

# CONNECTIONS

ISSUE 2 | NOVEMBER 2017 | 12 Cheshvan–12 Kislev 5778 | [bnaiabraham.net](http://bnaiabraham.net)



## FROM THE RABBI

This Thanksgiving, we have much to be grateful for. In addition to our time spent with family and friends, the blessings of exceptional freedoms that we cherish as Americans, we also can be grateful for living in a welcoming and tolerant

community that embraces Jewish life.

At a time of rising anti-semitism in the country, we should be proud that our non-Jewish community supports our synagogue. I was first welcomed into the Hagerstown Area Religious Council several years ago, not long after arriving in Hagerstown. Now, less than four years later, I serve as the president of the organization.

The Hagerstown Area Religious Council contributes enormously to the welfare of the greater community. It maintains programs that feed hungry children and help promote literacy among underserved populations.

HARC serves as a gathering place for clergy to come together regularly in fellowship and support of one another. We also help faith-communities collaborate and partner.

HARC plans and supports interfaith and cross-cultural learning opportunities.

HARC provides a communication platform to distribute information about ongoing programs in our faith communities. On occasion, HARC speaks with a single voice to elevate a shared religious consciousness and spirit of unity.

HARC serves a facilitator between government and our citizens on important initiatives that protect our community and help us listen to one another.

In a season of thanksgiving, I am so grateful for the abundance of support from the many religious leaders and religious communities that make HARC possible. Currently, over 35 faith communities are engaged members of HARC and we continue to grow. Some of these faith communities do not even reside in Hagerstown, but in the general region that we all call home.

This year, we should all be especially proud that the synagogue is the host congregation for the yearly interfaith Thanksgiving service. It is only by an extraordinary rare set of circumstances that I happen to be the President of the organization and that we are the host congregation.

The music will be led by our magnificent choir and supported by choir members of other congregations. The sermon—homily—will be given by host pastor of HARC. The service will last about an hour with refreshments afterwards.

The service will be held at the synagogue at 7PM on November 19th. Please join us.

To learn more about HARC, please go to [harccoalition.org](http://harccoalition.org)

—Rabbi Plost

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## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

This community is a whirlwind of new ideas and activities. Even with our sincere efforts to keep you informed it is hard to keep up with all that is happening. I try to keep you informed with the weekly newsflash, the newsletter, the Trustees minutes and my reports. I know, however, that is also a lot to read. So this month I will use this message to highlight next month's activities.

Nov. 3 services will be in the sanctuary to honor our latest new members. We all look forward to welcoming them. We are so fortunate that our Temple continues to grow. That same night we will have a congregational dinner and birthday celebration. As we are growing, our congregational dinners are a relaxed time that long time and new members can spend together. Please let Carol Lafferman (claffitz@aol.com) know what you can bring to the dinner. We will also have some of the religious school children reciting the SHEMA on the Bema that night.

We realize as reform Jews how important it is to make a difference in our community. Nov. 5 is the annual potter's bowl. This is an event started by some members of our congregation and members of the Trinity Lutheran Church to help support the Community Free Clinic. It is hard to imagine how many people do not have access to medical care. The Community Free Clinic helps to meet that need. By building partnerships with churches and other non profits to help people in need we can have a positive impact on the community. I hope you will support this effort.

As Jews we know the importance of honoring our ancestors and the contributions they have made to our country. On Nov. 12 at 1 p.m. we will have a memorial service to honor the veterans buried in our cemetery. We shall never forget them.

Nov. 17 and 18 is the second date of our new initiative to encourage observance of Shabbat at home with friends and family. Our religious practices chair already sent you an overview of the program. There will be services in the social hall the Friday evening at 8 p.m. (Note the later time to allow for people to enjoy their Shabbat dinner.) If you did not participate last month and would like to this month let Rachel (RachelBKNichols@gmail.com) or myself (Monda.sagalkin@gmail.com ) know. The religious school families also participate in this program. The Rabbi makes a monthly tape for them with ideas for discussion with children. Some of our families without children at home have also requested this tape. If you would like one please let me know.

Many exciting things are happening with our religious school which is also growing. You will see more about the religious school elsewhere in this newsletter.

Shabbat morning, on Nov. 18, is the second in a series of classes for adults interested in an Adult B'nai Mitzvah. It is not too late to join this class. If you want to join, please let the Rabbi, myself or Rachel Nichols know. I think you will find the class very interesting. That morning, at 10:30 a.m., there will be a tot Shabbat for children younger than five.

*...continued on page 3*

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR—UPCOMING EVENTS

|     |       |         |  |     |       |          |                                  |
|-----|-------|---------|--|-----|-------|----------|----------------------------------|
| FRI | 11/3  | 6:15 PM | Congregational Dinner & Birthday Celebration | SAT | 11/18 | 8:30 AM  | Adult Bar/Bat Mitzvah Training   |
|     |       | 7:30 PM | Youth & New Member Service                   |     |       | 9 AM     | Shabbat Morning Worship          |
|     |       |         |  |     |       | 9:30 AM  | Torah Study                      |
| SUN | 11/5  | 5 PM    | Annual Potter's Bowl                         |     |       | 10:30 AM | Concluding Service & Tot Shabbat |
| SAT | 11/11 | 7 PM    | Movie Night                                  |     |       | 11 AM    | Kiddush Luncheon                 |
| SUN | 11/12 | 11 AM   | Veteran's Day Service at Cemetary            | SUN | 11/19 | 10 AM    | Religious School                 |
| FRI | 11/17 | 6:15 PM | Shabbat at Home                              |     |       | 7 PM     | Community Thanksgiving           |
|     |       |         |  | SUN | 11/26 | 1 PM     | Books and Bagels                 |

## 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

# Honoring New Members

Join our congregational family in welcoming the following people on Friday, Nov. 3, at 6:15 p.m. for our congregational dinner.

Mike and Kelly Sallerson

Laura Chaskes

Marian and Barry Kann

Sandy Savino

Gil Godlewski and Kevin Miller

Shirley Lamdan

Siri Sophar and John Fontanes

Tyrone Johnson

We will be inducting our new members as well as celebrating birthdays and anniversaries for the month of November.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT:CONT'D

Our Temple is honored to be the host for the annual Community Thanksgiving Service. The Rabbi said more about this in his message.

Finally all of these programs are possible because of the hard work of our committees. Most of the committees meet quarterly. This month the religious practices and the membership committees are meeting. Watch the newsflash for the date and time of their meetings.

Happy Thanksgiving

—Monda Sagalkin

## NEW DIRECTORY ADDRESSES

Shirley Lamdan  
srlamdan@yahoo.com  
301-992-6118  
11903 Robinwood Drive  
Hagerstown, MD 21742

Sandy Savino  
Sandy.Savino@gmail.com  
516-353-9592  
5348 Fairway Drive W.  
Fayetteville, PA 17222

Siri Sophar & John Fontanes  
SiriLu@comcast.net  
304-258-4836  
Cell 210-219-3135  
72 Hampton Grove Drive  
Berkeley Springs, WV 25411

Marian & Barry Kann  
Mariankann@verizon.net  
703-609-6429  
918 Hollida Lane  
Martinsburg, WV 25404

Frederick & Susanne Kass  
Crab111@aol.com  
301-797-4421  
Cell 301-491-1274  
18712 Dover Dr  
Hagerstown, MD 21742

Also, please update Mike Armel's information:  
Cell: 240-675-0130, email: michaelarmel@myactv.net

## FROM THE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

Youngsters as well as “oldsters” at CBA have certainly had a busy holiday season! We held children’s services the mornings of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Following the children’s services, babysitting and Judaic activities were provided in the Baer Room. Asher and Aliyah Newberry were available to assist on Rosh Hashanah, and an adult friend of Monda Sagalkin supervised the children both mornings. “Yasher koach” (Job Well Done) to all who assisted.

On Friday, October 13, we had eight children on the bimah for Consecration during the Simchat Torah service. Each one received a gift-wrapped, bookplated copy of *A Child's Garden of Torah: A Read-Aloud Bedtime Bible*. One of the great things about this book is its comments directed toward parents.

Two days later, during the Life Long Learning brunch for adults, Rabbi and Michelle Plost conducted classes about Sukkot and Simchat Torah. Rabbi worked with the younger children and Michelle with the school-aged students. Using a modified lesson from the Union for Reform Judaism, kids envisioned Torah using all their senses and even wrapped themselves in a symbolic Torah to feel Adonai all around them.

On October 21 we hosted our first Tot Shabbat from 10:30-11 a.m. in the Baer Room. Helping with preparations is Michaela Bright Torbert. Since Tot Shabbat will coincide with our monthly home shabbat dinners, we have distributed the *JPS Illustrated Children's Bible* for parents and grandparents to use when explaining the weekly parshah (Torah portion).



Finally, we really need some Hebrew tutors! All that is required is familiarity with the aleph-bet and Shabbat prayers. The time commitment is about 45 minutes per week and involves working individually by telephone or via Skype (or FaceTime) with our pre-bar and -bat mitzvah candidates who are ten to twelve years old. Please let Monda or Barbara know if you can help.

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.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT: OCTOBER

### LAND

There has been no movement on the land. I spoke to our realtor. There have been a few inquiries each month Land is moving slowly. There are 20 pieces of land on the market. — One for 185,000. He suggests we lower the price. I have put it on the agenda for discussion. UPDATE: Mike Fitzgerald is looking into getting this moving.

### HIGH HOLY DAY APPEAL

We mailed the letters last week. Our goal for this appeal is \$6000. Please send in your support today.

### HOUSES OF WORSHIP

Ira Cooke has volunteered to Houses of Worship tour chair. Julie Ferron will be his mentor re how to get the tour organized. Please let him know if you will volunteer to help.

### WAYS & MEANS

The Ways and Means committee met and decided on a fundraiser. UPDATE: Their plans had to be changed. You will

get more details on this when you get the October minutes after the November Trustees' meeting.

### OFFICE

This has been a difficult six months. Over the years each secretary has just added another layer of email lists and labels in no particular order. Trudie is trying to get it organized so a new person coming in will have an up-to-date accurate list, logical and up-to-date storage of documents, etc. Marcia was doing the reports for the treasurer by hand. Not every treasurer has that time. Trudie has figured out how to do it in QuickBooks but she is not an expert in QuickBooks. Luckily we have more hours budgeted than Trudie is using so I have hired an accountant, Lucia Fancher who will work three hours a week. She is a trained and up to date in QuickBooks, a professional accountant and by next month is getting our accounting system up to date. Total cost or the 2 of them per week is \$175 — less than was budgeted for Michelle.

## 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

NOV 1

Judy Blumenthal  
Aaron Samuel Ruben  
Leah Horovitz

NOV 2

Effron Levin

NOV 3

Leo Femhumer  
Karl Rusch

NOV 4

Joe Cooper  
Kantor Seymour  
Bernice Weiner

NOV 5

Roselle Bennett

NOV 6

Billy Cunningham  
Louis Y. Lyon  
Etta Newman

NOV 7

Harry Leibowitz  
Harry N. Knecht  
Marjorie Gordon  
David Nathanson

NOV 8

Abraham Chlebnikow  
Samuel Lyons

NOV 9

David Lyons

Lt. Teddy R. Myers  
Frederick A. Bennett

NOV 10

Hyman Shapiro

NOV 11

Jennie Macht

NOV 13

Barney Goldstein

NOV 14

Aaron Simon  
Harold Hymans

NOV 15

Thelma Gordon  
Mark Freed  
Samuel Sagel  
Albert Weidhorn

NOV 16

Phyllis Handler  
Leon Sanzel  
Sarah Stern  
Katherine Simi

NOV 17

Thelma Coran  
Beatrice B. Rosenthal

NOV 19

Jack Greenwald

NOV 21

Dr. Sidney Novenstein

NOV 22

Dinah Prussick

NOV 23

Lizzie Saltzman  
Harold Jacobs

NOV 24

George Sharpe  
Dr. Norman Thrope

NOV 25

Bertha L. Mendelsohn  
Leon B. Lyon

NOV 26

Dora Fribush

NOV 27

Herman Silverfield  
Leonard Feldman

NOV 28

Esther B. Lyon  
Roland Ducoffe  
Saul W. Shiffman

NOV 29

Jacob Kusner

NOV 30

Marvin Denenberg

*\* Denotes Yahrzeit Plaque  
in Sanctuary*

## From the Membership Committee

Our next Committee Meeting is November 6 at 7 p.m. at Sybil Schiffman's house. Please RSVP to Margie Roames, Membership Committee Chairperson, if you are interested in attending: mroames@gmail.com.

## UPCOMING ONEG SCHEDULE

- FRI 11/3 Bob & Amy Kerstein, Chairs; Bob & Barby Weiss  
FRI 11/10 George & Marcia Miller, Chairs;  
Rick & Suzanne Kass



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*

## 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 Wagshal

### WAYS AND MEANS

Leon Seidman