ROSMY TO HONOR BETH AHABAH APRIL 20TH

ROSMY, a support agency for LGBTQ teens, will honor Beth Ahabah as one of its 2013 Catalyst Award winners at its annual Springtime celebration on April 20. For over 20 years, ROSMY has been committed to supporting LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning) teens and to providing information and training for parents and counselors.

The Catalyst Award to Beth Ahabah is in recognition and appreciation for the congregation’s inclusive culture and its teaching of acceptance and respect for sexual minorities. Other award winners this year will be The Valentine Richmond History Center and VCU Professor Dorothy Fillmore.

Springtime this year is titled a “Jazzy Affair” and will be held at the historic Hippodrome Theater on April 20, 7:00-11:00 p.m. Cocktails, hors d’oeuvres, a silent auction, and lots of jazz will be featured, along with presentation of the Catalyst awards. Tickets are $125 each ($100 if purchased before March 17), with proceeds supporting ROSMY’s programming for LGBTQ youth.

Purim Greetings

Students from pre-school through second grade sent Purim Samech Greetings to students in Hadera, Israel.

Read more about the Religious School Purim festivities on page 6.
Leadership Development Committee: 2013-2014 Nominations

Dear Congregants:

Pursuant to our Bylaws and at the request of Ron Kasoff, President of Congregation Beth Ahabah, the Leadership Development Committee has developed a slate of nominees for the 2013-14 year. We are pleased to submit the following for consideration at our Annual Meeting on Friday, May 3, 2013.

**President:** Chuck Rothenberg
**First Vice President:** Katie Roeper
**Second Vice President:** Larry Salzman
**Treasurer:** Rob Davidson
**Past President:** Ron Kasoff

For a three year term ending in 2016:
**Board of Managers:**
Lisa Kaplan
Brian Meyer
Larry Salomon
Charley Scher
James Weinberg

For a one year term ending in 2014 (to fill a vacancy):
**Board of Managers:** Heather Dinkin, Dan Rosenthal

For a two year term ending in 2015 (to fill a vacancy):
**Board of Managers:** Joel Silverman

For a four year term ending in 2017:
**Trustee:** Earl Ferguson

Our Bylaws provide that nominations for Officers, Managers and Trustees may also be made by written petition of at least 75 members in good standing, accompanied by a written statement that the candidate so nominated is willing to serve. Such petition must be received at the Temple office no later than thirty days prior to the Annual Meeting.

I thank Carol Ann Callahan, Rob Davidson, Linda Ferguson, Daniela Jacobs, Adam Nelson and Chuck Rothenberg for their service on the Leadership Development Committee.

Respectfully Submitted,
Nancy Belleman, Chair

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**WHO'S WHO: Elise Scherr**
Honored by the Jewish Community Federation of Richmond

Congratulations to Elise Scherr, a longtime member of Beth Ahabah, who was honored by the Jewish Community Federation of Richmond (JCFR) as the 2012 L'Dor V'Dor Woman of Valor in November.

Elise has been an active community volunteer for almost 40 years, serving Beth Sholom, Hadassah, the Jewish Woman’s Club, the Beth Ahabah Sisterhood and the Temple Board of Managers. She has been honored with the JCFR Schwarzschild Outstanding Campaign Work Award – Women’s Division, in 2004 and 2011, and the Beth Sholom Distinguished Service Award in 2001.

Elise has been married to Irving for 56 years. They have three children: Melissa and her husband, Andy Brownstein; Jay and his wife, Audrey; and 3 granddaughters, Ellen, Alexandra and Olivia.

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**DID YOU KNOW?**
Astronaut Judith Resnik

Judith Resnik, the daughter of Russian Jewish immigrants, was the first Jewish woman in space.

She was recruited by “Star Trek” star Nichell Nichols to enter into NASA’s space program while working on her PhD in engineering. Six years later she became the first Jewish woman in space (and only the second Jew in space) on the maiden voyage of the Discovery in 1984.

Tragically, Judith was one of the astronauts aboard the doomed Challenger, which exploded shortly after launch, killing all on board, on January 28, 1986.

From the [First Jewess in Space](http://thejewniverse.com/2013/first-jewess-in-space) by Tamar Fox.
The Israeli Elections
by Rabbi Jessie Gallop

This last January, Israel held elections. It was generally assumed that the elections would be status quo. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s party, Likud, won the most votes and retained his influence to be the Prime Minister. However, Israeli politics are always complicated. Since there are many political parties, Mr. Netanyahu needed to work with other smaller parties to form a coalition that would control the majority of seats of parliament. The 2013 election results surprised the Israeli public because there were no clear victories for the right (support the settlers) or left (who would like a two-state solution). A new party, Yesh Atid, was the surprise of the elections.

Yesh Atid is a central party whose main focus is on Israeli middle class issues. The most vocal concern of Yesh Atid is nullifying the military exemption of Ultra-Orthodox males. This party wants to make sure that yeshiva students also serve in the Israeli Defense Force, which is a major issue of contention within Israel. As a result they became the “Cinderella” of the election, and became the second largest party in parliament. They have refused to join a government that includes the Ultra-Orthodox parties, including Shas (Sephardi Ultra-Orthodox Party), which has great influence.

Therefore, Prime Minister Netanyahu has had a very difficult time forming a coalition. I do need to warn you that by the time you read this article some of my predictions might be inaccurate. However, my hope is to bring insight into how the next government of Israel will probably function. What has made the situation even more complicated is Yesh Atid and the Jewish Home (a far-right nationalist party) formed a pact where they are only willing to join the government together. As a result it would be impossible for Mr. Netanyahu to form a government without them.

In a surprise move, the Prime Minister agreed to include Tzipi Livni’s party Hatnuah into his government. Both Mr. Netanyahu and Ms. Livni have been antagonistic to one another, especially since the last election when her party had the largest amount of seats but was not able to form a government. However, by including Hatnuah, the Prime Minister has secured a moderate party in his government. Ms. Livni will be the lead negotiator with the Palestinians and the Justice Minister. For a small party, she received a hefty reward as the first party to partner with Netanyahu’s Likud Party.

Likely the government will be a Center-Right Coalition. I foresee the coalition to include 4 parties: Likud (right), Hatnuah (Center), Yesh Atid (Center), Bayit Yehudi (Nationalistic-Far Right); totaling 68 of the 120 parliament seats. I believe this will put a lot of pressure on the religious community, thus strengthening the majority of the public who want to see religious Jews serve in the military and to see fewer subsidies for the Ultra-Orthodox. I also predict that Israel will begin negotiations with the Palestinians in the West Bank, but will likely protect all major settlements. But they may deconstruct some of the illegal outposts. However, I do not foresee any major peace accords. And lastly, I hope that having this coalition will stabilize Israel, and give credence to the majority of the Israeli public. In the end this might actually represent the political views of the majority of Israel’s citizens, and take away the power of small extreme parties.

Rabbi Jesse Gallop
NOTES FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR...

The latest issue of AARP the Magazine contained an article “MEET, PRAY, LOVE.” I will paraphrase and plagiarize so you will get the point.

While we are not sure whether temple going makes you happy or whether happy people tend to be religious, research shows that people who belong to a faith-based community and attend services live as many as seven years longer than people who do not. Moreover, temple goers are less likely to engage in risky behaviors such as drug and alcohol abuse, are satisfied with less money, and have less stress and a built-in social network. If you belong to a temple, you will benefit even more if you volunteer. If you do not belong to one, seek a new place of worship that suits your current values and beliefs.

So, your health’s sake is a good reason to belong to our congregation.

REMEMBER CONGREGATION BETH AHABAH IN YOUR ESTATE PLANNING

Perhaps you or a family member has benefitted from one of Congregation Beth Ahabah’s programs, services, clergy or staff that or who made a difference in your/their life. We graciously ask that you think of Beth Ahabah when deciding your estate plans. A bequest or legacy in your will is a wonderful way to express your appreciation to the temple.

Thank you for thinking of Congregation Beth Ahabah. To discuss your plans, please contact Executive Director, Russell M. Finer, at 804.358.6757 ext. 302 or r.finer@bethahabah.org.

REFLECTIONS

Friedrich Wilhelm, the King of Prussia, once asked his chaplain to prove in one word the truth of religion. “Your Majesty,” the chaplain replied, “the Jews.” He correctly saw that the Jews, collectively and individually, are the embodiment of a long and continuous history of religious ideas and teachings for which they have struggled throughout the ages.

Jews who live with a sense of history are aware of this identity, of themselves, of humanity, of their past, of their possibilities. The past is a foundation on which Jews must build if they would be loyal to those who have laid the spiritual foundations of Judaism.

It is a unique thing to be born a Jew. Ultimately, however, to be born a Jew is an accident, but to live as one is an achievement.

Rabbi Bernard S. Raskas

ADVERTISE IN B’YACHAD

Advertise your business, practice or service in B’yachad. More than 800 households will see it. Remember, congregants like to support their community. For more information contact Russell Finer at 358.6757 or r.finer@bethahabah.org

Thinking of Buying or Selling?
Call me 1st!

STEVIE WATSON

Ranked Top 1%
In the USA!

754-4551

Insist on Stevie!
Jewish Men's Voices...
Wednesday, May 8, 2013 at 7pm
Joel House Multipurpose Room

... is a new dialogue series sponsored by the Brotherhood of Congregation Beth Ahabah. Share your stories with other men who are on their Jewish journeys - those who have come before you, along side you, and those who will follow.

“Listening to Our Brother’s Stories” is the first in this dialogue series which will focus on participants’ reflections of memorable and transformative events in their lives. Try answering these questions:

Who are your heroes and why? • Who has had the most profound influence on your life as a Jewish man? • Why are you a Reform Jew? • What events shaped your life as a Jewish man? • What lies ahead in your Jewish journey? • What words of wisdom can you share with other Jewish men?

These questions and more will be shared and discussed in a small, safe, and engaging setting for those who wish to explore how Judaism has shaped their lives.

Light refreshments? …of course
Limited enrollment? …you bet!
Value to you? …take a risk and decide for yourself

To sign up, please e-mail Ken Roeper at: roepers@comcast.net or call 804.658.1556. Join your brothers for this rewarding discussion.

The Confirmands of 2013 request the honor of your presence at their Confirmation Service Friday, the seventeenth of May 7:30 pm

Joshua Clark
Miles Godin
Melissa Hudson
Nathan Johnson
Jordan Joseph
Melissa Nelson
Sofia Piracha
Joshua Schein
Caroline Turkanis

Please join them for an Oneg Shabbat immediately following the service.
On Sunday, February 24th we celebrated Purim in grand style with costumes, goggers, stories, Purim plays, and of course, hamantashen! Festivities included a costume parade by our pre-school – 2nd grade students that ended in the Chapel where Rabbi Beifeld told a Purim story complete with wigs and funny masks. His Purim story took a twist on the traditional, with the message that “It’s OK to be different”. Students then received a Shaloach Manot bag filled with candies and hamantashen. As part of our new partnership with schools in Hadera, Israel, we sent pictures of our students in their masks and costumes to our friends there. We will be receiving pictures and Purim Samech greetings from them in return.

Silliness prevailed during T’fillah where teachers and Madrichim donned costumes to perform a Purim play. The name of “Haman” was gleefully drowned out with goggers, stamping, clapping and boos. Unfortunately, all of the noise and clamor of the day left Ms. Ramona feeling a wee bit “crabby”.

The fun continued at the Community Purim Carnival, where Ruach Chadash entertained young and old alike with a variety of musical selections. Their lively performance, enhanced by silly hats and costumes was well received.

A number of our students and teachers wowed us with their singing, dancing and acting during the Purim Shpiel. We were “blown away” by their adventures to Oz.

Until next year, may we have the courage of Esther, the wisdom of Mordechai and may we always be able to shout down the name of Haman!
Ellie Mast will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on April 6, 2013. She is the daughter of Elissa and Chris Mast and the older sister to Samuel. Her grandparents are Lois and Harry Gellis of Midlothian and Jake and Kay Mast of Midlothian.

Ellie is a 7th grade honors student at Millwood School. She is a member of the Interact Club, plays on a tennis team and is an avid reader. She enjoys forensics, drama and cooking.

For her Mitzvah Project, she organized and executed a food drive to benefit Bainbridge Ministry, a non-profit organization in Petersburg serving food to insecure Virginians. She hopes her food drive helps all of the children in our city that are food insecure.

Lyndsay will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, April 13, 2013. She is the daughter of Adam and Laurie Nelson, and the younger sister of Melissa Nelson.

Lyndsay is a seventh grade honor roll student at Oak Knoll Middle School. Lyndsay loves to read, play cello and spend time with family and friends. Lyndsay’s Bat Mitzvah is on the same day as the Monument Avenue 10K, during which the Virginia Holocaust Museum is doing a walkathon “inside the 10K” to raise funds for the Museum.

For her Mitzvah Project, Lyndsay helped the Virginia Holocaust Museum get people either to walk in the Monument Avenue 10K with our family and raise money for the Museum, or to sponsor her or another walker to raise money for the Museum. Lyndsay also has donated her hair three times to Locks of Love since the 1st grade.

We are very proud of Lyndsay and her focus on community. We look forward to celebrating this special occasion with Lyndsay’s classmates, friends and family.

Briana Schwam will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on April 20, 2013. Briana is the daughter of Gary and Limor-Glazer Schwam, younger sister of Carly, granddaughter of Jay and Felicia Glazer of NYC, now in Richmond, and granddaughter of Sandy and the late Harvey Schwam of Philadelphia, now of Jacksonville, FL.

Briana is a 7th grade honor student at Pocahontas Middle School. She is on the school’s tennis team and selected chorus, Lyrical Ladies. Briana also enjoys swimming, cooking, theater, travel, and is in her eighth year being a girl scout. Briana’s Mitzvah Project is helping a nonprofit group called Guiding Eyes for the Blind. Briana has raised money at fundraisers, showered all the dogs being raised in the Richmond Region with homemade treats, is conducting a towel drive collection, and most importantly, has raised awareness in our community about this group and the need for more puppy raisers, transporters, trainers and donations.

Her family is very proud of her and we all look forward to celebrating with Briana and all her friends, family and congregation members who will help make this a wonderful occasion.

Thomas Green will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on April 27, 2013. Thomas is the daughter of Carolyn Dean and Lonny Green, and sister to Galen, Stenzler, Knaide, Quinn and Mannix. She is the granddaughter of Janet O’Connor and the late Dr. Philip Dean, and the late Shirley Green and the late David Green.

Thomas is a 7th grade student in the International Baccalaureate program at Moody Middle School. She is on the track and tennis team at Moody, and plays in a volleyball league at Richmond Volleyball Club. Thomas loves music and has been playing piano for 7 years. She also plays the stand up bass in the school orchestra. She enjoys school, sports, family time and playing with her dogs Oscar, Max and especially Milo. For her Mitzvah project, she has organized a team to participate in a relay to raise funds for the American Cancer Society.

Thomas’ family is very proud of her, and looks forward to celebrating this simcha with her family, friends and the congregation.
TEMPLE FUND
IN HONOR OF:
Hans Falck’s special birthday
Katy & Jimmy Yoffy
Gilbert Rosenthal’s special birthday
Carolyn Berenson
Linda Ferguson receiving the 2012
Sam Troy Award
Allen Finer
Gilbert & Fannie Rosenthal’s
special anniversary
Joann Glaser Hurwitz

IN MEMORY OF:
Murray Janus
Ann Bendheim
Scott & Nancy Bellemann
Lesley & David Greenberg
Steven Reinhard
Ann Bendheim
Joyce Rosenbaum
Scott & Nancy Bellemann
Linda & Irvin Seeman
Samuel J. Michael, my father
Sherlee Michael Ginsberg
Geraldine K. Brumberg
Pam & Joe Katz
Linda & Irvin Seememan
Janice & Robert Freed
Samuel Goldstein
Ira & Maureen Goldstein
Robert H. Kridel
Barbara Greenberg
Goldie Grossman & Goldie Koziol
Judith & Isaac Koziol
Alice Riegel & Frances Burlock
Anne Lawver
Jerome Berenson
Carolyn Berenson
Dorothy Fratkin
Lisa & Andy Fratkin
Evelyn Rogers
The Bekenstein Family
Ruth Bridge
Linda & Irvin Seeman
Steven Wolff
Linda & Irvin Seeman
Scott & Nancy Bellemann
Mendel Schreiber
Marilyn & David Schreiber
Julius Koziol
Judith & Isaac Koziol
Eda Altomonte
The Bekenstein Family
Mendel Schreiber
Marilyn & David Schreiber
Charles Paul Weinberg
Reba Gladstone Weinberg
Rose Erlach
Maurice Erlach
Sondra E. Weinberg
Jay Weinberg

THE RABBI’S
PHILANTHROPIC FUND
IN APPRECIATION:
Mary & Chuck Greenberg
IN MEMORY OF:
Steven Wolff
Cheri Wolff
Steve Reinhard
Shirley & Bob Reinhard
Charles Stephen Kamsky,
my brother
Linda & Irvin Seeman

CANTOR GOLDMAN
MUSIC FUND
IN MEMORY OF:
Murray Janus
Mark Sternheimer
Steven Reinhard
Mark Sternheimer

ETERNAL LIGHT FUND
IN HONOR OF:
Bette Wallerstein’s special
birthday
Joyce Rosenbaum

PRAYERBOOK FUND
IN MEMORY OF:
Alfred & Nellie Wolff
Carmen & George Wolff

MUSEUM & ARCHIVES
IN HONOR OF:
Bette Wallerstein’s Special
Birthday
Zippi Goldstein
Joyce Rosenbaum’s Special
Birthday
Millie & Herb Heltzer

IN MEMORY OF:
Rae Krupnik
Ellen & Enrique Gerszten
Murray Janus
Rosalie Nachman
Louise Rosenthal Creeger
Beatrice Klein
Steve Reinhard
Rosalie Nachman
Edith Brenner

CONGRATULATIONS TO…
Bernice & Ionel Kahn on the birth of
their great-granddaughter, Lillian Emilia
Kaufman born January 22, 2013. Also
to Lillian’s grandparents, Alene Jo &
Ronald Kaufman & parents, Jessica &
Jason Kaufman.

Dottie Lester & Barry Katchinoff on
the birth of their son, Adrien Emmanuel
Katchinoff born February 12, 2013.

CONGREGANTS &
COMMUNITY

IN SYMPATHY TO THE
FAMILIES OF:
Elroy Rosenfeld
father of Pat (Tim) Paul
Bette Neufeld
aunt of Mark Schein
Geraldine Brumberg
mother of Anne (Roy) Goldberg
Steven Reinhard
son of Shirley & Bob Reinhard
nephew of Mary Ellen Jackoway
Murray Janus
husband of Shelly Janus
Steven Wolff
husband of Cheri Wolff
father of Emily (Rob) Mercer
brother-in-law of Janice &
Robert Freed
Ruth Bridge
Evelyn Rogers
mother of Chuck Rogers
Eda Altomonte
mother of Sylvia (Steve) Farbstein

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Jason Kaufman.

Dottie Lester & Barry Katchinoff on
the birth of their son, Adrien Emmanuel
Katchinoff born February 12, 2013.

DONATIONS

An armed security guard is on
duty at Hebrew Cemetery on
the first and third Sundays of
the month from Noon to 3 pm.
Your mission, should you decide to accept it, occurs this year on May 5th, during our annual Mitzvah Day. This will be a wonderful opportunity for all of us to perform acts of service for our Temple, our community, and, with the addition of the “Stop Hunger Now” program, the world!

We will have many wonderful and worthwhile projects available, from feeding the hungry, to beautification of our temple and cemetery, to giving blood through the Blood Bank, and even donating hair through "Locks of Love." There will be opportunities to plant, to paint, to cook, to bake, to build, and to donate! It should be a very busy, exciting and productive day!

Registration for Mitzvah Day is open on the temple website. All of the activities that you can choose from are listed. There will be projects that are appropriate for all ages and interests, and you can decide which projects work best for you and your family. So be on the lookout!

We are very grateful to our project leaders who are helping us to organize a variety of ways to perform Mitzvot, but we need all of you to help make this a successful day. Please, please, please tell all of your friends, your family and your fellow congregants to participate in this special day, a day that gives all of us the time to perform one of the most important honors in life, acts of service.

While we have many opportunities to perform Mitzvot, this is a special day, a time when there is power in numbers, when the acts of a few can combine to be the acts of many. A day where we, in sharing with each other, can have a great impact on our spirits, our children and our lives; while at the same time, impacting the lives of many others. So please join us in our mission and help us to make this Mitzvah Day a success!

We cannot do it without you, so please accept this mission, mark your calendars and join us on Sunday, May 5th.

The Religious School year is nearing the end. Mitzvah Day will be held on May 5th. Brotherhood will be working with Sisterhood to prepare lunches for all participants. We will assemble in the kitchen that morning. Please join us to help out by contacting me at martinjmiller@comcast.net

Yours in Brotherhood,
Martin J. Miller, President

Please join us for
The 7th Annual
Lewis I. Held Award
Friday evening, May 3, 2013

The Lewis I. Held award recognizes an outstanding High School Student.

The award will be presented at services during Installation Shabbat
Concealed Handgun Inspires Thieves to Reconsider Their Plan

A distinguished lady of the Richmond Jewish Community found herself to be one of those persons who could bring her talents to bear on any great need, even those that require dramatic changes in personality. This quiet Southern lady found herself assisting in the running of a large Richmond hospital, bringing her into contact with situations quite alien to her genteel upbringing. In a letter to her sister, she wrote “I sometimes wonder if I am the same person who was afraid to look at a dead person, for I have no timidity and hardly any sensibility left.”

Her new strengths came to the forefront one night when she heard someone trying to break into the storeroom where the hospital’s valuable supplies of whiskey were stored. This versatile liquid served as antiseptic and anesthetic, and was not meant as refreshment for social occasions. Slipping a revolver into the pocket of her dress, she entered the room and confronted the would-be thieves. Undaunted by her diminutive size, they laughed at her demand that they leave. All she had to do was to cock the revolver in her pocket, the sound of which made them pause and listen. She then explained that one of her five shots would certainly find its mark, and once again ordered them to leave. They chose the wiser path, and retreated.

Come and see her picture at the Museum & Archives, and read her diary if you wish. Even though these things happened in the Civil War years, they are still relevant to our own times.

Currently on Exhibit in the Galleries:
• That You’ll Remember Me: Jewish Voices of the Civil War
• Jewish Women in the Arts
• Commonwealth & Community

Museum Hours:
10 am to 3 pm Sunday - Thursday

The Museum & Archives is located next door to the temple office at 1109 W. Franklin Street.

For more information about the archives, to make an appointment to research in the archives or set up a group tour, please contact 804.353.2668.
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<td>SHABBAT Service w/ Adult Choir</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>BAT MITZVAH: Effie Mast</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Sunday NO RELIGIOUS School</td>
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<td>MIDRASHA Monday 9th and 10th grade only</td>
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<td>MIDWEEK HEBREW</td>
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<td>8TH &amp; 9TH GRADE SHABBAT Dinner</td>
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<td>BAT MITZVAH: Lyndsay Nelson</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Sunday RELIGIOUS School 9th Grade Field Trip</td>
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<td>SHABBAT Service</td>
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<td>BAT MITZVAH: Brianna Schwam</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>Sunday RELIGIOUS School 7th Grade Gesher</td>
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<td>MIDWEEK HEBREW</td>
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<td>JEWISH MUSIC SHABBAT w/ Adult Choir</td>
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<td>BAT MITZVAH: Thomas Green</td>
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<td>Sunday RELIGIOUS School 7th Grade Gesher</td>
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<td>MIDRASHA Monday 10th grade only</td>
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*Please check the Community Calendar at www.bethahabah.org for updates.

Editorial submissions and ad materials for the May/June issue of B'yachad are due no later than April 1st.
Yom HaShoah

Yom HaShoah is the day when we remember the victims of the Holocaust. It is the day of remembrance and is observed on the 27th day of the Hebrew month of Nisan, a week after the seventh day of Passover and a week before Yom HaZikaron (Memorial Day for Israel’s fallen soldiers). The commemoration was selected by the Israeli Parliament (the Knesset) on April 12, 1951.

American Jews observe Yom HaShoah in various ways including synagogue services. We generally recite the Kaddish (prayer for the dead) and often survivors themselves speak to us of their experiences. The overwhelming theme is remembering...recalling the victims and remembering so that this tragic atrocity can never happen again.

Please join us for Shabbat Services on April 5, 2013