JEWS-BY-RELIGION OR JEWS-OF-NO-RELIGION? PEW SURVEY RESULTS

Rabbi Martin P. Beifield, Jr.
Sophia and Nathan Gumenick Senior Rabbi

The big news in the American Jewish world is the Pew Survey, a demographic study of American Jews conducted by the Religion and Public Life Project of the Pew Research Center, a subsidiary of the Pew Charitable Trusts. The study resembles previous studies done in 1990 and 2000 by the National Jewish Population Survey (NJPS), a project of the Jewish Federations of North America.

One of the most interesting facets of the Pew Survey is a distinction it made between what it labels Jews-by-Religion and Jews-of-No-Religion. At the beginning of the survey, people are asked to describe themselves in terms of religion. If they said their religion was Jewish they were put into the Jews-by-Religion category for the entire survey. If they gave another answer, e.g. agnostic or no religion, but still considered themselves Jewish they were put into the Jews-of-No-Religion category for the survey. The results of the survey compare these two groups. It should come as no surprise to anybody that the Jews-By-Religion appear to be, well, more religious than Jews-of-No-Religion.

Making this kind of distinction is certainly American. American culture places Jew and Jewish in the same category as Christian, i.e. a matter of religion. Seen in this light, we Jews are becoming more like the rest of the population. The “nones,” as they are referred to, whether Jewish or not Jewish, express many connections to religious life but report less affiliation with established institutions like churches and synagogues. The Pew Survey and other similar studies say this trend away from formal religious affiliation is a significant departure from the past.

I’m not sure this is an effective distinction to make with Jews. We all know that being Jewish is not simply a matter of religious belief, practice, or formal affiliation. We might say that someone is more or less religious or more or less Jewish but we don’t all mean the same thing by these terms. I’m not even sure I can define them for myself let alone convince you that my definitions are both

Continued on page 2...

EXPLORE AMERICAN JEWISH HISTORY AT THE BAR IN JANUARY

Dr. Jonathan Sarna
Brandeis University

Dr. Adam Mendelsohn
College of Charleston

Dr. Susan Kahn
Harvard University

COME TO THE BAR! The Beth Ahabah Retreat returns on Saturday, January 18th, 2014. We’ve got a full slate of exciting speakers this year, including Dr. Jonathan Sarna, a consultant for the recent Pew study “A Portrait of Jewish Americans.” Dr. Sarna will discuss that study. Lunch is included and the day will conclude with a cocktail reception followed by a Havdalah service. Come join us for the whole day, or any part of the day you like!

The BAR Retreat Schedule follows on page 2...

IN THIS ISSUE:
Treasurer’s report p 3
Religious School News p 5
Community p 7
Donations p 11
Community Calendar p 15
correct and better than yours. Has the Pew Survey escaped this ambiguity? I seriously doubt it.

The study says about twenty percent (22% to be precise) of Jews are Jews-of-No-Religion. Younger Jews, i.e. Millennials, are more likely than older Jews to be in this group. On the one hand, this trend is very similar to the trends in American religious identity. On the other hand, we have known for generations that Jews don’t tend to affiliate with synagogues until they have religious school-aged children. We’re also known for years that fewer than half the Jews in America are affiliated with a synagogue. In Richmond, by the way, the number is much (about twenty percent) lower. We know that the biggest drop off rate of affiliation comes after a family’s last child becomes a Bar or Bat Mitzvah. That means that many unaffiliated Jews used to be affiliated. Have they made a "religious" decision? Are we witnessing more of the same or something new? It’s difficult to say.

Regardless of whether the Pew Survey’s snapshot of American Jews reflects new trends or a continuation of previous ones, it isn’t a very flattering picture. In terms of behavior, Jews appear to reflect a distancing from formal connection to the established Jewish community. In regular language this means lower synagogue affiliation, less involvement in JCCs and Federations, fewer dollars given to Jewish charities, and less caring about Israel.

I don’t know how we should respond to this data but it certainly should give us reason for pause and intense discussion for what the synagogue and larger Jewish community of the future will look like.

BAR RETREAT
SATURDAY, JANUARY 18
Schedule
9:30 - 10:00 am Coffee and Fruit Get-together
10:00 - 10:15 am Introductory Remarks and Welcome
10:15 - 11:45 am Dr. Susan Kahn on “The Modern Jewish Family”
11:45 am - 12:45 pm Lunch
1:00 - 2:30 pm Dr. Adam Mendelsohn on “Jews in the South”
2:30 - 2:45 pm Break
2:45 - 4:15 pm Dr. Jonathan Sarna on “The Evolution of the Reform Movement”
4:15 - 5:00 pm Cocktails
5:00 - 5:45 pm Havdalah

Tickets are free to Beth Ahabah members; $15 per person or $25 per couple for non-members. Reservations are required through the temple office at (804) 358-6757. To learn more about the retreat, please contact Dana Isaacoff (disaacoff@yahoo.com) or Kevin Hudson (kphuds@gmail.com).

wishing you a joyous holiday season filled with peace, laughter & love
The Officers, Board, Clergy and Staff of Congregation Beth Ahabah
PRE-ARRANGEMENTS FOR FUNERAL AND BURIAL

Although it may be difficult for us to contemplate pre-planning for our funeral and burial, by making arrangements now, you can spare your family the stress and anxiety of making such an important decision when they are most vulnerable. They are relieved of not knowing the wishes of their beloved, and they are assured that the arrangements are what the deceased actually wanted to occur.

Hebrew Cemetery, located at the corner of 5th and Hospital Streets here in Richmond, provides traditional grave sites with either flat or raised headstones or cremations in a quiet and tranquil setting which helps encourage peace, solace, and meditation.

Our congregational cemetery is another aspect of our common support and shared concern for members of Beth Ahabah. When you are ready to discuss your needs or want to visit the cemetery, please make an appointment with me or with Bill Thalhimer, III our chairman.

TREASURER’S REPORT
by Rob Davidson

Earlier this year, Beth Ahabah received an extremely generous opportunity from the Weinstein – Jecklin Family. They offered to make a contribution to Beth Ahabah of $70,000 provided we raise an equal amount in new money to match it. Thanks to the generosity of our congregants, we met this match and have already received more than $140,000 from this grant. I want to let you know what the Temple is planning to do with this additional funding.

First, here is some background regarding our Temple budget. Most of the Temple’s expenses go toward salaries and facilities (including upkeep). The remaining portion represents variable expenses such as programming carried out in support of Religious School, Adult Education and Shabbat services. We pay for these expenses with money from financial commitments (65% representing dues plus giving circles contributions), endowment support (15%), Religious School fees (8%) and other income sources (20% - primarily rental).

The original 2013/14 budget was developed by the Temple’s Finance Committee and approved by the Board of Managers back in March. While this budget contained funding for a significant level of programming and events, we were not able to fund all proposed activities. However, the additional money from the Weinstein-Jecklin challenge grant provided us an opportunity to expand programming and activities for 2013/14.

During the summer, various Temple committees and our Professional staff provided input on additional items for the 2013/14 year. These recommendations then went to the Finance Committee to develop a revised budget. I am pleased to report that the Board of Managers recently approved funding for the following items which were not in our original budget:

1. An extensive revamp of the Temple’s Website
2. A Scholar-in-residence program in January in honor of our 225th anniversary
3. Additional Musical programming in honor of our 225th anniversary
4. Mt. Moriah Feed-the-homeless Social Action program

You will be hearing more about these in the coming months. For now, I wanted to let you know our plans for the additional funding as well as the process that went into developing these plans.

We need volunteers to help CARITAS personnel sign in the homeless, offer them refreshments and make our guests feel at home until the CARITAS bus takes them to their shelter for the night. The bus arrives at approximately 7:00 pm. Volunteers need to be at Temple by 5:30 pm and should be finished by approximately 7:15 pm.

Two volunteers are needed per night. There will be CARITAS personnel as well as a Beth Ahabah staff member present each evening. No advanced training is needed to perform this mitzvah. Please consider volunteering as an individual or a family. Most Beth Ahabah volunteers agree to work the same night each week for the duration of the program. Several members who have participated in the program with their teenage child have found this a rewarding family experience.

Items such as appropriate magazines, playing cards, books and toiletry items are always welcome as donations. To sign up or for more information, please contact Chuck Greenberg at 794-6800 or cgre41@yahoo.com.
NEW CBA WEBSITE ON THE HORIZON!

It’s coming ...

It’s been 13 years since the Beth Ahabah website had a top-to-bottom refresh. It’s time to end the streak, and your communications committee has been charged with the task.

We have listened to the needs and wants of our congregants and are currently in the process of rethinking the site.

As the central hub for communications, the goal of the website is to keep an eye on the diversity of our members and our programming and present a face to the greater community, while ensuring information is easier for users to find. We want to make the website a communications tool for the entire congregation.

To date, the committee has interviewed and written new profiles of our clergy and staff. They have designed a new calendar, making it easier to find out what’s going on, and how to sign up. They’ve revamped the religious education section to match the program’s shift from traditional classroom learning to an experiential approach that fully integrates the family. And a fresh design and new photography will make the whole site easier on the eyes.

The committee also is looking at ways to keep the site current. This includes adding sermons from the rabbis; a blog featuring news about topics of interest within our local and global community; creating a library of music from the High Holy Days; an online edition of the B’Yachad newsletter; and integrating a members-only portal for access to content such as religious school documents and the membership directory.

Videos, social media like Facebook and Twitter, and a regular content in the blog are a must – but we need your help to gather fresh and inspiring information. We’re looking to you for ideas and contributions, both today and in the future. If you want to contribute to any aspect of the site, just contact Russ Finer, Executive Director, and we’ll gladly welcome your input.

You’ll start to see changes taking places at the end of the year. After the New Year, we’re planning to host website 101 classes, instructional videos, and more, to help our members understand all that the website has to offer. So, enjoy your Hanukkah cookies and see what’s cooking for the New Year.

KRISTALLNACHT REMEMBRANCE CONCERT AT THE BETH SHOLOM HOME
**BETH AHABASH TEENS: VIEW THEIR WORLD THROUGH A JEWISH LENS**

Teens in the Beth Ahabah Midrasha program participated this fall in a photography project, with their teacher and Education Director, Ramona Brand, that asked students to use their camera or cell phones to document their Jewish life inside and outside the synagogue. This project builds on a visit last year to the Families of Abraham photo exhibit at the Visual Arts Center of Richmond, which a number of the students attended with their Religious School teacher. During this fall’s elective class, students were asked to think about what constituted a “Jewish Photograph”. During the course students learned about notable Jewish photographers, including Ruth Gruber, a renowned Jewish Photojournalist. Students took pictures of both Jewish and daily life events and shared them during class-time for peer reviewing. Wonderful discussions evolved about the photos, and the meanings behind them. Each student chose two of their own favorite pictures to be framed. These were displayed during the Beth Ahabah Family Hanukah Party on Sunday, November 24th. The teens have not only enjoyed the project, but were challenged to view the world around them with fresh connection to their Jewish values. This project was funded in part, by the Rachel B. Banks Youth Fund from the Richmond Jewish Foundation.

**SIXTH AND SEVENTH GRADE FAMILY DINNER**

Friday, January 10th
6:00 pm catered Shabbat dinner
7:30 pm service

Celebrate a lively and meaningful Shabbat with family and friends. Our Youth Music Group, Ruach Chadash will accompany the service.

Cost: $9 per adult, $8 per child. Reservations are required: email Ramona at r.brand@bethahabah.org by 1/6 to let her know how many are in your party. If you make reservations and then are unable to attend, a 24 hour cancellation notice will enable us to notify the caterer so you will not be charged for dinner.

Vegetarian dinners are available upon request.

---

**ELECTIVES SUNDAY!!**

December 8, 2013
4th, 5th and 6th grade students and their parents

Our electives program for 4th, 5th and 6th graders is back this year! On Sunday, December 8th, fourth, fifth and sixth graders will enjoy creative and hands-on classes and choose from a menu of interesting activities.

Included in the electives will be a Jewish Art Tour at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts where up to 40 participants will engage in an exploration of Jewish art themes through the work of Jewish Artists including painting, sculpture and ritual objects. Advance registration for this program is required.

Art, culture, sports, dance and Israeli life will be included in the elective programs. We anticipate a very exciting and interesting morning.

**Fourth Grade Gesher:**

Sunday, January 12th

Parents are invited to join their children at Religious School to participate in our Family Education Program called GESHER (which means “bridge” in Hebrew).

Theme: Jewish Names and Birth Customs

9:15 - 10:30 am  Students in class

9:30 - 10:30 am  Rabbi Beifield will engage in an Adult Education Session with parents on the topic of Shabbat.

10:30 - 11:45 am  Parents & children will join together in the kindergarten classroom with their teachers for an age-appropriate project and brunch.
Summer Camp Connections

Attention Beth Ahabah Families: Does your child currently attend a Jewish summer camp or have an interest in attending one?

If so, please share your child’s information with us! The Family Connection is developing a roster of children who are currently attending Jewish overnight camps so that parents who are exploring this for their children can connect with other families at Beth Ahabah. Currently, we have families with children attending a range of Jewish camps, including Camp Harlam, Capital Camps, Six Points Sports Academy, Camp Coleman, and Camps Airy and Louise.

• If your child currently attends camp, please email us their name, camp name, current grade, and session attending.

• If your child is interested in attending camp, please email their name, current grade, and name of camp they are interested in (if applicable).

We'll help connect families so that new campers can find a camp and session with other friends they know or would like to know better from Religious School. We can also guide you regarding first time camper grants and other financial resources that may be available to your child.

Please contact Dena Neuwirth at dcneuwirth@hotmail.com, or Rabbi Gallop at rabbi.gallop@bethahabah.org with your child's information and/or any questions you may have.

Happy Camping!
Jenna Woodburn will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on January 18th.
She is the daughter of Jay and Allison Woodburn and older sister to Joshua.
She is the granddaughter of Harry and Barbara Kaplowitz and Woody and Judy Woodburn.

Jenna is a 7th grade student at Pocahontas Middle School. She enjoys music, fashion, drawing, volleyball, babysitting, reading and spending time with her friends and family. She has been playing violin since she was 7, and is currently playing in the Richmond Youth Symphony.

For her Mitzvah Project, Jenna wanted to help students in a less privileged school so they would not have to worry about getting supplies to start the school year. She decorated and filled eighteen bags with everything the principal might need to give out during the year.

Jenna Woodburn will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on January 18th.
Jenna is the daughter of Jay and Allison Woodburn and older sister to Joshua.
She is the granddaughter of Harry and Barbara Kaplowitz and Woody and Judy Woodburn.

Jenna is a 7th grade student at Pocahontas Middle School. She enjoys music, fashion, drawing, volleyball, babysitting, reading and spending time with her friends and family. She has been playing violin since she was 7, and is currently playing in the Richmond Youth Symphony.

For her Mitzvah Project, Jenna wanted to help students in a less privileged school so they would not have to worry about getting supplies to start the school year. She decorated and filled eighteen bags with everything the principal might need to give out during the year.

Jenna is looking forward to sharing this day with her family, friends and the Beth Ahabah community.

---

Brent has attended Beth Ahabah Religious School since kindergarten, making the weekly 3 hour roundtrip from his hometown of Emporia. In the fourth grade he began attending Midweek Hebrew, making two trips each week to Richmond to pursue his religious education. This past year Brent moved to Richmond with his parents and dog Max.

Brent’s great grandfather, Adolph Marks, blew the shofar at Beth Ahabah for many years until his death in 1968. That year Adolph’s youngest son, Jeff Marks, stepped up at the tender age of 10 to take the responsibility to blow the shofar. Jeff blew the shofar for a number of years at Beth Ahabah. At the age of 7 Brent chose to carry on this wonderful tradition using the very same shofar that his great grandfather and great uncle blew during the High Holy Days.

Brent is a 7th grade honors student at Midlothian Middle School. His favorite subjects include history and tech education. Brent is a member of Boy Scout Troop 897 and actively involved in scouting. A passionate Washington Redskins fan, Brent likes watching football, playing fantasy football, and enjoys a variety of other sports. He can often be found at University of Richmond games.

Hannah Levy will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on January 18th. She is the daughter of Ty and Ruth Levy, younger sister to Mason. She is the granddaughter of Phyllis Levy of Rochester, New York, the late Earl Levy of Clearwater, Florida, Evelyn Rice and the late Donald Rice of Niles, Ohio.

Hannah is in 7th grade at Pocahontas Middle School. She is a sweet young lady who is a fabulous baker, loves dancing, making jewelry and crafts, babysitting young kids, and spending time with her cats. She plays violin in the school orchestra and dances at Central Virginia Dance Company. Hannah has always had a special spot in her heart for foster care children. For her Mitzvah Project, Hannah made pillow cases for kids placed in foster care families by the local organization Braley & Thompson. She tie-dyed 18 pillow cases and filled them with comforting items that kids of all ages could use when they were placed with their foster care families.

Hannah is very excited to share this B’nai Mitzvah with her very dear friend Jenna Woodburn and looks forward to celebrating with family and friends.

Brent is excited about his Bar Mitzvah and sharing this very special moment with his classmates, friends, and family.

mazal tov!
IN SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILIES OF ....
Nancy McElgunn
mother of Sean (Peggy) McElgunn
Leona Rosenthal
mother of Dan (Beth) Rosenthal
Ann Stern
Laurence Levy
Allen Wolfsheimer
father of Mark (Kelly) Wolfsheimer
Lottie Panofsky
grandmother of Jon Panofsky

CONGRATULATIONS TO....
Rabbi Beifield & Ina Ginsberg on
the birth of their grandson, Ivri Kwartin
Beifield born October 8, 2013. Also to
parents, Ilana Kwartin & B.G. Beifield.

Heidi Levinson on the birth of her
grandson, Henry Alexander Levinson
born October 16, 2013. Also to par-
ents, Andrew & Jennifer Levinson.

B’NEI MITZVAH (continued)

Sam Buxbaum
January 25, 2014

Sam Buxbaum will be called to the
Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on January 25,
2014. Sam is the son of Carter and
Rita Buxbaum and is the older brother
of Cassie. He is the grandson of Robert
and Elizabeth Buxbaum and Mabel Hull.

Sam is a 7th grade student at the Col-
legiate School. He enjoys playing all
sports, especially baseball and basket-
ball, and is an avid gamer. For his Mit-
zvah Project, Sam will volunteer with the
Miracle League as a Buddy, shadowing
players during baseball games.

Sam is looking forward to sharing this
special day with his family and friends
and the Beth Ahabah community.

MAZAL TOV!

WHO’S WHO:
STACY STRUMINGER

Stacy Struminger &
Rachel Teyssler

Congregation member Stacy Strum-
inger and her business partner Rachel
Teyssler were featured in the Rich-
mond Times-Dispatch in September-
when the pair showcased their light-
weight, waterproof wraps on NBC’s
“Today” show on September 17th as
part of the QVC Sprouts program.
RainRaps was selected by “Today”
show viewers from a group of six up-
and-coming products to showcase its
products on QVC. RainRaps are sold
in 17 states and are available locally.

Stacy and her husband, David, have
been members of the congregation
since 2010. They live in Henrico
County with their children Liam and
Grace.

RAINRAPS

what’s coming up

“My Playlist” Retreat
December 6-8 (Richmond Hill)

JeRAFTY Post-Chanukah Shul-In
December 14-15 • 7pm-8am

NFTY Winter Kallah
December 27-30 (Capital Camps)

The seventh grade Religious School Class visiting Thomas
Jefferson’s Monticello in October.
WINTER WEATHER
RELIGIOUS SCHOOL CLOSINGS

Information about school closings will be available the following ways:

A Sunday School closing message will be posted on both the Administrative building phone service 804.358.6757, and the Sunday School office phone service 804.359.4378 after 8:00 am.

Monday night Midrasha and Wednesday Mid-week Hebrew classes are canceled if public schools are closed to inclement weather.

School closings will be listed on Channel 12

WORK BY BUDDING PHOTOGRAPHERS IN THE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

The photographers listed from the top: Madison McCabe, Emma Silverman and Mandi Andersen
The Other Son
Saturday, December 7

The first movie we will be viewing is The Other Son, 2012.--- While preparing to enter the Israeli military for his compulsory service, young Joseph Silberg learns he was accidentally switched at birth with the son of an Arab couple from the West Bank -- a shocking revelation that sends both families reeling.

Nora’s Will
Saturday, January 11

The second movie is Nora’s Will, 2010.--This award-winning black comedy follows the family of Nora (Silvia Mariscal), who carefully plans her suicide so that her assortment of estranged relatives, including ex-husband José (Fernando Luján), will have to celebrate Passover together and hopefully achieve a reconciliation. As José battles with unsympathetic cemeteries, a fractious rabbi and his devoted assistant, and his own son (Ari Brickman), he realizes how deeply he still loved Nora.

Footnote
Saturday, February 22

The third movie is Footnote, 2011---Long-buried tensions erupt in this witty drama, which follows the strained relationship between a reserved Talmudic scholar and his ambitious son -- both professors at the same university -- when the father wins a prestigious award the son covets.

Thinking of Buying or Selling?
Call me 1st!

STEVIE WATSON

Ranked Top 1%
In the USA!

754-4551

Insist on Stevie!

Join Us for a Movie & Dinner!
All showings begin at 4 pm!

For more information contact
Ellyn or Steve Sukonick at sukonicke@gmail.com or ssukonic@aol.com.
TEMPLE FUND
IN HONOR OF:
Stanley Ullman’s special birthday, mazel tov
Ruby Jo & David Hiller
The Bat Mitzvah of our granddaughter, Morgan Ackley
Robert & Carol Kast
Yom Kippur services with my daughter, Daniela Jacobs
Neil Schlussel
The High Holyday music and Cantor Fran Goldman & Barbara Gaden
Debra & David Gardner
Rabbi Martin Beifield, Jr. receiving the Humanitarian Award from the VA Center for Inclusive Communities
Debra & David Gardner
Leta & Peter Greenberg
Cantor Fran Goldman & her extraordinary work during the High Holydays
Steve & Susan Brown
Renate Falck’s special birthday
Katy & Jimmy Yoffy
Many Thanks for the festive Sukkot Dinner
Melissa & Andy Brownstein
IN MEMORY OF:
Murray Paster
Lonnie & Diane Paster
Charles Lott
Frances B. Raphael
Joyce Rosenbaum
Harry Marks Markhoff
Shirley Markhoff, Nancy, Barbara & John
Nettie Gardner, Hyman Gardner & Jerome Scoler
Debra & David Gardner
Harry E. Cohn, my nephew
Dina Boettcher
Pamela S. Finer
Russell Finer
Mae S. Goldman
Fran & Stan Goldman
Harriett Goodman
Joyce Rosenbaum
Ellen Gilinsky & Leonard Smock
Leona Rosenthal
Katie & Ken Roeper
Carol Ann & Cal Callahan
Laura & Rob Davidson
Edward Meyer
Nancy Meyer
Pamela S. Finer, my daughter-in-law
Beatrice Goldman, my sister-in-law
Allen Finer
Ann Stern
Ann Bendheim

Donations continue on page 12...

THE RABBI’S PHILANTHROPIC FUND
These contributions were received in response to the Annual Appeal:
Russell Finer
Stevie & Marshall Wishnack
Mary & Chuck Greenberg
Laura & Dave Savage
Leta & Peter Greenberg
Demis Stewart
Stacy & David Struminger
Morton Thalhimer, Jr.
Becky & Tony Frank
Abby Moore
Dr. Donald S. & Beejay Brown
Sibyl & Charles Thalhimer, Sr.
Minnie Held
Mikki Evens
Sallie & Bill Thalhimer, III
Shelley & Nathan Rabhan
Allen Finer
Anne & Murray Schwartz

Etta Altomonte
Lisa & Nathan Zasler
Laurence Levy
Carrie Galeski
Jessie Goldstein
Judith & Isaac Koziol
Dr. Irving Katz & Tessie Katz, my parents
Gloria Starkman
Phyllis Gurman
Barbara Blumberg
Harry Yaffe
Russell Finer
Nancy McElhun
Laura & Rob Davidson
Herman Morgan
Francine & Norman Morgan

Carrie & Truitt Cooper & Family
Jeanette Lipman
Shannon Kelley & Michael Mendelson
Wendy & Elliott Spanier
Dana Isaacoff & Raphael Seligmann
Carille Greenberg-Ribley
Andrea Pozez
Chuck Rogers
Ann Marie Benson
Shari Litow & David Aschheim
Harriet Schanzer & David Raine, Jr.
Jean Goldman
Fannie & Gilbert Rosenthal
Muriel Scoler
Linda & Irvin Seeman
Linda & Steve Tissiere
Gloria & Arthur Adams
Carol & Mark Baron
Sheri Cox
Lisa & Andy Fratkin
Jane Joel Knox
Rebecca & Adam Thalhimer
Katy & Jimmy Yoffy
Katie & Ken Roeper
Ellyn & Steve Sukonick
Laura & Rob Davidson
Sharon & Don Bassell
Claire & Robert Rosenbaum
Bernie & Jocelyn Kastenbaum
Allison & Peter Heyman
Vicki & Andrew Littauer
Nancy & Jeffrey Segal
Anne & Charley Scher
Anne & David Schwartz
Laurie & Adam Nelson
Cecil & Ronne Jacobs

DONATIONS:

The contributions were received in response to the Annual Appeal.

Russell Finer
Stevie & Marshall Wishnack
Mary & Chuck Greenberg
Laura & Dave Savage
Leta & Peter Greenberg
Demis Stewart
Stacy & David Struminger
Morton Thalhimer, Jr.
Becky & Tony Frank
Abby Moore
Dr. Donald S. & Beejay Brown
Sibyl & Charles Thalhimer, Sr.
Minnie Held
Mikki Evens
Sallie & Bill Thalhimer, III
Shelley & Nathan Rabhan
Allen Finer
Anne & Murray Schwartz
Carrie & Truitt Cooper & Family
Jeanette Lipman
Shannon Kelley & Michael Mendelson
Wendy & Elliott Spanier
Dana Isaacoff & Raphael Seligmann
Carille Greenberg-Ribley
Andrea Pozez
Chuck Rogers
Ann Marie Benson
Shari Litow & David Aschheim
Harriet Schanzer & David Raine, Jr.
Jean Goldman
Fannie & Gilbert Rosenthal
Muriel Scoler
Linda & Irvin Seeman
Linda & Steve Tissiere
Gloria & Arthur Adams
Carol & Mark Baron
Sheri Cox
Lisa & Andy Fratkin
Jane Joel Knox
Rebecca & Adam Thalhimer
Katy & Jimmy Yoffy
Katie & Ken Roeper
Ellyn & Steve Sukonick
Laura & Rob Davidson
Sharon & Don Bassell
Claire & Robert Rosenbaum
Bernie & Jocelyn Kastenbaum
Allison & Peter Heyman
Vicki & Andrew Littauer
Nancy & Jeffrey Segal
Anne & Charley Scher
Anne & David Schwartz
Laurie & Adam Nelson
Cecil & Ronne Jacobs

An armed security guard is on duty at Hebrew Cemetery on the first and third Sundays of the month from Noon to 3 pm.

David S. Feibish, GRI
Real Estate Broker
Direct: 804-967-2735

Uniquely Qualified to Represent Residential, Investment, Light Commercial Clients & Properties
email: David.Feibish@joynerfineproperties.com
www.davidsellingrichmondsince1976.com

“IT WAS A GREAT HONOR TO BE RECOGNIZED BY BROTHERHOOD AND CONGREGATION BETH ABABAH AS RECIPIENT OF THE 2010 SAM TROY AWARD. I WILL ENDEAVOR TO PROVIDE YOU WITH THE BEST SERVICE POSSIBLE.”
Donations (continued from page 11)
Lori & Larry Skiles
Joan & Bari Novey
Donna & Neil Gleberman
Karen & Ken Olshansky
Ellen & Brian Glass
Elizabeth Solomon
Bonnie & Larry Salzman
Ronnie & Susie Adolf
Scott & Nancy Bellemore
Edith Brenner, in memory of my husband, Philip & son, David
Lynn & Jim Burris, in memory of Lynn’s father, David Ackman
Debra & David Gardner
Richard Lee, in memory of Ruth & Martin Lee
Ruby & Jerry Levey
Shirley Sukonick
Stevie & Aubrey Watson
Gail & Al Werner
Ann Winer
Bernice Slipow
Susan Harwood
Jackie & Matthew Cohen
Linda & Rick Gary
Frances & Stanley Goldman
Anne Marie & Jonathan Perel
Betsy & Robert Kastenbaum
Ruby Jo & David Hiller
Eileen & Michael Katz
Joyce Rosenbaum
Nancy & David Oser
Rosemary & Cullen Seltzer
Maureen & Ira Goldstein
Terry & Jerry Hirsch
Jeanne & Michael Decker
Susan & Stephen Meyers
Dorothy & Steve Bernstein
Amy & Richard Thalhimer
Lisa & Seth Kaplan
IN HONOR OF:
Rabbi Martin Beifield, Jr. receiving the Humanitarian Award from the VA Center for Inclusive Communities
Susan & Ronnie Adolf
Judith & Ike Koziol
IN MEMORY OF:
Charles Lott
Jeanne Lott
Jo Benson Fogel
Selma Mann
Jo Benson Fogel
William Cliett & Hannah Rapp
Vicki & Miles Lynn
Reinhold Motsch
Ingeborg Appel
CANTOR GOLDMAN MUSIC FUND
IN MEMORY OF:
Jane Stewart Brown
Demis Stewart
Isaac Gorbaty & Moritz Berenshtein
Natan & Valeria Berenshtein
Celia Zell, my mother
Myrna & Morton Norman
HEBREW CEMETERY FUND
IN MEMORY OF:
Harriett Goodman
Betty Sue & Todd LePage
Harry Grandis
Betty Sue & Todd LePage
Nancy Grandis White
Laurence Levy
Betty Sue & Todd LePage
REligious School Tuition Assistance Fund
IN HONOR OF:
My beautiful grandchildren: Alex & Molly Pinkham and Vivi Gustarsson
Ann Van Orman
ETERNAL LIGHT FUND
IN HONOR OF:
Shirley Markhoff’s special birthday
Joyce Rosenbaum
Millie Heltzer’s special birthday
Joyce Rosenbaum
JERRY BERNSTEIN
BROtherhood Fund
Temple Brotherhood with many thanks for all your hard work, food, games & prizes at the Annual Brother- hood Picnic
Melissa & Andy Brownstein
IN MEMORY OF:
Leona Rosenthal
Meryl & Renee Bernstein
ENDowMENT FUND
IN MEMORY OF:
Laurence Levy
Gilbert & Fannie Rosenthal
LEWIS I. HELD SCHOLARSHIP FUND
IN HONOR OF:
Minnie Held’s special birthday
Gloria & Arthur Adams, Gladys & Alfred Lehman & Richard Flax
Minnie Held’s birthday
The Held family
BETH AHABAH CARES FUND
IN MEMORY OF:
Shirley Lopater, my mother
Lori Skiles
MUSEUM & ARCHIVES IN APPRECIATION
For Research Assistance
Ken Solomon
IN HONOR OF:
Rabbi Beifield Receiving the 2013 VCIC Humanitarian Award
Joyce Rosenbaum
IN MEMORY OF:
My Aunt, Gertrude R. Miller
Audrey Landers
Our Mother, Fannie Stern Glaser
Judy & Sheldon Markowitz
Laurence Levy
Mr. & Mrs. Charles G. Nusbaum
Mikki Evens
In Loving Memory of My Dear Sister, Lynn Rubens Wolf
Jane C. Rubens
In Loving Memory of My Adored Mother, Marjorie Osterweis Rubens
Jane C. Rubens
In Loving Memory of My Adored Father, Joseph M. Rubens, Jr.
Jane C. Rubens

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, or clergy/staff efforts which 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.
As you read this article, I will probably be at WRJ Biennial in San Diego, or at least getting ready to go. While there, I will be collecting ideas, meeting with other women to get their ideas for things to do and fund raising tips. I will also be officially accepting my position on the National Board of Women for Reform Judaism. Let me thank all of you who have made me look good. My local board and the members who help when called upon have allowed me to come to a place where I can be a part of the larger group of women who make ‘Sisterhood’ their middle name. I thank all of you who support me and the programs that have come about during my tenure as President of one of the greatest Sisterhoods on the planet. As I continue to serve our Congregation and the Sisterhoods of the Women of Reform Judaism, I will be in awe of what women can accomplish together.

By the way, as Rob Davidson takes on significant duties on the Temple Board, he is giving up his picnic responsibilities. We are looking for someone to come forward and “fill his shoes.”

It was but five days later that there was ushering for the two days of Yom Kippur which needed to be done. Friday night saw a very full sanctuary so there was a great need to manage the parking deck and sanctuary. Again, I am happy to report no emergency incidents were reported.

Since Sukkot follows closely after Yom Kippur, the building of the sukkahs (in the breezeway and on the bima) took place. Again, we must have had fifteen people, brotherhood members and others, contributing their efforts. While building the structures was our job, the decorations were left to the Religious school and youth organizations.

Thanks to brotherhood members for all their time and efforts. The first two weeks of September made a significant demand on our organization. We were happy to be able to provide these services so that congregants could enjoy these annual celebrations.

Happy Hanukkah to all!

Respectfully submitted by
John J. Marshak
**ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO AT BETH AHABAH**

The more things change, the more they remain the same.

1913 was a difficult year for our congregation. Problems existed that were both internal and external, but both were solved to a great extent by our elected officers and the cooperation of the members.

The external problem concerned the intent of the School Board to begin each day with a bible reading. Then, as now, that meant a reading with largely Christian content and emphasis. Both Jewish and Christian members of the clergy protested this plan.

The internal problem was financial in nature. Members and others were not paying their agreed-upon dues, and there was a deficit for the year of $2,308. This may not sound like much, but it represented a large percentage of the annual budget. I used the term “members and others” intentionally. It appears that in 1913 there were two categories of persons at Beth Ahabah, Members and Seat Holders. Back then it was possible to reserve a specific seat in a certain pew for about $30 per year, and many did so. It appeared, however, than many Seat Holders were delinquent in their payments which contributed to the annual shortfall.

This distinction between Members and Seat Holders was itself somewhat controversial. It seemed that the Union of American Hebrew Congregations wanted a greater annual contribution than the $150 that Rabbi Calisch had told them they would be receiving. In November of 1913 the congregation assured them that Beth Ahabah had less than 150 members, but acknowledged that there were paying seat holders in addition. I plan to research further to see what the rights and responsibilities were for these two classes of “member.” I’m sure that after 100 years, the UAHC is much more reasonable about its financial requests.

There were paid singers in the choir back then, and in July their compensation was set at $35 per month for the soprano, $30 for the contralto, and $40 for the baritone. Draw your own conclusions.

As I said before, the more things change the more they remain the same.

Visit us at 1109 West Franklin from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm, Sunday through Thursday. Other times are available by appointment to accommodate your visiting friends and family, or for special occasions.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

Jewish Trivia

**BETH AHAHAB ONCE STOOD AT 11TH & MARSHALL STREETS**

In 1957, The Nelson Clinic at VCU Medical Center, 11th and Marshall Street, was built on the site of the first two Beth Ahabah Synagogue buildings. The first had been constructed in 1848, and was replaced by a larger building in 1880, That building was sold to Sir Moses Montefiore Congregation when Beth Ahabah moved to its present location on West Franklin Street in 1904.

**Currently on Exhibit in the Galleries**

- Justice Wheels - a series of sculptural assemblages by artist Linda Gissen - Opens December 9th
- Edith Lindeman Calisch - in the Fairman Gallery
- That You’ll Remember Me: Jewish Voices of the Civil War
- Commonwealth & Community - in the Fairman Gallery

**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.
CALENDAR

DECEMBER 2013*

M 02  Midrasha Monday  6:00 PM
W 04  Midweek Hebrew  6:00 PM
F 06  Brotherhood Shabbat Dinner
      Brotherhood Shabbat Service  7:30 PM
S 07  BALM–Beth Ahabah Loves Movies  4:00 PM
S 08  Religious School  9:15 AM
      Electives Sunday for 4th, 5th & 6th grade
M 09  Midrasha Monday  6:00 PM
W 11  Midweek Hebrew  6:00 PM
F 13  Gumenick Chapel Shabbat
      Service  7:30 PM
S 15  Religious School  9:15 AM
F 20  Gumenick Chapel Shabbat
      Service  7:30 PM
F 27  Gumenick Chapel Shabbat
      Service  7:30 PM

* Calendar information is subject to change, please check the calendar online at bethahabah.org

JANUARY 2014*

F 03  Gumenick Chapel Shabbat
      Service  7:30 PM
S 05  Religious School  9:15 AM
M 06  Midrasha Monday  6:00 PM
W 08  Midweek Hebrew  6:00 PM
F 10  6th and 7th Grade Shabbat Dinner
      Family Shabbat Service
      w/Ruach Chadash  7:30 PM
S 11  Bar Mitzvah of Brent Novey  10:30 AM
      BALM–Beth Ahabah Loves Movies  4:00 PM
S 12  Religious School  9:15 AM
      Fourth Grade Gesher  9:30 AM
M 13  Midrasha Monday  6:00 PM
W 15  Midweek Hebrew  6:00 PM
F 17  Congregational Shabbat Dinner
      225th Anniversary Shabbat Service
      featuring Prof. Jonathan Sarna  7:30 PM
S 18  B’not Mitzvah of Hannah Levy and Jenna Woodburn  10:30 AM
      225th Anniversary Scholar-in-Residence Retreat
W 22  Midweek Hebrew  6:00 PM
F 24  Shabbat Service  7:30 PM
S 25  Bar Mitzvah of Sam Buxbaum  10:30 AM
W 29  Midweek Hebrew  6:00 PM

Upcoming deadlines for editorial submissions and advertising in B’Yachad
FEBRUARY/MARCH issue
Friday, December 27th
APRIL issue
Friday, March 21st
TEMPLE STAFF
Martin P. Beifield Jr. Sophia and Nathan Gumenick Senior Rabbi*  
Jesse Gallop Associate Rabbi*  
Russell M. Finer, FSA Executive Director*  
Ramona Brand Education Director*  
Dr. Jack D. Spiro Rabbi Emeritus  
Frances T. Goldman Cantor Emerita  
Natan Berenshteyn Music Director & Accompanist  
Sarah Beck-Berman Cantorial Soloist  

TEMPLE OFFICERS
Charles Rothenberg President*  
Katie Rooper 1st Vice President*  
Lawrence Salzmann 2nd Vice President*  
Robert Davidson Treasurer*  
Ronald Kasoff Immediate Past President*  

TEMPLE AUXILIARIES
Shelly Berger Museum & Archives Chairman  
David B. Farris Museum & Archives Director  
William B. Thalhimer III Hebrew Cemetery Chairman  
Meg Marshak WRJ President  
John Marshak MRJ President  

BOARD OF MANAGERS
Karyn Andersen  
Carol Ann Callahan*  
Melissa Demiein  
Heather Dinkin  
Dana Isaacoff  
Lisa Kaplan*  
Brian Meyer  
Daniel Rosenthal  
Larry Salomon  
Laura Savage  
Charley Scher  
Joel Silverman  
Lori Skiles  
Dehmis Stewart  
James Weinberg*  

* Executive Committee Member

WEBSITE 101
Learn to navigate the new Congregation Beth Ahabah website  
Sunday, January 26th  
9:30 am  
Joel House  
Bring your laptop or tablet with you to class!