

CONNECTIONS

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FROM THE RABBI

March 20th is the first day of spring. It's no coincidence that the holiday of Passover is also known as, "Chag Ha-Aviv," or the pilgrimage of the spring.

The first day of spring is also known as an equinox, which derives from the Latin meaning,

"equal" and night." An equinox is a day when the Earth's axis tilts neither toward nor away from the sun. There is an equal amount of light and darkness.

This concept of the equality and darkness is not particular to the first day of the Spring Equinox. It applies to Passover as well.

One of the challenges of life is the balance between turning inward and turning outward. I like to think of this metaphorically in the same way as how one might turn towards the light or away from it.

Many times, seeking out security and familiarity and turn inwards. This tendency towards turning inward is not bad. We need to turn inward to seek out the security

and comfort of what is near and dear to us. That can be a turn towards our loved ones, our friends, our homes, our borders, our customs and our routines. We need to turn inward to feel safe.

But only turning inwards presents a new set of challenges. Too much insularity restricts us from exposure and building bonds with those who are different from us. Too much insularity can limit our ability to receive new ideas and new talents. Too much turning can turn towards stagnation, even death.

Passover is the Jewish Equinox. The holiday asks of us, as individuals and as a community, to seek out a balance between lightness and darkness, between turning inward and turning outward, between conservation and innovation.

This Passover, come explore the journey of Passover with your congregational family of B'nai Abraham. Our ability to create the balance of light and darkness, the equinox, can only be fully achieved together. The weight of our lives and our world spins in the balance.

—Rabbi Plost

IN THIS ISSUE:

A Message from the President..... 2
 Upcoming Events 2
 CBA Directory 3

SPECIAL EVENTS

›Passover Seder
 ›Novenstein Dedication 3

Make a Donation..... 3
Yom HaShoah..... 4
 Religious School..... 4
 Food Festival 4
 Trees in Israel 5
 Caring Committee..... 5

Yahrzeits 5
 Onegs..... 5
 Interfaith Events..... 6

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

We have a fresh new look to our newsletter thanks to one of our new members: Kendra Tidd. She is taking over from the capable hands of Jerry Falke. Thank you Jerry for your 15 years of service, editing the newsletter. We are so fortunate in this community that we have dedicated volunteers. Even more fortunate that new as well as the old members are willing to lend their wisdom and skill to the Temple. Thank you to everyone who is helping to make this a fantastic year.

I hope everyone enjoyed Purim as much as Sandy and I did. Coming up this month there are many special occasions to enjoy at the Temple. April 7 is our monthly birthday/anniversary service in the sanctuary. The choir will be singing. April 15 we will have our community seder at 5:30 p.m. Please let me know if you can help and /or if you are coming. April 21 is our tribute to Judy and Evan Novenstein for their gifts to the Chai campaign and the Temple. April 28 is our Yom HaShoah commemoration. The service will be in the sanctuary and the choir will be singing. May 7 is the food festival. Helping with these occasions is a good way to get to know other congregants and it is fun! Let me know if you can help.

Some have asked me to let people know the committees that are available for volunteer participation. Some are

standing committees and some are ad hoc. The ad hoc committees are the Gala committee and the Seating committee. The Gala committee is working on the tribute to Ben, which will be held in June. The chair is Buck Macht. The Seating committee assigns seats to people who request them at the High Holidays.

The standing committees are: 1. Budget & Finance: Leon Seidman, our treasurer is chair. 2. Building & Grounds: Mike Armel is chair. A subcommittee of Buildings & Grounds is security, which Julie Ferron is the chair. 3. Cemetery: Jerry Falke is chair. 4. Endowment: Dan Schiffman is chair. 5. Lifelong Learning: Sybil Schiffman and Buck Macht co-chair 6. Media & Public Relations: Kendra Tidd 7. Membership: Carole Lafferman is chair. 8. Music & Choir: Rachel Nichols is chair 9. Nominating Committee: Rachel Nichols is chair. 10. Pulpit Committee: Lew Metzner is chair. 11. Religious Practices: Rachel Nichols is chair) 12. Religious School: Barbara Schwab is chair. 13. Tikun Olam: Carole Lafferman is chair. 14. Youth Committee: Betsy Rosenthal is chair. 15. Ways & Means: Leon Seidman is chair. 16. Past Presidents' Council: Dan Greenwald is chair. Let me or the chair know if you are interested in assisting with any of these committees. We appreciate any help you can offer.

—Monda

SAVE THE DATE

We will be holding our “Tribute to Ben Chlebnikow—Laying the Foundation for the Future” on Saturday, June 24 at 6:30 p.m. at Congregation B’nai Abraham in the Social Hall.

You will be receiving more information and your invitation in the mail soon.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR—UPCOMING EVENTS

SAT	4/15	5:30 PM	Passover Seder	SUN	5/7	11 AM	Food Festival
TH	4/20	6 PM	Citizen Police Academy: Criminal Investigations	SAT	5/13	7 PM	Movie Night
FRI	4/21	7:30 PM	Novenstein Sanctuary Dedication	SUN	5/28	1:30 PM	Books & Bagels
FRI	4/28	7 PM	Yom HaShoah Shabbat	SUN	6/4	10 AM	Annual Meeting
SUN	4/30	1:30 PM	Books & Bagels	FRI	6/16	6:15 PM	Shabbat in the Park
				SAT	6/24	6:30 PM	Tribute to Ben Chlebnikow

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

Bima Flowers: Carrol Lourie,
240-818-7555, cglourie@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



PHOTO BY C. T. NEVEL

JOIN US!

On Friday, April 21 at 7:30 p.m. Congregation B'nai Abraham will be dedicating our sanctuary in memory of Edith and Sidney Novenstein. The event will honor Judy and Evan Novenstein and their contributions to our congregation.

Special Oneg to follow the Shabbat service.

Congregational Passover Seder



Please join us for the 2017 CBA Passover Seder on Saturday, April 15 at 5:30 p.m. The menu includes: brisket, matzah ball soup, kugel, chopped liver and gefilte fish with horseradish. Guests are welcome to bring a Passover dessert or vegetable dish to share.

For more information, contact Monda at monda.sagalkin@gmail.com or 240-291-6983.

YOM HASHOAH

FRIDAY, APRIL 28 AT 7 P.M.

In its magnitude, the Holocaust stands as one of the prime cataclysmic events in our time. It is unique, yet universal, providing lessons about the effects of hatred and intolerance.

Please join fellow congregants and others from the greater Hagerstown Community on Friday, April 28

at 7 p.m. as we celebrate Shabbat and acknowledge Yom HaShoah.

Survivor Martha Weiman, a speaker from the Baltimore Jewish Council, will talk about her experience and the choir will present special musical selections. The service will be followed by a special oneg.

FROM THE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

On Purim Day our school families celebrated with a lively reading of the Megillah—the Scroll of Esther—by Rabbi Plost. The students came attired in beautiful and creative costumes. We made and baked hamantaschen, made masks and decorated and packed mishloach manot bags, gifts of food for our friends.



The next Family Activity will be on the morning of April 9. We will focus on Passover! Check the Newsflash for details.

Emergency Preparedness at WCPS

In the event of a community or national emergency, the Washington County Public Schools will work closely with emergency services officials. While parents can always pick up their children during the school day, the best place for children during a regional or local crisis might very well be the school itself, where they will remain under supervision and be protected from hazards outside.



CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS

Sunday, May 7, we will be hosting our annual Jewish Food Festival at Congregation B'nai Abraham.

This is a big event and we need everyone's help! Do you like to cook? Bake? Serve? Wait tables? We need people to do all of those things!

For more information about how you can help, contact Carole Lafferman at claffitz@aol.com or 240-217-4496.



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

APRIL 1

Jacob Auerbach*
Helena Roza*
Henrietta Simon

APRIL 2

Rachel Schindler*
Morris Lazarus
Smith*
Yaffa Schneider

APRIL 3

Morton Gidon
Leah Mildred
Ginsberg

APRIL 4

Sophia Eisenberg*
Annette Nassau
Molly Oppenheim

APRIL 5

Morris Klein*
William L. Meyers*
Carrie Perkowsky

APRIL 6

Meyer Fribush*
Bernard S. Lubin
Elsa Okun

APRIL 8

Ronnie Greenwald

APRIL 9

Joseph Ginsberg
Saul Miller
Walter Schwartz

APRIL 10

Stanley Casanove
Augustus Selis

APRIL 11

Helen Lyon*
Robert Shestack

APRIL 12

Irvin Singer
Rose Taylor
Henry Cramer

APRIL 14

Hannah Cohn*
Rose J. Edner*
Lena L. Lyon*

APRIL 15

Harry Levin*
Milton Lyon*
Henry Weinberg*
Roy Nassau
Marvin H.M. Slavick

APRIL 16

Ruben Greenwald*
Ella Lyon*
Samuel Mansh

APRIL 18

Israel Geber*
Simon J. Verovsky*
Samuel Weidenfeld*

APRIL 19

Rosa Berman*

APRIL 20

Holly Singer
Stephen Aronow

APRIL 21

Louis Lieberman
Adriano Bello
Elly Kiselik

APRIL 22

Arthur Weiss*
Constance Cramer
Henry Harris*

APRIL 23

Nahum Moch*
Meyer Cohen
Sylvia Deutch

APRIL 24

Esther Malke Gray*

APRIL 25

Harry Cooper*
Benjamin Schindler
Leah Medin Benesch

APRIL 26

Helen S. Dodson*
Daisy Lahn
Lillian Lieberman

APRIL 27

Phyllis Littman
Van Camp

* Denotes Yahrzeit Plaque
in Sanctuary

APRIL ONEG SCHEDULE

FRI 4/7 Susanne & Rick Kass, Chairs; Leon Seidman

FRI 4/14 Sharon Wagshal, Chair; Carol Metzner

FRI 4/21 Liz Krell & Sharon Wagshal, Chairs;
Elizabeth Kantor Bright & Jeff Bright

FRI 4/28 Susan Roza, Chair; Susan Brown & Art Wineburg

OFFICERS

Monda Sagalkin
President

Ben Chlebnikow
First Vice President

Arthur Wineburg
Second Vice President

Leon Seidman
Treasurer

David Ferguson
Secretary

Rachel Nichols
Immediate Past President

Upcoming Interfaith Events

Who Is My Neighbor Series

The series continues at Otterbein United Methodist Church at 7 p.m. on April 5, 12 and 19. Topics covered will be Hindu Perspective, Buddhist Perspective and the African-American/Latino-American/Korean-American Perspectives.

Buddhist Peace Walk

Our Buddhist friends from Massachusetts, are on a Peace Walk, April 2. More details to follow.

For more information, contact Julie Ferron at 301-791-4871.



Congregation B'nai Abraham

בני אברהם

49 E. Baltimore St.
Hagerstown, MD 21740

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