



TZEDIK TZEDIK TIRDOR

by Rabbi Jesse Gallop



Rabbi Jesse Gallop, Associate Rabbi

As Reform Jews, we at Congregation Beth Ahabah are called to bring forth the Divine will by fulfilling our task as God's partners in repairing our fractured world. In traditional Judaism, Jews believe that by observing the 613 commandments of our faith they can bring about wholeness and healing.

Our congregation clearly sees tradition as an important building block of identity and community. However, we do not feel commanded to observe all traditions or religious law. Therefore, what unites us as a holy community? One of my heroes, Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, insisted we must go further; that observance of tradition goes hand in hand with our responsibility for kindness, justice, and mercy.

Throughout the generations, Reform Jews have been pursuers of justice. The words of Deuteronomy ring out, "Justice, Justice shall you pursue!" We as a movement and as individuals

volunteer, help those in need, and advocate for what is right. Within the Union for Reform Judaism there even is an organization called the Religious Action Center (RAC), which lobbies and advocates in our government and society based upon Jewish values. Rabbi David Saperstein leads this effort and through it we have been at the forefront of progressive and inclusive values within the legislative, executive and judicial systems. The RAC was a lead organizer in regards to the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and the bill was even signed in their boardroom.

Tzedik Tzedik Tirdor Continues on Page 2.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Congregation Beth Ahabah is reviewing its social justice efforts in the community and exploring how they can be expanded. Your comments and questions are invited to help shape the direction of this critical work.

The Council for Social Justice recently met to hear presentations on the members' ongoing work in the community, which include:

• **CARITAS** - Beth Ahabah is one of 12 congregations which serve as intake centers for homeless services during the coldest winter months. From Beth Ahabah, the homeless are transported to various shelters, and Beth Ahabah volunteers talk to those who come in, provide snacks,



and generally help keep the operation running.

• **Mt. Moriah** - Twice a month Beth Ahabah volunteers provide lunch to the hungry at Greater Mount Moriah Baptist Church. Hundreds of people, not all of them homeless, are fed every month.

• **Mitzvah Day** - Once a year Beth Ahabah coordinates a massive one-day volunteer effort. Last year, more than 200 people came together to

package meals for Stop Hunger Now, bake dinners and desserts for Hospital Hospitality House, clean the tombstones at Hebrew Cemetery, give blood, and donate hair to Locks of Love, among other projects.

Social Justice Continues on Page 2.

IN THIS ISSUE:

Mitzvah Day	p 2
Religious School	p 5
Hanukkah Photos	p 6
B'nei Mitzvah	p 7
Community	p 8
Donations	p 9
Community Calendar	p 15

Beth Ahabah, for generations, has been taking care of those in need in Richmond and elsewhere. For years our Council for Social Justice and congregants organize and volunteer, helping in the hopes of eradicating homelessness with Caritas, Mt. Moriah, and Habitat for Humanity. Every year we hold *Mitzvah* Day when hundreds of congregants and their children volunteer at various projects around our community; from visiting seniors, to building

furniture for those in need. We donate thousands of pounds of food every year to the local food bank, and our children bring *tzedakah* money weekly for charity.

This last year, we joined St. James' Episcopal Church and began participating in joint Mission Trips. In April we visited Cuba, bringing supplies and volunteering to assist the Cuban people. We learned about the needs and desires of the Cuban people, helping to break their isolation, and hoping to advocate for their needs. This summer we will partner again by spending a week in the Appalachian Mountains and getting our hands dirty with building, painting, and helping an impoverished community. This month, during Presidents' Weekend, we are leading a teen trip of 11 students to New Orleans in partnership with the URJ's *Mitzvah* Corps; where we are volunteering in the 9th Ward to help organizations who deal with urban poverty.

The sages of old taught "Without sustenance, there is no Torah." This means when our brothers and sisters live in abject poverty, divine values and teachings are not able to be

achieved. When one is starving, it is our responsibility to make sure their basic human needs are met. However, these wise teachers of old also taught "Without Torah there is no sustenance!" We have not fulfilled the task of repairing the world if we limit ourselves to volunteering and only providing for the immediate needs of others. As Jews, we have the holy task of pursuing justice, as God commands, "Let justice flow as a mighty stream!" This means looking holistically at what are the causes of poverty and injustice in our world, and how these social ills become entrenched, affecting generation after generation.

Beth Ahabah's Council for Social Justice believes in the sacred responsibility of both providing and advocating for those in need. In December 2013, we brought a resolution to the URJ calling for the United States government to lift the embargo on Cuba, and for the Cuban government to free Alan Gross, which passed without objections. As a Temple, we will be expanding our current projects, helping to improve the world. We hope that you will join us and volunteer. As well, we will be discussing potential causes and political advocacy for the congregation's involvement. For example, we may choose to engage in advocacy for living wages, education reform, or comprehensive immigration legislation. As a community, through pursuing justice, we are reminded that Jewish living is dynamic and powerful both in our lives and in the world.

NOW RECRUITING:

**"Be Calm and Mitzvah On"
A Day of Caring & Sharing
Save the Date: April 27, 2014**



Send the words "*Tikkun Olam*" into action by participating in *Mitzvah* DAY, a one day community social action event to benefit the hungry, the infirm, the environment, the homeless, shut-ins and more. Beth Ahabah has plans for dozens of different ways you can impact the Richmond community and beyond. If you can talk, sing, build, clean, cook, bake, photograph, draw, decorate, paint, collect, drive or shop, WE NEED YOU! Whether it's your time, talent, or treasures, we would love to have you join us this year for *Mitzvah* Day.

Please plan to take a few hours on a Sunday to give back and make a difference in someone's life. It will change yours. Do it because you are guaranteed to feel great when you've finished. Do it to connect. Do it to have fun. It's the right thing to do.

To volunteer or for more information contact Sharon Bassell at bagelcc@aol.com, Debbie Cook at pebble-beach@mindspring.com, or Terry Schultz at tshultzw3@yahoo.com and watch your e-news for details.

DREAMS...

by Russell M. Finer, FSA



Russell M. Finer, FSA, Executive Director

I would like to take this opportunity to share with you this story about Dreams.

The first day of school our professor introduced himself and challenged us to get to know someone we did not already know. I stood up to look around when a gentle hand touched my shoulder. I turned around to find a wrinkled little old lady beaming up at me with a smile that lit up her entire being.

She said, "Hi handsome! My name is Rose and I'm eighty-seven years old. Can I give you a hug?"

I laughed and enthusiastically responded, "Of course you may!" and she gave me a giant squeeze.

I asked, "Why are you in college at such a young, innocent age?"

She jokingly replied, "I am here to meet a rich husband, get married, have a couple of children, and then retire and travel."

"No, seriously", I asked. I was curious as to what may have motivated her to be taking on this challenge at her age.

"I always dreamed of having a college education and now I am getting one!" she told me.

After class we walked to the student union building and shared a chocolate

milkshake. We became instant friends. Every day for the next three months we would leave class together and talk nonstop. I was always mesmerized listening to this 'time machine' as she shared her wisdom and experience with me. Over the course of the year, Rose became a campus icon and she easily made friends wherever she went. She loved to dress up and she reveled in the attention bestowed upon her from the other students. She was living it up.

At the end of the semester we invited Rose to speak at our football banquet and I will never forget what she taught us.

***"Growing older is mandatory,
growing up is optional."***

She was introduced and stepped up to the podium. As she began to deliver her prepared speech, she dropped her 3x5 cards on the floor. Frustrated and a little embarrassed she leaned into the microphone and simply said, "I'm sorry I'm so jittery. I gave up beer for Lent and this whiskey is killing me! I will never get my speech back in order, so let me just tell you what I know."

As we laughed she cleared her throat and said, "We do not stop playing because we are old; we grow old because we stop playing. There are only four secrets to staying young, being happy and achieving success: You have to laugh and find humor every day; you've got to have a dream, when you lose your dreams, you die. We have so many young people walking around who are dead and don't even know it! There is a huge difference between growing older and growing up.

If you are 19 years old and lie in bed for

one full year and don't do one productive thing, you will turn 20 years old. If I am 87 years old and stay in bed for a year and never do anything I will turn 88. Anybody can grow older. It doesn't take any talent or ability. The idea is to grow up by always finding the opportunity in change. Have no regrets. The elderly usually don't have regrets for what they did, but rather for things they did not do. The only people who fear death are those with regrets."

She concluded her speech by courageously singing "The Rose." She challenged each of us to study the lyrics and live them out in our daily lives. At the year's end, Rose finished the college degree she had begun all those years ago. One week after graduation Rose died peacefully in her sleep.

Over two thousand college students attended her funeral in tribute to the wonderful woman who taught by example that it is never too late to be all you can possibly be.

When you read this, please send this peaceful word of advice to your friends and family - they will really enjoy it. We send these words in loving memory of Rose: "Remember, growing older is mandatory, growing up is optional."

Keep Dreaming!
Russ



Sunday, March 16



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Beth Ahabah is serving as an intake site for the CARITAS Program for the homeless. CARITAS stands for Congregations Around Richmond Involved To Assure Shelter. Through Friday, February 21, 2014, persons seeking shelter for the night will come to our school building at approximately 5:45 p.m.

We are still in need volunteers to help on February 7, 14 and 21. 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. Several members who have participated in the program with their teenage child 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.

Social Justice Continued from Page 1.



Additionally, Rabbi Gallop said plans are underway to take a domestic mission trip with St. James's Episcopal Church in the Appalachians. Other ongoing efforts include possible collaborations with Habitat for Humanity, the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities and the Virginia Inter-faith Center.

All of these efforts are made possible through the hard work of Beth Ahabah volunteers, and take taking countless hours to pull together. Many of these volunteers, such as Chuck Greenberg for CARITAS or Paula Miller and Heidi Levinson for Mt. Moriah, have taken on projects as a personal long-term commitment.

But every Beth Ahabah project needs and would welcome additional volunteers.

The Council for Social Justice is considering several issues concerning Beth Ahabah's social justice efforts: If Beth Ahabah expands its social justice work, what is the best direction? How should it be balanced between community, national and international projects? How much issue advocacy should be involved? What is the necessary budget, and are additional funds needed?



Beth Ahabah President Charles Rothenberg noted that the congregation, not the staff or officers, will

ultimately provide the answers to all these questions, but the council needs to hear from members. What direction do you think Beth Ahabah's social justice efforts should take? What would you be willing to contribute?



To make comments or suggestions, or to volunteer, contact the temple staff or email Heather Dinkin, the council's chairperson, at heather.dinkin@gmail.com.

Barbara & William B. Thalhimer, Jr. Religious School

Why Religious School Teachers Matter

by Ramona Brand



Ramona Brand
Barbara & William B. Thalhimer, Jr.
Religious School Director

"...the world exists only through the breath of schoolchildren..." (Shulchan Aruch 245:17) Education has been a cornerstone of Jewish life as long as there have been Jews. For many families the decision to join a synagogue coincides with enrolling their oldest child in Religious School. There has been a lot of focus these days on the role of religious education and the success of our current models. Trends occur and synagogue schools

move with the times. Throughout it all, our Religious School teachers remain dedicated people who serve as our children's first bridge between their secular and religious worlds. Our teachers matter! They do much more than deliver curriculum and teach the mechanics of Hebrew and prayer. These are the people who inspire our children to make connections to their own Jewishness. Their smiles, their hugs, their enthusiasm, their encouragement, and their commitment foster bonds with our students that have life-long effects. Our teachers are Jewish role models who set the stage for our children's Jewish journeys. They create positive relationships with our students, who look forward to seeing them each week. They help our students cultivate friendships with their classmates and forge links with Jewish life, culture and history! The scope of what our Religious School

teachers do is as huge as the smiles with which they greet their students every week! We don't often see the impact that our teachers have on our children, but once in while we get a glimpse and the rewards are priceless.

The following is an excerpt from a letter that one of our teachers recently received from a student.

"I really don't think I have thanked you enough. You have inspired me to tell everyone in my (secular) class about the Jewish things you teach me! They ask who taught me these things and I always reply "My excelent (sic) and always fabulous Religious School teacher!" You are the best, best, best teacher ever! I really wish I could see you every single day. You are very nice and caring and so amazing.Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you for everything!"

7TH GRADE FIELD TRIPS

The 7th grade is on the move with a busy month of field trips, activities and travel! We have a very exciting month with lots of opportunities for parent involvement.

March 2: Richmond Jewish History Tour with Grace Zell of the Beth Ahabah Museum & Archives
Parent drivers and chaperones needed!
Leave Beth Ahabah at 9:30 a.m.
Return to Bethabab at 11:40 a.m.

March 23: Trip to the Virginia Holocaust Museum
Parent drivers and chaperones needed!

March 28 through March 30:
Trip to Philadelphia! Regular class for students not going on the trip.

PRIMARY GRADES PASSOVER PREVIEW PROGRAM

Sunday, March 23

Parents and Students of our Kindergarten through Second Grade will enjoy a special Interactive Passover Preview Program! This "make and take" will have you creating your own interactive *Haggadah*; a beautiful keepsake Miriam's cup and special *matzah* cover. Parents and children will create these family heirlooms together to be used at your own home *seders*.

UPCOMING GESHERS

Sunday, February 23

Fifth Grade

Sunday, March 2

Sixth Grade

Sunday, March 9

Seventh Grade

9:15 a.m. Students to class

9:30 a.m. Parent discussion with Rabbi Beifield

10:30 a.m. Parents & Children project followed by brunch

Parents are invited to participate in their children's class *Gesher*, a part of our Family Education program.

Hanukkah Festivities in the Goldberg: *Photography by Sara Jane Longstaff*



B'nei Mitzvah**WILLIAM JAKE SAMET**

February 1, 2014

Jake Samet will be called to the *Torah* as a *Bar Mitzvah* on February 1, 2014. Jake is the son of Jessica and Richard Samet and the younger brother of Phoebe.

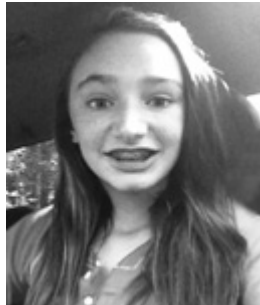
Jake is a 7th grade student at Collegiate School. In his free time, Jake runs with the JV track team, takes drum lessons, or works on his first class rank in Boy Scout Troop 444. He also enjoys spending time on the computer and with his friends.

For his *Mitzvah* Project, Jake has chosen to spend time at the Beth Sholom Home. There he volunteers to assist the residents with activities, but mostly to offer companionship and a friendly face.

Jake is looking forward to sharing this special day with his family, friends and the community at Beth Ahabah.

mazal tov!

B'nei Mitzvah Continues on Page 8.

**ELIZABETH CHEELEY**

February 8, 2014

Elizabeth Rose Cheeley will be called to the *Torah* as a *Bat Mitzvah* on Saturday, February 8, 2014. She is the daughter of Amy Mendelson Cheeley and Carl Cheeley, and the sister of Coleman and Carson. She is the granddaughter of Marion and Robert Mendelson, and Rachel Cheeley and the late Norwood Cheeley.

A 7th grader at Liberty Middle School in Ashland, VA, Elizabeth enjoys being with her family and friends as well as riding her beloved pony, Paris. For Elizabeth's *Mitzvah* Project, she is helping to coordinate a consignment sale of used clothing to benefit a school for girls affiliated with the Half The Sky Movement. Please join us on February 8th. We are looking forward to a special day for Elizabeth with family and friends.

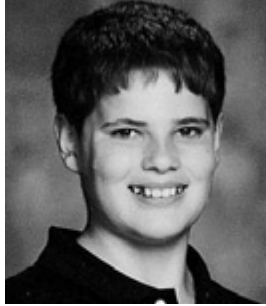
**MARLI WEISS**

March 8, 2014

Marli Rose Weiss will be called to the *Torah* as a *Bat Mitzvah* on March 8, 2014. Marli is the daughter of Randi and Joshua Weiss and the sister of Zachary and Jordan. She is the granddaughter of Debra and Bill Kirk of Boynton Beach, Florida and Fee Deitrich and Nathan Weiss of Jacksonville, Florida.

Marli is a 7th grade IB student at Tuckahoe Middle School. Her favorite pastimes include playing with her family pets (3 cats and 1 dog), making crafts, baking, reading, painting and climbing. She has been on the Pro Team at Peak Experiences for the past 2 years. Prior to her climbing commitment, Marli enjoyed acting at Hat Theatre and with HatBox Players. Summer camp has become an important part of Marli's connection to Judaism. She has made long lasting friendships and memories over the past 6 summers. This past summer, Marli had the honor of participating in the B'nai Mitzvah family trip to Israel. It was an unforgettable experience. The *tallis* she plans to wear at her *Bat Mitzvah* in March was purchased in Jerusalem by her Bubby.

Marli is excited to share her *Bat Mitzvah* with her family, friends and classmates.



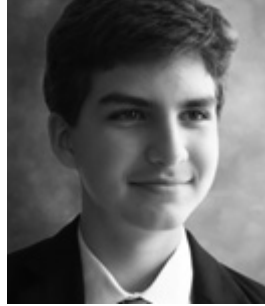
Jordan Becker Leibowitz
March 15, 2014

Jordan Becker Leibowitz will be called to the Torah as a *Bar Mitzvah* on March 15, 2014. Jordan is the son of Amy and Seth Leibowitz and the older brother of Taly. He is the grandson 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.

Jordan is a 7th grader at Collegiate School. He enjoys running cross-country, playing basketball, and spending time with his friends. His favorite subjects are history and math. He is an avid Knicks fan. Jordan has been playing the guitar for five years and plays in the guitar ensemble at Collegiate School.

For his *Mitzvah* Project, Jordan wanted to incorporate his passion for basketball with his interest in promoting good sportsmanship among kids. He created Dribble RVA, an afternoon basketball skills clinic for elementary school students at the Peter Paul Development Center.

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



Alec Held Wren
March 22, 2014

Alec Held Wren will be called to the Torah as a *Bar Mitzvah* on March 22, 2014. He is the son of Linda Held Wren and Matthew Wren, and the brother of Carly. Alec is the grandson of Minnie C. Held and Lewis I. Held (OBM), and Helen and L. Peter Wren.

Alec attends Tuckahoe Middle School. His favorite subject is science and he currently has the goal of being an engineer. Alec, always cheerful and singing, is creative and enjoys constructing things, biking, archery and stand-up paddle boarding.

For Alec's *Mitzvah* Project he volunteers at Beth Shalom and shares the love of his dog, Cody with others. He also is assisting with activities.

Alec is looking forward to sharing this day with family, friends and the Beth Ahabah community.

Bonnie Eisenman Elected to the Board of the SJHS

Bonnie Eisenman, the Administrator/Researcher of the Beth Ahabah Museum & Archives, has been honored by election to the Board of Trustees of the Southern Jewish Historical Society (SJHS).

The SJHS was the creation of Beth

COMMUNITY

CONGRATULATIONS TO.....

Lisa & David Solodar on the birth of their son, Asher Solodar born November 22, 2013. Also to grandmother, Lenora Solodar and aunt and uncle, Shelby and Andy Solodar.

Sallie & Billy Thalheimer on the birth of their granddaughter, Bailey Grace Silverstein born December 19, 2013. Also to parents, Christie and Evan Silverstein.

IN SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILIES OF.....

Steven Kobernick

brother of Lisa (Dennis) Altomonte

Allan Creeger

*brother-in-law of Gilbert Rosenthal
uncle of Nancy (Scott) Belleman and
Thomas (Wendy) Rosenthal*

Fannie Rosenthal

*wife of Gilbert Rosenthal
mother of Nancy (Scott) Belleman and
Thomas (Wendy) Rosenthal*

Morey Zoldan

father of Karen (Daniel) Hough

David Rosenberg

brother of Carol Ann (Cal) Callahan

Abraham Linder

husband of Tillie Linder

Ahabah's Saul Viener, who was also the driving force behind the establishment of our Museum & Archives in 1977.

A regular attendee at the organization's meetings since 1999, Bonnie will bring her energy and experience to the furtherance of SJHS's mission. Bonnie's election puts Beth Ahabah and our Museum & Archives at the forefront of an ongoing effort to preserve the Jewish history of the American South.

DONATIONS

TEMPLE FUND

IN HONOR OF:

The birth of Ivri Kwartin Beifield

Scott & Nancy Belleman

The birth of Henry Alexander

Levinson

Scott & Nancy Belleman

Murray Schwartz' speedy recovery

Scott & Nancy Belleman

David Long's speedy recovery

Scott & Nancy Belleman

Heidi Levinson's speedy recovery

Scott & Nancy Belleman

Rabbi Beifield receiving the VCIC Award

Katie & Ken Roeper

Leslie & Bruce Garber

Pam & David Feibish

Conner Clark's Bar Mitzvah

The Clark Family

IN MEMORY OF:

Allen Wolfsheimer

Scott & Nancy Belleman

Minna Hirsch, Anne Zeichner and

Morris Zeichner

Dr. Terry & Jerry Hirsch

Herman M. Finer, my brother

Allen Finer

France D. Komins, my mother-in-law

Allen Finer

Henry Stern, my brother

Dina Stern Boettcher

Louis Weiner

Russell Finer

Allan Creeger

Katy & Jimmy Yoffy

Carrie Galeski

Lesley & David Greenberg

Ann Bendheim

Karen & Barry Hofheimer

Fannie Rosenthal

Katy & Jimmy Yoffy

Jerry & Lorraine Quigg

Philena H. Jenkins

Kimberly Dages

Nancy Meyer

Eileen & Ed Kitces

Carrie Galeski

Janice & Robert Freed

Megan & Jimmy Rose

Linda & Carl Wood

Irvin & Linda Seeman

Karen & Walter Emroch

Esther & Rudy Bunzl

Alice & Richard Tilghman

Kate & Dixon Christian

Minnie C. Held

David & Marge Leary

Dina Stern Boettcher

Barbara Greenberg

Cathy Plotkin

Harlan, Ramona & Family

Morton G. Thalhimier, III

Lesley & David Greenberg

Ann Bendheim

Randy Goldberg, Bea Goldberg &

Jackie Goldberg Jones

Dianne Jewell

Lois & Leonard Sidenberg

Babs & Larry Jackson

Sandra & Franklin Levin

Priscilla Burbank & Michael Schewel

Jay & Marilyn Weinberg

Sandra Cohan

Ann & Stanley Reed

Bill & Sallie Thalhimier, Bobby & Marilyn

Thalhimier and Barbara Thalhimier &

Jim Whiting

Paula & Charles Swartz

James Watkinson

Katie & Kenneth Millhiser

Karen & Ken Olshansky

Rochelle & Thomas Millhiser

The Virginia League for Planned

Parenthood

Jackie Viener

Libby Harris

Doris & Al Katz

Bobbie & Jim Ukrop

Mr. & Mrs. John F. Kay, Jr.

Frances Walker Holladay

Thomas Grant

Carol Ann & Cal Callahan

Dorothy & Steve Bernstein

Claire & Bob Rosenbaum

True Luck

Pineno Levin & Ford

Robert & Jayne Ukrop

Glenn Hurt

Paul & Debbie Edmunds

Nelson Lankford

Mr. & Ms. E. Carlton Wilton

Charles & Sibyl Thalhimier

Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Davison

Tom & Susie Rayburn

Gail & Al Werner

Anne & David Long

The Faison School for Autism

Frances & Alex Kay

Sheltering Arms, Office of President &
Chief Executive Officer

Delores & Andrew Metz

Mary & Stephen Hickman

Jay Ipson

Carol & Michael Sesnowitz

Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Grossman

Dr. & Mrs. Richard Dodd

Carole & Marcus Weinstein

Allison & Ivan Jecklin

The Greater Richmond ARC

Marjorie Gunst

Louisa Medical Center

Jonathan & Anne Marie Perel

Beejay & Donald Brown

Tony & Jane Asch

Carolyn Straus Berenson

Karen & Barry Hofheimer

University of Richmond

Bobby & Betsy Kastenbaum

Frederick Rahal

Hans & Renate Falck

Ken & Katie Roeper

Marshall L. Lowenstein

Marilyn Lowenstein & Family

Jacob Grossman

Judith & Isaac Koziol

William Potash

Babs & Larry Jackson

Donations Continue on Page 10.

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.

Donations Continue from Page 9.

Jane Miller, our mother

Katie & Ken Roeper

Eric Blumenthal

Lynn B. Stevenson

Fern Jackson

Babs & Larry Jackson

Mr. & Mrs. William B. Thalhimer, Jr.

Barbara J. Thalhimer & William B.

Thalhimer, Jr. Family Fund

Morris (Morey) Zoldan

Karen & Ken Olshansky

Janice & Robert Freed

Harry & Marcia Thalhimer

Paul Corbett

Ira & Maureen Goldstein

Ita Brandman & Rachel Gorbaty

Ita & Alex Berenshteyn

Norman Schein

Mark Schein

David Rosenberg

Janice & Robert Freed

Ken & Katie Roeper

Nancy & Scott Belleman

Barney Webber

Arlyn, Adrienne, Joe, Michael & Stefany

THE RABBI'S

PHILANTHROPIC FUND

**These contributions were received
in response to the Annual Appeal:**

Betty Sue & Todd Le Page

Dena & Dan Neuwirth

Shirley & Stanley Hoffman

Heidi Levinson

IN HONOR OF:

The birth of Ivri Kwartin Beifield

Laurie, Adam, Melissa & Lyndsay Nelson

Fran & Stan Goldman

**Rabbi Beifield receiving the VCIC
Award**

Babs & Larry Jackson

Fran & Stan Goldman

Conner Clark's Bar Mitzvah

The Clark Family

IN MEMORY OF:

Laurence Levy

John Levy & Family

Selma Mann

Yvonne & Charles Gold

Fannie Rosenthal

Jim Schuyler & Frank Dellinger

Morton G. Thalhimer, Jr.

Harry Weissman

Karen & Ken Olshansky

**CANTOR GOLDMAN MUSIC FUND
IN MEMORY OF:**

Selma Mann

Fran & Stan Goldman

Sandra Rose Tucker, my mother

Fran & Stan Goldman

Louis H. Cohen, my father

Elizabeth & Dean Pope

**Bill Rothenberg, Paul Rothenberg
and Nikki Fairman**

Frances Rothenberg

Shirley S. Arenstein, my mother

Dianne A. Master

Joseph C. Finer

Allen Finer

**LEWIS I. HELD
SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

IN HONOR OF:

Minnie C. Held's special birthday

Jeff, Mona, Harris & Jeremy Flax

Lewis I. Held, Jr.

IN MEMORY OF:

Ruby Cansino, my mother

Minnie C. Held

BIMAH FLOWER FUND

IN MEMORY OF:

Dr. Robert Goodman

Denise Goodman Keil

**RELIGIOUS SCHOOL TUITION
ASSISTANCE FUND**

IN MEMORY OF:

Fannie Rosenthal

Risa & Jay Levine

HEBREW CEMETERY FUND

IN MEMORY OF:

Fannie Rosenthal

Klaus Family Fund

Nancy Grandis White

Allan Creeger

Nancy Grandis White

Donations Continue on Page 12.



*Thinking of Buying or Selling?
Call me 1st!*

**STEVIE
WATSON**

*Ranked Top 1%
In the USA!*

754-4551

Insist on Stevie!





SISTERHOOD

*Musings From the Women of
Reform Judaism Assembly*

by Meg Marshak

After spending the better part of two days trying to fly out of Richmond to San Diego, I arrived at a place that would suspend me in time and give me sore feet, as well as a wealth of information and goose bumps. When, I finally arrived and got settled in the hotel, it was early in the day there. I went searching for the Southwest District Sisterhood to perform my volunteer hours, as promised. I found them in a large room with 900 goodie bags to be filled. They were very happy to see me and we got right to work with the task at hand. It was as if we were distant cousins that were from the same family, but had not yet met. The task was completed, but it was apparent that help was needed the following day for registration. So I volunteered to do a morning shift. What a way to start a week of intense bonding and learning! The next day brought a different perspective. Two hundred men and women gathered for the first rehearsal of the Biennial Choir. WOW! I still cannot tell you where that sound came from, but it was there from the beginning and only got better as rehearsals were completed. Several times it sent chills up my spine. The sound made me realize that Richmond is a part of a whole. We may come from multiple countries but Hebrew and *Shabbat* service prayers are universal.

As the week went on and the workshops and plenaries became the daily norm, the activities turned to learning about what other sisterhoods and congregations were doing to attract new members, hang on to the current members, and make programming relevant to the members of their respec-

tive groups. It is clear that congregations and sisterhoods face the same problems; getting their congregants and sisterhood members involved in the activities of the Temple. I came away with a few ideas, but no real solutions. Every group is facing competition from the daily pressures of life.

As *Shabbat* approached, things quieted down and Friday night was unbelievable! When the choir sang the opening song and the 5,000 person audience sang back, I got my first set of goose bumps. The sound was enormous and everyone had a voice. It was inspiring. The choir and the band sounded great and we were off to a great *Shabbat* start. After services, we all walked down the hall to *Shabbat* Dinner. Again, just the mass of nearly 5,000 eating *Shabbat* dinner in our Congregational groups, was inspiring.

Saturday morning brought *Shabbat Shacharit T'filah* service. The Biennial choir sang and it was another unifying morning, as Torah was chanted at thirteen stations around the room. As services ended, the choir members said goodbye to new friends met while we were singing together and made promises to meet again in two years. At that moment, I realized that things were beginning to come to a close.

Oh wait a minute! There was more to come. Saturday afternoon was all Women of Reform Judaism (WRJ)! The Premier WRJ Choir was to perform for the Installation of the WRJ Board. I had places to be and people to see. As the Assembly gathered the choir got down to business. A new song had been written for Blair Marks (the new President of WRJ). More goose-bumps!!! It was beautiful as were the other songs by Julie Silver,

singer/songwriter, more goose-bumps. Then came the solemn moment for me, as I was inducted onto the WRJ Board, I realized that I was becoming a part of a very unique group of women. I was humbled by the honor of joining them, to map the next few years and the future of WRJ. I do take the job and the goose-bumps seriously! As the week came to an end with the celebration of 100 years of WRJ and 75 years of National Federation of Temple Youth (NFTY, which is supported by WRJ), I realized that I have become a part of something big!

It is clear to me that membership and involvement in Women of Reform Judaism brings a different perspective and support to women, no matter how they come to their Judaism. My hope is that you will let me know how we, your Sisterhood, can support you as you face challenges and joys in your life. Feel free to contact me at meg.marshak@comcast.net, with your ideas and needs.

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 2

Consignment Shop for Mothers and Daughters

February 8

Brotherhood/Sisterhood Sock Hop

February 19

Sisterhood Board Meeting 7:00 p.m.

February 28

Sisterhood *Shabbat* - Readers Needed.
Call 804-746-2918 to accept a part

March 1 Brotherhood/Sisterhood Game Night

Watch for information on the weekly happenings e-news.

Donations Continued from Page 10.

**JERRY BERNSTEIN
BROTHERHOOD FUND
IN HONOR OF:**

Katie Roeper's Sam Troy Award

Meryl Bernstein

IN MEMORY OF:

Fannie Rosenthal

Meryl Bernstein

David Rosenberg

Meryl Bernstein

BETH AHABAH CARES FUND

IN HONOR OF:

Nancy Oser's Mitzvah during my recovery

Ann Marie Benson

MT. MORIAH FUND

IN MEMORY OF:

Morris (Morey) Zoldan

Nancy & Scott Belleman

MUSEUM & ARCHIVES

IN HONOR OF:

Ann Danoff's 80th Birthday

David & Ruby Jo Hiller

David Long's Speedy Recovery

Ted & Marianne Plotkin Metzger

Nelson Calisch

Lynn Francis

IN HONOR AND MEMORY OF:

Nikki Fairman & Edith Lindeman Calisch

Katie & Ken Roeper

IN MEMORY OF:

Hilda Wallerstein Fleisher

Mary Ellen Jackoway

Pat Asch

Yvonne & Charles Gold

Edith Calisch

Lynn Francis

Morris Zoldan

Edith Brenner

Laurence Levy

Edith Brenner

Louise & Allan Creeger

Faye & Jerry Rosenthal

Virginia K. & Edward H. Gunst

Gunst Family Foundation

Fannie Straus Rosenthal

Rosalie Nachman

Susan & David Farris

Bonnie & Mike Eisenman

Dr. Sheldon & Judy Markowitz

Ted & Marianne Plotkin Metzger

Joyce Rosenbaum

Mary Ellen Jackoway

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Catlett, Jr.

Dianne & Sherman Master

Edith Brenner

Shirley & Bob Reinhard

Ann W. Silverstein

Joann Glaser Hurwitz

George & Genie Crawford

Allan David Creeger

Robert & Jayne Ukrop

Dina Boettcher

Mrs. Alice Spilman

Claire & Bob Rosenbaum

Mrs. Frederick A. Carleton

Mac & Sheila Story

Mary Anne & Bob Large

Bonnie & Mike Eisenman

Marjorie Gunst

Kimberley Dages

Susan & David Farris

Rosalie Nachman

Russell & Harriet Johnston
Dr. Sheldon & Judy Markowitz
Ted & Marianne Plotkin Metzger
Joyce Rosenbaum
Mary Ellen Jackoway
Lynn & Neil Kessler
Cathy Plotkin
Carolyn & George Watkins
Retail Merchants Association
Jonathan & Anne Marie Perel
Dr. & Mrs. Donald Brown
Marilyn Lowenstein
Jim Schuyler & Frank Dellinger
Jody Branch
Bessie S. Manz
Jackie Viener
Edith Brenner
Shirley & Bob Reinhard
Joann Glaser Hurwitz

THE HERBERT HELTZER FUND

In Memory of Allan Creeger

Millie & Herb Heltzer

Designer Deliveries Inc.

Modern moving with old fashioned care

Call Day or Night 355-6505

We move local and long distances and assist with international moves

We are experts in moving delicate Furniture, Antiques and Pianos

Fully Insured



Receiving & Storage
Owned, operated and supervised by
Avery Lynn

Moving:
• Residential
• Interior Decorators
• Offices



By John J. Marshak, President

What most non-active Brotherhood members of the congregation see are the contributions Brotherhood makes to congregational life. As a service organization, our efforts at *Shabbat* and High Holy Days ushering, the annual picnic, *Sukkah* raising, *latke* making, sponsoring attendance at sporting events, etc. are apparent.

Unless you are active in the organization, one cannot see/feel the intrinsic value of participation. Traditionally, courage and self-sacrifice are a man's virtues. He focuses his energies to achieve, to provide for his family and to protect those who are his responsibility. Since no accomplishment is forever, he is ever looking for the next challenge to prove himself. The tension and pressure of these hidden feelings, fears and drives are usually kept to himself.

In an article in Brotherhood Magazine (Summer 1998), Rabbi Seymour Rosenbloom likens this traditional point of view to that of Jacob as he wrestled with an angel. His struggle is successful as demonstrated by his getting a blessing from his adversary. Furthermore, no longer is he to be known as Jacob, but Israel, the God-wrestler. One would think that Jacob would be described as confident as he strode off having been victorious. He is, however, described as leaving the encounter with a limp. Rabbi Rosenbloom sees this as "a powerful metaphor for conceptualizing an essential aspect of being a man." Rosenbloom suggests that to be whole, a man must be able to display his vulnerability and neediness.

Now I don't contend that Brotherhood meetings or our men's only activities are a place to vent, to even a small extent, this neediness. I feel sure no one would say anything "therapeutic" goes on. However, it is my contention that such gatherings

permit men a unique opportunity to communicate which is not readily available anywhere else. I believe I am not alone in saying that the epitome of this kind of communication is reached at our men's *Seders*. In hearing extensive parts of some individuals' life stories and what it meant to them, touches something in me that I had never experienced before.

So, in addition to providing service to the congregation and the community, Brotherhood is a place for men to do some unique communicating, something Rosenbloom might attribute to being "an essential aspect of being a man." Thus you are encouraged to join us at our meetings (they are open to all, not just the Board) and participate in our service activities. The camaraderie provides an unparalleled opportunity to feel part of a very dedicated group of fellow Jewish men.

David S. Feibish, GRI
Real Estate Broker
Direct: 804-967-2735



Uniquely Qualified to Represent Residential,
Investment, Light Commercial Clients & Properties
email: David.Feibish@joynerfineproperties.com
www.davidsellingrichmondsince1976.com

JOYNER FINE PROPERTIES

"It was a great honor to be recognized by Brotherhood and
Congregation Beth Ahabah as recipient of the 2010 Sam Troy Award.
I will endeavor to provide you with the best service possible."

UPCOMING DEADLINES

Editorial submissions &
advertising in B'Yachad

APRIL issue due
Friday, February 11

May/June issue due
Friday, March 23

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

Please submit editorial and
camera ready ads to
Susan Morgan
smorganpr@comcast.net
804.405.5685

MUSEUM & ARCHIVES

OUT WITH THE OLD, AND IN WITH THE NEW

But let's not forget the old!

by David Farris



David Farris, Director

We have just completed the removal of an exhibit that was put in place about 15 years ago. Usually we change things more often than that, but this one was so informative and popular with visitors that we kept it around. I am speaking of the timeline exhibit on the wall in our lobby that showed the history of the Reform Movement in the United States in parallel with the history of Beth Ahabah during that same period, 1840 to 2000.

Out of sight should not mean out of mind, however. Beth Ahabah has never been afraid to do innovative things, and perhaps more importantly has frequently been brave enough to

be among the first to do things that we now take for granted.

For example, back in 1856 Beth Ahabah decided to allow women to sing in the choir. Can you imagine a proper choir without women? I can't, but back then it was an innovative thing to do. In 1869 the Congregation purchased its first organ, actually a "Melodeon", (like a reed organ, with two foot pedals that the player pumped to provide the airflow) which was small by today's standards but fit nicely in the sanctuary. It was not a pipe organ like the one that stands in majestic retirement in our present sanctuary. In 1881 Friday evening services were instituted, and ten years later head coverings became optional as they are today. In 1916 unmarried women were admitted to membership, which must have been a hard-won victory.

In 1986 the Congregation hired its first female cantor. She is still around, and her voice is as rich and full as ever. Though someone else handles the week-to-week duties of the position, there are always smiles when she comes out of retirement for special events.

In 1995 the Congregation's first female President was elected. She is still around as well. There have been two others since then, and the fourth is ready to step up to the plate. Like many far-thinking businesses, the congregation knows how foolish it is to overlook the leadership abilities of 50% of the population. Watch this space for future developments.

The blank wall where the timeline was located will soon become the home to a new exhibit showing the history of Richmond's Jewish congregations and organizations. It will be ready for the 225th Anniversary Weekend coming up this month, and we encourage you to visit the Museum & Archives to see it.

DID YOU KNOW?

Jewish Trivia



Commodore Uriah P. Levy

Monticello, in disrepair since Thomas Jefferson's death in 1824, was purchased by Commodore Uriah P. Levy in 1836. Levy's nephew, Jefferson Monroe Levy, continued the restoration from 1879-1923, when the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Foundation was created.

Beth Ahabah MUSEUM & ARCHIVES

Currently on Exhibit in the Galleries:

- *Justice Wheels*
- *The Entertaining Mrs. Calisch*
- *That You'll Remember Me:*
Jewish Voices of the Civil War
- *Commonwealth & Community*

Museum Hours:

10 am to 3 pm Sunday - Thursday

The Museum & Archives is located next door to the temple office at 1109 W. Franklin Street. For more information about the archives, to make an appointment to research in the archives or set up a group tour, please contact 804.353.2668.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

FEBRUARY:

SAT 01 Bar Mitzvah of JAKE SAMET	10:30 a.m.
SUN 02 Religious School	9:15 a.m.
MON 03 Midrasha Monday	6:30 p.m.
WED 05 Midweek Hebrew	5:30 p.m.
FRI 07 Tot Shabbat	5:30 p.m.
<i>Learners' Shabbat Service with Adult Choir</i>	7:30 p.m.
SAT 08 Bat Mitzvah of ELIZABETH CHEELEY	10:30 a.m.
SUN 09 Religious School	9:15 a.m.
MON 10 Midrasha Monday	6:30 p.m.
WED 12 Midweek Hebrew	5:30 p.m.
FRI 14 Shabbat Service in Gumenick Chapel	7:30 p.m.
WED 19 Midweek Hebrew	5:30 p.m.
FRI 21 Kindergarten - 2 nd Grade Shabbat Dinner	6:00 p.m.
<i>Family Shabbat Service with Etz Chayim</i>	7:30 p.m.
SUN 23 Religious School	9:15 a.m.
MON 24 Midrasha Monday	6:30 p.m.
WED 26 Midweek Hebrew	5:30 p.m.
FRI 28 Shabbat Dinner	6:00 p.m.
<i>Sisterhood Shabbat Service</i>	7:30 p.m.

WINTER WEATHER RELIGIOUS SCHOOL CLOSINGS

Information about school closings will be available the following ways:

- A Sunday School closing message will be posted on both the Administrative building phone service 804.358.6757, and the Sunday School office phone service 804.359.4378 after 8:00 am.
- Monday night Midrasha & Wednesday Mid-week Hebrew classes are canceled if public schools are closed to inclement weather.
- School closings will be listed on Channel 12

MARCH:

SUN 02 Religious School	9:15 a.m.
MON 03 Midrasha Monday	6:30 p.m.
WED 05 Midweek Hebrew	5:30 p.m.
FRI 07 Tot Shabbat	5:30 p.m.
<i>Shabbat Service</i>	7:30 p.m.
SAT 08 Bat Mitzvah of MARLI WEISS	10:30 a.m.
SUN 09 Religious School	9:15 a.m.
<i>* Daylight Savings Time begins today</i>	
MON 10 Midrasha Monday	6:30 p.m.
WED 12 Midweek Hebrew	5:30 p.m.
FRI 14 Congregational Shabbat Dinner	6:00 p.m.
<i>Purim Shabbat Service with Adult Choir</i>	7:30 p.m.
SAT 15 Bar Mitzvah of JORDAN LEIBOWITZ	10:30 a.m.
SUN 16 Religious School	9:15 a.m.
MON 17 Midrasha Monday	6:30 p.m.
WED 19 Midweek Hebrew	5:30 p.m.
FRI 21 Shabbat Service	7:30 p.m.
<i>(in honor of the 100th anniversary of the Jewish Distribution Committee)</i>	
SAT 22 Bar Mitzvah of ALEC WREN	10:30 a.m.
SUN 23 Religious School	9:15 a.m.
MON 24 Midrasha Monday	6:30 p.m.
WED 26 Midweek Hebrew	5:30 p.m.
FRI 28 3rd - 6th Grade Shabbat Dinner	6:00 p.m.
<i>Family Shabbat Service with Ruach Chadash in Joel House</i>	7:30 p.m.
<i>Shabbat Service in Sanctuary</i>	7:30 p.m.
SUN 30 Religious School	9:15 a.m.

CALENDAR INFORMATION IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE,
please check the calendar online at bethahabah.org

Successor to K.K. Beth Shalom... 1789

804.358.6757

Richmond, Virginia 23220

1111 W. Franklin Street



TEMPLE STAFF

Martin P. Beifield Jr. Sophia and Nathan Gumenick Senior Rabbi*

Jesse Gallop Associate Rabbi*

Russell M. Finer, FSA Executive Director*

Ramona Brand Education Director*

Dr. Jack D. Spiro Rabbi Emeritus

Frances T. Goldman Cantor Emerita

Natan Berenshteyn Music Director & Accompanist

Sarah Beck-Berman Cantorial Soloist

TEMPLE OFFICERS

Charles Rothenberg President*

Katie Roeper 1st Vice President*

Lawrence Salzman 2nd Vice President*

Robert Davidson Treasurer*

Ronald Kasoff Immediate Past President*

BOARD OF MANAGERS

Karyn Andersen

Carol Ann Callahan*

Melissa Demlein

Heather Dinkin

Dana Isaacoff

Lisa Kaplan*

Brian Meyer

Daniel Rosenthal

Larry Salomon

Laura Savage

Charley Scher

Joel Silverman

Lori Skiles

Demis Stewart

James Weinberg*

* Executive Committee Member

TEMPLE AUXILIARIES

Shelly Berger Museum & Archives Chairman

David B. Farris Museum & Archives Director

William B. Thalhimer III Hebrew Cemetery Chairman

Meg Marshak WRJ President

John Marshak MRJ President



HOLY # \$ % & * , BATMAN!!!

**Congregation Beth Ahabah
proudly presents**

The Comic Book of Esther

featuring superheroes, superheroines, and supervillains

music from Broadway's "Chicago" and "Cabaret"

Sunday, March 16th @ 7:15pm

Goldburg Auditorium

**LIGHT REFRESHMENTS — FREE ADMISSION
(DONATIONS ARE ALWAYS APPRECIATED)**

