

CONNECTIONS

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FROM THE RABBI

The vast majority of Americans support legal protections for undocumented immigrants. So why is a government shutdown necessary? What we need is a clean bill to formalize the protections for immigrants and show our love of the stranger

among us.

Among the rabbis demonstrating that love is my former teacher, Rabbi Jonah Pesner, who helped lead a sit-in at the U.S. Capitol. I regret I couldn't be there to be arrested with Jonah, but I was with him in spirit, as were many hundreds of rabbis and millions of Reform Jews he represents as head of the Reform Movement's Religious Action Center. I am also proud that another one of the lead organizers is a former religious school student of mine who credits some of my teaching with one of the reasons he chose to explore Jewish social justice work in college and as a profession. He gives me too much credit, but if I even had a minor influence, I am deeply humbled. Teaching to the next generation is so important.

Along with many other Jewish American activists, Jonah and other Reform Jews were there to protest inaction on legislation to protect "Dreamers," undocumented immigrants who arrived to the United States as children, through no choice of their own.

In taking a stand for justice, our modern-day Jonah and those who accompanied him echoed the prophetic lessons of another great teacher of Judaism, as taught in the ancient prophetic book of Jonah. The story teaches that all human beings deserve our compassion.

More than 36 times the Hebrew Bible repeats or refers to a message from the Book of Leviticus: *"When an immigrant resides in your land, you shall not wrong them. The immigrant who resides with you shall be to you as one of your citizens; you shall love them as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt."*

We must not poison the benevolent spirit of America. Jews read Jonah's story on Yom Kippur, our most holy day of the year, as we seek to purify ourselves. Along with millions of our brothers and sisters in faith across America, we are asking for a "clean" bill that will allow the Dreamers to breathe free. Only then can we cleanse ourselves of any morally tainted considerations that would otherwise prevent us from loving all God's children.

Why this issue? Why does this issue more so than many others pull directly at the strings of Jews? I suggest one reason may be that we know what it feels like to be a wandering people. This month during Shabbat, we are reading the story of Exodus. Relating to the stranger is a very big part of what means to be Jewish.

—Rabbi Plost

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

We are making progress toward ensuring a secure Temple. Buck Mack and Sharon Wagshal are working together to make sure there are greeters at every service who will lock the doors and welcome all who come. In addition, the Bester community now has a full time neighborhood community resource officer, Alec Routhier, who patrols the neighborhood on foot. He has already visited us and discussed our concerns.

Another area of progress is the updating of our endowment articles. With Jeanne Singer's help we have updated the structure of our endowment. We now have an endowment corporation. The corporation includes the original endowment that restricts our use to only the interest, and an unrestricted endowment. We will send a letter to the whole congregation shortly explaining the whole endowment corporation and how to donate. Ms. Singer is sending us a sample letter that has been used by others forming endowments. When people donate to the endowment they should designate which account they want to receive their donation. In the unrestricted endowment the principle can be used. The officers of the corporation will be adopting bylaws governing the

procedure and situations where the principle can be used. The interest for the restricted endowment is now swept immediately as it is accrued into a "sweep account" which can be used whenever the Endowment Trustees decide to use it or reinvest it. The officers of the endowment corporation will continue as in the original document to be the officers of the congregation. The endowment advisory committee under the capable chair of Paul Waldman will continue to monitor the performance of the endowment account with our financial advisor and will advise the officers of the corporation regarding any changes in the Investment Policy Statement that need to be made. We currently have \$613,000 in the endowment and \$10,626 in the sweep account.

If you have any questions about the endowment please contact our treasurer Leon Seidman. If you have any questions about the security measures being implemented, please contact Buck Macht.

—Monda Sagalkin

MARK YOUR CALENDAR—UPCOMING EVENTS

SUN	2/25	1 PM	Books & Bagels	SAT	3/10	7 PM	Movie Night
SAT	3/3	6 PM	Purim/Megillah Reading Corned Beef Cabaret	SUN	3/18	10 AM	Brunch
FRI	3/9	6:15 PM	Shabbat at Home	SAT	3/31	5:30PM	Passover Seder
SAT	3/10	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				

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 Funds, 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 US!

Saturday, March 3 at 5 p.m. Congregation B'nai Abraham will be celebrating Purim. We'll start with the Megillah reading and continue on to the Corned Beef Cabaret! Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$7 for children 12 or under.

Please RSVP by Feb. 22 to Nyna Lachman at 304-274-2823 or njlachman@frontier.com

Congregational Passover Seder



Please join us for the 2018 CBA Passover Seder on Saturday, March 31 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.

FROM THE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL



January was a banner month for our families! Although frigid winter weather kept kids home on Youth Shabbat, we bounced back with a terrific Tot Shabbat, which took place in the sanctuary. We examined the cov-

ered Torah scrolls and learned what symbols on the breastplate (*ephod*) represent. We also learned some of the rules (*motzot*) we receive in Torah to lead good lives.

Later, at our Family Activity event, the theme was Birthday of the Trees (aka Tu b'Shevat). Many thanks to Jennifer

Weiss for her “crafty” activities; to Rabbi and Mrs. Plot for sharing their *ketubah* (marriage contract) featuring artwork with a tree; and to all the parents and grandparents for helping everyone learn why trees are so vital to human survival.



Enjoy the View

The courtyard garden at Congregation B'nai Abraham has been an evolving project from its installation in 2011 to the present, and a learning experience for its designer (me).

Originally it was designed for heavy shade but it soon became apparent after the removal of the arbor vitae trees, that there was a lot more sun available than anticipated, leading to considerable tweaking of the plan. The increased sun also revitalized the dogwood tree in the courtyard making it a much healthier and attractive tree.

The garden presently takes the form primarily of a pollinator bed, supplying nectar and host plants for bees and butterflies. Nectar plants include the perennials Hyssop “Blue Fortune,” Coneflower or Echinacea, Baby Joe Pye Weed, Cardinal Flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*), Columbine and Blue Mist Spirea (*caryopteris*). The annual, Mexican Sunflower (*tithonia*) was a huge hit with butterflies and bees but proved very brittle and so will be replaced this year with *Gaura* “Whiskers.” The perennials are supplemented by annuals that are also attractive to pollinators—Zinnias,



Petunias, and the wildly popular (with butterflies) Lantana. The tri-colored flowering vine, Spanish Flag, covering the privacy fence, is also a big



draw for butterflies and bees. There are two types of milkweed—butterfly weed (*Ascl. Tuberosa*) and swamp milkweed (*Ascl. Incarnata*) serving as hosts for Monarch butterfly caterpillars. These succeeded so well

in attracting Monarch butterflies in 2017 that we had caterpillars on both plants and I collected three of the caterpillars and raised them at home in our garage “butterfly factory.” They were successfully released in August 2017 and hopefully were a part of the Monarch migration.

Butterflies attracted to the bed in 2017 included Monarch, Red Admiral, and Painted Lady. A pair of native Carolina Praying Mantids (*Stagomantis Carolina*) also took up residence and often popped up during watering (and looking very offended indeed by the drenching). The hyssop was especially attractive to native bumblebees and honeybees.

I am hoping this year will be as successful in attracting bees and butterflies—if you have a chance this spring and summer, have a seat on the garden bench and enjoy our courtyard garden!

—Leah Neveil

TREES IN ISRAEL

Planting a tree in Israel is the perfect way to show you 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

FEB 1

Abraham Barbanell*

FEB 2

Robert N Schiff

FEB 3

Celia Heisler Klein*
Max Ruben*
Jerome Macht

FEB 4

James Brener*
Bertha Goldblatt
Lawrence Sharpe*

FEB 5

Bernard Louis Cohen*
Dora Henry
Goldie Snyder

FEB 6

Lillian Geber*
Annie S. Kaplan*
Jack Levine*
Leonard Freed
Dora Honig
Edith Suls

FEB 7

Moses S. Grossman*

FEB 8

Elaine Kirson

FEB 9

Benjamin Blumenthal*
Ruth Berkson
Herman Rosenbloom

FEB 10

Miriam Blitzer
Elenor Rubinstein
Frieda Kronstadt*

FEB 11

Edith Novenstein*
Joseph Kramer
James Neveil

FEB 12

Ida Schiffman

FEB 13

Max Lyon*
Edward Selkow*
Dr. Leo Bernstein

FEB 17

Robert Falke
Marion Saville
Thelma Goldman

FEB 19

James Michaux
Pearl Kruger

FEB 20

Rose Taylor*

FEB 21

Leopold Selis*
Lou Margolis

FEB 23

Saul Levin*
Bernice Leighton
Charles Markely
Hilde Shapiro*

FEB 24

Max M Gerber*
Hannah Greenwald*
Meyer Greenberg

FEB 25

Mary Leitz

FEB 26

Samuel Kramer*

FEB 27

Helen Pashen*
Pearl Rosen*

FEB 28

Robert Brandt

* Denotes Yahrzeit Plaque
in Sanctuary

UPCOMING ONEG SCHEDULE

- FRI 2/23 Alan & Susan Levin, Chairs;
Tyrone Johnson, Buck Macht
- FRI 3/2 Jack & Kim Metzner, Chairs;
Mark Galinsky, Dan Greenwald
- FRI 3/9 Sandi Gagliardi, Chair; Lori & Steve Slavick
- FRI 3/16 Ira & Carrol Lourie, Chairs;
Arthur Wineburg & Susan Brown



Congregation B'nai Abraham

בני אברהם

49 E. Baltimore St.
Hagerstown, MD 21740

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

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

Rachel Nichols

RELIGIOUS PRACTICES

—

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

Barbara Schwab

SECURITY

—

TIKKUN OLAM

Carole Lafferman
Carrol Lourie

UJA (ISRAELI BONDS)

Sharon Wagshal

WAYS AND MEANS

Leon Seidman