

# CONNECTIONS

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## FROM THE RABBI

This past month, we had a historic opportunity to re-dedicate our holy abode—our beloved sanctuary—in the name of Sydney and Edith Novenstein, made possible by the generous tzedakah of Evan (their son) and Judy (his besheret). It was particularly meaningful to me to witness the chain of generation

connection of this Jewish family—la dor va dor, sustained by the seeds planted so many years ago. As was expressed, this contribution was a significant help that has made a transformative difference in our Jewish community of Western Maryland.

While many from the congregation were present, I am aware of the many challenges presented of lifestyle, family and geography that prevented several of you from being able to experience the occasion first hand. I cannot replicate the awesome music, the beautiful tribute offered by Evan or the uplifting atmosphere of blessing that we all encountered for the service. I can, however, provide a brief summary of my reflections from the occasion.

The parsha for the evening was Shemini, which happens to be the Torah portion that describes the dedication of the Tabernacle. I leave it to you to wonder whether this is a mere coincidence. Drawing meaning from the title of our parsha, it may be worth asking what is the significance of shemini—which means eight? Why is the tabernacle consecrated on the eighth day? What bearing of eight might we derive from our ancient tradition that serves as an opportunity to rededicate ourselves in our day and age?

On the eighth day, a child enters into the covenant. This covenantal attachment is the most sacred and intimate attachment

that we have with our Judaism. Even Jews who do not have any other connection to Judaism, will likely affirm their identity of Judaism to exclusion of any other faith. Similarly, when we experience the most meaningful highs and lows of our lives, we open ourselves to one another. A sacred community is most treasured when we share our lives with one another. Our sacred space of a sanctuary—and our memories over the years—is the physical manifestation of covenant.

Sukkot is a holiday of seven, or “eight” days, depending on how you count. Actually, technically, the eighth day is a holiday without the rituals of sukkot called shemini atzeret. For seven days of sukkot, we are reminded in flimsy makeshift booths, of the vulnerability of our lives. Our lulav or etrog are our assistances as we pray for rain upon which our very lives depend. The eighth day—our day of dedication—testifies to our journey of planning and preparation that allows for a life of sustainability and strength. In our community of over 120 years, we elevate ourselves to the dedication and devotion required of us to ensure our future. We do not hide from our responsibilities—but rededicate ourselves with enthusiasm to our mission.

Finally, the eighth day reminds us of our joyous celebration of Hannukah. Hannukah literally represents the rededication of the temple that had been desecrated. As beacon of light to underserved and oppressed, as a champion of human rights and justice, we remember our sacred duty to protect religious freedom and equality. Without B’nai Abraham—there would be no Jewish voice in our area. We continue to dedicate ourselves to this sacred purpose in our journey ahead. Many, many thanks to all our congregational family and to the Novenstein family in particular! From strength to strength and from generation to generation...

—Rabbi Plost

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## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Last month I was thanking so many volunteers for making it possible to have a month of successful events. Now, we have just finished another month of wonderful programs. This is a small congregation of about 130 families but wow the energy!! One would think looking at all our events that we had a thousand families. Since Purim we had the Yom Hashoah service, the dedication of the sanctuary and service to honor the Novenstein family, a community seder and our ongoing activities in adult education and religious school. Enriching all of our services in April has been the choir. The addition of their music has been outstanding.

Coming up we have the new member and birthday/ anniversary Shabbat, the Food Festival, June 2 will be celebration of Shavuot and our youth Shabbat, June 4 is our annual meeting, June 10 is Preston Plost's Bar Mitzvah and June 24 is our Gala honoring Ben Chlebnikow for his years of hard work on behalf of the congregation as Chair of the Building and Grounds Committee at the Temple. Thank you everyone for all your energy and enthusiasm. Without your participation all this activity would not be possible. Elsewhere in this newsletter you will see

more about our new members. We have welcomed 10 new members this year. You will also read more in the newsletter about the religious school. Soon you will be receiving your invitations to the annual meeting and the Gala.

In addition to these program activities, we have listed our land on the Leitersburg Pike and hired a new secretary. Her name is Trudie Holder. She, Randi Numbers and David Ferguson are working on streamlining our office procedures so all of our time will be used more efficiently. Verizon discontinued their email service so we had to arrange for a new email. Our email is now [bnaiabraham1@gmail.com](mailto:bnaiabraham1@gmail.com). You have already seen our new newsletter designed by Kendra Tidd. She is also managing our website. If you have been in the sanctuary you will notice that there has been a beautiful addition. Anne Hollander and her family re-gilded the burning bush. Thank you Anne and family.

I cannot thank all of you enough. This is an amazing community.

—Monda

### Save the Date: Bar Mitzvah of PRESTON ROSENBLUTH PLOST

The congregation is invited to join Rabbi Ari, Michelle and their families when Preston is called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, June 10 at 10 a.m. in the Congregation B'nai Abraham Sanctuary.

*Invitations have been sent, please send RSVPs to Michelle at [mishrosenbluth@aol.com](mailto:mishrosenbluth@aol.com).*

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR—UPCOMING EVENTS

FRI	5/5	7:30 PM	Shabbat Service: Welcome New Members	FRI	6/2	7:30 PM	Shavuot Service
SUN	5/7	11 AM	Food Festival	SUN	6/4	10 AM	Annual Meeting
SAT	5/13	7:30 PM	Movie Night: "Women of Gold"	SAT	6/10	10 AM	Bar Mitzvah: Preston Rosenbluth Plost
SUN	5/28	1 PM	Books & Bagels: <i>All I Know and Love</i>	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

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 to Our NEW CONGREGANTS!

We will be welcoming our new members who have joined our congregation this spring on Friday, May 5 at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. We will also honor members who have a birthday or anniversary in the month of May.



## JEWISH FOOD FESTIVAL

On Sunday, May 7 at 11 a.m. CBA will be hosting our Jewish Food Festival. This is a big event and we need everyone's help! Do you like to cook? Bake? Serve? Wait tables? We still need people to do all of those things!

To find out how you can help, contact Carole Lafferman at clafffitz@aol.com or 240-217-4496.

## Celebrate Shavuot

This Shabbat, on Friday, June 2, we will remember the time when the Hebrews received the Ten Commandments. We will celebrate Shavuot and honor our religious school students and their families. This special service will be followed by ice cream party oneg!





## SHABBAT in the PARK

Friday, June 16 at 6:15 p.m.

We will celebrate Shabbat with a covered dish dinner and service at City Park.



## A TRIBUTE TO BEN CHLEBNIKOW

Join us on Saturday, June 24 at 6:30 p.m. as we celebrate Ben Chlebnikow's years of service to Congregation B'nai Abraham at our annual Gala. Tickets are \$50 per person. Family and friends are welcome. All proceeds benefit CBA. For more information or questions, contact Buck Macht at [hmacht@hotmail.com](mailto:hmacht@hotmail.com).

### FROM THE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

Last month Rabbi Plost taught our students about the seasonal (spring-time) and religious importance of Passover. The students enjoyed making their own Seder plates for use at home. Then they enjoyed a chocolate Seder in the Baer Room. Many thanks to Elizabeth Kantor Bright for the melting chocolate! Dr. Doug Becker continues to teach Jewish and Israeli music and dance to the youngsters.

Stay tuned for details about our upcoming Family Activity on May 21 and the Religious School Shabbat on June 2.

For more information about our Religious School, please contact Barbara Schwab.

### Emergency Preparedness at WCPS

Students may be held in school, dismissed early or transferred to evacuation sites, depending on the situation and direction of authorities. Parents are advised to pay close attention to public announcements on radio, television and the WCPS website. WCPS parents may sign up for automatic email updates directly to their mailbox at [www.wcboe.k12.md.us](http://www.wcboe.k12.md.us). Private school parents should contact their school directly to learn about security and communications procedures.



## ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, June 4 at 10 a.m. in the Social Hall.

As always, we will begin with a light breakfast, followed by the proceedings for our annual meeting. This is your opportunity to hear what we have accomplished in the past year and what plans we have for the year ahead.



## 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

### MAY 5

Lillian M. Roth\*  
Moses Garonzik  
Mollie S. Mansh  
Peter Schiro  
Henrietta Jonas  
Fred May  
Flossy Dirolf  
Leah Benesch  
Amelia Fleisher  
Ginny Franke  
Alexander Heisler

### MAY 12

Bonnie Amalfitano\*  
Bernard Hammerman  
Samuel J. Cohen\*  
Marie Portugais  
Uzan\*  
Sunny England  
Ira Brewster Terry  
Harry Wartzman  
Ann Muyderman

Louis Seigel\*  
Rosalind G. Sherman\*  
Sayde G. Gruner  
Peter E. Goodman\*  
Robert Emmert  
Benjamin Kasinof\*

### MAY 19

Dora Amkraut  
Morris Kerstein  
Ida Werner\*  
Ida Mae Cohen  
Chlebnikow\*  
Esther Cohen  
David Ginsberg  
Benjamin H. Snyder  
Laura Brown Chaplin  
Abrahms\*  
Harry Schindler\*  
Irene Weidhorn  
Philip Greenberg  
Morris Greenwald  
Lawrence Horovitz  
Hilda Powopsky

Shirley Lee Abel  
Samuel Salitsky  
Evelyn Plost Hollander

### MAY 26

Arthur Greenwald  
Dr. Stanley Macht  
Bessie Eller\*  
Marvin C. Gerber\*  
Dr. Hyman Henry  
Wallace Baer  
Jay Newman Macht  
Maxwell Greenwald\*  
Steven B'Sedek  
Rose Marks  
Vance Allen Snook\*  
Dorothy Rosen  
Genevieve Saltzman  
Isadore Schwartz  
Mary Shestack  
Rose Weiss\*

\* Denotes Yahrzeit Plaque  
in Sanctuary

## Donations to the General Fund

In memory of Irving Einbinder from Mansoor and Janet Emral Shaool

In memory of Irving Einbinder from William Bowen

In honor of Carol Metzner receiving her Hebrew name from  
Leslie Powell

In honor of Carol Metzner receiving her Hebrew name from  
Nikki Moberly

## APRIL ONEG SCHEDULE

FRI	5/5	Sybil Schiffman, Chair; Kendra Tidd
FRI	5/12	David Van Camp & Anne Hollander, Chairs; Paul Waldman & Mary Money; Sandy & Monda Sagalkin; Javier Tellez
FRI	5/19	Lew & Sharon Metzner, Chairs; Fred & Renee Kramer
FRI	5/26	To be provided



Congregation B'nai Abraham

בני אברהם

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Hagerstown, MD 21740

[bnaia Abraham.net](http://bnaia Abraham.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

Carole Lafferman

### ONEGS

Sharon Wagshal  
Randi Numbers

### PROGRAMS

Carole Lafferman  
Buck Macht

### PULPIT

Lew Metzner

### 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

Everyone is welcome to attend this upcoming event for the interfaith community. On May 11th at 7pm there will be a workshop on folding peace cranes. The workshop will be held at Christ Reformed United Church of Christ, and led by Temm Bikle. **For more information, contact Julie Ferron at 301-791-4871.**