 23 Any & Bob Kerstein, Chairs; Nyna & Abe Lachman
- Friday October 30 Susan Roza, Chair; Suzanne & Rick Kass

CALENDARS

In order to save a tree or two, printed calendars are only available upon request. Please contact Michelle in the office to arrange to pick up a copy.

NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS

Shana Tova - May you be inscribed in the Book of Life for a happy & healthy new year. - The Chlebnikow Family

May you be blessed for a good year. L'shana Tova. - The Schiffman & Wilson Families

All best wishes for a happy and healthy new year. - Sharon Wagshal

Best Wishes for health and happiness in the New Year. - Monda Sagalkin

To all our B'nai Abraham friends, we wish you a fantastic & healthy new year! - Lori & Steve Slavick

Good health and happiness to all. - Carol & Howard Mendelsohn

With best wishes for a healthy & prosperous new year! - Sandi Gagliardi & Family

Wishing everyone a happy & healthy new year ! - The Rosenthal/Sherman Family

Warm wishes for a New year of good health and peace. - Carol Metzner

May we all be inscribed and sealed for a good year in 5776! - Barbara Schwab

DATES TO REMEMBER

Friday	October 2	Sukkot Family Shabbat & Pot Luck Dinner @ the home of Betsy Rosenthal & Pete Sherman	6:00 pm
Sunday	October 4	Books & Bagels @ the home of Joan & Doug Becker	1:30 pm
Friday	October 9	Congregational Dinner	6:15 pm
Friday	October 9	Simchat Torah Shabbat & Consecration Services	7:30 pm
Sunday	October 25	Brunch - Bert Gold, Ph.D. speaking on " <i>Jewish Genetic Diseases</i> "	10:00 am

LIFELONG LEARNING

October 4	Books & Bagels @ the home of Joan & Doug Becker The book is " <i>The Golem & The Jinni</i> " by Helene Wecker	1:30 pm
October 25	Brunch Bert Gold, Ph.D. will speak about " <i>Jewish Genetic Diseases</i> " Dr. Gold is a staff geneticist at NIH, Board Certified in Clinical Molecular Genetics and Genomics and an expert on cancers in the Jewish population.	10:00 am

SPECIAL PRESENTATION — by David B. Gordon, Chair, Dept. of History, Shepherd University

If you liked last year's brunch presentation by Congregant David B. Gordon about the heroism of Sugihara Chiune, you'll love his latest:

"A Tale of Two Diplomats: He Fengshan, Sugihara Chiune, & the Jewish Flight from Nazi Europe"

Tuesday, October 13, 2015 at 12:00 pm, Byrd Center for Legislative Studies Auditorium at Shepherd Univ.

More details: <http://www.shepherd.edu/frf-gordon-f15/>

Campus map: <http://www.shepherd.edu/university/campusmap.jpg>

Yahrzeits

October 2, 2015

- * Herbert Seigel
- Gladys Adams
- Eugene Hershkovitz
- * William Sager
- Norma Garfein
- Samuel Levin
- Vladimir Ben Yakob
- * Anna Chlebnikow
- * Morris Werner
- Alvin Sadow
- * Elizabeth Greenspoon
- * Rheva Greenwald
- * Mathilda P. Goldstein
- * Florence Josephs
- Edward Greenwald
- Elaine Schwartz

October 9, 2015

- * Morris Rosenberg
- Carl Newman
- Lillian Wagshal
- * Meyer Berkson
- Rita A. Morgan
- * Fannie Ruben
- Minnie Rosenwald
- Col. Williard Silverberg
- * Ida Berkson
- Agnes Negin Fries
- Ralph Garfein
- Philip Holstine
- Oliver Krell
- Irving Weinberger
- * Harry Greenberg
- * Bettie Ruben
- Samuel Sorkowitz
- * Jeffrey Chlebnikow

October 16, 2015

- * Shirley Falke
- * Ayoub Emral Shaool
- Ann M. Miller
- * Lucy G. Rosenberg
- Benjamin J. Cohen
- * Norton Cooper
- * Sam Verovsky
- Barbara Kaplan
- October 30, 2015
- * Etta Dombey
- Avram Horovitz
- Sadye Krell
- Rebecca Ksienski
- Edith Smulson
- * Benjamin Levin
- Shirley Zink
- * Eleanor Chlebnikow
- Israel Ksienski
- Sandra Ginsberg Weiss
- * A.B. Cohen
- * Jay Levine
- Philip Rodin

October 23, 2015

- * Isidor S. Rosen
- * Lee Kasinof
- Rebecca Weinberger
- Jane Castle
- * Hanna Brina Greenwald
- Elizabeth Fitzgerald
- Frances Lipschutz
- Philip Lamnin
- Jennifer D. Lourie
- Chantal Sitruk
- Libbie C. Womack

* Denotes
Yahrzeit Plaque
in Sanctuary

SUKKOT FAMILY SHABBAT SERVICE & CONGREGATIONAL DINNER

Where : The home of Betsy Rosenthal & Pete Sherman
13523 Edgemont Road
Smithsburg, MD 21783

When : Friday, October 2, 2015 @ 6:00 pm

*We will have an outdoor service and pot luck meal.
Please bring a main dish or a side dish to share.*

*Remember - - no shellfish or pork, and no meat and dairy
mixed together. If you have questions, please contact
Carole Lafferman claffitz@aol.com 240-217-4496*



MAKE A CONTRIBUTION TODAY

Donations to the Congregation are a meaningful way to congratulate friends on Simchas or to show that you care in times of sorrow.

Contributions may be designated to any of our funds (see below). If a specific fund is not designated, the money will go into our General Fund.

For a minimum contribution of \$10.00 a printed card is sent. An individually hand-calligraphed card will be sent for any contribution of \$18.00 or more.

The minimum contribution to the Endowment Trust Fund is \$10.00

To make contributions to ANY FUND, including the CHAI CAMPAIGN, please mail or call:

*Mrs. Renee Kramer
1102 Oak Hill Avenue
Hagerstown, MD 21742
(301) 733-2093*

General Fund, Endowment Fund, Cemetery Fund, Rabbi's Discretionary Fund, Young Adult Fund, Jeanne Jacob's Senior Fund, Youth Group Fund, Sharon Wagshal Religious School Fund, 'Tree of Life', and the Adolph & Hannah Baer Trust Fund

PLANT A TREE IN ISRAEL



Planting a tree in Israel is the perfect way to show you care. You can plant trees for all occasions and help green the land of Israel while sending a special gift to a friend or loved one. For each order, a beautiful certificate of your choice is mailed to the recipient with your own personal message. Plant trees for all of these occasions: birth, Bar or Bat mitzvah, graduation, wedding, birthday, get-well wish or in memory of someone special. Over the past 100 years, JNF has planted over 250 million trees in the land of Israel. The cost per tree is \$18 with the check made out to Congregation B'nai Abraham. We have an EZTree account at JNF and Carrol will place the order for your tree(s).

For more information & to order a tree, contact Carrol Lourie at: (240) 818-7555 (cell phone) or cglourie@gmail.com

Have you remembered Congregation B'nai Abraham in your estate planning? Visit our website @ <http://bnaiaabraham.net/> for updated info & changes

REGULAR OFFICE HOURS: Monday, Tuesday, Friday 8:30am - 1:30pm

Michelle Jardine, Office Administrator Email: bnaiaabraham1@verizon.net Office phone: (301) 733-5039

DIRECTORY - WHO TO CALL

CONTRIBUTIONS

Renee Kramer (301) 733-2093
terrace708@myactv.net

PULPIT FLOWERS / TREES

Carrol Lourie (240) 818-7555
cglourie@gmail.com

TREE OF LIFE

Jerry Falke (301) 739-8456
falkeq@hotmail.com

Yahrzeit Plaques

Ben Chlebnikow (301) 791-6590
bchleb77@aol.com

DOR L' DOR

Joan Becker (301) 791-7175

HOSPITALIZED MEMBERS

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