



# CONGREGATION BETH AHABAH b'yachad

VOLUME 79 NO. 01  
bethahabah.org

SEPTEMBER 2013 | ELUL 5773/TISHREI 5774

## 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 story teller 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

*Continued on page 2*

## 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



*Justin & friends*

*Continued on page 3*

### IN THIS ISSUE:

Rabbi's Message	p 3
Welcome New Members	
	p 4
Community	p 7
Donations	p 12
Community Calendar	p 15

*Continued from page 1*

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

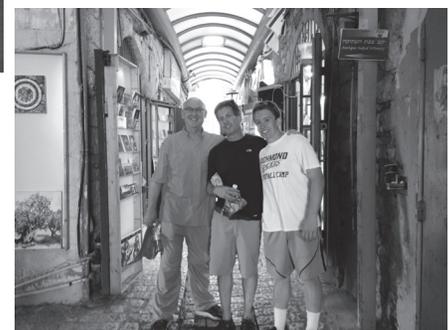
in the ceremony as well as parents and grandparents.

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, Corinne 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 Hospital-ity 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.*



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

*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.



*Isaac & Hannah Iseman's marker after cleaning*



*Rosa Holtz's marker before cleaning*



*Rosa Holtz's marker after cleaning*

## A SHORT MESSAGE FROM RUSS



*Russell M. Finer, FSA,  
Executive Director*

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 Tikkun 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

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

### *September 2012-July 2013*

Randy & Kelly Applefeld & their daughters Emme, Paisley, Molly & Jamie  
Adam Beifield  
Shelly Berger  
Alan & Nancy Chazen & their daughters Emily & Samantha  
Neil & Susan Cohen & their children Zachary, Alexandra & Sophie  
Allen 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



## 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](mailto:cgre41@yahoo.com).

## Barbara & William B. Thalhimer, Jr. Religious School

### CONNECTING 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 Goldberg 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 in the Joel House.

Rehearsal:

11:45 am – 1:15 pm

Pizza lunch included

### 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

### JR. YOUTH GROUPS

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

# MIDRASHA

**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**

B'NEI MITZVAH



**Dylan Conley**

September 21, 2013

Dylan Conley will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on September 21, 2013. Dylan is the son of Carolyn and Jared Conley, and the brother of Brielle and Drew. He is the grandson of Pearl and Lee Nehmad and Judy and Albert Conley.

Dylan is an 8th grade honor student at Holman Middle School. He enjoys playing football for his school, basketball, swimming and being with family and friends.

For his Mitzvah Project, Dylan participated in the Dunk Hunger program to collect food for the Central Virginia Food Bank.

We are very proud of Dylan.



**Morgan Ackley**

September 28, 2013

Morgan Ackley will become a Bat Mitzvah on September 28, 2013. Morgan is the daughter of Melissa and Matthew Ackley, and sister of Michael.

Morgan is in 8th grade at Robious Middle School. She enjoys playing soccer, running, swimming, and performing.

For her Bat Mitzvah project, Morgan volunteered for United Athletics, an organization that pairs athletes and individuals requiring physical assistance to participate in races. Morgan assisted Jenna, an athlete with disabilities, in a triathlon by pulling her in a raft while swimming, pulling her in a cart while biking, and pushing her in a stroller while running.

Morgan has worked hard preparing for her Bat Mitzvah. She and her family are proud to share this day with family, friends and congregation members.

**IN SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILIES OF....**

**Marie Picone**

*mother of Carmela (Charles Rosenbaum) Picone*

**Harvey Lazear**

*father of Scott (Jennifer Cassell) Lazear*

**Selma Mann**

*mother of John (Barbara Gaden) Mann*

**Jean Galeski**

*aunt of Mike (Bonnie) Eisenman*

**Patricia Asch**

**Harriett Goodman**

*wife of Harold Goodman  
mother of Winnie (Barry) Fratkin  
mother-in-law of Denise (Jeff Keil) Goodman Keil*

**Paula Shapiro**

*sister of Pam Feibish*

**Gerald Dascher**

*brother of William (Beryl) Dascher  
brother-in-law of Jeanette Lipman & Leonard (Lois) Sidenberg*

**CONGRATULATIONS TO.....**

**Frances & Stanley Goldman** on the birth of their granddaughter, Amelia Rose Goldman born June 15, 2013. Also to her parents, Marni & Dan Goldman.

**Patsy & Donald Glazer** on the birth of their grandson, Ari Henriques Coelho born May 15, 2013. Also to his parents, Rachel & Ken Coelho.

**WHO'S WHO:  
LAURA SAVAGE**



*Laura Savage*

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, Brittany 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. *Eetrog* 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. Pesachim 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...*



*Thinking of Buying or Selling?  
Call me 1st!*

**STEVIE  
WATSON**

*Ranked Top 1%  
In the USA!*

**754-4551**



**Insist on Stevie!**



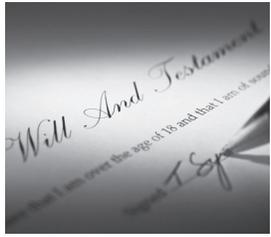
**Rosh Hashanah Oneg**  
Wednesday, September 4th • Joel House

Following services, adults in their 20s and 30s are invited to a special oneg of appetinis and sweets for a happy and healthy new year.



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

REMEMBER  
CONGREGATION BETH AHABAH  
IN YOUR  
ESTATE PLANNING



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

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

**Designer Deliveries Inc.**

**Modern moving with old fashioned care  
Call Day or Night 355-6505**

**Fully Insured**

**We move local and long distances and assist with international moves**

**We are experts in moving delicate Furniture, Antiques and Pianos**




**Receiving & Storage  
Owned, operated and supervised by  
Avery Lynn**

**Moving:**

- Residential
- Interior Decorators
- Offices

*Sukkot continued from page 8...*

## 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'mini Atzeret* and *Simchat Torah*.

*Sh'mini 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'mini 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'mini 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'mini Atzeret*, is traditionally a separate festival in its own right. In Reform congregations, which generally observe one day of holidays, rather than two, *Sh'mini 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 *Torah*s often will wave brightly colored flags and sing Hebrew songs.

In Israel, *Simchat Torah* is observed on the one and only day of *Sh'mini 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](http://urj.org)

## 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!**



**Sukkot**



**Simchat Torah**

**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" Klezemer 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 Gotlieb*

*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 Vorenberg'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. & Ms. Charles G. Thalhimier*

**Helene Weinfeld Shapiro**

*Bob, Debbie, David & Emily Shapiro*

**Selma Mann**

*Kathy Shapiro Wootton*

**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 Thalhimier, 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*

**Victor 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*



*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 Thalhimier, III at 358.6757.

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



**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.



**BROTHERHOOD**  
John Marshak,  
President

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  
email: [David.Feibish@joynerfineproperties.com](mailto:David.Feibish@joynerfineproperties.com)  
[www.davidsellingrichmondsince1976.com](http://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!

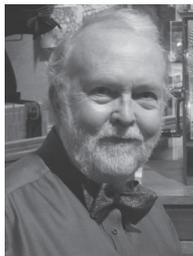
There were nine of these concerned members, named Greentree, Viener, Windmueller, Cohen, Klaus, Rosendorf, Hirschler, Grossberg and Goldberg (Ariel Goldberg, Beth Ahabah's Rabbi). Their names are to be seen on photos, plaques, and other memorials in our buildings. The descendants of many of them are 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!



David Farris, Director

## 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.

## TREASURES FROM THE COLLECTION



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 Sequeyra (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 Sequeyra, 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.

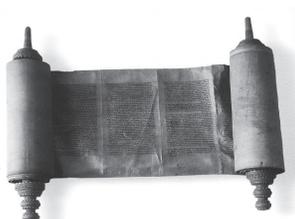
# CALENDAR

15



## SEPTEMBER 2013 \*

Wednesday	<b>04</b>	<b>EREV ROSH HASHANAH</b> Service	7:30 PM
Thursday	<b>05</b>	<b>ROSH HASHANAH</b> YOUNG FAMILY Service	9:00 AM
		MORNING CONGREGATIONAL Service	11:00 AM
		INFORMAL YOUTH AND FAMILY Service	2:30 PM
Friday	<b>06</b>	<b>SHABBAT</b> Service	7:30 PM
Sunday	<b>08</b>	<b>FIRST DAY OF RELIGIOUS SCHOOL</b>	9:15 AM
Friday	<b>13</b>	<b>EREV YOM KIPPUR (KOL NIDRE)</b> Service	6:30 PM
Saturday	<b>14</b>	<b>YOM KIPPUR</b> YOUNG FAMILY Service	9:00 AM
		MORNING CONGREGATIONAL Service	11:00 AM
		DISCUSSION	1:00 PM
		INFORMAL YOUTH AND FAMILY Service	2:30 PM
		MEMORIAL AND CONCLUDING Service	4:15 PM
Sunday	<b>15</b>	<b>SUKKAH RAISING AND DECORATING</b>	10:00 AM
Wednesday	<b>18</b>	<b>"DINNER IN THE SUKKAH"</b> EREV SUKKOT Service	6:00 PM 7:30 PM
Friday	<b>20</b>	<b>SHABBAT</b> Service	7:30 PM
Saturday	<b>21</b>	<b>BAR MITZVAH of Dylan Conley</b>	10:30 AM
Sunday	<b>22</b>	<b>RELIGIOUS SCHOOL</b>	9:15 AM
Monday	<b>23</b>	<b>MIDRASHA MONDAY</b>	6:30 PM
Wednesday	<b>25</b>	<b>DRINKS AND HOR'S D'OEUVRES</b> EREV SIMCHAT TORAH Service featuring "My Son the Doctor"	6:45 PM 7:30 PM
Friday	<b>27</b>	<b>2<sup>ND</sup> AND 3<sup>RD</sup> GRADE SHABBAT</b> Dinner FAMILY SHABBAT Service featuring "Etz Chayim"	6:00 PM 7:30 PM
Saturday	<b>28</b>	<b>BAT MITZVAH of Morgan Ackley</b>	10:30 AM
Sunday	<b>29</b>	<b>RELIGIOUS SCHOOL</b>	9:15 AM



Successor to K.K. Beth Shalom...1789

Telephone: (804) 358-6757

Richmond, Virginia 23220

1111 West Franklin Street

CONGREGATION BETH AHABAH



**TEMPLE STAFF**

**Martin P. Beifield Jr.** Sophia and Nathan Gumenick Senior Rabbi\*

**Jesse Gallop** Associate Rabbi\*

**Russell M. Finer** Executive Director\*

**Ramona Brand** Education Director\*

**Dr. Jack D. Spiro** Rabbi Emeritus

**Frances T. Goldman** Cantor Emerita

**Natan Berenshteyn** Choral Director

**Sarah Beck-Berman** Cantorial Soloist

**TEMPLE OFFICERS**

**Charles Rothenberg** President\*

**Katie Roeper** 1st Vice President\*

**Lawrence Salzman** 2nd Vice President\*

**Robert Davidson** Treasurer\*

**Ronald Kasoff** Immediate Past President\*

**TEMPLE AUXILIARIES**

**Shelly Berger** Museum & Archives Chairman

**David B. Farris** Museum & Archives Director

**William B. Thalhimer III** Hebrew Cemetery Chairman

**Meg Marshak** Sisterhood President

**John Marshak** Brotherhood President

**BOARD OF MANAGERS**

Karyn Andersen

Carol Ann Callahan\*

Melissa Demlein

Heather Dinkin

Dana Isaacoff

Lisa Kaplan\*

Brian Meyer

Daniel Rosenthal

Larry Salomon

Laura Savage

Charles Scher

Joel Silverman

Lori Skiles

Demis Stewart

James Weinberg\*

\* Executive Committee Member

# B'nei Mitzvah Logistics Meeting

## Sunday, September 29th Gumenick Chapel • 10:30am

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.

