

## CBA'S 20TH MITZVAH DAY AN OVERWHELMING SUCCESS

page 8

### “THE MASTER PACKER”



Rabbi Scott Nagel  
Sophia and Nathan Gumenick Senior Rabbi

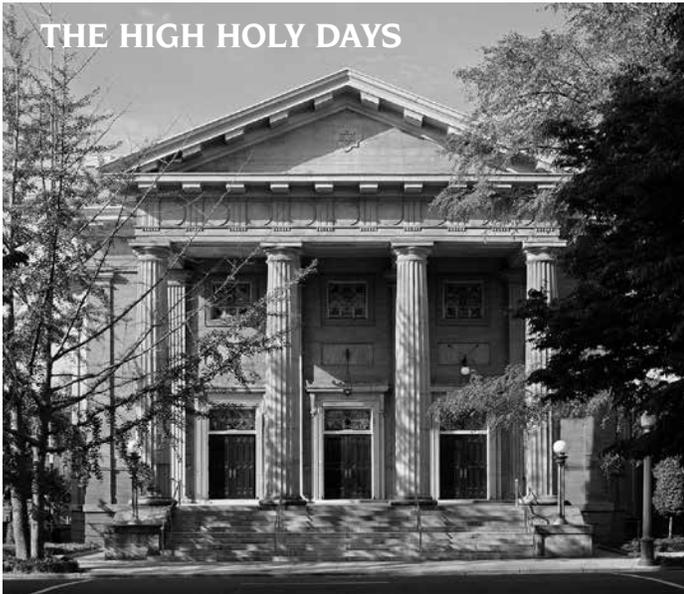
My father is “The Master Packer” and I am his protégé. You see, the summer both at its beginning and at its end was always considered packing time in my home. From 8 years old and on, the beginning of the summer was time spent packing and preparing for sleep-away camp. From seventeen years old and on, the end of the summer was time spent packing and

preparing for school. And, throughout all of these camp and school preparations, I began to regard my father as “The Master Packer.”

He worked magic in the way he was able to find a space for each and every item that I wanted to take with me. Even now, I enjoy getting away and I find myself packing often—and until a short time ago I considered myself a Master Packer Protégé. As an accomplished student in the area of packing, I could find a place for each and everything I THOUGHT was necessary for the journey. Recently though, I have discovered that even though I was GREAT at filling the trunk to capacity, I sometimes failed at the task of deciding what to put

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*With summer here, the High Holy Days are just around the corner*

**Congregation Beth Ahabah  
High Holy Days Schedule 5777/2016**

**Selichot**

Evening Service & Study **Saturday, September 24** 7:00 PM

**Rosh Hashanah**

Evening Service **Sunday, October 2** 7:30 PM

Rosh Hashanah **Monday, October 3**

Young Family Morning Service 9:00 AM

Congregational Morning Service 11:00 AM

Informal Youth and Teen Service 2:30 PM

Taschlich Service at Pony Pasture 4:30 PM

**Yom Kippur**

Erev Yom Kippur **Tuesday, October 11** 7:30 PM

Yom Kippur **Wednesday, October 12**

Young Family Morning Service 9:00 AM

Congregational Morning Service 11:00 AM

Ask the Rabbi Discussion 1:00 PM

Informal Youth and Teen Service 2:30 PM

Memorial and Concluding Service 4:15 PM

**Sukkot**

Sukkot Celebration **Sunday, October 16** 6:00 PM

**Simchat Torah**

**Sunday, October 16**

Hors d'oeuvres & drinks in the sukkah 6:00 PM

Simchat Torah Service 7:00 PM

The Master Packer...Continued from Page 1

into the trunk. I found that I sometimes forgot some of even the most basic pieces of survival equipment.

This could be a problem, especially since, now at the age of 41, having just been elected as Senior Rabbi, moving to a new city, and starting a wonderful job—I was packing for one of the most important journeys of my life. In this journey I felt a little bit like the Israelites as they perched at the edge of the river Jordan—just waiting to cross over into something better—to the Promised Land.

But this journey was much more than a means to arrive at a certain destination: it is a means to become **something better**, and to become **someone better**. The Israelites are packing too: God is giving them the difficult task of dropping old habits and ideas and leaving them behind, while giving them the option to choose the difficult path of becoming a better people by walking in God's ways.

Moving to Richmond there were a few things I didn't expect, things that might have interrupted me on my path to becoming a better person if I hadn't packed well—the heat, humidity and the DMV. These are things that you may be accustomed to. You may be far better equipped for your own life journeys than I am. But I am willing to bet that something on your life journey has been unpleasant or frustrating. We have all come across things that have made the river separating us from becoming something better seem too wide, too deep, or just plain un-crossable.

As for me, the river took the form of sweat caused by the local heat and humidity, which ran off my even curlier-than-normal hair. I was concerned about the river of people in line at the DMV at the West Henrico Customer Service Center, which I had to navigate four times before I managed to prove appropriately that I was indeed the person whom I said I was, that I lived where I thought I lived, and that I was the owner of the vehicle that I had been driving back and forth to Baltimore the last few months.

But, I am learning to love Richmond, even with the DMV and humidity.

I am aware that my journey here marks a great deal of change and transition for everyone at Beth Ahabah. I am anticipating great joy and success for all of us, yet change and transition can be hard. So to help us through this part of our

journey together, I recommend something that we all should remember to pack—a good cup of coffee. Yes, coffee is delicious, yes coffee is warming and invigorating, but coffee is also a metaphor for life at times like this.

I can only explain coffee's true meaning through a story; a story of a little boy who wore glasses and was overweight. He found himself picked on quite often; he got into many fights, and had few friends. He was tired of fighting and struggling. It seemed just as one problem was solved a new one arose. He went to his father and asked what he could do. His father filled three pots with water and placed each on a high fire. Soon the pots came to a boil. In the first he placed carrots, in the second he placed eggs, and the third he placed ground coffee beans. He let them sit and boil, without saying a word. In about twenty minutes he turned off the burners. In three separate bowls he placed the carrots and the eggs, and he ladled coffee into the third. As his son noticed the changes of each item, he humbly asked. "What does it mean Father?"

The father explained that each object had faced the same difficulty, the same change, the same transition, the boiling water, but each reacted differently. The carrot went in strong, hard, and unrelenting, but after being subjected to the boiling water, it softened and became weak. The egg had been fragile. Its thin outer shell had protected its liquid interior. But after sitting through the boiling water, its inside became hardened.

The ground coffee beans were unique however. After they were in the boiling water, they had changed the water. "Which are you?" he asked his son. "When faced with difficulty, change and transition, how do we respond?"

Are you the carrot that seems hard, but with trying situations wilts and become soft and lose your strength? Are you the egg, which starts off with a malleable heart and a fluid spirit, but after some difficulty become hardened and stiff? Your shell looks the same, but are you bitter and tough with a stiff spirit and heart? Or, are you like the coffee bean? The bean changes the hot water, the very thing that is bringing the change, to its peak flavor when the water reaches 212 degrees Fahrenheit. When the water gets the hottest, it just tastes better. If we are like the coffee, when the situation provides heat, energy and opportunity for change, we take the opportunity to become better and make things better around us.

So this year, as we think of the Israelites standing before the river that separates their present from the future of the Promised Land, let us choose as they did. Together we can



Help us welcome Rabbi Scott Nagel, his wife Randi and their children Daniel, Lev and Ari to Beth Ahabah

and will choose to travel the path of becoming something better and someone better.

Randi, Daniel, Lev and Ari thank you for welcoming us to Richmond with open arms and open hearts. Your hospitality and enthusiasm have been overwhelming. Personally, as your new rabbi I am delighted to take this journey with you as we grow together. I look forward to all that comes from here and I look forward to making a great cup of coffee with everyone at Congregation Beth Ahabah.

*B'Shalom*

Rabbi Scott Nagel



## SHABBAT IN THE PARK

*Come and celebrate a song filled Shabbat in the Park*

**Friday, July 15th**

**Friday, August 19th**

**Bryan Park Shelter #1**

**4308 Hermitage Road**

**6:00pm**

*Service followed by drinks and dessert oneg*

*Please feel free to bring your own picnic basket for a pre-service dinner beginning at 5:30pm*

*For more information contact Rabbi Nagel at [RabbiNagel@bethahabah.org](mailto:RabbiNagel@bethahabah.org).*

*There will be a parallel service held in the Gumenick Chapel on these evenings.*





## A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:



Russell M. Finer, FSA  
Executive Director

### WELCOMING GUESTS

An important mission of our congregation is to attract Jews in greater Richmond who are not yet engaged with synagogue life. As the new Jewish and school years are approaching, it is the time many think about joining, but owing to a host of perceived obstacles and barriers, they allow the High Holy Days and the beginning of the school year to come and go without taking that difficult first step of making contact with a temple. Now is the time for us to do our part to help break down the impediments whether they are real or perceived.

Congregation Beth Ahabah will, once again, reach out to the unaffiliated during these High holy Days by continuing to open Children and Family Services to anyone who chooses to seek out Beth Ahabah as a spiritual and welcoming Jewish home at this important time of the year. Only these two services will be open and free of charge to the community as we extend a warm welcome to our unaffiliated visitors, some of whom we presume may be returning to a temple after a long hiatus. We hope this "open tent" philosophy along with engaging and uplifting services will encourage our guests to join our congregation.

We deeply appreciate the ongoing generosity of our members who financially support our efforts, our facilities, and

our programs and believe that you will support our outreach effort. We hope and trust that you will join us in our enthusiasm and in the spirit of Abraham and Sarah, support this *mitzvah* of hospitality by inviting unaffiliated members of the community to join us.

Thank you,  
*Russ*



### TRANSITION PLAN FOR RABBI SCOTT M. NAGEL AS BETH AHABAH'S 11TH SENIOR RABBI

Dear Beth Ahabah Members,

As we have advised, Rabbi Nagel is interested in meeting as many members as possible to establish relationships, to learn about you and your family, and to listen to suggestions about how he can best serve his new congregation. To accomplish these goals, we are planning different events for different groups of our members, in different locations of the city.

The response to our prior requests has been overwhelming, and we now have over 20 events scheduled for the Rabbi and his family. However, we still need your help.

We need you to host an event in your

home or in a facility in the complex in which you live. The different events we are considering, include lunches, wine and cheese events, cookouts/BBQs, possibly including a *Havdalah* service if the event is held on a Saturday in the late afternoon. If you are willing to host an event, please email me at [rfreed@freshlaw.com](mailto:rfreed@freshlaw.com) or call me at 804.330.5528, extension 223. Please provide your contact information and the best time to contact you.

The Congregation was totally involved and invaluable in helping the search committee choose Rabbi Nagel and helping Rabbi Nagel choose us. Now we need your help to make his integration into our Beth Ahabah community complete and successful. So please sign up for Beth Ahabah Connect, volunteer to host an event, and attend at least one event to avail yourself of the opportunity to meet our new rabbi.

We thank you for your help,  
The Transition Committee  
*Robert Freed*

#### 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](mailto:r.finer@bethahabah.org).

## PRESERVING OUR PAST; BUILDING FOR TOMORROW

By Katie Roeper, Congregational President

When you ask members what makes Beth Ahabah so special, somewhere in the answer, almost always, is a reference to our rich history. Our sanctuary, artifacts, traditions, family lineages, confirmation photos, music, *Torah* scrolls—together they tell a story centuries long. Historically, we have been a congregation of visionaries, understanding the importance of preserving the past while building for tomorrow.

The success of Phase I of our Capital Campaign has been a testament to our congregation's continued dedication to remain relevant in a rapidly changing world, to embrace the growing diversity of our membership, to address changes in our congregational needs and adjust to shifts in Reform Judaism and organized religion as a whole. This campaign also reflected changes in giving. While we are grateful for a number of large gifts, we did not depend on a handful of families to carry the load, but rather we appealed to all members in order to spread the responsibility across many. Thank you to all who answered our call.

The same principle must apply to building our endowment. Historically we have relied on our wealthiest families for planned giving and, thankfully, they have been generous over the years. However, with operational expenses primarily dependent on just two sources of funding—membership dues and earnings from our existing endowment—our financial sustainability requires much broader participation. By increasing our endowment, we can decrease our dependence on annual dues, lighten the load that has been carried by a generous few, and reduce our risk of future budget deficits. The time is right!

Thanks to a national program called “Life and Legacy,” supported by the Harold Grinspoon Foundation in local partnership with the Richmond Jewish Foundation, Beth Ahabah is receiving consultation and training and may qualify for up to \$16,000 (over two years) in incentive grants based on the number of new legacy gifts secured.

Admittedly, when initially hearing of this opportunity, there were mixed feelings, but after learning more, the Board of Managers agreed that Beth Ahabah cannot afford to idly watch, as other Jewish and non-Jewish institutions build their endowments around us.

**MYTH:** Only wealthy people can make a legacy gift.

**REALITY:** Most of us don't consider ourselves wealthy enough to have an estate to plan. Yet, there are many options that make legacy giving possible, even for those of us who live on a modest and/or fixed income.

**MYTH:** Legacy giving is for older members.

**REALITY:** Every age is the “right” age to make a legacy gift. In fact, even young professionals just beginning a retirement account can make a legacy gift, designating a tiny percentage monthly that will grow significantly over the years.

**MYTH:** If I set up a legacy gift, I may not have enough money to live on, in my later years.

**REALITY:** There are a variety of ways to construct a legacy gift to ensure our needs are met, as we grow older.

**MYTH:** Making a legacy gift takes away from our children's inheritance.

**REALITY:** Perhaps one of the most valuable gifts we give to our children is teaching them how to give from their hearts. What better way to teach than by example?

**MYTH:** Planned giving forces us to talk about death; discussions are morbid and depressing.

**REALITY:** A conversation about legacy giving is not about death; it is about what we hold most dear to our hearts and a donor's vision for the future.

Honestly, these myths were an unconscious part of my own belief system. In fact, because of these myths, Ken and I had never considered a legacy gift until recently, when we came to understand that legacy giving is something we can all do. We have now made a commitment to include Beth Ahabah in our will and we invite you to do the same.

Although the Generations Capital Campaign is being split into phases, Generations Legacy Giving will be ongoing. We must establish a solid financial footing to protect and preserve our extraordinary historic sacred space, to ensure continuing leadership of superb clergy and staff, to position our congregation to be affordable, and never to turn away a member because of inability to pay.

From 1789 to today, we have been visionaries, who understand the importance of building for tomorrow. It is up to us to preserve and strengthen what past generations have built. **Beth Ahabah: Inspiring Jewish Lives – Building Sacred Community.**

Thank you to the Generations Legacy Team, dedicated to helping to build the future of Beth Ahabah by strengthening our endowment:

*Jim Weinberg, Chair*  
*Scott Belleman*  
*Rosann Bocciarelli*  
*Rob Davidson*  
*Jim Schuyler*

## CBA COMMUNITY



### IN SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILIES OF...

**Elizabeth Ranly**

*daughter of Don Ranly (Barbara Boyan)*

**Bill Rauschberg**

*husband of Carol Rauschberg*

**Shirley Greenberg**

*mother of Chuck (Mary) Greenberg*

*grandmother of Sarah Jane*

*Blankenship*

### CONGRATULATIONS TO.....

**Bonnie & Ron Kasoff** on the birth of their grandson, Parker James Kasoff, born April 13, 2016. Also to parents, Vic & Stevie Kasoff.

**Bill & Sallie Thalhimer** on the birth of their grandson, Jacob Elliott Silverstein, born May 7, 2016. Also to Jacob's aunt & uncle, Elizabeth & Ryan Smartt and parents, Christie & Evan Silverstein.

**Britt & Erin Calloway** on the birth of their son, Reid Asher Calloway, born May 8, 2016. Also, to Reid's grandparents, Ron & Bonnie Kasoff.

## BAR MITZVAH



Eli Becker Schulman

Eli Becker Schulman will be called to the *Torah* as a *Bar Mitzvah* on Masada in Israel this June. He is the son of Millie Becker and Alan Schulman and the big brother of Leo and Charlie Schulman. He is the grandson of Melanie Becker and the late Stanley Becker and Eileen and Sam Schulman. He is named after his maternal great-grandfather Herman Eli Becker and given the Hebrew name Yisrael Zvi after his maternal grandfather.

Eli is a rising 7th grader at Tuckahoe Middle School, where his favorite subject is science. He is on the tennis team and enjoys soccer, skiing and playing drums. He is a true foodie and loves hanging out with friends. After his trip to Israel, Eli is returning to Capital Camp in Pennsylvania for his 6th summer.



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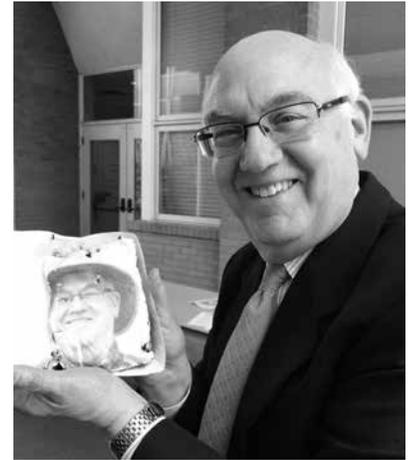
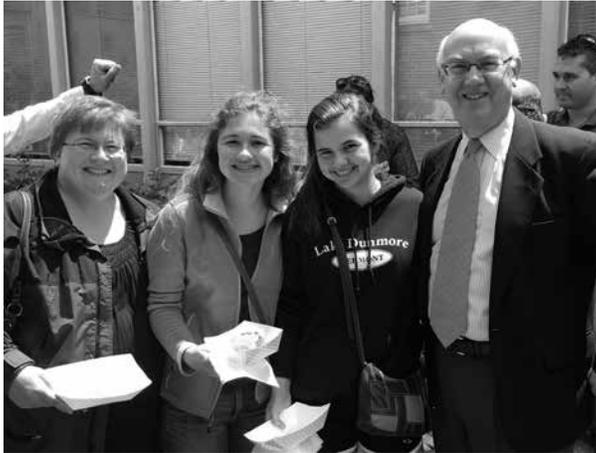
### HAVING A MOVING EXPERIENCE?

**If you're hanging your mezuzah on a new doorpost, please be sure to let us know right away. That will keep the bulletin coming to you promptly—and save us postal fees.**

**We want to keep you posted!**

**CBA LIFE:**

At the Farewell Picnic for the rabbis in May



# Thank You!

We would like to thank all who came together to make  
our 20th Mitzvah Day a success:

*For sharing a meaningful Dvar Torah with us:* **Rabbi Gallop**

*For providing a brunch for us:* **Brotherhood**

*For leading our Mitzvah Day projects:* **Lynn Burris, Renate Falck, Peggy Friedenberg, Beryl Holzbach, Claudette Lewis, Jon Lewis, John Marshak, Rachel Schmidt**

*For participating in our Mitzvah Day projects:* **Greg Fehle, Tony Wharton, Sharon Bassell, Amy Whitelaw, Vanessa Lande, David Lande, Martin Miller, Allison Woodburn, Jay Woodburn, Joshua Woodburn, Alex Shuster, Meg Clark, Micol Hutchison, Asch Hammack, Adrian Hammack, Steve Ashe, David Aschheim, Andrew Schaffernoth, Sheri Cox, Kathy Seldow, Art Mullian, Ana Mullian, Irina Libon, Adam Thalhimer, Sandy Corbett, Leah Sievers, Jessica Carty, Michael Pirron, Adam Nelson, Laurie Nelson, Coffee Bourne, Adam Bourne, Kam Smith, Heidi Levinson, Edith Brenner, Vicki Schiff, Stacy Seltzer, Melissa Nelson, Laurie Nelson, Struminger Family, Sharla Meyer, Dana Reynolds, Matt Cohen, Jackie Cohen, Margie Walsh, Amy Mendelson Cheeley, Mary Jacobs, Steve Jacobs, Gladys Brenner, Miles Lynn, Dan Hough, Kevin Hudson, Naomh Hudson, Sharon Brager, Daniel Howell, Jacob Lavelle**

*For those who anonymously participated in our Mitzvah Day projects:*

*For those who anonymously donated books, canned goods, clothing, eyeglasses, flatware/ cooking utensils, socks and toiletries:*

*For providing your benevolent presence:* **Rabbi Beifield**

*For making sure that the trains ran on time:* **Russ Finer**

**We thank you all from the bottom of our hearts,**

**Karen Hough and Vicki Lynn  
Mitzvah Day Co-chairpersons**

# CBA LIFE: MITZVAH DAY

Photo Credit: Marsha Polier



# CBA LIFE: MITZVAH DAY



Photo Credit: Marsha Polier

BARBARA & WILLIAM B. THALHIMER, JR. RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

**ANN MARIE BENSON  
NAMED ONE OF HENRICO  
COUNTY'S TOP 20  
TEACHERS!**



Ann Marie Benson and her 1st Grade students explore the Torah.

Ann Marie Benson, our longtime 1st grade teacher at Beth Ahabah was honored by the *Henrico Citizen* as one of the county's top 20 teachers in 2015-2016 for her work as a preschool teacher at the Weinstein JCC! This comes as no surprise as Ann Marie has been an integral part of the Religious School's primary education staff for 18 years, bringing her expertise and love of teaching to our students.

*Mazal Tov* to Ann Marie for this honor! We are fortunate to have professional teachers of this caliber as part of our Religious School staff.

*The following text is from an Article by Eileen Mellon that appeared in the May 19 - June 1, Henrico Citizen magazine*

**ANN MARIE BENSON  
Weinstein JCC, preschool**

Ann Marie Benson began her journey at Weinstein JCC as a parent volunteer and has transformed into a 19-year preschool teaching veteran who also serves as early morning childcare coordinator. At the JCC, she is able to combine her passion for working with children and her faith.

Benson is a graduate of Wilkes University but believes her education will never be complete when it comes to teaching. She learns something new every day from her children, co-workers, lectures and conferences and continues to take college courses each summer in early childhood education.

"I was destined to work with children," she said. "I remember lining up my childhood stuffed animals on my bed to 'teach' them. After landing in Richmond with a 3-year-old daughter 20 years ago, I walked into the JCC Preschool and knew I was where I and she needed to be!"

The program at the Weinstein JCC is based upon a child-centered approach to learning and providing a nurturing



A 1st Grade student in Ann Marie Benson's class explores the Torah.

environment for children to grow, create, explore, socialize and investigate

Religious School continues on page 12

*mazal tov!*

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE  
CONFIRMATION CLASS OF 2016!**

Front Row (L to R): Rabbi Martin P. Beifield, Jr., Ana Mullian, Emily Mendelson, Mackenna Kerwood, Lyndsay Nelson, Madison McCabe, Megan Miller, Rabbi Jesse Gallop. Back Row (L to R): Jack Godin, Dylan Conley, Alex Jacobs, Dan Beal, Robert Boswell, Matthew Cook, Owen Scher, Eric Brenner



Religious School continued from page 11

in areas of their interest, to develop thinking skills. That's right on point with Benson's style and philosophy of teaching.

In a nomination letter, one parent of a JCC preschooler wrote, "Ann Marie is a proponent of the JCC's practice of the Reggio Emilia approach to education, allowing students to guide the curriculum that holds their interest and provides a rich ground for learning new and wonderful information and skills. My son is one of the 13 boys in her four-year-old class this year and she has encouraged them by teaching basic construction techniques both inside the classroom with crafts and outside with tools. She has even allowed them to visit a construction site and had them draw their observations to learn to pay attention to detail."

Benson was education in a very regimented, lesson-planned, SOL based school, where her "but why?" attitude and challenges weren't accepted or encouraged, she said. Those early experiences have driven her to create a teaching environment that is limitless and allows for exploratory and communicative learning.

"A teacher once replied to my questions by saying, 'you can find that out for yourself,' and I did," Benson

*mark your calendar!*

**THE FIRST DAY OF  
RELIGIOUS SCHOOL IS ON  
SUNDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 11**

recalled. "I fondly remember a teacher that changed my life. That is where I met Mrs. Reap. She took the time to ask me why I wanted to learn more and showed me how to learn more about the information I questioned. That shaped me as a teacher more than any class or lecture I have ever attended, and the program I work in supports that for all of our teachers—and I am grateful."



1st Grade students explore the Torah in Ann Marie Benson's class.

## RELIGIOUS SCHOOL REGISTRATION FOR 2016-2017

Beth Ahabah is honored to teach your children in our Religious School. We look forward to an exciting year together with Rabbi Nagel.

To make life as easy for parents as possible, all students enrolled at the end of 2015/16 school year (First Steps through 9th Grade) have been automatically enrolled for 2016/17.

## 2016-2017 RELIGIOUS SCHOOL TUITION

### First Steps

Twice a month: \$180 per child  
Every Sunday: \$250 per child

### Kindergarten - 7th Grade Sunday School

\$415 for first child  
\$375 each additional child

### 8th-10th Grade Monday *Midrasha*

\$430 for first child  
\$375 each additional child

### 3rd-6th Grade Midweek Hebrew

\$180 per child in addition to being enrolled in Sunday School

To enroll a new student (First Steps through 10th Grade), add a student to Midweek Hebrew, or if you have questions, please contact the Temple office at 804.358.6757 or follow the link on the weekly School enews to download a registration form.

## Have You Connected Yet?

BethAhabahConnect is a new way to network with other members of the Beth Ahabah community!

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

Meet people with similar interests or backgrounds within Beth Ahabah.

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[bethahabahconnect.twolikeyou.com](http://bethahabahconnect.twolikeyou.com)



## WOMEN OF REFORM JUDAISM (Sisterhood)

by Meg Marshak, President

Well here I am just back from one of our URJ Camps (OSHRI), having spent the weekend with the most amazing women. On the way home I was pondering this first article as the President of BA Sisterhood, many things going through my mind. I found myself focusing on where I hope we are in one, two, or even three years. BA-WRJ is for all women of the Temple. If you consider yourself a member of Beth Ahabah then you are a Women of Beth Ahabah. There are no activities we must do - with the exception of Sisterhood *Shabbat!*

**We can be whatever the Beth Ahabah women want to be.**

First and foremost, we are women and we see things in a different way than our male counterparts. We have fun in a different way and we accomplish goals in different ways. We tend to form lasting friendships locally and from a distance. We process things that need to be done in different ways. We attack challenges in different ways. BUT, we have a great ability to analyze the challenge and come up with

workable solutions! We accept those challenges, find the solutions and get the job done!

I want to know what the Women of Beth Ahabah want to do, engage in and solve. With the changes going on within the Temple, new faces and renewed energy, what do we, as women, want from each other, as well as our Temple? Is it programming, religious services, camaraderie, dinner, or making something for ourselves or others? Is it learning a new skill? What do you want to get involved in? What interests you? How much, how little can you commit to, as individuals, as a team, as a Sisterhood? What time of day is good for you? Do you need child care while you do the activities? What makes all of us want to be a part of a group, a committee, a partner for an activity?

**What do you want to be a part of?**

Lots of questions and unfortunately, I don't have lots of answers. I believe that each one of you do have an answer! I can listen, discuss, hear, and explain what the Women of Reform Judaism are all about. I cannot however, decide what you need from Sisterhood! I need your advice, as to programming and projects and social events, levels of involvement, times to meet, to name a few!

At present, Beth Ahabah is challenged by changes of the Rabbi, structure of committees, ongoing Capital Cam-

paign and of course the first phase of the building process. The Sisterhood will be undergoing some changes also. First and foremost, we want to know what ideas you may have for a morning, an afternoon or an evening of fun, learning, service to the Temple, opportunities for giving to others (programs and/or deeds) and women's issues. My goal as President of the Beth Ahabah Women of Reform Judaism is to find out what you want from your Temple sisters. This is an open invitation to communicate with me what you would like to do with a group of women. Tell me what it is and let your sisterhood leaders figure out a way to do it. As the saying goes, we are here for you! WE WANT YOU! But, YOU need to tell us what your interests are! Where your passions are! What you consider a fun time! What would you like to learn more about or what skill to would you like to learn! It's all about you!

Please give me so many great ideas that your BA-WRJ Board has trouble fitting them into the Temple calendar.

**I await your comments and ideas!**

Leave me a message: I am available most of the time at the following communication sites:

email: [meg.marshak@comcast.net](mailto:meg.marshak@comcast.net)

home phone: 804-746-2918

cell phone: 804-252-1149

Talk to me in person: I love meeting people for coffee or even a glass of wine!

### Gifts That Make A Difference...

Charitable Giving in honor of or in memory of a loved one is an important tradition for the Beth Ahabah congregation. For more information about giving opportunities, please visit the Temple website or call the Temple office at 804.358.6757.

Thank you for your consideration.



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## MEN OF REFORM JUDAISM

(Brotherhood)

by David Feibish, President

### Looking Back and Looking Ahead

Beth Ababah's Annual Meeting on May 13th formally marked the end of the "fiscal" year and the start of a New Year and temple calendar of holidays, events and activities for 2016-2017.

Your Beth Ahabah Brotherhood (Men of Reform Judaism) auxiliary had a very interesting and fulfilling year. A dedicated group of men actively involved with Brotherhood worked very hard and gave of their time to make all events—planned and unplanned—that Brotherhood participated in, successful, including:

- Last summer (2015), Brotherhood supported two Family Connection *Shabbatot* in the Park by providing cold drinks and desserts
- We scheduled and implemented ushering for September *Rosh Hashanah* and *Yom Kippur* High Holy Day services
- Put on our Congregational Picnic, the annual start of Religious School
- Built the *Sukkah* for the *Bema* in the sanctuary
- Provided volunteers and participated in Beth Ahabah's Jewish community cookout during the World Bike Race in front of CBA
- Held the Brews and Brotherhood event! A very successful social event for all men of our congregation at

Hardywood Brewery. Be on the watch for another Brotherhood social event this coming year for men of the congregation.

- Prepared and implemented the annual Brotherhood *Shabbat* Friday evening service, special Brotherhood choir and a special guest speaker, Rabbi Meir Azari, leading Reform Judaism rabbi in Israel. Presented the Sam Troy Award, member of the year.
- Sponsored *Latke* Extravaganza, December *Hanukkah* event, where we prepared and fried a massive quantity of delicious *latkes*
- Together with Sisterhood, put on two large-scale brunches as a part of the rabbinic search—interview-meet-and-greet process.



The Brotherhood's Sukkah  
Photo Credit: Craig Rudlin

- Basketball family outing for a University of Richmond Spiders vs. UMass Minutemen game at the Robins Center. Brotherhood subsidized the cost of the tickets and provided pizza and sodas before the game.
- Prepared and served a Congregational Dinner before the Sisterhood *Shabbat*

- Planned/implemented for Religious School and members an on-campus farewell cookout for Rabbis Beifield and Gallop. Over 200 attended.

- Provided a brunch of bagels and doughnuts for *Mitzvah* Day. Brotherhood's project was building furniture to be donated to the Caritas store.
- Provided ushers for each Friday night *Shabbat* service, in addition to providing ushers on short notice for life cycle events, such as memorial/funeral services.

Organized and provided throughout the year a *Bar* or *Bat Mitzvah* presenter for the Brotherhood and Sisterhood *B'nei Mitzvah* gifts (*Kiddush* Cup & *Shabbat* Candlesticks)

Brotherhood thanks all the members of our Congregation who supported Brotherhood financially for 2015-2016. Your generosity toward Brotherhood helped us exceed our "paid membership" budget for 2015-2016!

While Brotherhood appreciates your financial support, we also welcome your being a new active volunteer in Brotherhood. Any amount of time you can volunteer is needed and makes a significant contribution toward being of service to the whole congregation.

With new Senior Rabbi Scott Nagel leading the congregation, Beth Ahabah Brotherhood looks forward to an even more exciting new year.

Have a great summer and watch your Temple emails for the return of a Brotherhood cookout following a summer *Shabbat* service and the next Congregational Picnic in September.

email David at oldbenz@aol.com

**DONATIONS****TEMPLE FUND**

**Debra S. Gardner Legacy Fund of  
Richmond Jewish Foundation**

**IN CELEBRATION OF:**

**Ramona Brand receiving the 2015  
Natalia Twersky Award from Jewish  
Women's Archives**

*Katie & Ken Roeper*

**The establishment of the Elaine  
Schein Fund**

*Katie & Ken Roeper*

**The birth of Parker James Kasoff, son  
of Vic & Stevie Kasoff & grandson of  
Bonnie & Ron Kasoff**

*Ken & Katie Roeper*

**The birth of Reid Asher Calloway, son  
of Erin & Britt Calloway & grandson  
of Bonnie & Ron Kasoff**

*Ken & Katie Roeper*

**The birth of Jacob Elliott Silverstein,  
son of Christie & Evan Silverstein,  
grandson of Bill & Sallie Thalhimer &  
nephew of Elizabeth & Ryan Smartt**

*Ken & Katie Roeper*

**The wedding of Shepard Roeper &  
Kelly Griffin, Mazel Tov**

*Ken & Katie Roeper*

**IN HONOR OF:**

**Rabbi Beifield & Ina Ginsberg**

*Elaine Sandman*

**IN MEMORY OF:**

**Harry Cohn**

*Scott & Nancy Belleman*

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*Jonathan & Anne Marie Perel*

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*Joanne Roos*

**Helen Wren**

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*Allen Finer*

**Edward Goldman**

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**Rabbi Beifield**

*Katie & Ken Roeper*

**IN HONOR OF:**

**Rabbi Beifield & Ina Ginsberg**

*Bobbie & Jon Gilbert*

**Rabbi Nagel, warm wishes for every-  
thing wonderful for you and your  
family, we miss you already**

*Love: Karen, Millard, Mark, Julie &*

*David*

**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.**

**IN MEMORY OF:**

**Harry Cohn**

*Wendy, David and all the Cohns  
& Millers*

*Jim Schuyler & Frank Dellinger*

*Bob, Debbie, David & Emily Shapiro*

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Donations continue on Page 16

Donations continued from Page 15

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*Laura & Dave Savage*

**GENERATIONS FUND**

**IN HONOR OF:**

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*Scott & Nancy Belleman*

**Rabbi Beifield's Retirement**

*Scott & Nancy Belleman*

**IN MEMORY OF:**

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*David E. Constine, III & Adrienne  
 Constine*

**HEBREW CEMETERY FUND**

James Spool

**IN HONOR OF:**

**Louis O. Bowman, Jr.'s special  
 birthday**

*Millie & Herb Heltzer*

**IN MEMORY OF:**

**Sophia Gumenick, my grandmother**  
*Betty Sue & Todd LePage*  
**Robert Marks**  
*Terry Lowenstein Schultz*

**ELAINE L. SCHEIN**

**RELIGIOUS SCHOOL EDUCATION  
 SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

**IN HONOR OF:**

**The birth of Parker Kasoff**  
*Bonnie & Ron Kasoff*

**IN MEMORY OF:**

**Freda Danziger**  
*Bonnie & Ron Kasoff*

**MUSEUM & ARCHIVES**

**IN HONOR OF:**

**Zippi Goldstein's 90th Birthday**

*Nancy Meyer*

**IN APPRECIATION:**

*Thirteen Class*

**IN MEMORY OF:**

**Leona Bernstein**

*Zippi Goldstein*

**Harry Lee Cohn**

*Joyce Rosenbaum*

*Betty Anne & Michael Soffin*

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**Joyce Scher**

*The Jewish Woman's Club*

**Leo S. Newpol**

*Helen G. Newpol & Family*

**My father, Joseph L. Landers**

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## TREASURES FROM THE MUSEUM & ARCHIVES COLLECTION



The Franklin Street Burying Ground by Kyle Spangler

### THE FRANKLIN STREET BURYING GROUND

In 2013, through the generosity of Herb and Millie Heltzer, the Museum & Archives was given the opportunity to purchase this Kyle Spangler painting of the Franklin Street Burying Ground. The artist was a local painter who attended RPI (VCU) and recorded local monuments in a very realistic style. This painting was done in 1981 and is signed by the artist on the reverse in dedication "To the millions of angels."

The Franklin Street Burying Ground was the first Jewish cemetery in Virginia. It was dedicated to the Jews of Richmond, for burial purposes, in October of 1791. The rapid growth of the Jewish community led to the abandonment of this cemetery for the new one (Hebrew Cemetery) at 4th and Hospital Streets, in 1817. The Franklin Street Burying Ground is still maintained by the Hebrew Cemetery Company and can be seen today, surrounded by an apartment complex built around its perimeter.

### A GEM FROM THE ARCHIVES



The former Keneseth Israel on 19th Street

Are you looking for a family adventure this summer? Why not take a Jewish Tour of Richmond? There are many sites around the city that are related to the development of the Jewish community, and are right here in town. Park at 14th and Franklin Streets and read the Historic Marker there, which describes Kahol Kadosh (K.K.) Beth Shalome, the first synagogue in Richmond. Drive by the former 19th Street Shul, which was the 1908 synagogue for Keneseth Israel congregation and is now a condominium residence. You can still see the Star of David at the top of the building. For a more interactive experience, stop

### *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 Thalheimer, III at 358.6757.

by the Chimborazo Medical Museum at 3215 East Broad Street. This museum is managed by the National Park Service and has a fascinating film and diorama that describes the history of Chimborazo Hospital during the Civil War. The story includes details about Phoebe Yates Pember, a Jewish woman from South Carolina who served as one of the matrons there. For more ideas, contact Beth Ahabah Museum & Archives – we've created a Richmond Jewish tour that we will be happy to share with you.

## BETH AHABAH MUSEUM & ARCHIVES

### Recording our past as it happens

*That's one of the ways we work!*

by David Farris, Director

It must have been a philosopher who said that the present really doesn't exist. As soon as we even think about what we call the present moment, it is behind us and has become the past. Deep stuff. Of course at the Museum & Archives we study the past and either write about it or create exhibits about it, but there is lots more to be done. We never forget that today's events are tomorrow's history, and that guides much of what we do.

We try to anticipate what will be important to future generations of Jewish Richmonders, and build our current collection accordingly. At a recent *Shabbat* service, for example, one of our staffers was careful to make some notes in the regular handout for the evening service, and then place it in the "to be filed" box in the Archives. The regular content of those documents is valuable history, as it tell future students of Beth Ahabah in these olden days who was being honored at services, and why the honor was granted. Perhaps more importantly, the notes made by the

staffer recorded the Hebrew name of the child being named that evening. One of the most frequent questions we receive concerns the Hebrew names given to our members in childhood. Sometimes we know, but sadly, mostly we don't. At least in this one case that question can be made answerable. Note: do we have your Hebrew name? Please look it up and send it to us!

We also have the original plans and drawings of the present Sanctuary from the 1903 planning and construction. You would be surprised to learn that there are many requests to see them, so we preserve and store them in a manner that makes them accessible fairly quickly when they are needed.

Since the present planning process is fast becoming our history, we have asked the various committees involved in it to preserve and bring to us their notes, working papers, minutes, drawings, plans, budget estimates, etc. so that we can begin building the history of our 2016-2017 site project for future generations to study. Those materials have begun coming in, and we are carefully preserving them. Things have changed considerably since the Sanctuary was built, and some of the

information we are receiving is in electronic form. I hope that the future IT folks in the Congregation can figure out how to access and read it!

Our history is recorded one document at a time, and everything is important. Sometimes we just copy the documents brought to us and return the originals to the bringer, as our special copy paper is made acid-free and is designed to last for hundreds of years in good condition. Another reason for copying is that sometimes the information contained in a document is more important than the original document itself, and it makes no sense to preserve something with no intrinsic value.

Please bring us information relating to your own family history - letters, certificates, photos (with the people identified), newspaper articles, etc. etc. Researchers coming to our Archives want to know about people who lived 100 or more years ago. In another 100 years they will want to know about you. Please help us preserve your own family history!

We are located at 1109 West Franklin St., and are open from 10 am - 3 pm every day except Friday and Saturday. Please pay us a visit and see first hand what we do for you!

### BETH AHABAH MUSEUM & ARCHIVES

1109 W. Franklin Street  
804.353.2668 | bama@bethahabah.org

#### Currently on Exhibit in the Galleries:

- **The Other Side of the Curtain:**

*Soviet Jews Create New Lives in  
Richmond, Virginia*

- **That You'll Remember Me:**

*Jewish Voices of the Civil War*

- **Commonwealth & Community:**

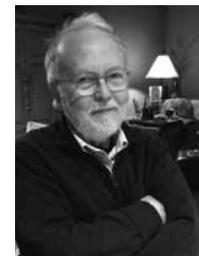
*Jewish Virginia 1585 to the Present*

#### Museum Hours:

10 am to 3 pm Sunday - Thursday

The Museum & Archives is located next door to the Temple office on Franklin Street.

Please call in advance to make an appointment to work in the Archives, for group tours; if you have visitors who require special treatment; or if you need to visit outside of our usual working hours. We will do our best to accommodate you.



David Farris, Director

## CBA COMMUNITY CALENDAR FOR JULY & AUGUST 2016

### JULY 2016

Friday, July 1 *Oneg Shabbat* 6:00 PM  
*Shabbat Service* in the Gumenick Chapel 6:15 PM

Friday, July 8  
*Oneg Shabbat* 6:00 PM  
*Shabbat Service* in the Gumenick Chapel 6:15 PM

Friday, July 15  
*Shabbat* in the Park (Bryan Park) 6:00 PM  
*Oneg Shabbat* 6:00 PM  
*Shabbat Service* in the Gumenick Chapel 6:15 PM

Friday, July 22  
*Oneg Shabbat* 6:00 PM  
*Shabbat Service* in the Gumenick Chapel 6:15 PM  
 Cookout in the Goldberg Auditorium 7:00 PM

Friday, July 29  
*Oneg Shabbat* 6:00 PM  
*Shabbat Service* in the Gumenick Chapel 6:15 PM

### AUGUST 2016

Friday, August 5  
*Oneg Shabbat* 6:00 PM  
*Shabbat Service* in the Gumenick Chapel 6:15 PM

Friday, August 12  
*Oneg Shabbat* 6:00 PM  
*Shabbat Service* in the Gumenick Chapel 6:15 PM  
 Cookout in the Goldberg Auditorium 7:00 PM

Friday, August 19  
*Shabbat* in the Park (Bryan Park) 6:00 PM  
*Oneg Shabbat* 6:00 PM  
*Shabbat Service* in the Gumenick Chapel 6:15 PM

Friday, August 26  
*Oneg Shabbat* 6:00 PM  
*Shabbat Service* in the Gumenick Chapel 6:15 PM

CALENDAR INFORMATION IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE, please check the calendar online at [bethahabah.org](http://bethahabah.org)

### *B'Yachad*

*Share your news, events, programs, ideas and stories with your fellow members of CBA through our bi-monthly bulletin. Now acceptin information and ads for the following issues:*

**SEPTEMBER Issue: deadline is Friday, JULY 20**

**OCTOBER/NOVEMBER Issue: deadline Friday, AUGUST 19**

**For more information about advertising in the bulletin, contact Russ Finer in the Temple office, 804.358.6757**

**Please send editorial submissions and advertising artwork to [susan@susanwmorganpr.com](mailto:susan@susanwmorganpr.com)**

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TEMPLE STAFF

Martin P. Beifield Jr. Sophia and Nathan Gumenick Senior Rabbi (until 7/31)  
 Scott Nagel Sophia and Nathan Gumenick Senior Rabbi (after 8/1)  
 Russell M. Finer, FSA Executive Director

Dr. Jack D. Spiro Rabbi Emeritus  
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 Natan Berenshteyn Music Director & Accompanist  
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 David B. Farris Museum & Archives Director  
 William B. Thalhimier III Hebrew Cemetery Chairman  
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A graphic for a summer cookout. At the top, it says "It's Summer" in black and "COOKOUT!" in large, red, stylized letters. Below that, the word "Time" is written in a white, bold font with a black outline. The central image is a burger with a sesame seed bun, a slice of tomato, and a slice of cheese, sitting on a plate with orange and black stripes. At the bottom of the graphic, it says "July 22nd and August 12th" in a white, bold font with a black outline.

Following the 6:15pm Shabbat Services, join us for a free cookout dinner. Dress is casual and conversation is easy! Please come enjoy the summer evenings with our new Rabbi and his family, along with new friends, and learn more about Beth Ahabah!