



July/August 2015 Newsletter

CONGREGATION
B'NAI ABRAHAM

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FROM THE DESK OF THE RABBI

During this past month of June, I was honored to give a blessing at the Washington County Museum of Fine Arts for a dedicated memorial to the Holocaust. The memorial was made possible through the generosity of Ed and Hannah Baer, the same Baer family after whom our "Baer Room," is named.

Ed's remarks at the dedication included his personal story of how he escaped from Nazi Germany but how many others perished, including his beloved grandparents. Ed explained how the Holocaust was possible according to a dogma that included the lack of regard for basic human dignity and human rights. Almost foreshadowing the upcoming Supreme Court decision legalizing federal Marriage Equality, Ed mentioned that such rights also include the rights of homosexuals. Ed's memorial represents our exceptional American creed, one that emanates from our God-given right to live and love freely, and to practice our many faiths freely. We have a responsibility to each other and to those who perished to keep our flame burning brightly.

God of Goodness, Adonai Makor Hatov, we give thanks to you on this occasion for the gift of our lives which is a wonder beyond. You, the Source of all creation, we pay You a moment of memory. We remember those who perished in the great conflagration of the Shoah, the Holocaust. We remember those innocent souls of Jews and other victims, all of whom were your Holy creations. We remember those who were slaughtered by the Nazis. They befell a fate so great that we still strive to see our faith in light of that horror and tragedy.

The victims of the Holocaust not only suffered by the fate of their lives, but also by the cultural loss of their art, the loss of their creative capacity and the loss of genius that was robbed and stolen from them. How many pieces of art will never be found? How many will never be returned? How many pieces of art will never be created? We live in a time where yet again the world sees human depravity and human loss. What is more is that the lessons of the Holocaust have yet to be learned by the western world. We bear witness in our time to the destruction of ancient ruins in the Middle East.

Today, we mark an occasion to lift up the memory of the victims of the Holocaust through an act of righteousness. As the youngsters, visitors and inhabitants of Hagerstown pass through this gateway, may they pause to learn and to reflect on the Divine source of art. For when we diminish the arts, we diminish not only ourselves but we also diminish the Divine presence. When we create art, when we protect art, and when we preserve art we let the Eternal presence shine ever more brightly.

Art helps lift us up to a more heightened nature. So it is that we are intertwined with art as we remember the words of Hannah Senesh:

"There are stars up above, so far away we only see their light long, long after the star itself is gone. And so it is with people that we loved – their memories keep shining ever brightly though their time with us is done. But the stars that light up the darkest night, these are the lights that guide us. As we live our days, these are the ways to remember."

May all those who pass through this gateway remember those who perished in the Holocaust. As their memory shines ever brightly, may we be lifted up to an enlightenment through the Divine Source of God's creation, in art and in the Eternal spark in all of us."

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

If B'nai Abraham had a theme song, what would it be? While you think about that I suppose you might have some fun or maybe become pensive. But whatever moods strike you, settling on one idea won't prove to be an easy task.

While we are basically about being Jews, our focus changes depending on holidays, current events, needs, etc. We are affected both from within our synagogue community and from outside our walls and into the city, county, state, country, and yes, the world.

How can we make sense of it all under one concept? Unless *m'sheeach* arrives, I doubt we can pick only one theme on which to focus our attention and actions.

In the past two months the Executive Committee has held three work sessions where we discussed priorities and mechanisms to help the Congregation thrive and remain relevant to a diverse membership. We discovered that our holidays often present wonderful opportunities to focus on multiple ideas. And so, the idea of assigning a theme to each month emerged, most inspired by Jewish holidays, all applicable to each member's life.

Through exceptional programming, worship and community engagement, we will explore the monthly themes; their significance and relevancy to our lives today. They are:

September – *Personal Growth*

October – *Prosperity*

November – *Gratitude*

December – *Resilience*

January – *Environmental Awareness*

February – *Health*

March – *Joy & Celebration*

April – *Tolerance & Inclusion*

May – *Survival & Hope*

June – *Learning*

July – *Independence*

August – *Hospitality*

Several great ideas are already in the works, but there are so many ideas yet unexplored. I anticipate having another work session with the entire Board invited to bring ideas to the table that will enhance our exploration of the monthly themes. Each of you is encouraged to tell me or anyone on the Executive Committee about the areas where you wish to be more involved.

And as for a theme song, I know my songs will vary each day. How about you?

Shalom,

Rachel

KVELLING

On June 30, Asher and Aliyah Newberry were honored by the President and CEO of IMA World Health, Rick Santos. Asher and Aliyah held "Hotdogs for Haiti" after the Haiti earthquake.



Asher, Rick Santos, Aliyah & mother, Laura Wilson



Congrats to Talia Seidman for making Distinguished Honor Roll this year. She will be a junior at Smithsburg High School in the fall. Talia was selected to the highly competitive Running Start Young Women's Leadership Program held at Georgetown University where she is one of 60 selectees. In 2009 30,000 young women applied for only 50 slots. Running Start is working to inspire & train the next generation of young women political leaders. The YWPL Program introduces high school girls to the power of political leadership. The program is open to high school girls entering 9th grade through those who just graduated in 2015.

Mazel tov to Mike Fitzgerald on being selected by Hagerstown Magazine's "People to Watch" in the July/August 2015 edition.

We wish you success in all your goals and hopes for the City. To "see every building downtown filled to capacity" and "to see people walking around downtown like there were in the 1950s and '60s" are desires shared by many of us.

We're all proud of you for your dedication and for making a difference.



ONEGS- JULY & AUGUST SCHEDULE

July

- Friday July 3 Sharon Wagshal & Randi Numbers
- Friday July 10 Julie Ferron, Chair; Barbara Schwab & Laura Wilson
- Friday July 17 Kim & David Hanan, Chairs; Randi & Scott Numbers
- Friday July 24 Dorothy & Mel Greenwald, Chairs; Marlene & Jerry Falke
- Friday July 31 Susanne & Rick Kass, Chairs; Robin & Bill Hollin

August

- Friday August 7 Sharon Wagshal Chair; Renee & Fred Kramer
- Friday August 14 Peggy Marfilius & Doug Lieberman, Chairs; Jane Lubin
- Friday August 21 Stacie Noll, Chair; Marcia & George Miller
- Friday August 28 Hannah & Ed Baer, Chairs; Betsy Rosenthal & Pete Sherman

DONATIONS**Endowment Fund**

In honor of Danielle Brennan

by Hannah & Ed Baer

In honor of Lev Ezra Rashti, grandson of Janet & Mansoor Emral Shaool

by Hannah & Ed Baer

In memory of Arthur Weiss

by Hannah & Ed Baer

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In honor of Charles & Cecile Plost

by Rachel Nichols

Chai/Endowment Fund

In memory of our mothers, Mary Cohen & Rose Sanzel

by Gerald & Lieba Cohen

Youth Group Fund

In honor of the 2015 Confirmation Class

by Randi & Scott Numbers &
Family**DATES TO REMEMBER**

Wednesday July 15	Board of Trustees Meeting	7:00 pm
Wednesday August 12	Executive Committee Meeting	6:30 pm
Wednesday August 19	Board of Trustees Meeting	7:00 pm

NOTES FROM THE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

Hope everyone is having a terrific summer vacation! Back at CBA we are hard at work developing activities for our students and their families, including experiential learning events for our confirmation kids and fun ways to integrate Shabbat observances with home based Jewish practices. More information is forthcoming and registration packets will be in the mail soon.

In the meanwhile, the congregation is again looking forward to viewing summer projects from our returning students, so enjoy your Judaica books, movies, exhibits and adventures!

KITCHEN

Our kitchen is a little bit like the spawn of a sock-eating dryer and wire hangers, which we all know reproduce in your closet.

We've amassed a number of stray trays, containers and serving utensils, especially after the Food Festival. Not to be outdone, some of our resident knives and hotel pans have headed out in search of new homes...



Please feel welcome to peruse the bottom shelf of the prep table in the kitchen for strays, and check those drawers and cupboards at home for the pans that made a break for it!

Yahrzeits

July 3, 2015

* Daniel Jeremy Berkson
 * Joseph Rosenthal
 Irene Casanove
 Anna E. Chatkin
 * Joseph Morris Lyon
 * M.R. Lyon
 * Jacob Saltzman
 Milton Rosenbloom
 Martin Rosenthal

July 10, 2015

Simon Pearlman
 Daniel Schwartz
 Bessie Goldscher
 Nathan Rubenstein
 * Robert H. Chatkin
 Eleno Delatore
 Ruth J. Kramer
 * Frederick Scharf
 * Pauline Shapiro
 Morris Perkowsky
 Mary Selis

July 17, 2015

* Jacob I. Grossman
 Alex Kozak
 * Cynthia Ruth Feldman
 * Zelda Pashen
 Anna Boss
 Sam Newman
 * Harry B. Viener
 Earl Adams
 Maurice Macht
 * Herbert Baer
 Max Handler

July 24, 2015

Eva LeVine
 Neil Dion Schwartz
 Evelyn Yudkoff
 Edith Fader
 * Louis Lahn
 Sandy Edwards

July 31, 2015

Lillian Cohen
 Marc Wagshal
 * Isidor Holzer
 * Elly Koerner Lyon
 Jack H. Marks
 Kenneth Schwab
 William Rosenthal
 * Arthur Stanley Cohen
 Raimundo Feliciano
 Esther Glick
 Mori Blustein
 Edith Stein

* Denotes
 Yahrzeit Plaque
 in Sanctuary

August 7, 2015

Mattan Kedem
 * Melvin S. Rosenthal
 Morris Kristal
 Tillie Lamnin
 Nathan Pevenstein
 * Ida Saltzman
 Dora Levin

August 14, 2015

Marvin I. Becker
 Gabriel Frontrier
 Naomi Silverfield
 * Mollie Garner
 * Max Julius Simon
 Ralph Chlebnikow
 Edward Gelfand
 Aaron Feld
 Lena Rabb
 Florence Schwartz
 Anna Wagshal
 Ben Edner
 Eva Rodriguez

August 21, 2015

* Ruth G. Kerstein
 * Frederick Reinkraut
 * Leon Seidman
 * Gloria Denton Weiss
 Jeanie Miller
 * Kate Seigel
 * Jacob Edner
 Mary Kerstein
 Evelyn Silverfield
 Dora Horovitz
 * Felix Uzan
 Joseph Einbinder
 Louis Sackin

August 28, 2015

* Goldie Verovsky
 * Aaron Weiss
 Marc Gold
 * Ella Oppenheim
 * Lena Ruben
 Mark Denton
 Harry Kronenberg
 Virginia Hymans
 Aaron Krell
 Solly Goldman
 Alice Blumenthal

CBA HONOR ROLL

Congregation B'nai Abraham is very proud of the meaningful impact that its members have had on the Washington County Community throughout the years. The latest on the extraordinary list of accomplishments was the recent rededication of the Washington County Museum of Fine Arts' North Entry Plaza Beautification Project, a gift of Hannah & Adolph E. (Ed) Baer *"in memory of their grandparents, Joseph & Sophie Samuel and the other 6 million who perished during the Nazi Holocaust between 1938-1945"*.

The original donors toward the entryway were: The Hagerstown Garden Club, R. Kathleen & Dominick J. Perini, Mildred J. & Leonard G. Mathias, Gladys & M.B. Kinnikin and Pearl & Odell Rosen.

The recent Beautification Project was headed up by Harry Reynolds, Denis Rocco, George Stone & Building Systems, Inc., Donna Brightman, and Family & Friends of Mary O'Brian. The art pieces enhancing the North Entry are John Mullican's *Wood Ducks*, donated by the Hagerstown Garden Club in memory of deceased members of the Club; Leonard Cave's *River Stone*, a gift of Beverly Hopkins; L'Deane Trueblood's *Garden Sprite*, given by Vincent Groh in memory of his late wife, Barbara Ingram Groh and Paul Rhymer's *Carpe Diem*, donated by the artist.

An emotional history of the Holocaust and his personal experiences as a child in Germany was delivered by our own Ed Baer following the official North Entry Plaza rededication eloquently offered by Rabbi Ari Plost. Following Ed's heart-rending presentation, Paul Rhymer's *Carpe Diem* was unveiled to oohs and aahs of approval from the attendant crowd. Refreshments were served in the Kaylor Atrium/Cushwa Courtyard.

John Schnebly, President of the Museum's Board of Trustees, was an admirable Master of Ceremonies for the event held on June 24, 2015.



Adolph (Ed) Baer



Rabbi Ari Plost, Adolph (Ed) & Hannah Baer, John Schnebly



Paul Rhymer & studio asst. Julia Vilece with *Carpe Diem*



Rabbi Ari Plost

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',

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

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PULPIT FLOWERS / TREES

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TREE OF LIFE

Jerry Falke (301) 739-8456
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Yahrzeit Plaques

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