

CONNECTIONS

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FROM THE RABBI

“Remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt and the Lord your God freed you from there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm; therefore, the Lord your God has commanded you to observe the Sabbath day.” (Deuteronomy)

With the creation of the Sabbath, the Torah incorporated a radical concept of freedom for all people. Bondage of Egypt is replaced with a Divine right of the Sabbath as a cessation from work. In a world of inequality, the Sabbath is ever more important.

It is not an overstated claim that the Sabbath is both the seed and the cornerstone of the equality of human beings. The Sabbath teaches that we are all deserving of freedom and equality. According to Exodus, even non-Israelite workers and work animals are expected to not work on the Sabbath.

Shabbat is also critical for strong Jewish development and Jewish families. This is reflected in the familiar saying, “More than Jews have kept Shabbat, Shabbat has kept the Jews.”

For generations, Jews devoted themselves to the concept of the Sabbath. In fact, Jews were so committed to Shabbat practice that we even altered the fashion in which we came together in order to ensure our observance.

Traditionally, the main focus of Shabbat worship is and has been Saturday morning. Families generally gather together at home for a special Friday evening meal, combined with a few

songs, occasional visitors, and good conversation. It is only in the Reform movement, beginning in the nineteenth century, that we adjusted our communal practices of Shabbat to Friday evening.

The strongest proponent of the change was Rabbi Issac Meyer Wise of Cincinnati. Wise’s adjustment also included the novel concept of bringing the Torah out during the Friday night service. All of this was undertaken for one purpose—to better accommodate families and work schedules. The adjustment of Shabbat service was so successful that some congregations implemented Sunday morning worship as the main service. This latter practice was abandoned after several years of experimentation.

In many Reform communities throughout the United States, there has been an attempt to reclaim Shabbat morning service as the main Shabbat service. I am not in favor of a general practice of altogether replacing Friday night for Saturday morning for our congregation. However, I do believe providing an opportunity to better encourage Friday night observance at home, as well as providing a Shabbat morning service is a good idea. We are adjusting the focus of our Shabbat calendar, upon the same basis as why it was instituted—to accommodate our families.

Just as God freed the Israelites with a mighty hand and outstretched arm, we will continue to make Shabbat accessible with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm.

—Rabbi Plost

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Thank you cannot be said enough times to those who made the High Holy Days a wonderful time and have actively participated in all our programs. We are continually trying to respond to the needs of the congregation with new programs. Fortunately we have a Rabbi who is willing to listen and try new things to meet these needs. In this message I want to describe the process of developing a new program and the needs it is trying to address.

During my five years in leadership, I have heard that many of our families have both partners working and because of their work schedule and commute have trouble coming to a Friday night service. I have also heard from some of our elderly congregants that they do not like to come out at night. In addition we have heard from families with young children that Friday night services are too late for their children.

Last spring, a plan to address these concerns began coming together. It went to the Religious Practices Committee, which approved and recommended an expansion of the concept and Rabbi Plost also introduced the idea to the Past Presidents Council. It has also been introduced to

the Trustees and I mentioned it in my announcements at High Holy Day services. Much care and discussion has gone into the planning and to date we have only had positive responses to beginning this program over the next year.

So, after all of this discussion with the religious school, the Executive Committee, Trustees and others we have developed the following plan: One Saturday a month, beginning on October 21, we will have Saturday morning programming incorporating the Torah Study that Rabbi Plost instituted several years ago. The Saturday morning will include an adult Bar/Bat Mitzvah class (which I know some of you have requested for years) and a Tot Shabbat. Friday night congregants are urged to spend a Shabbat meal with friends. You will read more specific details about this program in the article in this newsletter from the Religious Practices Chair.

We sincerely believe this will add a new dimension of Shabbat celebration you will enjoy.

—Monda Sagalkin

MARK YOUR CALENDAR—UPCOMING EVENTS

SUN 10/15	10 AM	Lifelong Learning Brunch: Paul Waldman	SUN 11/5	5 PM	Annual Potter's Bowl
FRI 10/20	6:15 PM	Shabbat at Home	SAT 11/11	7 PM	Movie Night
SAT 10/21	8:30 AM	Adult Bar/Bat Mitzvah Training	SUN 11/12	11 AM	Veteran's Day Service at Cemetery
	9 AM	Shabbat Morning Worship	FRI 11/17	6:15 PM	Shabbat at Home
	9:30 AM	Torah Study	SAT 11/18	8:30 AM	Adult Bar/Bat Mitzvah Training
	10:30 AM	Concluding Service & Tot Shabbat		9 AM	Shabbat Morning Worship
	11 AM	Kiddush Luncheon		9:30 AM	Torah Study
SUN 10/29	1 PM	Books and Bagels: <i>And After the Fire</i> by Lauren Belfer		10:30 AM	Concluding Service & Tot Shabbat
FRI 11/3	6:15 PM	Congregational Dinner & Birthday Celebration		11 AM	Kiddush Luncheon
	7:30 PM	Youth & New Member Service	SUN 11/19	10 AM	Religious School
				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



New Year Greetings!

La Shana Tova to all for a Healthy, Happy and Peaceful New Year - Janet & Manny Emral Shaool

Wishing all members of B'nai Abraham a happy, healthy New Year - Linda & Alan Putterman

May 5778 bring Health, Joy and Peace for Israel and all the World - Barbara S. Schwab

L' Shana Tova - Barb & Buck Macht

Wishing everyone a happy & healthy new year! - Sandi Gagliardi & family

Happy New Year to all our friends at B'nai Abraham - Ruth & Leon Forman

Wishing everyone a year of Peace and Joy - Monda & Sandy Sagalkin

All the best wishes for a healthy and peaceful new year. Sharon Wagshal and Art Feiveson

Shana Tova may you be inscribed in God's Book of Life for a Happy and Healthy New Year - The Chlebnikow Family

Happy & Healthy Year to all! - The Rosenthal - Sherman Family

Very best wishes for health and happiness in 5778 - Carol and Howard Mendelsohn

May this year be filled with health, happiness & sweet moments for all of us! Peace - Carol Metzner

People with Disabilities

If you are a person who is elderly and consider yourself frail or are a person with a disability, you are encouraged to have a plan in the event of an emergency that addresses your particular needs. The Washington County Emergency Services encourages every resident to develop a personal plan, please contact their office at 240-313-2930.

SHABBAT CELEBRATION A NEW DIMENSION

Shabbat At Home, Adult Bar & Bat Mitzvah Class, Shabbat Morning Worship & Torah Study, Tot Shabbat

NOTE: It is important that you read this entire article. It's loaded with new information.

**October 20-21, November 17-18, January 12-13, February 9-10,
March 9-10, April 20-21, May 11-12**

As the "only game in town" B'nai Abraham has a wonderfully diverse congregation with a variety of needs and desires. For many, many years our Shabbat services have been held on Friday nights only, except for Bar and Bat Mitzvahs, and in recent years we are enjoying some variety in the worship style. But there are still some who are missing out.

Whether it's the household where two partners work long hours, or families with young children or those who are no longer comfortable driving late at night, there are many in our midst for whom Friday night worship just isn't practical.

To address this, many of your temple leaders in partnership with Rabbi Plost have decided to institute Shabbat At Home once a month. The idea began with a desire to have religious school families get together to enjoy a Shabbat eve meal and all its beautiful rituals including the candle lighting, Kiddush and perhaps a little discussion based on the week's Torah portion. A great idea, but that sounds like something many others would enjoy, too.

So, beginning October 20, not only will religious school families enjoy Friday evenings together, there will be a way for those who wish to have the same experience. There will be several congregants who will be hosting Shabbat dinners at their homes on the designated Friday nights at 6:15 p.m. If you are not one of the religious school families, you can contact me (rachelbknichols@gmail.com) to let me know you'd like to be part of the fun as either a participant or by offering to become a Host Home.

Shabbat worship these weekends will be held on Saturday mornings. However, during a transition period,

Rabbi Plost will be leading a Shabbat eve service on Friday night at 8:00 p.m. in the temple Social Hall. For those desiring a little time to *smooze* following that service, my home at 62 E. Baltimore Street will be open with refreshments.

Shabbat *Shacharit* worship will begin Saturday morning at 9:00 a.m. Torah service/study will commence at 9:30 a.m., and Concluding prayers will follow at 10:30 a.m. The whole morning will finish with a light Kiddush lunch.

Oh, did I mention there will be a Tot Shabbat at 10:30 a.m.? Yeah, there's that, too.

But wait! There's more! A number of congregants have been asking for an adult Bar and Bat Mitzvah class. This class will be held on the Saturday mornings at 8:30 a.m. That's a great way to warm up for services at 9:00 a.m., which are part of the class requirements. *If you wish to be part of this class, you must pre-register by contacting the rabbi so you can get information on the full extent of the class and so enough materials may be prepared for the entire class.*

Whew! I'm out of breath just writing about all of this. But at the same time, this is a very exciting innovation that has been driven by **your** ideas and requests.

Again, here are the dates for the Shabbat at Home and Saturday Morning programs:

**October 20-21, November 17-18, January 12-13,
February 9-10, March 9-10, April 20-21, May 11-12**

Looking forward to seeing many of you for Shabbat morning services in the coming months!

*Rachel Nichols
Chair, Religious Practices Committee*

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

OCT 1

Faye Kantor
Elizabeth Greenspoon*
Rheva Greenwald*

OCT 2

Mathilda Poser
Goldstein*
Florence Josephs*
Edward Greenwald
Elaine Schwartz

OCT 3

Morris Rosenberg*
Carl Newman
Lillian Wagshal

OCT 4

Meyer Berkson*
Rita A. Morgan

OCT 6

Fannie Ruben*
Minnie Rosenwald

OCT 7

Col. Williard Silverberg
Helen Nielsen

OCT 8

Ida Berkson*
Ida Newman
Agnes Negin Fries
Ralph Garfein
Phil Holstine
Oliver Krell
Irving Weinberger

OCT 9

Harry Greenberg*
Bettie Ruben*
Samuel Sorkowitz
Jeffrey Chlebnikow*

William Sr. Johnson

OCT 10

Shirley Falke*

OCT 11

Florence Hollin*

OCT 12

Ayoub Emral Shaool*

OCT 13

Ann M. Miller

OCT 14

Lucy Geber Rosenberg*
Benjamin Joseph
Cohen*

OCT 15

Norton Cooper*

OCT 16

Sam Verovsky*
Barbara Kaplan

OCT 17

Isidor S. Rosen*
Arthur Weiss

OCT 18

Lee Kasinoff*
Rebecca Weinberger

OCT 20

Norman Thrope
Hanna Brina
Greenwald*
Elizabeth Fitzgerald
Frances Lipschutz

OCT 21

Lillian Podolsky

OCT 22

Charles Geren
Louis Jacob Wineburg

OCT 23

Philip Lamnin
Jennifer D. Lourie
Chantal Sitruk
Libbie Chitwood
Womack

OCT 25

Etta Dombey*
Avram Horovitz
Sadye Krell
Rebecca Ksienski
Edith Smulson

OCT 26

Benjamin Levin*

OCT 27

Shirley Zink

OCT 29

Eleanor Chlebnikow*
Israel Ksienski
Sandra Ginsberg Weiss

OCT 30

A. B. Cohen*
Jay Levine*
Philip Rodin, Philip

OCT 31

Sam Eller
Sadie Hertz

* Denotes Yahrzeit Plaque
in Sanctuary

UPCOMING ONEG SCHEDULE

SAT 10/21 Syd & Joy Machat, Chairs; Jim Oppenheim

FRI 10/27 Steve & Kam Feld, Chairs; David & Judy Fishkin

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

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

Upcoming Interfaith Events

Please join the Baha's in celebrating the 200th birthday of their founder Baha'U'LLah at St. Mark's Episcopal Church on Sunday October 22 from 2-5 p.m. Located at 18313 Lappans Rd., Boonsboro. Come learn about the Bahai faith with fellowship and light refreshments after a short program. Please RSVP to Paula Myers at 301-842-3081. **For more information, contact Julie Ferron at 301-791-4871.**