THERE IS POWER IN NUMBERS
by Karen Olshansky & Heather Dinkin

That saying certainly came true on Mitzvah Day this year when over 200 volunteers came together on May 5th to perform mitzvot of all kinds.

The theme this year was “Mitzvah Possible,” and thanks to our dedicated project leaders, volunteers, and staff, we certainly proved that Mitzvot are possible!

The event was kicked off at 11:45 AM in the Sanctuary with our Religious School band, Ruach Chadash, playing the theme from “Mission Impossible.” A great way to start the day!

This year was especially exciting for us because of the addition of a new project, “Stop Hunger Now.” Thanks to the vision and organization of Sharon Brager and Sarah Kim, there were over 60 volunteers who put together over 10,000 packages of dehydrated, high protein meals. These meals will be shipped to those in need of food, both in this country and in developing countries around the world. Watching volunteers of all ages putting together the food packages with so much enthusiasm was a beautiful sight to behold!

Another new project was painting stones for the Hebrew Cemetery. Conceived and organized by Terry Schultz, this project resulted in at least 20 volunteers painting inspirational designs on over 200 stones. The stones will be placed in decorative buckets and left at the cemetery so that when people visit, they can practice the tradition of leaving stones at the gravesite of a loved one as a way to say “I remember you”.

The Hebrew Cemetery was also the focus of a project headed by Michael Zell. He led an effort to help keep our cemetery pristine by cleaning trash and scrubbing headstones.

Nancy Belleman and Wendy Kreuter organized a team of 12 volunteers to cook 200 dinners for the Hospital Hospitality House and Kim Leibowitz organized another group to bake 16 dozen brownies and 12 dozen chocolate chip cookies, also for the Hospital Hospitality House.

Steve Ashe helped children and adults prepare and deliver bagged lunches to the homeless in Monroe Park, a true Mitzvah for all who participated!

There is power in numbers, and Mitzvot ARE possible!

View more photos from Mitzvah Day 2013 on page 6.
Ticket Policy
Tickets are required for all High Holy Day Services

Tickets will be issued free of charge to congregants who are in good standing. All arrears must be paid in full through 9/1/13. For those congregants that pay once annually, 100% of the 2013 - 2014 dues must be received by 9/1/13. One quarter of those on the quarterly system must be paid by 9/1/13. All others must be on automatic monthly withdrawals. Please contact Russell Finer our Executive Director if you need to make special financial arrangements.

Family members will receive 2 ticket blocks; individual members will receive 1 ticket block. Additional blocks of tickets for members may be purchased for $100. Children’s tickets will be sent based on completion and return of a requested form.

College students will be given a ticket by showing a valid college ID.

Guests who are affiliated with Reform Congregations in other communities need only request that their home synagogue fax, mail or email us a High Holiday Courtesy Seating request to receive reciprocal tickets.

Non-members wishing to attend all of our High Holy Day services may purchase a complete block of tickets for $300. Ticket blocks cannot be split between the two High Holy Day events. Should non-members choose to join the Congregation after the High Holy Days, the $300 will be credited toward their financial commitment to the Congregation.

Guest Tickets
If you know anyone new to Richmond who would be interested in attending our High Holy Day services as our guest, please contact the Temple office so that we may invite them to worship with us.

Babysitting
Professional babysitting for children ages 2 through 8 will be available for the 7:30 PM and 11:00 AM services on both Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. The cost for babysitting is $5 per child, per service. Please contact us by August 26th to make your reservations.

Security
Every effort will be made to create a sense of security for congregants as they enter and leave the building. We will have taken every reasonable step to ensure the safety of all. An important security measure is to require tickets for all High Holy Days services. Please be prepared to show an usher your ticket when parking in the deck. Backpacks and large packages are prohibited in the Sanctuary. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Packing
The parking deck and parking lot will be open for all services. The parking deck is entered from Franklin Street and you must exit through the rear into the alley. Please do not attempt to exit onto Franklin Street.

Please let us know if you require handicap seating.

HIGH HOLY DAYS INFORMATION

HIGH HOLY DAYS WORSHIP
5773-5774

SELICHOT
Saturday, August 31
Study & Service 8:00 PM

ROSH HASHANAH
Wednesday, September 4
Evening Service 7:30 PM

Thursday, September 5
Young Family Service (2nd grade & under) 9:00 AM
Morning Congregational Service 11:00 AM
Informal Youth & Family Service (3rd grade & above) 2:30 PM

SHABBAT SHUVAH
Friday, September 6
Evening Service 7:30 PM
The Shabbat between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, derives its name from the Haftarah of that day which begins with the word Shuvah—“Return”

YOM KIPPUR
Friday, September 13
Evening and Kol Nidrei Service 7:30 PM

Saturday, September 14
Young Family Service (2nd grade & under) 9:00 AM
Morning Congregational Service 11:00 AM
Study & Discussion Session 1:00 PM
Informal Youth & Family Service (3rd grade & above) 2:30 PM
Closing Service w/ Yizkor 4:15 PM

Do we have your correct contact information?
If you’ve recently moved or changed your email address, please contact the Temple office at 804.358.6757 to make sure our records are up-to-date. Thank you.
REPAIRING THE WORLD

Social Justice in the 21st Century is about more than giving tzedakah (charity). Volunteers and donations are important and help acute needs in our community and beyond. However, repairing the world means taking action where one can change the social and economic structure, enabling humans to improve and strengthen their lives. Maimonides, one of the greatest Jewish philosophers, made a chart categorizing the different ways Jews are to give charity. One of the lower forms of tzedakah is giving begrudgingly, and one of the highest forms is giving charity in a way so that the giver does not know who receives it, and the receiver does not know who the donor was. This way the one who receives the help does not feel indebted, and the donation was made altruistically.

Beth Ahabah is involved with many projects throughout the year helping to serve the needy. This year, we tried a new way of making a difference in the world. A group of five congregants, James Schmidt, Mike Camp, Sydney Fleischer, Peggy Friedenberg, Patricia Dodson, and I went on a joint mission/social action trip with five congregants and a priest from St. James’s Episcopal Church to serve the needs of both the Jewish and Episcopal communities in Havana, as well as the general Cuban population. Our trip was mainly a “People-to-People Mission” meaning that the hope was to develop relationships and build a bond between our faith communities as well as between Americans and Cubans. Cuba is an incredibly poor country. Since Cuba is a socialist country, most inhabitants of the Island are government employees. The average Cuban makes $15-30 a month (this is true for doctors and lawyers, as well as the average worker). As a result, the people are able to survive, but they live on rations and struggle a great deal, often living in what we would consider poverty.

Beyond the domestic economic situation, the American embargo on Cuba means great hardship for the everyday Cubans. Any corporation that does business with America is not allowed to sell products on the Island. This leads to a lack of basic supplies, and if the citizens are able to buy products the cost is incredibly high. Therefore afterschool programs lack crayons, markers, and other basic art supplies. Pharmacies are empty due to the need for medication, even lacking basic supplies like over-the-counter aspirin. This has led the lives of the average Cuban to be very hard with daily challenges of poverty. Part of our mission was to bring donations that would help these communities to function more easily.

The hurt and struggle the people face are mainly a result of the Castro regime. It is a totalitarian society where the government is aggressive and oppressive. For example, one can be incarcerated for publicly challenging the nation’s leadership. Everyone lives in fear that anyone could be a government informant, like in the days of Communism in the former USSR.

However even with these challenges, the people we met on the trip were incredibly kind and welcoming. We experienced a wonderful Shabbat at a local synagogue in Havana, got to meet some local teens, volunteered at a community center, interacted with Jewish seniors, attended a Sunday service at the Episcopal church, and got to experience so many amazing things.Visiting Cuba was the first step, by experiencing life through another’s lens and by challenging our own assumptions. Now we have the challenge of how to help make a lasting difference. Likely this will happen in two different ways: the first is by talking about our experience and helping to give the people of Cuba a voice; and the second is by advocating for the rights of the people and challenging our government to evaluate the Cuban embargo and making it more humane. Please look for ways that you can get involved with our projects and activism.

“Social Justice in the 21st Century is about more than giving tzedakah (charity).”

Rabbi Jesse Gallop
Associate Rabbi
The High Holy Days will be arriving soon and few of us will be ready for them, especially this year when they come so early in September.

Well, here is a suggested list of 10 Things You Can Do To Help Prepare for Rosh Hashanah:

• Take a spiritual accounting. Each day take at least 5 minutes to review your last year – your behavior with family, friends, associates and people with whom you’ve interacted.

• Attend a class or classes at Beth Ahabah.

• Study the Mahzor (High Holy Days prayerbook) to know the order of the service and the meaning of the words and prayers.

• Make sure that you have given enough tzedakah and have paid your pledges. In the Mahzor it states that three things break an evil decree – Teshuvah (repentance), Tefillah (prayer) and Tzedakah (charity). Why not maximize your chance for a good decree?

• Think of at least one person you have wronged or feel badly towards and correct the situation.

• Make a list of your goals for yourself and for your family – what you want to work towards and pray for.

• Limit your pleasures – the amount of television, movies, music, food – do something different so that you take this preparation time more seriously.

• Do an extra act of kindness – who needs your help? To whom can you make a difference?

• Read a book on character development.

• Ask a friend to tell you what you need to improve. A real friend will tell you… but in a nice way!

Let us then, on September 4th and 5th, celebrate the beginning of the new Jewish Year!

My family joins me in wishing the entire congregational community a “shanah tovah u’metukah,” a good and sweet new year.

Russ

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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.
May 10, 2013

Congregation Beth Ahabah
1111 W Franklin St
Richmond, VA 23220

Dear Friends,

You’re a hero to us! Your generous gift of $1,800.00, made on 05/07/2013 to Stop Hunger Now is making a difference in someone’s life right now. From the child whose only meal is the one he receives at school, to the nursing home patient in Vietnam who experiences the love of someone far away when they feel a warm meal in their stomach once a day, your contribution is offering hope and opportunity.

Stop Hunger Now is honored to receive your gift and we vow to use it wisely and efficiently to accomplish our mission of ending hunger in our lifetime. Thanks to partners like you, we are expanding into new areas and continuing to broaden our reach to those who are food insecure around the world.

In El Salvador, 9-year-old Mili is excited to attend school because she knows she will get to eat. Sometimes that is the only meal that Mili receives, as her family does not always have access to food. School feeding programs, like the one in which Mili participates, result in more education for girls and end in better maternal health. Stop Hunger Now knows that school feeding programs ensure that more children attend school, stay in school longer, and are able to find their way out of poverty.

Your partnership and support means so much to us and to those we serve on your behalf. We hope you’ll keep up with Stop Hunger Now and our upcoming events at www.stophungernow.org. We look forward to having you join us at a meal packaging event in the future! In the meantime, I hope you will accept our sincere appreciation for sharing in our vision of a world without hunger.

Warmest regards,

Rod Brooks
President and CEO

This letter serves as your receipt. No goods or services were received in exchange for this donation. Please consult your tax advisor about the deductibility of this contribution. Our tax identification number is 16-1541024. Again, thank you!
MITZVAH DAY: MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!

Top (L-R): Rabbi Beifield does his part for Stop Hunger Now; Volunteers of all ages participate in Stop Hunger Now; Watering new plants. Row 2 (L-R): Laura Savage and Ken Olshansky after recruiting volunteers for the Blood Bank; the Beth Ahabah beautification team; Completed stones for the Hebrew Cemetery. Row 3 (L-R) Terry Schultz, project leader for the stone project; Creating cards and letters for the troops; Showing off completed stones. Row 4 (L-R): Miri Eynan, project leader for cards and letters to the troops; Creating cards and letters for the troops; Building for Caritas. Row 5 (L-R): John Marshek oversees the Caritas project; Learning new carpentry skills in order to build for Caritas; Co-chairs of Mitzvah Day, Karen Olshansky and Heather Dinkin.
Caleb Cassell was called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on May 11, 2013. Caleb is the son of Jennifer Cassell and Scott Lazear, and younger brother of Abbey and Parker. He is the grandson of Roberta and Clark Berman and MaryLen and Harvey Lazear.

Caleb is a 7th grade honor student at Pocahontas Middle School. Along with enjoying time with his family and friends, Caleb likes rock climbing and watching movies. He is also an avid reader, and additionally spends a portion of his free time writing. Caleb aspires to become an influential filmmaker.

For his Mitzvah Project, Caleb chose to honor the memory of a child who was lost in the Holocaust. He participated in the “Remember Us: The Holocaust B’nai Mitzvah Project”. Caleb has chosen to share his Bar Mitzvah with Hersz Motyl, a child who was never able to have a Bar Mitzvah of his own. Caleb spent considerable time researching and putting together pieces of this life that was lost. He will be sharing what he’s learned as he presents his D’var Torah. Caleb remembers and pays reverence to Hersz Motyl, bringing his name back into living memory.

We are very proud of Caleb, and were thrilled to share this special day with Caleb’s family, friends and congregation members.

Wendy Kreuter
Wendy Kreuter, is Vice President of Operations and Finance at The Faison School for Autism.

Alan Kirshner and Flo Guzman, also Beth Ahabah members, started Faison in 1998. Their granddaughter, Brittany Faison, diagnosed with autism, was the inspiration for the school. Faison is a unique instructional environment utilizing applied behavior analysis. At Faison’s inception, very few schools for students with autism existed in Virginia. The school has grown from 14 to 120 students. Originally, students were privately placed, and now Faison accepts students from approximately 24 different school divisions, serving students 18 months to 22 years. Recently, the school broadened its mission to cover the lifespan of those with autism. Ground will be broken on the Compassionate Community project, a residence for adults with autism and developmental disabilities. This community will be a huge comfort to parents, knowing their adult children will be taken care of.

Prior to working at The Faison School, Wendy worked in upper management at Schwarzschild Jewelers, a business started by her family in the 1890s.

Wendy and her husband, Kenny Salken, have twin daughters, age 14. Wendy has been a lifelong member of Beth Ahabah, and her ancestors have been members for well over a century.

Beth Ahabah congregants have many interesting professions and avocations. Please let us know if there’s someone you’d like to see featured. Contact Linda Wren at wrenlinda@gmail.com.
The High Holy Days

Preparing for the Yamim Noraim
As fall approaches, Jews throughout the world prepare for a unique ten-day period of prayer, self-examination, fasting, and repentance. It is time for the Yamim Noraim, the Days of Awe, the High Holy Days: Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. These holidays are preceded by a month of reflection: the Hebrew month of Elul. During this time, morning worship includes special penitential prayers and concludes with the blowing of the shofar as a reminder of the approaching season of atonement. In some communities, this is also a time to visit the graves of loved ones.

Selichot
Selichot, a Hebrew word meaning “forgiveness,” refers to the special penitential prayers recited by Jews throughout the High Holy Days. Jews recite Selichot beginning late at night on the Saturday before Rosh Hashanah and continue each morning on the days between the New Year and Yom Kippur.

Rosh Hashanah
Rosh Hashanah (literally, “Head of the Year”) is the celebration of the Jewish New Year, observed on the first day of the Hebrew month of Tishrei. It marks the beginning of a ten-day period of prayer, self-examination and repentance, culminating on the fast day of Yom Kippur. These ten days are referred to as Yamim Noraim, the Days of Awe or the High Holy Days.

While there are elements of joy and celebration, Rosh Hashanah is a deeply religious occasion. The customs and symbols of Rosh Hashanah reflect the holiday’s dual emphasis, happiness and humility. Special customs observed on Rosh Hashanah include; the sounding of the shofar, using round challah, eating apples and honey (and other sweet foods) for a sweet new year.

No work is permitted on Rosh Hashanah. Much of the day is spent in synagogue, where the regular daily liturgy is somewhat expanded. In fact, there is a special prayerbook called the machzor used for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur because of the extensive liturgical changes for these holidays.

The Shofar
The shofar is a ram’s horn which is blown somewhat like a trumpet. One of the most important observances of this holiday is hearing the sounding of the shofar in the synagogue. A total of 100 notes are sounded each day. There are four different types of shofar notes: tekiah, a 3 second sustained note; shevarim, three 1-second notes rising in tone; teruah, a series of short, staccato notes extending over a period of about 3 seconds; and tekiah gedolah (literally, “big tekiah), the final blast in a set, which lasts approximately 10 seconds.

The Bible gives no specific reason for this practice. One that has been suggested is that the shofar’s sound is a call to repentance. The shofar is not blown if the holiday falls on Shabbat.

Yom Kippur
Yom Kippur is the “Day of Atonement” and refers to the annual Jewish observance of fasting, prayer and repentance. This is considered to be the holiest day in the Jewish calendar. In three separate passages in the Torah, the Jewish people are told, “the tenth day of the seventh month is the Day of Atonement. It shall be a sacred occasion for you: You shall practice self-denial.” (Leviticus 23:27). Fasting is seen as fulfilling this biblical commandment. The Yom Kippur fast also enables us to put aside our physical desires and to concentrate on our spiritual needs through prayer, repentance and self-improvement. It is customary in the days before Yom Kippur for Jews to seek out friends and family whom they have wronged and personally ask for their forgiveness.

Symbolic Foods
Over the centuries Rosh Hashanah has become associated with many food customs, for instance, eating sweet food to symbolize our hopes for a “Sweet New Year.”

Honey
Biblical texts often mention “honey” as the sweetener of choice though some historians believe that the honey referenced in the Bible was actually a sort of fruit paste. Real honey was available, but much more difficult to acquire. Honey represented good living and wealth. The Land of Israel is often called the land of “milk and honey” in the Bible.

Continued on page 9
IN SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILIES OF....
Mimi Mullian  
three mother of Laura (Art) Greene, Jr.  
three mother of Arthur (Julie) Mullian  
Joseph Chubin  
brother of Robert (Madelynne) Chubin  
John Cook, Sr.  
father of John (Debbie) Cook  
Victor Levene  
father of Linda (Rick) Gary  
Abraham S. Karlikow  
step-father of Alex (Dean Whitbeck) Ginsberg-Whitbeck  
Paula S. Meyer  
three mother of Brian (Sharla) Meyer

CONGRATULATIONS TO...
Ruth Huster on earning her designation as a Certified Public Accountant (CPA)

Ann & Jerry Samford on the marriage of their daughter, Eva Samford to Yuriy Cherepnya on April 27, 2013.

Heather & Caleb LaMont on the birth of their daughter, Sydney Elise LaMont, born May 14, 2013.

Dorry Samuels & David Levine on their marriage on May 18, 2013.

Jocelyn Adelman & Andrew Vorenburg on their marriage on May 26, 2013.

Honey Cake
Many Jewish households make honey cakes on Rosh Hashanah as another way to symbolically express their wishes for a Sweet New Year. Often people will use a recipe that has been passed down through the generations. Honey Cake can be made with a variety of spices, though autumnal spices like cloves, cinnamon and allspice are especially popular. Some recipes call for the use of tea, orange juice or even rum to add an additional dimension of flavor.

New Fruit
On the second night of Rosh Hashanah, we eat a “new fruit”—meaning, a fruit that has recently come into season but that we have not yet had the opportunity to eat. When we eat this new fruit, we say the shehechiyanu blessing thanking God for keeping us alive and bringing us to this season. This ritual reminds us to appreciate the fruits of the earth and being alive to enjoy them.

A pomegranate is often used as this new fruit. In the Bible, the Land of Israel is praised for its pomegranates. It is also said that this fruit contains 613 seeds just as there are 613 mitzvot. Another reason given for blessing and eating pomegranate on Rosh Hashanah is that we wish that our good deeds in the ensuing year will be as plentiful as the seeds of the pomegranate.

Round Challah
Round loaves of challah are one of the most recognizable food symbols of Rosh Hashanah. During Rosh Hashanah, the loaves are shaped into spirals or rounds symbolizing the continuity of Creation. Sometimes raisins or honey are added to the recipe in order to make the resulting loaves extra sweet.
CAMP SABABA
(formerly known as “Hebrew Fun in the Summer Sun”)

AUGUST 12 - 16, 2013
9:00 AM–2:00 PM

Looking for a fun way for your kids to explore their Jewish roots this summer? Come to Camp Sababa (formerly known as Hebrew Fun in the Summer Sun)! For the last two years, kids from synagogues all over Richmond—as well as kids who don’t belong to a synagogue—have enjoyed the fun way of getting better at Hebrew through singing, dancing, nature, crafts, drama, and special events like Israel Day, Mayim (water) Day, and Color Wars. Make sure your child is in on the action! Sababa is Hebrew slang for “cool,” and Camp Sababa is the coolest way for your children to make new friends over the summer while learning Hebrew!

For whom? All rising 1st - 7th grade Jewish students

Where? 601 N. Parham Rd.
(Beth-El Religious School)

Goals? To review, refresh, and enhance Hebrew & prayer skills. To meet students from other schools. TO HAVE FUN through outdoor activities, music, crafts, games, etc.

Staff? Education Directors and teachers from the participating schools and teen aides.

Cost? $75 for all 5 days
Final Registration Deadline July 15, 2013

For more information or registration form; Contact Ramona Brand at r.brand@bethahabah.org or email HebrewFun.SummerSun@gmail.com.

This program is sponsored by the Richmond Council for Jewish Education and subsidized by the Jewish Community Federation of Richmond.
Save the Date:

The Richmond Council for Jewish Educators invites the community to attend a seminar about Centropa with Dr. Lauren Granite at the Weinstein JCC on Tuesday, August 20th, 2013 at 7:00 PM.

Centropa believes there is so much more to our 20th century European Jewish heritage than the Holocaust. Centropa is an innovative, out-of-the-box Jewish historical institute that uses new technologies to preserve Jewish memory—and then we use those same technologies to bring Jewish history to life. Centropa, where Jewish History has a Name, a Face, a Story.

- connect us to the lands of European Jewish heritage before and after the Holocaust
- learn how to access Centropa’s family stories and tens of thousands of photos available online
- learn how Centropa empowers students to combat anti-Semitism and Holocaust denial through programs that students carry out themselves, and share with other students across borders, oceans and ethnic divides.

Dr. Lauren Granite directs Centropa’s US educational programs. Before joining the Centropa staff, she spent more than a dozen years teaching Jewish history in colleges, Jewish day schools and congregational schools. Since 2010 she has been building Centropa’s network of Jewish day and congregational schools; expanding into public, parochial and charter schools; running workshops and seminars; mentoring teachers; writing lessons and projects; and establishing teacher advisory teams to advise us about Centropa curricula.

For more information contact Ramona at r.brand@bethahabah.org

This program is coordinated by the Richmond Council of Jewish Education and is sponsored by the Jewish Community Federation of Richmond.

Top: Kristen and Melissa Demlein sport their Squirrels hats. Middle: L to R–Evan Leibowitz, Stephanie White, Brielle Conley, Monica Rosenthal, Josh Evans and Sofia Piracha at Kings Dominion. Left: Daniel Blankenship and Kristen Demlein celebrate the Squirrels’ victory.

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BETH AHAHABAH VISITS THE RICHMOND FLYING SQUIRRELS

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“It was a great honor to be recognized by Brotherhood and Congregation Beth Ahabah as recipient of the 2010 Sam Troy Award. I will endeavor to provide you with the best service possible.”
DONATIONS:

TEMPLE FUND
Alyssa Freeman
IN HONOR OF:
Gail & Al Werner's 50th wedding anniversary
Trina & Jay McElligott
Francine & Norman Morgan
Dr. & Mrs. Paul Heyman
Judy & Sheldon Markowitz
Terry & Jerry Hirsch
Gaby Y. Heller & Irwin A. Heller
Ron Kasoff's leadership as President of CBA
Katie & Ken Rooper
Chuck Rothenberg's term as President of CBA
Katie & Ken Rooper
Linda & Earl Ferguson's special anniversary
Katy & Jimmy Yoffy
Robert Mandell's special birthday
Jean Goldman
Earl Ferguson's Portrayal of Mark Twain
The 13 Class
IN MEMORY OF:
Ruth Bridge
Eileen & Ed Kitces
Jack Boettcher
Dina Boettcher
Mimi Mullian
The Bekenstein Family
Janice & Robert Freed
Sanford Lewis
Eileen & Ed Kitces
Isabel Bellmann
Joyce Rosenbaum
Ann Heyman
Peter Heyman
Anna Kastenbaum
Bernard Kastenbaum
Morris Hirsch
Terry & Jerry Hirsch
Rebecca “Billye” Michael, my mother
Sherlee Michael Ginsberg
Sadie Werner, Gertrude Lehrer, Natalie Berke & Morris Werner
Gail & Al Werner
Steve Boley
Melvin Vinik
Jean Goldman
Susan & Howard Spielberg & Family
Louise Creeger
Frances Rothenberg
Helen Weiner
Russell Finer
Naomi Bekenstein
The Bekenstein Family
THE RABBI'S PHILANTHROPIC FUND
IN HONOR OF:
Lyndsay Nelson's Bat Mitzvah
Laurie & Adam Nelson
Gail & Al Werner's special anniversary blessing
Gail & Al Werner
Mitzvah Day
Melissa & Andy Brownstein
IN MEMORY OF:
Yale Fogel
Peter & Leta Greenberg
Steve Boley
Peter & Leta Greenberg
David & Carolyn Grandis
Samuel Gold, loving father & grandfather
Iris & Pat Noonan
Isabel Bellmann
Marsha Elstein & Family
Martin T. Lee & Helen C. Boustany
Richard Lee
CANTOR GOLDMAN'S MUSIC FUND
IN HONOR OF:
Stanley Goldman, M.D.'s Retirement
Debra & David Gardner
Lyndsay Nelson's Bat Mitzvah
Laurie & Adam Nelson
HEBREW CEMETERY FUND
IN MEMORY OF:
Steve Reinhard
Betty Vitsky
Linda Blatt
Nancy Grandis White
LEWIS I. HELD SCHOLARSHIP FUND
IN MEMORY OF:
Lewis I. Held & Evelyn C. Flax
Minnie C. Held
An armed security guard is on duty at Hebrew Cemetery on the first and third Sundays of the month from Noon to 3 pm.

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL TUITION ASSISTANCE FUND
IN HONOR OF:
Alan & Gail Werner's 50th wedding anniversary
Melanie & John Rodriguez
IN MEMORY OF:
Steven Boley
Barbara & Michael Mandel
H. Jack Lopater, my father
Lori & Larry Skiles

MUSEUM & ARCHIVES
IN APPRECIATION:
Jean Sycle Martin
IN MEMORY OF:
Joseph L. Landers
Audrey Landers
Page Calisch
Joyce Rosenbaum
Joseph L. Rosenbaum, 35th President of Congregation Beth Ahabah, on his 20th Yahrzeit
Joyce Rosenbaum & Family
Isabel Bellman
Zippi Goldstein
Steven Boley
Nancy Meyer
IN HONOR OF:
Bernice Slipow's Special Birthday
Zippi Goldstein
Nancy Meyer
Robert Mandell's Special Birthday
Nancy Meyer

Hebrew Cemetery of Congregations Beth Shalome & Beth Ahabah
It's never too early to be prepared.
For more information please call Russell Finer or Bill Thalhimer, III at 358.6757.
SISTERHOOD SOCIAL ACTION

*Half the Sky* Social Justice Initiative sponsored by Beth Ahabah Women of Reform Judaism

Did you know there are 100 million women missing from the current population of the world due to gender-based violence and discrimination? Join us this summer as we continue to investigate why and how we can help by viewing the powerful documentary based on the book *Half the Sky* by Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn. We will show the movie over six evenings from 7:30 to 9:00 PM, beginning June 13, and repeat each episode again beginning July 25. Each showing will be followed by a discussion session. Most showings will be at Temple, but we may have a couple of special locations so watch for updates! The book will be available to purchase for $10 (cash or check). You are invited to attend even if you haven’t read the book, and you may come to one or all of the episode showings. Questions? Want to host a screening in your home? Contact Laura Davidson at 794-2519 or lauraelaine87@aol.com.

**Thursday, June 13** (repeated July 25)
Episode 1—Gender-based Violence

**Thursday, June 20** (repeated August 1)
Episode 2—Education

**Thursday, June 27** (repeated August 8)
Episode 3—Education for girls

**Tuesday, July 2** (repeated Thurs., August 15)
Episode 4—Maternal Mortality

**Thursday, July 11** (repeated August 22)
Episode 5—Intergenerational Prostitution

**Thursday, July 18** (repeated August 29)
Episode 6—Economic Empowerment

BROTHERHOOD UPDATE:

Brotherhood ended our year by participating in the holding of a very successful social event for the congregation and is transitioning to a new year of leadership. The social event was Cabaret Date Night on May 18th. Support for the event was three-fold. Sisterhood decorated the tables and provided both snacks and hot hors d’oeuvres. Brotherhood provided the wine and beer service. Entertainment was provided by The Very Off Broadway Richmond Singers, a Barber Shop like group of Brotherhood members and a guest soloist.

With only a minimal admission charge, this was designed to be more of a social event than a fund raiser. Judging by the reaction of the over one hundred patrons, the goal of the event was overwhelmingly met and no one went away hungry.

The new officers for the upcoming year for Brotherhood are:

President: John Marshak
Immediate Past President: Martin Miller
Secretary: Jeff McCabe
Treasurer: Ionel Kahn & Adam Beal
VP Communications: Nello Williams
VP Programming: Alan Corbett & David Sella-Villa
VP Synagogue Activities: Jeff Lavelle-High Holy Days only

The Brotherhood is looking forward to adding to its program of service to not only the congregation as a whole, but also to the men of Beth Ahabah. To this end, an electronic survey will shortly be circulated to all men of the congregation. It asks for indicators of your present level of participation in our activities as well as for you to name specific activities you would be willing to participate in, if sponsored/supported by Brotherhood. When that survey appears in your email, please take a moment to share your thoughts so that we can not only continue our excellent program but improve on it.

Mitzvah Day Project leader of “Stop Hunger Now” Sharon Brager with Debra Gardner.
CROWNING THE TORAH

The Torah is the holiest object of Jewish life. It is therefore natural to "crown" it with the symbol of kingship. Some authorities ascribe the selection of a crown as the main adornment for the Torah to the statement in Ethics of the Fathers (Pirke Avot), which states: "There are three crowns: the crown of the Law, the crown of the Priestly office, and the crown of royalty, but the crown of a good name is above them all". Hai, a tenth-century scholar and community leader, was the first to make reference to the use of a crown as a Torah ornament.

Typically, rimonim will have a bulbous feature as the word rimon means pomegranate, a fruit whose many seeds symbolize the hope that the year ahead will be one in which man will be privileged to perform many worthy deeds.

This photograph shows a pair of highly decorated Rimonim, decorative crowns that fit over each of the two finials (poles) of the Torah rollers. These are (unfortunately) not in our collection, though we have others of various designs that you can see and touch. The ones in the photo are the work of Myer Myers, the famous revolutionary-era silversmith who was the subject of a recent exhibit at our Museum & Archives. We understand that Beth Shalome, our ancestor congregation, owned a pair of Myer Myers rimonim perhaps similar to these, but they passed to another owner when that congregation was dissolved.

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.

DID YOU KNOW?
Jewish Trivia

THE FIRST JEWISH WOMAN POET PUBLISHED IN AMERICA

Poet, Southerner and Sunday school superintendent, Penina Moise was born 216 years ago to French immigrant parents who settled in Charleston, SC.

"Moise’s life could have been a Victorian melodrama: One of 9 children, a fatherless Penina left school at the age of 12 to care for her asthmatic brother and her sick mother."

Despite her many responsibilities, she found time to write. The 1833 publication of her book Fancy’s Sketch Book made her the first Jewish woman poet to be published in America. Her poems memorialized the plight of Jews worldwide. She also wrote patriotic verse and hymns.

By the 1860s Moise, who never married, was blind and living in poverty. But according to Charlotte Adams, quoted in the introduction to Moise’s Secular and Religious Works, “Miss Penina” was known for her kindness and wit among members of the Charleston Jewish community.

"Seated in her rocking chair and wearing a ‘plain calico gown,’ Moise was an ‘incarnation of intellectual and social splendor—a queen of Charleston literary society.”

JULY/AUGUST 2013

**JULY**

**Friday**
- **05** SHABBAT Oneg  6:00 PM
- **05** SHABBAT Service  6:30 PM
- **12** SHABBAT Oneg  6:00 PM
- **12** SHABBAT Service  6:30 PM
- **19** SHABBAT IN THE PARK @JOSEPH BRYAN PARK
  - Bring your own picnic  5:30 PM
  - Service  6:30 PM
  - SHABBAT Oneg at Beth Ahabah  6:00 PM
  - SHABBAT Service at Beth Ahabah  6:30 PM
- **26** SHABBAT Oneg  6:00 PM
- **26** SHABBAT Service  6:30 PM

**AUGUST**

**Friday**
- **02** SHABBAT Oneg  6:00 PM
- **02** SHABBAT Service  6:30 PM
- **09** SHABBAT Oneg  6:00 PM
- **09** SHABBAT Service  6:30 PM
- **16** SHABBAT IN THE PARK @JOSEPH BRYAN PARK
  - Bring your own picnic  5:30 PM
  - Service  6:30 PM
  - SHABBAT at Beth Ahabah Oneg  6:00 PM
  - SHABBAT Service at Beth Ahabah  6:30 PM
- **23** SHABBAT Oneg  6:00 PM
- **23** SHABBAT Service  6:30 PM
- **30** SHABBAT Oneg  6:00 PM
- **30** SHABBAT Service  6:30 PM

*Please check the Community Calendar at www.bethahabah.org for updates.*

Editorial submissions and ad materials for the SEPTEMBER issue of B’yachad are due no later than Friday, July 26th.

Wishing you a sweet new year!

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Friday, July 19th
Friday, August 16th
Bryan Park*
4308 Hermitage Road
6:30pm
Service followed by
dessert oneg

Please feel free to bring
your own picnic basket
for a pre-service dinner
beginning at 5:30pm

Come and celebrate a song
filled Shabbat in the Park
with Rabbi Gallop and Hannah
Piracha. For more information
contact Rabbi Gallop at rabbi.
gallop@bethahabah.org
or Ramona Brand at
r.brand@bethahabah.org.

*Deep Run Park has been advertised in past
e-news. Bryan Park is the official location.