



Chris Greenberg

Invitation to the Kallat Ha-Torah

Chris was born in Hartford, Ct. Virginia became her home when her parents transferred to Richmond in her freshman year of college. She had an 18-year career in banking and consulting with companies, non-profits and municipalities on their employee retirement plans before retiring to focus on her family. Raised in a large Italian family on her mother's side, and supported in her learning

by her future in-laws, the choice to convert to Judaism was a natural one. Chris and her husband, Marc, spent many years in a Havurah group originally created through Jewish Family Services where they learned about various topics and made Jewish connections in the community. Chris was a member of Rabbi Creditor's final adult bar and bat mitzvah class.

Service to the community was learned from Chris' parents and began when her children were preschool students at the Weinstein JCC. Chris is now a former president of the Weinstein JCC, she is still on the board, and she is active on many committees. She currently chairs the Life & Legacy Committee. Volunteering at the TBE religious school led to positions on the Sisterhood Board, including being the current President, and leadership at the temple where she serves as Membership Vice-President.

Being actively involved at the Weinstein JCC and Temple Beth-El has provided Chris with a strong and supportive community over the years. She truly appreciates strong human connections as she spent her youth moving from state to state. Temple Beth-El has provided support in times of joy and mourning as well as life-long relationships for Chris, Marc, and their two children, Lauren and Aaron.



Marsha Feldstein

Invitation to the Kallat B'reshit

Originally from Baltimore Maryland and a lifelong "Terp", Marsha always felt as though Richmond, along with Temple Beth-El, were her home away from home. Marsha grew up celebrating holidays and family simchas here. The Jewish epicenter of her large, close, Southern Jewish family, Temple Beth-El is where her Jewish heart beats.

When an employment opportunity arose to settle in Richmond, being close to the family and Temple Beth-El tipped the scales. Marsha met and married her husband Mark here at temple, they named their two daughters Jessica and Leigh on this bimah, and celebrated three bat mitzvahs, including her own with the Adult B'nai Mitzvah class of 2007. With the guidance of Cantor Cohen (OBM) and Rabbi Creditor, she learned to chant Torah. Her daughters served as madrichim at the religious school. Over those many years Marsha

considers herself blessed to have served on numerous committees and task forces, including the Visioning Committee, Building Committee, Personnel Committee, Nominating Committee (co-chair), the Havurah Project (co-chair), and three terms on the Board of Governors. When her father passed this last year, the love, support and guidance of the Beth-El community was irreplaceable.

But it's the quiet, "behind the scenes stuff" that Marsha is most passionate about - volunteering to usher for the High Holidays, showing up to make a minyan, baking challah and arranging flowers for a community Shabbat meal, and hosting clergy candidates. Being able to reciprocate all the love, support and comfort this community has given to Marsha and her family is an honor in itself.

Holy Torah Rollers

Invitation to the Hattan/Kallat Maftir

For over ten years, a group of dedicated Beth-El congregants have met monthly after weekday afternoon Minyan services to conduct a sacred duty. Over a 12-month period the men and women who make up the Holy Torah Rollers (HTR) lovingly perform the tasks necessary to keep kosher the seventeen Torahs owned by or entrusted to Temple Beth-El.

As part of the process, each Torah's silver crown is carefully removed along with the Torah cover and girdle. Two long tables are set out back-to-back on the bimah with the Torah placed on one end of the table. Four-person teams take turns rolling out the Torah, making sure that each parchment panel is properly "aired."

If there are tears in the parchment, or if the stitches connecting the panels are frayed, or if the letters on the parchment are fading to the point of turning illegible, the Rollers record the blemishes and take pictures to document the problems for a Sofer (scribe) to fix. It is HTR's mission to ensure that the Torahs do not become *Pasul*, or unfit. In addition to their monthly duties at Grove Avenue, they can sometimes be spotted at the Religious School displaying Torahs for the students.

The Holy Torah Rollers is a volunteer group. Anyone who is interested is welcome to participate by joining us at minyan on the last Monday of the month. Under the able leadership of Michael Hessberg who founded the group, and now under the leadership of Edward Mollen, the Holy Torah Rollers will continue their mission. They appreciate the recognition as Simhat Torah honorees.



left to right: Glen Wilensky, Ed Mollen, Michael Hessberg