

# CONNECTIONS

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## FROM THE RABBI

In a world of uncertainty, Judaism provides us some meaningful structure and expectation. Shabbat arrives every week where we light candles, regenerate with sacred purpose and find time with friends and family.

The High Holy Days are filled with the chanting and are times of reflection, accountability and improvement. Passover with matzah teaches us of the urgency and sacrifice required for liberation. I could go on and on—and so could you—with examples of order and an aspiration towards a state of perfection. Well, if not perfection, at least a better striving towards sacred excellence.

But Purim is not a holiday of order and perfection, but of randomness. It is even a willingness to embrace, well, the overturning of ritual that would otherwise lead towards any semblance of order. The word that comes to mind is: chaos.

I mean, the order in Purim is the craziness of it all. We wear masks and costumes, we behave in a nonsensical way, and we try to just “let loose.” Yes, there is a roadmap to our

chaos—but the roadmap is intended to elevate our state of frivolity. Purim flips life upside down.

Embedded in all of this is an important lesson.

Esther is asked to approach the King (without permission) to intervene and prevent Haman’s evil plan to kill the Jews.

Mordechai asks Esther, “Who knows if it wasn’t for just such a time that you became queen.”

When life seems totally upside down and when life doesn’t make sense, we can try to take the safe, easy route.

Esther reminds us that making a difference happens in times and places when least expected. Esther reminds us that making a difference often requires great courage.

Esther reminds us that we can make a great contribution to our people and the world if we allow ourselves to occasionally see our purpose in a world that sometimes seems crazy.

Perhaps, making sense out of the senseless is the enduring message of Purim that remains with us long after the day of our fun filled festival.

—Rabbi Plost

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## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I mentioned in my message to you in January that planning by the gala committee was beginning. The gala is our only fundraising event of the year. This year's program, which will be held on Saturday, June 16 at 7 p.m., will be very different from previous years.

The event will feature a concert including a specially commissioned work by composer Simon Sargon honoring the courage and vision of Thomas Kennedy. Sargon's work includes some of Thomas Kennedy's poetry set to music. We can be proud that for the last 125 years members of our Temple have heeded the mitzvot (call to action) to improve the world by contributing to the Hagerstown community in many ways including music and art. Because of Thomas Kennedy, Jews from our community and across the state have been able to also contribute through political activism.

The gala gives us a chance to honor those members of our Temple who have made a political contribution. We will be honoring three members: Lew Metzner, a sitting Hagerstown councilman, Jessica Fitzwater, who sits on the Frederick City Council and Frank Kramer, who previously sat on the Hagerstown City Council. We will also honor Jack Berkson and Richard Grumbacher who served in the Maryland State Legislature and have since passed.

The concert will be open to the public. Please help the committee with their important work by responding "yes, of course," to their call for help. They will need help selling tickets, ads and tributes. In addition, it is very important that you purchase a ticket and attend the event. **SAVE THE DATE** and please ask what you can do to help.

—Monda Sagalkin

## Report from the Lifelong Learning Committee

This year, we have had an active Lifelong Learning schedule:

In October, our own Paul Waldman presented *Jewish Artists who fled the Holocaust* and went to Britain at our first brunch.

Our second brunch consisted of a musical, Klezmer concert by Simple Gifts.

Movie Night in November was the film hit *Denial*. January movie was *Broadway Musicals: A Jewish Legacy*.

Books and Bagels continues to be well attended. It meets monthly.

Upcoming activities include:

Brunch: March 18—Bill Hollin will present Israeli Music through the 1967 War.

We are trying to secure Josh Tulkin who is passionate about engaging more of the faith community in advocating for environmental protection and helping congregations become greener. He is a Reform Jew and the Director of the Maryland Sierra Club.

Movies for the future include:

March 10—*Golda's Balcony* and May—*Steal a Pencil for me*.

Many thanks to the committee for making these programs happen, Tom Neveil and the kitchen crew for shopping and cooking for the brunches, and to Donnie for setting up and being there for us.

—Sybil Schiffman, Chairperson

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR—UPCOMING EVENTS

SAT 3/3	5 PM	Corned Beef Cabaret	11 AM	Kiddush Luncheon	
FRI 3/9	6:15 PM	Shabbat at Home	SAT 3/10	7 PM	Movie Night: Golda's Balcony
SAT 3/10	8:30 AM	Adult Bar/Bat Mitzvah Training	SUN 3/18	10 AM	Brunch: Guest Speaker Bill Hollin
	9 AM	Shabbat Morning Worship	SUN 3/25	1 PM	Books & Bagels
	9:30 AM	Torah Study	SAT 3/31	5:30PM	Passover Seder
	10:30 AM	Concluding Service & Tot Shabbat			

## 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



## A Reminder...

Saturday, March 3 at 5 p.m. Congregation B'nai Abraham will be celebrating Purim with the Corned Beef Cabaret!

## Congregational Passover Seder



Please join us for the 2018 CBA Passover Seder on Saturday, March 31 at 5:30 p.m. The menu includes: matzah ball soup, kugel 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.

## NEW DIRECTORY INFO

Marjorie Grumbacher  
16505 Virginia Ave, Apt 2305  
301-223-4208

Linda Putterman  
Remove Cell #: 240-372-4217  
Add Home #: 240-500-6660

## 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

### MAR 1

Fabian Kline\*  
Sylvia Kurtz\*  
Margarete Fifield  
Elizabeth Freeman  
Lazarus  
Robert Rosen

### MAR 2

Samuel Henry

### MAR 3

Ethel G. Albert\*  
Rachel Cohen  
Jettie Cohen  
Bert Kann

### MAR 4

Richard Grumbacher\*  
Leonard Rosenbloom

### MAR 5

Jacob Meyers  
Bertha Miller  
Dora S. Nathanson  
Frieda Behr

### MAR 6

Fanny Green\*  
Meyer Lahn\*

### MAR 7

Archie Robert Cohen\*

### MAR 8

Jacob Greenberg  
Catherine Kozak  
Lillian Metzner  
David Weidenfeld  
Hank Becker

### MAR 9

Gisela Holzer\*

### MAR 10

Esther Goodman\*  
Rose Greenberg\*  
Joseph Sirni

### MAR 11

Caroline Harris\*

### MAR 12

Sarah Weidenfeld\*  
Harry Macht

### MAR 13

Sara Leslie  
Goldman Fite\*  
Frederick Ungar\*

### MAR 14

Sylvan Silverman

### MAR 15

Moses Saltzman\*  
Issac H. Taylor\*  
Ann Eldridge Hall

### MAR 17

Ruth Dolinsky  
Irwin Lazarus

### MAR 18

Simon Berkson\*  
Samuel Granet\*

### MAR 19

Julius Amper  
William Ray Myers

### MAR 20

Beth Armel  
Eugene Baer\*  
Jesse Greenberg  
Jack David Kanter

### MAR 21

Sani Tehrani\*  
Eva Nora Lyon Schwartz

### MAR 22

Wm. Herbert Smith\*  
Henry Cramer

### MAR 23

Rae Ruben\*

### MAR 24

Dr. Isadore Lyon\*

### MAR 26

Ruben Oscar Framm\*  
Pauline Reinkraut\*  
Evelyn W. Ruben\*

### MAR 27

Sol Lachman

### MAR 28

Isadore (lee) Livov\*

### MAR 29

Jerome Katz

### MAR 30

Arthur Alan Levine\*  
Evelyn Chatkin  
Annie Selzer  
Ida Feldman

### MAR 31

Goldie Kaplan\*  
Camille Markley

\* Denotes Yahrzeit Plaque  
in Sanctuary

## UPCOMING ONEG SCHEDULE

- FRI 3/9 Sandi Gagliardi, Chair; Lori & Steve Slavick
- FRI 3/16 Ira & Carrol Lourie, Chairs;  
Arthur Wineburg & Susan Brown
- FRI 4/6 Sharon Wagshal, Chair; Mike Fitzgerald



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

### 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