

CONNECTIONS

ISSUE 3 | DECEMBER 2017 | 13 Kislev-13 Tevet 5778 | bnaiabraham.net



FROM THE RABBI

We all know the words of Emma Lazarus inscribed on the Statue of Liberty, “Give me your tired, your poor, Your huddled masses yearning to breath free.” But how many are familiar that these immortal words are intertwined with a Jewish fervor to care for

the less fortunate? Many years prior to her authoring her more famous poetic words, Emma’s sense of compassion is evident in another poem, one that reminds us of the resilient spirit of Hannukah,”

Wake, Israel, wake! Recall today

The glorious Maccabean rage,

The sire heroic, hoary-gray,

His five-fold lion-lineage:

The Wise, the Elect, the Help-of-God

The Burst of Spring the Avenging Rod

Oh deem not dead that martial fire

Say not the mystic flame is spent!

With Moses’ law and David lyre,

Your ancient strength remains unbent

Let but an Ezra rise anew

To lift the Banner of the Jew!

A rag, amock at first - erelong,

When men have bled and women wept,

To guard its precious folds from wrong

Even they who shrank, even they who slept

Shall leap to bless it and to save

Strike! For the brave and revere the brave!”

Just as Emma Lazarus, as we celebrate our Holiday of Hannukah, let us remember our own ancient history. May the flame of our candles ignite our Jewish and national consciousness to once again claim our freedoms alongside our courageous pursuit of human dignity.

—Rabbi Plost

IN THIS ISSUE:

A Message from the President..... 2

Upcoming Events 2

Donations. 2

Shabbat at Home 2

Hanukkah Celebration 3

From the Religious School ... 3

CBA Directory 4

Lifelong Learning Event..... 4

Trees in Israel 5

Caring Committee..... 5

Yahrzeits 5

Onegs..... 5

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Thank you to all of you who participated in the many events of the last month. You will see elsewhere in this newsletter the highlight of those events.

As you are thinking about your year-end contributions, please remember your Temple. We still need your contribution for the Yom Kippur appeal. Thank you to those of you who have already sent in your contribution.

Highlights of December are our Holiday celebrations. Please make note of the dates in the events calendar as

well as throughout the newsletter and put them on your calendar. The latke making event is Thursday, December 14 in the afternoon and early evening. Let Carole Lafferman 240-217-4496 know, if you would like to help. People who have helped previously will confirm that it is lots of fun. Another Tikun Olam activity is the annual gift wrap for the Red Cross on December 24. Let Carole know also if you can help wrap gifts.

Happy Hanukkah
—Monda Sagalkin

Donations to the Endowment Fund:

Barbara Schwab—in memory of Nellie Schwab
Barbara Schwab—in memory of Ken Schwab
Gerald & Lieba Cohen—in memory of Leo Chlebnikow
Hannah & Ed Baer—in memory of Leo Chlebnikow
Monda & Sandy Sagalkin—in memory of Leo Chlebnikow
Sharon Wagshal & Art Feiveson—in memory of Leo Chlebnikow
Janet & Mansoor Emral Shaool—in memory of Leo Chlebnikow
Leon Seidman—in memory of Jacob Berkson
Mary & Paul Waldman—in memory of Ken Krell
Brigie & Dick Greenwald—in memory of Jack Berkson

Donation to the Operating Fund:

Evan Novenstein—in memory of Dr. Sidney Novenstein

Donation to the Education Fund:

Jeff & Elizabeth Kantor-Bright—in memory of our parents, Seymour Kantor, Fay Kantor and Naomi Jean Bright

THANK YOU

...to all who donated to the Beth Shalom Reform Synagogue in Puerto Rico. We were able to send \$629 to help with their hurricane repair efforts.

...to all who donated items for the families from Bester Community of Hope. We certainly made a difference to them by providing all they needed for a Thanksgiving meal. A special shout out to Adam Shaool for donating the turkeys.

Shabbat at Home

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 (rachelbnichols@gmail.com, 240-308-1740) as soon as possible so no one is left out of the fun! **Next date is January 12.**

MARK YOUR CALENDAR—UPCOMING EVENTS

THU 12/14	Latke Making	SAT 1/13	8:30 AM	Adult Bar/Bat Mitzvah Training
SAT 12/16 5 PM	Congregational Dinner and Hanukkah Party		9 AM	Shabbat Morning Worship
SUN 12/17 11 AM	Lifelong Learning Brunch: <i>Simple Gifts</i>		9:30 AM	Torah Study
			10:30 AM	Concluding Service & Tot Shabbat
SUN 12/24	Present Wrapping at Valley Mall		11 AM	Kiddush Luncheon
FRI 1/12 6:15 PM	Shabbat at Home			

HAPPY HANUKKAH

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16 AT 5 P.M.

Our annual Congregational Dinner and Hanukkah Party is scheduled for December 16 at 5 p.m. We will provide latkes with the trimmings and beverages. As is our custom please bring a side dish and a menorah, if you have one. We will have singing and candle lighting in the sanctuary after the dinner.

Special guest Cantor Naomi Lerman (daughter of our own Jeff Bright and Elizabeth Kantor Bright) will be leading singing!

Please RSVP to Carole Lafferman at 240-217-4496 or claffitz@aol.com.



FROM THE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

November was a “banner month” for our youngsters! CBA celebrated its first Youth Shabbat in quite some time in conjunction with the New Member Shabbat.



Our students also actively participated in collecting food goods for several needy families in the community. Rabbi and Mrs. Plost led an enlightening discussion examining the Jewish connections between Sukkot and Thanksgiving, and each student compiled a list of 18 (“CHAI”) blessings for which they are grateful.



Let us now look forward to Chanukkah!

Be sure to mark your calendars to attend monthly Youth services the first Friday of each month to meet and greet our Religious School families! For more information about our Religious School, please contact Barbara Schwab.

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS

Join us for latke making beginning in the afternoon on Thursday, December 14.

This is a lot of fun, please consider joining us for this event.

For more information, contact Carole Lafferman at claffitz@aol.com or 240-217-4496.

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

Enjoy wrapping presents?

Please contact
Carole Lafferman at
240-217-4496 or claffitz@aol.com.
We have signed up to wrap gifts on
Sunday, Dec. 24 at the Valley Mall.



The Lifelong Learning Committee
presents

Simple Gifts

DECEMBER 17 AT 11 A.M.

Based in the hills of Central Pennsylvania, two women, Linda Littleton and Karen Hershon, perform ethnic folk music. They will be presenting 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, many more venues.

Brunch will begin at 11 a.m., followed by the performance at noon. Program duration is approximately 75-90 minutes.

\$10 with RSVP | \$15 at the door

Please RSVP to guarantee that there is enough food for all participants.

Send your RSVP by December 14 to Sybil Schiffman at s.schiffman@myactv.net or 301-665-9202.

This program is being partially funded through anonymous donations.

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

DEC 2

Harold A. Kopp
Rachel Lachman

DEC 3

Kathryn Brener
Suzanne Barancik

DEC 4

Menachem Kirszenberg
Martha Fernheimer

DEC 5

Simon Lasarow
Abraham Pashen

DEC 6

Edna Weiner
Stanley Barbarnell
Julius Fallas

DEC 7

Pearl Margolis

DEC 8

Judy Greenwald
Emanuel Lebowitz

DEC 9

Gertrude Schiff

DEC 10

Dr. Samuel Newman
Ethel Lasarow
Rose Weiss

DEC 11

David Samel
Lena May
Benjamin Berkson

DEC 12

Herman Honig

DEC 13

Jennie S. Rosen

DEC 14

Shirley Chlebnikow

DEC 15

Ida Garonzik
Esther R. Lyon

DEC 17

Lynn Markoff
Joseph Goldblatt

DEC 18

Betty Bennett
Celia Pearl Smith

DEC 19

Clarence Brull
Benjamin Forman
Adolph Stein
Fleisher Albert

DEC 20

Philip Thrope
Jenny Menaged

DEC 21

Ann Phelps
Curt Schwab
Eric Wagshal
Rae Weiss

DEC 22

Josephine Auerbach

DEC 23

Eugene Kreiselman

DEC 24

Faith Drabczyk
Katherine Zajac
Naomi Jean Bright

DEC 25

Herbert Brener

DEC 27

Norman Hollander
Bennet
Richard Abel
Louis G. Lyons
David Taylor

DEC 28

William E. Dirolf
Laura Nathanson Jaye
Stella Chatkin
Ruth Abramson
Julius Menaged

DEC 29

Bertha Kramer
David Greenwald
Robert B. Lyons
Jacob Sorkowitz

DEC 30

Jeffrey Seidman
Mary Bloomberg

** Denotes Yahrzeit Plaque
in Sanctuary*

UPCOMING ONEG SCHEDULE

FRI 12/15 Garry & Hannah Geffert, Chairs;
Dave Hanan, Stacie Noll

FRI 12/22 Jerry & Lieba Cohen Chairs;
Howard & Carol Mendelsohn

FRI 12/29 Rachel Nichols Chair;
Doug Lieberman, Peggy Marfilius

FRI 1/5 Gary & Sheryl Greenwald Chairs;
Richard & Lauren Kramer



Congregation B'nai Abraham

בני אברהם

49 E. Baltimore St.
Hagerstown, MD 21740

bnaiaabraham.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

2017 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