B'NEI MITZVAH TRIP TO ISRAEL

by Randi Weiss

Anticipation and excitement stirred as, 25 years ago, I awaited the departure for my first trip to Israel, part of a young adult group. When a very cute guy approached my row, the prospect of the long, 14-hour trip, suddenly appeared a little brighter. Josh and I spent the next 14 hours getting to know one another, and continued for the following 6 weeks. As they say... the rest is history. Twenty-five years later we boarded the flight again, this time with our 3 kids and my mom, in tow. The dream of sharing the Israel experience with our family was about to unfold.

When we learned that Rabbi and Ina would be leading a B'nei Mitzvah trip, we wanted in! On June 22, we joined Rabbi and Ina, and the Rubin, Seltzer, Strauchler, Brager and Lipman families and began an incredible journey together. After a day of travel we were greeted in Tel Aviv by our guide Nir, an incredible storyteller and historian who, as it turns out, knows all of the great "sherooteem" stops along the way.

Marli Weiss becoming a Bat Mitzvah

Our trip consisted of three "home base" locations from which we took day trips to explore: the beautiful Carlton Hotel in Tel Aviv that's directly on the beach; the Kibbutz Kfar Blum in the Galilee, a family favorite for many; and the Inbal Hotel in Jerusalem that boasts views of the Old City and the famous windmill nearby.

We enjoyed the port and beautiful beaches of Tel Aviv; biked along the beach to Jaffa; toured an underground secret bullet factory on a kibbutz; visited Haifa and the Bahai Gardens; viewed the breath-taking Mediterranean and white chalk cliff grottoes in Rosh Hanikra; explored with awe the Roman ruins in Beit Shean; walked through the streets of the mystical town of Safed; rode a jeep up the Golan Heights past former Syrian bunkers; rafted down the Jordan River; played archeologists for a day digging for ancient artifacts in an underground cave; and visited Yad Vashem, the Dead Sea Scrolls and the Chagall Windows.

Along with a tour atop Masada, we had a blast floating in the Dead Sea, hiking in Ein Gedi and riding camels at a Bedouin

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A SCOUT & HIS FRIENDS CLEAN UP HEBREW CEMETERY

by Justin Skiles

With my eighteenth birthday on the horizon, my time in the Boy Scouts is nearing its end. With this in mind, I set out to achieve the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest rank in the Boy Scouts. Part of making the rank is to complete a service project for a non-profit organization. I chose to help the Hebrew Cemetery Company to maintain some of the headstones in the Hebrew Cemetery. With the help of some family and friends from my scout troop, I set out on Saturday June 1st to clean all of the headstones

Continued on page 3
tourist site, all the while bonding with members of the group.

The B’nei Mitzvah experience exceeded our expectations. The kids read their portion from the Torah amongst the ruins of an ancient synagogue. The setting was idyllic and made this a truly special and unforgettable experience. Hopper, Marli, Sophia, Julia, Sarah and Corrine did a beautiful job. Their siblings participated in the ceremony as well as parents and grandparents.

The approach to Jerusalem stirred a spiritual connection for many. We loved touring the Old City with its markets, Western Wall, Underground tunnel and cultural diversity.

Throughout the tour we stopped many times along the way to take in the gorgeous panoramic views and enjoy a history lesson from our outstanding guide.

We sang together, prayed together, laughed and hiked together. We dined along the way and tasted traditional favorites such as date honey, falafel, hummus, haloumi cheese, tahini, bamba peanut butter snacks, and melt in your mouth chocolate rugelach!

We will always have fond memories of the adventures shared, the history learned, the artifacts touched, the cultures explored and the bonds of friendship created.

Clockwise from top left to bottom: In Safed prior to the Synagogue Tour; Sophia, Julia and Lexi Rubin in front of the bronze menorah sculpture at the Knesset; Lexi Rubin, Erica Brager, Maya Lipman and Nicole Brager; Julia Rubin, Corrine Brager and Marli Weiss overlooking Jerusalem; Sophia Rubin and Lucy Strauchler enjoying Kiddush after the B’nai Mitzvah; Josh and Zach Weiss with Rabbi in the Safed market; Farewell group picture; B’nai Mitzvah grandparents at our final dinner in Jerusalem; B’nai Mitzvah moms-Sharon Brager, Karen Rubin, Rosemary Seltzer, Kasi Strauchler and Randi Weiss; Mark Lipman and Cullen Seltzer aboard a Camel.

Editor’s Note:
The caption for the photograph on the cover of the July/August bulletin was incorrect. The Mitzvah Day volunteers were baking for the Hospital Hospitality House.
This year’s answer to the proverbial Jewish question, “Are the Holidays early or late this year?” is early. VERY EARLY. The last time the Holidays were this early was in 1889. Abraham Harris was the rabbi and the synagogue was located at 11th and Marshall Streets.

The reason why the dates of Rosh Hashanah and all Jewish holidays seem to change each year is both complicated and simple. The simple reason is because the Jewish calendar is primarily based on the phases of the moon and our regular (i.e. Gregorian) calendar is based on the earth’s rotation around the sun. The two cycles don’t coincide. In addition, Jewish holidays have to fall in certain seasons. For example, Passover must fall in the spring. Put all of this together and the dates on the Jewish calendar seem to wander in relation to our regular calendar. And this is the simple reason. The complicated reason? Don’t even ask!

I’m sure you’ve noticed that our regular (Gregorian) calendars show that Rosh Hashanah falls on Thursday, September 5th. But if you come to Temple on Thursday night for Rosh Hashanah evening services you will be late. VERY LATE. Remember that Jewish days begin the night before the day on which they appear on the regular calendar and go from sundown to sundown. This fact is the source of continuous confusion in school systems all over the country which routinely schedule events on the night before what appears on the regular calendar as a Jewish holiday. You’d think we Jews fell from the sky last week. This year, Rosh Hashanah begins Wednesday night, September 4th.

Rosh Hashanah always falls on the first day of the Jewish month of Tishrei. In this sense, the Holidays are always ON TIME.

Our line-up of services for the Holy Days is the same this year as last year. The mornings of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur start with a service perfect for children eight years old and younger and their families. In the afternoon there is a service perfect for older children and their families. Rabbi Gallop; Sarah Beck-Berman, our cantorial soloist; and I will lead these services.

As always, there is an evening service and a late morning Congregational service on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Rabbi Gallop, Cantor Frances Goldman, and I will lead these services. Our Adult Choir will participate in these services under the direction of Natan Berenshteyn. Barbara Gaden will play Kol Nidre at the evening service for Yom Kippur.

Ina joins me in wishing everybody a happy and healthy New Year. L’shanah tovah tikateivu.

A Scout & his Friends Continued from page 1

in the designated section of the cemetery. Unfortunately, not all of the stones were able to be cleaned due to no longer being secure, or having cracks, but all of the cleanable stones in the section, as well as many in a second section were cleaned completely in a total of about seven hours. I enjoyed the opportunity to both work on the completion of my scouting achievement as well as to help with a cause that I believe in. Under my leadership, my friends and family were the first people to clean the headstones since their installment in the cemetery. As well as cleaning them myself, I will be giving The Hebrew Cemetery Company the procedure of how to clean the headstones so that it may be done again in the future. Out of all of the options I could have chosen to do as a service project, there were none that seemed as meaningful to me as the preservation of the cemetery.
Dear Members and Friends of Congregation Beth Ahabah:

Another year has passed, filled with promise for the future and memories of the past. As we look to the year 5774, it is time to rededicate ourselves to making the world a better place, strengthening our temple community and embracing Tikun Olam. Let us all strive to do what our ancestors have done for millennia, live our Jewish lives with joy and commitment.

My family and I wish everyone a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year!

L’Shanah Tovah,
Russell M. Finer, FSA
Executive Director

A SHORT MESSAGE FROM RUSS

Volunteers Needed for CARITAS:

Beth Ahabah will again serve as an intake site for the CARITAS Program for the homeless. CARITAS stands for Congregations Around Richmond Involved To Assure Shelter. From Saturday, December 21, 2013 through Friday, February 21, 2014, persons seeking shelter for the night will come to our school building at approximately 5:45 pm.

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.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

September 2012-July 2013

Randy & Kelly Applefeld & their daughters Emme, Paisley, Molly & Jamie
Adam Beifeld
Shelly Berger
Alan & Nancy Chazen & their daughters Emily & Samantha
Neil & Susan Cohen & their children Zachary, Alexandra & Sophie
Alan Finer
Andrew & Jaime Freiden & their children Helena & Nathan
Philip & Patricia Gaeser
Alan & Kimberly Goldstein & their sons Bryce & Mason
Scott & Andrea Gordon & their sons Sean & Dylan
Peter & Leta Greenberg
Jeff & Emily Greenwald
Jason & Shannon Hurowitz
John Leahy & Etoila Schuplin
Peter Lurie & Kristin Karmon & their children Nathalie & Ajax
Evan & Kimberlee Magrill & their sons Max & Jack
Art & Julie Mullian & their daughter Ana
Bari & Joan Novey
Andrew & Debra Pegalis & their children Brooklyn & Beckett
Jeff & Dana Reynolds & their sons Evan & Bowen
Liz Robbins
Adam & Kathy Seldow & their children Gabriel & Naomi
Daniel Smith & Audra Vanderland & their children Tristan & Alexis
Dean Whitbeck & Alex Ginsberg-Whitbeck & their daughter Olivia
Thad Williamson & Adria Scharf & their daughter Sahara
Marciano Villamiel
Barry & Leslie Zell
CONNECTION TO OUR WORLD THROUGH A JEWISH LENS:
Enhancing Jewish Education for the 21st Century

The Jewish landscape and culture has changed dramatically in the last twenty-five years. Our American Jewish community looks vastly different from that of a generation ago, with the increase of intermarriage, assimilation, technology, and shifting sense of “Jewish identity”. Jewish educational institutions, particularly the supplemental synagogue schools are grappling with the enormous shifts in the educational services for Jewish families. Jewish education for the 21st century requires a paradigm shift away from the mid-20th century model that placed Jewish education in the bubble of the synagogue, assuming a cocooned Jewish community that required only Bar/Bat Mitzvah preparation to take place in the supplemental school.

In order to face the challenges of 21st century Judaism, schools need to engage the participant in shared experiences, family learning and an ability to create relevant connections between personal Judaism, our greater community and the value of living Jewishly. Today’s Jewish family wants to find spiritual meaning, not just in the synagogue but in the inter-connected world in which we live.

To this end, we are re-imagining Jewish education to provide opportunities for our students and their parents to find Jewish meaning and Jewish connection in our daily lives. I am thrilled to report that I have received two generous grant awards that will enable the Religious School to expand our programming in some very exciting ways. The Joy Kramer Memorial Fund supports our Prachim room and will allow the Religious School to provide expanded multi-sensory equipment and programs for our Special Needs Students. Funding from the Rachel B. Banks Foundation will support among other things:

a. A Jewish Art Tour at the VMFA
b. A photography program for an exhibition by our students
c. Visits to and from community businesses demonstrating the use of Jewish Values in the work place.
d. Trips to Monticello and to the National Museum of Jewish American History in Philadelphia for our 7th graders.
e. An end of year Lag B’omer program at the Three Lakes Park and Nature Center that deepens our Jewish engagement with our earth.

These are just some of the examples of Connecting to our World through a Jewish Lens. Twenty-first century Judaism demands relevance and connectedness. We must raise our children to learn that living Jewishly is not exclusive from daily living, how to recognize that their Judaism can shape their interaction in that daily living. Jewish education cannot remain limited to within the classroom walls. By expanding our horizons we strengthen knowledge, strengthen practice, strengthen spirituality and strengthen Judaism.

I am looking forward to a very exciting year! L’shanah Tovah Tikateivu,

Ramona

Ramona Brand
Barbara & William B. Thalhimer, Jr.
Religious School Director

MID-WEEK HEBREW NOW AVAILABLE AT GREATLY REDUCED COST

There is Still Room for Enrollment!

During these times of continued economic stress, we hope to continue to offer quality programming at an affordable cost. Midweek Hebrew is still available for only $150.

Students who attend Midweek Hebrew learn in smaller classes, gain greater proficiency and require less tutoring for their Bar and Bat Mitzvah preparation. Class will be preceded by an optional pizza dinner.

Pizza Dinner: 5:30–6:00 pm in the Joel House
Class: 6:00–7:15 pm in the school building
Cost $150
Pizza Dinner: $80 for the year or $5 drop in fee

Religious School Parents

Meet & Greet

with The Family Connection
Sunday, September 8th
A chance to socialize with other parents and grab a nosh.
Stop by the Goldburg Auditorium after you drop your children off in their classrooms.
MAKING CONNECTIONS IN ISRAEL!

Cyber “Pen-pals” in the Hadera region

Many thanks to the Sisterhood for gifting four new Tablets to the Religious School this year. The Religious School became part of the P2G (Partnership Together) Consortium last year and sent a large number of our educators to our sister region of Hadera in Israel last December to work with teachers there. We are thrilled to support this continued partnership through a cyber “pen-pal” program between Beth Ahabah students and students in Hadera schools. We will be using the Tablets in several grades to exchange messages, pictures and friendship with students in Hadera.

8TH GRADE WITH RABBI GALLOP

*K’lal Yisrael: The Diverse People of the Jewish Community*

Students will learn about *K’lal Yisrael*, the diverse people of the Jewish Community. They will study American Jewish History, world Jewry, and Comparative Judaism. Students will be challenged to think about how they connect to other Jews and better understand that there are many ways to live an active Jewish life.

9TH GRADE WITH RAMONA BRAND

*Beyond Torah: TANAKH and its Lessons*

Students will explore Judges, Kings, Proverbs, Psalms and other writings of the *TANAKH* and make connections between these timeless teachings and how they impact today’s life decisions.

10TH GRADE WITH RABBI BEIFIELD

*There is a Time for Everything*

From birth to death, we Jews have very distinctive ways for observing the important milestones in our lives. Using film and drama, we will learn about Jewish customs and the meanings behind the customs of the events in the Jewish life cycle.

MIDRASHA ELECTIVES:

Electives run 5 - 8 weeks long and students can choose from a menu of interesting learning opportunities. Classes are multi-graded and interactive.

**Session One:**

a. Judaism in Focus: Do you like photography? Using your camera or cell phone you will take photos to capture the moment.

b. Creating a Teen-Friendly Shabbat Service: Help to create a prayer book to be used throughout the year at special teen services.

c. A Teenager in Today’s World: Navigate your way through some of the complicated and sensitive issues facing teenagers.

**RUACH CHADASH!!**

A New Spirit! Instrumentalists and Vocalists Welcome

All musicians with at least one year of instrument are invited to join our Youth Musical Ensemble, Ruach Chadash, which performs for special services, holiday and school events and throughout the community. Older singers ages 10 and up enjoy an opportunity to experience a wide range of Jewish music from klezmer, holiday, jazz, swing, contemporary and more!

Musical Directors: Hannah Piracha and Ramona Brand

First Rehearsal: Sunday, September 22nd

Rehearsals: 11:15 – 11:45 am on Sundays

**JR. YOUTH GROUPS**

Chaverim (grades 3–5) and Jr. JeRAFTY have an exciting year planned. For more information contact Advisor Matt Gaskin at mattgaskin@gmail.com or Ramona Brand at r.brand@bethahabah.org

Jr. Youth Group Hangouts and field trips are all part of the socializing and fun.

**FIRST STEPS INTO JUDAISM**

First Steps classes begin on Sunday, September 8th.

First Steps is a special program for three and four-year olds. The program meets on alternate Sundays from 9:15 – 11:45 am.

Melissa Ackley, a veteran teacher and mom uses her variety of talents to excite preschoolers about their emerging sense of Judaism. Stories, art, crafts, music and play make learning about being Jewish lots of fun!

NEW THIS YEAR!! Our First Steps class is now part of a multi-grade room with our younger kindergarteners.

**ETZ CHAYIM**

Singers ages 5–10 are invited to raise their voices in song and sing in our delightful young children’s choir. Our wonderful young singers bring joy to monthly Family Services and participate in special holiday and Mitzvah Day performances.

Musical Director: Natan Berenshteyn

First Rehearsal: Sunday September 22nd

Rehearsals: 11:15 – 11:45 am on Sundays

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**MDRASHA MIDRASHA**

**Kick-Off Saturday, October 5th**

High Ropes Course at University of Richmond

Only $10. *Registration coming soon!*

**First Night of Monday Night Classes**

Monday, September 23rd
Laura Savage is an active member at Beth Ahabah. Board member, Chair of Religious Practices committee and choir member are just some of her many volunteer activities. Laura loves giving back to the community and enjoys meeting congregants. Synagogue involvement has been in Laura’s family for generations. Laura acquired her love of music from her Mom, a music teacher at her hometown synagogue in Wilmington, Delaware. Laura’s daughters, Brittnie and Dawn, were active in Beth Ahabah as teacher aides and Dawn was president of Beth Ahabah’s youth group.

When Laura is not at Beth Ahabah, she is busy coordinating Heart Transplants at MCV. As a Cardiothoracic Clinical Nurse specialist, she evaluates heart patients to determine if they are candidates for transplants or other mechanical assist devices, provides patient education, and performs research. Laura relished the opportunity to present her research in Prague last year.

Laura and her husband Dave have been Beth Ahabah members since the 80s. Their daughters are now in college and graduate school.
SUkkOT
September 18 - 25

Sukkot, a Hebrew word meaning “booths” or “huts,” refers to the Jewish festival of giving thanks for the fall harvest. It also commemorates the 40 years of Jewish wandering in the desert after the giving of the Torah atop Mt. Sinai. Sukkot is celebrated five days after Yom Kippur on the 15th of Tishrei, and is marked by several distinct traditions. One, which takes the commandment to dwell in booths literally, is to erect a sukkah, a small, temporary booth or hut. Sukkot (in this case, the plural of sukkah) are commonly used during the seven-day festival for eating, entertaining and even for sleeping.

Sukkot also called Z’man Simchateinu (Season of Our Rejoicing), is the only festival associated with an explicit commandment to rejoice. A final name for Sukkot is Chag HaAsif, (Festival of the Ingathering), representing a time to give thanks for the bounty of the earth during the fall harvest.

Sukkot begins five days after Yom Kippur. It is observed for seven days by Israelis and many Reform Jews, and for eight days by other Jews living outside Israel. The eighth day of Sukkot, Shemini Atzeret, is traditionally a separate festival in its own right. In Reform congregations, which generally observe one day of holidays, rather than two, Shemini Atzeret is observed concurrently with Simchat Torah, the festival of “rejoicing in the Torah.”

Like many societies, the ancient Hebrews had a variety of agricultural festivals. Sukkot likely has its roots in one of these ceremonial expressions of thanks to God for a good crop. By biblical times, Sukkot had evolved into a celebration of the summer fruit harvest: “At the end of the year, when you gather in your produce from the fields” (Exodus 23:16).

Initially, the holiday that became Sukkot had no fixed date and was observed whenever the harvest had been completed, depending on climatic conditions. By Torah times, however, the Book of Leviticus (23:24) declared: “On the fifteen day of the seventh month, there shall be a Feast of Tabernacles to God for seven days.” The date, then was standardized.

Sukkot later became one of the three Jewish Pilgrimage Festivals (Shalosh R’galim). As on Passover and Shavuot, the people would bring a portion of their harvest’s first fruits to the Temple in Jerusalem. There, it would be offered as a sacrifice to God by the High Priest. After the destruction of the Temple in 70 C.E., Sukkot became a synagogue and home celebration, marked by unique rituals and symbols. As was the case with other agricultural celebrations, the holiday also is invested with strong historical significance. Just as Passover is tied to the Exodus from Egypt and Shavuot is associated with the giving of the Torah, Sukkot has come to reflect the experience of the Israelites wandering in the wilderness. The 40 years of wandering in the desert prior to entering the Land of Israel is captured, symbolically, in the frail sukkah.

The Book of Leviticus (23:42–43) portrays God as commanding: “You shall dwell in booths for seven days...that your generations may know that I made the Children of Israel to dwell in booths, when I brought them out of the land of Egypt.” This passage is the biblical basis for building a sukkah.

There are two additional symbols associated with Sukkot that are historically based—the lulav and the etrog. Lulav is a Hebrew word meaning “palm branch” and refers to a unique ceremonial object associated with Sukkot. Lulav also is a generic term that describes a three-sectioned holder with a single palm branch in the center, two willow branches on the left, and three myrtle branches on the right. Etrog is a Hebrew word meaning “citron,” and refers to the special lemon-like fruit used together with the lulav in the Sukkot ritual.

As part of the biblical celebration of Sukkot, Leviticus 23:40 commands: “On the first day, you shall take the fruit of a goodly tree [literally etrog], palm branches, myrtle boughs, and willows, and rejoice before Adonai. With this passage, we know that the use of the lulav and etrog originated in biblical times. Over time, the combination of citron, palm, myrtle, and willow also became known as the arbaah minim (four species).

In Israel, Sukkot marks the beginning of the rainy season, which lasts until Passover. In Israel and among Jews in the Reform Movement, the holiday of Simchat Torah (rejoicing with the Torah) is celebrated on the eighth day after Sukkot begins and serves as a post-biblical festival created to honor the Torah.

Customs & Rituals:
Music

Hallel (praise) refers to a specific selection from the Book of Psalms. These psalms—113 to 118—are sung or recited in the synagogue on all festivals, as well as on Rosh Chodesh (the first day of each month), on each day of Hanukkah, and, in recent years, on Yom HaAtzmaut (Israel Independence Day). Hallel also is recited on the eve of Pesach during the seder. According to early rabbinic tradition (M. Pesahim 5:7), the Levites chanted these Hallel psalms in the Temple courtyard while the Passover lambs were being slaughtered; they are also associated with the waving of the lulav during Sukkot (M. Sukkah 3:9).

In the synagogue, Hallel is recited immediately following the Amidah and before the Torah reading (or the reading from the Festival Megillah, which precedes the Torah reading). Hallel is one of the musical highlights of festival services; there are many melodies for each of the Hallel psalms.

Continued on page 10....
Perhaps you or a family member has benefited 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.

Editorial submissions and ad materials for the OCTOBER/NOVEMBER issue of B’yachad are due no later than Sunday, September 1st
Ritual Objects

**Sukkah** - The sukkah symbolizes the frail huts in which the Israelites lived during their 40 years of wandering in the desert after the Exodus from Egypt. It also serves to remind Jews of the biblical account of how God protected them, provided for their needs in the wilderness, and by implication, still watches over us today.

Sukkot come in many variations, but there are some guidelines to follow when building them. Two important ones are:

- A sukkah has to have at least three walls. Only one can be an existing wall, like the side of a house. The walls may be constructed of any material, generally canvas, wood or metal. Today, it is possible to buy ready-to-assemble sukkah kits.

**SH’MINI ATZERET & SIMCHAT TORAH**

As Sukkot comes to an end, we encounter additional special days in the Jewish calendar: Sh’mi Atzeret and Simchat Torah.

Sh’mi Atzeret, Hebrew for “eighth-day convocation,” is the name given to the eighth day of Sukkot. Leviticus 23:36 proclaims: “On the eighth day you shall observe a holy convocation.” Jews in biblical times observed Simchat Torah for seven days. For them, this eighth day came after Simchat Torah; for Orthodox, Conservative, and many Reform Jews today, it is the last day of the Simchat Torah festival.

Sh’mi Atzeret was originally a time of reflection on the holy days of Simchat Torah, which had just ended. Jews who left the booths they had occupied throughout Sukkot engaged in a final day of prayer before returning to their daily routine. Over time, Sh’mi Atzeret also became a day on which Jews recited a special prayer for rain in the year to come – quite appropriate in view of Simchat Torah’s agricultural motif. The eighth day of Sukkot, Sh’mi Atzeret, is traditionally a separate festival in its own right. In Reform congregations, which generally observe one day of holidays, rather than two, Sh’mi Atzeret is observed concurrently with Simchat Torah, the festival of “Rejoicing in the Torah.”

Simchat Torah celebrates the end (and the beginning) of the annual Torah-reading cycle. Just as we reach the concluding section of Deuteronomy (the fifth book of the Torah) do we start over once again with Genesis (the first book of the Torah).

Only in the 11th century did the 9th day after the beginning of Simchat Torah take on both the name and the festive ritual of what we now recognize as Simchat Torah. An annual holiday of this nature implies a one-year cycle of Torah reading, but such was not always the case. In ancient Palestine, Jews followed a triennial, or three-year, cycle of Torah reading. The one-year cycle was a custom of the Babylonian Jewish community. It was not until the 8th century that the great majority of Jews adopted the annual system. Simchat Torah as an annual observance, then, emerged only after the divergence in customs over the Torah reading cycle was resolved.

Simchat Torah is a joyous celebration during which the Torah scrolls are taken from the ark and carried by congregants around the synagogue seven times. During these seven circuits, or hakafot, those not carrying Torahs often will wave brightly colored flags and sing Hebrew songs.

In Israel, Simchat Torah is observed on the one and only day of Sh’mi Atzeret, but for most Israelis it is just another day of Sukkot vacation. In many towns, public celebrations are held on the night after Simchat Torah. Known as hakafot shniyot (second processions), these events are simulations of Simchat Torah dancing and singing, but with professional musicians and electronic amplification. They are, in effect, “reruns” of Simchat Torah, designed to allow the public to enjoy the holiday without any of the restrictions or accoutrements of religion. These public festivals are usually popular and crowded.

Source: The Jewish Home (Revised Edition) by Daniel B. Syme, urj.org

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**Pet Blessing**

Saturday, October 5th • 10:30am

In honor of the week’s Torah portion, Noah, we will have a short worship experience that will take place on the surface parking lot.

We ask that all animals be on leashes or in carriers.
Join Us as We Celebrate the 2013•5774 Fall Festivals!

Sunday, September 15th
Sukkah Raising • 10:00am

Wednesday, September 18th
Dinner in the Sukkah • 6:00pm
Erev Sukkot Service • 7:30pm

Saturday, September 21st
J-Town (20s and 30s) Sukkot Reception at Rabbi Gallop’s

Sunday, September 22nd
Religious School in the Sukkah • 9:15am

Monday, September 23rd
Midrasha Dinner in the Sukkah • 6:30pm

Wednesday, September 25th
Hors d’oeuvres and Drinks in the Sukkah • 6:45pm
Erev Simchat Torah Service • 7:30pm
with “My Son The Doctor” Klezmer Band
DONATIONS:

TEMPLE FUND
IN HONOR OF:
The Bat Mitzvah of Melanie Hillelsohn, granddaughter of
Terry & Jerry Hirsch
   Judy & Sheldon Markowitz
The birth of Amelia Rose Goldman, Frances & Stanley
Goldman’s granddaughter
   Scott & Nancy Belleman
Demis Stewart’s special birthday
   Ann Bendheim
Judy & Sheldon Markowitz’ special anniversary
   Lesley & David Greenberg
Chris Bossola being honored by MR Magazine as one of the best
Menswear Retailers in North America
   The Bekenstein Family
IN MEMORY OF:
Judith Cherlin
   Alex & Lisa Cherlin
Steve Boley
   Marta Bussa
Evelyn Markowitz, our mother
   Judy & Sheldon Markowitz
Edward G. Glaser, our father
   Judy & Sheldon Markowitz
Daniel Roeper, our father
   Ken & Katie Roeper
Mildred Roeper, our mother
   Ken & Katie Roeper
David & Margaret Kamsky
   Linda & Irvin Seeman
Frank Rieman
   Ira & Maureen Goldstein
Joseph Burlock & Frank Parker
   Anne Lawver
Selma Mann
   Elizabeth & Ratcliffe Harris
   Scott & Nancy Belleman
   Joanna Gottlieb
   Linda & Irvin Seeman
Lesley & David Greenberg
   John Krug & Marilyn Feldman
   Edward & Susan Krug Friedman
   Frances & Stanley Goldman
Paula Meyer
   Scott & Nancy Belleman
   Laura & Rob Davidson
Pat Asch
   Fannie & Gilbert Rosenthal
Samuel Finer
   Allen Finer
Saul Viener
   Jacqueline Viener
THE RABBI’S PHILANTHROPIC FUND
IN HONOR OF:
The birth of Sydney LaMont,
daughter of Heather & Caleb
LaMont
   Laurie, Adam, Melissa & Lyndsay
   Nelson
Betty Vitsky is currently in the hospital, we wish her a speedy
recovery
   Pat, Paul & Sally
Jocelyn Adelman &
   Andy Vorenb erg’s wedding
   Ted & Marianne Metzger
The birth of Ari Henriques Coelho
   Patsy & Don Glazer
Dorry Samuels & David Levine’s marriage
   Barbara & Henry Levine
IN MEMORY OF:
Victor Levene
   Linda & Rick Gary
Steve Boley
   Zelda Boley
Bernard Appel
   Inge Appel
Paula Meyer
   Laurie, Adam, Melissa & Lyndsay
   Nelson
Stuart Schwarzschild
   Mr. & Mrs. Charles G. Thalhimer
Helene Weinfeld Shapiro
   Bob, Debbie, David & Emily Shapiro
Selma Mann
   Kathy Shapiro Wooton
Marie Picone
   Carmela Picone & Charles
   Rosenbaum
Miriam Fogel
   Peter & Leta Greenberg
CANTOR GOLDMAN’S MUSIC FUND
IN MEMORY OF:
Joel R. Cohen
   Fern S. Cohen
Harry S. Tucker & S. Lew Goldman
   Frances & Stanley Goldman
Estelle Finer, Rochelle Levin, Mimi
Mullian & Selma Mann
   Debra Craghead
Loved Ones
   Muriel Scoler
Bill Rothenberg, my husband
   Paul Rothenberg, my son
Nikki Fairman, my sister
   Frances Rothenberg
HEBREW CEMETERY FUND
Morton Thalhimer, Jr.
IN MEMORY OF:
Shirley L. Gunst
   Helen & Richard Robbins
Richard Bendheim
   Helen & Richard Robbins
Helene Weinfeld Shapiro, my mother
   Katherine Shapiro Wootton, Bill, Amy & Lisa
Harriet Grandis
   Betty Sue & Todd LePage
   Nancy Grandis White
Selma Mann
   Betty Sue & Todd LePage
Vic tor Levene
   Betty Sue & Todd LePage
BIMAH FLOWER FUND
IN MEMORY OF:
Henry Holtzman, my father
   Denise Goodman Keil
MUSEUM & ARCHIVES
IN APPRECIATION:
Franklin Clarke
   Peggy Friedenberg
IN HONOR OF:
Morty Norman’s Special Birthday
   Marianne & Ted Metzger
IN MEMORY OF:
Selma Mann
   Bonnie & Mike Eisenman
   Jean Bush Galeski
   Dr. & Mrs. Michael Sesnowitz
   Edith Brenner
   Mr. & Mrs. Charles G. Nusbaum
   Bonnie & Mike Eisenman
   Helen & Dick Robbins

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

Hebrew Cemetery

of Congregations Beth Shalome & Beth Ab ah b

It’s never too early to be prepared.
For more information please call Russell Finer or Bill Thalhimer, III at 358.6757.
SISTERHOOD
Meg Marshak, President

Sisterhood is looking back on a very busy year and planning for an even busier 2013-14. This past year was the year to get more women involved in local activities. From the Centennial Celebration to the beginning activities for “Half the Sky” projects, your Sisterhood has been busy. We have met the goal of involving more women, but we haven’t seen all of you, so we are planning a wider variety of activities for this year.

We will begin the year with the usual High Holidays eats and treats for both Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. The luncheon and Break fast are purchased and prepared by Sisterhood members. Sisterhood helps with many small projects and works with Brotherhood on other projects throughout the year.

Our calendar really starts on October 6th with the Kickoff Brunch for “Half the Sky.” This is the opportunity to get your ideas about projects and passions on the table and join others with a similar interest to help you succeed in fulfilling your ideas of what we should do. These projects will be planned by your self-chosen group. Sisterhood will offer support to the groups and help in any way we can to see you successful in the projects that you choose. Don’t worry if you didn’t see the screenings of the videos over the summer. We will show them again and you can join us for any or all of them. Haven’t read the book??? Contact Laura Davidson for a copy or get one from your favorite bookstore.

During the year we will also be sponsoring or supporting, raising and decorating the Sukkah, an Art Auction (our major fundraiser), Sock Hop, Consignment Sale for Party and Prom Dresses, Game Night, Murder/Mystery Dinner, and the Mid-Atlantic Women of Reform Judaism’s April meeting.

I have heard that some women “aren’t joiners.” That’s OK! Pick one of the activities that intrigues you and/or just come for the fun of it. You might find a new friend or some activity that will spark your interest or a talent (even long dormant ones). You could find a new adventure with women as busy as you are or a neighbor you didn’t know you had. If you get involved and give us your ideas for things you would like to do, then you have helped us be the organization for you.

You should have received your membership form in the mail. Please respond so that you may become a part of a dynamic group of women who support WOMEN and the Temple. When we are called upon to help we do. No amount of involvement is too small. Just come and be one of the ‘Sisterhood.’ You will enjoy even the smallest amount of time with us. The more hands, the easier it is to complete a project and the more fun we have. CBAWRJ (Congregation Beth Ahabah Women of Reform Judaism) continues to hope that you will join us and give us your ideas so that we can be the “sister(s)” you’ve always wanted.

Even though we are now experiencing the hottest days of summer, the early arrival of the High Holy Days is forcing Brotherhood to a quick gearing-up for another year of service. As in years past, we have a busy schedule of events. A couple of them are the Congregational Picnic to begin the year and the Murder/Mystery Dinner Theater (with Sisterhood) in the spring. We will be sharing a more detailed list in following monthly publications. What makes this year somewhat different is our attempt to draw more congregants into participating in our events. This is not only in attending, but also in organizing and putting on the events.

Very shortly, you will be receiving in the U.S. Mail our annual mailer offering membership and the opportunity to provide financial support for Brotherhood. In addition, there are a few lines for your suggestions for additional activities in which you would be willing to put some of your time. Please take a few moments to give this some serious thought. We want you to enjoy yourself as well as providing service to others and the camaraderie that it gives us all.

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

Uniquely Qualified to Represent Residential, Investment, Light Commercial Clients & Properties
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www.davidsellingrichmondsince1976.com

JOYNER FINE PROPERTIES
"L'Shana Tovah! Rosh Hashanah 2013/5774"
BAM&A is 36!
A Significant Double-Chai Birthday!

Back in the 1970s, a small group of far-seeing Beth Ahabah members realized that in the course of its long history the Congregation had accumulated a sizeable treasure trove of valuable objects and documents. These consisted of letters, newspaper clippings, magazines and magazine articles, photographs, family documents, temple records, religious objects, and even a few oil paintings. They also realized that if these things were not cared for properly, they would first end up in boxes in the corner, then boxes in the basement, then the landfill. This was not acceptable to them, so they took action!

There were nine of these concerned members, named Greentree, Viener, Windmueller, Cohen, Klaus, Rosendorf, Hirschler, Grossberg and Goldburg (Ariel Goldburg, Beth Ahabah’s Rabbi). Their names are to be seen on photos, plaques, and other memorials in our buildings. The descendants of many of them are still here, and are still members of the congregation along with their families.

These nine reasoned that there should be an organization dedicated to the preservation and presentation of Congregation Beth Ahabah’s history, and that its mission should extend to the Jewish history of Richmond and the American South. In May of 1977 they created the Congregation Beth Ahabah Museum & Archives (BAM&A) Trust in partnership with the Congregation. That partnership continues to this day.

The Museum & Archives has taken many forms throughout its history. It has occupied the aforementioned cardboard boxes, second-hand store showcases, the corners of various offices, and finally its present home at 1109 West Franklin Street. This townhouse, owned by the Congregation and connected to its staff offices, houses the collection and administrative areas. The Trust is the service organization that provides staffing and operates the collection as a Museum & Archives. Three part-time employees and a volunteer board of Trustees plan and carry out exhibits and events that fulfill the organization’s mission and bring notoriety and credit to Beth Ahabah.

Please bring your families and your out-of-town visitors, and show them what our vigorous and historically significant community is like!

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

This photochrome postcard of the Franklin Street synagogue, c. 1915, was added to the Museum & Archives collection in July. The postcard, published by Valentine & Sons’ Publishing Co., based in New York and Boston, depicts the Synagogue building viewed from Ryland Street.

DID YOU KNOW?
Jewish Trivia

DR. JOHN DE SEQEYRA

Dr. John de Seqeyra (1712 - 1785), a Sephardic Jew residing in Williamsburg, VA, before the American Revolution, was credited by Thomas Jefferson for introducing the custom of eating tomatoes. Prior to that time they had been grown in the colonies for decoration only.

Dr. de Seqeyra, who trained as a medical practitioner in Holland, emigrated to Virginia in 1745, and immediately began practicing medicine in Williamsburg. He was the first Visiting Physician at the Public Hospital, and the only Jewish resident of 18th century Williamsburg.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>04</td>
<td>EREV ROSSHASHANAH Service</td>
<td>7:30 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>05</td>
<td>ROSSHASHANAH</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>YOUNG FAMILY Service</td>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
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<td>MORNING CONGREGATIONAL Service</td>
<td>11:00 AM</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>INFORMAL YOUTH AND FAMILY Service</td>
<td>2:30 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>06</td>
<td>SHABBAT Service</td>
<td>7:30 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>08</td>
<td>FIRST DAY OF RELIGIOUS SCHOOL</td>
<td>9:15 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>EREV YOM KIPPUR (KOL NIDRE) Service</td>
<td>6:30 PM</td>
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<td>Saturday</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>YOM KIPPUR</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>YOUNG FAMILY Service</td>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>MORNING CONGREGATIONAL Service</td>
<td>11:00 AM</td>
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<td>DISCUSSION</td>
<td>1:00 PM</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>INFORMAL YOUTH AND FAMILY Service</td>
<td>2:30 PM</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>MEMORIAL AND CONCLUDING FAMILY Service</td>
<td>4:15 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>SUKKAH RAISING AND DECORATING</td>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>“DINNER IN THE SUKKAH”</td>
<td>6:00 PM</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>EREV SUKKT Service</td>
<td>7:30 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>SHABBAT Service</td>
<td>7:30 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>BAR MITZVAH of Dylan Conley</td>
<td>10:30 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>RELIGIOUS SCHOOL</td>
<td>9:15 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>MIDRASHA MONDAY</td>
<td>6:30 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>DRINKS AND HOR'S D'OEUVRES</td>
<td>6:45 PM</td>
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<td>EREV SIMCHAT TORAH Service featuring “My Son the Doctor”</td>
<td>7:30 PM</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>2ND AND 3RD GRADE SHABBAT Dinner</td>
<td>6:00 PM</td>
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<td>FAMILY SHABBAT Service featuring “Etz Chayim”</td>
<td>7:30 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>BAT MITZVAH of Morgan Ackley</td>
<td>10:30 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>RELIGIOUS SCHOOL</td>
<td>9:15 AM</td>
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Families who have a Bar or Bat Mitzvah in 2014-15, or those from the 2013-14 who have not had the chance to attend previously, are invited to join Russ Finer and Rabbi Gallop for this “nuts and bolts” meeting to discuss the B’nei Mitzvah process.

We will cover our tutoring program, paperwork, room reservations, fees, along with any questions parents may have.