



# TEMPLE BETH-EL



83rd Annual Meeting

May 4, 2014/5774

# Agenda

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Call to Order .....	Rita Ruby
D'var Torah.....	Rabbi Creditor
Adoption of Minutes of 82nd Annual Meeting.....	Louis Gary
Outgoing President's Remarks.....	Rita Ruby
Nominating Committee Report & Election.....	Sara Rosenbaum
Installation of Officers, Board of Governors, and Endowment Committee Members .....	Rabbi Creditor
Incoming President's Remarks .....	Ben Lewis
Report of Budget & Finance Committee.....	Richard Genter
Men's Club Report & "Man of the Year" Award .....	Steve Green
Sisterhood Report & "Woman of Distinction" Award.....	Cathy Soffin
Certificates of Appreciation, Special Awards & Recognition .....	Rita Ruby, Ben Lewis, Louis Gary
Adjournment - Reception in the Social Hall thanks to the efforts of Josephine Harris	

## Certificates of Appreciation/Special Awards/Recognition

Temple Beth-El Lifetime Service Award  
Bea and Jack Fine

Exemplary Board Service Awards  
Bari Cohen, Harry Hirsch, Marci Linas, Bonnie Wilensky

Lifelong Learning Awards  
Pearl Karp Markham, Karla Worrell

Chesed Award  
Ephraim Seidman

### Certificates of Appreciation

Shabbat Unplugged Leaders: Maureen Genderson, Gary Goldberg, Alison Linas, Steve Linas  
Religious School Madrichim: Nicole Felmus, Jennifer Mollen, Mara Sharnoff, Brooke Silverstein, Asia Woods  
Professional Staff: Krista Fidlow, Norma Fiedler, Debbie Lacks-Hanner, Josephine Harris, Chris Muffo, Jayne Sklon

Recognition of "Next Generation Transition Fund" Campaign Leaders  
Ric and Rhona Arenstein, Chick and Judy Becker, Irving and Rhona Blank, Art and Susan Davis,  
Howard and Maureen Genderson, Harry and Lois Hirsch, Lee Krumbein and Susan Kornstein,  
Jeff and Bobbi Levin, Stanley and Janet Meyers, Mark and Susan Sisisky

Recognition of 2013-14 B'nai Mitzvah Class  
Louis Altman, Jared Beller, Deveney Burke, Sillah Burke, Gillian Cohen, Jenna Cohen, Jarrett Gouldin, Sam Gross,  
Sam Guinn, Samantha Heffron, Rachel Kaplan, Ari Looney, Sam Marks, Ben Katz, Kaleigh Sharnoff

Recognition of 2014 Graduating High School Seniors  
Taylor Altman, Matthew Baum, Nicole Felmus, Eric Goldberg, David Kadycz, Gabrielle Levet, David Negrin,  
Leigh Pennington, Jonathan Revenson, Brooke Silverstein, Cory Singer, Isabelle Stern, Zack Waskin, Asia Woods

Unsung Heroes Award  
Recipients to be announced at the Annual Meeting

## Minutes – Submitted by Louis Gary

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### Temple Beth-El's 82nd Annual Congregational Meeting, May 5, 2013 (5773)

1. Rita Ruby, President, called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM. A quorum of the congregation was noted to be present.
2. Rabbi Creditor delivered the D'var Torah.
3. Louis Gary, Secretary, submitted the minutes of the 81st annual congregational meeting which were approved by all.
4. Sara Rosenbaum, Nominating Committee Chair, presented the slate of nominees for officers for the term of '13-14, members of the Board of Governors for terms ending in '14 and '16, Endowment Committee members for term expiring in '16 and trustees for term expiring in 2018. The slate was approved by those in attendance.
5. Rabbi Creditor installed the officers, members of the Board of Governors, Endowment Committee members, and trustees.
6. Steve Green, President of the Men's Club, bestowed their Man of the Year award on Rabbi Creditor.
7. Rita Ruby presented a motion per petition of the congregation, seconded by A. Katz, for the initial employment of Rabbi Michelle Goldsmith as Rabbi of Temple Beth-El for an initial term of three years as approved by the Board of Governors.
  - a. Howard Genderson presented the search process, and discussion followed. 15 congregants spoke on the motion.
  - b. The question was called by Al Katz and seconded by Gary Weiner. The motion to call the question was approved.
  - c. E. Bender moved to conduct the vote via secret ballot, seconded by Lisa Zasler. The motion was defeated by a vote of 123 in favor, 144 opposed.
  - d. The motion to hire was approved by a vote of 251 (89%) in favor, 30 (11%) opposed, 4 abstained.
8. Becky Halpern, President of Sisterhood, presented the Woman of the Year award to Barbara Shocket.
9. Lifetime Service Awards were presented to Jacob and Margie Clayman; Exemplary Board Service Award was presented to Benita Felmus; Future Leader Awards were presented to Jaymie Cohen, Jenna Cohen, Aaron Falik, Rebecca Falik, Nicole Felmus, Sadie Gary, Devin Genderson, Frank Genderson, Grace Hessberg, Maggie Hessberg, Leigh Pennington, Aaron Silverstein, Brooke Silverstein, Winston Smith, Mason Smith, and Asia Woods.
10. Rita Ruby presented a motion per petition of the congregation, seconded by Steve Lapkin, to amend Article XV, Section 2, of the Constitution entitled "Employment of Rabbi and Cantor" to read "The initial employment of each Rabbi and Cantor who is to be employed for longer than one (1) year shall be approved by the Board with an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the members present and voting at an annual or special meeting of Temple Beth-El. Renewals of such employment shall be approved by the board."
  - a. After brief discussion, the question was called by Steve Linas with a second by B. Felmus, and was approved by those in attendance.
  - b. The motion to amend the Constitution passed by a show of hands vote: 100+ in favor, 10 opposed, 4 abstentions.
11. Noah's Ark Awards were presented to the Beth-El Sisterhood, Men's Club, Eva Brummer, and Joan Ruby; Outstanding Dedication to Temple Beth-El awards were presented to the members of the Rabbi Search Committee and the Executive Director Search Committee; Unsung Hero Awards were presented to Michael Hessberg, Martin Slutzah, Judy Crocker, and Jack Halpern for all of the time, money, and hard work that these members provided to the congregation.
12. Steve Green, President of Men's Club, spoke about the work that the Men's Club does to support the school.
13. Benita Felmus, Treasurer, thanked Sheldon Herold for his wonderful stewardship of the Temple during his 5 years as Executive Director. She identified that Jayne Sklon will begin her tenure as the Executive Director on June 1, 2013.
14. Rita Ruby emphasized her vision of Temple Beth-El as a welcoming, diverse and growing congregation. She thanked the many members of the Temple Beth-El community for all that they do, including Rabbi Creditor, Hazzan Turk, Sheldon Herold, Judy Crocker, the staff and teachers, Sisterhood, Men's Club, members of the Board of Governors, and her husband, David Ruby.
15. A congregant motioned for adjournment, which was seconded by another congregant. All members in attendance approved the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 3:41 PM.

## President's Remarks - Rita Ruby

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Fellow Congregants, Officers and Board Members, Staff, Rabbi and Hazzan,

Many of you know that I am a huge UVA sports fan—particularly basketball. A number of news articles in recent months have reported that the men's basketball coach at Virginia, Tony Bennett, follows “five pillars” in coaching the team—pillars that originally were developed by his father, Dick Bennett, more than thirty years ago. These pillars have been followed not only by basketball teams around the country in the decades since, but also by many businesses. For Bennett, personally, these pillars are principles of faith that he derives from his belief in the Bible, but he teaches them as principles of character. While I am certainly no Torah scholar, I believe that the Rabbi and Hazzan would tell us that the principles contained in these pillars all could be found in the Torah.

And I believe that these five pillars are exemplified in the best of what Temple Beth-El has been, is, and will be, and that I have personally seen them each demonstrated in my past two years of serving as your president.

The first pillar is **PASSION**. Bennett describes this as the drive and energy to continually strive to do better, to be better—not just in the easy times, but in the hard times. We certainly see that value exemplified in the story of the Jewish people played out in the Torah, and I have seen this passion demonstrated at Temple Beth-El over the past two years. I have seen my fellow leaders and member volunteers dedicated to maintaining and improving Beth-El in the face of financial challenges, staffing limitations, and the pushes and pulls on our time that every one of us faces. I have seen that passion in our Men's Club and Sisterhood working tirelessly to support our Religious School and our whole congregation at events like the beginning and end of year picnics, Men's Club speaker brunches and Sisterhood luncheons, the School Mitzvah Party, and Sisterhood-sponsored Friday-night prenegs. I have seen that passion in the leaders and volunteers who put together last year's Richmond Symphony fundraiser and who run the annual Golf Tournament fundraiser (which will be held this year on August 18). I have seen that passion in the volunteers and staff who worked for months to prepare for the Rabbi's Retirement Gala and in the countless hours spent by the members of the Rabbi Search Committee over the past two years. And I have seen that passion for Temple Beth-El from so many of you in your everyday acts and your extraordinary acts—coming to services, laying Torah, attending our Rabbi Search Committee coffees and candidate visits, participating in the Fall Gleaning or CARITAS week, giving your time, your ideas, your dues, and your

donations to benefit our Temple community.

And now we all must keep up our passion for Temple Beth-El and its future as we enter this exciting next phase. As Coach Bennett would counsel, passion isn't enough if it's just a feeling; it has to be a feeling that motivates to action, hard work and extra effort. There will be plenty of opportunities to engage with our new Rabbi and to attend transition-year events. But to make the most of this exciting time, we also will need everyone's passion to volunteer your time and your resources.

The second pillar that Bennett discusses is **UNITY**. It's the idea that when we come together in community we are greater than the sum of our individual parts. To me, this is the essence of what Temple Beth-El is all about. It's about coming together to learn, to pray, to laugh, to grieve, regardless of individual differences and preferences. While we can do all of these things on our own, when we do them together, we find greater fulfillment, joy and comfort. This takes a degree of unselfishness and willingness to compromise that are not easy for any of us, certainly not easy for me. But I have seen this community come through a very challenging time and come together, show a willingness to compromise and think of the greater good, that I find inspiring and exhilarating. I saw our community unify in a really tangible way at the special meeting in which we unanimously voted to hire Rabbi Knopf and when more than 300 of us came together to celebrate at the Rabbi's Retirement Gala. I challenge all of us to maintain that spirit in the days and years ahead.

Bennett's third pillar is called **SERVANTHOOD**. It's described as knowing one's role within the team and being willing to sacrifice in service to the team. I've seen this pillar demonstrated so clearly at Temple Beth-El. I've seen it in how our very hard-working and dedicated professional staff work together as a team to keep this congregation running day in and day out. I've seen it in the personal sacrifices that our Hazzan and our Rabbi regularly make in order to serve all of our needs. I've seen it in the willingness of our Religious School teachers to sacrifice personal time in order to teach our children, knowing that they do this out of a desire to serve the next generation, and certainly not because of the paycheck. I've seen this in the small acts of kindness shown by individual congregants stepping up quietly when they see something that needs to be done or a fellow congregant who needs help.

Bennett's fourth pillar is **HUMILITY**. It's described as knowing who you are and not thinking too much of yourself, but not thinking too little of yourself either. I won't dwell on this one, although it's certainly important. I only

## (President's Remarks continued)

want to share this: I know that I can come across many times as very sure of myself or convinced that I'm right. Sometimes that's real, but other times it's just my training. The fact is that one cannot help but be humbled by the experience of being a synagogue president and that certainly has been true for me. I am humbled by the fact that you let me do this, and I also am humbled by how many mistakes I made and how many things I wish I could "do over." I was speaking to another synagogue president the other day who also is finishing his term, and we shared the same feeling—now that we've been doing it for two years we are just starting to feel like maybe we could get the hang of it and could begin to make a difference, just as it's time to end our term! Don't get me wrong, I'm not suggesting that I want another year, nor are you suggesting you could put up with me for another year! I simply wanted to say that I'm genuinely sorry for the times I hurt any of your feelings, the times that I let you down, the times when I could have and should have done more or better. At the same time, I'm proud of those things I have been able to accomplish working with my fellow Board members, the professional staff, our clergy, and all of you.

And with that, I come to Bennett's fifth pillar:

**THANKFULNESS.** Bennett talks about the need to be grateful for the good times and the blessings, but to be equally grateful for the lessons learned through failures and hard times. As I end my term as President, my heart is filled with gratitude and I need to end by expressing my personal thanks to a number of people and groups. First, I want to thank Harry Hirsch and Howard Genderson who came to me three years ago on behalf of the Nominating Committee and asked me to consider nomination to become Senior Vice President. I am thankful for the faith you showed in me and the support you have given me ever since. I want to thank Brian Imburg publicly for something very special that he did for me as outgoing president that I now will learn is not easy to do: Brian and I are different people with different styles, different strengths and skills. I know that there were many times when it had to be killing him to watch a decision I made or how I handled something that was different than how he would have done it or what he thought needed to be done, but he didn't criticize me publicly and he stood by me. Thank you, Brian. And I want to thank all of the officers, Board members and committee chairs with whom I've served, who have lent their time, their service, their expertise and their experience, and who have offered me their wisdom and their moral support through both personal and synagogue challenges in these past two years. I want to thank each of

the members of our professional staff: Jayne Sklon, Debbie Lacks-Hanner, Norma Fiedler, Krista Fidlow, Josephine Harris and Chris Muffo. You all have been so helpful to me, and I am in your debt. I want to thank Rabbi Creditor and Hazzan Marian for your personal support and encouragement. It has been a great personal privilege to spend so much time with each of you, learn from you, and laugh and cry with you. I genuinely want to thank all of my fellow congregants for the love, support and encouragement you have shown me. It's been a real gift.

And finally, I need to thank my family. I thank my parents, of blessed memory, who raised me with an example of faith and service. I thank Joan Ruby and Arlin Ruby, of blessed memory, who have shown me love and pride just like their own children. I thank our three adult children, Jonathan, Aaron and Jessica. They have lived through the ups and downs of these past two years with me. I've answered the phone more times than I or they could count with the words "I can't talk now. I have a meeting," and I am grateful for their patience, their love, and their support. And I thank David more than I can ever express—for the occasions missed, for the meals not shared, for the glasses of wine waiting for me when I came home from meetings, for being my sounding board and venting place.

And let me conclude with this thought: after UVA's very successful 2013-14 basketball season, following Tony Bennett's 5 pillars of success, the sports commentators all predict that UVA's best days are ahead. I firmly believe that the same will be true for Temple Beth-El with Ben Lewis as our next president. You can count on me to remain Beth-El's biggest fan.

## Nominating Committee

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Marsha Feldstein & Sara Rosenbaum, Co-Chairs

### Committee Members

Susan Kornstein, Ed Mollen, Wendy Solomon, Nancy Walter,  
Bette Rose Webne, Marian Winer, Franklin Wolf

### Officers

#### One-year term: 2014 - 2015

President – Ben Lewis

Sr. Vice President – vacant

V.P. of Finance – Rick Genter

V.P. of Membership & Publicity – Debbie Minden

V.P. of School & Family Programming – vacant

V.P. of Adult Education & Social Action – Wendy Solomon

Secretary – Louis Gary

Treasurer – Benita Felmus

Immediate Past President – Rita Ruby

#### Board of Governors (Class of 2017)

David Perry

Howard Genderson

Melody Imburg

Elliot Bender

Craig Rader

Steve Green

Jennie Bandas

Debbie Falik

#### Board of Governors (Class of 2016)

Bonnie Wilensky

#### Board of Governors (Class of 2015)

Becky Halpern

#### Endowment Committee (Class of 2017)

Marc Greenberg

John Levy

## Incoming President's Remarks - Ben Lewis

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Rita, There are no words to express the appreciation this congregation has for your leadership over the past two years. It seems that you have spent your entire term in office keeping the congregation together as we tried and tried again to select the perfect rabbi candidate for Temple Beth-El. Like Moses, you've succeeded in leading us to a very important place, but I'm delighted to say that unlike Moses, who was denied access to the Promised Land, you will continue as co-chair of our transition committee. And of course, I will continue to count on your counsel and advice over the next two years in your role as Immediate Past President. (Brian Imburg, you're now officially free.)

It's a shame the majority of the congregation doesn't get to see all the organizational changes you implemented to help the Executive Committee and Board of Governors become much more productive. After having just spent several days at a USCJ leadership retreat attended by over two dozen temple presidents, I can tell you that, thanks to you, Beth-El's governance structure and practices are much stronger than most of the other shuls represented. Rita, thank you for all you've done for Beth-El in the past, and thanks in advance for your support over the next two years.

I would also like to thank those members of the board who have completed their terms as well as the two officers who have served the maximum number of years in their respective roles – Bonnie Wilensky, VP of Adult Education and Social Action, and Marci Linas, VP of School and Family Programming. I thank them not only for their years of service as officers and members of the Executive Committee but for their desire to continue to support the Temple as a board member and as a committee chair.

I also want to thank Rabbi Creditor for his entire tenure at Temple Beth-El, but mostly for the last twelve months. I'm sure everyone in the congregation recognizes how much better off we have been this year with Rabbi Creditor's steady and calming presence, as opposed to having an interim rabbi. Thank you so much for delaying your retirement for us.

My last "thank you" is to the Nominating Committee and to you, the congregation, for honoring me with the opportunity to serve as Beth-El's president. I certainly have large shoes to fill but I hope to provide the same solid leadership to which the Temple has become accustomed. Please know that I am the first to admit that I am not perfect and do not have all the answers. I ask for your patience and your assistance as we go forward together.

This is an exciting period in the history of our synagogue. For the first time in over two decades, we will welcome a new rabbi to our congregation this summer, and I look forward to working with Rabbi Knopf, Hazzan Turk, the Executive Committee, the Board of Governors, Jayne

Sklon and the office staff, and everyone else in the Beth-El community as we chart our course for the future.

Since I'm not a native Richmonder and did not grow up at Beth-El, I thought it might be helpful to tell you a bit about myself, and in so doing, give you an idea of those aspects of synagogue life that most resonate with me.

No relation to Sidney and Frances. When people learn that my last name is Lewis and that I live in Richmond, I'm inevitably asked if I'm related to the Best Products Lewises. I am not. My parents, David and Paula, were among the first to leave their shtetl of Brooklyn, NY in 1947 for the far off village of Allentown, PA where my sister and brother were born, before settling in Charlottesville, where I was born in UVA hospital. (More about UVA later...)

Back to New York. Before I started kindergarten, our family moved to Plainview, NY, the same town on Long Island where Rabbi Creditor had a pulpit years later. We belonged to Temple Beth Elohim, a reform congregation where my bar mitzvah class numbered 70 students and our family enjoyed attending Friday night services nearly every week. Nowadays at Beth-El, I particularly appreciate how our Friday night services offer the chance to put the work week behind and truly exhale and begin to unwind.

Music maestro, please. I grew up in a household that had music playing on the stereo all the time, and according to my parents, I was hooked on music from the very beginning. Fast forward a number of years and I've graduated from college with a music performance degree, and was studying with a world famous trumpeter and performing in a symphony orchestra in Miami. I truly believe that music provides nourishment for the soul. That's one reason why I used to conduct and sing in the Temple's high holiday vocal ensemble, and why I spearheaded the effort to have the Richmond Symphony perform in our sanctuary in November 2012. For those of you who stayed around until the end of Rabbi Creditor's Retirement Gala, didn't you love listening to Susan Greenbaum perform here? I sure did! And I'd really like to bring more musical performances into this sanctuary.

And now for something entirely different. As much as I love music, I made the tough decision that being a professional trumpet player was not the career for me, so I returned to UVA for graduate studies in Accounting and Information Systems. I've spent the last thirty plus years helping organizations improve their processes, and become more efficient and effective in providing their products and services. I look forward to looking into various aspects of Temple life and working with the corresponding clergy, committees and staff to see if and how we might improve some of OUR processes. Please let me know if you have

(cont'd on next page)

(Incoming President's Remarks continued)

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any suggestions regarding which processes to consider.

**Tar Heels!** After graduate school, I moved to Richmond and fell in love with Laura Borton, Charlie and Betty Borton's younger daughter. It wasn't until we were almost engaged that I found out that they were a family of rabid UNC Tar Heels. Not only did Laura go to school in Chapel Hill, but so did her father; her sister, Marci Linas; and later, Marci's two daughters! (Thank goodness Marci's husband, Steve, is a fellow Wahoo so I have someone to cheer for UVA with me.) I married Laura anyway, right here on this bimah, almost 28 years ago.

**Free Soviet Jewelry?** One of my first activities in Richmond was working with Leatrice Caplan on the Soviet Jewry task force preparing boxes of clothes to be delivered to Jews in the Soviet Union. I'll never forget using a post hole digger to plant a sign in front of this synagogue that read "Free Soviet Jewry" when a passer-by asked how she can get some of that "free jewelry." True story! Today, Beth-El still has a strong social conscience as evidenced by the extraordinary workings of our Social Action Tikkun Olam (SATO) committee.

**Proud papa.** We were living in NJ when Rachel was born, but we brought her down to Richmond for her naming. I can't explain how special Cantor Helfman made Laura and me feel as he "oohed" and "aahed" over Rachel as if she were the most beautiful baby in the world! When Michael was born we had already moved back to Richmond, so his bris was in our home with Rabbi Creditor's participation. Rachel and Michael had their bat and bar mitzvahs here and both continued their Jewish education through confirmation. Our children are the fifth generation of Laura's family to worship at Beth-El.

**Sentimental fool.** The one thing that both of them were most nervous about during their b'nai mitzvah was that I would cry during my speech. Maybe this is because I would cry during all the other parents' speeches. It doesn't take much for my tear ducts to let go – a few measures of "Bring Him Home" from Les Mis and the flood gates are open. If you see me on the bimah during Yizkor services, or even just sitting in the congregation, wiping my eyes with a handkerchief, don't worry. I'm fine.

**Men's Club...** When the kids were in Hebrew School, Ron Felmus invited me to join Men's Club. I don't remember if it was the first or second meeting when I found myself being named the organization's Vice President, then next thing I knew I was Men's Club President. Truthfully, I can't thank Ron enough for his invitation. Joining Men's Club allowed me to be part of a great group of guys who sincerely care about Beth-El, particularly the religious

school. I highly recommend it for all men in the congregation, but most of all, for fathers of school-aged children. As Michael Hessberg often reminds us, "the children are watching" so let's be good role models for them.

...and Sistas of the Hood. As Rachel's bat mitzvah year began, a number of her classmates' moms decided to bake sweets for each other's onegs. Over the course of that year, these moms, who came to be known as the Sistas of the Hood, (and corresponding dads) became a very tight group of friends and remain tight ten years later. That cohort is truly a microcosm of Temple Beth-El. Each family could bake (or pray or learn, or celebrate or mourn) on its own, but there's such a greater sense of community when these activities are done together.

I guess if I needed to say succinctly what I hope to accomplish in my term as president of Temple Beth-El, it would be to continue to help build an environment where everyone wants to spend time with fellow congregants – here at temple or in our homes – so that all members feel the same warm and welcoming sense of community, regardless of whether they have been members for generations or they just joined this month.

Thank you, and I look forward to working with and getting to know all of you.

## Budget & Finance Committee - Richard Genter, Chair

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Members: Judy Crocker, Benita Felmus, David Galpern, Chris Greenberg, Marc Greenberg, Brian Imburg, Ben Lewis, G.D. Rothenberg, Rita Ruby, Sara Waskin; plus the support of Jayne Sklon and Debbie Lacks-Hanner

I want to thank the committee members for their invaluable assistance which required their giving up leisure time to attend meetings so the current budget could be completed. I specifically want to thank prior Budget and Finance Committee chairs, Benita Felmus and G.D. Rothenberg, whose assistance was crucial during my first year as V.P. of Finance. Executive Director Jayne Sklon was never too busy to lend assistance and tirelessly updated one version of the budget after the other.

I have provided the chart below to show trends over the last five years showing actual results versus budget projections.

Fiscal Year	Actual	Budget
2009/2010	36,280	(166,772)
2010/2011	(22,204)	(118,332)
2011/2012	14,530	(148,862)
2012/2013	22,182	(162,305)
2013/2014	TBD	(205,700)
2014/2015		(90,592)

The budget projects a deficit of \$90,592 for the upcoming fiscal year. This number includes some expenses for two rabbis for a period of six months, and includes funds to support future programs for Rabbi Knopf. The budget reflects no fundraising which last year yielded \$10,000 for the golf tournament chaired by Louis Gary, who will be heading it up again this year. There was also a net contribution in the current year of \$21,000+ from Rabbi's Retirement Gala which included the dinner and Tribute Journal. The wonderful outpouring of ads taken for Rabbi Creditor exceeded expectations and really made the Gala successful for the Temple as well as a great memory for Ruby and Rabbi Creditor. While major fundraisers are not included in the budget, the budget does reflect \$4,500 earned from Kroger Cares gift cards. Everyone is encouraged to use their card and, if you don't have one, please purchase one from the office for five dollars.

For the 2014/2015 fiscal year, the Budget and Finance Committee has recommended a two percent dues increase which will result in a monthly increase of two or three dollars depending on your dues category. The long-term goal is for Temple Beth-El to increase membership over the upcoming years. We are also trying to develop some new and innovative fundraisers to help with expenses.

## Men's Club Annual Report - Steve Green, President

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2012-2014 Officers: Steve Green, President; Josh Cane, Vice President; Don Light, Recording Secretary; Ben Lewis, Financial Secretary; Michael Hessberg, Treasurer; Martin Slutzah, Immediate Past President

2012-2014 Board Members: David Abady, Reid Cardon, Michael Edelstein, Ron Felmus, David Galpern, Louis Gary, Howard Genderson, Rick Genter, Eugene Glock, Gary Goldberg, Morris Goldberg, Michael Greenberg, Brian Imburg, Marty Janner, Barry Lazarus, Steve Linas, Arnold Lowenstein, Neal Menkes, Craig Rader, Robert Siegel, Glen Wilensky, Barry Wilson, Booker Woods

The primary mission of the Men's Club is to support our children and their religious education. We opened the school year last September with our traditional Men's Club Back-to-School picnic served at the Religious School! We had a great time cooking our world famous hot dogs, and many of our families and children had a blast!

For Sukkot, several of our Men's Club members both assembled and dismantled the sukkah on Grove Avenue, and supported the assembly of the sukkah at the Brown Religious School.

In November and December, the Men's Club supported several initiatives. We helped with the Temple's hosting of CARITAS, and assisted by serving meals, staying over, and helping to clean up at the end of the week. The Men's Club had our Fall Speaker Brunch where Archie A'Baire spoke to us about the Baha'i people, and the oppression they face in Iran by their government. We hosted our annual Hanukkah Latke party at the Religious School. Latkes by the dozens were shared with families and students alike, and we enjoyed sharing the happiest of holidays with the Religious School students. As always, we combined that event with our annual blood drive. Many pints were donated, and helped to support the depleted blood supply in the Richmond area.

Once again, and thankfully for the last time in what we hope will be a very long time, the Men's Club supported a rabbi visit to Temple Beth-El by Rabbi Knopf. Several Men's Club members attended those events and services throughout the weekend, and also sponsored and staffed a brunch in Rabbi Knopf's honor. It was a joy to see him interact with the students and parents of the Religious School at this event.

Every year, the Men's Club joins together with the rest of the Jewish Community to celebrate Purim at the JCC, and this year was no exception. We prepared and served our world famous hot dogs, potato knishes, and hamburgers to hundreds of people, and had a great time doing it! It is amazing to see the Men's Club in action at community events!

Our Spring Speaker Brunch brought a returning speaker to our group. Todd "Parney" Parnell, the Senior VP and CEO of The Richmond Flying Squirrels Baseball Team, visited us again! His presentation was attended by

members of the Temple, as well as many Religious School students. Parney showed off his World Series ring while discussing the past, present and future of the team here in Richmond. This presentation was enjoyed by all who attended, and a very special guest joined Parney: Nutzy, the mascot of the Flying Squirrels. Nutzy stayed to take pictures with Rabbi Creditor, all those in attendance, and visited every classroom at Sunday School.

In May, we will once again congratulate the students and teachers for a great school year by putting on our End-of-the-Year picnic. People can't get enough of our world famous hot dogs! Thank you to Hazzan Marian, the staff, the school committee, and especially the parents and students for a great year.

In August, the Men's Club will travel north to watch the Washington Nationals play the San Francisco Giants for our annual baseball game. The New York Yankees contingent of our Men's Club was disappointed that we couldn't see a Yankee game. Sports-wise, the Men's Club will continue to support the Temple's annual golf tournament in August. The Temple Beth-El Men's Club softball team will once again take the field this spring and summer. We take a moment to honor our longtime manager, Don Light, who after years and years of playing and managing has stepped aside and retired to enjoy the Softball Team, as their newest fan and cheerleader. Come out, cheer with Don, and support the team, as they fight their way to victory.

I would also like to thank Bob Siegel, Brian Imburg, Martin Slutzah, Craig Rader and all of the others who step up at Bar Mitzvahs to present the Kiddush cups. We appreciate you taking the time to do this, and strengthening the Men's Club relationship with the next generation of possible members.

The Men's Club will also install their new officers and Executive Board in June. Good luck to our new leadership. May you have as much or more fun than I had in the last two years. We know you will continue our strong tradition of leadership within the Religious School and Temple, supporting our children, and our congregation. Thank you all for your time and energy. It has been my pleasure and honor to be your President.

## Sisterhood Annual Report - Cathy Soffin, President

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2013-2014 Officers: Cathy Soffin, President; Bonnie Wilensky, Vice President; Lisa Hessberg, Financial Secretary; Chris Greenberg, Treasurer; Fern Frost, Secretary; Barbara Shocket, Corresponding Secretary; April Williams, Publicity; Judy Crocker, Parliamentarian; Immediate Past President, Becky Halpern; Fran Broeder, Member at Large

2013-2014 Board Members: Arlene Slutzah (Gift Shop Chair), Marian Winer (Torah Fund Chair), Rebecca Kalman-Winston (Floral Fund Chair), Frances Goldman (Endowment Chair), Gail Schwartz (Commemorative Cards Chair), Stacey Baum (Invitations Chair), Amy Beth Lehman (Mitzvah Party Co-Chair with Becky Halpern)

Members at Large: Shira Futterman, Judy Gary, Lauren Plotkin, Nancy Walter

Honorary Board Members: Ruby Eisenberg-Creditor, Jayne Sklon, Hazzan Marian Turk

I want to thank all of those who have made this year successful by giving your time, your commitment and your donations.

The primary mission of Temple Beth-El Sisterhood is to promote the welfare of the Congregation of Temple Beth-El, the Jacob and Selma Brown Religious School, the families of our congregation, the Women's League for Conservative Judaism and the State of Israel.

To carry out this mission, I offer the following summary of revenue and expenses projected through April of 2014. Total revenue generated through fundraising and dues was \$27,613. Total expenses so far this year was \$36,674. These numbers project a deficit of roughly \$9,000 that we will draw from our endowment. The revenue and expenses include the following:

**School Support including:** Annual Gift to offset tuition and funds to pay for various school programs like Pancakes in the Sukkah and Challah Baking with Ruach (thank you to Debbie Falik and our own fabulous baker, Bonnie Wilensky). Also thank you to Fran Broeder and Susan Beller for giving the Parham Road kitchen the deep clean and reorganization that it desperately needed.

**Temple Support including:** Sponsorship of monthly Pre-Negs, repair of front porch of administrative office, decorative renovations of Temple offices, design software for marketing and communications, tribute book ad, staff holiday gifts and kitchen supplies

**Congregational Programming including:** Sponsorship of Kiddush Luncheons and monthly Friday night Pre-Negs, monthly speaker luncheons including presentations by Sara Belle November and Shoshanna Schecter-Shaffin and a Game Day, annual Bubbles 'N Brunch (free event for all Sisterhood members)

**Major Fundraising efforts:** Member Dues, Winter Mitzvah Party, Annual Spring Donor, Gift Shop, Floral Fund, Commemorative Cards, Invitations

We honored our Sister Becky Halpern as Kallah Bereshit at Simchat Torah for her many years of dedication to Sisterhood and to this congregation.

Of special note, we had our 2nd Annual Mitzvah Party where families came together to enjoy dinner and dancing. I want to thank Becky Halpern and Amy Beth Lehman for putting together a wonderful night of dinner and dancing. The kids of all ages enjoyed line dances, games, and terrific treats prepared by Amy Beth and Jack Halpern. David Sporn, Mobile DJ, provided music pro bono, and members of the school committee including Susan Beller, Bari Cohen, Debbie Falik, Judy Gary, Lisa Hessberg, Marci Linas and Nancy Walter donated prizes.

We look forward to our Spring Donor, Wednesday, May 21, 2014 with a musical tribute to all our Sisters featuring Hazzan Marian Turk and Cantor Errol Helfman. Invitations will arrive after Passover.

I also will take this opportunity to urge you to support Temple Beth-El Sisterhood by membership, volunteering, attending our events and donating to our fundraisers.

## Rabbi Search Committee - Harry Hirsch, Chair

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Members: Howard Genderson, Vice Chair; Elliott Bender, Bari Cohen, Michael Edelstein, Debbie Falik, Benita Felmus, Becky Halpern, Melody Imburg, Al Katz, Ben Lewis, Laura Lewis, Ed Mollen, Bob Pustilnik, G.D. Rothenberg, Rita Ruby, Susan Sisisky

Within a few weeks after the May 5, 2013 annual meeting, the committee learned that it needed to continue the search for a new rabbi for the congregation. Most of the 2012-13 members of the committee agreed to remain on the committee during 2013-14. The composition of the committee was enhanced by the addition of Becky Halpern, Elliott Bender and Ben Lewis. Laura Lewis also joined the committee as the new chair of the Personnel Committee.

The committee made a recommendation to the Board of Governors that the congregation not hire an interim rabbi (to serve during the search for a senior rabbi) and that Rabbi Creditor remain as our rabbi until the end of June 2014. The recommendation was implemented, in no small part as a result of Rabbi Creditor's gracious agreement to continue as our rabbi through June. As a result, we were able to get right to work on our search for a new senior rabbi instead of first conducting an interim rabbi search. The congregation was informed of these developments by a July 16, 2013 letter to the congregation.

Then the committee reviewed and enhanced the congregation's application to the Rabbinical Assembly (RA) in order to best sell our shul and the Richmond metro area to prospective applicants. Perhaps the best enhancement was reconfiguring the compensation package to attract stronger candidates. The newly revised application was submitted to the RA on August 16, 2013.

On August 22, 2013, Rita Ruby and Harry Hirsch met in New York City with the director of the RA placement program to educate him further about our congregation, Richmond and the Jewish community; what we were looking for in a rabbi; and our feedback about last year's applicants. We also sought his feedback about our process and what we could do to improve it for the 2013-14 search.

The committee received its first rabbi application for the 2013-14 search on August 24, 2013.

The committee decided to conduct monthly Coffees for congregants at which the committee informed congregants about the current status of the search and answered any questions. Four Coffees were held September 22, 2013 (Parham); October 27, 2013 (Parham); November 24, 2013 (Parham); and December 7, 2013 (Grove). Over one hundred congregants attended the Coffees.

On September 30, 2013, the committee filed a second revised application with the RA, which resulted from the

meeting held at the RA in New York City as well as the review by another rabbi of the prior application.

In mid-October, 2013, Rita Ruby, Ben Lewis and other congregants attended the annual convention of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism. This provided an opportunity to "market" our congregation and Richmond to leaders and rabbis in attendance.

A total of 38 rabbis applied for our position between September 2012 and January 2014, 17 during the first year and 21 during the second year.

Rabbi Michael Knopf applied for our position at the beginning of October 2013. The committee then proceeded to conduct its usual due diligence including the following steps: (1) review of Rabbi Knopf's resume, (2) conduct of an internet search, (3) conduct of a phone screen interview with one committee member, (4) conduct of a Skype interview with the full committee, and (5) conduct of interviews of references, as well as other individuals also deemed appropriate. On November 3, 2013, the committee decided to bring Rabbi Knopf and Adira to Richmond for a week-end visit.

After appropriate notice to the congregation, and preparation by many people, Rabbi Knopf and Adira visited our congregation, the greater Jewish community and the Richmond metro area on the weekend of December 13-15, 2013.

On December 16, 2013, the committee unanimously voted in favor of the following: The Rabbi Search Committee recommends to the Executive Committee that it vote to recommend to the Board of Governors to extend an offer of employment to Rabbi Michael Knopf as the next Rabbi of Temple Beth-El, subject to the approval of the congregation.

On December 17, 2013, the Executive Committee unanimously voted in favor of the committee recommendation. On December 19, 2013, the Board of Governors voted unanimously to hire Rabbi Michael Knopf subject to the approval of the congregation.

A thirty-day notice was sent to the membership about a January 26, 2014 special congregational meeting regarding the hiring of Rabbi Knopf. At the meeting, approximately 300 members were in attendance. The vote was unanimously in favor of hiring Rabbi Knopf as our new rabbi.

## Personnel Committee Report - Laura Lewis, Chair

Members: Marsha Feldstein, Benita Felmus, Louis Gary, Ben Lewis, G.D. Rothenberg, Rita Ruby, Nancy Walter

This has been another busy year for the Temple Beth-El Personnel Committee. I would first like to thank our prior chair, Audrey Schumacher Turner, for her leadership of and dedication to the Personnel Committee for many years, culminating last November. We are also fortunate to have dedicated members who have likewise given their time and efforts for the betterment of TBE. I couldn't have chaired this committee without their collective wisdom, guidance and support.

Needless to say, one of the most important processes undertaken at Beth-El this past year was the continued search for a new Rabbi, culminating in the hiring of Rabbi Michael Knopf. While the Personnel Committee was not directly involved in that process, several of our members participated on the Rabbi Search Committee. We thank them for the countless hours dedicated to this process. The Personnel Chair was involved in negotiating contract terms with Rabbi Knopf, and serves on the Transition Committee which aims to ensure a smooth but exciting transition for both Rabbi Knopf and the congregation.

The Personnel Committee remains involved in working with our clergy and Executive Director on an on-going basis. We help ensure that our professional staff has the support and guidance it needs from lay leadership as we

strive to reach mutually agreed-upon goals. Additionally, the Personnel Committee has worked closely with Executive Director Jayne Sklon to arrange new employee health care coverage in compliance with the Affordable Care Act. Jayne's experience and knowledge of employee health plans has proved invaluable as we vetted our various options and selected a plan which allows us to continue providing excellent health care coverage at an affordable cost to the congregation.

We would like to welcome Krista Fidlow to our Beth-El family. Krista joined us this year as our Communications and Bulletin editor, and has made a wonderful addition to our hardworking staff. As always, our thanks go to all of our Grove Avenue employees, who also include Norma Fiedler, Debbie Lacks-Hanner, Josephine Harris and Chris Muffo. Please stop by the synagogue and introduce yourself to these folks who work so hard to the betterment of Beth-El each and every day!

Looking to the upcoming year, we plan to review the Temple Beth-El Employee Handbook for best practices and procedures, revising where appropriate. We will also continue to provide support and guidance to our professional staff, and support Rabbi Knopf as he joins our Beth-El family.

## Endowment Committee - Ron Felmus, Chair

Members: Frances Goldman, Marc Greenberg, John B. Levy, Robert Siegel

In 2013, The Endowment Committee worked to try to improve investment performance. Investment returns and contribution are the two ways we can increase distribution from the Endowment to support Beth-El.

Investment performance for 2013 was 12.6%. Our benchmark return was 19.8%, resulting in an underperformance of 7.20% for the year. Annual returns in excess of our spending rate plus inflation (about 6%) are required to keep the fund growing. The Committee was disappointed with the underperformance to our benchmark. We held several meetings with the Richmond Jewish Foundation to discuss performance throughout the year and in the end decided to make a change by reallocating 50% of our assets to indexed ETF's to better match our benchmark.

The Committee believes there will be two significant benefits from this decision. First, 50% of our investments will have returns which closely match our benchmark. Secondly, we will significantly reduce the expense to manage this half of our assets.

Last year, we discussed moving a significant portion of money in the New School Fund from an intermediate bond fund into a balance equity and bond strategy. That move proved to be well timed as the intermediate fund returned -2.7%, while the balanced fund returned 12.6% in 2013--a performance improvement of 15.3%.

This past year the Legacy Fund provided over \$42,000 to support the Temple's operating budget. The New School fund dispersed monies for capital repairs; and Specialty Funds subsidized dues and Hebrew School tuition.

The Endowment is a tremendous asset left by our past and current congregants. It helps to sustain Temple Beth-El. If you are interested in providing a legacy for the future generations, please contact the office or any member of the Endowment Committee to see how you can help ensure the future of our congregation.

I would like to thank the members of the Endowment Committee for their time and the energy they bring to each meeting of the Committee.

## Ritual Committee Annual Report - Ed Mollen, Chair

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Members: Judy Okun Belinkie, Bea Fine, Gary Goldberg, Roxie Grossman, Harry Hirsch, Matt Langsam, Neal Menkes, Jim Plotkin, Craig Rader, G.D. Rothenberg, Milton Rubin, David Ruby, Rita Stein, Ellen Shapiro Turner

Ex officio members: Rabbi Gary Creditor, Ben Lewis, Rita Ruby, Hazzan Marian Turk

During the course of 2013 -2014, the Ritual Committee addressed or involved itself with the following main issues, matters, and areas of interest:

**High Holy Days:** The main role of the committee is for the smooth functioning of the Main Sanctuary and Social Hall High Holy Day Tefilot (Services). The Committee works with the clergy and the office staff, as well as the lay clergy, lay leaders and lay preachers. As this is being written (March) the committee is planning any necessary changes for Yamim Noraim (Days of Awe) 5775.

Please consider dedicating one or more copies of the Machzor Lev Shalem.

**Simchat Torah Honorees:** The 5774 Ritual Committee honorees were Brian Imburg and Moshe Zasler. The Sisterhood honoree was Rebecca (Becky) Halpern.

**Shabbat and Yom Tov Tefilot:** The Committee coordinates with Rabbi Creditor and Hazzan Marian to ensure orderly and smooth functioning services.

**Torah Scrolls:** The Holy Torah Rollers, led by Michael Hessberg, regularly unroll and re-roll each Torah Scroll to ensure that they are kept in the best condition possible, in

accordance with the guidelines established by our Sofer, Rabbi Gedalia Druin.

**Alternative Erev Shabbat Tefilot:** Lay leaders, with the help of Maureen Genderson, hold alternative Erev Shabbat tefilot (Shabbat Unplugged, Shabbat Under the Stars) every month. We are hopeful that additional services will be developed, which could be directed by a new cadre of Lay Leaders. The Committee and clergy would be happy to assist.

**Minyan:** Sunday morning minyan continues at Brown Religious School. Weekday morning Okun Chapel minyan is now held on Monday and Thursday. Give serious thought to attending this minyan, both to pray and to support those who are in mourning or who are observing a Yahrzeit. The Monday through Thursday evening minyan fairly often need additional support. A loving community supports the Shabbat Mincha minyan following Shabbat tefilot. Our Shiva Minyan Subcommittee, under G.D. Rothenberg and Neal Menkes, help Rabbi and Hazzan arrange for leadership of shiva minyanim.

## Community Care Committee - Judy Crocker, Chair

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Members: Rabbi Creditor, Norma Fiedler, Harry Hirsch, Lois Hirsch, Jeff Levin, David Perry, David Ruby, Rita Ruby, Bonnie Wilensky, Glen Wilensky

The community care committee, led by Norma Fiedler and in its second year, continued its dedicated volunteer efforts to our congregants. The committee members provided countless rides, companionship, and phone calls to many congregants, especially those who are home-bound needing various forms of assistance. The committee members performing these mitzvot continue to improve

the quality of life of our congregants and especially of our senior congregants who do not drive. A heartfelt thank you to the committee members for making a difference! Contact Norma Fiedler at [n.fiedler@bethelrichmond.org](mailto:n.fiedler@bethelrichmond.org) if you would like to volunteer for the Community Care Committee.

## Brown Religious School Report

### Marci Linas, VP of School & Family Programming

2013-2014 Committee Members: Susan Beller, Paul Buckberg, Bari Cohen, Debbie Falik, Eric Futterman, Judy Gary, Erin Goldin, Shelley Gouldin, Lisa Hessberg, Jake Pasternak, Michael Polsky, Jonathan Sharnoff, Hazzan Marian Turk, Nancy Walter

Hazzan Marian and her excellent staff continue to guide our children through the Chai and Hineni curricula. The teachers are Laurie Kaplan (pre-k), Linda Griff (k-1), Melanie Marks (2, 3 Judaics), Galee Saar (2-3 Hebrew), Ronit Saar (4), Jason Caplan (5), Jordan Conrad Burton (5), Eric Saar (6), Don Cantor (7), Geri Stahl (8,9), and Alison Linas (music). The madrichim, high school students who assist our teachers in the classrooms and work one-on-one with students, are Nicole Felmus, Jennifer Mollen, Mara Sharnoff, Brooke Silverstein, and Asia Woods.

In addition to classroom learning from the Chai and Hineni curricula, students in Pre-K through grade 7 continued to enjoy special holiday activities. These included "Pancakes in the Sukkah," a community Hanukkah candle lighting, class Purim spiels, and a Passover scavenger hunt. Each class visited Beth Sholom Home for fun activities with the residents. Students and residents enjoyed making scarecrows, gardening, and having a karaoke party.

Hazzan Marian has expanded the tefillah program this year, teaching students the basics of Shabbat and weekday tefillot. Many of our students can now lead these services. The finale will be an Adon Olam sing-off on the last day of school, with each class singing to their favorite tune.

The high school students attend minyan on Sunday mornings, followed by breakfast, and Torah study. Their curriculum this year has included a study of Jewish Richmond. They have visited sites of interest, and have worked with Grace Zell at the Beth Ahabah Museum and Archives on data collection about their families and others in the Richmond Jewish community.

Debbie Falik continues to lead the Ruach youth group for students in grades 3-5. These students enjoy monthly activities that are social, educational, or of service to the community. They began the year with a scavenger hunt and an ice cream social, they went swimming at the JCC, they visited the state capitol, they saw "Oliver" at the Jewish Family Theater, they joined SATO for the fall gleaning and to make Shabbat items for Kosher Troops, and they baked challahs.

We look forward to welcoming Rabbi Knopf to Temple Beth-El and to the Brown Religious School. In addition, Hazzan Turk is planning a full schedule of Tot Shabbat and Junior Congregation services for next year. We hope to see you there!

## Membership & Publicity - Debbie Minden, Vice President

This year Temple Beth-El is happy to announce that we have greeted 11 new members and their families and look forward to including them in our congregation. Despite this gain, membership has declined overall. We have gone from a congregation of 460 to 440. Much of the loss is due to deaths and families moving away from the Richmond area. There have been more of those events than resignations, but any decline in our number by any means is a loss to our community.

Membership is working on retaining current members and attracting new ones. We welcomed our new members this year with a dinner at Sukkot and a gift bag that included Bethelicious, Sisterhood's cookbook and information about Richmond and Temple Beth-El. We hope to start becoming matchmakers by pairing up long-time members

with new members in our community. If you would like to help in this effort, please contact Debbie Minden, 804-342-4289 or [deborah.minden@gmail.com](mailto:deborah.minden@gmail.com). We are always looking for people to help us with the work of the membership committee. We welcome your ideas and input.

This year Publicity has been handled beautifully by the office staff. They have updated the look of the website, the Bulletin, and the Good Shabbos announcements. These publications are much more user friendly and attractive. We thank Jayne Sklon, Norma Fiedler, and Krista Fidlow for all their efforts.

For more information about Membership and Publicity, or to join our team, contact Debbie Minden at 804-342-4289 or [deborah.minden@gmail.com](mailto:deborah.minden@gmail.com) or Larry Goldman, Membership Committee Chair, at [largold@verizon.net](mailto:largold@verizon.net).

## Social Action / Tikkun Olam Committee - Ephraim Seidman, Chair

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Members: Fran Broeder, Debbie Falik, Gary Goldberg, Alison Linas, Marci Linas, David Perry

Sub-Committee - Green Team Members: Craig Rader, Chair; Benita Felmus, Brian Imburg, Mitch Ragone, Ephraim Seidman, Jayne Sklon, Franklin Wolf

SATO programs during this past year included:

**KosherTroops - 23 March 2014** – This was our first program working with KosherTroops. Debbie Falik and Ruach took the lead, and we had 21 Temple Beth-El members and children participate. They made 72 tie-dye challah covers, 18 Hamsa wall hangings, and 12 homemade cards that were sent to Jewish troops serving in the US Armed Forces.

**Be The Match – 15 March 2014** – Another new program, this time with Be The Match, held on Purim. Marci Linas planned this program to collect cheek swabs from Temple members for possible matches for bone marrow, blood stem cell, and umbilical cord blood transplants. Our efforts added 15 new people to the Be The Match registry!

**Switch (Mitzvah) Day – 25 December 2013** – Gary Goldberg arranged for 8 Temple members to volunteer at McGuire VA Medical Center on Christmas Day. They set up & ran a Bingo game, handed out prizes, and just spent time with our nation's heroes. Six additional Temple members were scheduled to volunteer at Beth Sholom Home, but that was canceled at the last minute due to concerns about patient health.

**CARITAS Week – 14 to 20 December 2013** – As always, our CARITAS week was by far Temple Beth-El's largest SATO event. A total of 77 different Temple Beth-El members completed 118 tasks during our week, while volunteering more than 348 hours. On average, we hosted 33 men each night.

**2nd Annual Fall Gleaning – 3 November 2013** – Along with another ~100 volunteers from area churches, 42 Temple Beth-El members & children gleaned over 6,000 lbs. of pumpkins, ~1,800 lbs. of corn (not including Indian corn that was harvested to feed goats), ~160 lbs. of greens (kale & collards), ~150 lbs. of tomatoes, and ~80 lbs. of assorted vegetables (eggplant, green beans, and black-eyed peas). Mark your calendar for the 3rd Annual Temple Beth-El Fall Gleaning on Sunday, 2 November 2014!

**Yom Kippur Food Drive - Temple Beth-El members** donated over 415 pounds of food for the 2013 Yom Kippur Food Drive. That is almost double the weight of food collected (220 pounds) in last year's Food Drive! All the food was donated to the Central Virginia Food Bank.

**2013 Earth Day Stewardship Contest - 2nd Place, Temple Beth-El.** Won by Boulevard United Methodist Church with 56% participation, they received \$1500 towards an energy assessment and recommended efficiency measures. In second place, with 37% participation, was Temple Beth-El with a prize of \$1000 towards an energy assessment. The Green Team did an Energy Assessment at the Brown School and the prize money went to upgrading and replacing thermostats in the building that will save Temple Beth-El money.

**1st Annual Clean The Bay Day – 2 June 2013** – 33 Temple Beth-El members collected about 200 lbs of recycling materials and ~600 lbs. of trash from the James River Park System's Pony Pasture Park on Southside. Temple Beth-El volunteers will be meeting again (rain or shine!) on Sunday, 8 June 2014 at 10 AM at Pony Pasture parking lot, 7310 Riverside Drive, Richmond VA 23225 for our 2nd Annual Clean The Bay Day!

And last, but not least, is our ongoing project to collect aluminum Pop Tops for the Ronald McDonald House (RMH) of Richmond. Containers are at Grove Avenue and the Brown School. Here is a link and the info on the Richmond RMH: <http://www.rmhc-richmond.org/index096e.html>

We look forward to seeing you at one of our SATO programs soon!

Rabbi Tarfon said,

"It is not your obligation to complete the task [of perfecting the world], but neither are you at liberty to desist from it entirely."

Pirkei Avot 2:16

## Facilities Committee - Brian Imburg, Chair

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Members: Michael Hessberg, Craig Rader, Mitch Ragone, Jayne Sklon, Glen Wilensky

Fellow congregants,

It continues to be a challenge keeping our real estate assets functioning at Temple Beth-El. Our Parham Road campus is 16 years old now. While it is fully functional and rented, our use and our tenants use put a strain on its physical plant. The building is in good shape, but some stress and settling cracks can be seen in some walls and classrooms. One of the HVAC units was replaced as it has reached its end of service. The others are all in serviceable shape.

The Grove Avenue campus is made up of the main sanctuary, the administration building the old school building the two rental units, and the parking area in the middle of the block. I would like to thank Colonel Jay Ipson for providing and operating the line painter and paint when we undertook the parking lot restriping project before the High Holy days. The two rental units are upgraded, updated and fully rented and we have ended our rental management engagement with Bandazian property management. All of these efforts were driven by Barbara Shocket and we thank her for effort and expertise. The old school building had a boiler failure in early winter and that was repaired in a timely fashion. A needed upgrade for that building would be to replace all of the single pane louvered windows. The administration building suffered a boiler loss at the end of the winter and our staff had to work in less than ideal conditions using space heaters which were inadequate to the task of heating the building. They are to be commended for keeping at task under these grueling conditions. We are researching the best way to replace the boiler and mitigate another such failure. The main sanctuary building has several areas that need attention and improvement. Most notably you will remember that the ceiling above the second floor balcony collapsed and necessitated that the balcony be off limits to congregants. That was repaired and it is back open. The ceiling in the social hall still needs attention. The hold up on that project is that we can't seem to get any contractors that really want to work on it. It is a specialized construction and we may have to bite the bullet and take it all down and start from scratch with a new design. The men's room off the social hall needs an upgrade but that will probably entail taking up the floor to expose the drainage system for replacement. You can see some water infiltration on the northwest corner of the sanctuary. And there is always the apparent leakage in the southwest part of the roof in the sanctuary. Any of these projects are dependent on funds, which are in short supply.

We have been in talks with Verizon about placing a cell phone antenna on the roof of the sanctuary. That will supply us with some cash flow to start some of these needed repairs to our beloved sanctuary complex. As always, anybody that would like to donate money, expertise or labor is welcome to get in touch with the office and schedule a time to meet and get you more active in the care and maintenance aspect of Temple Beth-El.

# Temple Beth-El's 6th Annual Golf Tournament

Monday, August 18, 2014 ~ The Crossings Golf Club ~ Glen Allen, VA

Entry Fee \$125 per person / \$425 per team

(Includes: Golf Cart ~ Range Balls ~ Refreshments

Gift Bag ~ Door Prize/Raffle Ticket ~ Awards Luncheon)

Early Bird Special! Register by June 15, 2014 ~ \$110 per golfer / \$400 per team

### Prizes (per player):

First (\$100 bank card) ~ Second (\$75 bank card) ~ Third (\$50 gift card)

Mulligans ~ Longest Drive ~ Closest to the Pin ~ Multiple Door Prizes/Raffle Drawings ~

3-Hole Double Your Money Contest



### Registration:

Yes, I want to play golf! There will be \_\_\_\_\_ people in my group @ \$125 per person or \$425 per team  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ total included

(Reserve your place now - limited spots available!)

Player Name(s):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



### Schedule:

Registration 8:00 a.m.

Shotgun Start 9:00 a.m.

Best Ball

Scramble format

Awards Luncheon following

### Yes, I want to be a Sponsor!!

Title (includes 2 foursomes)	@ \$2,500	Hole (includes tee & green)	@ \$200
Awards Luncheon (includes 1 foursome)	@ \$1,800	Tee or Green	@ \$150
Tournament (includes 1 foursome)	@ \$1,500	Cart	@ \$60
Longest Drive or Closest to Pin	@ \$500	Sponsorship Package	@ \$500
Drink Cart	@ \$375	(includes 1 foursome & a tee or green plus 4 mulligans)	
		Early Bird Sponsorship Pkg.	@ \$475

Please make checks payable to:  
Temple Beth-El Golf Tournament

Please mail registration form & payment to:  
Temple Beth-El Golf Tournament  
Lavin Gary, Chair  
3330 Grove Ave, Richmond, VA 23221



Sponsor Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder's Name (as it appears on card): \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City/State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_ CVV: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



