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Congregation Beth Ahabah Inaugurates In-Reach Program to Seniors

by Rabbi Martin P. Beifield, Jr.

Through regular telephone calls and friendly visits, volunteers from the Temple will bring Jewish flavors and a taste of Temple life to those people who are our most longstanding members but whose more active connection to the Temple may be in the past.

The Beth Ahabah Senior Bridge will provide a meaningful opportunity for synagogue volunteers to engage the seniors members of our congregation. They will help build and strengthen community at Beth Ahabah by linking the Synagogue, volunteers, seniors, and community partners.

All Temple members are welcome to get involved in the Beth Ahabah Senior Bridge. If you would like to be part of this program and want to discuss the role you can play, please let us know.

We would like to thank Jewish Family Services for its valuable assistance and the Hebrew Fund for the Aged and the Richmond Jewish Foundation for its financial support.

For more information contact:
Rachel Schmidt, the Senior Bridge Coordinator - rachelschmidt@comcast.net or Rabbi Beifield - rabbi@bethahabah.org or 358-6757

DREAM BUILDING FOR BETH AHABAH

By Chuck Rothenberg and Rabbi Beifield

For the past several years, clergy, professional and lay leaders of Beth Ahabah have been tuned into the changes in the Reform movement, the trends in faith-based membership, and the rapid advancements in technology and communications. The developments that have occurred over the past 20 years are both mind-boggling and exciting. While the basic tenets of Judaism have remained intact for centuries and the walls and systems of Beth Ahabah have stood strong for generations, the world around us has altered nearly every aspect of the way we live our lives. What we eat, wear and buy, how we communicate, think and learn; our mobility, our expectations, even our identities have changed in a world that races forward with blurred boundaries between yesterday and tomorrow.

In response to our ever-changing world and the impacts it has had and will have on Beth Ahabah, the Board and Clergy initiated a process to engage the Congregation in a conversation about the future of Beth Ahabah and Reform Judaism. We began with congregational-wide forums last

Continued on Page 2...
Abraham 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.

I also know that we are driven by inertia, and many are just not in the habit of making Shabbat service a part of their week (or month). Yet, if we just began doing it, we would make it a part of our lives. A past president of the temple used to say jokingly, “I go to temple once a month if I need it or not!”

I also assume that many people may just not like my or any other services and may have legitimate reasons for not attending. Yet, normally, many of the reasons people use for not attending are pretty weak, so I want to share with you the following list that illustrates how we could use the same arguments for not attending football games that people use for not coming to services.

We know that attending Shabbat services regularly is a good thing.

Reasons I stopped attending football games/temple:

1. Every time I went, they asked me how I voted.
2. The people sitting next to me didn’t seem very friendly.
3. The seats were too hard.
4. The coach/rabbi never came to call on me.
5. The referee/board made a decision I disagreed with.
6. I was sitting with hypocrates – they came only to see what others were wearing.
7. Some of the games/services went overtime, and I was late getting home.
8. The band/cantor played/sang songs I didn’t know.
9. The games/services were scheduled when I wanted to do other things.
10. My parents took me to too many games/services when I was growing up.
11. Since I read a book about football/religion, I know more than coaches/rabbis do anyway.
12. I don’t want to take my children, because I want them to choose for themselves what sport/religion they like best.

After reading this, I hope you will be seen at temple throughout the year, not only for the High Holy Days.

In thinking about what to share with you, I came across an article written by Rabbi Jacques Cukierkorn about 10 years ago which I have updated a bit to keep it relevant today. What is the most important Jewish holiday we will be celebrating on Friday, October 3? If you answered Yom Kippur, you are wrong! Yes, that day will be Yom Kippur as well, but more importantly, it will be Shabbat.

In the Bible, the prohibition for breaking the Sabbath is the death penalty, whereas the penalty for not observing the holidays is “to be removed from your kin.” This proves that the Sabbath is far more important than any holiday. We also know that attending Shabbat services regularly is a good thing, for it truly makes you part of the community. It also makes Judaism an integral part of our lives.

Gabriel Cohen, editor of The Jewish Post and Opinion, has been on a campaign asking rabbis to demand/cajole/ask their congregants to commit to attending services at least once a month. I assume that if my congregants are not showing up at temple on Friday night, it is because they have more important or pressing things to do.

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A MESSAGE FROM THE TREASURER

by Robert Davidson

As we begin the Jewish New Year, I want to update you on the Temple’s budget as well as several related budgetary activities. First, I am pleased to report that Beth Ahabah finished the 2013/2014 fiscal year at the end of May with a slight surplus. I would like to thank the entire Temple staff and committees for all their efforts at controlling costs during the past year.

We are now well underway with our 2014/2015 fiscal year. The Finance committee worked overtime to develop a budget for this year which provided funding for our many programs and activities while setting minimal increases in our dues levels and some of our fees. This resulting budget of $1.4 million was approved by our Board of Managers in April.

Most of the Temple’s expenses go toward salaries and facilities (including upkeep). The remaining portion represents various expenses such as programming carried out in support of Religious School, adult education, and Shabbat services. We pay for these expenses with money from financial commitments (65% representing dues plus giving circles contributions), endowment support (15%), Religious School fees (8%) and other income sources (12% including rentals). One way to help us limit future increases in dues and fees is to expand our rental income. Please consider using the Beth Ahabah facilities when you are planning future events.

Several new activities under the auspices of the Finance committee are planned for this year. One of the items on which we will be working is to take a longer-term view of the temple’s budget in addition to our efforts to develop next year’s budget. We also have an initiative underway to make the process for consideration of dues relief requests more transparent. Finally, we will be studying alternative dues structures including a “fair share” approach to determine if one of these might be viable for Beth Ahabah in the future.

Welcome New Members!

We wish a warm welcome to all our new members and are so happy to include you as part of the Beth Ahabah family. If you have not yet joined our temple, please remember to send a family photo to the temple office for our new member board.

Adam & Coffee Bourne
Britt Calloway & Erin Kasoff
Blanton Cohen
James & Patricia Farber
Marc & Rebecca Friedlander
Steve & Beth Gillispie
David & Linda Mahler
Seth & Noel Mahler
A.J. Miller
Lori & Douglas Moyer
Marc & Deborah Roben
Jane Spier
Greg & Jodi Sturman
Clifford & Sharran Wallen
Evon Weiner & Katharine Williams
Mary & Scott Wise
Mark & Shannon Yeaker

Barbara & William B. Thalhimer, Jr. Religious School

by Ramona Brand, Director

They were religious men and women. The book they loved most dearly was the Bible...The Pilgrims even called America “the new Canaan”. Cotton Mather, who was a Puritan historian, even spoke of the Pilgrims as “our happy Israel in America”, and of William Bradford, the second governor of Massachusetts, as “Moses.”

Mather called the early magistrates as “the people’s priests”, the “men of spirit.”

Strongly influenced by the Bible and with their knowledge of the holiday of Sukkot, the Pilgrims marked their first harvest festival by emulating the Festival of Booths. Today we can fully enjoy both of these joyous occasions that celebrate bounty, family and thankfulness.

Liven up your Sukkot and Thanksgiving with these delicious recipes.

POMEGRANATES AND PUMPKINS

Who doesn’t love the bounty of the fall harvest? Pumpkin and squash abound, cakes and pies are filled with juicy apples, round challah with raisins or steaming cornbread make their appearance at the table. As the air chills and we wear sweaters, there is nothing better than to tuck into a table laden with the gifts of the earth. As American Jews we have the pleasure of observing two feasts of plenty. We can sit in our Sukkot dinning on chicken with tisanes in October and gather round the table enjoying turkey with trimmings in November.

It is no coincidence that these two holidays are in such close proximity calendar wise. There is a close connection between the two holidays and interesting to note the profound influence Jewish practice had on what has become the quintessential American holiday. The original Thanksgiving, celebrated by the Pilgrims on December 4, 1621 was directly modeled on the holiday of Sukkot. Morris Epstein, in his book All About Jewish Holidays and Customs writes, “Where did the early Pilgrims get the idea for a Thanksgiving Day?”

INSTRUCTIONS
1. Place lentils and 1 teaspoon salt in bowl. Cover with 4 cups warm water and soak for 1 hour. Drain well.
2. Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Place drained lentils, chicken broth, water, garlic, and ½ teaspoon salt in medium saucepan. Cover and bake in oven until lentils are tender but remain intact, 40 to 60 minutes. While lentils are in oven, whisk oil and lemon juice together in large bowl.
3. Drain lentils well, remove and discard garlic and bay leaf. Add drained lentils, shallot, half of walnuts, and half of pomegranate seeds to dressing and toss to combine. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Transfer to serving dish, sprinkle with remaining walnuts and pomegranate seeds, and serve.

Creamy Pumpkin Soup for Thanksgiving

INGREDIENTS:
6 cups chicken stock
1 1/2 teaspoons salt
3 1/2 cups cubed fresh pumpkin
1 teaspoon fresh parsley

New Member Dinner

Wednesday, October 8th
6 pm in the Beth Ahabah Sukkah
RSVP to the Temple office, 358.6757 or l.lacy@bethahabah.org

Religious School News Continues on Page 6
Religious School News Continued from Page 5

1 cup chopped onion
1/2 teaspoon chopped fresh thyme
1 clove garlic, minced
1/2 cup heavy whipping cream
5 whole black peppercorns

dIRECTIONS:
1. Cut pumpkin into 1/2-inch cubes.
2. Heat stock, salt, pumpkin, onion, thyme, garlic, and peppercorns. Bring to a boil, reduce heat to low, and simmer for 30 minutes uncovered.
3. Puree the soup in small batches (1 cup at a time) using a food processor or blender.
4. Return to pan and bring to a boil again. Reduce heat to low and simmer for another 30 minutes, uncovered. Stir in heavy cream. Pour into soup bowls and garnish with fresh parsley.

All Rights Reserved © 2014 Allrecipes.com

Kindergarten and First Grade Family Dinner and Consecration:
Friday, October 17th
6:00 pm Catered Shabbat dinner
7:00 pm Service and Consecration

Join us as we formally welcome our newest students to Religious School! Enjoy our Family Shabbat dinner for Kindergarten and First Grade families as well as Second Grade Consecrants. All Kindergarten students and our new 1st and 2nd graders will be honored at Consecration with special certificates, blessings and the honor of leading the Shema. This year the tour goes to Beth Ahabah, saving and restoring Monticello after Thomas Jefferson’s Contribution to religious freedom and its impact on the Jewish Community.

The “Beth” Synagogue Tour
Sunday, November 9th
Grades 1 and 2
Our 1st and 2nd graders participate in a city-wide Bus Tour of 3 area synagogues. Their interactive experience includes a scavenger hunt, snack and a great active learning opportunity. This year the tour goes to Beth Ahabah, Beth El and Keneseth Beth Israel.

Upcoming Gesher Classes
Sunday October 12th
Kindergarten, theme: Shabbat
Sunday, October 26th
First Grade, theme: Making a Jewish Home
Sunday, November 9th
Third Grade, theme: Creation
Sunday, November 16th
Second Grade, theme: Coming to America

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

9:15-10:30 am
Students in class
9:30-10:30 am
Adult Education Session with Rabbi Beifield
10:30-11:45 am
Parents & children will join together in the kindergarten classroom with their teachers for an age-appropriate project and brunch.

The “Beth” Tour Schedule:
9:30 am: Students from other synagogues arrive at Beth Ahabah
10:00 am: Busses leave Beth Ahabah with our students for other synagogues
12:15 pm: Beth Ahabah bus returns for drop off

Parents are invited to Chaperone contact Ramona at r.brand@bethahabah.org for more information.

This program is generously sponsored by the Richmond Council for Jewish Education.

GRADE 7 FIELD TRIP TO MONTICELLO:
Sunday, November 16th
As part of our American Jewish History curriculum the 7th grade will be taking a trip to Monticello on Sunday, March 16th. The focus of the trip is Thomas Jefferson’s Contribution to Religious Freedom and its impact on the Jewish Community. Additionally the students will learn about the contribution of the Levy family to saving and restoring Monticello after Jefferson’s death. We are fortunate to have this interesting opportunity to learn more about our American Jewish heritage!

Parents are needed to Chaperone and drive: contact Ramona at r.brand@bethahabah.org for more information.

Religious School News Continued from Page 6

Family Mingles:
November 2nd at 9:30 am
6th and 7th grade parents

Sunday Morning Social at the Joel House includes brunch and mingling with other parents in your child’s classes. A great way to get to make connections!

Mid-Week Hebrew is Fun!
There is still room for enrollment

Small classes, big smiles! Lots of Hebrew fun, lots of friends. Two teachers- twice the fun. Small classes allow for personalized Hebrew instruction that combines games and tutorial style teaching to build up the Hebrew skills learned on Sundays. Students who attend Mid-week Hebrew gain greater proficiency and are more prepared and confident for their Bar and Bat Mitzvah tutoring.

Class will be preceded by an optional Pizza Dinner.
Pizza Dinner 5:30pm-6pm in the Joel House
Cost: $17.00, Pizza Dinner $80 for the year or $35 drop in fee

Teen Kick-Off Event
For all 8th-12th graders
Saturday, October 11th - 1:00-3:00PM
$25 RSVP with payment by October 1st
$35 RSVP with payment by October 9th
Waiver Required

Drop Off and Pick Up at Beth Ahabah
4245 Carolina Avenue, Building B
Richmond, Virginia 23222
(next to Richmond Raceway)

Religious School News Continued from Page 6

Etc Chayim
For Students Grades K-4
Singers 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.

Religious School News continues on Page 6

New to the Neighborhood?
If someone Jewish you know is new to the Richmond community and might be interested in finding out about Congregation Beth Ahabah, please contact Russ Finer at the temple office 804.358.6757, ext. 302 or at r.finer@bethahabah.org to see if we can send them an information package.

Thank you!
Eli Schwartz will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on October 11, 2014. Eli is the son of Donna Perry and Louis Schwartz. For the last few months, Eli has been volunteering at the Richmond SPCA as part of his Mitzvah Project. He has enjoyed working with the animals and plans to continue volunteering there.

Eli is looking forward to sharing this simcha with family, friends, and the Beth Ahabah community.

Madeline (Maddi) Grossman will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on October 18th, 2014. She is the daughter of Steven Grossman and Cheryl Miller, granddaughter of Ian Miller and the late Frank Miller, and granddaughter of Morris Grossman and the late Charlotte Grossman.

Maddi is an 8th grade student at Orchard House. For her Mitzvah Project, she is working with the Virginia Equine Welfare Society, an organization dedicated to the welfare of abused, neglected and slaughter-bound equines through education, rehabilitation, training and adoption. Maddi has specifically been working on training rescued horses to improve their chances for adoption.

Julia Dinkin will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on October 25th, 2014. Julia is the daughter of Bill and Heather Dinkin, and the younger sister of Elinor.

Julia is an 8th grade student at RTA-Richmond Hebrew Day School. She enjoys dancing at the Richmond Ballet and has performed in many productions with the professional company. She also enjoys acting, travelling and volunteering.

For her Mitzvah Project, Julia volunteered for many weeks as teen helper in a classroom for 2 year olds at the ICC’s Camp Ganin. We are very proud of Julia, and look forward to sharing this simcha with friends, family, and the congregation.

Beth Ahabah has a wide range of donation opportunities available. The list can be viewed on the Temple website or you can call the Temple office at 804.358.6757.

Charitable Giving in honor of or in memory of a loved one is an important tradition for the Beth Ahabah congregation. Making a gift to the temple offers a positive way to affirm your values and priorities and protect our future Jewish way of life. Honoring a friend or loved one through charitable gifts is often an especially meaningful act of paying tribute to someone special, while assuring that worthwhile giving continues to influence our children, grandchildren and the world around us.

 Gifts That Make A Difference…Sinchah or Remembrance

Gifts to the Beth Ahabah community offer a positive way to affirm your values and priorities and protect our future Jewish way of life.

Mazal tov!
**TEMPLE FUND**

**IN HONOR OF:**
- Lesley Greenberg’s special birthday
  - Katy & Jimmy Volly
- Mark Novey’s speedy recovery
  - Carol Ann & Cal Callahan
- Ann Bendheim’s special birthday
  - Lesley & David Greenberg

**IN MEMORY OF:**
- Gerald Dascher, my father
  - Ellen & Robert Lyons
- Dr. Hans Falck
  - Erwin M. Jacobs
- Louise Bloom Weiss & Yetta Greenberg
  - Rivolanne Sacks

**DONATIONS**

- Lazar Brandman & Tamara Kotlyar
- Morton D. Schumann
- Diane & Lonnie Paster
- Murray Paster
- Marilyn W. Lowenstein
- Brown Lowenstein, my mother
  - Lynn Rubens Wolf
- my loving dear sister,
  - Murray Paster
- My loving adored mother,
  - Lazar Brandman & Tamara Kotlyar

**Religious School Tuition Assistance Fund**

**IN MEMORY OF:**
- Hans Falck
- Vicky & Graemum Schiff

**Museum & Archives**

**IN APPRECIATION:**
- For Research Assistance
  - Ms. Bertha Klein
- Dr. Carrie Kluger

**IN MEMORY OF:**
- My Mother, Jeanne L. Landers
- Audrey Landers

**THE HERBERT HELTZER FUND**

**IN MEMORY OF:**
- Saul Viener
- Betty Vitsky

**Public Notice**

An armed security guard is on duty at Hebrew Cemetery on the first and third Sundays of the month from Noon to 3:00 p.m.

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**B’Yachad**

**DEADLINES FOR**

**EDITORIAL & ADVERTISING**

- **DECEMBER 2014/JANUARY 2015**
  - **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24**
- **FEBRUARY/MARCH**
  - **FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26**

**For more information about advertising in the bulletin, contact Russ Finer in the Temple office, 804.358.6757. Please submit editorial and camera ready ads to Susan Morgan, smorganpr@comcast.net.**

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**MEN OF REFORM JUDAISM**

by John Marcink, President

The Brotherhood has specifically been invited to contribute input to the architects on the renovations/improvements of our Temple’s buildings. Having attended a number of these sessions, called charrettes, a number of themes are emerging. Of the many, one is the need for a unified edifice. People (the public, congregants, etc.), would be better served if there were a central entrance from which they could then go to the sanctuary, religious school, BAMA, office, etc. In addition, such an entrance, with lobby, would serve as a social gathering place, before going on to the activity.

The second is the replacement of the Goldberg with a new social hall and attached kitchen. Most express the opinion the Goldberg does not have the size and ambiance conducive to festive celebrations. The present kitchen equipment is dreadfully outdated not to mention its configuration is one in which it is hard to work.

These are, at present, just “pipe dreams.” Please take the opportunity to express your opinion on these matters and any other of importance to you before plans start to be “committed to paper.” Assuming the Generation Campaign will receive adequate support, let us make the architects’ final product one that will serve us all well.

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**Women of Reform Judaism**

by Beryl Holzbach, President

For me, the High Holidays are a time to reflect on those things I am grateful for in my life. As a woman, I am thankful that Reform Judaism affords me the opportunity to express my spirituality through prayer, congregational and community involvement.

I am aware that this right is not afforded equally to all Jewish women. Even in Israel, Jewish sanctity is still accessible and available solely by and for men. Women and girls do not always have the opportunity to take active, leadership roles in Jewish spiritual life.

However, Women of the Wall strives to change this for women of all ages by providing a model of involvement and leadership of women and girls on all levels of Jewish prayer and celebration.

Women of the Wall, or Netket Hakotel, in Hebrew, is a group of Jewish women from around the world who strive to achieve the right, as women, to wear prayer shawls, pray and read from the Torah collectively and out loud at the Western Wall (Kotel) in Jerusalem, Israel. The Western Wall is Judaism’s most sacred holy site and the principal symbol of Jewish people-hood and sovereignty, and Women of the Wall works to make it a holy site where women can pray freely.

So as we begin a New Year, I ask you to give thanks that as Reform Jewish women, we are able to worship and celebrate our faith.

---

**Religious School Tuition and School Fee Cost $100**

**Keep Your Connections**

**Lunch and Discussion**

- **11th and 12th Grade**
  - **On Sundays, Noon-1:30pm • Lunch Provided**
  - **October 12th • December 7th**
  - **February 1st • March 29th**

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**H微观**

**Beryl Holzbach**

It’s never too early to be prepared.

For more information please call Russell Finer or Bill Thalhimer, III at 358.6757.

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**L’Shana Tova!**

For further information on Women of the Wall, please visit their website at http://womenofthewall.org.il.

- L. Shana Tova!
  - Beryl Holzbach

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**Hebrew Cemetery of Congregations Beth Hadassah & Beth Ahabah**

It’s not too early to be prepared.

For further information please call Russell Finer or Bill Thalhimer, III at 358.6757.

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**The 20th Annual Holiday Shoppers’ Fair**

November 7th 9:30 am - 8:30 pm

November 8th 9:30 am - 5:00 pm

at the Library of Virginia

Shop the Beth Ahabah Museum & Archives booth at the Shoppers’ Fair for Hanukkah items, jewelry, books and more!
Appalachia Social Justice Trip to Barnes Mountain, Kentucky by Renate Forssmann-Falck

What an experience! After a nine hour trip we arrived at the most beautiful mountain area and settled in the St. Timothy’s Episcopal Outreach Center. For a week, we lived in very modest quarters such as bunk beds, window air conditioners only in the bed rooms, community meals, etc. It was a joint social justice action of Beth Ahabah and St. James’s Church. We were Renate Forssmann-Falck, Peggy Friedenberg and Rabbi Gallop from Beth Ahabah and Mary Alice Dirks, Judy Philpott, Mark Cooper and Mike Biley from St. James’s Church.

The first morning we met Bryant Kibler, the Episcopalian priest who has devoted his life making a dent into the extraordinary poverty of Barnes Mountain. Every morning before we went to work, he taught us about Appalachia, its history, resources, coal mining, snake handlers, and, most importantly, about the poverty of this mountain community: lack of electricity, well water, outhouses, stored old cars in yards as garages. The community is gardening and therefore living a healthier life, as illnesses such as diabetes, high blood pressure and others are rampant. There is so much more to tell! However, the lesson learned is that we do not have to go to a developing country to alleviate poverty. It is right in our backyard here in Richmond.

One aspect for the betterment of the community is the “Beauty Palace.” For a week, we lived in very modest accommodations such as bunk beds, window air conditioners only in the bedrooms, quarters such as bunk beds, window air conditioners only in the bed rooms, community meals, etc. It was a joint social justice action of Beth Ahabah and St. James’s Church. We were Renate Forssmann-Falck, Peggy Friedenberg and Rabbi Gallop from Beth Ahabah and Mary Alice Dirks, Judy Philpott, Mark Cooper and Mike Biley from St. James’s Church.

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Our jobs were to tear down a porch and the “Beauty Palace.” Our jobs were to tear down a porch and the “Beauty Palace.” Our jobs were to tear down a porch and the “Beauty Palace.” Our jobs were to tear down a porch and the “Beauty Palace.” Our jobs were to tear down a porch and the “Beauty Palace.” 

A few days later, the rockets started flying and Operation Protective Edge began. At our morning group meeting we got a tour of the bomb shelter and instructions on what to do if we were not at Pardes. Studying continued. But, things started to change. The first rocket headed toward Jerusalem while I was at home. Actually, I was on the phone with my friend Howie... “Deb, you need to get off the phone, it’s a Code Red”. I went to the stairwell and was beckoned by my neighbor to sit with her. We heard the booms.

They started calling the reserves. My cousin and my teacher’s son were in the first group called. Plans were changed. Visits cancelled, but learning continued. Work continued. The rabbi who was teaching Taseau assured us that by continuing to study we were supporting the soldiers. Actually, I thought that we were supporting them by preparing packages for them.

I was walking home from class when I heard the second Code Red. I walked into someone’s house along with several other pedestrians. No questions were asked, there was no hesitation... we are one family that takes care of each other.

Everything seemed the same, but yet it was different. The streets were busy, especially at rush hour. People were still going for walks along the tracks. Soldiers were still eating breakfast at Aroma, but they ate in silence. Friday dinner came and people were shopping for Shabbat dinner, but there were Home Front Command soldiers patrolling the street. I took the last bus from Jerusalem to Be’er Sheva for Shabbat dinner at my teacher’s house. The bus was crowded as the last bus before Shabbat usually is, but there were no raucousness.

I know a rabbi in Philadelphia whose temple, like ours, has a museum and archives affiliated with it. His is a much smaller and simpler place located to the side of the temple’s lobby, it serves an important function for his congregation.

This rabbi, speaking very frankly, said “I don’t get Jews who wouldn’t be caught dead in the sanctuary who will spend their Shabbat in the ‘Beauty Palace’.”

We are like that too. Our visitors and researchers cover a wide range in their beliefs and practices, all the way from being just a little curious about cultural Jewishness to devout believers and practitioners, and everything in between. Our surroundings are always completely Jewish, but they make no demands on visitors regarding their beliefs or practices.

Living here in Richmond and belonging to Beth Ahabah, we tend to think of our Museum & Archives as a place where there are interesting exhibits to be seen. Jews in other parts of the country and even around the world think of it as the most readily accessible institution in Jewish Richmond because of it increasingly well-known online Jewish burial database, and because of that they know about Beth Ahabah itself.

Beth Ahabah deserves to be more famous, and we are working to make that happen. Our new and improving website will tell about the history of this important congregation, the history of Hebrew Cemetery, and the history of Jews in Richmond. It is a rewarding effort, and one that we enjoy greatly.

Visit us and see for yourselves. Bring your visitors! Our regular hours are 10-3, Sunday through Thursday, and other days and times by appointment. Call us at 804.353.2668 to set up a special visit.

The Other Side of the Curtain

In the 1970s & 2000s, the Richmond Jewish community united to help Soviet Jews become Americans. These are their stories. Exhibition Opening Monday, November 17

Richmond Jewish Trivia:

Lewis Z. Morris was President of Beth Ahabah from 1919-1920. He was also a civic leader and President of the Richmond Chamber of Commerce, Chairman of the Board of the Medical College of Virginia, and organized and served as President of the Police Benevolent Association.
ColleCTIon
museum & ARChIves

Shabbat
to mark the end of
ritually used in a
service
aromatic. These aromatics are
Rose water may be used as an
decorated body and extended neck.
and most are pear shaped with a
originated in use in the Middle East
observance of faith. These bottles
many items that are associated with
– 3 pm.
and visit Sunday – Thursday, 10 am

 clients & Properties

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Real Estate Broker
David S. Feibish, GRI

REMEMBER CONGREGATION
BETH AHAHAB IN YOUR
ESTATE PLANNING

If Congregation Beth Ahabah makes a
difference in your life, we graciously ask
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 rfiner@bethahabah.org.

David S. Feibish, GRI
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Direct: 804-967-2735
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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

OCTOBER & NOVEMBER
Schedule of Shabbat and High Holy Days Worship and
Religious School classes

Wednesday, October 1
Midweek Hebrew
5:30 PM

Friday, October 3
Evening and Kol Nidre Service
7:30 PM

Saturday, October 4
Yom Kippur Young Family Service
9:00 AM
Yom Kippur Morning Service
10:00 AM
Yom Kippur Afternoon Discussion
1:00 PM
Yom Kippur Informal Youth & Teen Service
2:30 PM
Yom Kippur Memorial and Concluding Service
4:15 PM

Monday, October 6
Midrasha
6:30 PM

Wednesday, October 8
New Member and Congregational Sukkot Dinner and
Celebration
6:00 PM

Friday, October 10
Shabbat Service
7:30 PM

Saturday, October 11
Little Latkes – Tot Shabbat
9:00 AM
Bar Mitzvah: Elijah Schwartz
10:30 AM

Sunday, October 12
Religious School
9:15 AM

Wednesday, October 15
Hors D’oeuvres and Drinks
Samuel Torat Service featuring “My Son the Doctor”
7:30 PM

Friday, October 17
Consecration Class Shabbat Dinner
6:00 PM
Consecration Shabbat Service w/ Etz Chayim
*7:00 PM

Saturday, October 18
Bar Mitzvah: Madeline Grossman
10:30 AM

Sunday, October 19
Religious School
9:15 AM

Monday, October 20
Midrasha
6:30 PM

Wednesday, October 22
Midweek Hebrew
5:30 PM

Friday, October 24
Shabbat Service w/Adult Choir
7:30 PM

Saturday, October 25
Bar Mitzvah: Julia Dinkin
10:30 AM

Sunday, October 26
Religious School
9:15 AM

Monday, October 27
Midrasha
6:30 PM

Wednesday, October 29
Midweek Hebrew
5:30 PM

Friday, October 31
Shabbat Service
7:30 PM

NOVEMBER

Sunday, November 2
Religious School
9:15 AM

Monday, November 3
Midrasha
6:30 PM

Wednesday, November 5
Midweek Hebrew
5:30 PM

Friday, November 7
Shabbat Service
7:30 PM

Saturday, November 8
Little Latkes – Tot Shabbat
9:00 AM
Bar Mitzvah: Leah Weinstock
10:30 AM

Sunday, November 9
Religious School
9:15 AM

Monday, November 10
Midrasha
6:30 PM

Wednesday, November 12
Midweek Hebrew
5:30 PM

Friday, November 14
Shabbat Service w/Adult Choir
7:30 PM

Saturday, November 16
Religious School
9:15 AM

Monday, November 17
Midrasha
6:30 PM

Wednesday, November 19
Midweek Hebrew
5:30 PM

Friday, November 21
2nd & 3rd Grade Shabbat Dinner
6:00 PM
Family Shabbat Service w/ Etz Chayim
7:30 PM

Sunday, November 23
Religious School
9:15 AM

Monday, November 24
Midrasha
6:30 PM

Friday, November 28
Shabbat Service in Gumerrick Chapel
7:30 PM

* Note time for this service

CALENDAR INFORMATION IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE,
please check the calendar online at bethahabah.org

Sometimes we find an object in our
collection which is unfamiliar to
us. A Rose Water Bottle is one of
many items that are associated with
Judaism but are not required for the
observance of faith. These bottles
originated in use in the Middle East
and most are pear shaped with a
decorated body and extended neck.
Rose water may be used as an
aromatic. These aromatics are
ritually used in a Havdalah service
to mark the end of Shabbat. The
use of rose water at this service
predates the more commonly used
spices of today by thousands of
years. Sephardic Jews also use rose
water in marriage ceremonies and
at ritual meals of Passover and
Rosh Hashanah. The festival of Sukkot
may include rose water infused dairy
desserts. This bottle is currently on
display in our museum. Please come
and visit Sunday – Thursday, 10 am
– 3 pm.

On my last day in Jerusalem, I headed
to Hebrew University to visit friends.
It is always quiet in July, but it was
even quieter since many students had
been called to the army. As we were
finishing lunch, my friend told me
about her 20 year old neighbor who
was killed in Gaza. We shortened our
visit because it was the last day of
shiva and she needed to make a
kaddish.

Life continued, at Pardes we said
prayers to the soldiers and then
danced with the bride to be. In my
cousin’s kibbutz they buried a soldier
in the morning and went to a Bar
Mitzvah in the afternoon. Shabbat ser-
vice started with directions to the
bomb shelter, the congregants added
the names of their loved ones to the
prayer for soldiers, soldiers’ names
were added to the Kaddish list, the Bar
Mitzvah boy chanted Torah and Hafnir,
and we threw candy and sang in joy.

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and we threw candy and sang in joy.
Join us as we celebrate the 2014•5775

**Fall Festivals**

**Sukkot**

Erev Sukkot New Member Welcome Dinner and Celebration in the Sukkah
Wednesday, October 8th • 6:00pm
Come join us, and through eating, drinking, and celebrating, we can indeed take on the spirit of joy and celebration of the Sukkot Festival: the season of our rejoicing.

**Simchat Torah**

Wednesday, October 15th
Hor’s d’oevres and Drinks • 6:30pm
Service • 7:30pm
Join us as we march with the Torah, end and begin again the reading of the Torah.

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**TEMPLE STAFF**

Martin P. Beifield Jr. Sophia and Nathan Gumenick Senior Rabbi
Jesse Gallop Associate Rabbi
Russell M. Finer, FSA Executive Director
Ramona Brand Education Director
Dr. Jack D. Spiro Rabbi Emeritus
Frances T. Goldman Cantor Emerita
Natan Berenshteyn Music Director & Accompanist
Sarah Beck-Berman Cantorial Soloist

**TEMPLE OFFICERS**

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Katie Rooper 1st Vice President
Lawrence Salzman 2nd Vice President
Robert Davidson Treasurer
Ronald Kasoff Immediate Past President

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Larry Solomon
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Cullen Seltzer
Joel Silverman
Demis Stewart
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Shelly Berger Museum & Archives Chairman
David B. Farris Museum & Archives Director
William B. Thalhimer III Hebrew Cemetery Chairman
Beryl Holzbach WRJ President
John Marshak MRJ President

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