



# March 2017 Newsletter

**CONGREGATION  
B'NAI ABRAHAM**

**Volume 28, Issue 6  
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## **FROM THE DESK OF THE RABBI**

This month we celebrate the Book of Esther during the holiday of Purim. This holiday, like so many of our holidays, remind us of our history of oppression. Some years, more than others, we feel a little bit closer to the lived experience of our ancestors who struggled and suffered during times of hardship.

Whatever causes acts of anti-semitism, it is a fact that such incidents are on the rise. Hopefully, there is not a groundswell of anti-semites, but only a few marginal individuals or groups who now feel emboldened in the current environment of ethnic-nationalist rhetoric and hate. Still, the overall climate is one of concern, especially when juxtaposed with our empathy for the fear felt by other discriminated and marginalized groups.

There are different ways to bring people together, some more noble than others. From any avid fan of the movie Independence Day, just ask Jeff Goldman whether nothing brings us together like a common alien enemy. Going negative as a signal of dislike is a great way to form a new bond of trust. The next time we hear an appeal for unity out of difference, we might consider how hating the other can indeed be a powerful bond.

What might be most interesting to consider in this culture of hate is whether the uptick in anti-semitism is worth growing hysterical. While Jews have historically faced much discrimination, many Jews would likely say we have attained a level of security and privilege. Most of us would admit that we are less marginalized than other vulnerable communities. Jews have a long history of persecution, but the American Jewish community has attained a historically unparalleled degree of power, security, affluence and appreciation of Jewish culture that Jews of other ages could not even have dreamed.

So why are so many Jewish leaders and Jewish organizations so concerned about the current climate? Because the flame of Judaism cannot burn in a culture of hate, demagoguery and trolling. Judaism cannot co-exist with authoritarianism and tyranny. Rather, Judaism requires a respect for multiple points of view, while simultaneously teaching that not all speech is permissible. Most of all, Judaism demands that we seek to unify, not out of hate, but love.

During Purim, we read how thousand of Jews were at risk in the Persian Empire due to a dictator, in a society that was previously welcoming to the Jews. Purim teaches us our sacred and historical legacy how Jews may be endangered with the dictators left unchecked.

Deeply engrained within Jewish consciousness is a mandate to speak out for justice. Our sacred practice did not begin with the inauguration of this president or the last - it is a tradition of thousands of years. Increasingly, we live in a society that elevates division over dialogue, sensationalism over sensitivity and fragmentation over freedom. It is our duty to live by the words "love thy neighbor as thyself" where our silence is neither plausible, nor even possible.

This Purim, come and enjoy some good jazz, a comed beef sandwich, and be proud to celebrate our cherished holiday - among your fellow Jews.

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I love this time of year. Usually I am saying this in late March or early April but the flora and fauna are springing to life early in our yard this year. Daffodils and other plants poking their heads through the ground. The bloodroot and calendulas are up; roses are getting new growth; trees are leafing out. The animals are full of energy and mischief. The chickens are laying eggs. Baby gold finches are already hatched and trying to fly. So much is positive and beautiful to behold; we are surrounded with creation and growth.

On the other hand, there is so much to do in this world, so many wrongs to correct, so many people suffering and crying out for help. The question is, do we have time to sit quietly, to listen, appreciate and be thankful for the life teeming around us while there are so many challenges in the world? I believe we must do both, but we'll be more effective acting if we also take time to rest. Then we will be more effective with *Tikkun Olam*, repairing the world. We can not contribute constructively to issues of social justice in this world if we do not take the time to be still and mindful of God's creation and listen for His direction.

*Monda*

## GREETINGS FROM THE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

On Sunday, February 12, our students explored the role of art in a synagogue. Rabbi Plost conducted a tour of our Sanctuary and pointed out all the beautiful furnishings we have, including our stained glass windows and Torah covers. Once again, Dr. Doug Becker led the students in song and dance, emphasizing that art is not always visual. Then one of our newest parents, Mr. David Weinschel, taught our students and parents a fun art project to create fabric paintings that mimic stained glass windows. Most of them are on display in the Baer Room, although some youngsters took their projects home even in the pouring rain!

It hardly seems possible that we already are planning the Purim celebration. Looking forward to seeing everyone in costume!



## ONEGS - MARCH SCHEDULE

Friday	March	3	Robin & David Handler, Chairs; Sandi Gagliardi
Friday	March	10	Betsy Rosenthal & Pete Sherman, Chairs; Jackie & Alex Betke
Friday	March	17	Hannah & Garry Geffert, Chairs; David Gordon & Christina Lu
Friday	March	24	Carole Lafferman, Chair; Priya & David Kurtz
Friday	March	31	Barby & Bob Weiss, Chairs; Peggy Marfilus & Doug Lieberman



**DONATIONS**

General Fund

In loving memory of his parents, Hyman & Frieda Kronstadt, from Vic Kronstadt

Endowment Fund

In memory of Lois Levin Holstine from Marjorie Grumbacher

In memory of Lois Holstine from Hannah & Ed Baer

In memory of Estelle Waldman from Hannah & Ed Baer

In honor of Elyssa Wagshal's bat mitzvah from Gerald & Lieba Cohen

**LEGACY CIRCLE**

**Endowed Funds:** A fund whereby the initial gift and subsequent gifts are never spent and instead, the income and earnings of the fund support the charitable purpose defined by the fund's donor.

**Non-Endowed Funds:** A fund where all contributions as well as income and earnings can be used for charitable purposes.

*Endowed and non-endowed funds fall into the following categories:*

**Restricted:** Restricted funds allow a donor to initially designate which specific charities or charitable endeavors fall under this type of fund.

**Unrestricted:** Unrestricted funds have no restrictions. The Legacy Board of Trustees determines the most appropriate uses for the proceeds responding to the congregation's most pressing needs.

**Donor Advised:** Donor advised funds permit the donor to maintain an advisory role in the disbursement of the proceeds.

**Field of Interest Funds:** Field of interest funds allow a donor to specify general areas in which to direct the fund's earnings.

*Always consult legal advice.*

**SAVE THE DATES**

**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

**Sat., June 24, 2017 -- 6:30 PM – 9:00 PM**

**“A Tribute to Ben Chlebnikow – Laying the Foundation for Tomorrow”**

We invite you to join Ben and his family in celebrating Ben's services to our congregational family as he approaches his 98th Birthday in August

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

Saturday	March	4	Interfaith Candlelight Vigil	6:00 PM
Saturday	March	11	Purim Celebration	5:00 PM
Wednesday	March	15	Board of Trustees Meeting	7:00 PM
Sunday	March	19	Brunch-Simple Gifts Klezmer Music	11:00 AM
Sunday	March	26	Books & Bagels	1:30 PM

**Yahrzeits****March 3, 2017**

\* Sylvia Kurtz  
 \* Samuel Henry  
 Margarete Fifield  
 \* Robert Rosen  
 \* Fabian Kline  
 Elizabeth Freeman  
 Lazarus  
 \* Ethel G. Albert  
 Rachel Cohen  
 Jettie Cohen  
 \*Samuel Kramer  
 \* Pearl Rosen  
 Mary Leitz  
 Helen Pashen

**March 10, 2017**

\* Richard Grumbacher  
 Leonard Rosenbloom  
 Jacob Meyers  
 Bertha Miller  
 Dora Nathanson  
 Frieda Behr  
 \* Fanny Green  
 \* Meyer Lahn  
 \* Archie Robert Cohen  
 Jacob Greenberg  
 Catherine Kozak  
 Lillian Metzner  
 David Weidenfeld  
 Hank Becker  
 \* Gisela Holzer  
 \* Esther Goodman  
 \* Rose Greenberg  
 Joseph Sirni

**March 17, 2017**

\* Caroline Harris  
 \* Sarah Weidenfeld  
 Harry Macht  
 Sarah Goldman Fite  
 \* Frederick Ungar  
 Sylvan Silverman  
 \* Moses Saltzman  
 \* Isaac H. Taylor  
 Anne Eldridge Hall  
 Ruth Dolinsky  
 Irwin Lazarus

**March 24, 2017**

\* Simon Berkson  
 \* Samuel Granet  
 Julius Amper  
 William Ray Myers  
 Beth Armel  
 \* Eugene Baer  
 Jesse Greenberg  
 Jack David Kanter  
 \* Sani Tehrani  
 Eva Lyon Schwartz  
 \* William Herbert Smith  
 Henry Kramer  
 \* Rae Ruben  
 \* Dr. Isadore Lyon

**March 31, 2017**

\* Ruben Oscar Framm  
 \* Pauline Reinkraut  
 \* Evelyn W. Ruben  
 Sol Lachman  
 \* Isadore (Lee) Livov  
 Jerome Katz  
 \*Arthur Alan Levine  
 Evelyn Chatkin  
 Annie Selzer  
 \* Goldie Kaplan  
 Camille Markley  
 Jack Metzner  
 Ida Feldman

\* Denotes  
 Yahrzeit Plaque  
 in Sanctuary

**LIFELONG LEARNING**

**BRUNCH -- SIMPLE GIFTS  
 KLEZMER MUSIC**

Sunday, March 19, 11:00 am  
 \$10 with RSVP, \$15 at the door

Based in the hills of Central Pennsylvania, two women, Linda Littleton and Karen Hershon, perform ethnic folk music. They will be presenting, for us, their program of KLEZMER MUSIC.

"They deliver their music with rare intensity and contagious enthusiasm."

They have performed at the Smithsonian, Longwood Gardens, National Theater, Brooklyn Museum of Art, Philadelphia Museum of Art, and many other venues.

BECAUSE OF THIS SPECIAL PROGRAM, BRUNCH WILL BEGIN AT 11 AND THE PERFORMANCE WILL BEGIN AT 12.

The concert is about 1 hour, 15 minutes.

RSVP TO SYBIL SCHIFFMAN ([s.schffman@myactv.net](mailto:s.schffman@myactv.net) or 301-665-9202)



**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.

**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.

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

**EMERGENCY SHELTERS**

When conditions warrant, Washington County's Emergency Management Office may establish community-based shelters for local residents. Normally, shelters are set up in public high schools, fire stations or other appropriate facilities where residents can seek refuge, as well as sleep and eat. If you are instructed to go to a public emergency shelter, you should bring a change of clothing, bathing and sanitary supplies, medications, denture and eye care materials, and special dietary supplies or requirements. Pets, except for service animals may not be allowed in shelters!

**LIFELONG LEARNING**

**Here's What's Coming:**

Sunday Brunch	March 19	11:00 AM	Social Hall
	Featuring the music of Simple Gifts		
Books & Bagels	March 26	1:30 PM	Place: TBA
	The book: <i>HERE I AM</i> by Jonathan Safran Foer		

**TIKKUN OLAM**

The Tikkun Olam committee is getting back into action! The first meeting to discuss upcoming projects will be on Thursday, March 8 at 5:15pm at Marcia Miller's home.

If you would like to be on this committee or have a social action project to suggest, please call Carole Lafferman 240-217-4496.

Thanks to Lieba Cohen, Carrol Lourie, Julie Ferron, Marcia Miller, Elizabeth Kantor-Bright and Al Schiff for already volunteering to be on the committee.

**INTERFAITH COALITION ACTIVITIES IN HAGERSTOWN**

**Hagerstown Candlelight Vigil for Unity and Peace Saturday March 4, 6-8pm  
First Christian Church, 1345 Potomac Ave.**

An interfaith candlelight vigil to show solidarity with different marginalized communities. Join us for a night of kindness and love. Hear words of encouragement from our local leaders, clergy, public officials, and poets. Refreshments. Co-hosts: Hagerstown Interfaith Coalition, Hagerstown Area Religious Council, and Hagerstown Area Freethinkers. **Members are strongly encouraged to attend.**

**Who is our Neighbor?**

A 6 week interfaith dialogue exploring what it means to show hospitality to one another as neighbors. Wednesdays from 7-9pm beginning March 8

Otterbein United Methodist Church, 108 E. Franklin St., Hagerstown, MD

March

8 Christian Perspective

15 Muslim Perspective

29 Jewish Perspective

April

5 Hindu Perspective

12 Buddhist Perspective

19 African-, Latino-, and Korean-American Perspectives

Registration is appreciated so we might plan for seating and hospitality.

Call 301-739-9386 or email [office@otterumc.org](mailto:office@otterumc.org)

Sponsored by Interfaith Coalition of Washington County

**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:	<a href="mailto:sharonmetz@aol.com">sharonmetz@aol.com</a>	<a href="tel:3017392972">(301) 739-2972</a>
Robbie Greenberg - for meals, as needed:	<a href="mailto:robbieg56@gmail.com">robbieg56@gmail.com</a>	<a href="tel:3017977265">(301) 797-7265</a>
Barby Weiss - for transportation needs:	<a href="mailto:barby@myactv.net">barby@myactv.net</a>	<a href="tel:3017916098">(301) 791-6098</a>
Sharon Wagshal - for home visits or outings:	<a href="mailto:sharwaq@aol.com">sharwaq@aol.com</a>	<a href="tel:3017973220">(301) 797-3220</a>

**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](mailto: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](mailto:monsansagalkin@aol.com)

**DIRECTORY - WHO TO CALL**

**CONTRIBUTIONS**

Renee Kramer (301) 733-2093  
[terrace708@myactv.net](mailto:terrace708@myactv.net)

**PULPIT FLOWERS / TREES**

Carrol Lourie (240) 818-7555  
[cglourie@gmail.com](mailto:cglourie@gmail.com)

**TREE OF LIFE**

Jerry Falke (301) 739-8456  
[falkeq@hotmail.com](mailto:falkeq@hotmail.com)

**Yahrzeit Plaques**

Ben Chlebnikow (301) 791-6590  
[bchleb77@aol.com](mailto:bchleb77@aol.com)

**DOR L' DOR**

Joan Becker (301) 791-7175

**HOSPITALIZED MEMBERS**

Rabbi Plost (301) 733-5039  
[ariplost@gmail.com](mailto:ariplost@gmail.com)

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