



February 2017 Newsletter

**CONGREGATION
B'NAI ABRAHAM**

Volume 28, Issue 5
5 Sh'vat - 2 Adar 5777

FROM THE DESK OF THE RABBI



Two men lived in Jerusalem at the time that the Temple once stood. One man was named Kamza and the other was named Bar Kamza. Bar Kamza was a wealthy man's enemy. One day, the wealthy man put out invitations to a banquet. Bar Kamza, as the wealthy man's enemy, naturally was not on the invitation list. Everyone else received an invitation, including Kamza.

Accidentally, an invitation was brought to Bar Kamza's house instead of to Kamza's. Bar Kamza, not understanding why he received the invitation from his enemy, decided however to go to the banquet. Maybe, Bar Kamza thought, the invitation was an olive branch?

Unfortunately, the wealthy host was enraged when Bar Kamza showed up to the banquet.

"Leave!" the wealthy man demanded of Bar Kamza. Bar Kamza begged to stay to avoid public humiliation. He even offered to pay for the banquet. The wealthy man refused, having Bar Kamza thrown into the street.

In anger, Bar Kamza went to the Roman governor. He lied and claimed that the Jews were eating sacrifices intended for the Temple. To prove his point, Bar Kamza said to send an officer and some sacrificial animals with him to the banquet. At night, while the officer was asleep, Bar Kamza secretly desecrated the animals so they could not be offered to God as a sacrifice. For three days, when the blemished animals reached the Temple, the priest substituted others for them. The officer reported this to the emperor and the emperor destroyed the Temple.

One of the deepest sources of our wisdom is that the suffering of others can become our own. Our fate depends on our willingness to perceive the olive branches amongst us, even when we do not necessarily see compromise or forgiveness in our self-interest.

We should be kind to our fellow man.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Congregation B'nai Abraham has so many wonderful things happening. I am just going to start listing them. There are many ways for you to be involved. Please contact me to let me help you find the best fit for you. You will not regret being involved. You will make friends for life.

We have started having regular services in the Sanctuary. There will always be a service in the sanctuary the first Shabbat in the month. There will be a second service on a holiday or another date to be announced. The choir will sing at these services. The choir welcomes all singers. It is a wonderful group.

Our Neighborhood First committee has begun meeting here at the end of the month. They will be establishing the goals for the spring. The NAACP has been having meetings, but has not established an office in the building and will probably be establishing themselves in another building.

The Thomas Kennedy Center committee has been working on a mission statement. It has not been as easy as it at first seemed. The idea of having a museum to honor Thomas Kennedy in the education building and a yearly recognition service in the park for someone who fought against intolerance are both in the planning.

Buck, Ben and I have started planning for the Gala which will honor Ben. It will be the kickoff to a Legacy campaign. The Gala will be June 24.

Renovation of a room in the education building to be a Past Presidents room is completed. I will be forming a committee to work with the past presidents to add to the room. Let me know if you are interested in working on that committee. We need pictures of the Past Presidents. We would like the room to be similar to the room at the YMCA.

The past presidents met last week and unanimously recommended that we sell the land on the Leitersburg Pike. If you have not already, you will be receiving a letter in the mail to come to a special membership meeting to vote on the sale of the land. If you can not come to the meeting, you are asked to send in your proxy vote by email or mail.

Sharon Wagshal and Liz Krell are planning a tribute to Evan and Judy Novenstein for their contribution to the Chai campaign and Temple. Tentative date is April 21.

The Religious school is rapidly growing. See Barbara Schwab's article elsewhere in this newsletter

The Herald-Mail has changed the heading of their church listing page so we are now listed.

Safety is an ongoing concern. Steve Slavick, Jerry Falke, Julie Ferron and Ben Chlebnikow continue to improve security in and around the buildings.

Thank you to everyone for your hard work. As you know, the more you give, the more you receive.

Monda



GREETINGS FROM THE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

Our students, parents and even some grandparents explored the beauty of Tu B'Shevat with stories, songs, crafts and a model Seder. Many thanks to Dr. Doug Becker for his rousing music and to Rabbi Plost for his reading of "The Giving Tree," by Shel Silverstein.

And, of course, kudos to our local and more geographically distant families who make the Hagerstown religious community so dynamic. It was marvelous to watch our youngsters bond with each other! Yasher Koach (good job) to all who participated. Stay tuned for news about our next event on Sunday, February 12.



DONATIONS

General Fund

In loving memory of Sam & Ruth Levis & Howie & Rose Weiss from Glen Levis

Endowment Fund

In memory of Lois Levin Holstine from Susanne & Rick Kass

In honor of Richard Weiss's 70th birthday from Susanne & Rick Kass

In honor of Richard Weiss's 70th birthday from Susan & Alan Levin

In honor of Elyssa Wagshal's bat mitzvah from Joan & Doug Becker

In memory of Estelle Waldman from Renee & Fred Kramer

For the yahrzeit of Curt A. Schwab from Barbara Schwab

For the yahrzeits of Gladys M. Eaton, Bertha L. Mendelsohn & Rudolph H. Mendelsohn
from Carol & Howard Mendelsohn

DATES TO REMEMBER

Wednesday	February	8	Executive Meeting	7:00 PM
Wednesday	February	15	Special Congregational Meeting on Sale of Land	6:00 PM
Wednesday	February	15	Board of Trustees Meeting	7:00 PM
Saturday	February	18	Movie Night - THE FRISCO KID	7:30 PM
Sunday	February	26	Books & Bagels	1:30 PM

Yahrzeits**February 3, 2017**

- * Abraham Barbanell
- Robert N. Schiff
- * Celia Heisler Klein
- Max Ruben
- Jerome Macht

February 10, 2017

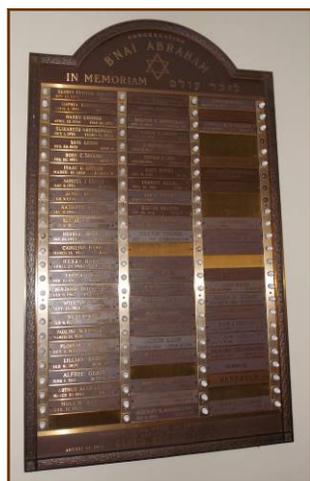
- * James Brener
- Bertha Goldblatt
- * Lawrence Sharpe
- * Bernard Louis Cohen
- Dora Henry
- Goldie Snyder
- * Lillian Geber
- * Annie S. Kaplan
- * Jack Levine
- Leonard Freed
- Dora Honig
- Edith Suls
- Moses S. Grossman
- Elaine Kirson
- * Benjamin Blumenthal
- Ruth Berkson
- Herman Rosenbloom
- Miriam Blitzer
- Elenor Rubinstein
- * Frieda Kronstadt

February 17, 2017

- * Edith Novenstein
- Joseph Kramer
- James Neveil
- Ida Schiffman
- * Max Lyon
- * Edward Selkow
- Dr. Leo Bernstein
- Robert Falke
- Marion Saville
- Thelma Goldman

February 24, 2017

- James Michaux
- * Rose Taylor
- * Leopold Selis
- Lou Margolis
- * Saul Levin
- Bernice Leighton
- Charles Markely
- * Hilde Shapiro
- * Max M. Gerber
- * Hannah Greenwald
- Meyer Greenberg



* Denotes
Yahrzeit Plaque
in Sanctuary

FAMILY COMMUNICATION PLAN

Every household should decide ahead of time how it will stay in touch in case of an emergency. Pick two meeting places: a place near your home – in case of a sudden emergency, such as a fire – and a place outside your neighborhood in case you cannot return to your home after a disaster.

Pick one out-of-state and one local friend or relative for family members to call if separated by a disaster (it is often easier to call out-of-state than within the affected area).

Plan what to do with pets if you have to evacuate.

CARING COMMITTEE

The Caring Committee provides care, companionship and assistance to members of our congregation and their immediate families in need due to ill health, age or non-financial crisis or catastrophe.

Chair: Sharon Metzner - receives initial calls from the rabbi: sharonmetz@aol.com (301) 739-2972
 Robbie Greenberg - for meals, as needed: robbieg56@gmail.com (301) 797-7265
 Barby Weiss - for transportation needs: barby@myactv.net (301) 791-6098
 Sharon Wagshal - for home visits or outings: sharwaq@aol.com (301) 797-3220



CITIZEN'S POLICY ACADEMY

If you ever wondered what the Police do and why they do it, here is your opportunity to find out!

The Hagerstown Police Department will be holding their Citizen Police Academy beginning March 9th, 2017. Sessions usually start at 6:30 pm and last for 6 weeks. Using various locations around Hagerstown as their classrooms (including the Synagogue), they cover such topics as the 4th Amendment, firearms and going to the firing range, car stops, K-9, Gangs and SRT to name a few of the sessions.

If interested, please contact Julie Ferron at 301-791-4871 for an application.

SAVE THE DATE

April 21, 2017 @ 7:30 PM

Shabbat service in honor of Judy and Evan Novenstein
with naming of our sanctuary in memory of Evan's parents — Edith and Sidney Novenstein

LEGACY CIRCLE

The goal of "Planned Giving" is to help you better plan your estate and charitable giving in a way that benefits you, your family, and Congregation B'nai Abraham. There are several ways you can make planned gifts to Congregation B'nai Abraham and enjoy tax and income benefits, such as turning a 'Capital Gains Tax' on investment vehicles into a 'Tax Gift to Charity' that permits you to use your 2017 form 1040 as a deductible item.

BEQUEST

Your Goals:

- Maintain control of your assets during your lifetime.
- Make a gift to Congregation B'nai Abraham upon your demise.

How it works:

You designate 'Congregation B'nai Abraham' as the beneficiary of a portion of your assets by will, trust or other instrument.

Please contact your Income tax accountant to assist you.

LIFELONG LEARNING

Saturday Night at the Movies	February 18	7:30 PM	Social Hall
The Movie: <i>THE FRISCO KID</i>		<i>Refreshments will be provided</i>	
Books & Bagels	February 26	1:30 PM	Place: TBA
The book: <i>HERE I AM</i> by Jonathan Safran Foer			

BIMA TO BROADWAY

from ***Bima to Broadway*** with Rabbi Mark Perman

Rabbi Mark Perman is proud to present "*From Bima to Broadway*", a musical exploration of both the Jewish and secular worlds and how the two intertwine.

Rabbi/Cantor Perman started his career as a child performer on Broadway in the 70's and went on to appear in summer stock, in TV commercials, and in the world of voice-overs.



He found his Jewish musical/spiritual calling in the 1990's and has been performing Jewish music as well ever since.

He enjoys connecting the world of music to his Jewish-spiritual endeavors and he finds that his dual career (as clergy and performer) is both liberating and connecting.

B'er Chayim wants you to join them for a little entertainment, a little nosh and a little schmooze...

B'er Chaim Temple, Cumberland, MD

February 18, 2017 from 7-9 pm

Contact Howard Mendelsohn for more details

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Life is about attitude. The greater danger for most of us lies not in setting our aim too high and falling short; but in setting our aim too low, and achieving our mark."

Michelangelo

ONEGS - FEBRUARY SCHEDULE

Friday	February	3	Robin & Bill Hollin, Chairs; Barbara & Buck Macht
Friday	February	10	Tu B'Shevat Celebration
Friday	February	17	Carrol & Ira Lourie, Chairs; Lauren & Richard Kramer
Friday	February	24	Robbie & Jay Greenberg, Chairs; Vic Kronstadt

DIRECTORIES

There are Directories in the office if you need one. Please stop by and pick one up. The office is generally open on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 8:30 am - 1:30 pm. Call first just to be safe.

SOMETIMES, IT'S NOT REALLY JUST LUCK

Elmer Bendiner was a navigator in a B-17 during WW II. He tells this story of a World War II bombing run over Kassel, Germany, and the unexpected result of a direct hit on their gas tanks. "Our B-17, the Tondelayo, was barraged by flak from Nazi anti-aircraft guns. That was not unusual, but on this particular occasion our gas tanks were hit.



Later, as I reflected on the miracle of a 20 millimeter shell piercing the fuel tank without touching off an explosion, our pilot, Bohn Fawkes, told me it was not quite that simple. "On the morning following the raid, Bohn had gone down to ask our crew chief for that shell as a souvenir of unbelievable luck.

The crew chief told Bohn that not just one shell but eleven had been found in the gas tanks. Eleven unexploded shells, where only one was sufficient to blast us out of the sky. It was as if the sea had been parted for us. A near-miracle, I thought.

Even after 35 years, so awesome an event leaves me shaken, especially after I heard the rest of the story from Bohn.

"He was told that the shells had been sent to the armorers to be defused. The armorers told him that Intelligence had picked them up. They could not say why at the time, but Bohn eventually sought out the answer. "Apparently when the armorers opened each of those shells they found no explosive charge. They were as clean as a whistle and just as harmless."

Empty? Not all of them! One contained a carefully rolled piece of paper. On it was a scrawl in Czech. The Intelligence people scoured our base for a man who could read Czech. Eventually they found one to decipher the note. It set us marvelling. Translated, the note read:

***"This is all we can do for you now...
Using Jewish slave labor is never a good idea."***

This story is confirmed in Elmer Bendiner's book, *'The Fall of Fortresses.'*

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, Harold & Jeanne Jacobs 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 email her at: cglourie@gmail.com

Contact Monda Sagalkin to learn how you can plan a self-sustaining gift to B'nai Abraham.
(240) 291-6983 or monsansagalkin@aol.com

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

Michelle Jardine, Office Administrator Email: bnaiabraham1@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

Rabbi Plost (301) 733-5039
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