When looking at the state of our world, extremism seems to be the common trend. Both at home and abroad, humans are yelling slogans and entrenching themselves ideologically, and actions of others are viewed as threats. This way of being continues to lead many to further surround themselves with like-minded individuals and groups. We commonly see this by how consumers only read news outlets that share their viewpoints. On a national scale, the American Congress forgets that regardless of party affiliations each member is to serve the nation. And, when looking abroad, we see world powers battling for control.

I believe, in the end when extremism is the only answer, we all lose; for the spark of divinity in our world is stamped out, and the Eternal flame is almost extinguished. My personal theology believes that God is infinite, and as a result each human can have a very different understanding of the same truth. It is like the joke of the three blind men explaining what an elephant is based upon their own personal experience. I am not going to share the joke, but to give insight, one is touching a leg, the other touches the elephant’s trunk, and the third is unintentionally touching the intimate area of the animal. They emphatically argue that each man knows what the elephant is in its entirety. In the end none of them were correct. The joke is so great because it highlights that when we live with this mentality, we can end up being inappropriate, making a fool of ourselves by thinking we have the only truth in regards to the situation.

Our world has become so extreme that civil conversation seems extinct. Be it in regards to domestic issues, national security, or international. It is common for one side to try to out yell the other. Our sages of old, in Pirkei Avot, teach: “When your fellow becomes angry, do not try to calm him.” Commentators explain that we are not to rush in to try to calm the situation. Rashi points out that it is difficult to calm someone who has just become enraged. Only once the individual is calm can one help to calm him further. However if we are supposed to wait until the other is calm, how do we live today?

It seems that a good way to start is by creating safe environments for humans to talk with one another; where each person can share the truth of his or her values and purpose. Too often we want to share ideas and perspectives in the hopes of showing others our answer. Rather, when we can hear out those around us, our solutions should include them all. And the individual, when felt respected and heard, should be able to put the needs of the whole before himself or herself. To be honest, this is incredibly hard to do. On a personal level I try to do this with my family, and often I fail. But if we do not push ourselves to grow, how do we expect to mature and to gain insight into life?! To be able to listen, and appreciate our spouse, a child, siblings, parents and friends, is core to this growth. Hopefully, we can then carry this perspective with us to work, in volunteering and in other civic engagements. Once we are able to be respectful as neighbors, then hopefully we can role model for others in our world. As Pirkei Avot also teaches, “It is not up to us to finish the task [of perfecting the world]; but neither are we free to avoid [the obligation].” Each generation has the responsibility to make the world one step closer to perfection. Then, generation by generation, we will be closer to a messianic age of hope, healing, love and peace.
SHIFTING OUR FOCUS FROM PROGRAMS TO PEOPLE

By Rabbi Martin Beifield, Jr. and Chuck Rothenberg

In the last issue of B’Yachad, we shared a message from Rabbi Jonah Pesner, Senior Vice President of the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ), challenging congregations to transform from a mid-century model house of worship focused on programs to one that is bound by relationships, called “Relational Judaism.” The following collaborative efforts by clergy, professional and lay leaders toward this important shift, are helping to position Beth Ahabah ahead of the curve.

1. Matching new members with involved members to ensure that new congregants have a pathway to engagement.

2. Restructuring youth and family education and programming under the umbrella of The Family Connection, to foster Jewish identity, strengthen relationships between youth, families and individual members, and encourage engagement.

3. Transitioning formal Religious School education, from structured classroom study to experiential teaching, incorporating family learning, thematic electives, multi-grade interest classes and field trips to strengthen Jewish identity and relevancy to the greater community.

4. Utilizing a Teen and Youth Engagement Specialist to create meaningful Jewish experiences for teens and youth and facilitate peer-to-peer relationship development.

5. Creating a network of small groups within the congregation. Derived from the Hebrew root “friend” or “friendship”, each “Chavurah” has a common thread, such as age, children, location, and/or special interest that ties it together. Contact the Temple office if you are interested in joining a Chavurah.

6. Hosting “Parent Socials” during Religious School to facilitate friendships and encourage parents to spend time together on Sunday mornings.

7. Developing a “Senior Bridge” that matches volunteer congregants with older, long-standing members, who may have a greater potential for feeling disconnected. Connections are made through phone calls, visits, and shared activities.

8. Developing a “Peer Mentorship” program to match pre- and post-B’nei Mitzvah families, to enrich connections between the parents and the children of both families.

9. Conducting evaluations of the Youth and the B’nei Mitzvah programs to strengthen support in order to build community and develop benchmarks for engagement.

10. Encouraging youth participation in summer Jewish camps to foster relationships and strengthen Jewish identity.

While these efforts are great first steps, we need the entire congregation’s support to successfully achieve this transformation. The upcoming Generations Capital and Endowment Campaign, scheduled to launch in late Spring, can provide us with the necessary financial resources, not only to transform our buildings but also our religious school, staffing model, technology, and communications, to foster a caring community with shared sacred experiences, authentic learning, meaningful work and profound spirituality.

Gifts That Make A Difference...Simchah or Remembrance
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.

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.
In thinking about what to write about for this issue of B’yachad, I remembered a management book I read many years ago, “Thank God It’s Monday,” and decided to share this page with you. “What Would You Say if the Genie Asked?”

So the genie comes out of the bottle you’ve just found floating in the surf at the beach and after a deep genuflection says, “Oh mighty master, I offer you the greatest good in the world. You can have any job you want. Choose.”

Deciding to accept the offer, you’re about to say, “President of the United States,” then hesitate. No, certainly not that. President of GM? Almost as bad. No, you don’t want to be any kind of president. Too much responsibility, too much drain for you.

Then you begin thinking more realistically. Three sets of factors would help you decide.

1. GENERAL FACTORS: Each person has attitudes, sometimes unconscious, toward work. These are important in determining how one relates to a particular job.

2. JOB FACTORS: Job qualities that the employer would specify in a help-wanted ad.

3. “CLIMATE” FACTORS: Working conditions that can make or break a job, because of the aura or ambiance they create.

As you think about these three sets and consider your answers, you can then come up with your picture of the ideal job for you. It may surprise you. For me, it is the job I now have.

Wishing you all well,
Russ

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**DID YOU KNOW?**

In the spring of 2013 a group from Congregation Beth Ahabah and St. James’s Episcopal Church visited Cuba to help humanitarian and religious efforts for the local population. As a result of the trip, Beth Ahabah drafted a resolution for the Union of Reform Judaism regarding Cuba, which was passed at the last URJ Biennial (December 2013). As a result, the movement (through the Religious Action Center) began to lobby for the end of the Cuba embargo, and freeing of Alan Gross. Our community was one of the many who helped to give voice to this important cause. And in December 2014 both of these actions were accomplished. Kol HaKavod (Congratulations to all who helped!)

Here’s a link to the text: http://urj.org/about/union/governance/reso/?syspage=article&item_id=107280

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**ANOTHER WAY TO HELP CONGREGATION BETH AHABAH**

To help defray the cost for B’yachad here is how you can help:

- Tell our advertisers you read their ad and thank them for supporting our temple;
- Go to or use a business that advertises in B’yachad in preference to others;
- Tell other vendors that you would appreciate seeing them advertise in B’yachad;
- If you are in a business or professional practice, place your own ad in B’yachad.

For further information on how you can place an ad, please contact me. Thank you for your consideration.

Russ
BETH AHABAH SENIORS
by Rachel Cohen Schmidt

BETH AHABAH SENIOR BRIDGE PROGRAM

Kirva, in Hebrew, means closeness. It means personal connection, community, kindness, caring and understanding. Moreover, that is exactly what Beth Ahabah’s Senior Bridge program will provide for our congregants. The relationship between volunteers and seniors can provide a comfortable and familiar place to discuss the changing needs within our community.

Beth Ahabah’s Senior Bridge offers seniors the experience of sharing the history of their lives, critical components of Beth Ahabah’s history.

Our seniors represent cumulative knowledge, the ability to judge in a mature fashion, and aspire to move ahead during the decades remaining. With that in mind, Beth Ahabah’s Senior Bridge aims to address the needs of seniors in a full-service congregation where programming priorities have been often targeted to the younger congregant.

Senior Bridge’s focus is to engage volunteers who have been looking for a one-on-one connection, a unique volunteering experience under the umbrella of the Beth Ahabah family. Questions and comments are welcome!

• Do you know a congregational senior?
• Is this volunteering an experience for you or someone you know?
• What outcomes would you like to see for Beth Ahabah’s Senior Bridge?

I look forward to your responses!

CONGREGATION BETH AHABAH SENIOR IN-REACH PROGRAM

The pilot program is well under way with 12 congregational volunteers matched with 15 seniors. We have three sets of seniors who are husband & wife. This initiative called Kirva means closeness in Hebrew. It means personal connections, community, kindness, caring and understanding. The volunteers are making friendly phone calls, and have driven their seniors to High Holiday services. We are now in the process of targeting our next group of volunteers and seniors contact below.

The following was received from a participating 94-year-old senior;

Dear Rabbi Beifield,
“Thank you for your effort to bring the seniors members back into the Temple family. Now set up some special programs for us seniors to meet each other.”

For more information about Beth Ahabah’s Senior Bridge and In-Reach programs, please contact Rachel Schmidt, Senior Bridge Program Coordinator, at rachelcohenschmidt@gmail.com.

Mitvah “DAYS” ACTIVITIES
by Terry L. Schultz

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!

“Spring into Action!” is not your normal Mitvah Day celebration. This year we are providing many spring time opportunities for you and others to join you during the months of February, March and April for single event projects and programs, with a culminating event on Sunday, April 19, 2015 at Congregation Beth Ahabah. “There is power in numbers” and we hope to welcome many volunteers to come together to perform mitzvot of all kinds this spring. Please plan to sign up for one or more programs and projects of interest.

We appreciate, in advance, everyone’s time and positive energy as they come together to make the world a better place through, “tikkun olam” or repairing the world we live in. Our goal this year is to recruit as many people as possible to help others with our mitzvah programs and inspire a lifetime of service and understanding of the importance of doing God’s work on earth.

This year we are especially excited to join Hadassah for the National Uplift Project. The Uplift Project is a community outreach program designed to increase awareness about breast cancer and to empower women of all ages to take care and charge of their health. Henrico Doctors Hospital will provide a guest speaker on womens’ breast

Celebrate Tu B’Shevat, the new year for trees on Wednesday, February 4

Mitzvah Day Continues on Page 11
To Bigotry No Sanction; To Persecution No Assistance

Presidents Day, which falls this year on February 16, 2015, will be observed by many as merely a welcome three day weekend during a dreary winter month. Few will give much thought to either George Washington or Abraham Lincoln in whose honor we will have a respite from labor. We have much to admire in the work of both of these men that established foundational elements of the democratic rights for many Americans. Less well known is that Washington and Lincoln exhibited unprecedented support of the Jewish citizenry that established both religious liberty and the security of equal regard under the law. For this, both as Jews and Americans, we can be thankful.

The election of George Washington as the first President of the United States in 1789 prompted the six Hebrew Congregations of the United States (including K.K. Beth Shalome, the predecessor to CBA) to write letters of congratulations and petition to the new president. These letters sought to establish the full enfranchisement of the Jewish people in the fledgling country and to seek assurance from this first President that Jews would not have the tenuous relationship with the government as had been experience thus far with other governments. Washington’s response famously set the benchmark for the religious freedom and tolerance that would make America a beacon for many in the years to come.

He wrote, “The citizens of the United States of America have a right to applaud themselves for having given to mankind examples of an enlarged and liberal policy — a policy worthy of imitation. All possess alike liberty of conscience and immunities of citizenship. It is now no more that toleration is spoken of as if it were the indulgence of one class of people that another enjoyed the exercise of their inherent natural rights, for, happily, the Government of the United States, which gives to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance, requires only that they who live under its protection should demean themselves as good citizens in giving it on all occasions their effectual support.” Washington concluded by writing, “May the children of the stock of Abraham who dwell in this land continue to merit and enjoy the good will of the other inhabitants — while every one shall sit in safety under his own vine and fig tree and there shall be none to make him afraid.”

Merely seventy-one years after the creation of the United States, the country was embroiled in the Civil War. Abraham Lincoln steered the nation through tumultuous times that tested the principles on which our nation was founded. Two significant events proved that Lincoln was an ardent supporter of Jewish equality and would not allow government sponsored anti-Semitic actions to flourish. “Lincoln was the first President to make it possible for rabbis to serve as military chaplains by signing the 1862 Act of Congress which changed the law that had barred all but Christian clergymen from the role.” The granting of parity to Jewish chaplains ensured that Jewish soldiers would be served spiritually while serving their country. This act also removed a vestige of government-sanctioned religion.

Lincoln also prevented the most egregious act of official anti-Semitism in American history. “In December 1862, General Ulysses S. Grant issued an order expelling all Jews from the area of his command, on the alleged grounds that Jews were engaging in illegal trade.” This was brought to Lincoln’s attention by a Jew from Paducah, Kentucky, Cesar Kaskel, in January 1863, and Lincoln, recognizing the injustice of the order, issued instructions for its immediate cancellation. It is reported that upon meeting with the Jewish representatives from Paducah, Lincoln said, “And so the children of Israel were driven from the happy land of Canaan?” Kaskel responded: “Yes, and that is why we have come unto Father Abraham’s bosom, asking protection.” Lincoln then replied, “And this protection they shall have at once.”

Both George Washington and Abraham Lincoln recognized the need to include all Americans as equal members in our civil contract and at that the strength of our democracy rests on our plurality and equality under the law. These are powerful values that resonate even today.

1 http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/
2 http://www.aish.com/j/f/Abraham_Lincoln_and_the_Jews.html

Religious School News Continues on Page 6
**11th and 12th Grade Discussion Class:**

*Sunday, February 1st*
11:45 am in the *Prachim Room*

Join other 11th and 12th graders for lunch, conversation and camaraderie. Led by our Youth Advisor Rachel Wolman. RSVP to: rachelannewolman@gmail.com

**TOT SHABBAT!**

*Saturday, February 7th & March 7th*
9:00 – 10:30 a.m. in the Gumenick Chapel

For our young congregants who are aged 18 months to 5 years, we have special services designed to give them a fun and warm introduction to the synagogue, to Shabbat, to the holidays, and to Judaism. A family friendly Service with music and movement is followed with an activity hour that includes stories, songs, crafts, snacks and social time.

**Ruach Chadash Concert during T’fillah**

*Sunday, February 22nd*
11:15 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Our Sanctuary will be filled with a joyful noise as we sing, dance and clap along to the sounds of Ruach Chadash during T’fillah.

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**Family Mingles**

*Sunday, February 1st - 4th & 5th Grade*
Sunday, March 15th - First Steps & Kindergarten
9:30 a.m.
Joel House Multi-purpose room

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

**Family Dinners and Shabbat Services with Ruach Chadash**

*Friday, February 27th - 6th & 7th Grades*
Friday, March 27th - 8th and 9th Grades
6:00 p.m. catered Shabbat dinner $10.00 per adult/$8.00 per child age 3 and up
7:30 p.m. service with Etz Chayim and Ruach Chadash

Join us in a musical celebration of Shabbat! Enjoy our Family Shabbat dinner for grade level families, followed by a lively family friendly Shabbat with music and participation! Students will be honored by being called to the bimah to help lead Shabbat prayers. Everyone is welcome to sing along as Ruach Chadash accompanies with joyous music!

Reservations are required: email Ramona at r.brand@bethahabah.org to RSVP and let us know how many are in your party. If you make reservations and then are unable to attend, a 24 hour cancellation notice will enable us to notify the caterer so you will not be charged for dinner. Vegetarian dinners available upon request.

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**Geshers**

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 a.m. Students in class*
9:30 a.m. Adult Education with Rabbi Beifield
10:30 a.m. Parents & children will join together in the classroom with their teachers for an age-appropriate project and brunch.

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**7th Grade March Schedule**

The 7th grade is on the move with a busy month of field trips, activities and travel! We have a very exciting month with lots of opportunities for parent involvement.

*Sunday, March 1st at 9:30 a.m.*
Richmond Jewish History Tour with Beth Ahabah Museum & Archives staff: parent drivers and chaperones needed!

*Sunday, March 15th at 9:30 a.m.*
Jewish Art Tour at the VMFA – Jewish art, Jewish artists and the impact of Jews on the Art World: parent drivers and chaperones needed!

*Sunday, March 22nd at 9:30 a.m.*
Holocaust Museum Trip: Setting the Record Straight – Combating anti-Semitism then and now: parent drivers and chaperones needed!
Religious School Seder:
Sunday, March 29th
10:30 a.m. in the Goldburg

If we only have 50 boxes of Matzah...Dayenu!

If we only have 25 jars of gefilte fish...Dayenu!

If we only have 10 dozen hard boiled eggs...Dayenu!

If we only have 30 bowls of haroset...Dayenu!

If we only have 25 filled seder plates....Dayenu!

For we are having a seder for 150!!...Dayenu!

Please lend your hands and donate seder goods for our annual Religious School Seder! This meaningful and lively event provides a music filled seder for all of our Religious School Students.

Volunteers are needed to make this a successful morning. We plan to set up in the Goldburg from 8:30 - 10:15 a.m.

Please contact Ramona at r.brand@bethahabah.org to volunteer or donate goods.

B’nei Mitzvah

THERESA ELEANOR MARKIEWICZ February 7, 2015

Teresa Markiewicz will be called to the torah as a Bat Mitzva on February 7, 2015. She is the daughter of Helen and Jon Markiewicz, the granddaughter of the late Harold and Gail Straus, and Walter, the late Eleanor, and Judy Markiewicz.

Teresa is a 7th grade honor student at Collegiate School. For her Mitzva Project she volunteered at the Circle Center, which provides adult day services. There she assisted with group activities, craft projects, wellness games, serving meals, and listening to participant stories. Teresa enjoys cross country, mountain biking, gymnastics, reading and spending time with her friends and family.

We are so proud of how hard Teresa has been working to prepare for this Special day and she is looking forward to spending it with her family and friends.

Brandon Ranly will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzva on February 14, 2015. Brandon is the son of Dr. Don M. Ranly and Dr. Barbara D. Boyan and the older brother of Nathaniel and JJ.

Brandon is in the 8th grade at Steward School. He loves art in all its forms, especially poetry that can be set to music, drawing, and film editing. Brandon is dedicated to taking care of small animals, especially dogs and cats and is already known as a cat sitter. We are very proud of him and look forward to sharing his Bar Mitzva with family, friends and the Beth Ahabah congregation.

JONAH JOSEPH February 21, 2015

Jonah Joseph will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzva on February 21, 2015. Jonah is the son of Jon Joseph and Susan Wysoki. He is the grandson of Jay Joseph and the late Gloria M. Joseph and the late Jack and Marion Wysoki. He is the brother of Jordan and Jessica Joseph.

Jonah enjoys all sports, especially soccer. He is an avid fisherman and co-founded the Middle School Fishing Club at Collegiate School where he is in the seventh grade. Jonah will be volunteering at the Richmond SPCA for his Mitzva Project.

Brandon Matthew Benavides Ranly February 14, 2015

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Torah as a Bar Mitzva on February 14, 2015. Brandon is the son of Dr. Don M. Ranly and Dr. Barbara D. Boyan and the older brother of Nathaniel and JJ.

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Volunteers are needed to make this a successful morning. We plan to set up in the Goldburg from 8:30 - 10:15 a.m.

Please contact Ramona at r.brand@bethahabah.org to volunteer or donate goods.
Talia Pirron, daughter of Shannon Griffin and Michael Pirron and the eldest sister of Eliana and Naomi Pirron will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on March 7th, 2015.

Talia is a 7th grader who homeschools, but is in the French Immersion program of Heartwood Grove School. Talia enjoys performing in musical theater and Shakespeare productions, singing in her choir, reading, learning new languages, traveling, crafting and dancing. For her Bat Mitzvah project, Talia has been volunteering weekly with her choir, where she has helped with the younger students classes as well as helping to organize and raise money for choral events.

She looks forward to carrying on this Jewish tradition and celebrating with her family and friends.

An In-depth Look at the B’nai Mitzvah Preparation Program

by Katie Roeper

Over the past year, lay leadership has worked with the Family Connection to evaluate the B’nai Mitzvah Preparation Program and make recommendations for ways in which to provide additional support to youth and families participating in the Program. A Survey Monkey solicitation, conducted over a 6-week period, provided valuable details and opinions of families, who participated in the Program over the previous 15-month span. Families were contacted by lay leadership, prior to receiving the survey, in order to explain the goals of the evaluation, assure confidentiality and invite them to participate. This personalized outreach step helped to yield a 61% response rate.

The survey questions were designed to capture both the parents’ and their child’s feedback related to their understanding of expectations, feelings about participating in the Program, and perception of support. Families were asked to rate each step to include all stages of preparation as well as related aspects such as the classmate support, parents’ speech, and the Kiddush. There were also broad-based questions related to orientation, communications, expenses and meeting logistics.

Recommendations have been made to clergy and professional staff, by the Family Connection, for discussion and consideration. Several recommendations have already been implemented, either completely or in-part, to include: adding a tutor and additional options for meeting locations and times; adapting the timetable so students begin working earlier on their D’var Torah; announcing Kiddush instructions from the Bimah at the end of the Bar/Bat Mitzvah; encouraging the Oneg Co-op concept; arranging more group social events for families and peers to strengthen connections; planning additional meaningful connections between families and clergy to mark milestones in the preparation process.

Several recommendations are being discussed and planned for future implementation including: ways to personalize communications; developing peer-to-peer mentoring; strengthening connections between classmates; creating online handbook and reference materials; clarifying staff roles and fees for families; staff reminders to families responsible for ushering.

Additionally, clergy, lay and professional leadership agree that regular, continual evaluations of the Program can only help to strengthen support for families and ensure the best possible experience for our youth.

The Family Connection thanks all the families who invested their time to participate in the survey. We appreciate your honesty and dedication to the Program, which have resulted in many excellent recommendations!
Stand Up and Be Counted for Israel
by Deborah Lebman

It seems that almost every time that I go to an event at Beth Ahabah, someone engages me in a conversation about Israel. Although the conversations are wide ranging, at the heart of most of them is each person’s vision of the type of society they want in Israel. Now is your chance to give voice to your vision by voting. While our family in Israel is voting for the next Knesset, we in the Diaspora will be voting for an equally important and older organization, The World Zionist Congress (WZC).

What, you are probably asking yourself, is the WZC and why should I vote? In a nutshell, WZC is a legislative body that has been in existence since 1897. It plays a major role in Israeli policy by distributing funds to Israeli organizations and equally importantly it commands the attention of the people for whom our family in Israel is voting. It is the voice of the Diaspora in Israel; it is your voice. It is your opportunity to vote for an Israel that is modeled on the vision of Jewish pluralism, egalitarianism, and peace. It is your opportunity to support the 45 Reform congregations in Israel that are teaching people that love of Torah and expressions of deep Jewish feelings do not require black hats and a mechitza. It is your opportunity to support Reform Kibbutzim and HUC-JIR where both Israelis and Americans train to be Reform spiritual leaders. It is your opportunity to stand up and be counted as Reform and Zionist.

So now you are asking yourself, how do I do this? From now until April 30, 2015, you can vote for the ARZA (Association of Reform Zionists of America) slate. Voting can be completed by paper or even easier online at www.reformjews4israel.org. For $10 and 2 minutes you can give voice to your vision of Israel.

GET OUT and VOTE, ESTHER!!
from ARZA: the Reform Israel Fund

It took Queen Esther quite a while to understand that she had to make her own Jewish voice heard. And luckily, Esther did just that. She proceeded to save the Jewish people in her time. We celebrate that sacred moment at Purim, which this year falls on March 4th and 5th.

We Reform Jews hope to stand tall, knowing we join with Queen Esther and make our unique voices heard for the future of Judaism, and especially Judaism in Israel.

Vote for Greater Religious Equality in Israel and VOTE TODAY.

Your vote in the World Zionist Congress elections will strengthen Reform Judaism’s call for the values of religious pluralism that we cherish and will grant the Reform movement influence in the quality of Jewish religious life in Israel.

How? Go to www.reformjews4israel.org/vote and register and vote the ARZA: Representing Reform Judaism in Israel slate online for the future of Israeli Jewish life.

When? NOW!

WHY? Help create a dynamic Reform Judaism in Israel, that includes the voices of women and men; those born Jewish and those who have chosen Judaism. The results of this election will generate funds for education, youth work, social justice and pastoral care for the Israeli Reform movement.

GET OUT and VOTE, ESTHER!! – I know I will.

CBA COMMUNITY NEWS...

IN SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILIES OF.....
Jerry (Bernard) Levey
Marian Myers
mother of John (Junie) Myers, Jr.
aunt of Louis Bowman
Ingeborg Appel
Corey Axel
brother of Marc Axel
Ralph G. Phipps
father of Pamela (Michael) Zell
M. David Grandis
husband of Carolyn Grandis
father of Alyce Copeland
Michael Gardner
brother of David (Debra) Gardner
Jack A. Gaines
father of Anne (Charley) Scher

CONGRATULATIONS TO....
Lisa Syrop & Barry Kurzer on the marriage of their son, Jacob Kurzer to Heather Cathers on November 2, 2014.
Susie & Ronnie Adolf on the marriage of their son, Jason Reid Adolf to Jaclyn Michelle Rubin on Sunday, November 9, 2014. Also to Jason’s grandmother, Gloria Adams.
Debbie & Bob Fitzgerald on the marriage of their daughter, Marissa Fitzgerald to Michael Barrera on December 28, 2014.
Hanukkah IN THE GOLDBURG....Photographs by Sara Jane Longstaff
Mitzvah “DAYS” continued...

health followed by the Mitzvah project to increase awareness of breast disease by decorating bras, and proudly displaying our creations on the national website with 330,000 others. Our program is tentatively scheduled for April 1 from 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. at the ICC. Don’t be a fool and be left out! Please contact Rebecca Young at Rebecca.a.young@gmail.com or Terry Schultz at tschultzw3@yahoo.com for more information.

Brotherhood is hosting the popular “Caritas Build” on Sunday, March 22, 2015 in the Goldburg Auditorium. Anyone is welcome to attend and participate from 8:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m. Please sign up on the website or with John Marshak at jjmarshak@vcu.edu.

Sisterhood will host their own Mitzvah project TBA. Please check the Temple website for more information.

Religious School is planning to devote classroom time dedicated to “what is a mitzvah” and have their own hands on projects within the classrooms. More information TBA. Please contact Ramona Brand for more information at r.brand@bethahabah.org.

Ruach Chadash is taking it on the road to Beth Shalom Home on Sunday, April 19 immediately following the assembly to entertain the residents. All are invited to attend and enjoy this musical program.

Family Connection is hosting a special learning opportunity for the midrasha students and parents on Monday, April 20, 2015. More information TBA.

The Council for Social Justice project TBA. Please check the Temple website for more information.

On April 19 we will have a speaker from the RAC (Religious Action Center) for all participants and a story teller for the younger children simultaneously to motivate us for the final program, sponsored by the congregation, “Stop Hunger Now!” We live in a world that hungers for big ideas! Please plan to join us as we put together dehydrated, high protein nutritious food packages that can be shipped to those in need both in this country and developing countries around the world. It is a beautiful sight to see volunteers of all ages working together for this cause. Please RSVP to Sharon Brager at sbrager@comcast.net or Sarah Kim at sarahkim7@comcast.net for this program as space is limited in the Goldburg Auditorium.

For questions related to Mitzvah Day 2015, please contact your Mitzvah day coordinators: Debbie Cook at pebblebeach@mindspring.com; Sharon Bassell at bagelcc@aol.com; Terry Schultz at tschultzw3@yahoo.com

COUNCIL for SOCIAL JUSTICE
by Deborah Greenberg

We are up and running as a newly reconstituted committee. CSI has been meeting religiously (excuse the pun) once a month. Our primary goal was to expand on the prior ongoing projects to include more congregants in various ways, according to their respective abilities and preferences, as follows:

–Mount Moriah Baptist Church meals project: Number of volunteers almost doubled and new co-chair

–CARITAS: Added decorated receptacles in synagogue and religious school lobbies for drop-off of hotel toiletries, fresh fruit, winter hats and gloves, McDonald’s gift cards, paperback books, etc. to make more pleasant our guests’ stay.

–Henrico Hearth: Thanksgiving meals for those in need. We passed out flyers to the religious school to integrate the students into this project of collecting food for the needy on this American holiday. It was a great joint enterprise.

Our major undertaking has been to re-examine the entire concept, goal and outlook of CSI, including its name. We recognize strongly the importance of social justice as a tenet of both Reform Judaism and Beth Ahabah. It is our unique responsibility to incorporate tikkun olam into every aspect of our lives as Reform Jews and as Beth Ahabans. We met with Rabbi Beifield during a recent meeting (Rabbi Gallop is the temple liaison on the committee) to examine these ideas. It was a tremendously invigorating and fruitful meeting! We shall propose to the Board to amend the By-Laws to change the name of the committee to the Tikkun Olam Committee. And to start with baby steps, we shall be publicizing and asking every congregant to “Take a can for Tikkun Olam to Temple!” whenever you come to the sanctuary/religious school/Joel House. It is an easy baby step to restart our Tikkun Olam journey. Please join us!
Family Seder
Saturday, April 4, 2015

• 5:00-7:30 p.m. in the Goldburg Auditorium
• Pot-luck dinner
• Seder (with short Havdalah service) led by the attendees
• Space is limited! Reply now to: family­seder2015@gmail.com

What do you mean by “family” seder?

This seder is being run by some families that want to celebrate Passover with everyone in their extended Beth Ahabah family. Each person will read a few lines of the story (in English) to help tell the Passover story of freedom from slavery in Egypt and the Torah having been given to all of us at Mount Sinai.

We will also sing traditional songs as a group, hide the afikomen, and have a good time together. “Family” means also – Dress casual.

What does “pot-luck” mean?

There is no charge to attend. Instead, we are asking each person/family to bring something to share – a favorite Passover recipe, or something traditional like matzo ball soup, etc.

Send us an email at family­seder2015@gmail.com, and we’ll send to you the link for a Sign-Up Genius that will let you pick what you want to bring.

What do I need to do to be a part of this?

Just two things:

(1) send to us an email at family­seder2015@gmail.com, and we’ll put you on the list; and
(2) sign up for something to bring on the Sign-Up Genius.

That’s it – well, other than showing up and remembering to bring your pot-luck item.
DONATIONS

TEMPLE FUND
Pauline Simon Memorial Fund

IN APPRECIATION:
Rabbi Beifield for his support of the VJCC Concert
Ken Roeper

IN HONOR OF:
Morton Thalhimer, III’s special birthday
Scott & Nancy Bellemans
Mike Decker’s speedy recovery
Ken & Katie Roeper
Danielle Buchsbaum’s recent engagement
Ken & Katie Roeper
The birth of Parker Bruce & Holden Scott Goodman-Gallop
Deborah Greenberg
The birth of Dean Solomon Levy
Deborah Greenberg
The celebration of Jesse Fergu-son’s continuing good health
Ellen & Brian Glass

IN MEMORY OF:
Arthur Adams
Retail Merchants Association Friends
Scott & Nancy Bellemans
Irving & Elise Scherr
Louis Weiner & Harry Yaffe
Russell Finer
Julius Altman & Solomon Mahler
Linda & David Mahler
Shirley Plotkin
Barbara & Stuart Simon
Barbara & James Ukrop
Katy & Jimmy Yoffy
Ann Bendheim
Pamela S. Finer, Herman M. Finer & Beatrice Goldman
Allen Finer
Edward Meyer
Nancy Meyer

Pamela Finer
Russell Finer
Jerome Gumenick
William B. Thalhimer, Jr. Fund
Sandra Rose Tucker
Cantor Frances T. Goldman
Frances D. Komins
Allen Finer
Jack J. Frank
Anthony J. Frank
Eric Blumenthal
Lynn Stevenson
Henry Stern
Dina Stern Boettcher
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Marsha Polier Grossman
Gordon Danoff
Ken & Katie Roeper
Ita Brandman & Rachel Gorbaty
Alex & Ita Berenshteyn
Fred & Otti Windmueller
Steven Windmueller
Jayne G. Gross
Pam & Sandy Norman
Marian Myers
Ann Bendheim
David & Lesley Greenberg
Claire & Robert Rosenbaum
Scott & Nancy Bellemans
Mrs. Christina Myers
Mr. Matthew Myers

Dr. Jonathan Myers
Dr. Hans Falck
Deborah Greenberg
Marshall Lowenstein
Terry Schultz
Anne Zeichner & Minna Hirsch
Terry & Jerry Hirsch
Jerry Levey
Scott & Nancy Bellemans
Katie & Ken Roeper
CW Investments LLC

THE RABBI’S PHILANTHROPIC FUND
These contributions were received in response to the Annual Appeal:

Ann Winer
Bernice Slipow
Jim Weinberg & Rosann Bociarelli
Brenda Shipplett
Elise & Irving Scherr
Jay & Marilyn Weinberg
Mark Sternheimer
Dorothy & Steve Bernstein

IN APPRECIATION:
Betty Sue & Todd LePage
Deborah Greenberg

Donations Continue on Page 14
DONATIONS continued:

IN HONOR OF:

Erin Kasoff & Britt Calloway’s marriage
   Laurie, Adam, Melissa & Lyndsay Nelson
Melisa Moes & Eric Denmon’s wedding
   Melissa & Eric Denmon
Jacob Kurzer & Heather Cathers marriage
   Barry Kurzer & Lisa Syrop
Mazel Tov to Rabbi’s Jesse & Andrew Irene & Jeffrey Gretz
The babynaming of our grandchildren, Avery Perel & Campbell Yank Vorenberg
   Marianne & Ted Metzger
A Special Thanks to Rabbi Gallop & Rabbi Beifield for their beautiful babynaming ceremonies
   Amanda & Patrick McGann
IN MEMORY OF:

Shirley Lopater, my mother
   Lori Skiles
Gordon Danoff, Ruby Jo’s father & gratitude to Russ Finer
   David & Ruby Jo Hiller
Arthur Adams
   Bernice Slipow

Dorothy Goldstone
   Bernice Slipow
Marshall L. Lowenstein
   Marilyn Lowenstein & Family
Beverly Lynn
   Vicki & Miles Lynn
Jerry Levey
   Lisa Freeman & Carolyn Winks

CANTOR GOLDMAN MUSIC FUND
IN HONOR OF:
Natan Berenshteyn for his leadership in the VA Jewish Choral Celebration
   Ken & Katie Roeper
Hart Isaacoff’s role in The Nutcracker
   Ken & Katie Roeper
IN MEMORY OF:
Kate Levine
   Linda & Jeffrey Pinsky

BETH AHAHABAH CARES FUND
Rena Berlin

LEWIS I. HELD SCHOLARSHIP FUND
IN MEMORY OF:
Jack & Ruby Cansino, my dear parents
   Minnie Held

RESTORATION FUND
IN MEMORY OF:
Dorothy Goldstone
   Estelle & Gerald Grossman

SISTERHOOD CENTENNIAL FUND
IN MEMORY OF:
Ellen Merwin Fraser
   Ken & Katie Roeper

SADIE KIRSH FUND
IN MEMORY OF:
Louise Bloom Weiss, my mother
   Marilyn Lowenstein

HEBREW CEMETERY FUND
IN MEMORY OF:
Charles Thalhimer, Ruth Perel & Shirley Plotkin
   Jane Sternheimer
Marian Myers
   Elizabeth Warshawsky
Mary LePage
   Betty Sue & Todd LePage

BIMAH FLOWER FUND
IN MEMORY OF:
Dr. Robert Goodman
   Denise Goodman Keil

MABEL STRADLING ORGAN FUND
IN MEMORY OF:
Mitchell Corey Axel
   Dianne & Sherman Master, Sue Ellen Arenstein & Marc Arenstein

MUSEUM & ARCHIVES
IN HONOR OF:
The Speedy Recovery of Edith Brenner
   Mr. & Mrs. Harold Horowitz
Bonnie & Mike Eisenman
The Quick Recovery of Michael Decker
   Marianne & Ted Metzger
The Complete Recovery of Sara Belle November
   Cynthia Becker

Donations Continue on Page 15
MEN OF REFORM JUDAISM
by John Marshak, President

After the fall congregational picnic we held our next two most important events in the month of December. They were Brotherhood Shabbat and the Hanukkah latkie making for the religious school.

Brotherhood Shabbat is an opportunity for us to celebrate the contributions of our organization and that of an individual to the congregation and community. First, we sponsored a congregational dinner. Then, we presented a special service. We created it by selecting the passages and had members read them as well as read from the Torah. A member shared a sermon and a person was recognized for his/her distinguished service with the Sam Troy award. This year David Feibish provided the sermon and Alan Corbett received the award.

For the latkie making, we had over twenty members show-up to grate potatoes and onions, mix ingredients (with the assistance of Sisterhood members) and then fry them. To give you a feeling for the order of magnitude of the event, we used over 100 pounds of potatoes and had seven pans of oil frying for over three hours!

As a reminder, we are still in need of support for such capital activities such as purchasing the sukkah by contributions to our Bernstein Fund. This can be accomplished by contacting Ionel Kahn, Brotherhood Treasurer at iakpapa@verizon.net. (Note the correction in email address) All checks, made payable to Beth Ahabah Brotherhood, are tax deductible.
Who’s Who: Rebecca Field

Rebecca Field

Congratulations to Rebecca Field, one of 15 outstanding public school teachers, who received a prestigious R.E.B. Award for Teaching Excellence in 2014.

Rebecca, a CBA member, is an art and art history teacher at Douglas Freeman S High School in Henrico County was awarded a $10,000 grant to travel to Spain and France to experience sacred architecture and to see works of art in the settings and environments in which they were made.

Considered among the best in their field, these exceptional instructors demonstrate a sincere passion for teaching while also serving as mentors, coaches and champions for their students.

The winners, who were selected from a field of 31 finalists, were nominated by students, parents and colleagues, to receive the cash grants. The awards provide opportunities for the teachers to continue their own love of learning.

Tu B’Shevat the New Year of the Trees from www.urj.org

In Israel, another new year will soon be celebrated. Tu B’Shevat, the “New Year of the Trees,” is observed on the fifteenth day of the Hebrew month of Shevat.

Tu B’Shevat is not mentioned in the Torah. According to scholars, the holiday was originally an agricultural festival, corresponding to the beginning of spring in Israel. As in the case with many Jewish observances, a critical historical event served as a catalyst. After the destruction of the Second Temple in 70 C.E. and the exile that followed, many Jews felt a need to bind themselves symbolically to their former homeland. Tu B’Shevat served in part to fill that spiritual need. As it was no longer possible to bring tithes to the Temple, Jews used this time each year to eat a variety of fruits and nuts that could be obtained from Palestine. The practice, a sort of physical association with the land, continued for many centuries.

The 16th and 17th century kabbalists (mystics) of Palestine elaborated on the exilic customs, creating a ritual for Tu B’Shevat somewhat similar to the Passover seder. On Erev Tu B’Shevat, they would gather in their homes for a fifteen-course meal, each course being one of the foods associated with the land. Between courses, they would read from an anthology called P’ri Eitz Hadar (Citrus Fruit), a compilation of passages on trees drawn from the Bible, the Talmud, and the mystical Zohar.

In modern Israel, Tu B’Shevat has become a national holiday, a tree planting festival for both Israelis and Jews throughout the world. Much of the credit for the great joy and spirit of the holiday is a direct result of the important work of the Jewish National Fund.*

Tu B’Shevat may be observed in a variety of ways:

• Tu B’Shevat seders are not just for mystics! Host a seder and celebrate the many wonderful fruits and nuts of Israel. Many recipes include these foods. “Entree to Judaism for Families: Jewish Cooking” and “Kitchen Conversations with Children” by Tina Wasserman includes many recipes for families to enjoy cooking together.

For more information about Tu B’Shevat, visit http://www.reformjudaism.org/tu-bishvat-customs-and-rituals

Source: * The Jewish Home (Revised Edition) by Daniel B. Syme
If you have visited the Museum in recent years, you are probably thinking that I am referring to the synagogue cornerstone in our entrance hall. Not so. The largest thing (and the heaviest) that our visitors want to see is our own Synagogue, and we have come to think of it as almost one of our artifacts.

Since the Franklin Street door is kept locked when services are not being held, we enter through the “alley” between Joel House and the Sunday School building. Walking past the small chapel and through the hall ahead brings us to the door in the southwest corner of the Sanctuary. When we enter with visitors, I ask them to wait in the doorway while I go to turn on the lights. This switch is programmed to gradually brighten the lights over a few seconds. The effect is dramatic and generally produces murmurs of admiration and amazement from our guests.

I like to point out that the room we are standing in is octagonal, which is not readily apparent. I tell them that the architects put pillars on the four “slanted” sections of the foundation, which support four arches. The four arches support a circle on their tops, and the circle blends into a dome. The overall effect is one of strength, beauty, and peacefulness. Visually, viewers go from an octagon, the illusion of a square formed by the four pillars and the balcony (that’s another story), to the soaring arches, to the circle, and finally to the dome with its own stained glass artwork. The architect echoed the arch over the Bimah with another, smaller arch about fifteen feet back that frames the Ark and the gold-painted organ pipes.

Each year I have several opportunities to speak to VCU classes in the Sanctuary. Most of the students are non-Jews, and there are several questions that always seem to come up. These questions give me the opportunity to talk about Judaism in more depth. Invariably, some student always points to the balcony and says “Is that where the women sit?” I reply that this is a Reform congregation, and the women sit wherever they please including the Rabbi’s chair if it has pleased the congregation to call a female rabbi. This hasn’t happened yet, but there is plenty of time for that to happen.

I also point out one feature that could escape everyone’s attention. Hanging in front of the Ark is our Ner Tamid, or eternal flame. These are common these days, especially in those Christian churches whose services are based on the traditional Roman Catholic liturgy. This would mean the Roman Catholics, of course, but also the Episcopalians (like those at St. James’s up the street) and the Lutherans, to name the main ones. The unusual thing about our Ner Tamid is that it uses a light bulb instead of a candle. This was very high tech in 1903, and no doubt caused a lot of controversy. I also show them what I refer to as a “1903 Closed-Circuit TV”. The Rabbi needs to know if the congregation is in place for the service, so the architects provided a peephole in the decorative trim of both doors that flank the Ark. A quick look through this 1903 equivalent of modern technology quickly answers that question.

I do not have the space here to tell you everything we discuss, but I will say that our Sanctuary is not only a magnificent room, it is a room whose features can lead to a fascinating tour for visitors or a lifelong course of study for members. Try to look at the Sanctuary through the eyes of someone seeing it for the first time, and you will be surprised at the questions and ideas that will produce.

Please visit us at 1109 W. Franklin from 10-3 every day except Friday and Saturday. We will include a special Sanctuary visit for you if you wish.
In 1985, a large group of Beth Ahabah friends joined together to purchase a gift for the Archives in honor of the special birthdays of Gilbert Rosenthal and Robert Reinhard. The Archives was able to purchase a 19th Century Mid-Eastern Amulet. It is composed of a gold-colored metal decorated with cabochons of garnet, turquoise, and coral. The amulet is designed to be either worn as a necklace or pin and opens to contain a Hebrew prayer for the continued health and good fortune of the wearer. Magic amulets and charms are mentioned in the Mishnah and Talmud. Rabbis treated them with complete seriousness as instruments for intervening in the natural course of events. The user hoped for good fortune or health in exchange for wearing this holy symbol or document. Amulets usually include inscriptions, such as Hebrew prayers or emblems to provide protection for travelers, the ill or children. The gold necklace charms so often worn today, featuring Chai or a Star of David, are an integral part of this tradition.

Huge thanks goes to the Nelson Family and a group of creative and hard-working teens who recently gave a face lift to the third floor of the Joel House and turned it into a place where youth can relax and enjoy each other’s company. Restoring the youth lounge was a tremendous group effort and took many volunteer hours. Laurie Nelson coordinated and led the painting efforts with the help of her daughters, Melissa and Lyndsay, and Mackenna Kerwood, Josh Evans, Morgan Ackley, and Madison McCabe. Adam Nelson joined the effort by replacing old ceiling tiles and putting elbow grease into cleaning a deteriorated wall plaque. Together, Laurie and Adam adhered pieces of felt under the legs of the furniture to protect the wood floors and shopped Diversity Thrift for a gently used bookshelf that happens to match the other furniture. They also generously purchased a new Sonos sound system and a new blu-ray disc player that plays CDs, DVDs and blu-ray discs and provides internet access to Amazon, Netflix, Hulu, YouTube, etc. The effort was supported by Gary Briggs, who installed new light switches and covers, mounted the television to the mantle and removed old paint from the ceiling and floors. A special thanks from the Family Connections to everyone who transformed two tired and dreary rooms into a bright and vibrant new Youth Lounge for the teens of Beth Ahabah to enjoy!

Richmond Jewish Trivia:

Did you know that more than 850 Jewish people from the former Soviet Union were resettled in Richmond between the late 1970s and the early 2000s?
## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**February and March 2015**  
Schedule of *Shabbat* Worship

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, February 1</td>
<td>Religious School</td>
<td>9:15 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, February 2</td>
<td><em>Midrasha</em></td>
<td>6:30 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, February 4</td>
<td><em>Tu B’Shevat</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, February 4</td>
<td><em>Midweek Hebrew</em></td>
<td>5:30 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, February 6</td>
<td><em>Shabbat Service</em></td>
<td>7:30 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, February 7</td>
<td><em>Tot Shabbat</em></td>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Bat Mitzvah:</strong> Theresa Markiewicz</td>
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<td>10:30 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, February 8</td>
<td>Religious School</td>
<td>9:15 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, February 9</td>
<td><em>Midrasha</em></td>
<td>6:30 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, February 11</td>
<td><em>Midweek Hebrew</em></td>
<td>5:30 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, February 13</td>
<td>Learners <em>Shabbat Service</em> w/Adult Choir</td>
<td>7:30 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, February 14</td>
<td><strong>Bat Mitzvah:</strong> Brandon Ranly</td>
<td>10:30 AM</td>
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<td>Monday, February 16</td>
<td><em>Midrasha</em></td>
<td>6:30 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, February 18</td>
<td><em>Midweek Hebrew</em></td>
<td>5:30 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, February 20</td>
<td><em>WRJ (Sisterhood) Shabbat Dinner</em></td>
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<td></td>
<td><em>WRJ (Sisterhood) Shabbat Service</em></td>
<td>7:30 PM</td>
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<td>Saturday, February 21</td>
<td><strong>Bat Mitzvah:</strong> Jonah Joseph</td>
<td>10:30 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, February 22</td>
<td>Religious School</td>
<td>9:15 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, February 23</td>
<td><em>Midrasha</em></td>
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<td>Wednesday, February 25</td>
<td><em>Midweek Hebrew</em></td>
<td>5:30 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, February 27</td>
<td><em>6th &amp; 7th Grade Shabbat Dinner</em></td>
<td>6:00 PM</td>
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<td></td>
<td><em>Family Shabbat Service w/Etz Chayim and Ruach Chadash</em></td>
<td>7:30 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, March 1</td>
<td>Religious School</td>
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<td>Monday, March 2</td>
<td><em>Midrasha</em></td>
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<td>Wednesday, March 4</td>
<td><em>Midweek Hebrew</em></td>
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<td>Thursday, March 5</td>
<td><em>PURIM</em></td>
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<td>Friday, March 6</td>
<td><em>Shabbat Service</em> w/Adult Choir*</td>
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<td>Saturday, March 7</td>
<td><em>Tot Shabbat Service</em></td>
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<td><strong>Bat Mitzvah:</strong> Talia Pirron</td>
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<td>Sunday, March 8</td>
<td>Religious School</td>
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<td><em>Midrasha</em></td>
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<td>Sunday, March 15</td>
<td>Religious School</td>
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<td>Wednesday, March 18</td>
<td><em>Midweek Hebrew</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, March 20</td>
<td>Congregational <em>Shabbat Dinner</em></td>
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<td><em>Family Shabbat Service w/Etz Chayim</em></td>
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<td></td>
<td><em>Shabbat Service w/Ruach Chadash</em></td>
<td>7:30 PM</td>
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## B’Yachad

**DEADLINES**  
For editorial & advertising:
- APRIL: due Friday, February 20
- May/June: due Friday, March 20

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

**CALENDAR INFORMATION IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE,**  
please check the calendar online at bethahabah.org
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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 Berenshtein  Music Director & Accompanist
Sarah Beck-Berman  Cantorial Soloist

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David B. Farris Museum & Archives Director
William B. Thalhimer III Hebrew Cemetery Chairman
Beryl Holzbach WRJ President
John Marshak MRJ President

Religious School Seder
Sunday, March 29th
10:30 a.m. in the Goldburg Auditorium