I get a kick out of people when they say “the High Holy Days are early this year” or “Rosh Hashanah is late this year.” The fact is that Rosh Hashanah occurs the same time every year—on the first day of the Hebrew month of Tishrei. It’s never really “early” or “late”—it’s just where it should be! That being said, the first of Tishrei can be as early as September 5, or as late as October 5 on the Gregorian calendar.

This means that in 2016, when the first day of Rosh Hashanah is October 3 and not in the beginning or even middle of September, many of us feel like we have more time to prepare for Rosh Hashanah than we did last year.

This movement between September 5 and October 5 has to do with the fact that unlike the Gregorian calendar which is a Solar calendar, the Hebrew Calendar is in fact a Lunar Calendar. The Solar calendar needs to add one extra day every four years (during a leap year) to keep on track and not move too far out of place, the Hebrew calendar needs to add one whole month 7 times every 19 years. It is this extra month (Adar II) that allows the Jewish holidays to fluctuate 30 days on the Gregorian calendar.
calendar in either direction while still making sure that we are not celebrating Rosh Hashanah in December.

So this year since we have this “extra time” we have the opportunity to fully get in the mood for the Jewish New Year.

• Apples, apples and more apples: It’s fun to dip apples in honey on Rosh Hashanah as we wish for a sweet new year. But why just go to a grocery store and buy apples? One of my favorite activities to do with my family before the Jewish New Year is to go apple picking. What better way to appreciate the bounty of the earth and God’s continued gifts to us then to see, feel and appreciate where our food comes from.

• Try some new fruits, too: There’s a great custom on Rosh Hashanah trying a new fruit of the season; one you haven’t eaten yet this year. This gives us the opportunity to talk about what else we want to try new or different in the coming year.

• Make a round challah: While on Shabbat it’s traditional to have a braided challah, on Rosh Hashanah the challah should be round. Why round? Because it reminds us of the circle of life, as well as the cyclical nature of the passage of a year.

• Make New Year’s cards: We do so much of our communicating electronically that it is especially exciting to get a card in the mailbox. And it’s even more fun to make cards! Get out lots of craft materials (or even just crayons and paper) make homemade New Year’s cards for family and friends. And they don’t have to be cards just for Jewish family members. Cards for family members who aren’t Jewish, letting them know that they’re being thought of and that they are loved, will surely be appreciated any time of year.

• Buy a shofar and learn to blow it: We are having a Shofar Choir this year! Come join us as part of a new Shofar Choir for Rosh Hashanah!

Everyone with a shofar is invited to blow shofar at Rosh Hashanah!

No prior experience necessary, all you need to do is attend two shofar choir classes on Sunday, September 18, 2016 from 11:45 AM - 1:15 PM and Sunday, September 25, 2016 from 11:45 AM - 1:15 PM (lunch will be provided) – believe me, it will be a BLAST!

Enjoy your “extended” preparations and Have a happy and a sweet New Year!

Shana Tova U’Metukah,
Rabbi Scott Nagel
A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

Shanah Tovah to you all!

It is my hope that you and your families are doing well and are in good spirits as we head into the new Jewish year. As we reflect on where we've been and where we hope to be, I encourage you to come be with us at Congregation Beth Ahabah.

With the coming of the new year and all the changes that have gone on and are continuing, we have much to look forward to. Come and be a part of NOT apart from all that we have planned.

I know that you are all busy but I urge you to try and make time this year for praying, learning and being involved in congregational life. We are striving to add the richness and joy of our heritage by bringing new experiences and opportunities to you. We will do our part, please do yours by giving us a chance.

My family and I wish each and every one of you a sweet and healthy year.

L'Shanah Tovah,
Russell M. Finer, FSA

Beth Ahabah Cares

Beth Ahabah Cares reaches out to our congregational members who are ill, hospitalized, or perhaps sitting Shiva by sending cards, making calls, and delivering healing meals. We reach out in times of gladness as well by sending Mazel Tov greetings to our families with new babies. We love sending newly knit caps and/or booties to our newest tiny members.

This active committee is always open to welcoming new members who are available to bake, cook meals, knit, or make telephone calls. Everyone is welcome! If you can give us a little of your time you can help our community in a big way.

Please contact Lori Skiles at 804.346.2684 or lskiles@verizon.net; or Miri Eynan at 804.269.5424 or pink4good@gmail.com to begin touching lives one family at a time.

CARITAS

Beth Ahabah will again serve as an intake site for the CARITAS Program for the homeless. CARITAS stands for Congregations Around Richmond Involved To Assure Shelter. From Saturday, December 10, 2016 through Friday, January 27, 2017, persons seeking shelter for the night will come to our school building at approximately 5:45 p.m.

We need volunteers to help CARITAS personnel sign in the homeless, offer them refreshments and make our guests feel at home until the CARITAS bus takes them to their shelter for the night. The bus arrives at approximately 7:00 p.m. Volunteers need to be at Temple by 5:30 p.m. and should be finished by approximately 7:15 p.m.

Two volunteers are needed per night. There will be CARITAS personnel as well as a Beth Ahabah staff member present each evening. No advanced training is needed to perform this mitzvah. Please consider volunteering as an individual or a family. Most Beth Ahabah volunteers agree to work the same night each week for the duration of the program. Several members who have participated in the program with their teenage children have found this a rewarding family experience.

Items such as appropriate magazines, playing cards, books and toiletry items are always welcome as donations. To sign up or for more information, please contact Chuck Greenberg at 794-6800 or cgre41@yahoo.com.
Welcome New Members,

We are so happy that you have made the decision to join our Beth Ahabah family and we look forward to meeting you. We hope that you will become involved in many of the exciting things happening in and around our congregation.

We at Beth Ahabah are excited to share our vibrant new interactive, web based program called “Beth Ahabah Connect”. It will make becoming involved and engaged in our community easy and help you meet others in our congregation just like you! By now you have received an invitation via email to join but if you need help please ask us how to get connected to this easy, fabulous resource available to all our members. Don’t forget to upload your picture.

Lastly don’t forget to visit our web site http://www.bethahabah.org. Please visit it often for up to date happenings and useful information. In addition to our members our warm and engaging staff are always happy to be of assistance.

If you need additional information or have any questions, please feel free to call or email me at (804)967-9280 or carolann.c@verizon.net.

We are all looking forward to getting to know you.

Carol Ann Callahan
Membership Committee Chair
804-967-9280
carolann.c@verizon.net

MITZVAH AS A WAY OF LIFE

The Tikkun Olam Committee (formerly the Council for Social Justice) is organizing its work in the coming months to carry out the goal of more fully integrating tikkun olam into the daily and monthly life of CBA.

When it reorganized and drafted a new mission statement last summer, the committee decided to spread throughout the year more of the volunteer activities that had been concentrated on Mitzvah Day in the spring. While Mitzvah Day will continue (and enjoyed a large turnout this spring), the committee’s ongoing priority will be sponsoring events and projects throughout the year.

This fall the committee will bring Stop Hunger Now to Beth Ahabah during Sukkot, on October 23. Stop Hunger Now, which uses volunteers to package non-perishable, nutritious meals for communities around the world, was a successful part of Mitzvah Day a few years ago. This fall we plan to package at least 10,000 meals in a day. To supplement its budget, the committee is seeking donations from the congregation toward the event’s costs.

In November, the committee will continue its speaker series when it hosts Johanna Neumann, a Holocaust survivor who was sheltered during her escape by an Albanian Muslim family, on November 13 in the Goldburg auditorium. The committee previously hosted Thad Williamson, an associate professor at the University of Richmond and a leading anti-poverty activist in Richmond.

On November 17 the committee is organizing a dinner for Doorways (formerly Hospital Hospitality House), which provides a healing, emotionally supportive environment for families of patients at area hospitals. Committee volunteers will cook and serve a full meal for Doorways guests.

In December, the committee will resume its annual support of CARITAS, the largest provider of services for the homeless in the
COMMON THEMES EMERGE FOR TRANSFORMATIONAL CHANGE
By Katie Roeper, Congregational President

Over recent months, Rabbi Nagel and I have been meeting with six Innovation Teams to explore everything we “are” and everything we “do” at Beth Ahabah, through the lens of our vision statement: “Inspiring Jewish Lives—Building Sacred Community.”

The Teams represent our diverse community, across the lifespan, with varying interests, perspectives, and life experiences. They purposely were not made up of past and present leadership but instead reached across our membership to tap into other groups such as rising leaders, individuals who have participated quietly, in some cases for years and even generations, and newer members who are experiencing Beth Ahabah for the first time.

The Innovation Teams opened the door to dialogue about various aspects of our congregation. Each Team focused on one of the following topics:

- Environment/Culture
- Interactions/Relationships/Engagement
- Language/Communications
- Policy/Administration
- Programming/Education
- Spirituality/Worship

While conversations will continue, common themes have emerged that will likely drive future programs, policies, and the platform for innovative changes. These themes, in some ways are quite simple and may seem intuitive, and yet, unless we identify them, acknowledge their value, and commit to holding them up as priorities, we will likely not see the progress that is possible; in fact, that is imperative for our future.

1. We are often most inspired when we can make a connection between Torah and our lives today. Every Team identified the importance of bringing the ancient words of Torah and historical Jewish philosophies into our daily lives to better understand how to use them, to guide us through challenges and difficult decisions, and through our celebrations and milestones.

2. Learning at every age is important and can and should be inspirational. We all want opportunities to learn and grow in our Judaism, whether it is individually or with other members of our community. Those with children still at home or with children who are now raising the next generation, especially want to learn together, creating unique opportunities to grow as a family. There is a vast appeal, regardless of age, to find the joy in Judaism through study and worship.

3. Strengthening Jewish family and Jewish identity is not always easy. For those of us who came to Judaism as adults, whether we have chosen to convert, or are raising Jewish children with a spouse who is Jewish, or who grew up in a home that was culturally Jewish but not religiously observant, we want to learn how to make a Jewish home, without feeling isolated or stigmatized by our lack of Jewish education. Although our membership largely represents interfaith families, we may not be offering all that is possible to help families bring Judaism home. Great benefits can come from providing an environment where we can all learn how to strengthen our Jewish identity, regardless of our background and upbringing.

4. Strengthening connections with one another is a high priority. While programming is important, it is actually the connections we make with one another through the programming, which seems most valuable to us. We want to share our stories and learn about the experiences that have shaped the lives of others within our congregational family.

5. We want to feel valued. Sacred community means that we each give and receive understanding, respect, acceptance, and care. We want to know that we matter to each other and to our congregation. We want to find meaningful ways to contribute.

6. Flexibility can help us move from obligation to inspiration. Traditions such as dressing up for Shabbat and the timing of services may not be reflective and supportive of contemporary practices and lifestyles. A move to “Casual Dress” on Fridays by corporate America, now requires that business folks must go home to change before attending Shabbat services. Many congregants have expressed that if more casual dress were acceptable and services were earlier, it would be easier for families to participate. While it is important to respect Shabbat with appropriate attire, perhaps there is room for both respect for our Sabbath and a shift in some of our traditions, which may encourage more participation across our community.

There are many other thoughts and ideas that will come from these Innovation Team meetings. Most importantly, though, the meetings...
have prompted an important dialogue to help identify the changing needs of our membership. Discussions such as these also provide a venue for talking through how and when changes may be implemented and communicated and how they may be felt by our diverse membership. This will ensure that transformation remains thoughtful and inclusive and that we are continually using our vision as the measure for success.

Tremendous thanks go to the members of our community who have invested their time and energy to these important discussions. Please know however, ideas are not exclusive to serving on an Innovation Team. If you have thoughts you want to share, please contact Rabbi Nagel or me. You are important and your ideas are valuable. We want to hear from you! Beth Ahabah: Inspiring Jewish Lives — Building Sacred Community.

P.S. Every single Innovation Team recognized that Beth Ahabah Connect, the new social media tool for members, is a valuable resource to connect us to each other. If you haven’t joined Beth Ahabah Connect yet, please don’t wait any longer. If you don’t understand how to join, contact Lori Allen at the Temple, for assistance.

**CONGREGATION BETH AHABAH SENIOR BRIDGE**

Beth Ahabah’s Senior Bridge enters its 3rd year with 25 congregants connected to 25 seniors. Please consider becoming a volunteer so that more seniors are connected. Our new logo better illustrates our congregational cycle of life that is the focus of Senior Bridge.

Senior Bridge will be offering programs and resources to address Jewish Sacred Aging.

Jewish Sacred Aging is a project of the Department of Jewish Family Concerns of the Union for Reform Judaism. It is a forum for Jewish communities with resources and texts that feature discussions of the implications of the revolution in longevity for Baby Boomers and their families.

Some of the following workshops will be offered during the coming year.

The “Art” of Care-Giving: An examination of traditional interpretations of the Commandment to “honor and respect” our parents.

Making Sacred Decisions: A look at texts and Jewish tradition to examine how Judaism has evolved as a “holistic” medical system. The examination of sources on health and healing and the role of the physician and the creation of a text based theory of decision making in light of emerging medical technology.

Creating Rituals for Life’s Third Stage: The longevity revolution is producing new opportunities for the creation of rituals that inform, enhance and guide new life stages and situations.

Embracing A New Jewish Future: A look at the demographics of the new Jewish older adult. The multi-generational cohorts that now are influencing our community and the implications for programming.

Jewish Approaches to Health and Wellness: A look at classic texts, from prayer book to Tanach and Talmud to Maimonides and current thinkers on how Judaism approaches the issue of health.

For more information contact Rachel Schmidt @ rachelcohenschmidt@gmail.com or 804-690-8439

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**HELP BETH AHABAH BY MAKING A LEGACY GIFT**

Beth Ahabah is participating in a Life and Legacy program in partnership with the Richmond Jewish Foundation. A legacy gift to Beth Ahabah will help secure our future by strengthening our endowment. In addition, we may qualify for substantial incentive grants based on the number of new legacy gifts we receive. Please contact one of the following members of the Generations Legacy Giving team to find out how easy it is to make your legacy gift.

Jim Weinberg (Jlweinberg@hf-law.com)
Rosann Bocciarelli (rbocciarelli@gmail.com)
Rob Davidson (rob.davidson@aftonchemical.com)
Katie Roper (katie.roeper@gmail.com)
Jim Schuyler (jschuyler1@verizon.net)
Richmond region. Committee volunteers work every evening from December through February assisting CARITAS with its intake program for the homeless and hosting therapy sessions. The committee also continues its year-round service at Greater Mt. Moriah Baptist Church, serving meals to the hungry every month.

The Tikkun Olam Committee welcomes all Beth Ahabah members who would like to volunteer for any of these projects or wish to launch their own project. We need your ideas and your passion!

**BETH AHABAH SENIOR YOUTH GROUP**

8th through 12th graders

NFTY-MAR’s JELLO is September 16 - 18
For details, check midatlantic.nfty.org

Beth Ahabah Teens are going to start the year off with an event at G-Force on Saturday September 24 from 5:00 to 8:30 pm! This event is open to everyone in the 8th grade to 12th grade, so come for a great time! The cost is $38 and includes, go karting, pizza, paintball, and laser tag. Don’t forget to wear closed toe shoes and ask Brian for a waiver. RSVP to Brian today!

**BETH AHABAH MIDDLE SCHOOLERS**

6th through 8th graders

On September 25th, stay after religious school, enjoy some pizza, and join us as we go to the Putt Putt Fun Center! After our pizza lunch at Beth Ahabah, we’ll spend 3 hours of unlimited activities (Putt Putt, Bumper Boats and Go Karts)! The cost will be $20 per person. Contact Brian with any questions or to RSVP.

**BETH AHABAH KIDS**

2nd through 5th graders

We haven’t forgotten about you guys! Throughout the year we’ll have 6 days after religious school where you can stay for fun games and activities. Stay tuned because the first one will be happening on October 16th!

Also, be on the lookout for the Youth Engagement Newsletter, which will be sent out once a month!

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**First Days:**

**Religious School**

Sunday, September 11

**Midrasha**

Monday, October 17

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- Complimentary menu planning, event planning, decorating and more, we do it all
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804.740.5200
TICKET POLICY
Tickets are required for all High Holy Day Services

Tickets will be issued free of charge to congregants who are in good standing. All arrears must be paid in full through 9/1/16. For those congregants that pay once annually, 100% of the 2016 - 2017 dues must be received by 9/1/16.

Those on the quarterly system must have paid 25% by 9/1/16. All others must be on automatic monthly withdrawals. Please contact Russell Finer our Executive Director if you need to make special financial arrangements.

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

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

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

Non-members wishing to attend all of our High Holy Day services may purchase a complete block of tickets for $300. Ticket blocks cannot be split between the two High Holy Day events. Should non-members choose to join the Congregation after the High Holy Days, the $300 will be credited toward their financial commitment to the Congregation.

GUEST TICKETS
If you know anyone new to Richmond who would be interested in attending our High Holy Day services as our guest, please contact the Temple office so that we may invite them to worship with us.

Please let us know if you require handicap seating.

DID YOU KNOW?
Facts & Figures About Rosh Hashanah

*Rosh Hashanah* is the Jewish New Year, occurring on the first and second days of the Hebrew month of *Tishrei*. Since the Hebrew calendar is based on a lunar cycle, the dates of *Rosh Hashanah* vary according to the Gregorian calen-
dar; however, the holiday always falls during either September or October. Here are some more facts and figures you may not know about the Jewish New Year and the Jewish faith.

*Did you know...*
that the holiday of *Rosh Hashanah* was first instituted in the Bible? In *Leviticus*, God told Moses: “Speak unto the children of Israel, saying: In the seventh month, in the first day of the month, shall be a solemn rest unto you, a memorial proclaimed with the blast of horns, a holy convocation. Ye shall do no manner of servile work; and ye shall bring an offering made by fire unto God.”

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

PARKING
The parking deck and parking lot will be open for all services. The parking deck is entered from Franklin Street and you must exit through the rear into the alley. Please do not attempt to exit onto Franklin Street.

BABYSITTING
Professional babysitting for children ages 2 through 8 will be available for the 7:30 PM and 11:00 AM services on both *Rosh Hashanah* and *Yom Kippur*. The cost for babysitting is $10 per child, per service. Please contact us to make your reservations.
Did you know... that Rosh Hashanah has several names by which it is referred to in the Bible, including Yom Teruah (the Day of the Shofar) and Yom Ha-Zikkaron (the Day of Remembrance)? The name Yom Teruah refers to the shofar, the hollowed out ram's horn that is blown 100 times on Rosh Hashanah. The name Yom Ha-Zikkaron reminds Jews of their responsibilities as God's chosen people.

Did you know... that Rosh Hashanah is also referred to as the Day of Judgment? This moniker invokes the Jewish belief that on Rosh Hashanah, God judges each person and determines his or her fate for the coming year.

Did you know... that Rosh Hashanah is one of three new years in the Jewish faith? Tishrei, the month in which Rosh Hashanah falls, is actually the 7th month of the calendar year. Rosh Hashanah celebrates the creation of the world and marks the beginning of the new calendar year. Nissan is the first month of the year and when the Jewish holiday of Passover falls. Nissan was historically the start of a new year for the counting of kings' reign. Tu B'Shevat, which falls on the 15th of the Hebrew month of Shevat, is the New Year for trees—the date by which observant Jews determine whether a tree's first fruits may be harvested and eaten.

Did you know... that "May you be inscribed in the Book of Life," is the typical greeting on Rosh Hashanah? On the Jewish New Year, it is believed that God records the destiny of each human being in the Book of Life.

Did you know... that the Book of Life is sealed on Yom Kippur, and with it, everyone's fate? The period between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur is the most serious in the Jewish calendar, as it is believed that the fate that was written on Rosh Hashanah may still be changed until Yom Kippur, through sincere repentance.

Did you know... that a shofar, the world's oldest wind instrument, is ritually blown on Rosh Hashanah? The piercing sound of the shofar, which is made from a hollowed out ram's horn, serves as a clarion call to worshippers to repent.

Did you know... that there are some six million Jewish people living in Israel, which accounts for approximately 41% of the world Jewish population? Three out of four citizens of the state of Israel are Jewish.
CBA COMMUNITY

IN SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILIES

OF....

Carole Binswanger
sister of Estelle (Gerald) Grossman
aunt of Richard Grossman

David S. Wiggins
brother of Meg (John) Marshak

Ruth Maxine Jay
mother of Jim (Diane) Jay

Esther Silverman
mother of Patsy (Philip) Gaeser

Alexander Brodsky
brother of Heather (Caleb) LaMont

Anne Meyers

George Lewis

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Katie & Ken Roeper on the marriage of
their son, Shepard Roeper to Kelly Griffin on May 21, 2016.

Michele & Sam Asher on the marriage of
their son, Adam Asher to Jacki Strum on June 4, 2016

Russell Finer, grandfather, & Allen Finer, great-grandfather, on the birth of
their granddaughter, Miriam Shira Levy born July 27, 2016. Also to parents
Rachel and Aaron Levy of Ann Arbor, Michigan.

BAT MITZVAH

Taly Leibowitz
September 10, 2016

Taly Anne Leibowitz will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on
September 10, 2016. Taly is the daughter of Amy and Seth Leibowitz and
the sister of Jordan. She is the granddaughter of Melanie Becker and
the late Stanley Becker, both of Richmond, Virginia and Elliot Leibowitz and the late Elaine
Leibowitz, both of Old Bridge, New Jersey.

Taly is an honor roll student in the eighth grade at Collegiate where
her favorite subjects are science and history. Taly has studied dance at the
School of Richmond Ballet for eight years. She enjoys painting, cooking,
and spending time with her friends.

For her Mitzvah Project, Taly helped with the food distribution program
at the Peter Paul Development Center. Taly also volunteered at the
Faison School for Autism this past spring through the Connect Richmond program at Collegiate.

Taly is excited to share this special day with her friends, her family, and
the Beth Ahabah community.

For Help Navigating Senior Care Options

Information on senior care and services to help make informed decisions about:

Independent Living + Assisted Living
Nursing Homes + Alzheimer’s Care + Respite Care
Home Health + Hospice

Rachel Rachel C. Schmidt
Senior Care Navigator

Contact Rachel at 804.690.8439 or rachelcohenschmidt@gmail.com
to set up a complimentary consultation today.
CBA LIFE: Welcoming Rabbi Nagel and his family to Beth Ahabah and Richmond

Havurot at members' homes....

A cookout at the Temple....

A Shabbat in the Park...
Did you know... that in the United States, where less than 2 percent of the population is Jewish, approximately 5.5 million Jews reside.

Did you know... that the next largest Jewish population is in France, where nearly half a million Jews live. In France, the Jewish community accounts for less than 1 percent of the country's total population.

Did you know... that today there are fewer than 15 million Jews living worldwide, which constitutes 0.2 percent of the world's population. The Jewish faith is practiced in 134 out of the world's 238 countries.

Did you know... that Judaism is the world's smallest monotheistic religion?

Did you know... that prior to World War II, there were over 16 million Jewish people? More than 6 million Jews were killed during the Holocaust.

Did you know... that five Jewish holidays are celebrated during the month of September or early October? These holidays include Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot, Shemeni Atzeret and Simchat Torah.

THE ORIGINS OF ROSH HASHANAH

The origins of Rosh HaShanah are found in the Bible. The Book of Leviticus (23:24-25) declares: “In the seventh month, on the first day of the month, you shall observe a day of rest, a memorial proclaimed with the blowing of the shofar, a holy convocation.” Although this day eventually became Rosh HaShanah, the Jewish New Year, it was not originally known as such. In ancient times, there were four “new years” in the Jewish calendar. Each had a distinct significance:

- The first of the Hebrew month of Nisan, the New Year of Kings, was the date used to calculate the number of years a given king had reigned.

- The first of the Hebrew month of Elul was the new year for tithing of cattle, a time when one of every 10 cattle was marked and offered as a sacrifice to God.

- The first of the Hebrew month of Tishrei was the agricultural new year, or the New Year of the Years.

- The 15th of the Hebrew month of Sh’vat, known as Tu BiSh’vat, was the New Year of the Trees.

Although the Torah refers to Nisan as the first month of the Jewish year, the first day of the month of Tishrei emerged as what we now know as Rosh HaShanah.

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

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

http://www.reformjudaism.org/rosh-hashanah-history
PREPARING FOR THE HIGH HOLY DAYS

from urj.org

As summer winds down and the back-to-school season approaches, so, too, do the High Holidays. Jewish tradition provides us with several reminders of the upcoming Days of Awe, as well as a number of ways we can prepare for them.

The days between Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur are known at the Days of Awe, or Yamim Noraim in Hebrew. During this period, individuals examine their behavior over the past year, consider atonement for misdeeds, and seek a closeness with God. Practically, this is done through repentance, reconciliation, and forgiveness. The Shabbat between Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur is known as Shabbat Shuva, the Sabbath of Return. The name of this Sabbath is derived from the first words of the week's haftarah, Shuvah Yisrael, “return, O Israel” (Hosea 14:2). The custom in synagogues in Eastern Europe had been for rabbis to give impassioned pleas for repentance during their sermons on this Shabbat.

Elul: The Month Before the New Year

Elul, the month that precedes the Jewish New Year, is considered a time when God is particularly accessible to the Jewish people. The letters in the name of the month itself are embodied in this verse from the Song of Songs: Ani l’dodi v’dodi li (I am my beloved’s and my beloved is mine), which highlights the loving relationship between God and the Jewish people.

During Elul, the shofar is sounded daily during the morning service. This tradition not only reminds us that the shofar will be blown on Rosh HaShanah, it also is a wakeup call of sorts, reminding us of the High Holidays and urging us to begin our preparations. Also during Elul, Psalm 27 is added to the morning and evening liturgy. Beginning with the words, “Adonai is my light and my help; whom should I fear?” this psalm beseeches God to protect us from our enemies and urges us to put our faith in God.

Elul also is a period during which we might take some time for study. Beginning in the 16th century, Jews began to prepare for the High Holidays by studying a midrashic text, Maaseh Avraham Avinu (The Tale of Abraham our Patriarch). Exploring the early life of Abraham, this midrash reflects on the themes of Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur. A Faithful Heart by Rabbi Benjamin Levy offers a translation and commentary on this text that takes readers on a journey of spiritual preparation.

Cemetery Visits

It has become customary for many Jews to visit the graves of dear friends and relatives in the days prior to Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur. We recall our loved ones in the Yizkor liturgy on Yom Kippur and visiting their graves during Elul often provides us with the opportunity to reflect on their lives and to feel a renewed sense of closeness and connection with them.

Selichot

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

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

Elul Activities for Children

The Days of Awe can be made more meaningful for our children if we take time during Elul to have them help us prepare the house. Children love to help, and polishing silver or setting the table are great ways to involve them in the holiday preparations. For the budding chef, assisting with the cooking of holiday foods is a great family activity. Reading stories with younger children is a wonderful way to help them get excited about the holy days. Many Jewish authors of children’s books have written stories for the High Holidays. Sophie and the Shofar, for example, is a delightful tale about a dog named Farfel and a shofar that has gone missing.

http://www.reformjudaism.org/preparing-high-holidays
Rosh HaShanah Food
An excerpt from a blog by Tina Wasserman for urj.org

Cooking for the holidays is somewhat like Mrs. Schonberg’s hats; you know that certain foods will always be present on your holiday table, you just don’t know what form they will take.

We incorporate certain foods into our celebration of the High Holy Days because of custom and Talmudic dictate. In Exodus 15:2, it is written, “This is My God and I will glorify Him.” The Sages interpret the verse, as an exhortation to beautify the commandments in the most glorious fashion. Exalting God by taking the extra time to make our holiday table and ourselves more beautiful, using our best china and silver or getting our hair cut and wearing new clothes for the holiday elevate these mitzvot. Through these actions, we enhance the meaning of the High Holy Days.

The choices of food to represent the holiday depended on the region, societal customs and socioeconomic standing of the Jews. Ashkenazi Jews expressed their wish for a sweet and fruitful year by dipping apples and challah in honey. Sephardim spread their challah with dulce de manzana, a sweet preserve made from grated apples with rose water and almonds, and serving fruit in covered baskets as a wish for a year placing you at the head of life; also a fish never closes its eyes so like God, it is ever watchful over us.

Normally two loaves of elongated challah are reserved for Shabbat, but for the High Holy Days a round challah, sometimes containing raisins, is customary. The round challah is fraught with meaning; it is the crown of God our King, it represents a year filled with never-ending good, a ladder of dough placed on top represents who will ascend or descend in health or wealth in the coming year and a lesser known custom is to bake the challah in the shape of a bird or with a dough bird on top based on Isaiah 31:5 “As hovering birds, so will the Lord protect Jerusalem.”

It is customary to eat foods that symbolize sweetness, abundance and fertility. Sight association and sound/word plays on names of foods lend themselves to using these foods symbolically to reflect positively for the coming year. It is customary in Sephardi homes to have Seders containing seven foods with seven blessings using some of these word associations.

Some foods that Jews worldwide serve for the New Year are:

Carrots: Merren in Yiddish connotes the word “more.” Sliced, they look like gold coins.

Pomegranates: They are said to contain as many seeds as the 613 mitzvot and are a new fruit of the season.

Apples: The Gematria (number association) of Tapuach (Hebrew) is equal to Seh Akeida - lamb of the binding, referring to the story of Abraham and Isaac.

Fish: The whole fish or head is served as a wish for a year placing you at the head of life; also a fish never closes its eyes so like God, it is ever watchful over us.

Beets: Its Hebrew word relates to “removal,” as removal of our sins and our enemies.

Leeks: Its Hebrew word sounds like “to cut” - may our spiritual enemies be cut down.

Pumpkin: Represents the hope that as a thick covering protects the vegetable, God will protect us.

Now I am a member of a temple with over 2400 families, no assigned seats (would you want that job?), and no pews for squeezing in one extra person. I still have, however, the warm expectations of seeing and greeting my dearest friends at services. And, after Tashlich, many people who have positively touched my family’s life during the past year are invited to our home for a celebratory meal.

My friends have their expectations too. They expect to have a choice of dipping apples in honey or spreading the Dulce over my homemade Challah. They expect, no-they demand- that my “Killer” Kugel be offered in abundance. And they know and expect that in an effort to make our Jewish Diaspora smaller I will incorporate traditional dishes from Jewish communities all over the world in my festive offerings.

Whatever you do and whatever you cook, enjoy the process. Establish some culinary traditions for your family and friends - idor v’dor, from generation to generation. Have a happy and healthy new year.

Eat in good health!

Tina Wasserman is the author of Entrée to Judaism, a Culinary Exploration of the Jewish Diaspora published by the URJ Press. Tina is trained in Foods and Nutrition and has taught her love and understanding of cooking and Jewish culinary history to audiences in synagogues and Jewish organizations throughout North America and Europe. She lives in Dallas, Texas and is a member of Temple Emanu-El.
A NEW DIRECTION FOR BETH AHAHAB RELIGIOUS SCHOOL
By Katie Roeper

As leadership in the Religious School is transitioning, the Personnel Committee deliberated over the best strategic direction for ensuring quality and growth for the coming year and beyond. Several factors were considered including:

• Rabbi Nagel brings a strong background in Jewish education and an incredibly successful track record for developing, strengthening and growing enrollment of Religious Schools. We need to take full advantage of his expertise.

• A search for additional clergy is planned for the coming year, with a goal to join Beth Ahabah July 2017. This provides a great opportunity to explore the possibility of creating a dual role, by combining the Religious School Educator with a clergy position.

• During this transition we have an incredible opportunity to work toward a new vision for our Religious School, enable our teachers and children to experience greater joy within and outside the classrooms, and be more responsive to the challenges and needs of our community and contemporary Reform Jewish families.

The thoughtful discussions that have taken place over the summer, with the Personnel Committee, officers, Rabbi Nagel, and educators within and outside of Beth Ahabah, have led us to develop a special structure for the Religious School in the coming year. Although this does break away from the traditional Religious School Director model, it will uniquely help to take full advantage of Rabbi Nagel’s expertise, leave the door open for a dual Educator/Clergy role, and develop an inclusive process to create an exciting strategic plan for the new Religious School model.

The Religious School Structure for the coming year will include three new roles:

• A Religious School Administrator—This individual will serve as the administrative lead, running the daily operations of the school, serving as the point person for parents and perspective members, and along with the teachers, acting as the “Face of the Religious School.”

• A Religious School Dean—This role is designed to oversee the curriculum and drive the strategic direction of the school. Rabbi Nagel will serve in this role over the next eleven months.

• Consultants—These individuals will be brought in on a limited basis to provide expertise in facilitating focus groups of parents and teachers, professional development, and the development of the strategic plan.

This will be a “Visionary Year” for Beth Ahabah’s Religious School, a perfect complement to the transformational work that is happening on the congregational level as well. We have already received great input from Family Connection and the Religious School Committee and from a number of parents, who are excited about the future of Beth Ahabah Religious School. We look forward to hearing from as many families as possible to ensure that we are together, envisioning an inspirational model of education for our children. Many thanks to our teachers and parents, for your dedication and support. We look forward to an inspiring year together!

INTRODUCING HEATHER DINKIN AS THE NEW RELIGIOUS SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR

We are pleased to welcome Heather Dinkin, unanimously supported by both the Personnel Committee and the Board of Managers, to serve as the new Religious School Administrator.

Heather and her husband Bill, were married at Beth Ahabah and have been members for 23 years. They have two girls: Julia, a rising sophomore and dance major at Appomattox Regional Governor’s School, and Elinor, a recent graduate of Maggie Walker Governor’s, who is now headed to UVA. (Elinor is a familiar face around the Religious School as she served as a Madracha for the past four years.)

Heather is a past Board Member of Beth Ahabah, and served as Chair of
the Council for Social Justice and of Mitzvah Day. In the larger Richmond Jewish community, Heather has served for the past four years as Vice President of Administration and Community Relations for Rudlin Torah Academy (RTA) and worked closely with the board and Marketing Director to create new vision and mission statements for RTA.

With a BS from Bridgewater College, a BFA from VCU and an MS from Purdue University, Heather has taught K-8, High School, and college-level courses in the arts and sciences. Most importantly though, Heather considers herself a life-long learner and is a strong advocate for creating environments for our children that foster a passion for life-long Jewish education.

Heather can be reached by calling 804-358-6757 or emailing school@bethahabah.org

Religious School, a member of the Board of Managers, and President of the Congregation. Lewis also served in leadership positions in the Reform movement on both regional and national levels, and he was decorated for his service to the country during World War II.

Lewis died in 2004, and Minnie Cansino Held, Lewis’ devoted wife, established, in his memory, the Lewis I. Held Scholarship Fund Award to recognize and honor a Beth Ahabah high school student who lived up to those ideals which Lewis held so dearly – reverence for Judaism, service to the Congregation and Jewish people, commitment to improving the world, and personal integrity.

This year, we are proud to present the Lewis I. Held Scholarship Fund Award to Monica Rosenthal.

Monica was Bat Mitzvahed and Confirmed at Beth Ahabah. Each year since her Bat Mitzvah, she has been honored to read from the Torah during High Holy Day services.

Monica is a member of JeRAFTY, our Temple youth group. She was previously a vice-president and is currently the president.

She served on the committee to select the last two youth advisors.

For the past two years, she has served as a teacher’s assistant to Rabbi Gallop in Midrasha, our Monday night post-B’nei Mitzvah program.

With her family, Monica traveled to Israel on one of our congregational family trips. Her impression of the trip and Israel was included on one of the cards in our Generations campaign card.
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.

Beth Ahabah Women of Reform Judaism (Sistershood)
by Meg Marshak, President

Your women have been busy all summer planning for a full 2016-17 year. We are presently sponsoring a fundraiser Honey Sale. At publication time the sale is still going, see the weekly e-news for ordering instructions. It is a great way to say Happy Rosh Hashanah.

By now you should have received your membership letter from Beth Ahabah Women of Reform Judaism. If you have any questions please let me know. We invite you to be as active as you would like. If you have, your dues support our participation in Temple activities, programs, and Women of Reform Judaism. WE HOPE THAT YOU WILL SUPPORT US IN OUR MANY CAUSES AND ACTIVITIES, AS WELL AS, JOIN US FOR SOCIAL EVENTS.

The year of events will start with a bang! September brings us the Opening Day of Religious School Picnic. Last year we sponsored an Apple Bake Off contest. This year we are inviting the entire community, to make a dessert using apples and/or honey. The items will be judged and prizes will be given. The entries need to be at the park by the start of the picnic. If you prefer to bring your item at the beginning of Religious School with your child, they will be transported to the picnic site at 10:00.

Our normal High Holiday prep will begin in the Beth Ahabah kitchen. If you would like to help with the prep please let me know with an e-mail and I will be sure to let you know what times we will be in the kitchen. My email is meg.marshak@comcast.net.

On October 9, we will have our Annual Opening Brunch, where we will officially welcome Rabbi Randi Nagel, to our dynamic group. The brunch will be held in the Joel House and will feature great food, a few surprises and a chance for you to get to know us and we, you. Please plan on joining us.

On, November 19th, BA-WRJ is bringing to the greater Richmond community ‘Bubby’s Kitchen’. A one woman show, from New York, that brings us a glimpse of the struggle of our families, during World War II. Stay tuned for the scoop on a great evening.

This is an open invitation to every woman, to work with us, at our board meetings, at 7:00, on the 3rd Wednesday of every month. ODD months are at Temple and EVEN months are at Panera at Willow Lawn. If you can’t meet with us, jot me an email with ideas for projects or events and I will be happy to bring them to the Board. E-mail me if you have questions or suggestions. (see email above)

As I end this article let me take this opportunity to be the first to wish you a Happy New Year and an easy fast. I am looking forward to getting to know everyone and have the opportunity to help you have the feeling that we are STRONGER TOGETHER!

Have You Connected Yet?
BethAhabahConnect is a great 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.
Your privacy is secure. Available only for members of Beth Ahabah
Sign up today! visit bethahabahconnect.twolikeyou.com

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THE MENSCH ROOM
by David Feibish
President Beth Ahabah Brotherhood/MRJ

It takes some imagination, or in my case daydreaming, in the hottest days of a Richmond summer to write an article for the fall edition of B’Yachad.

While doing some research and reading on the MRJ website, I noticed a link, The Mensch Room.

The Mensch Room is a good description of not just a “chat room,” but also the real time physical environment every time I am involved with Beth Ahabah Brotherhood. Whether it is a planning meeting, preparation for or working as a representative of Brotherhood at a Beth Ahabah event, I know I am in a Mensch Room.

While in the throes of summer, Brotherhood provided refreshments at Rabbi Nagel’s Shabbats in the Park, and a meal for fabulous and well-attended Shabbat Summer cookouts on July 22 and Aug. 12. We had a planning meeting, approved a budget, prepared and sent out our annual Dues/Donation Mailer to the Congregation.

In the mailer, we requested that men of the congregation note a volunteer preference and include a way to contact you. Brotherhood is not about pressuring you to be active, but participating whenever you can, as volunteers are truly welcomed.

Opportunities to be a mensch via Brotherhood are on the horizon, so please take note. Brotherhood puts on our MRJ award-winning annual cookout for the start of the Religious School year at Deep Run Park, this year on September 11. The cookout is also Rabbi Nagel’s inaugural annual cookout, and we expect a large gathering. We will have lots of volunteer opportunities for any comfort level.

In addition to a fun cookout in September, Brotherhood also has High Holy Day Ushering volunteer needs. Watch for notices about it and other events this coming year.

Earlier I expressed my personal delight and satisfaction at being in a Mensch Room but make note that at Brotherhood we always have Room for More Mensches.

Respectfully submitted,
David Feibish
oldbenz@aol.com

Monica Rosenthal...continued from Page 16

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In addition to a fun cookout in September, Brotherhood also has High Holy Day Ushering volunteer needs. Watch for any Brotherhood and Temple communications if you are interested in usher participation.

Brotherhood welcomes you to be an usher at a Shabbat Service or making B’Nei Mitzvah gift presentations from September – June each year.

Brotherhood is planning another open, men’s social event. Watch for notices about it and other events this coming year.

Earlier I expressed my personal delight and satisfaction at being in a Mensch Room but make note that at Brotherhood we always have Room for More Mensches.

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David Feibish
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Monica Rosenthal...continued from Page 16

deck. She said that the trip, “helped me understand that Israel is a modern-day country where people live and breathe Judaism every day. My faith has a whole new meaning for me now.”

Here are a few of the activities in which Monica is involved outside of Temple and Jewish life.

She is a Girl Scout, and having the Bronze and Silver Awards is in pursuit of her Gold Award, the Girl Scout equivalent of Eagle Scout for boys.

Monica has been a student representative for 4 years in the Godwin High School PTSA, and is currently the co-chair of the student representatives. She was also voted the PTSA Volunteer of the Year.

She is in the French club at Godwin and participates in Virginia’s Teachers for Tomorrow Program.

She is a member of the Student Organization for Developing Attitudes, a mentoring program through which select high school students teach character-building lessons to middle school students in Henrico County.

Monica is a member of the National Beta Club, an academic honors program with a strong emphasis on community service.

She has worked as a summer nanny and baby sits regularly. Holden and Parker Goodman-Gallop are among her favorite clients.

This fall Monica will attend Radford University with plans to study elementary education.

Monica is the daughter of Beth and Dan Rosenthal both of whom are very active at the Temple and have set a wonderful example for Monica.
DONATIONS

TEMPLE FUND
IN HONOR OF:
Stephen Saroff’s special birthday
   Carol & John Wheatley
Suzy & David Schreibfeder’s 50th
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   Ellen & Steve Brothers
Lindsey & Monica Rosenthal on their
   graduations
   Katie & Jimmy Yoffy
Natan Berenshteyn for sharing your
   stunningly beautiful music
   Katie & Jimmy Yoffy
Jerry Samford’s speedy recovery
   Katie & Ken Roeper
Marilyn Lowenstein’s special birthday
   Katie & Ken Roeper
Robert Freed’s special birthday
   Katie & Jimmy Yoffy
Debra Gardner on her recent honor
   Katie & Jimmy Yoffy
Bonnie & Ron Kasoff becoming new
   grandparents
   Terry Schultz & Russell Finer
Russ Finer, for his assistance
   Joann Glaser Hurowitz
Chuck Greenberg’s special birthday
   Katie & Jimmy Yoffy
Janice Freed’s special birthday
   Katie & Jimmy Yoffy
Governor’s appointment of Ike Koziol to
   the Board of Medicine
   Ken & Katie Roeper
IN CELEBRATION OF:
Grace Zell’s new career at the New York
   Public Library
   Katie & Ken Roeper
IN MEMORY OF:
Shirley Greenberg
   Katy & Jimmy Yoffy
The Bekenstein Family
Evelyn Markowitz, our mother &
   Edward Glaser, our father
   Judy & Sheldon Markowitz
John Cook, Sr.
   John & Debbie Cook
Sarah Finer, my mother
   Allen Finer
Celia Snyder, my sister
   Allen Finer
Harry S. Tucker
   Cantor Frances T. Goldman
Sylvia Frank
   Anthony J. Frank
Shirley Greenberg, mother of Chuck
   & Mary Greenberg & grandmother of
   Sarah Jane Blankenship
   Katie & Ken Roeper
Daniel Roeper, our dad
   Katie & Ken Roeper
Ruth & Walter Galeski & Nancy &
   Laurence H. Levy
   Mr. & Mrs. John B. Levy
Louis C. Greentree
   James F. Felte, Jr.
Helen Weiner, my mother-in-law
   Russell Finer
Margaret & David Kamsky
   Linda & Irvin Seeman
David Markowitz & Patricia Glaser
   Pascal
   Sheldon & Judy Markowitz
Belle Zimlin
   Shelly & Sherman Lubman
Jack Cansino, my dear father
   Minnie C. Held
Miriam Schein
   Mark Schein
Harold Rapp
   Sheri Cox
S. Lew Goldman
   Stanley A. Goldman, MD
Murray Paster
   Lonnie & Diane Paster
Mildred Roeper, our mother
   Ken & Katie Roeper
David S. Wiggins, brother of Meg &
   John Marshak
   Ken & Katie Roeper
Ruth Maxine Jay, mother of Jim &
   Diane Jay
   Ken & Katie Roeper
Shirley Greenberg
   Laura & Rob Davidson
Harriett Goodman & Henry L.
   Holtzman, my father
   Denise Goodman Keil & Jeff Keil
Alex Brodsky
   Katy & Jimmy Yoffy
Anne Norman
   Pam & Sandy Norman
Morton D. Schumann
   Elinor O. Schumann
Samuel Finer, my father
   Allen Finer

THE RABBI’S
PHILANTHROPIC FUND
Sharon Sagal
IN HONOR OF:
The birth of Parker Kasoff
   Laurie, Adam, Melissa & Lyndsay
   Nelson
The birth of Reid Calloway
   Laurie, Adam, Melissa & Lyndsay
   Nelson
The marriage of Shepard Roeper & Kelly
   Griffin
   Laurie, Adam, Melissa & Lyndsay
   Nelson
Rabbi Beifield & Rabbi Gallop for their
   support during my Conversion
   Donna Poland
Daniel Nagel’s Bar Mitzvah, we are so
   proud
   Sharon & Phil Sagal
   Katie & Ken Roeper
Daniel Nagel becoming a Bar Mitzvah
   Vicki & Charles Spira
Rabbi Beifield in the naming of Jacob
   Elliott Silverstein
   Dr. & Mrs. Evan Silverstein
Rabbi Beifield for his assistance
   Joann Glaser Hurowitz
IN MEMORY OF:
Alexander Brodsky, brother of Heather
   LaMont
   Laurie, Adam, Melissa & Lyndsay
   Nelson

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:
Cantor Fran Goldman's music arrangement for Rabbi Beifield's retirement service
Steve & Susan Brown

IN MEMORY OF:
Joel R. Cohen
Fern Cohen
Liz Marks & Helen Marks
Kathryn Marks
My loved ones
Muriel Scoler
Marvin Berlin
Estelle Berlin
Ruth Maxine Jay
Katherine Shapiro Wootton

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL TUITION ASSISTANCE FUND
IN HONOR OF:
The Confirmation Class of 2016
Terry Schultz

GENERATIONS FUND
IN HONOR OF:
Rabbi Beifield
Matthew & Kaarin Gordon

IN MEMORY OF:
Naomi Bekenstein
The Bekenstein Family

HEBREW CEMETERY FUND
IN MEMORY OF:
Helene Weinfeld Shapiro
from her daughter, Katherine Shapiro Wootton; son-in-law, Bill & granddaughters, Amy & Lisa
Harriet Grandis
Nancy Grandis White

ELAINE L. SCHEIN RELIGIOUS SCHOOL EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP FUND
IN MEMORY OF:
Elaine Schein
Laura & Rob Davidson
Ron Tunick
Ron Kasoff

MUSEUM & ARCHIVES
IN HONOR OF:
The Speedy Recovery of Arlyn Webber
Cynthia Becker
Marilyn Lowenstein's Special Birthday
Kimberly & Martin Miller
Marcia Silverman
Cynthia Becker
Blanche B. Nusbaum's Special Birthday
Bonnie & Mike Eisenman
Louis Bowman, Jr.'s Special Birthday
Bonnie & Mike Eisenman

IN APPRECIATION:
Myrna Bornstein
Mr. & Mrs. Martin Parker
Barb & James Franch
Louis Bowman, Jr.
Constance Arlander
Mary Jane & Buck Cofrancesco

IN MEMORY OF:
Bernard D. Packer
Susan & David Farris
Shirley Greenberg
Bonnie & Mike Eisenman

THE HERBERT HELTZER FUND
IN HONOR OF:
Millie & Herb Heltzer's 56th Wedding Anniversary
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Rosenbaum

The CBA Communications Committee Wants You!
Do you have an interest in marketing, social media, photography or journalism?
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Insist on Stevie!
An Unsung Treasure of Our Collection

September is back to school time, full of pencils, paper and text books. In the Archives, one of our primary texts for research purposes is *The History of the Jews of Richmond*, written by Herbert Ezekiel and Gaston Lichtenstein in 1917. It is an invaluable reference when we are beginning a historical or genealogical research project. One of our most time-consuming tasks is conducting research. This research may be the result of an e-mail request, phone call, or a question that arises from other projects that are in progress in the Archives. While we have amazing resources available on our computers and in our files, often the first place we turn is the index of this book.

The authors tried to record as much history as they could uncover from primary sources. They had no Ancestry.com or internet upon which to rely. Their research was conducted by combing through court records and congregational documents, and by conducting personal interviews. The meticulous work that they carried out to create this volume was monumental in scope. Fortunately, you can now access this exceptional historical narrative on the internet, at books.google.com.

Herbert T. Ezekiel (pictured) was born in 1863 and died in 1938. He began his long career with Richmond newspapers as an apprentice at age 16. He rose from being a cub reporter for the *Richmond Times* in 1886 to city editor of the *Richmond Whig* and finally editor of the *Richmond Dispatch*. He published *The Jewish South*, a weekly newspaper, from 1893-1899, and wrote several other books.

Gaston Lichtenstein was born in Tarboro, North Carolina, in 1879. He simultaneously attended the University of Cincinnati (1897-1900) and Hebrew Union College, receiving a Bachelor of Hebrew Literature in 1899. Fluent in seven languages, Lichtenstein became a historian and researcher. He discovered and published the letters of Patrick Henry, organized the Virginia State Library, and wrote many essays and articles. He also had a newspaper career with *The Tarboro Southerner* and the *Jewish Record*, which was published in Richmond 1909-1910. He died in 1954.

GEMs OF THE ARCHIVES

We are blessed in the Archives to have not only a generous volunteer Board of Trustees, but also the most amazing group of volunteers that give freely of their time to help us in our daily operations. Carol Sesnowitz, Genie Crawford, Mark Schein and Peter Opper are regular volunteers in the Archives. They freely give their time to assist in completing many tasks and projects that could not be completed by our small staff. We thank them for their efforts and truly enjoy their presence.

For more information please call Russell Finer or Bill Thalhimer, III at 358.6757.
RICHMOND’S MOSES EZEKIEL IN ROME
An artist finds his perfect studio
by David Farris, Director

You may have heard about how James and Sallie Dooley happened on a dairy farm in 1886 while out riding their horses, and liked the land so much that they bought it and turned it into Maymont. These fortuitous discoveries seem to happen quite frequently and one such occurrence involved Moses Ezekiel, the Richmond boy who became the first Jewish cadet at the Virginia Military Institute (VMI) and later a renowned sculptor who chose to live in Rome, Italy.

While taking a walk one day came he upon some abandoned public baths on the smallest of Rome’s seven hills. The baths had been commissioned in the year 298, and were named the Baths of Diocletian in honor of the Emperor of the same name. Ezekiel first saw the baths in 1879 and immediately recognized that part of the surviving structure could be easily converted into a studio. When completed, it worked so well that he made further improvements and made it his residence as well.

Soon after moving in, Ezekiel had the walls plastered up to about eight feet and spent time painting garlands of fruit and flowers on the white background. He also installed a “modern” bath with hot and cold running water and plenty of candles for lighting up this immense room whenever it might be necessary. He gave the exterior a picturesque appearance by the planting of ivy and climbing roses on the pathway leading to the building.

For thirty-one years, until the building was taken over by the Italian government, this “wild and deserted place” was also a lively one. In an article on the building published in La Tibuna in 1917, Ezekiel’s tenancy was considered a cultural high point in its history. The article stated that . . .

It was in these immense and uniquely appointed halls that for many years all Rome and visitors to the ‘Eternal City’ gathered from time to time to admire his great works, receive his charming hospitality and listen to his wonderful musicales given by him through celebrated quartettes and quintettes.

The Italian government confiscated the building in 1910 to house an archaeological display for the festival and exposition of 1911. Ezekiel had to leave his “temple of art” but soon found another historical building to call home: a tower constructed in the year 537 by the Byzantine general Belisarius. However, Ezekiel always considered the Baths to be his special place in Rome. He called his autobiography Moses Jacob Ezekiel - Memoirs from the Baths of Diocletian.

This information was researched by Shirley Showers Belkowitz for an article in the Summer 2000 issue of Generations, the scholarly journal of the Museum and Archives.

Visit us at 1109 West Franklin to see sculpture by Moses Ezekiel and learn more about his connection to Richmond. We are open from 10-3 Sunday through Thursday.
BREAKING THE FAST:
Our Family's favorite recipes to fill the table
from a CBA Blog Post by Ellyn Sukonik, September 19, 2015

Grandma Rose's carrot pudding is an old family favorite from my mother. When my parents were first married after the war, (yeah, “the big one, #2”) they moved from NY to DC where they first rented a room from a nice older Jewish couple, Rose & Ben Minkoff. The Minkoff’s were like our adoptive grandparents, hence the name of the recipe is Grandma Rose's Carrot Pudding. The recipe card was typed by my mother Rivie (yes, on a manual typewriter). She gave it to me when I was first married and as you can see, it's been well used. All my cousins and relatives always put in a request for my mother to make carrot pudding for all of our holiday meals. It's truly a traditional recipe for our family, and I carry on the tradition.

For more of Ellyn's holiday recipes like the Holiday Honey Cake pictured below visit:
https://bethahabah.org/breaking-the-fast-our-familys-favorite-recipes-to-fill-the-table/#more-5106

CBA COMMUNITY CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 2016

Friday, September 2
Oneg Shabbat
6:00 PM
Shabbat Service in the Gumenick Chapel
6:15 PM

Friday, September 9
Shabbat Service
7:30 PM

Saturday, September 10
Bat Mitzvah of Taly Leibowitz
10:30 AM

Sunday, September 11
Opening Day of Religious School
9:15 AM
Congregational Picnic @ Deep Run Park
12:00 PM

Friday, September 16
Shabbat Service
7:30 PM

Sunday, September 18
Religious School
9:15 AM
Adult Yoga
9:30 AM
Shofar Choir Training
12:00 PM

Friday, September 23
Shabbat Service
7:30 PM

Saturday, September 24
Selichot Service & Study in the Gumenick Chapel
7:00 PM

Sunday, September 25
Religious School
9:15 AM
Adult Yoga
9:30 AM
Kindergarten Gesher
9:30 AM
6th - 8th Grade Putt Putt Fun Center Outing
12:00 PM
Shofar Choir Training
12:00 PM

Friday, September 30
Shabbat Service
7:30 PM

CALENDAR INFORMATION IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE, please check the calendar online at bethahabah.org
TEMPLE STAFF
Scott Nagel  Sophia and Nathan Gumenick Senior Rabbi
Russell M. Finer, FSA  Executive Director
Martin P. Beifeld Jr.  Rabbi Emeritus
Dr. Jack D. Spiro  Rabbi Emeritus
Frances T. Goldman  Cantor Emerita
Heather Dinkin  Religious School Administrator
Natan Berenshteyn  Music Director & Accompanist
Sarah Beck-Berman  Cantorial Soloist

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May the promise of the New Year be bright with hope and blessed with peace and happiness

L’Shana Tovah Tikatayvu