BE HAPPY, IT'S ADAR!

by Rabbi Martin P. Beifield, Jr.

Well, not for a few more weeks. And even then it's the wrong Adar. But more on that later.

Jews welcome the winter month of Adar on the Jewish calendar by expressing this wish. It is a reference to the holiday of Purim which this year begins on the night of March 23rd. We're happy because we're celebrating the salvation of the Jews from the evil plot of Haman who planned to kill all the Jews of Shushan in retaliation when one of them, Mordecai, refused to bow down before him. We're so happy, in fact, that we tell the story every year and during its telling make enough noise to blot out the name of Haman whenever it is spoken. There is a Jewish tradition that allows people to drink alcohol in excess during the reading of the Megillah the idea being that getting drunk gives rise to even more merriment. Fortunately we're smarter now and this custom is observed in fewer and fewer gatherings every year.

There is some irony in blotting out Haman’s name. Purim is not just about Haman; it is also about every “Haman,” tyrants who direct their rage against the Jews. While we blot out Haman’s name during the reading of the Megillah, we remind ourselves of the many other occasions throughout history when Jews have been persecuted and in danger.
of persecution which can arise quickly and lethally even in the most surprising places.

Just as Purim reminds us to remember the Hamans of the world, it also reminds us to remember the Mordecais and Esthers, Jews who courageously took active roles to protect and defend our people when we were in danger. Mordecai, who was firm in his beliefs, and Esther, who was in the right place at the right time but who had to be encouraged to be the right person, too, used their influence and persuasion in the corridors of power to save the Jewish people. Much of the world still has a problem with Jews having power but the Israelis take it's use very seriously and carefully.

So, yes, be happy but remember that life is not a song and a dance.

About the date.... This year there are two Adars one right after the other. This oddity occurs when the Jewish calendar observes a leap year and adds an entire month, which is also called Adar. The leap year Adar starts on February 10th, and it comes before the regular Adar. The Adar about which we are supposed to be happy, the regular Adar, starts on March 11th, and Purim falls on the 14th day of this Adar, or March 24th. Want to know more about the Jewish calendar? My “blog” for March has a fuller discussion.

ON YAHRZEIT

I would like to share this article that a rabbi from Massachusetts wrote for his congregation’s bulletin.

“In the last few years, I have noticed that when I read the Yahrzeit list during the Friday night service, most of the relatives of the deceased are not present. I am not sure how to interpret this absence. Is it because they don’t know about it? (The office notifies every family weeks in advance. Is it because they are attending services somewhere else? (Perfectly all right.) Or, is it because they don’t feel the need to mark the day at the Temple? (That would be a deviation from our traditional pattern.)What is appropriate?

The Yahrzeit of a deceased person is commemorated either according to the Hebrew or the secular calendar, and there are differences between the two. Find out which one you wish to follow.

Plan to attend Friday night services. If you cannot come to one particular service, ask the office that the name be read the week before or after, or whenever you can attend – as long as it is close to the date.
Over the past few months, excitement has been growing as we’ve taken our first steps on our “Transformational Journey.”

One leg of this journey is our Capital and Endowment Campaign. With very preliminary floor plans in place and over two-thirds of the money raised for Phase I, we are well on our way to meeting our goals to: upgrade our antiquated systems; unify our siloed campus; provide flexible teaching and meeting spaces; and create inspirational indoor and outdoor settings.

Our transformation will also help us do more with less. To that end, we are looking more closely at our technology needs and our staffing structure to explore how we can stretch our capacity and make better use of our resources.

So where is this transformation taking us and how will we know when we have arrived?

The Board worked together last summer to define success, which led to our new Vision Statement for Beth Ahabah: *Inspiring Jewish Lives - Building Sacred Community.*

Recognizing that a vision statement, is not a testament of accomplishment, but rather the foresight of what we strive to be, the next question is how will we achieve this?

While “inspiration” is a personal experience that manifests “within” us, often through great leaders, creative environments, and innovative programming, “community” is something that can only happen “between” us, when we each invest in something much greater than ourselves.

It will take a change of mindset for us to achieve this vision. We will need to reject our urge to make our Temple membership transactional, the way we think about a health club. Our membership cannot be reduced to paying a fee and receiving a service.

If we want to inspire Jewish lives and build sacred community, Beth Ahabah cannot be just a place where we name our babies, educate our young ones, celebrate the marriages of our children and say *Kaddish* for those we have lost. We must invest in each other, providing support in the everyday life that occurs between lifecycles.

Over the next six months, we will be looking at every aspect of our congregation: Language/Communications; Spirituality and Worship; Interactions, Relationships and Engagement; Environment and Culture; Programming and Education; and Policy and Administration.

Small groups of congregants will form “Innovation Teams” to examine each of the above arenas and discuss ideas for enhancements in order to better inspire Jewish lives and build sacred community.

To build community, we will have to engage. We have a great start with over 150 members actively participating in committee work and special projects. We also have a long line of leaders who continue to provide guidance and support. I thank all of you for your investment in our community.

But here’s the thing, if we are to build sacred community, it is not enough for only 25% of our members to be engaged. We each need to ask ourselves: “How will I invest in our community?”

Make it fun! Pick something you love. We need videographers to help us stream services, writers to edit our blog and photographers for our events. We need readers for our library, gardeners to keep our grounds beautiful, cooks for our community dinners and bakers for our *onegs*. We need callers and visitors for our Senior Bridge program which, by the way, now has over 30 volunteers connecting with some of our oldest and most dedicated members.

Honestly though, it is not about your time or talent or money (although we need and greatly appreciate every single gift to Beth Ahabah), but truly it’s about YOU. It’s about US. It’s about working together, for a stronger Beth Ahabah and for a better world. If we do this, we will achieve our vision.

Beth Ahabah: *Inspiring Jewish Lives - Building Sacred Community.*

Let’s make this happen! Let’s do it together!

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*On Yahrzeit Continued from page 2*

Give to charity in memory of your beloved one. You may choose any of the Temple funds, or any other funds outside the Synagogue. The idea is to carry out the *Mitzvah* of *Tzedakah.*

Light a twenty-four hour candle on the eve of the *Yahrzeit* date.

By commemorating the *Yahrzeit* of our beloved ones, “we give thanks for the blessing of life, of companionship, and of memory” (*Gates of the House*, p.216).
GET A TASTE OF JEWISH MUSIC FROM AROUND THE WORLD

By Sarah Beck-Berman

As part of my ongoing Cantorial studies, I have been learning about the many different cultures and traditions of Jewish music across the centuries. There is so much diversity in Jewish music from around the globe, much of which we are not exposed to in our day-to-day lives.

Friday, March 18 will be a special opportunity to hear examples of different global Jewish musical traditions, and learn about them!

During the Torah service that evening, I will chant that week’s Torah verses in several styles: first, the “normal” one (which comes from an Eastern European Ashkenazi style), and then in a few other styles, including Western European Ashkenazi, an Iraqi style and a Jerusalem-Sephardic style.

Then, following the Torah service, I will give the sermon, explaining how Global Jewish music traditions developed in different areas of the world, as well as giving musical examples.

I am very excited to present this taste of Jewish music from around the world in March, and I hope you are able to join us during services that evening!

CONGREGATION BETH AHAHABAH CONTACT INFORMATION:

The telephone number for the Temple’s office is 804-358-6757. You may reach all of the members of the professional staff and the administrative assistants by calling this number. You may also reach them directly by email:

Rabbi Martin P. Beifield Jr. 
rabbi@bethahabah.org

Rabbi Jesse M. Gallop  
rabbi.gallop@bethahabah.org

Russell Finer, Executive Director 
r.finer@bethahabah.org

Ramona Brand, Education Director 
r.brand@bethahabah.org

Andrea Shiflett, Assistant to Rabbi Beifield & Russ Finer 
a.shiflett@bethahabah.org

Lori Lacy, Assistant to Rabbi Gallop, Russ Finer & Ramona Brand 
l.lacy@bethahabah.org

The Sanctuary’s physical address is:  
1117 West Franklin Street  
Richmond, VA 23220

The Temple’s mailing address is:  
1111 West Franklin Street  
Richmond, VA 23220

The Temple’s website is  
www.bethahabah.org

LET’S KEEP THE LIGHTS BURNING FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS.

PLEASE HELP US MAKE OUR GOAL.

$3,055,000

$2,462,691*

$1,000,000

*THE TOTAL INCLUDES CONTINGENT GIFTS AND DOES NOT INCLUDE ANY GIFTS RESTRICTED TO THE CBA ENDOWMENT FUND.
Caritas has been part of the fabric of life at Congregation Beth Ahabah for so long—three decades—that it is understandable if members might forget or perhaps not even know the circumstances that fostered its creation.

To know how Caritas came to be we have to look back to the early 1980s when a variety of societal factors—a faltering economy, the decreased availability of low rent hotel/housing establishments, a sudden increase in the discharge of patients from mental health facilities, an increase in the availability and use of illegal drugs—combined to leave many people without jobs or homes.

In response many churches and synagogues, under the guidance of Emergency Shelter, Inc., opened their doors to shelter those in need. Initially known as Winter Cots, this organization was incorporated in 1987 and became what we now know as Caritas.

Beth Ahabah has been part of this organization since its inception. For several months every winter we help to provide a warm and safe place for people in need. Under the steadfast and able leadership of Chuck Greenberg, CBA members participate in a variety of ways. Families volunteer to greet those in need with kindness and a smile. Brotherhood provides food. Donation boxes are located throughout the temple for members to donate toiletries, socks, books and other items that help enable Caritas to teach people how to rebuild their lives.

Most recently the religious school has been involved in this effort. During their annual Hanukkah celebration one of the projects students could participate in was making toiletry kits for Caritas. Led by Vicky Schiff who also provided the tape, students transformed plastic storage bags into decorative toiletry kits. They filled the kits with toiletry items donated by families.

Two central tenets of Reform Judaism are social justice and tikkun olam. Caritas provides the opportunity for us to transform these beliefs into action.

If you are interested in volunteering or have any questions about Caritas, please contact Chuck Greenberg at cgre41@yahoo.com.

For more information on Tikkun Olam projects at Beth Ahabah, please contact Karen Hough at houghkz@aol.com or (804) 740-4380; or Vicki Lynn at lynnv@stcva.org or (804) 360-4744.
A BRIDGE TO SOMEWHERE

by Rachel C. Schmidt, Senior Bridge Coordinator

It began with a conversation between Rabbi Beifield and myself. Could we develop a way to stay connected to our seniors (age 80 and older?) These 100 congregants represent generations of Beth Ahabah families.

Many of our seniors no longer see reasons to be involved in congregational life. They are worshiping only on high holidays or at anniversary of a loved one’s passing. These congregants have Beth Ahabah memories that are our history. A bridge needed to be built so that these stories are shared and saved.

Beth Ahabah’s Senior Bridge connects all congregants. Young and old share stories of their daily lives and of times past. Beth Ahabah Senior

The bridge to “somewhere” has yielded the following comments:

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

“I look forward to calling Harold. I have known him for 50 years. He was part of the group that my parents sat with at all the events at Lakeside Country Club”

“I thought you would want to know that Bob and I are discussing me joining his weekly bridge playing class offered at his residence. He had his 90th birthday last month.”

“I had a wonderful conversation with Mr. B this morning. He shared a little bit of his background with me including his lifelong connection to Beth Ahabah dating back to when Rabbi Calisch was the congregation’s leader.”

Congregation Beth Ahabah wishes to thank the Hebrew Fund for the Aged of Richmond and The Genesis Fund, of the Jewish Community Federation of Richmond for its support of Beth Ahabah’s Senior Bridge.

For more information or to volunteer, contact Rachel C Schmidt at rachelcohenschmidt@gmail.com

BETH AHABAH TEENS

Beth Ahabah Teens are going to start off February with a ski trip from Friday, February 5th to Saturday, February 6th. We will be joining other youth groups from across Virginia for a ski trip hosted by Temple Beth El in Harrisonburg to Massanutten Mountain and Massanutten Water Park. This event is open to everyone in 8th to 12th grade, so contact Lori Lacy to sign up!

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 and then begin our program at 7. Feel free to come just once or every time!

Upcoming Dessert Reception:
February 22nd, March 21st
Upcoming Informal Discussion:
February 1st, March 7th

On Sunday, February 21st, join Brian for a hangout! After religious school, we will meet in the youth lounge and chill, watch a movie, while having some pizza!

From March 11th to March 13th will be NFTY-MAR’s TheVent! Get to know Jewish teens from Maryland, Virginia, DC, and North Carolina while competing in a color war-style event! This event is open to all 8th through 12th graders. Brian will e-mail more details as we get closer.

On Saturday, March 19th JeRAFTY (our teen youth group) will be having a night on the town! We will be going to dinner and then doing something fun afterwards! This event will be open to everyone in 8th to 12th grade and Brian will be e-mailing more details soon!

Also lookout for the Teen Newsletter, which is sent out twice a month!

Time to Advertise?

If you feel your business needs a little more attention, please give Russ Finer a call at 804.358.6757, ext. 302
Just as the Hanukkah season fades into the background and the New Year has gotten off to a great start, we move our focus and attention to the amazingly zany and somewhat historical (maybe hysterical is a better way of putting it) rendition of the Book of Esther.

Yes folks, it’s almost Purim, and you know what that means, Purim Shpiel time once again! Congregation Beth Ahabah will proudly open the Goldburg stage curtain for another fun celebration of the Purim holiday. We have put together a cast of characters living in merry old England (a.k.a. Shushan). Come join the fun and relive the story of Purim through the likes of King Arthur, Sir Lancelot, Guinevere, Merlin, Lady of the Lake, and a host of other characters who you will come to love (we hope). And if that isn’t enough to get you interested, then weave in some familiar songs (and some unfamiliar lyrics) from Elvis Presley, add some hamantaschen, and you have the perfect storm.

Mark your calendars now to see the “almost world renown” cast on Sunday, March 20 at the JCC Purim Carnival, and then again at Beth Ahabah later that evening in the Goldburg Auditorium.

For further information, please call Ken Roeper at 804.658.1556 or send an e-mail to roepers@comcast.net
B’nei Mitzvah

HARRISON COLE GELBER
February 6, 2016

Harrison Cole Gelber will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on February 6, 2016. Harrison is the son of Tamara and Lawrence Gelber and the younger brother of Matthew.

Harrison is a 7th grader at The Steward School. He enjoys spending time with his family and friends, playing JV golf and percussion in the school band. For his Mitzvah Project, Harrison volunteered at the local Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation office.

We are very proud of his hard work in preparation for this momentous occasion and look forward to celebrating with friends and family.

NICHOLAS TROUTMAN
February 20, 2016

Nicholas Troutman will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on February 20, 2016. Nicholas is the son of John and Jessica Troutman and the younger brother of Jack.

Nicholas is a 7th grader at Tuckahoe Middle School. He plays football and lacrosse and is a Philadelphia Eagles fan. He enjoys shooting hoops with friends, watching movies and old TV series on Netflix, and playing video games. Nicholas has been dabbling in magic tricks and continues to build his repertoire.

For his Mitzvah Project, Nicholas volunteered at the JCC Pre-school Winter Camp. As a JCC pre-school alumn, he enjoyed helping his former pre-school teacher with her 4 year-old class and getting to know the kids.

We thank the Beth Ahabah community for all the support and assistance in helping Nicholas become a Bar Mitzvah, and we look forward to this very special milestone.

HAYES GARDNER GREENBERG
March 26, 2016

Hayes Gardner Greenberg will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on March 26, 2016. He is the son of Natalie and Hank Greenberg, and the younger brother of Alec and older brother of Avery. He is the grandson of Nancy and Hank Greenberg and Betsy and Morry Johnston.

Hayes is in 7th grade at Collegiate School where he is on the Honor Roll and plays soccer, basketball and baseball. His hobbies include fishing, snowboarding, baking and making his famous Bang Bang salsa. He enjoys giving back to the homeless and those in need.

Hayes is looking forward to sharing this special day with his cousins, aunts and uncles and his friends from school and the Beth Ahabah family.

Mazal Tov!
**PURIM**

MARCH 23 & 24

In the Book of Esther, we read that Purim is a time for “feasting and merrymaking,” as well as for “sending gifts to one another and presents to the poor” (Esther 9:22). In addition to reading the Megillah (Book of Esther), celebrants dress in costumes, have festive parties, perform “Purim-spiels,” silly theatrical adaptations of the story of the Megillah, send baskets of food (mishloach manot) to friends, and give gifts to the poor (matanot l’evyonim).

**Hamantaschen**

Hamantaschen (Yiddish for Haman’s pockets) are three-cornered pastries filled with poppy seeds (mohn in Yiddish), fruit preserves, chocolate, or other ingredients that are traditionally eaten on Purim. In Israel during the weeks leading up to Purim, the aroma of freshly baked hamantaschen can be smelled on every block. Their triangular shape is thought to be reminiscent of Haman’s hat or ears.

**In the Synagogue**

The Megillah (scroll) most often refers to Megillat Esther (The Scroll of Esther) which also is known as the “Book of Esther.” According to the Talmud, “The study of Torah is interrupted for the reading of the Megillah.” Maimonides, a 12th-century sage and rabbi, teaches, “The reading of the Megillah certainly supersedes all other mitzvot.”

Traditionally, the Book of Esther is read at both evening and morning services on Purim—both in North America and in Israel. A number of customs are associated with the reading. Haman, the enemy of the Jews in this story, is associated with all those who have tried to destroy the Jewish people throughout history. Therefore, we make loud noises—verbally or with noisemakers—at every mention of Haman’s name in order to drown it out. Derived from the Polish word meaning “rattle,” a grager is the noisemaker used to drown out the name of Haman during the reading of the Megillah. Beginning in the 13th century, Jews throughout Europe sounded the grager as a part of their Purim celebrations.

A Purim-spiel (pronounced SHPEEL, rhymes with “reel”) is a humorous skit presented on Purim. Most parody the story of the Book of Esther, but it also is common for participants to take the opportunity to poke some gentle fun at themselves and their idiosyncrasies.

See more at: http://www.reformjudaism.org/purim-customs-and-rituals#sthash.KUKVNoR6.dpuf
In November, the 7th grade took a field trip to Thomas Jefferson’s Monticello to learn more about how Uriah P. Levy, the first Jewish Commodore in the U.S. Navy, helped to save Monticello for posterity.

Members of Brotherhood shared a few brews at Hardywood Craft Brewery in November.
CBA LIFE:

In December members of the JeRAFTY youth group enjoyed a visit to RVA on Ice.

On Sunday, December 13, the members of Brotherhood fried up dozens of delicious latkes for the Religious School Hanukkah party.

Last fall, Family Connections brought YOGA for Adults to CBA. Led by CBA members Kim Leibowitz and Shannon Griffin—both certified in yoga and meditation instruction—classes met on Sunday mornings during Religious School.

Check weekly e-bulletins for 2016 Sunday yoga class information.

Namaste!
GET “SHICKERED,”
IT’S ADAR

*Purim* conjures up lighthearted images of costumes, *hamantaschen*, children’s carnivals, prizes and comedic *Shpiels*. Yet this joyous, silly holiday has a more complicated and disconcerting aspect in the Talmudic injunction to drink until “one can’t know the difference between cursing Haman and blessing Mordechai.” Taken literally it seems that on *Purim* we should all be staggering around in besotted revelry. This seems contrary to our usual tradition of elevating wine with a *kiddush* to make it holy on *Shabbat* and other holidays. For example, during the Passover Seder the four glasses of wine we drink are strictly measured so as to avoid inebriation. The Jewish approach to most anything that can be abused—drink, food, intimacy—is to moderate and elevate through proscribed custom. The *mitzvah* of treating oneself *B’tzelem Elohim* (being made in the image of God) is the prevalent practice.

So, why this deviation from the norm on *Purim*? Drunkenness permeates the story of *Purim*. King Achashverosh is clearly no teetotaler and he sets off the chain of events with his banishment of Vashti in a fit of drunken anger. King Achashverosh continues to demonstrate poor leadership and decision making throughout the entire *Megillah*, probably due to being sloshed most of the time. It’s possible that the King himself can’t tell the difference between Haman and Mordechai being paraded through the streets on his horse. Esther, uses a wine party as a way to loosen up King Achashverosh as she reveals Haman’s treachery. The King in another intoxicated rage sends Haman to the very gallows on which he had planned to hang Mordechai. Perhaps celebrating through excess isn’t a deviation so much as another way to underscore the consequences of over-indulging.

Directly after the instruction to drink until you are senseless, comes an interesting story. The very next lines tell a fascinating story of Rabba and Rabbi Zeira who got excessively drunk together on *Purim*. In his drunken stupor, Rabba proceeded to kill (‘slaughter’) Rabbi Zeira. When he sobered up and realized what he had done, he prayed in desperation that Rabbi Zeira be brought back to life. Incredibly, his prayers were answered and Rabbi Zeira rejoined the world of the living. Yet, the next year, Rabbi Zeira refused to join Rabba at his *Purim* partying, duly noting that a miracle is not a common occurrence and one may not rely on such miracles. I think the message is clear: even the most pious person can do something regretful after too much drinking and second chances don’t often occur.

Finally, the placement of the holiday on the Jewish calendar speaks to the tradition of balance. *Purim* takes place approximately six months after *Yom Kippur*. They are “balanced” on both ends of the Jewish Holiday cycle; one a day of fasting and abstinence, the other a day of raucous celebration and excess. However, at the end of the day, both the total fasting and excessive feasting can leave us feeling equally drained and unwell. Jewish tradition says “Celebrate!” but do so in a way that elevates the holiday while raising the spirits.

*Chag Purim Sameach.*

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**4TH GRADE GESHER**

Sunday, February 7

9:15 a.m. Class Begins

9:30 a.m. Parent Education session with Rabbi Beifield on Jewish mourning customs

10:30 a.m. Parents join children in the Goldburg Auditorium for a project and brunch

**FIFTH GRADE ISRAEL PROGRAM**

Sunday, February 7

The 5th grade will create a street-scape in *Zichron Ya’akov* in a culmination enrichment project. Focusing on this modern Israeli city, the students will learn about the first settlers there and then recreate the artisans shops and cafes of *Zichron Ya’akov*’s beautiful pedestrian mall. Primary students will be invited to spend the morning “shopping” and “traveling” to this vibrant Israeli city.
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.

Speaking of Hanukkah, as a fundraiser, we sold candles and dreidels during Sunday school.

On Sunday, February 28th, Sisterhood will present a special Mother/Daughter lunch program aimed at safety for older teenagers and college students. The guest speaker will be a security officer from VCU. Please refer to the weekly e-bulletin and emails for further information.

Last but certainly not least, Sisterhood Shabbat is scheduled for Friday, April 8th. I hope you will be able to join us on this special occasion.

Shalom,
Beryl Holzbach
BROTHERHOOD = 911
by David Feibish, president

First, let me wish the entire Congregation a Happy, Healthy New Year, 2016! One of the many things I love about being Jewish, we celebrate two New Years!

I am not intending to trivialize what is a reliable source of dire emergency help—dialing 911—but in a way Brotherhood’s availability to the Congregation has some parallels. As you all know, our stellar Senior Rabbinic Search Committee was hard at work and by November had narrowed the in-person interview process to three candidates. These were to be on-campus interviews, as well as meet and greets for our congregants. Brotherhood (and Sisterhood) was asked to financially sponsor and provide the “labor” for congregational wide brunches featuring a Q & A session with the candidates.

Even though none of us knew if 75 or 275 attendees would show, the CBA auxiliaries agreed to support these efforts. If I say so myself, and I think many agree, Brotherhood and Sisterhood prepared and put on very successful, tasty brunches. These brunches were not in our 2015-16 budgets and we had to solicit/provide volunteers for unexpected tasks of buying supplies, set-up and clean-up. Brotherhood members stepped up not only with their treasury, but gave of their time to support these important, informative events.

Brotherhood is also called upon throughout the year on short notice to help provide usher support for funeral/memorial services held in our sanctuary. Sometimes larger attendance is anticipated and our support helps to keep things calm and orderly at these sad times for the families and mourners who attend. In late December, we had such a call that came late in the afternoon a day before the service. Brotherhood men showed up to assist and it was much needed, as it was a very large turnout.

My point is evident by now. “Your” Beth Ahabah Brotherhood is called upon to assist with “emergency” needs of the Congregation. We can’t always budget for these, nor put them on the calendar so potential volunteers can make plans. We are called upon to volunteer and we make it happen. We are grateful for men of Brotherhood, all with huge hearts who step up to answer that emergency call for help.

With these scenarios in mind, if you haven’t joined Brotherhood as a paid member, you are welcome at any time. Your willingness to volunteer to help out a time or two is needed and also welcomed. No forced commitment, you participate when and if you can. There are many specific, “spot” needs at CBA and doing even one is huge!

For those who want to support Brotherhood financially, we also have The Bernstein Fund, located on CBA’s website. This fund financially supports Brotherhood endeavors now and for those certain unexpected needs in years to come. Contact me any time and I will be happy to discuss Brotherhood with you.

Contact David Feibish at oldbenz@aol.com

Religious School continued from page 14

7TH GRADE FEBRUARY/MARCH SCHEDULE

Jewish Art Tour at VMFA
February 21 from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Jewish art, Jewish artists, Jewish philanthropists and the impact of Jews on the Art World.

Parent drivers and chaperones needed!

Gesher
February 7 from 9:30 - 11:40 a.m.

Students and parents will travel back in time to the Lower East Side to experience life as a new immigrant to America. What was it like to live in the tenements and work in a factory? Sample a little nosh from our eastern European traditions and learn the importance of Yiddishkeit (a Jewish way of Life) in turn of the 20th century New York.

Philadelphia Trip
March 18 - 20

Students will visit The National Museum of American Jewish History, The Constitution Center, Congregation Mikveh Israel, and The Liberty Bell Center, and will be hosted by Temple Beth David in Gladwyne, Pennsylvania.

First Steps - 2nd Grand Purim Story with Rabbi Beifield
March 20 at 10:45 a.m. in the Chapel

Rabbi Beifield regales our youngest students with his lightening mask switching, wig swapping Purim tale.
DONATIONS

TEMPLE FUND

IN HONOR OF:
The birth of Arava Doris Kwartin Beifield
Katie & Ken Roeper
Gilbert Rosenthal’s special birthday
Ann Bendheim
Katy & Jimmy Yoffy
Lesley & David Greenberg
Karen & Barry Hofheimer
Robert Reinhard’s special birthday
Ann Bendheim
Nancy Meyer
Earl Ferguson on his appointment to the position of Chairperson of URJ Camps
Katie & Ken Roeper
Caleb & Heather LaMont on the birth of their son, Elijah David LaMont
Katie & Ken Roeper

IN MEMORY OF:
Stephen Kobernick
Lisa Altomonte
Bernie Kastenbaum
Mikki Evens
Jack & Ruby Cansino, my dear parents
Minnie C. Held
Joseph P. Leahy
John Leahy
Bernard Schnitzer
Jack K. Carver
Celia Zell, my mother
Myrna Norman
Herman M. Finer
Allen Finer
Pamela S. Finer
Allen Finer
Beatrice Goldman, my sister-in-law
Allen Finer

Minna Hirsch
Terry & Jerry Hirsch
Shirley Lopater, my mother
Lori Skiles
Morton D. Schumann
Elinor O. Schumann
Tessie Katz
Gloria Starkman
Julius Altman & Solomon Mahler
Linda & David Mahler
Edward Meyer
Nancy Meyer
Miriam Paster
Lonnie Paster
Allen Norman
Pam & Sandy Norman
Jane Miller
Katie & Ken Roeper
Robert P. Goodman
Denise Goodman Keil
Frances Komsins, mother-in-law & grandmother
Allen & Susan Finer
Louis Weiner, father-in-law
Russell Finer
James Hudson Whiting
Steven G. Nine
M. Paul Rogers
Charles Rogers
Jack J. Frank
Anthony J. Frank
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Abe Linder
Tillie Linder
Ida Siegel, beloved mother
Jean Goldman

Barbara Greenberg
Joyce Rosenbaum
Joyce Scher, may her memory be a blessing
Katie & Ken Roeper
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THE RABBI’S PHILANTHROPIC FUND

These contributions were received in response to the Annual Appeal:
Allen Finer
Heidi Levinson
Anne & Charley Scher
Lori & Douglas Moyer
Helen Newpol
Diane & Lonnie Paster

IN HONOR OF:
The babynaming of Cooper Flacks
Helene & Richard Lee
The birth of Arava Doris Kwartin Beifield
Bonnie & Mike Eisenman
Laurie, Adam, Melissa & Lyndsay Nelson
Gilbert Rosenthal’s 90th birthday
Bonnie & Mike Eisenman

IN MEMORY OF:
Jack Kreuter
Barbara Kreuter
Arthur Adams
Gloria Adams

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.
CANTOR GOLDMAN MUSIC FUND
IN HONOR OF:
Mr. Robert Reinhard’s special birthday
  Elayne Lavenstein Axel
Carter Moes Bar Mitzvah
  Leta & Peter Greenberg
Harry Lee Cohn’s 90th birthday
  Kathy Shapiro Wootton
IN MEMORY OF:
Isaac Gorbaty, Hannah Haham, Moritz Berenshteyn & Valerii Kondrashin
  Natan & Valeria Berenshteyn

MT. MORIAH FUND
IN MEMORY OF:
Harold J. Levinson
  Heidi Levinson

GREAT GENERATIONS FUND
IN HONOR OF:
Rabbi Martin Beifield & Mr. Russell Finer
  Sheldon & Phyllis Mutchnick
  Judy Malloy’s board membership
  Ann Winer
  Russ Finer’s special birthday
  Scott & Nancy Bellemann
  Gillie Rosenthal & Bob Reinhard’s 90th birthday’s
  Scott & Nancy Bellemann & family
  The outstanding leadership of congregational volunteers
  Dave & Laura Savage
IN MEMORY OF:
Leon M. Smith
  Debbie & John Cook
  Doris Beifield
  Mary Ellen Jackoway
  Bennett Sukonick, Rose Sukonick, Solomon Sacks & Rivolanne Sacks
  Ellyn & Steve Sukonick

SOCIAL ACTION FUND
Avery Lynn
IN MEMORY OF:
Joyce Scher
  John Sternlicht

IN HONOR OF:
Gloria Adam’s special birthday
  Jeff & Mona Flax
IN MEMORY OF:
Sadie Levinson, Frank Levinson, Jean Sugerman & Joe Sugerman
  Heidi Levinson

BIMAH FLOWER FUND
IN HONOR OF:
Gloria Adam’s special birthday
  Jeff & Mona Flax
IN MEMORY OF:
Sadie Levinson, Frank Levinson, Jean Sugerman & Joe Sugerman
  Heidi Levinson

GIVING CIRCLES
IN HONOR OF:
Cullen & Rosemary Seltzer
  Sheldon & Carmen Seltzer

PRAYERBOOK FUND
IN HONOR OF:
Gilbert Rosenthal’s special birthday and for all he has done for Beth Ahabah
  Janice & Robert Freed

BUILDING FUND
IN MEMORY OF:
Doris Beifield
  Joyce Rosenbaum

ENDOWMENT FUND
IN HONOR OF:
Gilbert Rosenthal’s special birthday
  Morton G. Thalhimer, Jr.

LEWIS I. HELD
SCHOLARSHIP FUND
IN MEMORY OF:
Milton Meyer, Jr., Milton Meyer, Sr., Mildred Meyer, Lucille Meyer & Rose Binder
  Bruce Meyer

MUSEUM & ARCHIVES
IN HONOR OF:
Gilbert Rosenthal’s 90th Birthday
  Robert & Shirley Reinhard
  Alan I. Kirshner
  Mary Ellen Jackoway
  Robert Reinhard’s 90th Birthday
  Mary Ellen Jackoway

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Barbara Greenberg
Cynthia Becker
Bernard Kastenbaum
Ruth Bellet
Joyce Scher
Genie & George Crawford
Rosalie Nachman
Ann Silverstein
Virginia & Edward Gunst
Gunst Family Foundation

TREASURES FROM THE MUSEUM & ARCHIVES COLLECTION

This handsome Megillah was donated to the Museum and Archives 40 years ago by Lionel Moses. It was purchased by Mr. Moses in 1924 when he was in Palestine during a trip he took around the world. The case for the parchment scroll is made of olive wood. The olive tree is a native tree in the Middle East and the carving of olive wood was an ancient tradition in Palestine.

A Megillah scroll and case can vary in size; this one measures only 8 inches in height. The scroll it contains is just 2 ½ inches in height. The case is carved with depictions of Jerusalem and decoratively adorned with paint of red, gold, green and black. It has three Hebrew inscriptions reading “Jerusalem”, “Rachel’s Tomb”, and “Cave of the Patriarchs.”

A GEM FROM THE ARCHIVES

Many years ago Beth Ahabah was famous for its exceptional Purim carnival, held each year for the Sabbath School. The Museum and Archives collection has a “Joseph’s Coat of Many Colors” made in 1920 by Babette Mitteldorfer for her grandson Ellis Schwab to wear at a Purim Party. His costume was completed with leather sandals and a live lamb!

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.

Thank you for your consideration.

Donations continue from Page 20

Hebrew Cemetery of Congregations Beth Shalome & Beth Ahabah

It’s never too early to be prepared.

For more information please call Russell Finer or Bill Thalhimer, III at 358.6757.
TEENAGER, AT GREAT PERSONAL RISK, SAVES FLAG
Descendant of Myers family shows great courage.
by David Farris, Director

In 1822 Gustavus Myers had a son with a black freewoman, Nelly Forrester. The child, Richard Gustavus Forrester, was raised in the Jewish religion by two of Myers’ aunts. Richard later fathered Richard Gill Forrester, who was given a Page position at the State Capitol when he was 13. In April of 1861 secessionists took down the Union flag and threw it in the trash, intending to burn it later. The young Forrester grabbed the flag, concealed it under his shirt and took it home where he folded it and hid it under his mattress. It would not have been a good thing for him if he had been caught hiding that flag! When Union troops again took over Richmond, he took it back to the Capitol and raised it once again. An officer in the New Hampshire Volunteers met Forrester coming down the capitol steps and asked who had raised the flag. Forrester himself noted in the officer’s diary that Richard G. Forrester had raised the flag. When it was taken down the officer took it with him when he left the city. It is now in the Hall of Flags at the New Hampshire State Capitol.

When we were designing the current exhibit, “That You’ll Remember Me: Jewish Voices of the Civil War,” we wanted to tell this story in a memorable way. This required something beyond simply relating the story of a gutsy teenager - there had to be something colorful and interesting to look at. This addition took the form of an American flag that had been treated with immersion in tea to make it look old, which we purchased on the internet. We folded it carefully so that nothing showed that would reveal that it was a modern version, and placed in in a Plexiglas box affixed to the panel with the story.

Many visitors, after they read the story which concludes with the information that the original flag is in New Hampshire, still ask if the flag is the original. We politely remind them that it is not, and is intended to represent the flag of those times.

We can’t guarantee that our visitors get everything the first time, but we try to be as clear as possible in telling our stories. That’s why we encourage them to come back. Like reading a good novel, there is always new information to be learned the second time through.

Learn more about Richard Gill Forrester and other Richmond Jews in the Civil War exhibit at the Beth Ahabah Museum & Archives at 1109 W. Franklin Street. The Museum is open from 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. every day except Friday and Saturday. Call 353-2668 for directions.

B’Yachad: DEADLINES EDITORIAL & ADVERTISING
ALL ITEMS FOR THE APRIL ISSUE ARE DUE FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19

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@susanwmorganpr.com
CBA COMMUNITY CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY/MARCH 2016

February 2016

Monday, February 1  Midrasha  6:30 PM

Wednesday, February 3  Midweek Hebrew  5:30 PM

Friday, February 5  Shabbat Service with Adult Choir  7:30 PM

Saturday, February 6
Tot Shabbat  9:00 AM
Bar Mitzvah of Harrison Gelber  10:30 AM

Sunday, February 7  Religious School  9:15 AM

Monday, February 8  Midrasha  6:30 PM

Wednesday, February 10  Midweek Hebrew  5:30 PM

Friday, February 12
Family Shabbat Service with Ruach Chadash/Ruach Noar followed by Shabbat Dinner  6:15 PM

Wednesday, February 17  Midweek Hebrew  5:30 PM

Friday, February 19
Shabbat Service with Birthday & Anniversary Aliyahs  7:30 PM

Saturday, February 20
Bar Mitzvah of Nicholas Troutman  10:30 AM

Sunday, February 21  Religious School  9:15 AM

Monday, February 22  Midrasha  6:30 PM

Wednesday, February 24  Midweek Hebrew  5:30 PM

Friday, February 26  Shabbat Service  7:30 PM

Sunday, February 28  Religious School  9:15 AM

Monday, February 29  Midrasha  6:30 PM

March 2016

Friday, March 4
Teen/Midrasha Shabbat Service  7:30 PM

Saturday, March 5
Tot Shabbat  9:00 AM

Sunday, March 6  Religious School  9:15 AM

Monday, March 7  Midrasha  6:30 PM

Friday, March 11
Family Shabbat Service with Ruach Chadash/Ruach Noar followed by Congregational Shabbat Dinner celebrating 4th and 5th grades  6:15 PM

Sunday, March 13*  Religious School  9:15 AM

Monday, March 14  Midrasha  6:30 PM

Friday, March 18
Shabbat Service with Birthday & Anniversary Aliyahs and the Adult Choir  7:30 PM

Sunday, March 20  Religious School  9:15 AM

Monday, March 21  Midrasha  6:30 PM

Friday, March 25
Family Shabbat Service with Etz Chayim  6:15 PM

Saturday, March 26
Bar Mitzvah of Hayes Greenberg  10:30 AM

* Daylight Savings Time begins - Spring Forward

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!

CALENDAR INFORMATION IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE, please check the calendar online at bethaabah.org
Please Join Us in Honoring
The Retirement of
Rabbi Beifield and Ina Ginsberg

June 3 & 4, 2016
Friday Evening Shabbat Service
with Special Guests
Followed by an Elegant Oneg
Saturday Evening Reception
The Dominion Club

Invitations to Follow

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