



October 2016 Newsletter

CONGREGATION
B'NAI ABRAHAM

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28 Elul 5776 - 29 Tishrei 5777

FROM THE DESK OF THE RABBI

For some of us, we may have a feeling of “déjà vu.” Wasn't it just a short while ago that we were having teaching sessions on a new prayer book?

Once again, the Union of Reform Judaism has developed a new prayer book, this time for the High Holy Days. Unlike the last time we purchased a prayer book when we were behind the curve, we are now one of the first half of congregations in the United States to take advantage of this opportunity.

The new prayer book has much in common with the prayer book that we have adopted for our regular Friday night service. Perhaps most significant, there is transliteration for those for whom Hebrew is still very much a foreign language. This style not only invites us to follow along with the prayers, but invites us to be participants in singing along with the music.

Another carry over from our regular “siddur” (prayer book), our High Holy Day prayer book has alternative renderings for most prayers. This not only gives some flexibility to the rabbi as to which version to lead, but also offers the worshipers an opportunity to engage in a style that speaks to them. This variance is critical in a tradition that recognizes that each of our individual spirits may orient and reach out for different needs in prayer. Many of the renderings of the prayers offer an opportunity to remain consistent with the prayers we have read for years.

One point of differentiation from our accustomed High Holy Day prayer book is that there are no italics directing us when to read responsively. There are no cues indicating when to sit or stand or, for that matter, when to open the ark. This means that the rabbi will give instruction from the bimah.

We have had several learning sessions about the new High Holy Day prayer book. Thank you to those who attended. If your schedules or priorities did not avail you the opportunity to participate, I still think you will enjoy and quickly adopt this prayer book as your own.

The name of this prayer book, Mishkan Hanefesh, means “the sanctuary of our souls.” Whatever your struggles, whatever your challenges, whatever your aspirations, I hope our tradition, our community, our faith - and our new prayer book - will give us some support that speaks to our souls in this time of reflection and improvement.

Shana Tova,

Rabbi Plost

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Last year the Executive Committee spent time building themes for the months of the year. The theme chosen for October was 'Prosperity'. It seems to me that the theme chosen last year for this month is even more appropriate this year. The economy is doing better than ever, our membership is growing and things are good. This and last month is a time for inner reflection that allows us to strengthen our core, both individually and as a community.

With strength we can move forward to try new ways of bringing the benefits of belonging to a Jewish community to people who may be unaffiliated. Outreach is critical to a small congregation outside of a metropolitan area.

You will read elsewhere in this newsletter the innovative activities the religious school is using to reach out. As a congregation we also need to reach out to the wider community of adults. We will work harder this year in promoting the heritage of Thomas Kennedy and the values associated with him. We are working on programs that tie in with the theme of inclusiveness and reconciliation that he so magnificently represented. If you would like to be involved with the development of these programs please let me, a member of the Executive Committee or the Rabbi know.

L'Shana Tova,

Monda

DATES TO REMEMBER

Sunday	October 2	Erev Rosh Hashanah	8:00 PM
Monday	October 3	Rosh Hashanah	
		Children's Services	9:30 AM
		Morning Service	10:15 AM
		Children's Activities	10:15-11:15 AM
Friday	October 7	Shabbat Shuva Service w/ Tashlich & Congregational Dinner @ City Park	6:00 PM
Sunday	October 9	Annual Memorial Service @ CBA Cemetery	11:00 AM
Tuesday	October 11	Kol Nidre	8:00PM
Wednesday	October 12	Yom Kippur	
		Children's Service	9:15 AM
		Morning Service	10:15 AM
		Afternoon Service & Neilah Services	3:30 PM
Saturday	October 15	Movie Night (DOUGH)	7:30 PM
Friday	October 21	Sukkot Family Shabbat Service & Congregation Dinner	6:15 PM
Sunday	October 23	Books & Bagels	1:30 PM
Friday	October 28	Simchat Torah Shabbat, Consecration	7:30 PM



LEGACY CIRCLE

There are several ways to use life insurance to make a gift: Contribute an existing policy, making Congregation B'nai Abraham the owner and beneficiary of the policy; contribute a portion of a large existing policy, such as 25% or 50%, leaving the balance to your original beneficiaries; purchase a new policy, making Congregation B'nai Abraham both the owner and beneficiary of the policy.

Any questions, please call (301) 733-5039. Correction: Last month the word, 'Codicil' should have read 'Amendment' to an existing Trust.

25th ANNUAL POTTER'S BOWL

Congregation B'nai Abraham in partnership with Trinity Lutheran Church is once again organizing the Potter's Bowl to benefit the Community Free Clinic. For the past 25 years, members of our Congregation have volunteered to make this a successful event. Carrol Lourie, Janet Shaool, Susan Levin, Sharon Metzner and Susan Stull are the members of the Planning Committee. One of these women may have already contacted you or will be contacting you to ask for your volunteer assistance. If you have not volunteered in the past, but think you would be available to assist us in this event, please contact Carrol Lourie at 240 818-7555. If you cannot volunteer, please purchase tickets and attend the event.

When:

Sunday, November 6, 2016 - 5:00pm to 8:30pm

Where:

Hagerstown Elks Lodge No. 378
11063 Robinwood Drive
Hagerstown, MD 21740

Cost:

\$50 per ticket

Patrons select their favorite bowl from over 30 area potters, fill it with a variety of homemade soups and take it home afterward. There will also be a live auction and raffle.

Tickets may be purchased from B'nai Abraham Synagogue ([301-733-5039](tel:301-733-5039)), Trinity Lutheran Church ([301-733-2878](tel:301-733-2878)) or the Community Free Clinic ([301-733-9234](tel:301-733-9234)).

ONEGS - SEPTEMBER SCHEDULE

Sunday	October	2	Erev Rosh Hashanah - Temple Board Members
Friday	October	7	Tashlich, City Park
Wednesday	October	12	Break the Fast - Rachel Nichols, Chair; Jim Oppenheim
Friday	October	14	Hannah & Ed Baer, Chairs; Jane Lubin
Friday	October	21	Sukkot Celebration
Friday	October	28	Simchat Torah - Julie & Brad Whitener, Chairs; Sarah & Marc Gamerman, Leah Grasso & Ben Oconis, Mikaela & Alex Torbert

INVITATION

Please join us in celebrating our

GRAND OPENING

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

MASON DIXON
INSURANCE

ON OCTOBER 13, 2016
At The Grand Building
20 WEST WASHINGTON STREET, SUITE 501

PLEASE COME & CHECK OUT OUR NEW OFFICE
from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
REFRESHMENTS & BEVERAGES WILL BE SERVED

Please R.S.V.P. by October 3, 2016 to
(240) 625 - 6953 or Saundra@masondixonins.com

One of our members and also Secretary of our Board of Trustees is having a grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony for their new office at the Grand Building in downtown Hagerstown.

See details above.

AED UNITS

The Security Team is looking to purchase two AED units (defibrillators) for the synagogue and religious school buildings. These units come with foolproof step-by-step instructions and, as such, can be used by anyone in the congregation. In a cardiac emergency any one of us could save the life of a loved one.

These units are very expensive, so we plan to purchase refurbished units at a cost of \$600-\$800 each.

If you are interested in making a donation towards the purchase of these units, send your contribution to the synagogue and earmark it for the "AED units."

Help us to help you live a healthy and happy life.

Thank you,

Your Security Team

MIRACLE WORKER OF THE MONTH

Vic Kronstadt in 95° heat got on the Social Hall roof, replaced the light sockets and bulbs that light our stained glass windows on the Bema in time for the Bat Mitzvah of Eliza Van Camp. By Friday eve all the windows were lit up beautifully. Thanks, Vic.

DONATIONS**Endowment Fund**

In honor of the marriage of Seth and Cindy Greenberg from Joan & Doug Becker

In honor of Joan and Doug Becker receiving the Boneh Award from Randi & Scott Numbers

In honor of Jeanne Jacobs birthday from Hannah & Ed Baer

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.

Chair: Sharon Metzner - receives initial calls from the rabbi: sharonmetz@aol.com (301) 739-2972
 Robbie Greenberg - for meals, as needed: robbieg56@gmail.com (301) 797-7265
 Barby Weiss - for transportation needs: barby@myactv.net (301) 791-6098
 Sharon Wagshal - for home visits or outings: sharwag@aol.com (301) 797-3220



GREETINGS FROM THE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

It is with great enthusiasm that we announce the continuing evolution of our religious school program to suit the needs of Jewish families throughout the area. The success of new answers to the age-old question of how to raise the next generation of Jewish youngsters is clearly evident in our school's increased enrollment numbers! Please take time to learn of recent developments in Judaica education theory and practice, and know that your Education Committee — consisting of teachers, parents and administration personnel — is working very hard to reinvigorate our school and attract the youth who will be our future.

This summer, Rabbi Plost had the opportunity to meet Rabbi Rick Jacobs, the senior-most leader of the Union for Reform Judaism, and to explore new developments in Jewish education. One of the most interesting points of discussion is the transition away from traditional classroom learning to more experiential and personalized modules.

Our own experience during the past two years in preparing bar and bat mitzvah students has shown that the weekly classroom meetings can be significantly reduced. This personalized tutoring happens mostly via electronic modalities, such as Skype and FaceTime, at times conveniently arranged between the students and their tutors.

All tutors are volunteer members of B'nai Abraham. This intensive learning will begin in 5th grade with individualized tutors, as assigned, overseen by the Religious School Administrator and Rabbi. Learning plans and goals will be personalized to meet the needs of each student. As students approach their Bar or Bat Mitzvah, their Torah learning, Judaic preparation and Mitzvah project will be guided by the Rabbi.

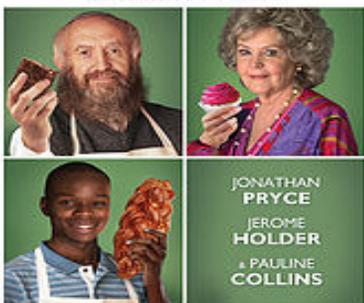
If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me via telephone or e-mail, and look forward to more announcements in the weeks and months to come.

Wishing us all a happy, healthy, peaceful and prosperous 5777!

Barbara Schwab, Religious School Administrator
 254-291-2957
 BarbMaimo@Yahoo.com

LIFELONG LEARNING

You don't have to be baked to make some...



Dough
 Definitely not Kosher.

October 15 7:30pm **MOVIE NIGHT** Baer Room
 The movie is DOUGH

An old Jewish baker's failing business gets an unexpected boost when his young Muslim apprentice, also a cannabis dealer, drops a load of dope in the dough. Suddenly the customers can't get enough of his bread.

October 23 1:30pm **Books and Bagels @ TheLachman's**
 The book is ENCHANTRESS by Maggie Anton

Yahrzeits**Oct. 7, 2016**

* Elizabeth Greenspoon
 * Rheva Greenwald
 * Mathilda Poser Goldstein
 * Florence Josephs
 Edward Greenwald
 Elaine Schwartz
 * Morris Rosenberg
 Carl Newman
 Lillian Wagshal
 * Meyer Berkson
 Rita A. Morgan
 * Fannie Ruben
 Minnie Rosenwald
 Col. Williard Silverberg
 Faye Kantor

Oct. 14, 2016

* Ida Berkson
 Ida Newman
 Agnes Negin Fries
 Ralph Garfein
 Phil Holstine
 Benjamin Goldenberg
 Oliver Krell
 Irving Weinberger
 * Harry Greenberg
 * Betty Ruben
 Samuel Sorkowitz
 * Jeffrey Chlebnikow
 * Shirley Falke
 * Florence Hollin
 * Ayoub Emral Shaool
 Ann M. Miller
 * Lucy Geber Rosenberg
 * Benjamin Joseph Cohen

Oct. 21, 2016

* Norton Cooper
 * Sam Verovsky
 Barbara Kaplan
 * Isidor S. Rosen
 * Lee Kasinof
 Rebecca Weinberger
 Jane Castle
 * Hanna Brina Greenwald
 Elizabeth Fitzgerald
 Frances Lipschutz
 Lillian Podolsky
 Jennifer D. Lourie

Oct. 28, 2016

Charles Geren
 Louis Jacob Wineburg
 Philip Lamnin
 Chantal Sitruk
 Libbie Womack
 * Etta Dombey
 Avram Horovitz
 Sayde Krell
 Rebecca Ksienski
 Edith Smulson
 * Benjamin Levin
 Shirley Zink

*** Denotes
 Yahrzeit Plaque
 in Sanctuary**

NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS

Very best wishes for health and happiness in the New Year from Carol & Howard Mendelsohn

May your New Year be blessed with peace, happiness and many sweet moments from Carrol & Ira Lourie

From my heart, we wish our CBA family and our family a happy, healthy holiday from Fern & Joe
 Cunningham

Shana Tovah to all – Sandi Gagliardi and family

May 5777 bring us health, prosperity and peace. Shana Tovah – Barb Schwab

All best wishes for a healthy and happy new year from Sharon Wagshal

Shana Tova - May you be inscribed in the book of life for a Happy & Healthy New Year from
 The Chlebnikow Family

Sandra & David Ferguson, owners of Mason Dixon Insurance wishes you the happiest of holidays!

Wishing all our friends & fellow congregants a L'shana Tovah & Tzom Kal from Nyna & Abe

Best Wishes for a Healthy & Happy New Year from Barb & Buck Macht

Happy New Year to Congregation B'nai Abraham from The Barbara Ingram School for the Arts

The Sherman-Rosenthal family wish all a happy & healthy New Year!

On Nov. 18, 1995, Itzhak Perlman, the violinist, came on stage to give a concert at Avery Fisher Hall at Lincoln Center in New York City. If you have ever been to a Perlman concert, you know that getting on stage is no small achievement for him. He was stricken with polio as a child, and so he has braces on both legs and walks with the aid of two crutches. To see him walk across the stage one step at a time, painfully and slowly, is an awesome sight.

He walks painfully, yet majestically, until he reaches his chair. Then he sits down, slowly, puts his crutches on the floor, undoes the clasps on his legs, tucks one foot back and extends the other foot forward. Then he bends down and picks up the violin, puts it under his chin, nods to the conductor and proceeds to play.

By now, the audience is used to this ritual. They sit quietly while he makes his way across the stage to his chair. They remain reverently silent while he undoes the clasps on his legs. They wait until he is ready to play.

But this time, something went wrong. Just as he finished the first few bars, one of the strings on his violin broke. You could hear it snap - it went off like gunfire across the room. There was no mistaking what that sound meant. There was no mistaking what he had to do. We figured that he would have to get up, put on the clasps again, pick up the crutches and limp his way off stage - to either find another violin or else find another string for this one. But he didn't.

Instead, he waited a moment, closed his eyes and then signaled the conductor to begin again.

The orchestra began, and he played from where he had left off. And he played with such passion and such power and such purity as they had never heard before.

Of course, anyone knows that it is impossible to play a symphonic work with just three strings. I know that, and you know that, but that night Itzhak Perlman refused to know that.

You could see him modulating, changing, re-composing the piece in his head. At one point, it sounded like he was de-tuning the strings to get new sounds from them that they had never made before. When he finished, there was an awesome silence in the room. And then people rose and cheered. There was an extraordinary outburst of applause from every corner of the auditorium. We were all on our feet, screaming and cheering, doing everything we could to show how much we appreciated what he had done.

He smiled, wiped the sweat from his brow, raised his bow to quiet us, and then he said - not boastfully, but in a quiet, pensive, reverent tone - "You know, sometimes it is the artist's task to find out how much music you can still make with what you have left."

What a powerful line that is. It has stayed in my mind ever since I heard it. And who knows? Perhaps that is the definition of life - not just for artists but for all of us. Here is a man who has prepared all his life to make music on a violin of four strings, who, all of a sudden, in the middle of a concert, finds himself with only three strings; so he makes music with three strings, and the music he made that night with just three strings was more beautiful, more sacred, more memorable, than any that he had ever made before, when he had four strings.

So, perhaps our task in this shaky, fast-changing, bewildering world in which we live is to make music, at first with all that we have, and then, when that is no longer possible, to make music with what we have left.



MAKE A CONTRIBUTION TODAY

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, including the CHAI CAMPAIGN, please mail or call:

*Mrs. Renee Kramer
1102 Oak Hill Avenue
Hagerstown, MD 21742
(301) 733-2093*

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

PLANT A TREE IN ISRAEL



Planting a tree in Israel is the perfect way to show you care. You can plant trees for all occasions and 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 own 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 & to order a tree, contact Carrol Lourie at: (240) 818-7555 (cell phone) or email her at: cglourie@gmail.com

Contact Monda Sagalkin to learn how you can plan a self-sustaining gift to B'nai Abraham. (240) 291-6983 or monsansagalkin@aol.com

REGULAR OFFICE HOURS: Monday, Tuesday, Friday 8:30am - 1:30pm

Michelle Jardine, Office Administrator Email: bnaiabraham1@verizon.net Office phone: (301) 733-5039

DIRECTORY - WHO TO CALL

CONTRIBUTIONS

Renee Kramer (301) 733-2093
terrace708@myactv.net

PULPIT FLOWERS / TREES

Carrol Lourie (240) 818-7555
cglourie@gmail.com

TREE OF LIFE

Jerry Falke (301) 739-8456
falkeq@hotmail.com

Yahrzeit Plaques

Ben Chlebnikow (301) 791-6590
bchleb77@aol.com

DOR L' DOR

Joan Becker (301) 791-7175

HOSPITALIZED MEMBERS

Rabbi Plost (301) 733-5039
ariplost@gmail.com

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Ari Plost, Rabbi

Monda Sagalkin, President
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