by Linda Ferguson

On November 9, 2012, seven of your fellow congregants and friends as well as Rabbis Beifeld and Gallop headed for Greensboro, North Carolina for a Regional Shabbaton. Sponsored by Temple Emanuel and the idea and planning of its Rabbi Fred Gutman, we were involved in prayer, education, music and, of course....food.

Our group was joined by about 70 members of Temple Emanuel and about the same number from congregations around the Mid Atlantic Region. We began the Shabbaton with a delicious Shabbat dinner at Temple Emanuel on Friday evening, followed by services that included an outstanding D’var Torah by Rabbi Jonah Pesner, Senior Vice President of the Union for Reform Judaism. Rabbi Pesner’s theme was “Re-imaging Reform Judaism,” which included comments about community....large and small ....and the work needed to build our synagogue communities in our cities, regions, country and around the world....in other words, the need to strengthen Reform Judaism through community.

Saturday morning we had Shabbat Services at Temple Emanuel and Rabbi Gutman led us in prayer and music. He also talked about the need for community and belonging. The choir and two cantorial soloists provided beautiful music Friday night and Saturday morning. Our luncheon speaker was Rabbi David Saperstein Director and Counsel of the Religious Action Center, one of the most significant religious lobby groups in the country. Rabbi Saperstein is one of the most dynamic figures in our movement, and is known world-wide. He provided us with much needed analysis of the recent election both from a Jewish and a political perspective. The afternoon was filled with study groups and programs. Rabbi Beifeld, current CBA Vice President Katy Roeper, and Past President Earl Ferguson presented an workshop on leadership development. It was one of several excellent workshops that were presented.

Dinner was provided by Six Points Sports Academy, a URJ summer sports camp, at the American Hebrew Academy in Greensboro. After dinner we were entertained by the wonderful music of the Josh Nelson Project.

The 24+ hours provided us with a wonderful opportunity to pray, talk and build community with members of our sister congregations around our area. It is the start of our embracing the opportunity to reach out and bring in new friends and enhance our spirituality around our region.

The Union for Reform Judaism and Women of Reform Judaism will meet for their Biennials in San Diego in December 2013, with members from North America, Israel, and Australia. Please join us in this wonderful experience. Also when you hear about another Shabbaton in our area, be sure to attend. It’s a wonderful way to enhance your Reform Jewish experience.
by Rabbi Martin P. Beifield, Jr.

Once again Americans are talking about guns. The terrible tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary School has reopened the same debate which we’ve had before, usually after another mass murder perpetrated by someone with a gun. Suggestions for what to do range from the completely impossible - repeal the second amendment - to the completely nonsensical - arm every teacher - and everywhere in between. I would like to think we could all agree that there are too many weapons in our country and too many weapons in the hands of people who ought not have them, and that it is too easy to get around the laws which regulate guns. Without even asking people to raise their hands, I am probably wrong. Maybe we can all agree that there is too much gun violence in our country and insufficient effort to reduce it. That is at least some place to start a discussion.

Instruct Vice President Biden’s task force on gun violence to assess the impact on society of the widespread and graphic violence in media, including video games, movies, TV shows, and the typical evening news programs, and orchestrate a national campaign, much like the one to get people to use seat-belts in cars, to lessen it.

Make mental health diagnosis and treatment a national priority.

Prohibit the manufacture, importation, possession, transfer, and purchase of assault weapons except for the military and law enforcement officials.

Prohibit the manufacture, importation, possession, transfer, and purchase of high capacity ammunition magazines except for the military and law enforcement officials.

Require all sellers of weapons to conduct background checks on prospective buyers and close the gun show “loophole,” which allows unlicensed people to sell guns without making background checks on prospective buyers. Forty percent of gun sales in the United States fall into this category.

Insist on and enforce reporting by states to the National Instant Criminal Check system.

Increase and improve enforcement of laws prohibiting the buying and selling of illegal guns.

In Jewish tradition, it is forbidden to have dangerous things in one’s home lest they cause harm to others. One may not sell a weapon to another person if there is a fear that the weapon will be used inappropriately. Jewish tradition also permits a person to act in self-defense. How to balance these principles in a modern society is a challenge which defies simple answers. Even so, that does not excuse us from the obligation to try. Surely we can do better than we are doing now.

President’s Thoughts

by Ron Kasoff

We’re looking for a few good people. The Marines say that and so do we. We need leaders at Beth Ahabah at all levels, now and in the future. We need leaders to run programs, engage others, chair committees, participate on the Board of Managers, be officers and much more. Fortunately Beth Ahabah has been blessed with bright, engaged people who want to take action and fully participate in the congregation’s activity. Getting involved is easy: start by being on a committee, volunteer to help in an event, join WRJ, MRJ or BAMA, organize a Havurah. The Leadership Development Committee looks for active members and tries to match them with an appropriate fit, helping the officers to insure that we have positions filled with capable leaders and others working to follow in their steps. The first step is to become an active participant and then see where your enthusiasm and abilities take you and the Temple.

It’s Passover! Time to read Haggadah, enjoy a warm seder and have a joyous time with your family, friends and loved ones.

Warm wishes from the Board of Directors, Clergy & Temple Staff
AN UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCE
By Claire Mendelson

My first NFTY experience was, in a word, unforgettable.

From November 16 – 18 at Ohef Shalom Temple in Norfolk, Virginia, I met some amazing people, participated in lots of group activities, and even learned how to swing dance! I enjoyed every moment of it, and the weekend left a great impression on me.

After a long and loud bus ride on Friday to Norfolk, it was nice to mingle at a quick Shabbat dinner before heading to services. An entirely paperless service (the prayers, songs, and even a streaming video of the Torah were projected on to a screen above the bimah), this Shabbat was completely different from anything I’d ever experienced before. Saturday was filled with many different activities, including mixers, song sessions, and reflections on current events such as Sandy and the conflict in Israel. The theme this year was “everyone needs an original moment”, which was incorporated into some of our rotations as we discussed maintaining our own identities while remaining a contributing member of our communities.

My favorite part of the entire weekend came that evening, when we all gathered for Havdallah and a dance. The Havdallah service was beautiful, with everyone gathered together in one big circle complete with sparklers. The surprise of the evening was that everyone arrived dressed in 1920s attire, and following the conclusion of Shabbat, we broke off into smaller groups where we received lessons in swing dancing in addition to learning about the invention of the waffle cone and playing a game of “Jewpardy”.

We then honed our new swing dancing skills in the social hall, where a live band played the entire night. As a perfect end to the evening, confetti rained down on us as we sang the NFTY cheer.

The weekend concluded with a friendship circle on Sunday morning and tearful goodbyes as we departed for home. I made so many new friends, and have found a community of Jewish teens that is absolutely amazing. My first NFTY experience was unforgettable.
by Melissa Nelson

The summer before ninth grade, I was on my way to overnight camp for four weeks at URJ’s Camp Harlam. I was, to say the least, a little nervous. As it turned out, I worried for nothing. I absolutely loved camp. When the next summer came about, I was on my way, this time excited, to spend another month at camp.

The two summers spent at Camp Harlam created some of my best memories – singing loudly during Shabbat song sessions, cheering for my color war team, having a campfire in the morning on backwards day, and best of all, new friends, and the laughs had and memories made with them.

My favorite part of camp was the Shabbat song sessions. They were sung with so much energy, spirit and enthusiasm that you couldn’t help wanting to join in, even if it meant you had to mumble a little at first, unsure of what the words were. But what is really special about those song sessions is that, during a Hebrew song, you look around you, see all those people singing it, and you realize something. They’re all Jewish, and you’re Jewish too. It’s so cool, being with other people who are like you, and who understand that part of you. Going to a Jewish camp was one of the best experiences of my life, and I’m glad that I had the chance to go.

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR JEWISH SUMMER EXPERIENCES

All Beth Ahabah young adults are strongly encouraged to attend a Jewish camp or to visit Israel this summer. To help make this more financially feasible students are encouraged to apply for a scholarship from the temple (Priority is given to participants in URJ sponsored programs and applications are due back to Russ Finer no later than February 11).

There are many terrific URJ sponsored programs in which our children can participate. Children entering 2nd grade through college can take advantage of them.

To request a scholarship application or to learn more about these wonderful opportunities, please contact Russ Finer or Rabbi Gallop.

CELEBRATE PURIM
MARCH 23rd & 24th
Knowing how busy we all are and how we feel so much stress so much of the time, I thought I should share the following with you:

STRESS

A lecturer, when explaining stress management to an audience, raised a glass of water and asked “How heavy is this glass of water?” Answers called out ranged from 20g to 500g.

The lecturer replied, “The absolute weight doesn’t matter. It depends on how long you try to hold it. If I hold it for a minute, that’s not a problem. If I hold it for an hour, I’ll have an ache in my right arm. If I hold it for a day, you’ll have to call an ambulance. In each case, it’s the same weight, but the longer I hold it, the heavier it becomes.”

He continued, “And that’s the way it is with stress management. If we carry our burdens all the time, sooner or later, as the burden becomes increasingly heavy, we won’t be able to carry on.”

“As with the glass of water, you have to put it down for a while and rest before holding it again. When we are refreshed, we can carry on with the burden.”

“So before you return home tonight, put the burden of work down. Don’t carry it home, you can pick it up tomorrow. Whatever burdens you’re now carrying, let them down for a moment if you can.”

So, my friend put down everything that may be a burden to you right now. Don’t pick it up again until after you’ve rested a while.”

Here are some great ways to deal with the burdens of life:

Accept that some days you are the pigeon, and some days you are the statue.

Always keep your words soft and sweet, just in case you have to eat them.

Always read stuff that will make you look good if you die in the middle of it.

Drive carefully. It’s not only cars that can be recalled by their maker.

If you can’t be kind, at least have the decency to be vague.

If you lend someone $25 and never see that person again, it was probably worth it.

It may be that your sole purpose in life is simply to be kind to others.

Never put both feet in your mouth at the same time because then you won’t have a leg to stand on.

Nobody cares if you can’t dance well. Just get up and dance.

Since it’s the early worm that gets eaten by the bird, sleep late.

The second mouse gets the cheese.

When everything is going your way, you’re in the wrong lane.

Birthdays are good for you. The more you have, the longer you live.

You may be only one person in the world, but you may also be the world to one person.

Some mistakes are too much fun to make only once.

We could learn a lot from crayons…some are sharp, some are pretty and some are dull, some have weird names and all are different colors, but they all live in the same box.

A truly happy person is one who can enjoy the scenery on a detour.

Have an awesome day and know that someone has thought about you today.

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ADVERTISE IN OUR NEW PRINTED BULLETIN:

Congregation Beth Ahabah is again going to PRINT B’Yachad, the Temple bulletin. Now is your chance to let congregants know you are a part of their community. Advertise your business, practice or service and more than 800 households will see it. Remember, congregants like to support their community.

We will need a camera ready copy or TIF, JPG, EPS, TIFF or PDF file.

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Discount 15% if ad purchased for all issues in the 2013-2014 year. Full and half page ads will be accepted on a space available basis.

Because of Postage regulations, we are unable to accept advertising for the following:

- Credit, debit or charge cards
- Insurance policies
- Travel agencies

If you are interested in purchasing an ad to support the temple, please contact Russ Finer at (804) 358-6757 ext. 302
by Rabbi Martin P. Beifield, Jr.

Celebrating Passover at home each year can be one of the most meaningful, enjoyable, andmemorable Jewish experiences of a lifetime. It involves two parts. One is the seder; the other isthe food that we eat (or don’t eat) during Passover’s seven days. First the seder. Passover has severalimportant themes. Among them are the exodus of the ancient Hebrews from Egyptian slavery; the meaning of freedom; and the cycle of nature and rebirth of spring. With prayer, music, readings, and symbolic foods, the seder explains all of this in rich, step-by-step detail. Participating in a seder is the essential ingredient of Passover observance.

**Seder Setup**

At each seder, participants eat several foods which symbolize different themes associated with Passover. The Haggadah clearly explains what each means and when to eat what.

All of the symbolic foods are also placed on a “seder plate” which the leader refers to at the appropriate times. While one can use any plate for this, many families own ceremonial seder plates which are used just at Passover time. Incidentally, seder plates make wonderful gifts, especially for weddings.

In preparing for the seder, one must have enough of the ceremonial foods for each participant. If there are many people, it may take a long time to pass the dishes and serve everybody. Instead, it might be helpful to prepare smaller, individual seder plates at each person’s place.

*Regardless of how you prepare, here’s what you need:*

**Matzah**

Three full-sized pieces go on a plate (some people have special ceremonial plates for this, too) next to the seder plate. When the Haggadah tells the leader to break the middle Matzah and hide one half as the afikomen, it is referring to the Matzah on this plate. In addition, each participant will need four bite-sized pieces during the seder.

**Parsley**

Everybody needs one sprig which is dipped into salt water. Some people have bowls of salt water on the table, others “pre-dip” the parsley. In addition, a sprig of parsley goes on the seder plate.

**Bitter Herbs**

This is horseradish. Each person needs two small pieces. In addition, a large slice of the root goes on the seder plate.

**Charoset**

This is more commonly pronounced with the old fashioned spelling: charoses. The accent for both is on the middle syllable. Charoset is a mixture of chopped apples, raisins, nuts, cinnamon, and wine. Some people make it as a paste but most just chop the apples into small pieces. Each person only needs a spoonful but many families place bowls on the table for later. In addition, Charoset goes on the seder plate.

**Wine**

Traditionally, people drink four cups of wine during the seder. These days one sets a better example for children by sipping four times. The Haggadah tells you when to do this and when only to raise the cup and replace it untasted. One also places a ceremonial cup on the table for the prophet Elijah. After dinner, the seder explains the meaning.

The large seder plate also contains two other ceremonial items. One is a roasted egg, which just sits on the plate and is not explained. Some families give each participant a hard boiled egg but don’t look too hard for directions about eating it. The Haggadah won’t tell you. The other is a roasted lamb shank the meaning of which is contained in the seder.

The parsley is dipped and eaten early in the seder. Later people eat a piece of Matzah alone, then a piece of horseradish with Matzah, then a Matzah sandwich of horseradish and Charoset. Except for the sandwich, there is a prayer for each. The Haggadah will guide you through all along the way.

**Haggadah**

Everybody attending the seder needs a Haggadah so they can follow along and actively participate. One person serves as leader and should plan out the service in advance. The Haggadah is a mini-library; the leader should pick and choose keeping in mind the length of the seder and who is at the table. There are lots of different Haggadahs and it can be a challenge to find one which is appropriate for your group. The Internet is the place to go.

Now, the foods we eat and don’t eat all week. The rules are fairly simple and straightforward but when it comes to eating, each family “dots its own i’s and crosses its own t’s.” During Passover we do eat Matzah. We don’t eat chametz - bread, cake, pasta, and cereals. More precisely, we do not eat foods which are leavened or made from five leavened grains: wheat, corn, oats, rye, and spelts (don’t ask!). Some people don’t eat legumes because they swell up when cooked, i.e. they act like a leavened product. Most people, including Israelis, eat legumes.

There are lots of variations and extensions of these rules and anyone who wants to know more should call the Temple office which will put you in touch with one of our designated Passover maven.
This short description of Purim comes from the website of the Union for Reform Judaism. There is more about Purim on the URJ website. Here's the link: http://urj.org/holidays/purim/

“Purim is celebrated by the reading of the Scroll of Esther, known in Hebrew as the Megillat Esther, which relates the basic story of Purim. Under the rule of King Ahashuerus, Haman, the King’s prime minister, plots to exterminate all of the Jews of Persia. His plan is foiled by Queen Esther and her cousin Mordechai, who ultimately save the Jews of the land from destruction. The reading of the megillah is typically a rowdy affair, punctuated by booing and noise-making when Haman’s name is read aloud.

“Purim is an unusual holiday in many respects. First, Esther is the only Book of the Bible in which God is not mentioned. Second, Purim, like Hanukkah, is viewed traditionally as a minor festival, but elevated to a major holiday as a result of the Jewish historical experience. Over the centuries, Haman became the embodiment of every anti-Semite in every land where Jews were oppressed. The significance in Purim lies not so much in how it began, but in what it has become - a thankful and joyous affirmation of Jewish survival against all odds.

At Beth Ahabah, Rabbi Gallop will devote his sermon to Purim on February 22nd, and we’ll have our annual Purim Shpiel on February 24th at 7:15 pm. On Sunday, February 24th, the community-wide Purim Carnival is at the JCC starting at noon.

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**PURIM**

by Rabbi Martin P. Beified, Jr.

This recipe makes enough to send out to relatives or feed a large party. You can reduce the recipe. The prune butter also stores well, and the dough works nicely for other pastries.

**Ingredients**

For the prune butter:
- 3 pounds pitted prunes, ideally tart ones
- Juice of 1 large lemon (or more if your prunes aren’t tart)
- 2 to 3 tablespoons sugar
- Water

For the dough:
- 4 cups flour
- 4 eggs
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- A pinch of salt
- 1 cup of oil
- 3 tablespoons of warm water
- Zest of 2 lemons
- 1 cup sugar

For assembly:
- Melted butter, about one stick
- Extra flour

**Method**

**For the prune butter:**
1. Put prunes in large pot. Add lemon juice and sugar.
2. In a separate pot, boil water. Pour boiling water over the prunes.
3. Cook the prunes on medium heat for 20 minutes. Turn heat off, cover, and let them sit overnight in the pot on the stove.
4. The next morning, beat the prunes in a mixer on low until they form a smooth mixture, with no pieces of skin visible. The consistency should be a smooth enough purée that it can drop off a spoon.

**For the dough:**
5. Make a pile of flour, baking powder and salt. Dig a well into the middle.
6. Put two eggs in the middle with half the oil and water, half the sugar, and half the lemon rind. Do not break the flour walls.
7. With a fork, use gentle circular motions to mix flour into the middle from the walls while keeping the walls solid.
8. Gradually, very slowly, add the rest of the eggs, oil, water, sugar and lemon rind until everything is mixed in. Finally, mix in the rest of the walls. Your dough will be very sticky. Use a dough scraper to scrape it up. Knead it with small dustings of flour (not too much extra) until you get a nice, silky dough. Wrap it up in waxed paper and put it in the fridge overnight.

**Assembly:**

9. Cut the dough into three segments. On a floured surface, roll out one segment evenly to about 1/8” thick.
10. Melt some butter in a dish and set aside with a pastry brush.

11. Dip an inverted glass or 2- or 3-inch-diameter glass or cookie cutter into flour and use it to cut as many circular pieces of dough as possible, re-dipping into flour as needed. Paint an X of melted butter onto the center of each circle with the brush.
12. Using two teaspoons, place a small amount of prune butter in the center of each circle, on top of the butter. If you use too much they will fall apart.
13. Lift up the edges of the circle so they form a triangle. Gently pinch each corner closed.
14. Bake at 375 degrees for about 12 minutes. The corners should be just slightly golden-brown. Watch them near the end because they go from golden to burnt very easily.


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Beth Ahabah Religious School staff joined a delegation of 32 Jewish educators to Israel this December/January. We spent 10 wonderful days as part of the P2G (Partnership Together) program that brings educators from sister cities in the United States and Israel together for a week of learning, sharing and connecting. Fourteen Jewish educators from Richmond joined educators from Jacksonville, FL; Knoxville and Chattanooga, TN and Charlotte, NC. From December 23rd to January 2nd we participated in a conference that took us to the Hadera region in northern Israel where we had a comprehensive interactive program with schools, museums and industries in the area. Of course no trip to Israel would be complete without a visit to Jerusalem. Several of our members also traveled to Masada and the Dead Sea. We truly enjoyed the sites, food, shopping, learning, sharing and new friendships made. In addition to wonderful memories and thousands of pictures, we brought back to our schools a new connection with teachers, students and educators. We look forward to forging stronger and more personal bonds with our new friends in Israel through exciting school programs and personal interactions. Many thanks to the Jewish Community Federation of Richmond and the Richmond Council of Jewish Educators for their generous financial support.
AMERICAN JEWISH HISTORY

As part of our American Jewish History curriculum the 7th grade will visit Monticello on Sunday, March 3rd.

The focus of the trip is Thomas Jefferson's 1786 Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom and its impact on the Jewish community.

The students will also learn about the Levy family, who saved and restored Monticello after Jefferson's death in 1826.

We are fortunate to have this interesting opportunity to learn more about our American Jewish heritage!

UPCOMING ADULT EDUCATION SESSIONS:

The Megillot of Esther and Ruth with Rabbi Beifield
Sunday, February 10th
9:30 AM
During the 6th Grade Gesher

The Diversity of Judaism in Israel with Rabbi Beifield
Sunday, March 10th
9:30 AM
During the 5th Grade Gesher

UPCOMING FAMILY SHABBAT DINNERS:

Make your reservations now!
4th & 5th Grade
Family Dinner & Shabbat
Friday, February 8th

6th & 7th Grade
Family Dinner & Shabbat
Friday, March 8th
For reservations contact Ramona or Lori Lacy (l.lacy@bethahabah.org).

UPCOMING RUAH CHADASH & ETZ CHAYIM CHOIR PERFORMANCES

Friday, February 8th
at Shabbat Services following the 4th & 5th Grade Family dinner.

Friday, March 8th
at Shabbat Services following the 6th & 7th Grade Family dinner.

J-Town Chanukah Celebration at KDW Home

Thank you so much to Cathy and Marvin Daniels for hosting J-Town's Chanukah Celebration this past weekend. It was great fun for everyone who attended.

KDW Home is dedicated to helping you realize a higher level of enjoyment, sophistication and pride in your home. Nowhere else will you find our unique combination of experienced, inspired design professionals, exclusive product lines and meticulous installation teams. Visit www.kdwhome.com to learn more about KDW.

Purim Shabbat Service
Shabbat Services on Friday, February 22nd will be a worship service in the spirit of Purim ~ a fun and whimsical Shabbat experience ~
Isabel Catheryn Longstaff
February 2, 2013

Isabel Longstaff will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on February 2, 2013. She is the daughter of Melissa and Steven Longstaff and sister to Sara Jane, Audrey and Benjamin Longstaff.

Isabel is an 8th grade honor student at Midlothian Middle School. She serves as a Madrichim at Beth Ahabah and loves animals, lacrosse, swimming, photography and music.

For her Mitzvah Project, Isabel held a 5K “Blue Butterfly” run to benefit Breanna’s Gift, a non-profit organization that brings the arts to children with cancer and other serious illnesses. The event raised over $2,500 for her charity.

We are very proud of Isabel, and look forward to celebrating this special milestone with family and friends.

Robert Boswell
February 16, 2013

Robert Boswell, son of Cindy Boswell and Rob and Carolyn Boswell, will be called to The Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on February 16th, 2013. He is the older brother of Michael Boswell, and the grandson of Susan and Howard Spielberg and Fran and Fred Boswell.

Robert is a seventh grade honor student at Chickahominy Middle School. He enjoys playing baseball, basketball and football. Robert also enjoys Jewish summer camp and attended 6 Points Sports Academy for the past three years. For his Mitzvah Project, Robert combined his passion for baseball and his compassion for people with special needs and became a “buddy” for a baseball player in the Richmond Miracle League.

Robert’s family is very proud of him and looks forward to celebrating with family, friends and the congregation.

Jacob Paul Gordon
March 16, 2013

Jacob Gordon will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on March 16, 2013. Jacob is the son of Jeremy and Libby Gordon and younger brother of Anna-Suzanne.

Jacob is a seventh grader at Pocahontas Middle School. He swims on the YMCA Tritons travel swim team, plays the cello, and enjoys gaming.

Owen Michael Scher
March 23, 2013

Owen Scher will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on March 23, 2013. Owen is the son of Charley and Anne Scher and older brother of Katie. His grandparents are Norman and Joyce Scher of Richmond and Jack and Nancy Gaines of Maurertown, Virginia.

Owen is a 7th grade honor student at Collegiate School. He enjoys playing football, basketball, baseball, and lacrosse, and also loves reading and video games. Owen is a big fan of Duke, UVA, the Redskins, and the Orioles. For his Mitzvah Project, Owen volunteered with the Miracle League of Richmond, an organization that provides an opportunity for children with disabilities to play baseball. Games are played on a special rubberized field in Chesterfield County. Owen served as a buddy for a Miracle League player at the plate and in the field this past fall.

Ilan Chueca
March 16, 2013

Ilan Chueca, the son of Miguel Chueca and Ruth Felsen, and older brother of Shoshana Chueca, will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on March 16. He is the grandson of Harry and Marion Felsen (Silver Spring, MD) and of Oswaldo and Maria Luisa Chueca (Lima, Peru).

Ilan is an honors student in the gifted program at Manchester Middle School. He plays tenor saxophone in the Manchester MS band as well as in Ruach Chadash. He has earned a blue belt in Tae Kwon Do, and also enjoys sailing, ping pong, and video games. For his Mitzvah Project, Ilan designed holiday cards and organized his classmates to write notes and sign the cards, which he then sent to soldiers in the US Armed Forces.
by Meg Marshak, President

WOMEN GET READY TO CELEBRATE, CELEBRATE, CELEBRATE!

March 1 and 2 are fast approaching and the Celebration is about to begin. Your Sisterhood is planning a very event filled weekend and you should plan on attending all or at least some of the events. You should have received you invitation via the mail. Please respond and join us for our fantastic weekend.

We are excited to share the weekend with the Immediate National Past President of the Women of Reform Judaism. Roseanne Selfon will deliver our Sermon on Friday evening, facilitate a Leadership Training session on Saturday morning and be our honored guest at the Centennial Tea on Saturday afternoon.

We will begin the weekend with Erev Shabbat Services at 7:30 in the Sanctuary. This service has been written for the participation of all Sisterhoods. 600 Sisterhoods from around the world will use this service on Friday Evening March 1. Our service will feature the Women’s Choir women leading the service and a few surprises. This service promises to be inspiring and filled with music and prayer to claim everyone’s spiritual side and attention.

Saturday brings on two exciting events. Rosanne will conduct a Leadership Forum, on Saturday morning. If you are interested in increasing your leadership skills, please let one of the people listed at the bottom of the article know of you interest.

Saturday also brings the big event known at the Centennial Tea. So choose your decade and dress for the occasion (as your mother or grandmother would have). We expect to see tea party dresses, gloves, hats maybe even high button shoes. Get those duds ready and we will have an old fashioned afternoon with many surprises.

We still have space for you to participate. Sing in the choir, of all women (rehearsals start February 4, at 7:00pm in the Chapel). Read at the Shabbat Service, contribute a good or service to the silent auction, (at the Tea), or express an interest in learning more about leadership, call or e-mail Meg Marshak 746-2918, meg.marshak@comcast.net and request your spot or for more information. You may also contact: Linda Ferguson at lindaferguson99@gmail.com or Katie Rooper at katie.roeper@gmail.com

Please RSVP to your invitation so we know who is coming to what event.

The Centennial Committee hopes to see all of the women at Beth Ahabah participating in one of the events of the weekend. As I said before GET READY TO CELEBRATE!

Brotherhood has just completed another successful round of latke madness that served to make our annual Hanukkah party even more special. Members of Brotherhood and Sisterhood joined forces to crank out 120 pounds of delicious latkes. How many did you eat? But, of course, who’s counting? I noticed many new faces this year and was excited that so many folks took the time to get involved. Everyone who participated deserves our thanks for their dedication and time. I would especially like to recognize Rob Davidson for coordinating this event.

Are you ready for some hoops? The Brotherhood has purchased tickets for the University of Richmond basketball game on Saturday night, February 9th. These tickets are available at a great discount and will make for a wonderful family event. Please contact Rob Davidson for details at rob.davidson@aftonchemicals.com or 804.794.2519. There are a limited number of seats so don’t delay. Hint: there will also be food involved.

Get ready for the annual Purim Carnival which will be held at the Weinstein JCC on Sunday, February 24th, following religious school. Brotherhood members are needed to volunteer for the many different roles that need to be filled. Please contact John Marshak at jjmarshak@vcu.edu or Alan Corbett at alan.corbett@comcast.net if you would like to participate.

On Sunday, March 17th at 6 PM we will hold a Men’s Seder in the Joel House. This is a wonderful opportunity to interact with fellow members and discuss topics of interest and interact over a special meal. Please contact Ken Rooper at roepers@comcast.net to reserve your place.

Thanks to all for your continued support of our programs. If you have any ideas or thoughts, please feel free to contact me at martinjmiller@comcast.net.

Yours in Brotherhood,
Martin J. Miller, president
By David Farris, Director

Rabbis are seldom shy when it comes to going after things that are good for their congregations and for Judaism. Maximilian Michelbacher, Beth Ahabah’s first rabbi, was no exception.

In 1861, he was concerned by the fact that many Jewish soldiers serving in the Confederate army were not being allowed time off to attend High Holy Days services. Not being a shy man, he went straight to the top to request a solution to this situation – he wrote directly to General Lee. In the formal manner of the times, he wrote “. . . I deem it my duty to beg of you the favor in the name of God, whom we all of us do worship, to give furlough to the soldiers of Jewish persuasion under your command.” Lee replied: “It would give me great pleasure to comply with a request so earnestly urged by you... But the necessities of war admit of no relaxation of the effort requisite for its success.” In other words, they could not be spared at that time.

Not discouraged, Michelbacher wrote to Lee again several years later asking clemency for a Jewish soldier who had been sentenced to death for desertion. He met with more success this time, but that’s another story for another day.

Visit the Museum & Archives for more information on the outcome of this second appeal, and for other stories of the Jews in the Civil War era and how they survived and thrived in that difficult time.

Currently on Exhibit in the Galleries:
• That You’ll Remember Me: Jewish Voice 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.

Always ask for what you want. You just might get it!

The famous “Trefa Banquet” Fork

This small, but historic, object was donated by Virginia (Nikki) Fairman.*

In July 1883, Rabbi Isaac Mayer Wise, founder of Hebrew Union College, hosted a first-class banquet to celebrate the first graduating class. Since Jews of many persuasions were invited, he hired a prominent Jewish caterer named Gus Lindeman to provide the meal. Gus, for reasons not fully known, served several items forbidden by the orthodox dietary laws (“Tref”), causing several of the guest rabbis to walk out and triggering much controversy in the media. Since there is much scholarly discussion of this to be found online, we need not go into detail here. Google “Trefa Banquet” for more details and interesting history.

This fork, bearing the name “Lindeman” prominently, could easily have been used in the famous (or infamous) banquet.

Nikki Fairman, daughter of Edith Lindeman Calisch and a descendant of Gus’s, inherited the fork and has entrusted it to us. At present it is prominently displayed at the National Museum of American Jewish History in Philadelphia, but will return to Richmond where it can be seen, touched, and perhaps used to commemorate this milestone in the history of Reform Judaism in America.

Treasures from the Collection

Nikki Fairman, daughter of Edith Lindeman Calisch and a descendant of Gus’s, inherited the fork and has entrusted it to us. At present it is prominently displayed at the National Museum of American Jewish History in Philadelphia, but will return to Richmond where it can be seen, touched, and perhaps used to commemorate this milestone in the history of Reform Judaism in America.
by Heather Dinkin

Mark Sunday, May 5th on your calendar because the Mitzvah Day Committee and a team of committed Project Leaders are gearing up for another busy, productive and fun day of service. The Religious School classes and volunteers of all ages will have the opportunity to participate in 13 worthy projects that will have both local and global benefit.

Those that want to get outside on a Sunday in May will be able to help beautify Beth Ahabah or Binford Middle School, or plant a vegetable garden at William Byrd Community House. Some can choose to put on gloves and help with the annual clean up of Hebrew Cemetery. Or stay at the temple and work on a new project: Painting inspirational stones with single words or signs of peace and love for our loved ones at the Cemetery. These will then be placed in buckets for visitors to use to leave at the grave site of a loved one as an act of remembrance.

Also on site, there will be a Blood Drive, and The Pink Ribbon project that assembles education cards promoting breast health awareness. We will also be collecting cell phones, eye glasses and toiletries. There will also be a hair stylist to cut and style donors tresses for Locks of Love. Locks of Love are a public non-profit organization that provides hairpieces to financially disadvantaged children under age 21 in the United States and Canada suffering from long-term medical hair loss from any diagnosis. Ten inches of hair measured tip to tip in a pony tail is the minimum needed to for a hairpiece so start growing your hair out now!

Many of this year’s projects focus on the Jewish obligation to feed the hungry. There will again be the opportunity to cook meals or bake desserts for Hospital Hospitality House which provides lodging and non-medical services to families and individuals in medical crisis. We will also again be making bag lunches to distribute to the homeless in Monroe Park. We are excited to be adding a Stop Hunger Now food packaging event. Stop Hunger Now’s meal packaging program provides volunteers the opportunity to package dehydrated, high protein, and highly nutritious meals that are used in crisis situations and in school feeding programs for schools and orphanages in developing countries around the world. The Religious school will help promote and fund the project that will culminate with the packaging of at least 10,000 meals.

So roll up your sleeves and accept the mitzvah, we’ll see you in May!
TEMPLE FUND
IN APPRECIATION:
Lillian & Robert Lansey
IN HONOR OF:
Linda Ferguson receiving the 2012 Sam Troy Award
Nettie Opper
Ken & Katie Rooper
Babs & Larry Jackson

Elise Scherr receiving the Woman of Valor Award
Dr. & Mrs. Jerry Hirsch

The birth of Margot Elyse Zemmel, daughter of Neil & Melissa Zemmel
Gail & Al Werner

The special birthday of Mr. Norman Morgan
Gail & Al Werner

The birth of Sam Alexander LePage & Max Oliver LePage
Scott & Nancy Bellemann

The birth of Sadie Daniel
Scott & Nancy Bellemann

David Grandis speedy recovery
Scott & Nancy Bellemann

Bobby Kastenbaum’s speedy recovery
Scott & Nancy Bellemann

Gilbert & Fannie Rosenthal’s special anniversary
Marjorie Gunst
Ann Bendheim

Norman Morgan’s special birthday
Trina & Jay McElligott

IN MEMORY OF:
Harry Grandis
Karen & Barry Hofheimer
Dr. & Mrs. Jerry Hirsch

Louise Creeger
Karen & Barry Hofheimer
Ken & Katie Rooper

Rebecca Morgan
Francine & Norman Morgan

Jacob Grossman
Judith & Ike Koziol

Jane Miller, our mother
Ken & Katie Rooper

Mrs. Minnie Hirsch, Mrs. Anne Zeichner & Mr. Morris Zeichner
Dr. & Mrs. Jerry Hirsch

Eric Blumenthal
Lynn B. Stevenson

Marshall L. Lowenstein
Marilyn Lowenstein & Family

Jacob Grossman
Judith Koziol

Paul Corbett
Ira & Maureen Goldstein

Ita Brandman & Rachel Gorbaty
Ita & Alex Berenshteyn

Harry & Doris Levy
David Levy

Rose Goldstein
Judith & Isaac Koziol

THE RABBIS PHILANTHROPIC FUND
These contributions were received in response to the Annual Appeal:
Heidi Levinson
Tamara & Lawrence Gelber

IN APPRECIATION:
Tara Langley
Dena & Dan Neuwirth
Ruth Z. Perel

IN HONOR OF:
The naming of William Michael Arcarese
Barbara & Michael Arcarese
Judith & Isaac Koziol’s special anniversary
Evelyn Lampert & Martin Cohen
Evelyn & Bob Glasser
Heidi Levinson

Harry L. Cohn’s speedy recovery
Frances B. Raphael

Nancy Meyer
Robert Meyer

The birth of our granddaughter, Maya Jane Glazer-Skloot
Patsy & Don Glazer

IN MEMORY OF:
Mrs. Marian Billy Benson & Mrs. Rose Greentree Weinfeld
Bob, Debbie, David & Emily Shapiro

Susan Rosenberg
Jessica Alsiere

Charles Daren
The Daren Family

William B. Potash & Fern I. Jackson
Babs & Larry Jackson

Irving & Francis Chasen
Robert Meyer

CANTOR GOLDMAN’S MUSIC FUND
IN APPRECIATION:
Maxine & Lawrence Cohen

IN HONOR OF:
Natan Berenshteyn’s musical gifts during Brotherhood Shabbat
Ken & Katie Rooper

IN MEMORY OF:
Harry Stillerman, my father
Fern S. Cohen

BIMAH FLOWER FUND
IN MEMORY OF:
Sadie M. Levinson, Frank F. Levinson, Joseph R. Sugerman, Jean P. Sugerman & Harold J. Levinson
Heidi Levinson

An armed security guard is on duty at Hebrew Cemetery on the first and third Sundays of the month.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td><strong>TOT SHABBAT</strong> Dinner &amp; Service</td>
<td>5:30 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>SHABBAT</strong> Service</td>
<td>7:30 PM</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td><strong>BAT MITZVAH:</strong> ISABEL LONSTAFF</td>
<td>10:30 AM</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td><strong>RELIGIOUS</strong> School</td>
<td>9:15 AM</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>ETZ CHAYIM</strong> Rehearsal</td>
<td>11:30 AM</td>
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<td><strong>RUACH HADASH</strong> Rehearsal</td>
<td>11:45 AM</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td><strong>MIDRASHA</strong> Monday</td>
<td>6:30 PM</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td><strong>HEBREW</strong> Wednesday</td>
<td>5:30 PM</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td><strong>4TH &amp; 5TH GRADE SHABBAT</strong> Dinner</td>
<td>6:00 PM</td>
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<td><strong>FAMILY SHABBAT</strong> Service w/ Etz Chayim Choir</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td><strong>RELIGIOUS</strong> School</td>
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<td><strong>6TH GRADE GESHER</strong></td>
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<td>11</td>
<td><strong>MIDRASHA</strong> Monday</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td><strong>HEBREW</strong> Wednesday</td>
<td>5:30 PM</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td><strong>SHABBAT</strong> Service</td>
<td>7:30 PM</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td><strong>BAR MITZVAH:</strong> ROBERT BOSWELL</td>
<td>10:30 AM</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td><strong>NO RELIGIOUS</strong> School</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td><strong>NO MIDRASHA</strong> Monday</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td><strong>NO HEBREW</strong> Wednesday</td>
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<td>22</td>
<td><strong>SHABBAT</strong> Service w/ Adult Choir</td>
<td>7:30 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td><strong>RELIGIOUS</strong> School</td>
<td>9:15 AM</td>
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<td><strong>PURIM CARNIVAL</strong> at the Weinstein JCC</td>
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<td><strong>PURIM SHPIEL</strong> at the JCC</td>
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<td><strong>PURIM SHPIEL</strong> at Beth Ahabah</td>
<td>7:15 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td><strong>MIDRASHA</strong> Monday</td>
<td>6:30 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td><strong>HEBREW</strong> Wednesday</td>
<td>5:30 PM</td>
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**BETH AHABAH COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

**FEBRUARY 2013**

1. **TOT SHABBAT** Dinner & Service 5:30 PM  
2. SHABBAT Service 7:30 PM  
3. **BAT MITZVAH:** ISABEL LONSTAFF 10:30 AM  

**MARCH 2013**

1. **TOT SHABBAT** Dinner & Service 5:30 PM  
   SISTERHOOD SHABBAT Service w/ Guest  
   Speaker Roseanne Selfon 7:30 PM  
2. **RELIGIOUS** School 9:15 AM  
   **ETZ CHAYIM** Rehearsal 11:30 AM  
   **RUACH HADASH** Rehearsal 11:45 AM  
   **GRADE 7 FIELD TRIP TO MONTICELLO**  
3. **RELIGIOUS** School 9:15 AM  
   **ETZ CHAYIM** Rehearsal 11:30 AM  
   **RUACH HADASH** Rehearsal 11:45 AM  
   **YOUTH GROUP TRIP to Monkey Joe’s**  
4. **NO MIDRASHA** Monday  
5. **HEBREW** Wednesday 5:30 PM  
6. **6TH & 7TH GRADE SHABBAT** Dinner  
   **FAMILY SHABBAT** Service w/Etz Chayim Choir & Ruach Chadash 7:30 PM  
10. **RELIGIOUS** School 9:15 AM  
    **5TH GRADE GESHER**  
    **ETZ CHAYIM** Rehearsal 11:30 AM  
    **RUACH HADASH** Rehearsal 11:45 AM  
    **YOUTH GROUP TRIP to Monkey Joe’s** 1:00 PM  
11. **MIDRASHA** Monday 6:30 PM  
13. **HEBREW** Wednesday 5:30 PM  
15. **CONGREGATIONAL SHABBAT** Dinner  
   **SHABBAT** Service w/Adult Choir 7:30 PM  
16. **B’NEI MITZVAH:** JACOB GORDAN  
    **ILAN CHUECA** 10:30 AM  
17. **RELIGIOUS** School 9:15 AM  
   **ETZ CHAYIM** Rehearsal 11:30 AM  
   **RUACH HADASH** Rehearsal 11:45 AM  
   **MEN’S SEDER in the Joel House** 6:00 PM  
18. **NO MIDRASHA** Monday  
20. **HEBREW** Wednesday 5:30 PM  
22. **SHABBAT** Service  
    w/ Adult Choir 7:30 PM  
23. **BAR MITZVAH:** OWEN SCHER 10:30 AM  
24. **RELIGIOUS** School 9:15 AM  
   **SCHOOL-WIDE SEDER**  
25. **NO MIDRASHA** Monday  
27. **NO HEBREW** Wednesday  

**PLEASE SUBMIT ALL INFORMATION FOR THE APRIL/MAY ISSUE OF B’YACHAD BY MARCH 1ST**
Follow the Yellow Brick Road to...

Beth Ahabah’s 2013 Purim Shpiel

a refreshing new take on

The Wizard of Oz

Sunday, February 24th

3 pm at the Weinstein JCC Purim Carnival

7:15 pm at Beth Ahabah

Unlike any production of the Wizard of Oz, the Purim Shpiel takes Dorothy and friends far beyond the Emerald City to the Land of Shushan. Dorothy and Toto will be waiting for you. If you don’t come, we’ll release the flying monkeys!