Teshuvah, T’filah, Tzedakah

Our High Holiday liturgy inspires and reassures each of us that "REPENTANCE, PRAYER and CHARITY temper [God’s] judgement’s severe decree." These three Hebrew words Teshuvah, T’filah, Tzedakah become the holy trifecta encouraging Jews to remake and improve their lives and the world around them. In a way, our sages of old are passing down powerful wisdom that has been proven to bring holiness and purpose to our universe. Within Judaism the concept of God is amorphous, where we cannot use our bodily senses to connect or engage with the Divine. We accept that God is not our peer or equal, and we are challenged to live with the faith of the unknown. Yet, we know that for thousands of years, generation after generation of Jews have used this teaching to heal, grow and inspire; serving God with intentionality and purpose.

One core message that many of us have been taught is that during the High Holy Days we go through a process of Teshuvah (Repentance). Technically Teshuvah means "returning," where we return to our true nature. Jewish repentance is not about absolving ourselves of sin. It is a process where we reflect, looking back at our misdeeds, while gaining awareness, seeking forgiveness, and making reparations for the hurt and damage we brought into this world. By owning up to our faults, we are able to heal within and reconnect to God's goodness, the Divine spark within each of us. Each of us is good at our core and through the process of Teshuvah we find our true path again.

During the High Holy Days we are accustomed to spending our days in Temple. Many times we are not even aware of the wrongs we commit. By taking the time to reflect and pray (T’filah), it helps us to begin to think back and take ownership of our actions. Personally, I love the concept of the High Holy Days as a time to pray and meditate on our lives. Worship is needed because time moves so fast, unintentionally causing life to become reactive instead of...
proactive. T'fillah has a way of grounding a person with reality, wiping away delusions of grandeur, empowering us to take accountability and ownership. T'fillah also has the power of inspiration, reminding us of our ideals and giving us the hope to strive, letting go of jaded thoughts and self-doubt. Just like Teshuvah, T'fillah helps us return to God. Many are accustomed to the "Yom Kippur Appeal" asking congregants to make a donation to the Temple. Fortunately, Beth Ahabah does not have this tradition. But most congregations

from the UPB which were found in Conservative and Orthodox prayer books. Becoming up-to-date meant accelerating to both the new and the old.

This process continued when the Reform movement created Ma'aseh T'fillah. The prayer book we have used for Sha'afit at Beth Ahabah for about ten years. Included are new prayers, contemporary readings, opportunities for variety, modern language, and, at the same time, more tradition in the form of more Hebrew and more prayers in their traditional versions and format.

As soon as Ma'aseh T'fillah was published, work began on a companion volume for the High Holy Days. That work is now complete. Called Ma'aseh HaNe'efot, the new High Holy Day prayer book is true to the same process which has been at work for generations. Reflecting our ongoing search for spiritual meaning and comfort, contemporary Jewish prayer is both new and old, and familiar and different.

The Rabbis and members of the Religious Practices Committee spent many months reading and discussing Ma'aseh HaNe'efot. We decided to invite the Congregation to a dry run with the new prayer book. The Rabbis, Cantor Frank Goldman, who came out of retirement to be our High Holy Day cantor last year and this coming year, Sarah Beckerman, our cantorial soloist, and our adult choir, all supported by Natan Berendsen, our music director, devoted a Friday night Sha'afit service last May to Ma'aseh HaNe'efot. Rosh Hashanah in the spring, as it were. The response from those in attendance was enthusiastically positive.

We are going to introduce Ma'aseh HaNe'efot at our very Rosh Hashanah service on Wednesday night, September 24th. What to expect? The version of the prayer book we are using is paperback. While the full prayer book will be available in a hardbound edition, the Central Conference of American Rabbis, the publisher, has arranged for paperback editions of individual services for those congregations like ours which are using only one of the services. Much of the music will be the same as in past years providing us with a sense of familiarity throughout the service. There is more Hebrew in the new prayer book but the amount of Hebrew we use in the service will be about the same as usual. The "language" and "feel" of many prayers will be different from Gates of Repentance, more modern and contemporary and at the same time perhaps more traditional.

We'll use Gates of Repentance at our other services and I'll be very interested in hearing your comments both about our Rosh Hashanah specifically and how you feel it compares with the rest of services over the High Holidays.

I hope everybody had a relaxing and enjoyable summer. As the fall season slowly comes upon us I look forward to seeing you soon and experiencing the new prayer book with you. Ira joins me in wishing you and your families near and far a happy and healthy New Year. L'shana Tova Tikateivu and a happy and healthy New Year.

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 20, 2014 through Friday, February 13, 2015, persons seeking shelter for the night will come to 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 cgne41@yahoo.com.
HIGH HOLY DAYS INFORMATION

Ticket Policy
Tickets are required for all High Holy Day Services.

Tickets will be issued free of charge to congregants who are in good standing. All arrears must be paid in full through 9/1/14. For those congregants that pay once annually, 100% of the 2014 - 2015 dues must be received by 9/1/14. Those on the quarterly system must have paid 25% by 9/1/14. All others must be on automatic monthly withdraw-
als. Please contact Russell Finer our Executive Director if you need to make special financial arrangements.

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

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

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

Non-members wishing to attend all of our High Holy Day services may purchase a complete block of tickets for $300. Ticket blocks cannot be split between the two High Holy Day services. Non-members wishing to attend all of our High Holy Days services may purchase a complete block of tickets for $300. Ticket blocks cannot be split between the two High Holy Day services.

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

Parking
The parking deck and parking lot will be open for all ser-

cies. The parking deck is entered from Franklin Street and you must exit through the rear into the alley. Please do not attempt to exit onto Franklin Street.

HIGH HOLY DAYS WORSHIP
2014 | 5775

SELUCHAT
Saturday, August 31
Study & Service @ Congregation Or Avid
8:45 PM

ROSH HASHANAH
Wednesday, September 24
Evening Service
7:30 PM

Thursday, September 25
Young Family Service (2nd grade & under)
9:00 AM

Morning Congregational Service
11:00 AM

Informal Youth & Teen Service (3rd grade & above )
2:30 PM

Yachid “Throwing Away our Sins” at Pony Pasture
4:30 PM

SHABBAT SHUVAH
Friday, September 26 Evening Service
7:30 PM

YOM KIPPER
Friday, October 3 Evening and Kol Hidrei Service
7:30 PM

Saturday, October 4
Young Family Service (2nd grade & under)
9:00 AM

Morning Congregational Service
11:00 AM

Ask-the-Rabbi Discussion Session
1:00 PM

Informal Youth & Teen Service (3rd grade & above)
2:30 PM

Closing Service w/ Yizkor
4:15 PM

Barbara & William B. Thalhimer, Jr. Religious School

TO THE CLASSROOM AND BEYOND!
Experiential Learning takes off at Congregation Beth Ahabah Religious School.

Another year of stimulating Jewish education is ready for our students! Projects, field trips, family learning and more make Jewish learning personal, relevant and enjoyable. Whether we are making hummus, growing plants, painting pictures of Creation or traveling to Monticello or Philadelphia our school program provides important tools that engage students’ imaginations and enhance Jewish identity and community. Music is a strong part of our program and our lively T’fillah services ring with our students’ voices in prayer and song.

The first day of Religious School is September 7th

We will be so excited to see your children as we begin another event-
ful year at Religious School.

9:00 – 9:15 a.m.
Arrival and Opening Program: All Families go to the Sanctuary

9:30 – 10:00 a.m.
Opening Program begins

10:00am
Dismissal to Classrooms

10:00 – 11:45 a.m.
Students in Class

Parents invited to Refreshments and social time in the Goldburg Auditorium.

Parents are welcome and encour-
aged to join us every Sunday at 11:15 a.m. in the Sanctuary. An art infused curriculum incorporates large and small projects around the school. An optional Mid-week Hebrew program combines social time with extended Hebrew study. Our Monday night pro-
gram (Grades 8-10) offers electives, retreats, social time and Confirmation classes. A new 11th and 12th grade program will meet on four Sunday after-
noons for lunch and teen directed discussion. Youth Groups, Etz Chayim and Raah Chadash meet afterschool on Sundays. No wonder this is the place to be on Sunday mornings!

WHAT’S NEW? WHAT’S NEWS!

NEW: 11th and 12th Grade HOT TOPICS class

• Hot Topics-Monthly discussion on how Jewish values connect with the issues they are facing.

• Pre-College Visit Program exploring Jewish living and the different options for students at each campus they visit.

• Financial Responsibility and Jewish Values Workshop.

Meets: October 12th, December 7th, February 1st, March 29th

NEW: 4th and 5th Grade intensives Program:

“Growing our Judaism” is the theme as 4th and 5th graders build plant and nurture classroom gardens while learning about Israel and rituals in Jewish Life Cycle. Each intensive will include a field-trip and a family com-
ponent. Let’s see what takes root!

Religious School News Continues on page 6

Barbara & William B. Thalhimer, Jr. Religious School

Ramona Brand
Barbara & William B. Thalhimer, Jr. Religious School Director
NEW Format: Tot Shabbat moves back to Saturday Mornings!
A young family-friendly worship service is complemented with music, movement games, stories, craft activities and snacks! Saturday morning service at 9:15am in the Chapel followed by activities in the Joel House.
Meets: October 11th, December 6th, February 7th, April 18th

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND...
Mid-Week Hebrew is Fun!
Small classes, big smiles! Lots of Hebrew fun, lots of friends. Small classes allow for personalized Hebrew instruction that combines games and tutorial style teaching to build upon 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.
5:30–6:30 p.m. Pizza in the Joel House
6:00–7:15 p.m. Class in the school building
Cost: $175, Pizza Dinner; $80 for the year; or $5 drop in fee

New: Celebrating Upstanders: Author Visit by Jennifer Elvgren
Jennifer Elvgren, Charlottesville author of The Whispering Town, will present a program for 6th and 7th graders on January 11th. She will speak about the true story that inspired her book and how to take a book from idea to manuscript to publication. Parents are invited to attend this author program.

NEW Jews in the World of Art
You’ll see art projects and art infused learning popping up around our school this year as we learn the influence of Art on Jewish life. Includes a Jewish theme of Jews in Art and the influence of Art on our religious life.

The Religious School News Continued from page 5

Parents are invited to attend this author visit by Jennifer Elvgren, a veteran teacher and mom, uses her unique talents to excite preschoolers about their emerging sense of Judaism. Stories, art, crafts, music and play make learning about being Jewish lots of fun!

Cost: $175

7th Grade Adventure!
Our 7th grade is on the move again this year with lots of field trips that include Monticello, The Virginia Holocaust Museum, Jewish Richmond Walking Tour, BAMGA; the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts and the PHABULOUS PHILLY weekend.

Midrasha Kick-off
Saturday, October 11th 1:00–3:00 p.m.
All 8 – 12 graders are invited to kick-off the year at G-Force in Richmond. Go Carts, Laser Tag and Paintball are part of the fun. A great way to reconnect with your Beth Ahabah friends as we begin the year. Lunch included.
Cost: $25 by Oct. 1st, $35 by Oct. 9th

7th Grade adventure!
Our 7th grade is on the move again this year with lots of field trips that include Monticello, The Virginia Holocaust Museum, Jewish Richmond Walking Tour, BAMGA; the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts and the PHABULOUS PHILLY weekend.

MEET RACHEL WOLMAN.
OUR NEW TEEN AND YOUTH ENGAGEMENT SPECIALIST
What is a Teen and Youth Engagement Specialist?
Welcome
Try-It Rehearsal
Sunday, September 14th & 21st
Try it out and see if it’s for you!
All musicians with at least one year of instrument are invited to join our Youth Musical Ensemble. Ra’ach Chada’sk performs for Special Services, Holiday and School Events and throughout the community. Singers 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
Rehearsals: 11:45 a.m.–1:15 p.m. most Sundays, pizza lunch included

Ezracha
First Rehearsal: Sunday, September 14th
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
Rehearsals: 11:15am – 11:45am on Sundays

MEET RACHEL WOLMAN.
OUR NEW TEEN AND YOUTH ENGAGEMENT SPECIALIST
What is a Teen and Youth Engagement Specialist and what will Rachel be doing in our community?

Her job has four main components. She will be in charge of running the senior youth group (JeRAFTY) and helping out at all the NFTY-MAR events. She will help empower our youth board in creating meaningful and fun events for all the teens at the synagogue. She will be the brand new Madrachim Engagement Coordinator, and will be in charge of running the madrachim training day as well as being the support person for all of our amazing madrachim. She will also be hosting special events for our madrachim to help support their role as well as empower them to become the future educators of the synagogue.

She will help Rabbi Gallop run the Mizvah Corps program. This year the program will be held once a month on Sunday afternoons. We will be doing Mizvah Projects throughout the Richmond community in order to help many different people. There will be lunch provided so be sure to sign up! It’s going to be a lot of fun and a great way to do community service together.

Lastly she will be helping Rabbi Gallop teach on Monday nights as well as help with the Madracha Retreat.

Now a little bit about Rachel. From 2012-2013, she served as a youth group advisor for Northern Virginia Hebrew Congregation in Reston, Virginia. There she helped create and build a youth program from the ground up. In one year she helped engage a group of teens that not only increased in size, but became an active part of the NFTY-MAR region.

In addition to working with teens, she is also passionate about Jewish music. Most recently, she spent a year in Los Angeles as a music specialist for a number of synagogues. She also taught music in a Jewish day school. This summer, she spent a month at Capital Camps in Waynesboro, PA as the camp’s head songleader.ground up. In one year she helped engage a group of teens that not only increased in size, but became an active part of the NFTY-MAR region.
THE HIGH HOLY DAYS

Selichot
The month of Elul culminates with Selichot (forgiveness) services, when we gather in our congregations to recite prayers of penitence. The Selikut liturgy contains some of the finest Jewish religious poetry ever composed.

Traditional Jews recite Selihot beginning late at night on the Saturday before Rosh Hashanah and continue before dawn on the days between the New Year and Yom Kippur. Reform congregations usually observe Selihot in the hours before midnight on the Saturday night just prior to Rosh Hashanah. This moving service urges us to reflect on the year that is ending. With strains of the High Holiday melody as a backdrop, we utter our first confession of the season, as well as Sala (Kalyum), asking God to hear our voices.

Rosh Hashanah
The origins of Rosh Hashanah are found in the Bible. The Book of Leviticus (23:23-24) declares: "In the seventh month, on the first day of the month, you shall observe a day of rest, a memorial proclaimed with the blowing of the shofar, a holy convocation." Although this day eventually became Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, it was not originally known as such.

In ancient times, there were four "new years" in the Jewish calendar. Each had a distinct significance:
• The first of the Hebrew month of Nisan, the New Year of Kings, was the day used to calculate the number of years a given king had reigned.
• The first of the Hebrew month of Elul was the year for tithing of cattle, a time when one of every 10 cattle was marked and offered as a sacrifice to God.
• The first of the Hebrew month of Tisri was the agricultural new year, or the New Year of the Years.
• The 15th of the Hebrew month of Sh'vat, known as Tu BiSh'vat, was the New Year of the Trees.

Although the Tu BiSh'vat refers to Nisan as the first month of the Jewish year, the first day of the month of Tisri emerged as what we now know as Rosh Hashanah.

The Babylonians, among whom the Jews lived, marked a "Day of Judgment" each year. They believed that, on that day, a judgment of their deities assembled in the temple of the god Marduk. These gods, they held, renewed the world and judged each human being, inscribing the fate of every individual on the tablet of destiny. The legend was a powerful one, and Jews most likely borrowed elements from it in shaping Rosh Hashanah. The meeting of many deities evolved into a belief that the one God judged every Jew on that day, immediately inscribing the completely righteous in the Book of Life and consigning the completely wicked to a sad fate. Those "in between," however, had ten days, concluding on Yom Kippur, in which to repent before the Book of Life was sealed for the New Year.

In addition to the biblical "holy convocation" and the transformed Babylonian "Day of Judgment," the first of Tisri also was associated with the anniversary of the creation of the world, Yom HaAtam Olam. For these three compelling reasons, the first day of the seventh month ultimately became the "official" Jewish New Year.

It was not until about the second century C.E. that the holiday acquired the name Rosh Hashanah, which first appeared in the Midrash. Before then, however, the day had many other designations. The oldest name, found in the Tanak (Numbers 29:1) is Yom T'ruah (Day of Sounding the Shofar). Two other names, undoubtedly reflecting Babylonian influence, were Yom Hurkamo (Day of Remembrance) and Yom HaDin (Day of Judgment). While these terms are still preserved in the liturgy and rabbinic literature, Jews all over the world today usually refer to Rosh Hashanah as the Jewish New Year.

Yom Kippur
Yom Kippur means "Day of Atonement" and refers to the annual Jewish observance of fasting, prayer and repentance. Part of the High Holidays, which also includes Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur is considered the holiest day on the Jewish calendar. In three separate passages in the Tanak, the Jewish people are told, "the tenth day of the seventh month is the Day of Atonement. It shall be a sacred occasion for you. You shall practice self-denial." (Leviticus 23:27). Fasting is seen as fulfilling this biblical commandment. The Yom Kippur fast also enables us to put aside our physical desires to concentrate on our spiritual needs through prayer, repentance and self-improvement.

May your year be sweet, fruitful and filled with contentment and promise.

-The Officers, Board, Clergy & Staff of Congregation Beth Abraham
One very meaningful practice associated with Rosh Hashanah is Tashlich, a ceremony in which Jews go to a body of water, such as a river, stream, or ocean, to cast away their sins by symbolically tossing bread into the water. This physical act inspires us to remember our actions, right our wrongs, and refocus ourselves for the New Year.

**Apples and honey:** For Ashkenazic Jews, these words are an inseparable pairing. We dip a slice of apple in honey to express our hopes and prayers for the New Year.

Why were apples and honey chosen for this custom? It’s not because of what Adam and Eve did in eating from the Tree of Knowledge in the Garden of Eden, the Bible never identifies the forbidden fruit. More likely, apples were selected as for the biblical description of Israel as a land flowing with “milk and honey,” the Torah is alluding to a paste made from overripe dates, not honey from beehives. Still, enjoying honey at Rosh Hashanah reminds us of our historic connection with the Holy Land. www.urj.org

**WHO’S WHO:** Kathryn Marks Merritt

Kudos to Kathryn Marks Merritt, a lifelong member of Congregation Beth Ahabah, who was one of three women recently inducted into the National Council of Mental Health. Kathryn, an advocate for consumers with mental challenges, is a member of the Virginia Statewide Independent Living Council, and serves on the board of the Virginia Organization of Consumers Asserting Leadership (VOCAL), the board of the Behavioral Health Council of Virginia and Disability Law Center. She is also actively involved with the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, the Community Service Board of Health and the National Council of Mental Health.
B’nei Mitzvah Continued...

from all over to share in her simcha
many of her friends and family come
Abby is also very excited to have so
less and hunger issues in Richmond.
al and how to work with our home-
project called Farm to Table that
begin to understand issues facing
is a unique opportunity for youth to
gram that was started in 2010, and
TeenImpact is a pro-
create amazing photographs. Abby
and loves combining her talents
High School. She is a Junior Varsity
Abby Schultz will be called to the
with her young-
Bar
Joshua Schultz will be called to the
Torah
Abby Schultz will be called to the
Bar
Joshua Schultz will be called to the
Joshua is also a 10th grader at Deep Run

Joshua is an 8th grader at Short Pump Middle School. He enjoys
playing basketball for AAU River City Reign, as well as Glen Allen. Joshua
enjoys watching his Miami Heat almost as much as playing! He also
enjoys soccer and pretty much any sport that has a ball!

Joshua chose Soles4Souls as his Mitzvah Project. As a basketball player
Joshua understands the importance of a good shoe, so with that idea
Joshua collected new and used shoes for Soles4Souls. This organization
sends these shoes to countries that are in need of help. Soles4Souls also helps to create self-sustain-
ing jobs that generate desperately needed revenues throughout those communities by selling these shoes as well.

Joshua is very excited to share this special occasion with his family and friends from far and near!

CBA COMMUNITY NEWS...

IN SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILIES OF....
Sylvia Meisenberg Ziezel
aunt of Andrew (Debbie) Pegalis
Gloria Glass
mother of Brian (Ellen) Glass
Harry Zvi Feinmel
father of Michael (Allison) Feinmel
George M. Malloy
brother of Ed (Judy) Malloy
Val Cherkowski
cousin of Dan (Beth) Rosenthal
Hans Falck
husband of Renate von Franz-Falck
Marvin Berlin
stepfather of Alan (Sandy) Corbett
Rivolanne Sacks
mother of Elynn (Steve) Sukonick
Tillie Heller
cousin of David (Pam) Feibish
David Bellkowitz
Charlotte W. Shapiro
aunt of Susan (Rick) Morgan

CONGRATULATIONS TO....
Jocelyn & Andy Vorenberg on the birth of their twins, Campbell Yank Vorenberg and Avery Perel Vorenberg, born on June 9, 2014. Also to grandparents, Marianne & Ted Vorenberg and Avery Perel Vorenberg.


Joshua Schultz will be called to the Torah with his sister, Abby, as a Bar Mitzvah on September 20, 2014. He is the son of David and Jody Schultz.

Abby is also very excited to have so many of her friends and family come from all over to share in her simcha and looking forward to a wonderful experience with Beth Ahabah.
MEN OF REFORM JUDAISM

Brotherhood is about to start another year of service to the congregation and community. The ‘kick-off’ activity is different this year. Instead of putting on the annual Brotherhood sponsored congregational picnic, we are helping to sponsor the 225th celebration at Maymont Park on September 7th.

Among our many activities, we would like to highlight our biannual Murder Among our many activities, I would like to thank all the people that have contributed to our success. We are grateful for the support of our community and our congregation.

We come together for service, Judaic study, friendship and social activities that enrich our members and support our community.

Last year we kicked off our social action initiative based on the book ‘Half the Sky’ by Nicholas D. Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn. We chose to start off by raising funds to support educational opportunities for girls in third world countries. To date we raised enough funds to support five girls in Cambodia through this coming year.

This year we look forward to continuing involvement in the ‘Half the Sky’ initiative, celebrating Congregation Beth Ahabah’s 225th Anniversary and supporting our Congregation through activities like baking for OurGs, supporting religious school activities and decorating our Sukkah.

I wish you all L’Shana Tovah!

Yours in Sisterhood,
Beryl Holzbach
Beth Ahabah Sisterhood-WRJ
804-363-0814
bery144@comcast.net

Donations continued from page 13

SOCIAL ACTION FUND
IN MEMORY OF:
Hans Falck
Chuck & Mary Greenberg
MT. MORIACH FUND
Heidi Levinson
MUSEUM & ARCHIVES
IN HONOR OF:
Rhona Arenstein Receiving the JCFA’s Distinguished Community Service Award
Genie & George Crawford
IN APPRECIATION:
For Research Assistance
Joanne Blum
IN MEMORY OF:
Harry Feinmel
Ann L. Mandel
Bonnie & Mike Eisenman
Gloria Glass
Bonnie & Mike Eisenman
Dr. Hans Falck
Millie & Herb Heltzer
Mr. & Mrs. Louis O. Bowman, Jr.
Bonnie & Mike Eisenman
THE HERBERT HELTZER FUND:
In Honor of Millie & Herb Heltzer’s Wedding Anniversary
Claire & Bob Rosenbaum

COMMUNITY Selichot SERVICE
Beginning the High Holy Day Season
Saturday, August 20, 2014
Congregation Or Ami • 10625 Patterson Avenue

Please join Congregation Beth Ahabah, Congregation Or Ami and Temple Beth El for an Egalitarian Reflective Selichot Service • 8:45pm

Please join our Community Rabbis for a Discussion about Redemption • 10:00pm including a viewing of scenes from Chick, with light refreshments.

Traditional Selichot Service at KBI • Midnight

Remember Congregation Beth Ahabah in your Estate Planning
If Congregation Beth Ahabah makes a difference in your 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.

MEN OF REFORM JUDAISM

Brotherhood is about to start another year of service to the congregation and community. The ‘kick-off’ activity is different this year. Instead of putting on the annual Brotherhood sponsored congregational picnic, we are helping to sponsor the 225th celebration at Maymont Park on September 7th.

Among our many activities, we would like to highlight our biannual Murder Mystery production on November 22nd. The co-sponsored activity with Sisterhood is back by popular demand. Script work has been going on for months. Auditions were held in August. We hope everyone with theater interests came in to try out.

We are always looking for congregants to join us with either their time and/or financial support. The entire congregation will soon receive a mailing which will make this opportunity simple.

John J. Marshak
President
I have many conversations with members of the Richmond Jewish community about their family histories, and frequently I urge them to consider placing original photos, documents, and sometimes objects into our collection. If they are reluctant to part with originals, I suggest that we have copies made for the Archives (we give them copies also). This is almost preferable, as the copies will be made on acid-free paper that will not deteriorate over the years as will paper made with a process that uses acid in one or more steps. My Rabbi back in Austin has a book that is hundreds of years old. The paper is clean and white, and the printing is black and crisp. It was made with acid-free paper and ink, and is thus spared the gradual degradation that dooms most modern documents.

My late father-in-law, Dr. Bernard Packer, liked to talk about his family’s history in a revealing way. He would ask "what is the difference between a man who makes department store mannequins and a surgeon?" His answer was "two generations." My question is similar – what is the difference between a valuable family document or picture and a piece of paper in the landfill? The answer is the same – two generations. It is difficult to create and maintain in our children a sense of the importance of family history. We need to begin when they are quite young, telling them about the people in all branches of their paternal and maternal lines of descent.

When my two grandsons were young enough to want stories before bedtime, their mother used a photo album with pictures of every living relative they had, telling them about the interesting things the people had done. The two young men now know the identity and history of relatives going back several generations, and are much the better for it. We, at least, need to identify each old photo we own, and carefully note the names of each person in them. A little history can accompany each name.

Without their identity and their place in the family’s history properly recorded, photos and documents lose their meaning over time and eventually go into the trash and then into the landfill. Would it surprise you to know that we have papers and personal effects of a famous Navy Admiral who served with distinction as head of a new government agency? We also have documents and photos from families whose members led quiet lives and never had their names in the paper until they appeared in the obituary section. Both types of families and their history are important to their descendants, and hence to those of us who work at the Beth Ahabah Museum & Archives.

Pay us a visit and we will show you how we preserve documents, photos, and objects. You can carry out just about all of the steps yourself if you are so inclined. You will also get a feeling of the care and concern we exercise in preserving the histories of Richmond’s Jewish families.

I like to tell people that if they are seriously interested in having their family history and its documents in good condition, identifiable, and researchable in 100 years, we are just about the only game in town. That is my best sales pitch!

We are here from 10-3 every day except Friday and Saturday. Call us at 353-2668 and arrange a visit, or just drop by for some good talk.
As with most immigrant populations, some people brought mementos with them that reminded them of home. When Kathie Hofmayer moved from Bavaria to marry William Fleishman (President of Beth Ahabah 1853-1860), she was given this ruby-and-crystal mug etched with scenes of her homeland. This beautiful object is now a part of our exhibit on Virginia’s Jewish History, Commonwealth and Community. Come visit the Museum & Archives Sunday - Thursday, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

For more information about the volunteer opportunities at BAM&GA, call David Farris at 804.373.2668.

**Richmond Jewish Trivia:**

Only two families in the South sent six sons to the Civil War. One was the family of Myer Angle, the first president of Beth Ahabah. Joseph Angle was killed during the war, his five brothers returned home.

Ami Roberts, a sixth-generation Beth Ahabah member, has joined the staff of the Museum & Archives in the Docent/Administrative Assistant role. Ami is taking the position last occupied by Grace Zell, who is beginning a two-year program of study at McGill University in Montreal, Canada leading to a Master’s in Information Science degree. We welcome Ami, and wish Grace well as she begins this exciting new phase of her professional life.

**Volunteer at BAM&GA**

BAM&GA depends on volunteers like you who love history and are interested in learning more about the history of the Richmond Jewish community. Help catalog and file new acquisitions, assist with gallery tours.

For more information about the volunteer opportunities at BAM&GA, call David Farris at 804.373.2668.

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**COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

**SEPTEMBER**

**FRI 5** Shabbat Service 7:30 p.m.
**FRI 12** Shabbat Service 7:30 p.m.
**SUN 28** Religious School 9:15 a.m.

**SUN 7** Religious School 9:00 a.m.
225th Anniversary Picnic 12:00 p.m.
**SAT 13** Bar Mitzvah EASTON and JORDAN CHUCKER
10:30 a.m.

**FRI 19** Shabbat Service 7:30 p.m.
**SAT 20** Bar Mitzvah 10:30 a.m.

**SUN 14** Religious School 9:15 a.m.
Shofar Training 11:15 a.m.
Ez Chajim First Rehearsal 11:15 a.m.
Rauch Chadash! Try it Rehearsal 11:45 a.m.
**FRI 26** Shabbat Service 7:30 p.m.

**SUN 21** Religious School 9:15 a.m.
Shofar Training 11:15 a.m.
Rauch Chadash! Try it Rehearsal 11:45 a.m.

**WED 24** Erev Rosh Hashanah Service 7:30 p.m.

**THURS 25** Rosh Hashanah
Young Family Service 9:00 a.m.
Morning Service 11:00 a.m.
Informal Youth & Family Service 2:30 p.m.
Tashlich at Pony Pasture 4:30 p.m.

**FRI 26** Shabbat Service 7:30 p.m.

**SUN 28** Religious School 9:15 a.m.

Midweek Hebrew begins Wednesday, October 1
Midraslu begins Monday, October 6

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

**Come One, Come All!**

celebrating the 225th anniversary of our congregation.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7
12 Noon to 4 p.m.
Maymont Park’s Children’s Farm Lawn

The fun includes barbeque, music, games—including a Corn Hole tournament, juggling lessons, hayrides, petting zoo and more! Everyone is invited to attend.

Watch for your invitation this summer!

HOSPICE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Restore Life By Giving Your Time!

Interested in Volunteering?
Contact Caitlin Roberts: 804.358.3480 or Caitlin.roberts@athomecare.com

HOSPICE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

**11th and 12th Grade Lunch and Discussion**

Keep your Connections with Friends and Beth Ahabah

On Sundays, Noon-1:30pm • Lunch Provided
October 12th • December 7th
February 1st • March 29th
High Holy Days

With summer here
the High Holy Days are
just around the corner!

HIGH HOLY DAY SCHEDULE 2014 • 5775

SELICHOT
Community Service and Program at Or Atid
Saturday, September 20th 8:45pm

ROSH HASHANAH
Evening Service Wednesday, September 24th 7:30pm
Young Family Service Thursday, September 25th 9:00am
Morning Congregational Service Thursday, September 25th 11:00am
Informal Youth and Teen Service Thursday, September 25th 2:30pm
Tashlich Service at Pony Pasture Thursday, September 25th 4:30pm

YOM KIPPUR
Erev Yom Kippur (Kol Nidrei) Friday, October 3rd 7:30pm
Young Family Service Saturday, October 4th 9:00am
Morning Congregational Service Saturday, October 4th 11:00am
Ask-the-Rabbi Discussion Saturday, October 4th 1:00pm
Informal Youth and Family Service Saturday, October 4th 2:30pm
Memorial and Concluding Service Saturday, October 4th 4:15pm

SUKKOT
New Member Pizza Dinner and Sukkot Celebration in the Sukkah Wednesday, October 8th 6:00pm

SIMCHAT TORAH
Hors d’oeuvres and Drinks in the Sukkah Wednesday, October 5th 6:45pm
Simchat Torah Service Wednesday, October 5th 7:30pm
with “My Son the Doctor”