

CONNECTIONS

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FROM THE RABBI

There’s an expression from Pirkei Avot that reads, “Without flour, there is no Torah. Without Torah there is no flour.” Flour has come to be understood metaphorically in Jewish community as “financial resources.” The ancient phrase teaches that our

commitment to financial sustainability and a community of learning are interdependent. This value may also be one reason why Jews save and invest so much in education for themselves and their children.

Recently, though, I’ve been thinking more about, “Without flour, there is no Torah.” What if we interpreted “flour,” not as “financial resources,” but as, “flour?” Imagine that, a Jewish reading of a text without mental gymnastics. Let’s explore more a plain reading of our text.

Now, admittedly, I’m not much of a baker, but I am a great *consumer* of baked goods. As a child, my family would always take a winter trip up to Massachusetts to visit relatives. I remember waking up in a chilly old New England house, snow falling outside. The smell of the warm blueberry muffins that my aunt had just finished making would fill the house. We would all congregate in the kitchen,

surrounded by the heat of the open oven and the warmth of the muffins.

All the various eggs, sugar, flour and yeast—along with the other cherished ingredients of baked goods, bring more to our lives than calories. It explains why baking—and cooking—are core to our Jewish holidays. The gastronomic dimension of Jewish community immediately conjures up memories of the past and plans for tomorrow. From Challah to Hamentashen and Bagels to Blitzes, the preparation, and enjoyment of our baked goods is part of who we are.

Some even have severe restrictions over food. What all still seek is the dignity of joining one another around a table. Even if it’s impossible to meet every dietary requirement, what matters is that we try to be sensitive and inclusive.

At the end of the day, the flour represents how we care about one another. The flour is a symbol of our coming together. The flour is a connection to our past and our future. The flour is a rich part of our Judaism. I still wonder whether flour is as indispensable as our financial resources and our Torah, but it’s certainly a vital ingredient.

—Rabbi Plost

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

This has been a terrific year!

Thank you to all of you who have worked so hard to make it a great year. With so much activity one would think this was a huge Temple. And of course a special thanks to our Trustees and executive committee who have worked tirelessly on our behalf.

We ended the year in the black even though our major fundraiser did not come until the end of June. This was possible because the officers agreed to taking the interest from the endowment when we were running low on cash in March, the Rabbi's fundraising efforts and the Novenstein contribution. We are also fortunate and need to thank Liz Krell and her committee for their efforts with the Chai Campaign. The Chai Campaign enabled us to take care of some pressing renovations on the buildings that have reduced our maintenance costs. We are currently in a good financial position to make it through the summer because of the above efforts and the Gala Tribute to Ben. You will read more about this fundraiser later in the newsletter.

Also thanks to the Rabbi's fundraising efforts we have added \$100,000 to the endowment this year. **THE TOTAL IN THE ENDOWMENT IS NOW OVER \$576,000.** And we have pledges for another \$300,000 in planned giving.

But for the future health of our community we need to add much more to the endowment. We can thank Ben Chlebnikow for bringing this issue to our attention—with his articles in the newsletters on planned giving. It is very important that you consider a gift to the temple in your estate planning.

Planning for our future is essential. We have started a "Giving Legacy Circle" to help those during estate planning remember the Temple endowment. We have also established special recognitions for contributors who pledge \$36,000, \$72,000 or more. Those forward-looking people will have a naming opportunity inside the sanctuary.

You have already received your annual support pledge form. Please be generous as you consider what our small, but mighty rural congregation means to you and the community at large. What you give is up to you, but notice that we have adopted a bare bones budget of \$206,000. Even with that budget, assuming that each of our 120 families pledged \$1000, we still would not meet our revenue needs of \$206,000. How much we have to raise with fundraisers, such as the gala, depends on the total annual support we receive and the total amount of interest we will receive from the endowment. This is so important when you are considering how much to pledge in annual support or how much you plan to leave to the Temple in your estate planning. **YOU** will be a partner to determining the importance of maintaining a Jewish community represented in Hagerstown.

I personally think it is essential!

—Monda

MARK YOUR CALENDAR—UPCOMING EVENTS

SAT 8/12 9:30 AM Children's Shabbat:
At Rabbi's Ari's home

SAT 9/16 7 PM Selichot

SUN 9/17 11 AM Religious School:
New Year celebration
at the Apple Orchard

WED 9/20 8 PM Erev Rosh Hashanah

THU 9/21 10:15 AM Rosh Hashanah

FRI 9/22 6:15 PM Tashlich:
Potluck in the Park

FRI 9/29 8 PM Kol Nidre

SAT 9/30 10:15 AM Yom Kippur

FRI 10/6 6 PM Sukkot

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

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

This past year we welcomed the following new members:

Jeffrey Bright & Elizabeth Kantor Bright

Laura Chaskes

Leon & Ruth Forman

Mark Galinsky

Gillian Godlewski & Kevin Miller

Tyrone G. Johnson

Odayah Kaplan

Elisa Levin Kinnee

Sam Metzner

Alan & Linda Putterman

Joshua Roames

Marjorie Roames

Kelly & Mike Sallerson

Sheldon & Marsha Smollen

David Weinschel



HIGH HOLY DAYS

High Holy Day packets will be mailed by Aug. 8 and we hope you have made your plans to join your fellow congregants during this most sacred season.

CHANGES ON THE BOARD

The following Trustees rotated off the Board of Trustees this June: Vic Kronstadt, Bill Hollin, Mansoor Emral Shaool, Buck Macht. Our deep felt thanks to all of them for their fantastic contributions to our Temple.

The following Trustees were elected at the June 2017 annual meeting: David Ferguson, Mike Armel, Javier Tellez, Alan Levin. Buck Macht was elected to fill the last year of David Ferguson's term as secretary.



A TRIBUTE TO **BEN CHLEBNIKOW**

This year's gala, *A Tribute to Ben Chlebnikow: Laying the Foundation for the Future*, was held in the Social Hall of CBA on Saturday evening, June 24. Over 101 congregants and friends, including 18 members of Ben's family, honored Ben for his many years of service to the Jewish community. Ben has been an active congregant the past 56 years serving as Chairman of the Buildings and Grounds Committee for many years and currently as First Vice President.

The *Tribute to Ben Gala* grossed \$28,639.08 in income and, with expenses paid, netted \$22,909.75. I am often asked how is it possible to raise this much money from our Galas? My answer is to be blessed with an excellent committee of hardworking volunteers and a generous, supportive congregation. As listed in

the event program, I again want to recognize our committee members: Mike Armel, Lieba Cohen, Sandy Gagliardi, Tyrone Johnson, Carol and Howard Mendelsohn, Rachel Nichols, Monda Sagalkin, Barbara Schwab, Leon Seidman, Kendra Tidd, Barby Weiss and our emcee Al Schiff. At the risk of hopefully not leaving anyone out, volunteers behind the scene to be recognized include David Ferguson, Gary Greenwald, Bill Hollin, Marcia Miller, Stacie Noll, Randi Numbers, Jim Oppenheim and Sybil Schiffman. And also a "Todah Rabah" to Liz Krell, Victor Kronstadt, Rob and Barry Chlebnikow, and Rabbi Ari Plost for sharing with us their unique insights about Ben.

Some interesting facts about the Gala include the following: 112 tickets sold to the event raised \$5329.00; 39 sponsors donated a total of \$11,485.00; Tributes from 20 congregant families totaled \$2875.00; 22 ads from businesses in the community totaled \$3525.00; the raffle raised \$1381.20; and the Live Auction raised \$3900.00. I received many favorable comments about the delicious hors d'oeuvres provided by Bagel-Lisious. Again, we can't thank everyone enough who donated his/her time, attended the event, contributed as sponsors, tribute writers, and/or ads, as well as participated in the raffle or auction or both.

Dear to Ben's heart is his desire for each congregant to consider leaving a Legacy Gift in his/her will to Congregation B'nai Abraham. Ben will tell you that the amount willed is not as

important as everyone planning to contribute what he/she can afford. Ben's dream is that by "Laying a Foundation for the Future" through a planned legacy, the synagogue will remain viable for future generations. During this upcoming year, information will be provided as to how Legacy Gifts can be made and how donors can be recognized for their gifts through the CBA Legacy Support and the Legacy Circle programs.



Congratulations

TO THE FOLLOWING GRADUATES:

High School:
Max Gamerman
Erika Greenwald

College:
Evan Numbers
Adrienne Kramer

Law School:
Elizabeth Kramer

A NOTE ON TRANSPARENCY

We have tried to be transparent and keep everyone informed but we still hear that some people feel as if they do not know “what is going on.” Therefore, in addition to the weekly newsflash, the weekly announcements at services and the newsletter, I will send everyone minutes of the Board of Trustees meetings. The minutes will come a month after the meeting because they must be approved by the Board of Trustees before they can be sent out. I will also send out the monthly agenda. Board of Trustee meetings are usually the third Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. in the Baer room. The committee chairs have been asked to put their meeting dates in the newsflash. If you wish to come to a committee meeting or a Board of Trustees’ meeting please let me or the chair of the committee know ahead of time.

Monda Sagalkin
President

Emergency Alerting System

Getting information during an emergency is vital. Stay tuned to radio and television stations to obtain the latest information. Purchase a battery-operated radio and keep it tuned to a local all-news or talk-radio station.

HELP WANTED

CHAIR for seating committee. If we are to have reserved seats for the High Holy days this year we need a chair for this committee.

PERSON to work with members of the Past Presidents Council to put historical items of interest in the room dedicated to the Past Presidents.

CHAIR for Houses of Worship tour. This is held the day after Christmas each year.

The events listed are one time events. Many members like to start out their volunteer commitment with a time limited responsibility. No prior experience is required. For more information regarding the responsibilities of these chairs please contact Monda Sagalkin at 240-291-6983. This is a great way to help your Temple.

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

AUG 3

Mattan Kedem

AUG 4

Beatrice Lahn

AUG 5

Melvyn S. Rosenthal*
Morris Kristal

AUG 6

Tillie Lamnin
Nathan Pevenstein

AUG 7

Ida Saltzman*
Dora Levin

AUG 8

Marvin I. Becker
Gabriel Fontrier

AUG 10

Noami Silverfield
Odell Rosen
Beatrice Elbaum Miller

AUG 11

Mollie Garner*
Max Julius Simon*
Ralph Chlebnikow
Edward Gelfand

AUG 12

Aaron Feld
Lena Rabb

AUG 13

Florence Schwartz
Anna Wagshal

AUG 14

Ben Edner
Eva Rodriguez

AUG 15

Odell Rosen*

* Denotes Yahrzeit Plaque
in Sanctuary

Donations to the Endowment Fund:

In honor of Preston Plost's Bar Mitzvah from Debby and Harvey Weinberger

In honor of Preston Plost's Bar Mitzvah from Sydell Thrope

In memory of Nate Sagalkin from Monda and Sandy Sagalkin

In memory of Susan Levin's mother from Hannah and Ed Baer

In memory of Susan Levin's mother from Brigie and Dick Grennwald

In memory of Susan Levin's mother from Renee and Fred Kramer

Donations to Religious Practices:

In honor of Preston Plost's Bar Mitzvah from Cecile and Charles Plost—
prayer books

Donations to the General Fund:

In honor of Ben Chlebnikow from Judy and Evan Novenstein

Donations to the Operating Fund:

In honor of the birth of the Kass grandchild from Monda and Sandy Sagalkin

For the health of Sandi Gagliardi, Amelia Kasinof and Kendra Tidd from
Monda and Sandy Sagalkin

AUGUST ONEG SCHEDULE

FRI 8/4 Carole Lafferman, Chair; Leon Seidman

FRI 8/11 Stacie Noll, Chair; Joe & Fern Cunningham

FRI 8/18 Bill & Robin Hollin, Chairs;
Dan & Lisa Schiffman

FRI 8/25 Monda Sagalkin, Chair; Mike Armel



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

David Ferguson
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

Dan Schiffman

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

—

RELIGIOUS PRACTICES

Rachel Nichols

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

Barbara Schwab

SECURITY

Julie Ferron

TIKKUN OLAM

Carole Lafferman

UJA (ISRAELI BONDS)

Sharon Metzner

WAYS AND MEANS

Leon Seidman

Upcoming Interfaith Events

The Interfaith Coalition will be holding it's 2nd Annual Global Feast for Peace for September 17, 2017 from 5 p.m.-7 p.m. at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in their Parish Hall, 18313 Lappans Rd., Boonsboro Md. Suggested contribution is \$10. **For more information, contact Julie Ferron at 301-791-4871.**