SAYING GOODBYE IS NEVER EASY

by Rabbi Jesse Gallop

My six years serving Beth Ahabah have been a wonderful experience. These years have been filled with so many great and caring people. I have enjoyed helping strengthen our youth and family programs while learning what it is like to serve a large congregation. I am grateful for all of the staff, lay leaders, congregants, and especially Rabbi Beifeld, who have supported and nurtured me through these special years. Being your Associate Rabbi has given me many opportunities for growth and experiences that have helped me better understand my rabbinate.

With every transition, there is some loss; and I will dearly miss my Beth Ahabah community. It is always hard to leave, but both Rabbi Goodman and I have some wonderful opportunities in our future. We will be moving to the New York metro area where Andrew will be working for the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion (our seminary) as the Assistant Director of the National Office of Recruitment and Admissions. He will be in charge of the New York campus’ office where he will help...
Saying Goodbye is Never Easy Continued from page 1

I have enjoyed teaching great classes and leading meaningful programs, especially with our teenagers, as well as sharing so many personal experiences be it in a hospital room, in my study, at the home of a congregant, on the phone, or at a corner coffee shop—all of these sacred connections are what bring meaning and purpose to my calling.

I am excited for the future of Beth Ahabah and the Nagel family. Rabbi Randi Nagel and I worked together at my previous congregation in Northern Virginia, so I know first-hand that they are a wonderful family, dynamic rabbis and a great team.

Transition is an exciting time filled with opportunities, but it also brings a current chapter in life to a close.

Please know that I appreciate all that this community has invested in me, as well as the relationships we have built together. I am so grateful and blessed to have had the opportunity to come to Richmond and become a part of the Beth Ahabah community.

Besh'ah'ah Tovah (wishing you future blessings),
Rabbi Gallop

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RABBI SCOTT M. NAGEL WILL LEAD CONGREGATION BETH AHABAH

Congregation Beth Ahabah is proud to announce the election on Jan. 10 of Rabbi Scott M. Nagel as its Senior Rabbi, effective July 1, 2016.

Rabbi Nagel comes to Beth Ahabah after 12 years of service in diverse rabbinic roles to Temple Oheb Shalom in Baltimore, a 750-family congregation. He will be Beth Ahabah’s eleventh Senior Rabbi in 175 years, and succeeds Rabbi Martin P. Beifield Jr., who is retiring.

Rabbi Nagel was selected because of his extraordinary ability to connect with members, his passion for teaching Torah, his enthusiasm for Judaism, his successes in strengthening youth and family engagement, and his outstanding references.

Rabbi Nagel received a B.A. in Judaic Studies from the University of Michigan and a Master of Arts in Hebrew Letters and Rabbinical Ordination from the Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati.

He has demonstrated his devotion and support for the URJ Camping program as Faculty Dean at Camp Harlam.

Rabbi Nagel is the founder and chair of the Baltimore Area Reform Jewish Educational Cooperative and led efforts to plan, develop and implement a community-wide supplemental high school program for grades eight through 12, between the four Reform Baltimore congregations.

Please join us in welcoming Rabbi Nagel, his wife, Rabbi Randi Nagel, and their three sons to Richmond.

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REALIZING OUR VISION – ONE DAY AT A TIME; ONE PERSON AT A TIME

By Katie Roeper, President

All of us have set goals, developed a plan and then followed each step to achieve success. We know it takes commitment and hard work. When we set personal goals, often we can achieve them independently or with limited support from others. But an organizational goal demands an investment of its entire constituency.

It begins with a good understanding of what the vision is and why it is important. We cannot achieve something that we don’t understand or believe in, so let’s start there. Beth Ahabah: Inspiring Jewish Lives; Building Sacred Community. This vision was developed as a result of many, many conversations with members, to understand what is most important to our congregational community. During these discussions, we heard over and over again:

“I want to be inspired...to live a better Jewish life...to strengthen my knowledge of Judaism...to teach my children what it means to be Jewish...to develop a sense of Jewish identity in myself, my children, my grandchildren...to embrace my Judaism in a way that is relevant and meaningful in today’s world.” As congregants, when we say these things, we are not asking for others to do this for us, but we are seeking inspiration to help us get started and to encourage us along the way.

There is no single source of inspiration for a community of hundreds of individuals. We each must find the sources that speak to us. Fortunately, there are many possibilities at Beth Ahabah—Shabbat, Torah study, music, art, books, clergy, educators, lay leaders, to name a few.

I personally feel inspired every time I step foot in our sanctuary, knowing that generations of Jews have taken such care to preserve the Torahs and their historical home for us. I am inspired by the outpouring of support for the Capital and Endowment Campaign, representing members’ commitment to “pay it forward” for future generations. I am inspired to work with clergy and professionals, who live and teach Torah in everything they do. And, I am inspired by the number of members who volunteer their time and talents to make our congregation, our community, and our world, a better place for all.

Members, who attend meetings after a full day of work, to discuss personnel, finances, security, building repairs and renovations, social action, communications, programming, education, and all the other operations of our Synagogue. Members who use their skills and talents to voluntarily design our website, write our contracts, plan our budget, cook Shabbat dinner, raise funds, or paint a mural on the wall. It is absolutely inspiring to think of the time and talents that are donated to our congregation in a year, a month, a week, or even in a single day. One needs only to walk around our campus to witness the results of our volunteers—truly a constant source of inspiration!

The second part of Beth Ahabah’s vision is about community. This also grew out of conversations, some of which sadly were with individuals who had resigned or were feeling disengaged. We heard, “I want to know that I am a valued member in our community...to feel supported when something happens in my life...to be noticed if I’m not at services or I miss a meeting...I want to feel that my membership matters.” I can assure you, your membership does matter! But it will take more than us saying so, to help each member feel part of our sacred community.

Ironically, a community can only feel like a community if each and every member invests a part of ourselves. Community is not a sum of its parts. It is actually an entirely new entity that is created when all of its parts commit to action. The miracle of community is that we feel it most when we are most engaged. These two things are inextricably co-dependent.

So here is our challenge: We all must make an intentional choice, to be open to inspiration and to engage. We must commit to coming to a Shabbat dinner, to attending a service, to working on a committee, to singing in the choir, to writing a blog, to baking for an oneg, to ushering for a funeral, to attending a congregational meeting, to calling someone who is missing from our congregational life. We must be present. We must commit to action. And when we do, we will find our inspirational sources and we will feel a growing sense of community.

Our journey begins with belief—belief in our vision and our potential as a congregation to realize our dream. It challenges us to look for inspiration in the every day operations. It demands our attention. It requires engagement. It can happen, but not without every one of us making the commitment.

It begins with belief—belief that we CAN and DO make a difference in our community; that our community would not be the same without us. Thank you for being an important part of our community and for being an inspiration in my life!

Beth Ahabah: Inspiring Jewish Lives; Building Sacred Community.
Hi everyone-

I just received a nice thank you note from CARITAS: “Want to thank all of you for making this year’s CARITAS project at Beth Ahabah the easiest that I’ve had the pleasure of overseeing.” On behalf of CARITAS, Beth Ahabah and myself- THANKS!!!

Be well and I hope that you will keep CARITAS in mind next winter. If you know of any Beth Ahabah families that might be interested in doing CARITAS next year please share your experiences with them.

With gratitude,
Chuck Greenberg

LET’S KEEP THE LIGHTS BURNING FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS.
PLEASE HELP US MAKE OUR GOAL.

*THE TOTAL INCLUDES CONTINGENT GIFTS AND DOES NOT INCLUDE ANY GIFTS RESTRICTED TO THE CBA ENDOWMENT FUND.

YOM KIPPUR CONCERT THIS APRIL:
FEATURING MUSIC BOTH OLD AND NEW
by Sarah Beck-Berman

Spring into the High Holidays this year with our “Days of Awe in April” Yom Kippur concert!

On Saturday, April 30 at 4:00 p.m. join Sarah and Natan in the Goldburg Auditorium for a concert of music both old and new. Revisit the beautiful and awe-inspiring music of Yom Kippur, and learn a little about the context and composers of these key pieces of liturgy.

Heard for the first time in Beth Ahabah, this concert will also feature brand new compositions from the Reform movement’s musical companion to their new machzor, Shirei Mishkan HaNefesh: An Anthology of Music for the High Holidays.

From the heart of Kol Nidre to the depth of Avinu Malkeinu and beyond, we invite you to join us in celebrating the music of one of the holiest days of the year.

Donations welcome. For more information, please contact the synagogue office.

SENIOR BRIDGE
by Rachel C. Schmidt, Senior Bridge Coordinator

Q. What are Neil, Alvin, Julian, Jim, Robert, Jack, Shelley, Anne, Joyce, Shirley, Lois and Melvin missing?

A. Someone to call to wish them a “Shabbat Shalom.”

Please consider this simple but meaningful congregational connection to one of 100 seniors over the age of 80!

Q. How do I go about volunteering?
A. Contact rachelcohenschmidt@gmail.com.
On Sunday afternoon January 10, 2016, Congregation Beth Ahabah was the site of an historical event as over 600 people from the greater Richmond area—Jewish, Christian, Muslim, Catholic, B’hai, Buddhist, African American, Caucasian, Hispanic, Asian American—filled our pews to attend “Standing Together.”

The Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities (VCIC, formerly the National Council of Christians and Jews) organized and led the exhilarating community program in response to highly-publicized political verbal assaults on the Muslim community. VCIC’s answer to these politics was to unite clergy from all religions in the area and immediately to issue a press statement condemning these tactics; to purchase a full-page advertisement in the Sunday Richmond Times-Dispatch doing the same and signed by institutions as well as individuals, including Congregation Beth Ahabah, Rabbi Beifield and Rabbi Gallop; and to culminate in “Standing Together” at Beth Ahabah.

Rabbi Beifield opened the event by warmly welcoming all, followed by Imam Ammar Amonette of the Islamic Center of Virginia, the Reverend Dr. John Kinney of Virginia and Sister Marie Mack of Bon Secours Health Systems. A panel discussion of various religious leaders followed.

A very lively segment of the program ensured next when the congregation was divided up into smaller discussion groups by pews, with a VCIC-trained leader and a list of suggested questions. All groups were intermingling, talking, laughing, trading business cards and very much enjoying discussing their topics. Some have met on their own since January!

Senator Tim Kaine wrapped up the program with observations from his just-completed trip to Turkey and Europe. He told us that everywhere he journeyed, people wanted to know what American’s position was on what they had been reading in the news. He was delighted to be able to tell them that the next day he was going to a synagogue to a rally by all religionists to support Muslims from abuse!

The Council for Social Justice was the liaison between the VCIC and Congregation Beth Ahabah. Our members welcomed all those attending, ushered them to their seats, and provided refreshments in the Goldburg Auditorium following the event.

Jonathan Zur, CEO of VCIC, is using the momentum from this event to push forward and the Council for Social Justice intends to follow his lead. Join us!

Photos courtesy of VCIC: Top Left - US Senator Tim Kaine and Jonathan Zur, CEO of VCIC; Middle - Community dialogue; Top Right - Lillie Estes and Sumeja Zahirovic lead a community dialogue.
Like most who spent their childhood summers at camp, Earl Ferguson looks back fondly on long days spent in the company of lifelong friends. Ferguson’s 11 summers at a sports and adventure camp in Maine not only established a connection to camping that still runs deep, but drive his role as the new chairman of North American Camping (NAC) for the Union for Reform Judaism.

The NAC began about 10 years ago when the URJ wanted to form a governance committee to manage all of its previously individually operated summer camps. The committee works hand-in-hand with the system’s full-time professional staff that runs the day-to-day operations of the URJ’s 15 camps in North America. As chairman, Ferguson coordinates overarching governance of the camp system, helps with fundraising, and looks for strategic growth opportunities in the years to come.

One of his primary tasks will be supporting NAC’s goal of operating 20 camps by 2020, beginning with the opening of 6 Points Sports Academy West in Los Angeles this summer. The camp marks a West Coast expansion of a successful sports specialty camp in North Carolina, of which Ferguson was founding chair, now entering its sixth summer.

“We had the idea for a sports specialty camp about seven or eight years ago,” he said. “There were sports specialty camps around the country, but we were unaware of any Reform Jewish sports specialty camps anywhere – and we were right. We have grown from just over 200 campers our first summer, to over 720 during the summer of 2015.”

Ferguson and the rest of the NAC will continue to search for gaps in the market as they look ahead to their next four camps. “Whether those will be a theater camp, or dramatic arts, music, horseback riding, sailing, swimming … we’re not sure,” he says. “We have to match the main program of the camp with the market and the geographical area.”

While the theme of these new camps remains to be seen, establishing a lifelong commitment to Reform Judaism will still be at the core of every camp developed by the NAC. Ferguson, a member and past president of Congregation Beth Ahabah, says the camps are a logical extension of religious education and participation in youth groups like the North American Federation of Temple Youth (NFTY) and bring an informal connection that’s very different from being inside a synagogue classroom. Not to mention, he says, statistics show that young people who go to a Jewish camp have a higher probability of remaining lifelong active Jews.

“Our camps are about lifelong friendships, having fun, and being in an immersive Reform Jewish experience,” he says. “You can’t get that any other way.”

Photos: Courtesy of URJ Camps
CBA COMMUNITY

IN SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILIES OF....

Jeanette Brownstein  
mother of Jeffrey Brownstein (Barbara Ebert)  grandmother of Andrew (Melissa) Brownstein

Evelyn Sommers  
sister of Julia (Seymour) Einbinder

Dirk Jecklin  
father of Ivan Jecklin (Allison Weinstein)

Sol Axel  
father of Marc Axel

Harold Goodman  
father of Winnie (Barry) Fratkin  father-in-law of Denise Goodman-Keil

Betty Lankin  
sister of Bob (Madelynne) Chubin

Leona Bernstein  
sister of Bernice Slipow

CONGRATULATIONS TO....

Elie & Lauren Chitman on the birth of their son, Connor Chitman born January 16, 2016.


LEGUMES & RICE ON PASSOVER
by Rabbi Thomas and Marcia Louchheim
urj.org

Do you have Ashkenazi roots? Do you trace your family back to the Mediterranean or Poland? If you do, you might have a Sephardic background. In either case, for most of us these terms have lost their significance in today’s “melting pot” North American society. Nevertheless, there still seems to be some debate about what you may or may not eat on Passover. Let me see if I can clarify this for you (or complicate your menu for your seder).

On Passover, one is not to have chametz – leavening – in your home. By chametz, the tradition means those grains from which matzah may be baked: wheat, barley, oats, rye, and spelt. No other foodstuffs are regarded as chametz. In 1810 the Reform Movement in Germany determined that they would be following the Sephardic practice of not categorizing any legumes or rice as chametz.

The prohibition found its roots in France in the thirteenth century and then spread through Europe. There was no explanation, at the time, for excluding these foods during Passover. In actuality, allowing rice and legumes predates Sephardic Jews. Prohibiting these foods actually contradicts the Talmud (Pesachim 35a and 114b), which allows them. The Talmud even disputes the claim that these foods are chametz because they can be dried and made into flour.

Enjoy your peanut butter, rice, corn and legumes. No matter what foods you choose to eat, we wish you and your family a very happy Passover.

Therefore, for more than 200 years, my family has been following this Reform (not “Sephardic”) practice by eating string beans and rice with our matzah ball soup.

- See more at: http://www.reformjudaism.org/legumes-and-rice-passover#sthash.FPtZzvRb.dpuf

Introducing BethAhabahConnect!

BethAhabahConnect
A new way to meet people just like you at Your Temple

Get to know our new interactive program that helps you get the most out of your membership. BethAhabahCONNECT helps you find like-minded members, see who is at Beth Ahabah, share photos, and learn about events and programs tailored specifically to you. All it takes is a quick log in and you’ll be on your way to finding a new mah jong partner or a trusted business referral — all within the Beth Ahabah community.

Potluck Shabbat with a family just like us. Another newbie to the community. Empty nest filled with new friends. A hometown connection. Here’s how...

1. Log into bethahabahconnect.twokeyyou.com
2. Answer some biographical questions, upload some photos and select your privacy settings. Your information is secure and only accessible to those within the Beth Ahabah community.
3. Start finding others who share your interests, background, life stages, and values. Invite your friends, too!
4. Periodically you will get news about Beth Ahabah programs, people and events that match your interests and preferences.

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JOYNER FINE PROPERTIES
Grace Isabelle Struminger will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, April 2nd. She is the daughter of Stacy and David Struminger; and the granddaughter of Judi and Donald Struminger and Mickie and Burton Cohen.

Grace is a 7th grader at The Steward School where she plays field hockey, basketball and soccer all while staying on the Headmasters List. Grace will be holding a food drive at her school for her Mitzvah Project, collecting food for Feed More which supplies the food to Meals on Wheels, an organization that she holds close to her heart as her almost 100 year old great grandmother still volunteers after 25 years of service.

Grace is looking forward to spending this special day with her family and friends.

Joshua Stein will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on April 16, 2016. He is the son of Ethan and Amber Stein and the brother of Aaron and Simone.

Joshua is a 7th grade honor student at The Steward School where he runs cross country and plays in the band. He loves rocking out on the drums and bass guitar at The School of Rock.

He also enjoys movie making.

For his Mitzvah Project, Joshua will run the Monument 10k to raise money for The World Pediatric Project, a Richmond based non-profit organization which provides advanced surgical and medical care to underprivileged children in Central America and the Caribbean.

We are incredibly proud of Joshua and his hard work in preparing for his Bar Mitzvah. We look forward to sharing this milestone with family, friends, and the congregation.

On two Mondays a month, 11th and 12th graders are invited to reconnect with their friends from Beth Ahabah and join Brian, the CBA Teen Engagement Specialist, in either a dessert social or an informal discussion.

Participants will join the Midrasha dinner at 6:30 p.m. and then begin our program at 7:00 p.m. Feel free to come just once or every time!

Upcoming Dessert Reception: April 18th
Upcoming Informal Discussion: April 4th

On April 18th JeRAFTY is going to lead a chocolate seder for Midrasha! Make sure to be there!

From April 14th to April 17th will be NFTY-MAR’s Spring Kallah! Get to know Jewish teens from Maryland, Virginia, DC, and North Carolina while electing the next regional board, participate in fun and inspiring programming, and say goodbye to the seniors! This event is open to all 8th through 12th graders. Brian, our Teen Engagement Specialist will e-mail more details as we get closer. Also lookout for the Teen Newsletter, which is sent out twice a month!

Having a Moving Experience?

If you’re hanging your mezuzah on a new doorpost, please be sure to let us know right away. That will keep the Bulletin and other mailings coming to you promptly–and save us postal fees. We want to keep you posted!
A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR...

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE NON-AFFILIATED JEWISH COMMUNITY

Traditionally, a synagogue has been a House of Worship, a House of Learning and a House of Assembly in addition to providing “FULL LIFE-CYCLE SERVICES” to its members. We here at Congregation Beth Ahabah encourage your affiliation with our synagogue and offer you many programs, some of which are free and exciting, but ONLY BY JOINING BETH AHABAH can you gain the full benefit of belonging to a “cutting edge”, Reform congregation right here in Greater Richmond.

Receive the full benefit of our program:

• RELIGIOUS SERVICES - Friday evening Shabbat services; Saturday morning Shabbat services when there is a Bar or Bat Mitzvah; and monthly Saturday morning Tot Shabbat services for younger children.

• SIMHA - if it is a brit, baby-naming, Bar or Bat Mitzvah, engagement, auf-ruf, wedding, or anniversary celebration, our magnificent facility lends itself well to serve your needs.

• RELIGIOUS SCHOOL - we serve our members well by preparing their children using the most recent innovations in Jewish Education.

• SPEAKER/LUNCH PROGRAM - for those who can participate at lunch time, we offer weekly “lunch ’n learn” Torah Study and monthly Israel Study group with our Rabbis.

• SISTERHOOD & BROTHERHOOD - offering many social, cultural, religious and educational programs, on a variety of topics.

• NFTY - local, regional, national and international youth group for students in grades 8 - 12.

• CEMETERY - dedicated to our congregation’s responsibility to assist the deceased family in the final act of respect.

Russell M. Finer, FSA
Executive Director

Introducing BethAhabahConnect!

Create and share discussions, events, photo albums and groups that matter to you.

Find business referrals or people with similar interests or backgrounds all within Beth Ahabah.

Completely private within Beth Ahabah. You decide what to share and set your privacy settings.

Sign up in fast, easy, and fun. Don’t want to answer a question? Just skip it.

Sign up at bethahabahconnect.twolikeyou.com
CBA LIFE:

World Pediatric Project’s motto, “Heal a child, change the world” speaks volumes to CBA member Dr. Amber Stein, who served as the Pediatric Anesthesiologist on her sixth annual surgical mission trip to Belize in November. To Amber, it reflects the Jewish philosophy of tikkun olam, or repairing the world.

Amber is part of a team of volunteer surgeons and surgical nurses working through World Pediatric Project to provide advanced medical and surgical care to underprivileged children in Central America. The team performs surgeries to correct birth defects like cleft lip and cleft palate, and microtia (malformed ears); and removes tumors, as well as performing procedures to improve breathing.

Have you ever left the temple smiling at lots of people but not really knowing very many of them? Have you seen the same faces for years but can’t put a name to the face? Would you like to meet more families like yours? How about finding new friends to go to a concert with or even to just take a walk with on a Sunday morning?

A team of volunteers led by Carol Ann Calahan have spent months working on BethAhabahConnect, a new interactive program designed to bring us all together.

Check it out at www.BethAhabahConnect.twolikeyou.com
The Religious School held a *Tu B’Shevat* Celebration at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden on Sunday, January 31.

Guests at the fun-filled gala were invited to explore the Botanical Garden grounds; to learn how to be more ecological at home and in nature; to taste the first fruits of Israel and more!

Held in collaboration with all of the Richmond Synagogue Sunday Schools, the free event was sponsored in part by the Richmond Council for Jewish Education.
ISRAEL EDUCATION COMES ALIVE!

On Sunday, February 21, 2016, our First Steps through 2nd grade students took a trip to the town of Zichron Ya’akov! This exciting trip was courtesy of the hard work and enthusiastic planning of our 5th graders and their teachers, Rachel Beck-Berman and Jordan Wilburn. Both Rachel and Jordan had received the Innovative Educators award last summer from the Richmond Council for Jewish Education, for the work each had done in the previous school year. They received, as part of that award, a mini-grant that would be used for creative education this year. This was the impetus for the special project. Zichron Ya’akov is a city that is part of Richmond’s sister region Hadera, and a city that a number of our own Richmond Jewish educators have visited as part of the P2G exchange program. Zichron Ya’akov is situated on the southern end of the Carmel Mountain range and near the coast. It is a city that reflects modern Israel’s founding history and is also a vibrant tourist destination, known for its wineries, artisan shops, cafes and popular pedestrian mall. It was a perfect choice for this project.

The 5th graders spent 3 weeks in the planning and conception of the event. After learning about the city, they decided to recreate the Nili Café, The First Aliyah Museum, and artisan shops on the pedestrian mall. Beautiful clay candle holders and decorative items were molded and painted. “Stained glass” hamsas were made with shrinky dinks. Menus were planned and created in Hebrew and English. Activities for the museum were devised and the students chose roles for the morning. The Joel House was transformed into Zikron Ya’akov with potted palms, lattice work, lights, posters and more! Food was freshly prepared just before the visitor’s arrival. Zichron Ya’akov was ready to receive visitors.

The excitement was palpable as our young travellers filled out their passports, heard a story about Israel and boarded the “plane” (the Chapel) en route. During the “flight” they were entertained with an inflight movie and pictures about Zichron Ya’akov to prepare for their visit. Upon landing, their passports were stamped and they were ready for their visit. They each receive 50 shekels and were invited to shop, dine and visit the museum. Haggling was encouraged!

At the First Aliyah Museum the visitors experienced life as an early Zionist – toiling in the soil to remove rocks, while having to deal with pesky mosquitoes flying around. They could milk a cow and find costumes to dress-up like the early pioneers.

There were many things to purchase on the artisan’s mall and satisfying shopping took place. All the visitors had souvenirs to bring home. A visit to the café was a must – with delicious menu items, like, hummus and pita, bagels and cream cheese, Israeli salad, ice-cream, cookies, grapes and juice all available for purchase. What a great way to learn and experience a modern city in Israel.

When the “American” visitors departed our 5th Grade “Sabras” enjoyed a well-deserved café visit. It was a learning activity that our 5th graders will long remember as they reflect back on their Sunday School experiences. They can be very proud that they provided a morning of learning and fun for our youngest students.
WOMEN OF REFORM JUDAISM (Sisterhood)
by Beryl Holzbach, President

Please plan to join us for Mitzvah Day on Sunday, May 22nd. Beth Ahabah’s Women of Reform Judaism will meet in the Joel house on that day to make blankets to be distributed to hospitalized children. No sewing skills are needed to participate.

By now you may also be aware of the Mitzvah Project we are sponsoring for CARITAS. They are in desperate need of eating and kitchen utensils. Collection boxes are located in the religious school side door entrance. We will also be accepting donations on Mitzvah Day as well. Please think of this worthwhile cause as you do your spring cleaning!

Lastly, we are still very much involved in our Half the Sky Mitzvah project. We raised enough funds to sponsor several girls again this year. Your continued support is appreciated!

Please contact me if you have any questions, need further information or would like to donate materials to any of the above projects. I can be reached at beryl44@comcast.net.

Shalom!
Beryl Holzbach

MEN OF REFORM JUDAISM (Brotherhood)
by David Feibish, President

Brotherhood at Beth Ahabah has been relentlessly involved these last few [winter] months in both holiday activities and family fun events.

In December, Brotherhood delivered another outstanding, if not one of the best Hanukkah latke religious school events ever! Ron Kasoff was in charge of this especially successful major production that included volunteers stepping up for an extra day needed to do preparation! In addition to a host of Brotherhood volunteers and new faces who helped in the kitchen and frying; a special thanks to Meryl Bernstein and Sandy Cohen for their very hard work and big hearts preparing copious quantities of latke batter!

February: Brotherhood sponsored a family outing to a Richmond Spider home basketball game with pregame pizza! Over 40 people took advantage of a very affordable fun family evening at the Robins Center. Brotherhood endeavors to sponsor an annual affordable sporting event outing. The ticket price including pizza/soda was only $10. Special thanks to Alan Corbett for making this happen along with Jeff Kiel and Rob Davidson.

Brotherhood and Sisterhood also co-sponsored a wholesome evening for the entire family to enjoy….Family Game Night (board games and cards) in the Joel House. Snacks, drinks and deserts were served. Thank you to Alan and Sandy Corbett, co-chairs of Game Night.

Upcoming event; please mark in your calendars the Purim Carnival at the Weinstein JCC on Sunday, March 20th. Brotherhood sets up and works the games. This is a wonderful fun day for the whole family; bring your “kids” of all ages to play/participate, be entertained and nosh while celebrating an important and festive Jewish Holiday.

Beth Ahabah Brotherhood is currently in the planning stage of new events that will be of interest to our congregation, so please be on the look out for notices about these upcoming opportunities!

David Feibish
oldbenz@aol.com

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• Quick find feature; groups that interest you or create your own and invite other like-minded members.
• Access to all of the programs and discussions from Beth Ahabah that you want to see.
• Easy step current with your and your child’s Beth Ahabah classes, conversations and photo albums.

Questions? Contact Carol Ann Cahanes at carolanne@weson.net

Help Build Our Jewish Community
BethAhabahConnect is an interactive technology that enables all of us to build a stronger modern Jewish Community. Comparing your life goals will help the energy and matching design programming classes and events we most need for you. Additionally; when new congregants join, your full profile will help welcome them into our community. Visit BethAhabahConnect.twilio.com to sign up today.

Beth Ahabah
1111 West Franklin Street, Richmond, VA 23220 · p 804-258-6757 · www.bethahabah.org
6TH GRADE GESHER
Sunday, April 10th

9:15 a.m.  Students in class
9:30 a.m.  Parents join Rabbi Beifield for a discussion about the Structure and Content of the Shabbat Service.

10:30 a.m. Parents & children meet in the Goldburg auditorium for crafts

Special Class Programs: Giving our students an interactive, meaningful Jewish Education!

7TH GRADE: RICHMOND JEWISH HISTORY TOUR:
Sunday; April 10th from 9:30 to 11:40 a.m.

7th Graders will Ride the Richmond Trolley through the town learning about important Jewish points of interest which shaped our city and our city’s Jewish History.

Congregational Family Seder

Saturday, April 23, 2016
5:00 to 7:30 p.m. in the Goldburg Auditorium

Pot-luck dinner
Seder (with short Havdalah service) led by attendees

Space is limited!
Reply now to: familyseder2016@gmail.com

What do you mean by “family” seder?
This seder is intended for anyone who wants to celebrate Passover with everyone in the 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. Dress is 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 matzah ball soup, etc.

Send us an email at familyseder2016@gmail.com, and we’ll send you the link to 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 familyseder2016@gmail.com and we’ll put you on the list;
   and 2. sign up for something to bring on the Sign-Up Genius.
DONATIONS

TEMPLE FUND
IN HONOR OF:
Abby Moore’s special birthday
Katy & Jimmy Yoffy
Jonah Daniel Ratner’s Bar Mitzvah
Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Hill
Judy Markowitz’ speedy recovery
Ann Bendheim
Rachel Schmidt’s speedy recovery
Ken & Katie Roeper
Scott Belleman’s speedy recovery
Ken & Katie Roeper
John Marshak’s speedy recovery
Ken & Katie Roeper
IN MEMORY OF:
Joyce Scher
Franklin Wolf
Diane Phipps
Allen Goolsby
Lowe, Brockenbrough & Co., Inc.
True Luck
The Willingham Family
William Rachels, Jr.
Floyd D. Gottwald, Jr.
Dr. & Mrs. Ole Christian Bredrup, Jr.
Austin & Jane Brockenbrough, III & Family
Mr. & Mrs. Walter Horsley
Stephanie Renfro & Family
Mary & Jack Spain
Mr. & Mrs. Claude Owen, Jr.
Mary Anne & Thomas Jefferson
Lynn & Jim Burris
Patricia P. Pusey
Alice & Richard Tilghman
Barbara Peskin
Martha Anne Ellis
Margaret Barlow
Becky & Tony Frank
Marshall & Stevie Wishnack
Palmer & Doug Garson
David & Patricia Lyons
Grey & Taffy Williams
Michael & Ellen Bain Smith
Toby & Herb Gubow
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Millhiser
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Nancy & Dewey Morris
Stephen Ragland
Dominion Resources
Patricia Tuttle
Anita H. Cook
Cyril F. Coombs
Phyllis & Stanley Magrill
Morris Zeichner, father & Barry Zeichner, brother
Terry & Jerry Hirsch
Rachel Gorbaty & Ita Brandman
Ita & Alex Berenshteyn
Mr. & Mrs. William B. Thalhimer, Jr.
Their children & grandchildren
Rose Goldstein
Judith & Ike Koziol
Ronnie Plotkin, brother
Marianne & Ted Metzger
Helen Jane Leathy
John Leathy
Rebecca Lubman & Abe Lubman
Shelly & Sherman Lubman
Jules Levine & Bette Neufeld
Mark Schein
Rae Krupnik
Ellen & Enrique Gerszten
Selma & Gerald Leinwand
Robert & Peter Opper
Leon Rudnick
Alan Rudnick
Joan P. Epstein
Pamela P. Zell
Doris Beifeld
Minnie Held
Frances Burlock & Alice Riegel
Anne Burlock Lawyer
Paul F. Corbett
Ira & Maureen Goldstein
Jerry Berenson
Scott & Nancy Belleman
Joseph C. Finer, brother & Simon Komins, father-in-law
Allen Finer
Rhoda Fine Ebert
Barbara Ebert
Benjamin Schnitzer
Jack K. Carver
Dirk Jecklin
Ken & Katie Roeper
Harold Abrams, my father
Anne Schwartz
Leah Levine
Mark Schein
Rose Rhoades
Alan Rhoades
Jerome H. Berenson & Fannie S.
Rosenthal
Carolyn S. Berenson

THE RABBI’S PHILANTHROPIC FUND
These contributions were received in response to the Annual Appeal:
Deborah Greenberg
IN HONOR OF:
The birth of Connor Chitman
Elie & Lauren Chitman
IN MEMORY OF:
Ruth B. Lee & Michael E. Boustany
Richard Lee
Joyce Scher
Jim Schuyler & Frank Dellinger
Harry & Marcia Thalhimer
M. David Grandis
Carolyn Grandis & family

CANTOR GOLDMAN MUSIC FUND
IN MEMORY OF:
Joyce Scher
Elizabeth & Dean Pope
Harry L. Stillerman
Fern Cohen
Veronica Kondrashina
Natan & Valeria Berenshteyn

GENERATIONS FUND
IN HONOR OF:
Andrew G. Byer & Joanna B.
Hakimi, our children
Tom & Susie Byer

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

Donations continue on Page 20
Lisa Freeman  
Generations Campaign Leadership  
IN MEMORY OF:  
Dirk Jecklin  
Scott & Nancy Belleman

JERRY BERNSTEIN  
BROTHERHOOD FUND  
IN MEMORY OF:  
Melinda Rae Kahn  
Laura & Rob Davidson

RICKI KESTIN EDUCATION FUND  
Michael Wolf

HEBREW CEMETERY FUND  
IN MEMORY OF:  
Elizabeth Wheeler LePage  
Betty Sue & Todd LePage

MT. MORIAH FUND  
IN HONOR OF:  
Gilbert Rosenthal’s 90th birthday  
Karen & Dan Hough

MUSEUM & ARCHIVES  
IN HONOR OF:  
Gilbert Rosenthal’s 90th Birthday  
The Klaus Family Fund of the  
Community Foundation, Serving  
Richmond and Central Virginia  
Robert Reinhard’s 90th Birthday  
Bernice Slipow  
IN MEMORY OF:  
Joyce Scher  
Margaret Friedenberg  
Edith Brenner

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.

It’s never too early to be prepared.

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

Thinking of Buying or Selling?  
Call me 1st!

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If you feel your business needs a little more attention, please give Russ Finer a call at 804.358.6757, ext. 302.

Insist on Stevie!
The Beth Ahabah Museum & Archives has many, many family photographs in its collection. This photo is most unusual, as it is mounted onto a six-inch diameter round metal plate with a curved surface, almost like a large political campaign button. The people in the c. 1906-1907 photo are the Emanuel B. Ullman Family: Emanuel Buchanan Ullman, age about 50, who was involved in grocery and liquor businesses in Richmond; Amelia Hutzler Ullman, his wife, age about 41; their daughter Reina Ullman, age about 16 and their daughter Rhonie Hutzler Ullman, about five years old. Reina married Manly Brent and Rhonie married Julian Caheen and then Sylvan King. Mrs. King donated the photograph to the museum in 1987. (While researching for this article we found that Mrs. King’s husband, Sylvan, was credited with originating the first Washington, D.C. Cherry Blossom Festival in 1935!)

Family trees are a great source of information, as we spend a lot of time researching Jewish genealogy. This page is from the Hutzler Family Tree, created by Charles Hutzler in 1989.

A GEM FROM THE ARCHIVES

Please consider sharing your family tree with the Beth Ahabah Museum & Archives or contact us to help you create one.

Save the Date

Mitzvah Day 2016
Sunday, May 22

“It is not what one says, but rather what one does, that makes a difference.”
(ethical Avot, Ethics of Our Ancestors)

MORE INFORMATION TO FOLLOW
Seeing Ourselves as Others See Us
Photography + Computers = Amazement
by David Farris, Director

Last fall, Russ forwarded an email to me from a man who tours the world photographing synagogues. He wanted to come to Richmond for the express purpose of photographing our sanctuary and placing the results on a special website so that people everywhere could see us. We quickly agreed, and a date was set.

On the appointed day Mr. Louis Davidson arrived, accompanied by his wife and her service dog, Harley. We spent about two hours in the sanctuary, during which time Mr. Davidson walked around capturing digital images from numerous locations on the main floor and also in the balcony. Harley stuck with Mrs. Davidson as though he was glued there, ignoring me completely.

When first time visitors enter the sanctuary, they usually take a deep breath and say “Wow!” or “Amazing!” Those of us who see it on a regular basis tend to lose that element of surprise and appreciation, which is a shame. I am happy to be able to tell you that Mr. Davidson’s images, as they appear on the special website, have the ability to take us back to the first time we saw place and to restore our sense of wonder at its beauty.

He transferred the images into his computer, and then used software to “stitch” the individual photos together into a smooth, slow motion video that reveals the beauty of the room and helps us see it with new eyes. There is a navigation bar at the bottom of the screen that we can experiment with to get different views, and I encourage everyone to click on the spot on the right that changes the view to full screen. The website is called “Synagogues 360”, and can be found at www.synagogues360.org. The search capability on the site enables viewers to see synagogues, both well-known and obscure, all around the world. By the way, ours is listed as Congregation Beth Ahabah in the pulldown menu.

Take a look. It’s well worth it! Visit us at 1109 W. Franklin from 10-3 every day except Friday and Saturday. Bring your out-of-town visitors, and let us amaze them.
APRIL 2016

Friday, April 1  Shabbat Service with Twersky Award presented to Ramona Brand  6:15 PM

Saturday, April 2
Tot Shabbat  9:00 AM
Bat Mitzvah of Grace Struminger  10:30 AM

Monday, April 4 Midrasha  6:30 PM

Wednesday, April 6 Midweek Hebrew  5:30 PM

Friday, April 8
WRI (Sisterhood) Shabbat Dinner  6:00 PM
WRI (Sisterhood) Shabbat Service  7:30 PM

Sunday, April 10 Religious School  9:15 AM

Monday, April 11 Midrasha  6:30 PM

Wednesday, April 13 Midweek Hebrew  5:30 PM

Friday, April 15
Shabbat Service with Adult Choir, Birthday & Anniversary Aliyahuhs  7:30 PM

Saturday, April 16
Bar Mitzvah of Joshua Stein  10:30 AM

Sunday, April 17 Religious School with Religious School Seder  9:15 AM

Monday, April 18 Midrasha  6:30 PM

Wednesday, April 20 Midweek Hebrew  5:30 PM

Friday, April 22 First Night of Passover Shabbat Service in the Gumenick Chapel  6:00 PM

Saturday, April 23 Second Seder  5:00 PM

Monday, April 25 Midrasha (10th grade only)  6:30 PM

Friday, April 29 Music from the Shoah Shabbat Service with Jocelyn Adelman  7:30 PM

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

Religious School Seders

Sunday, April 17

Primary Grades will have programs and Seders in their classrooms. Grades 3 through 7 will have a Seder in the Goldburg Auditorium.

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 seder plates...DAYENU!

For we are having Seders for the WHOLE SCHOOL...DAYENU!

Please lend your hands and donate Seder goods for our annual Religious School Seder! This meaningful and lively event is an annual favorite.

Volunteers are needed to make this a successful morning. Please contact Ramona at r.brand@bethahabah.org to volunteer or donate goods.
You are Invited to
Beth Ahabah’s Annual
Congregational Dinner and Annual Meeting
Friday, May 13, 2016
beginning at 6:00pm

Dinner will be served
during the Meeting
You do not need to attend the dinner
to participate in the meeting.

Installation of Officers,
Board of Managers and Trustees,
and presentation of the
Lewis I. Held Award will take
place during the Shabbat Service.

The cost of the dinner is $5 per person
with a family maximum of $20
(children 2 and under are free).
Reservation with payment
must be received by May 6th.
You may RSVP by calling the Temple
office at 358-6757 with credit card
information or make your reservation
online at www.bethahabah.org.