



September 2016 Newsletter

**CONGREGATION
B'NAI ABRAHAM**

Volume 27, Issue 12

28 Av - 27 Elul 5776

FROM THE DESK OF THE RABBI

Why is change important?

First in Germany and then later in America, Jews experimented with innovations in how they would form religious community. They called these changes, "Reform."

Most fundamentally, these reforms included the permanence of an organ, sermons from the pulpit, vernacular worship and an atmosphere of decorum. This style of worship departed greatly from traditional worship.

Reform Judaism based its ethos on the value of historical change from within the development of our faith itself. Judaism has grown from phase to phase throughout history. Rabbinic Judaism, Judaism informed through rabbinical texts, is itself an innovation from the more ancient Torah text. While we are not free to invent in the absence of Jewish knowledge, we are also not free to ignore the changing conditions of Jewish life. Nor are we free to neglect changing ethics and morals.

This year, as we approach our Days of Awe, there are certain aspects of our sacred culture and custom that may appear "new." Some of the style of music, how we designate and assign honors and our approach to seating may all be new. We will even worship from a refreshed New High Holy Day prayer book, the first in well over 25 years.

B'nai Abraham is changing, but that sense of change is not "new" for our synagogue. In fact, our synagogue has gone through much more radical change in the course of our history. For instance, our bimah was at one time located in the middle of the sanctuary. Some elderly members can even recall when only men were permitted to lead from the bimah.

At one gathering of our congregants, I looked around at the ten assembled members of our congregation. It dawned on me that not a single one had been born in a Reform home. Most had not been members at B'nai Abraham for longer than five years. The majority present were either single or in interfaith marriages. These voices also deserve to be represented in our congregation. To ignore these voices is not only unwise and non-programmatic, but also unequal and immoral.

As we approach the New Year, let us remember that through repentance, charity and good deeds, we can alter the fate of God's severe decree. We have the capacity to change. We need not merely succumb to what we perceive is given to us. Both communally and individually, we are charged with this mission of our faith.

CONTENTS

<i>Rabbi's Message</i>	1
<i>President's Message</i>	2
<i>Community Book Drive</i>	2
<i>Triple Mitzvah</i>	3
<i>Dates to Remember</i>	3
<i>Shelter In Place</i>	3
<i>Onegs</i>	3
<i>Israel Bonds</i>	4
<i>Past-Prez Council</i>	4
<i>Caring Committee</i>	4
<i>Donations</i>	5
<i>AED Units</i>	5
<i>Chai Finance</i>	6
<i>Yahrzeits</i>	7
<i>Religious Practices</i>	7
<i>Lifelong Learning</i>	7
<i>High Holiday Machzor</i>	8
<i>Religious School</i>	8
<i>Miracle Worker</i>	9
<i>Happiest Congregant</i>	9
<i>How to Donate</i>	10
<i>Directory</i>	10

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The summer has gone by so fast! I hope you had a wonderful summer. Time flies by when you are busy and your Temple committees have been very busy. As you know, most of the work of the Temple happens in committee. The committees bring their work to the Executive Committee and the Trustees for approval. The Executive Committee and the Board of Trustees ask questions and may tweak the committees' work a little, but the "heavy lifting" is done by committee. Being involved in a committee is a great way to make a contribution to and be involved in your Temple, It is also a wonderful way to make friends. I hope after reading this you will be excited about joining a committee. **YOU WILL NOT REGRET IT.**

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will see committee work in more detail. Just to mention a few items: the renovations to the Baer room and hallway by the Building & Grounds Committee and their decorating advisors; the Lift, Religious Practices, Security, and Lifelong Learning Committees; our religious school, High Holy Day activities, planning for the Thomas Kennedy Center and celebration of the completion of the Chai Campaign.

Religious Practices, at the request of the Seating Committee, agreed, after much discussion, to modification of our seating policy. It should be noted that this modification is also in response to suggestions from congregants. We will, this year, have a modified seating policy. In your High Holy Day information you will have the option of choosing open or reserved seats. If you choose reserved seats, you must send back your information by the deadline. You will be notified of your seats by email and a reserved sign with your name will be put on your seat. Seats will not be reserved for afternoon services on Yom Kippur, as has been our tradition in the past.

Monda

HIGH HOLIDAYS

You should be receiving you High Holiday packets soon. Please return your RSVP form by September 19.

COMMUNITY BOOK DRIVE

CBA in partnership with HARC and dozens of other houses of worship will be collecting new and gently used books for children ages birth to 11 years.

Collected books will be used for the Hagerstown Rotary Literacy Initiative, a community effort to improve early childhood literacy in Washington County. Books will be distributed throughout the community where they will have the greatest impact on at-risk children. Your book will help a child learn to read. Your book could be the first book a child has ever owned!

Boxes will be in the Social Hall, sanctuary lobby and Religious school.
Books will be collected on September 25th

Questions? Carole 240-217-4496 or Julie 301-791-4871



A TRIPLE MITZVAH

Last year, Anne Hollander mentioned to then President Rachel Nichols that the lettering on the ark in the sanctuary could use a little refreshing.

It just so happened that Rachel had sheets of gold leaf that had come from her late father's art studio. There was, in fact, just enough to do the job.

The Hollander-Van Camp family spent a day gold leafing the front of the ark. It now shines in honor of Eliza's upcoming Bat Mitzvah and in memory of Raymond Kruger.

Mazel tov and todah rabah!



DATES TO REMEMBER

Sunday	September	18	Books & Bagels	1:30 PM
Thursday	September	22	Annual Israel Bond Event	7:00 PM
Saturday	September	24	Selichot and Chai Completion	7:00 PM
Sunday	October	2	Erev Rosh Hashanah	8:00 PM
Monday	October	3	Rosh Hashanah	
Friday	October	7	Shabbat Shuva Service	6:00 PM

SHELTER IN PLACE

Wherever you are, at home, work or elsewhere, situations may arise when it's recommended that you stay where you are, or "shelter in place", such as in the event of a terrorist attack, be it biological, chemical or radiological.

This means that you will be asked to protect yourself and your family by staying sheltered in your home for some time, perhaps a few days. Select the room in which you will shelter, store emergency supplies in this area and make sure that all family members know the exact location of your designated area.

If you need more information, please let me know at julieferron@verizon.net

ONEGS - SEPTEMBER SCHEDULE

Friday	September	2	Jerry & Lieba Cohen, Chairs; Julie Ferron
Friday	September	9	Hollander-Van Camp Family in honor of Eliza's Bat Mitzvah
Friday	September	16	Dave & Kimberly Hanan, Chairs; David Gordon & Christine Lu
Friday	September	23	Alan & Susan Levin, Chairs; Dick & Brigie Greenwald
Saturday	September	24	Selichot - Barbara Schwab, Chair; Scott & Randi Numbers, Leon & Ruth Forman
Friday	September	30	Tom & Leah Neveil, Chairs; Liz Krell

ANNUAL ISRAEL BOND EVENT

Date: Thursday, September 22 @ 7:30 pm

Location: Home of Hannah and Ed Baer

Guest Speaker:

Alon Ben-David, TV and print journalist who has been covering the Middle East conflict for more than 25 years. Currently he is the Senior Defense Correspondent for Israel Channel 10.

PAST PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL

A *shehecheyanu* is in order. The inaugural meeting of the newly formed Past Presidents Council was held at the home of Brigie & Dick Greenwald on August 1, 2016 with eight past presidents being present.

The purpose of the meeting was to review and refine the draft of the Charter of the Council and to provide input regarding the charges and organization of the Council.

Some of the Council's functions are:

- To offer collective advice and counsel to the Executive Committee or the Board of Trustees on any matter within the scope of the duties and responsibilities of these governing bodies.
- To provide a sounding board for the leaders of CBA, and to provide mentoring, when asked, of new Officers and Trustees.
- To provide knowledge on the precedent, rationale and intent of previous actions taken by the governing bodies of CBA.

For 2016-2017, Dan Greenwald was elected to be chair; Lieba Cohen was elected to be Executive Secretary.

The following members of the Council are voting members on the Board of Trustees:

Rachel Nichols, Immediate Past President

Lieba Cohen, Past Immediate Past President

Jerry Falke, elected by the Council to be its voting representative

The Council's next meeting will be held on October 17, 2016.



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

DONATIONS

Endowment Fund

In honor of the 60th Wedding Anniversary of Brigie & Dick Greenwald from:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Lieba & Gerald Cohen | Sharon Wagshal |
| Marlene & Gerald Falke | Hannah & Ed Baer |
| Joan Rosenthal | Carol & Howard Mendelsohn |
| Joan & Doug Becker | Leon Seidman |
| Terry Randall | Liz Krell |
| Caroline & Frederick Wright | Patricia & William Abeles |
| Renee & Fred Kramer | Judy, William & Joshua Cohen |
| Susan & Alan Levin | Monda & Sandy Sagalkin |
| Carolyn Emerson | Bob Bohman |
| Lynn & Dick Gruber | Jeanne & Michael Stoner |
| Jenny & Jerry Bullington | Evelyn & Dick Snively |
| Mitchell Goldstein | Sandra Ridenour & Roland Funk |
| Susanne & Rick Kass | Sally & George Reid |
| Louise and A. F. Abdullah | Eva and Charles Vaughan |
| Fritz Blattl | Al Schiff |

In honor of the 45th Wedding Anniversary of Janet & Mansoor Emral Shaool from:

- Joan & Doug Becker
- Hannah & Ed Baer
- Sharon Wagshal
- Gerald & Lieba Cohen
- Kam & Steve Feld

- In memory of Lillian Cohen from Leon Seidman
- In honor of Sandy Cooper's birthday from Hannah & Ed Baer
- In honor of Sharon Wagshal's birthday from Hannah & Ed Baer
- In loving memory of Alfred and Lillian Geber from Marion Berman

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

CHAI CAMPAIGN FINALE

Celebrate our “Chai Finance” – by Liz Krell

Come celebrate the accomplishments and completion of the Chai Campaign,

September 24, 2016 @ 7 pm at the synagogue!

Mazel tov to all of us!

Yes, as hard as it is to believe, the Chai Campaign is officially closed. Pledges totaled \$522K, and to date we have collected \$431K. We are still collecting money from pledges that run out as far as 2020, but we are not taking any new pledges.

The Chai Campaign had a very good run (2008 - 2016) and, thanks to our wonderful donors, lots of good things have happened for our synagogue as a result of the funds raised. The list of accomplishments is quite impressive:

Goal 1 – Infrastructure Improvements

- New furnaces for both buildings**
- New A/C for Social Hall**
- New roofs for both buildings**
- Enclosed front entryway and refurbished vestibule**
- Refurbished Baer Room**
- Refurbished garden in rear entry to Social Hall**
- New Temple management software, and web design**
- Repaired windows in school building, and oval window in sanctuary**
- Replaced ceiling tiles in school building**
- New chimney liners in both buildings**
- New flooring in Baer Room and hallway**
- Waterproofing of front entry steps**

Goal 2 – Accessibility Improvements

- New rear entry to Social Hall, wheelchair accessible**
- Refurbished Social Hall as worship space, wheelchair accessible**
- Renovated men’s and women’s restrooms, wheelchair accessible**
- And finally, we have a lift. It allows wheelchair access from the Baer Room to the sanctuary.**

Goal 3 -- Increasing our Endowment and Cemetery Funds

- Added to Endowment Fund: \$59,236 with more to come**
- Added to Cemetery Fund: \$14,100**

Thanks to everyone who helped make the campaign a success.

Special thanks to our Chai Committee co-chairs Dick Greenwald and Bob Kerstein, and my fellow committee members Ed Baer, Lieba Cohen, Dan Greenwald, Doug Lieberman, Marcia Miller, Al Schiff, Allan Seidman and Sharon Wagshal for their expert help in getting the campaign off the ground and guidance throughout.

And extra special thanks to the leaders of our Accessibility Subcommittee, Ben Chlebnikow, Jerry Falke, and Vic Kronstadt, for making our accessibility renovations and lift installation a reality. Raising the money was the necessary first step. But Ben, Jerry and Vic took the lead in making it happen.

Again, thank you, donors and congregants! Looking forward to seeing you all on the 24th.

Yahrzeits

<u>Sept. 2, 2016</u>	<u>Sept. 9, 2016</u>	<u>Sept. 16, 2016</u>	<u>Sept. 23, 2106</u>	<u>Sept. 30, 2016</u>
Solly Goldman	* Albert Klein	Barbara Chaplin	* Sarah Cohen	* Jacob A. Kline
Alice Blumenthal	Jean Torbert	Benjamin Miller	Rudi Kramer	Albert Yudkovitz
* Samuel Z. Gray	Louis Okun	Lena Sackin	Warren Lieberman	* Leo Chatkin
Rose Rodin	Louis Horovitz	Selma Knecht	Bessie Yoselowitz	* Herbert Seigel
* Kenneth Krell	* Richard S. Scharf	* Herman Weiss	Alfred Chatkin	Gladys Adams
* Sidney Metzner	Benjamin Goldenberg	* Charles Chatkin	Beatrice Jacobs	Eugene Hershkovitz
Norma Garfein	Edward Meyer	Alan Salod	Lucienne Klarsfeld	* William Sagel
* Mary Cooper	David Rosenbloom	Linscott A. Hall	Morris Gordon	Samuel Levin
Bessie Greenberg	Sheldon Kiselik	Howard Keats	* Morris Pashen	* Anna Chlebnikow
Therese Koerner	Arthur Stein	Albert Messer	Arthur Katz	* Morris Werner
	* Margaret Lyons		* Mary Levin	Alvin Sadow
	Harvey Feld		Menouar Saiah	
	William Rees			

*** Denotes
Yahrzeit Plaque
in Sanctuary**

RELIGIOUS PRACTICES

We are eagerly awaiting the introduction of the new High Holy Day Machzorim (prayer books) that have been dedicated in memory of Judy Greenwald. You will have an opportunity to attend sessions led by Rabbi Plost that will help you become familiar with it and enjoy enhanced High Holy Day services. Please see the information on those sessions elsewhere in the Newsletter.

In our continued quest for understanding of 21st century Reform Judaism the Committee has examined some of our practices and recommended modifications to our Yizkor service and seating arrangements. We believe these are positive developments that will lead us to offer all congregants an equal experience.

The distribution of honors for the holidays will begin soon. If you DO NOT wish to receive an honor, please contact me directly. Rachelbknichols@gmail.com

I urge you to keep your eyes open for details. Your High Holy Day packet will be sent soon and will contain a wealth of helpful information.

Rachel Nichols, Chair

LIFELONG LEARNING

Books & Bagels September 18 1:30pm Place to be announced
 The book: "ALL THE LIGHT WE CANNOT SEE" by Anthony Doerr

Note: Please do not tamper with the thermostats in either building. We just received a \$140 repair bill to diagnose and fix the A/C in the sanctuary due to unauthorized adjustments. If you need assistance, please see Donnie Wingfield.

NEW MACHZOR HIGH HOLIDAY PRAYER BOOK ORIENTATION

If you are like me, you may be wondering what is a “Machzor?” The Hebrew definition of the word is “cycle, turnover,” and has come to mean “High Holiday Prayer Book.” How so? Congregation B’nai Abraham will be using new Machzorim for this year’s High Holy Day services.

Rabbi Plost was asked to provide us with an Orientation to the new prayer books with the hope, as with anything new, we can become familiar and comfortable with the new change. I invite you to please add to your calendars the Orientation session dates below. Each session can stand alone as a Machzor overview, but each session will also study various aspects of the new Machzor. So if you decide to attend one, two or all the sessions, this should be an exciting learning opportunity with our Rabbi.

Session 1	Saturday, September 17 th	10:45 am – Noon
Session 2a	Wednesday, September 21 st	5:30 pm – 6:45 pm *
Session 2b	Wednesday, September 21 st	8:15 pm – 9:30 pm *

* There is a Board of Trustees meeting at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, September 21. Sessions on the 21st will proceed and follow the Board meeting. Congregants may choose which best fits their personal schedule. The thought is that it would be wonderful if Congregants and Board members could share in this learning experience.

Session 3	Saturday, September 24 th	10:45 am – Noon
-----------	--------------------------------------	-----------------

GREETINGS FROM THE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

Hope all our families have had a relaxing summer break. Back at CBA, Rabbi Plost and the Education Committee have been refining our curriculum and calendar to better serve the needs of the school population. And, of course, with adoption of new technology, we are expanding our services to folks outside the traditional Hagerstown area.

If you know of any families who wish to enroll their children in religious school, please urge them to contact the synagogue office. Details and registration packets will be out in a few days along with our calendar for the upcoming year. Wishing everyone a shanah tovah filled with good health, good deeds and happiness.

A LITTLE HISTORY

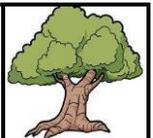
The Living Trust has been around for 1,200 years, dating back to A.D. 800’s in the Roman Empire. It was later adopted by the British. The King and the Nobles challenged the Living Trust in 1535 in the highest court — the Chancery Court — and lost!!

The Living Trust was adopted by the United States when this Nation was formed, using English law as the basis of our legal system. The first known Living Trust drawn in the United States was written by Patrick Henry in 1765 when he penned one for Robert Morris, then Governor of the Colony of Virginia.

Thus, the Trust was written more that two decades before the adoption of the U.S. Constitution.

Please consider including Congregation B'nai Abraham in your Trust or add a codicil to an existing Trust, and of course, contact your legal advisor to make the necessary changes.

In order to save a tree or two, printed calendars are only available upon request.
Contact Michelle in the office to arrange to pick up a copy.





MIRACLE WORKERS OF THE MONTH

Jerry Cohen, Buck Macht & Vic Kronstadt

Jerry and Buck took down all the classroom and graduation pictures in the hallway of the main building for painting. When completed, Jerry and Donnie replaced all of them back in the same chronological order as before.

Vic rewired and repaired an overhead fluorescent fixture in the hallway that was not working. What would we do without these guys?

Kudos this month go to Jerry, Buck, Donnie and Vic for jobs well done. Let's say "Thanks" to them all.

WHO'S CBA'S HAPPIEST CONGREGANT ?



Photo courtesy of Julie Whitener

**AIN'T
NO DOUBT
IN
ANYONE'S
MIND**

**Where's
the champagne?**

We all love you, Sybil.

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 Rachel Nichols to learn how you can plan a self-sustaining gift to B'nai Abraham. (240) 308-1740 or RachelBKNichols@Gmail.com

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

Michelle Jardine, Office Administrator Email: bnaiaabraham1@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

CONGREGATION B'NAI ABRAHAM

49 E. Baltimore Street
Hagerstown, MD 21740

Ari Plost, Rabbi

Monda Sagalkin, President
email: monsansagalkin@aol.com

