

# CONNECTIONS

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## FROM THE RABBI

In the Bible, the Tabernacle functions as the center of religious life and within it is contained the Ark and the Ten Commandments. In many ways, the Tabernacle is the precursor to the temple—including our temple, B'nai Abraham.

Among the very detailed description of the ancient Tabernacle, we find the following instruction, "You shall cover the wood with pure gold from the inside and from the outside."

Essentially, the Ark should be covered in gold not only on the outside, but the gold must also be on the inside.

It makes sense that the exterior—that which was visible to Israel—would be made of gold. It was meant to impress those who would view it. However, the Torah makes special mention to note that the interior must be made of gold as well. Why?

A pig is the only animal with split hooves that does not chew its own cud. As we know, animals with split hooves are deemed kosher. Animals not chewing their own cud are deemed not kosher. From the outside, the pig appears kosher

because it has split hooves. But on the inside of the pig, it does not chew its own cud, and so it is unkosher.

The pig appears kosher on the outside, but is actually unkosher based only on its insides.

In Judaism, what's on the inside counts. What does that mean? Transparency matters. It means we should hold each other responsible for who we truly are, including past transgressions. None should be above scrutiny. It's important to hold each other accountable. I know we live in the world where honesty and truth sometime seem in short supply. As Jews, we must rise about this.

The prophets declare just how much hypocrisy there was among those who called themselves religious not long before the temple was no more. The same wisdom can and should be applied to all religious systems in all times.

Having the appearance of responsibility in Judaism means very little if we are not first willing to be open and accountable for our own behaviors, including those of our past. This is as true in our personal affairs as it is in our communal and public affairs.

Maybe this gives new meaning to "don't be a pig."

—Rabbi Plost

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## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

When you receive this newsletter we will be in a new calendar year of 2018. A huge thank you to all of the volunteers who worked tirelessly to support all of the Temple's activities over the months of 2017.

Members of the **Endowment Trust** and the **Endowment Committee** met with local attorney Jeannie Singer to discuss what, if anything needs to be done to update the Endowment Trust. We met again on Monday, December 18, with Rob Huxton from Fidelity to discuss the endowment and Mrs. Singer's recommendations. I am hoping in January we will have a proposal to the Board for updating our Trustee document.

**Donnie** now has long distance, so our telephone bill will increase but he needs that service to communicate with our members outside of Washington County. He has been a tremendous help to all of us. He knows this building well and how it functions. Please, if you are going to be here, let him know. I always let him know when I am going to be in the building. If you are doing any work on the building, it is especially important to let him know.

The **Past Presidents** met and offered volunteer help in the new year. I look forward to working with them. They elected **Jerry Falke** to chair their group, **Dan Greenwald** to represent them on the Board of Trustees and **Liz Krell** as secretary.

Once again, thanks to **Ira Cooke** and his volunteers, were able to participate in the **HARC Houses of Worship** tour the day after Christmas. I am writing this before this event actually takes place. You will hear about the results of the tour in the next newsletter. In the past people have come

from all over the region for the tour and appreciate the chance to hear our history, see the Torah scrolls and see the inside of a synagogue.

Because of recent concerns regarding our **Security Committee**, under **Buck Macht's** direction, we are reviewing the work that **Julie Ferron** so ably did previously as chair to bring our security up to date and will make a proposal if any additions are needed. This is a subcommittee of the **Building Committee** chaired by **Mike Armel**. That committee works behind the scenes to keep our buildings well maintained. Just one of many examples of their work was the recent failure of our refrigerator just before the December Hanukkah celebrations. Mike and Donnie immediately took care of the problem and all was ready for Hanukkah.

We recently hired an accountant, **Lucia Fancher**. She works on Sundays. She is very knowledgeable in Quickbooks and will work with our treasurer, Leon Seidman to make sure bills are paid on time and that financial reports will be easier for the Trustees to follow. These two things alone will relieve the Treasurer and President of many time-consuming tasks.

Our treasurer, **Leon Seidman** will be having a **Finance & Budget Committee** meeting in early January.

A huge thank you to **Carole Lafferman** for all her activities this past month. She arranged the oneg after the community Thanksgiving service, the Hanukkah dinner, the Thanksgiving baskets and the Christmas gift wrap. The **Potter's Bowl** was another success of the **Tikun Olam Committee**, chaired by **Carrol Lourie**. Thank you so much to Carole and Carrol and all your helpers. You are the best!

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR—UPCOMING EVENTS

FRI 1/12 6:15 PM Shabbat at Home

SAT 1/13 8:30 AM Adult Bar/Bat Mitzvah Training

9 AM Shabbat Morning Worship

9:30 AM Torah Study

10:30 AM Concluding Service & Tot Shabbat

11 AM Kiddush Luncheon

SAT 1/20 7 PM

Movie Night:  
*Blazing Saddles*

FRI 1/26 6:15 PM

Tu B'Shevat Celebration:  
Service and  
Congregational Dinner

SUN 1/28 1 PM

Books & Bagels:  
*The German Girl*

## ...CONTINUED

The feedback for the **Community Thanksgiving Service** was wonderful. I wish more of our members had attended. We need to hear from you how best to make sure you have information about what is happening at the Temple.

The **Unveiling of the Maquette** for the park across the street from our Temple was at 4 p.m. in the City Council Chambers on Monday, December 19. While the park and additional project plans to celebrate the legacy and life of Thomas Kennedy are important to the Temple, the project is independent of the Temple. Thank you to all who came to the unveiling. Check out the website, [www.thomaskennedycenter.org](http://www.thomaskennedycenter.org), it is great! Because there have been so many questions about this project I have sent out a letter to the membership about the project. Please read that letter and the website for more information about the project and how the Thomas Kennedy Center Board hopes it will develop.

The **Lifelong Learning Committee** under the tireless leadership of **Sybil Schiffman** presented us with two informative brunches this fall and one movie. Their next movie will be "**Blazing Saddles**," **January 20**, and their next brunch is in March. **Bill Hollin**, who is always a favorite, will have something wonderful for us again at the March program. This committee also supports the **Book & Bagels** book club. This club meets monthly at individual members' homes. Contact Sybil for more information 301-665-9202.

We have recently added new programming for **Shabbat Morning**. For families with two working adults coming on Friday nights can be very difficult. Those families with children especially have difficulty. In an effort to reach out to them we have added programming to the Shabbat morning Torah study. Saturday morning begins at 8:30 a.m. with an **Adult B'nai Mitzvah class**, this is followed by prayers, the Rabbi's popular Torah study and a concluding service. Having Shabbat Morning service has also enabled us to have a **Tot Shabbat** program for those families with children too young for the religious school. The program is followed at 11 a.m. with a **Kiddish Luncheon**.

A huge thanks to **Rachel Nichols** who has also done so much for the congregation, you saw her report earlier about the **Shabbat at Home** program. You will see more about this program later in this newsletter. She also worked with the Rabbi developing the program for the Community Thanksgiving Service.

The brochure for the **Community Thanksgiving Service** is just one example of the skills of our secretary, **Trudie Holder**. She has been most helpful in updating our office functions, writing letters, producing flyers, many of the things your presidents have had to do in the past. A huge thank you to her.

Coming up in January: **Tu b'Shevat**. This year we will recognize this holiday with a service in the sanctuary. There will be a congregational dinner before the service with a chance to eat some of the fruits associated with that holiday. **Carole Lafferman** is coordinating the **covered dish dinner** for this congregational dinner. Please contact her at 240-217-4496 or at [claffitz@aol.com](mailto:claffitz@aol.com) for more information about the dinner.

The **Tikun Olam Committee** continues with their activities. On **January 8 and 11** they will be serving a meal at the **REACH Center**. This is an important community service and very rewarding to all who participate in it. Please call Carole Lafferman 240-217-4496 to volunteer.

The **Membership Committee, chaired by Margie Roames**, has been instrumental in adding four new families to our membership this past fall. They had a very nice membership service and are continuing their women's socials. Many volunteers make these events possible. Thank you everyone.

Now it is time to begin the planning for next year. In January your **Leadership Team** will begin the planning for the Annual Meeting and the calendar for 2018. If you have any ideas or suggestions, please send them by email to me and I will pass them to the appropriate chair. The **Annual Meeting** is Sunday, June 2. In late April, you will receive your **annual support pledge** for the following year. Last year we delayed sending out that form because of planning for the gala. This year will be different. You will receive the form as usual in late April. Please return that form as soon as you receive it. Our fiscal year begins June 1 and you must return that form to be able to participate in the annual meeting. You also must return that form to be included in our 2018 membership directory.

Normally June is not a busy month with programs at the Temple; this year will be different. Our **Gala** will again be held in June and other programs are in the planning stages. Watch for them so you do not miss out.

—Monda Sagalkin

Save the date now for a very special Gala Concert  
on Saturday evening, June 16

*“...To extend to all citizens of Maryland the same  
civil rights and privileges...”*

## A Concert Honoring the Undying Legacy of Thomas Kennedy on the 125th Anniversary of Congregation B'nai Abraham

We will be celebrating our congregants who have served in public office due in no small measure to the unflagging efforts of Thomas Kennedy in the early 19th century.

The concert will be performed by the B'nai Abraham choir and friends under the direction of renowned Jewish composer Simon Sargon. Cantor Susan Berkson will be the featured soloist.

Music representing three decades will be performed, including a specially commissioned work, and there will be tributes to our two special honorees, Fred Kramer and Lew Metzner.

A dessert reception will follow where you will have the opportunity to meet the composer and congratulate the honorees.

Keep your eyes open for more information in the coming months.

## SHABBAT AT HOME

The Shabbat At Home program continues this month on Friday, January 12.

This is a chance for congregants to gather at each other's homes to welcome in Shabbat in an informal setting. We should be kindling the Shabbat candles, blessing the fruit of the vine and thanking God for bringing forth bread from the earth. As you enjoy a meal and good company, you may also wish to take a moment to listen to the Rabbi's short *drash* on the week's parsha and discuss how it relates to us today.

It doesn't take a lot to be a Host home; you can take as few as two guests. If you either wish to host a Shabbat at Home dinner or need a home to attend it is important to contact Rachel Nichols

([rachelbknichols@gmail.com](mailto:rachelbknichols@gmail.com), 240-308-1740) as soon as possible so no one is left out of the fun!

On the Saturday following Shabbat at Home, there will be an abbreviated Shabbat morning service and Torah Study.

**8:30 a.m. Adult B'nai Mitzvah Class**

**9 a.m. Morning prayers**

**9:30 a.m. Torah study**

**10:30 a.m. Concluding prayers**

**10:30 a.m. Tot Shabbat, Baer Room**

**11 a.m. Light Kiddush lunch**

**UPCOMING SCHEDULE:** February 9-10, March 9-10, April 20-21, May 11-12

### Donations to the Endowment Fund:

Mansoor and Janet Emral Shaool—in memory of Jack Berkson

Paul Waldman—in memory of Ken Krell

Friends—in honor of Lieba Cohen's special birthday

## IN THE HOSPITAL?

Due to hospital policy, clergy and CBA volunteers have no way of knowing you are in the hospital unless you or a family member inform us. CONTACT: Rabbi Plost, 301-733-5039 or ariplost@gmail.com.

## MAKE A DONATION

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, please mail or call: Renee Kramer, 301-733-2093, 1102 Oak Hill Ave., Hagerstown, MD 21742.

*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*

## CBA DIRECTORY

Rabbi Plost: 301-733-5039,  
ariplost@gmail.com

Contributions: Renee Kramer,  
301-733-2093,  
terrace708@myactv.net

Dor L' Dor: Joan Becker, 301-791-7175

Tree of Life: Jerry Falke,  
301-739-8456, falkeg@hotmail.com

Yahrzeit Plaques: Ben Chlebnikow,  
301-791-6590, bchleb77@aol.com



# Join the Tu B'Shevat Celebration

It's time to celebrate the New Year of the Trees with a service and congregational covered dish dinner.

White wine? Red wine? Pink wine? Find out which and why. Taste the first fruits.

## January 26 at 6:15 p.m.

RSVP to Carole Lafferman at [claffitz@aol.com](mailto:claffitz@aol.com)  
or 240-217-4496



## From the Membership Committee

Our second Ladies of Congregation B'nai Abraham Dinner was a great success. Special thanks to our host Sharon Wagshal! There was much conversation and breaking of bread together. It was a joy to see the deep and evolving relationships in our wonderful CBA community.

As always it was a special joy to welcome our new members. We had a gift exchange for Hanukkah which was really fun. As you can see, a fun time was had by all!



## Correction: Contact Information

The correct phone number for Jeff and Elizabeth Kantor-Bright is 304-260-8821.

## TREES IN ISRAEL

Planting a tree in Israel is the perfect way to show your care. Trees can be planted for all occasions. They 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 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 or to place an order, please email or call: Carrol Lourie, 240-818-7555, cglourie@gmail.com.

## GIFT PLANNING

Learn how you can plan a self-sustaining gift to CBA. CONTACT: Monda Sagalkin, 240-291-6983, monda.sagalkin@gmail.com.

## 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.

Receives initial call from the rabbi:  
Sharon Metzner, 301-739-2972,  
sharonmetz@aol.com

For meals, as needed:  
Robbie Greenberg, 301-797-7265,  
robbieg56@gmail.com

For transportation needs: Barby Weiss, 301-791-6098,  
barby@myactv.net

For home visits or outings:  
Sharon Wagshal, 301-797-3220,  
sharonwag@aol.com

## YAHRZEITS

### JAN 1

Frank Hollin  
Ray Kruger

### JAN 2

H. Albert Lehrman  
Albert Yoselowitz

### JAN 3

Bernard Levit  
Herman Rosenwald  
Israel Silverfield

### JAN 4

Hyman Kronstadt  
Rudolph H.  
Mendelsohn\*

### JAN 5

Beatrice Brener\*  
Esther Selis Hurwitz  
Milton Wulk  
Nina Rosenthal\*

### JAN 6

Hilda Stein

### JAN 7

Albert L. Kurtz\*  
Edward E. Oppenheim

### JAN 8

Carroll P. Abrams\*  
Harry G. Kaplan\*  
Ethel Schindler\*  
Ethel Simon\*  
Anna Greenwald

### JAN 9

Ruth K. Kopp\*  
Naomi Macht\*  
Isadore Bowers  
Benjamin Wagshal

### JAN 10

Rose Gerber\*  
Hazel Becker  
Violet Pevenstein

### JAN 11

Harry Levin\*  
Edward Rosenblatt  
David Strumpf

### JAN 12

Lyda Levovitz\*  
Louis Rosen

### JAN 13

Lee Mitchell  
Schlossberg

### JAN 14

Frieda Brull  
Stanley A. Chatkin  
Helena Sorkowitz

### JAN 15

Mary Berkson\*  
Gladys M. Eaton  
Sally Lehrman  
Freda Pashen  
Blanche Salod  
Florence Samel

### JAN 16

Bertha Rosenberg\*  
Sarah Kronenberg  
Rebecca Messer  
Gertrude Sorkowitz

### JAN 17

Joseph Brenner\*  
Alvin Reed

### JAN 18

Max Apfeldorf

### JAN 19

Eva Dubin  
Bertha Langenstein

### JAN 20

Abraham Meyers\*  
Justin N. Scharf\*  
William Fifield

### JAN 21

Jennie Kaufman\*  
Lena Meyers\*  
Ida Ginsberg  
Ray Rosenbloom

### JAN 22

Dr. William J. Falk\*  
Milton Weidenfeld

### JAN 23

Abraham Saltzman\*  
Irene Raitzyk

### JAN 24

Bruce T. Jerney

### JAN 25

Dine Cohen\*

### JAN 26

Evelyn Goldman

### JAN 27

Joseph B. Kross

### JAN 29

Arthur Alter  
Gilbert Nielsen

\* Denotes Yahrzeit Plaque  
in Sanctuary

## UPCOMING ONEG SCHEDULE

- |     |      |   |
|-----|------|---|
| FRI | 1/12 | Joe & Fern Cunningham, Chairs;<br>Bruce & Edith Edwards |
| FRI | 1/19 | Bill & Robin Hollin, Chairs; Jane Lubin                 |
| FRI | 2/2  | Liz Krell, Chair; Leon & Ruth Forman                    |



Congregation B'nai Abraham

בני אברהם

49 E. Baltimore St.  
Hagerstown, MD 21740

[bnaiabraham.net](http://bnaiabraham.net)

## CONGREGATION B'NAI ABRAHAM OFFICERS

**Monda Sagalkin**  
*President*

**Ben Chlebnikow**  
*First Vice President*

**Arthur Wineburg**  
*Second Vice President*

**Leon Seidman**  
*Treasurer*

**Buck Macht**  
*Secretary*

**Rachel Nichols**  
*Immediate Past President*

## 2018 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

### ADULT EDUCATION

Buck Macht

### BUDGET AND FINANCE

Leon Seidman

### BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

Mike Armel  
Ben Chlebnikow

### CARING

Sharon Metzner

### CEMETERY

Jerry Falke

### CHOIR AND MUSIC

Rachel Nichols

### CONSTITUTION

Sybil Schiffman

### ENDOWMENT

Paul Waldman

### KITCHEN

Nyna Lachman

### LIFELONG LEARNING

Sybil Schiffman

### MEDIA/PUBLIC RELATIONS

Kendra Tidd

### MEMBERSHIP

Margie Roames

### ONEGS

Sharon Wagshal  
Randi Numbers

### PROGRAMS

Carole Lafferman  
Buck Macht

### PULPIT

Ben Chlebnikow

### RELIGIOUS PRACTICES

Rachel Nichols

### RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

Barbara Schwab

### SECURITY

Julie Ferron

### TIKKUN OLAM

Carole Lafferman

### UJA (ISRAELI BONDS)

Sharon Wagshal

### WAYS AND MEANS

Leon Seidman