



**OCTOBER 2010**  
**Schedule of Shabbat Worship**

**Friday, October 1**  
Shabbat Service 7:30 PM

**Saturday, October 2**  
B'nai Mitzvah: Joshua Haft  
& Samuel Schmidt 10:30 AM

**Friday, October 8**  
Shabbat Service 7:30 PM

**Saturday, October 9**  
B'nai Mitzvah: Ethan Heatwole  
& Jake Zaslav 10:30 AM

**Friday, October 15**  
Introduction to Judaism Class Dinner 6:00 PM  
Shabbat Service w/ Guest Speaker,  
Rev. Randy Hollerith 7:30 PM

**Saturday, October 16**  
Bat Mitzvah: Claire Mendelson 10:30 AM

**Friday, October 22**  
Shabbat Service 7:30 PM

**Saturday, October 23**  
B'nai Mitzvah: Emily & Ethan Cohen 10:30 AM

**Friday, October 29**  
Brotherhood Shabbat Dinner 6:00 PM  
Brotherhood Shabbat and Kolot shel  
Shabbat Service 7:30 PM

**Saturday, October 30**  
Bat Mitzvah: Rachel Bassell 10:30 AM

**Rabbi's Message**

by Rabbi Jesse Gallop



How do we welcome our member families, including members who are of another faith? In connection with my Rosh Hashanah sermon, "Opening Doors," I hope to challenge both our congregation and the Reform Jewish community to be aware of all of our members' needs. We have done a great job welcoming couples who are looking to belong to the Jewish community. Our membership includes many different types of families. In this month's article I would like to focus on the topic which is generally defined as "interfaith couples."

My whole life, I have been hearing about how important it is for me and my peers to marry someone Jewish. I can remember it being ingrained as a child. Not only did my parents inform me of this, but this was also reinforced by my grandparents and commentary of other family members. It almost was to a point when I started to wonder if the statements were based in unconscious bigotry. These messages felt contrary to my multi-cultural world. In school, I had friends of every race, creed and religion. Shouldn't the only factor in finding a spouse be that he or she is an ethical and good person?!

This egocentric understanding of Jewish society made me uncomfortable; especially because my family wasn't particularly observant. We lived an everyday Reform Jewish life: going to religious school (when sports were not in the way), and we went to Shabbat services only for grandparents' yahrzeit (memorial) and for the High Holidays. But we minimally observed Jewish rituals at home, and we rarely, if ever, spoke about Jewish theology or studied texts.

As a child, religion seemed to be a personal choice, and I was confused on why it would matter what the religion of my spouse would be. Twenty some years later I have a very different understanding. To this day, I still think the Jewish world is fighting the wrong battle. Often interfaith marriage is still vilified, becoming the scape-goat excuse of why American Jewry is weakening. But I believe this is symptomatic of a bigger issue.

First and foremost, I believe the message we should be sending to our young people is that there are multiple ways to build strong Jewish homes! And the first step is to ask "What does it mean to have a Jewish home?" The only way that our children are going to live adult Jewish lives is if Judaism has a place in their hearts. We need to discuss what Jewish living entails and reinforce the beautiful and engaging traditions that speak to our lives. And it is extremely critically important to lead by example, showing that Judaism has power and purpose in who we are and how we live.

*The Rabbi's Message Continues on Page 2...*

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*The printing of all Bulletin publications has been endowed by  
the generosity of Anne and Mark Sternheimer.*

*The Rabbi's Column Continued from page 1*

Second, we need to teach that building a Jewish home takes a lot of work and energy by both spouses. And that it is important to find a partner in life that will help support and share the values that are important and powerful. To do this we need to help show that Judaism teaches these understandings and perspectives. If we marry someone who is apathetic, be it Jewish or of another religion, then there are going to be real struggles raising a family and forming an active and engaging faith.

And lastly, and vitally important, synagogues need to be a place that welcomes all members, especially spouses of other faiths! Many families of Congregation Beth Ahabah include people whose faith is outside of Jewish beliefs. Commonly we assume that means many of our families have a parent who is Christian. However, I have found that a large percentage of our interfaith couples have a spouse who was raised with Christian teachings, but has not found a faith to call home. And many have found Beth Ahabah to be their "House of Worship."

Therefore, what are we doing to serve these members who are of another faith? This year we are beginning to discuss the topic: How to help create community and spirituality for all members of our Temple. In hopes to help support interfaith families, we are starting a new program: **Our Home**: A safe environment for interfaith couples to discuss, be supported, and explore together. I and other community leaders who live in Jewish homes with spouses of another faith are working together to connect families who are interested. We are hoping to have couples come together sharing their experiences and opening conversations about helping their family continue to develop. The goal is not to push Jewish leanings on the couple, rather to form a safe-place for the couple to be in genuine dialogue.

Our first program will be

**Sunday, Oct 17th** from 9:30 -10:30am (taking place in the

Joel House during Religious School). The topic of our time together will be "How to honor and celebrate the multiple heritages in a family." Future meetings will take place on **Sunday, Nov. 7th** from 10:30 to 11:30am **and Sunday, Dec. 12th** from 9:30 -10:30am. Please help us spread the word of this important event.

Also, we would like to invite all congregants, regardless of religious identity, to come and talk and be supported on their

spiritual development. As a rabbi, I have been trained to listen and support helping all members to develop their spiritual identity. And please let me know if you have ideas of how I or the synagogue can better serve the needs of our families, especially our interfaith couples. Please call (804) 358-6757 or email me at [rabbi.gallop@bethahabah.org](mailto:rabbi.gallop@bethahabah.org).

### **The Beth Ahabah Guest Lecture Series**

*Begins Friday Evening, October 15th*

Guest Speaker: Revered Randall Hollerith

The Congregation Beth Ahabah Adult Education and Programming Committee and the Religious Practices Committee are pleased to introduce the "Guest Lecture Series" on Friday Evening October 15th.

This exciting three part series, will take place during Friday Evening Shabbat services three times during the year and will cover a variety of topics from Superman's Jewish Roots to different perspectives on the weekly Torah portion.

Our kickoff will feature the Very Reverend Randall (Randy) Hollerith, Pastor and Rector of St. James Episcopal Church. Reverend Hollerith graduated Cum Laude from Dennison University with majors in Religion and Philosophy. He earned his master's degree from Yale Divinity School where he was a member of Berkeley's Governing Board. He is a delegate to the 73d general convention of the Episcopal Church and a member of the Board of Governors, Church Schools of the Diocese of Virginia. Reverend Hollerith is a member of the Board of Governors for the Healing Place, in Richmond.

Our congregations Beth Ahabah and St. James share not only a street but some common interests and history as well. Our partnership has resulted in dialogues, mitzvah projects and joint building projects. The upcoming service and lecture promises to be one that you will not want to miss. Reverend Hollerith will provide a unique perspective on the weeks Torah portion. Specifically, Genesis 17:1-6. The title of the lecture is "The Desire for God - The Need to be Named and Claimed". Make sure you come and bring a friend, then stay for the Oneg.



## The President's Address for Rosh Hashanah...

When you stop to think about it, people really are pack animals. We need one another. From the earliest chapters of Genesis we read that it is not good for people to be alone. People need community. Only in community are we fully human.

There are lots of places we go looking for community: golf courses, civic clubs, and bars. But it's hard to find real community. Especially with the advent of air conditioning, DVD players, home computers, video games, iPods and texting. Forget gated communities. Most of us live gated lives.

Families used to sit on their front stoops or porches while others strolled the streets and boulevards, and we communed with one another. Today we come home late, lock the door and turn on cable TV and don't emerge until the next morning when we slap on our ear buds and head off to work. The closest thing to community for many of us is Facebook or an online chat room.

Why is it that, today, community is most often associated with emotional pain? Think about it. When in recent history did you witness real national community? 9/11, right? And when did you last see global community? I suspect it was after the tsunami of December 2004 and the Haiti earthquake of January 2010. Even at the family level, it is funerals that most often bring us together.

That's because intense pain can shatter the walls that isolate and divide us. When crises come, our fears and petty differences are dwarfed by our shared humanity and the impetus to reach out and help one another. But must we await another catastrophe before we begin reknitting the ties that bind?

As the new year begins we are poised for a fresh start and another chance for building community. With daunting challenges at home and abroad, the stakes have never been higher. We're heading into a new year, a ritual that allows us to turn a page on history while keeping an optimistic eye on the year ahead.

If a genuine sense of community is to occur, it will require a bit of sacrifice on the part of each of us. As Rabbi Gallop spoke of in his sermon a few weeks ago, the key for all of us as Reform Jews is to challenge ourselves. That is a basic tenet of what defines us, guides us and binds us. All of us must be willing to reach across the chasm that divides society and find commonality. In our world of Beth Ahabah, we must reach out to one another with graciousness and compassion- essential lubricants of our lives together. Shouldn't we lead the way- after all, aren't we all already here today acknowledging our shared humanity and common commitment to Judaism and the truths that transcend our political and ideological differences? Truth. Justice. Love

of neighbor. Repairing the world. We can build a stronger future by taking just a small piece of a task that needs to be accomplished.

Let me cite just a few, but by no means all inclusive, examples of Beth Ahabah working together to nurture the grace within us. A grace that makes us more empathetic and respectful of one another and the greater community:

- We have meals prepared by our Beth Ahabah Chefs and Brotherhood
- We have Mitzvah Day with hundreds of congregants working on twenty different projects
- We have Volunteer weeding, pruning and planting on our grounds
- We Feed the homeless
- We are sewing and quilting panels for our Joel House
- We are sending notes to the sick and elderly and delivering meals

There are so many ways to get involved; you need only ask how, as we want and need your time and talent. If we all take a small piece it will make the many tasks manageable. If we as leaders are not answering your call, please try again. I quote: We all long to accomplish a great and noble task, but it is our chief duty to accomplish humble tasks as though they were great and noble. The world is moved along by, not only the mighty shoves of its heroes, but also by the aggregate of the tiny pushes of each dedicated worker.

I look forward to working with you in the year ahead! Again, we need one another.

Nancy Belleman,  
President

### **New! Sermons Available Online**

Rabbi Beifield and Rabbi Gallop  
have made their High Holy Days  
sermons available to read online.

You can find them at:  
[bethahabah.org/sermons.htm](http://bethahabah.org/sermons.htm)

## A Message from our Treasurer...

As Congregation Beth Ahabah's Treasurer, one of my responsibilities is to work closely with the members of the Finance Committee (Roy Goldberg, Matt Grossman, Adam Nelson, and Mitch Rosenfeld), as well as Russ Finer (Executive Director) and Ruth Huster (Controller) to prepare an annual budget. Although it feels like we just wrapped up last year's process, we will begin developing the 2011-12 budget starting in early November.

Part of what makes the budgeting process challenging is that a significant portion of CBA's expenses are fixed. For fiscal year 2010-11, our balanced budget totaled \$1.4 million. 76% of our expenses were related to salary, benefits, and employee related expenses directly associated with CBA's mission. We pay two Rabbis, a Cantor, an Educational Director, an Executive Director, a Controller, a small administrative and maintenance staff, and a dedicated team of religious school teachers. I believe we can all agree that without this dedicated team of professionals Beth Ahabah would not be able to meet the diverse spiritual, educational, and social/social justice needs of its congregants and the greater community. 11% of our budget is spent maintaining CBA's beautiful, but aging, facilities. The expense associated with URJ membership this year totals 5% of our budget, but enables us to formally affiliate with the Reform movement and benefit from the URJ's programming initiatives and assistance with the hiring of clergy. The balance of the budget (9%) is made up of comparatively modest sums for supplies and equipment, miscellaneous religious school expenses, music and other supplemental programming, and the like. In short, CBA's administrative team and clergy have already done a stellar job of ensuring that every dollar is well spent.

Our expenses are covered by \$1.4 million in revenue. Only slightly more than half (53% to be precise) of our budget is accounted for through the collection of current year dues. 16.5% is provided by the congregation's Trustees from earnings associated with donations made by prior generations of congregants. 17% is provided through the generosity of current donors, including those affiliated with CBA's Chai Society or Giving Circle program. 6% of our budget is covered by religious school fees. The remaining 7 or 8% of the budget is comprised of B'nai Mitzvah fees, High Holy Day ticket sales, and other miscellaneous revenue sources. Given the difficult economy, our largest source of revenue – dues – has been negatively impacted in recent years by the increasing need to provide dues relief to members experiencing economic distress. No member of the Jewish community will ever be turned away from Congregation Beth Ahabah because of an inability to pay full dues.

I would encourage you, if you haven't already done so, to pay your dues or work with Russ Finer on a dues relief

and/or payment program. For those of you with the ability to share your good fortune during these challenging times, please join me and the many, many congregational families who have chosen to participate in Chai Society or Giving Circles. A pledge of as little as \$18/year will count you among the Chai Society membership and demonstrate your ongoing support for the temple.

Also, we would welcome additions to the Finance Committee. It has not gone unnoticed that we lack representation from female CBA members. If you have a finance background and would like to share your time and talent, please contact me by phone (285-8933 – home, 307-4236 – cell) or e-mail [mike.mendelson@mac.com](mailto:mike.mendelson@mac.com). I also welcome contact from any congregant that has questions related to CBA's financial affairs.

*Mark your calendar for the:*

**Brotherhood Brunch Sunday, October 31st**  
Featuring the Award-winning NPR Journalist  
**Michael Goldfarb**



**9:30am**  
**in the Goldberg Auditorium**

National Public Radio's voice in London for almost twenty years, first as NPR's London Correspondent then Bureau Chief and finally as Senior Correspondent of "Inside Out," the award-winning public radio documentary program. The recipient of the DuPont-Columbia Award, the Overseas Press Club Award, and British radio's highest honor, the Sony Award. The author of *Ahmad's War*, *Ahmad's Peace: Surviving Under Saddam*, *Dying in the New Iraq*, Goldfarb lives in London.

## Notes from the Executive Director...

### A New Year

We have just begun the new year so magnificently; our beautiful, historic sanctuary was filled with congregants of all ages, the Torah Scrolls were dressed in their whites, the pulpit was alive and the music uplifting. With our main Sanctuary, Kolot and Family Services, everyone had an opportunity to be affected by these holy days. As we welcome in the new year, we, as Jews, are reminded of the awe and glory of God, the power of community and the sanctity of our commitment. These High Holy Days remind us that we can return to ourselves and have our actions match our ideals.

As the year goes on, remind yourself to take action: for your own life, for your family, for the congregation, for the community, and for the world. Think back on the moments that you were inspired, when you felt the commitment to change. Stick to your commitments and make the changes that make a difference! Throughout the year there are many chances to change your life for the better and to change the world for the better. May the Days of Awe continue to inspire us and may this new year be a year of health, happiness, peace, prosperity and commitment for us all.

Many thanks, too, for all our volunteers who helped make our High Holy Day services warm, welcoming and meaningful. So many thanks to all – this has been a terrific start to another new year. We hope that you will continue to join us and find ways to become involved in our congregational family.

Russell Finer, FSA  
Executive Director



## High Holy Day Thank-You

We would like to thank all of our members who participated in High Holy Day services this year:

Jacob Andersen, Nancy Belleman, Rebecca Bassell, Shelley Birnbaum, Gladys Brenner, Tom Byer, Marci Cohen, Laura & Rob Davidson, Sarah Davidson, Genevieve Dickerson, David Feibish, Earl Ferguson, Rebecca Field, Nicole Fratkin, Robert Freed, Barbara Gaden, Megann Garber, Matt Gaskin, Marcy George, Karen Gilman, Brian Glass, Chuck Greenberg, David Greenberg, Lindsey Greene, Noah Han, Beryl Holzbach, Emily Hudson, Dana Isaacoff, Larry Jackson, Jon Joseph, Ron Kasoff, Elliot Kahn, Ionel Kahn, Seth Kaplan, Michael Katz, Jeff Keil, Heather LaMont, Jeff Lavelle, John LeBlanc, Harlan Loebman, Jacob Marcus, Meg Marshak, Amanda McGann, Mike Mendelson, Martin Miller, Sean McElgunn, Jo Murphy, Adam & Laurie Nelson, Melissa Nelson, Brent Novey, Ryan Piracha, Rachel Richmon, Claire Rosenbaum, Victor Savage, Mark Schein, Irving Scherr, Rachel Schmidt, Cullen Seltzer, Leah Sievers, Rabbi Jack & Dr. Marilyn Spiro, John Sternlicht, Demis Stewart, Ellyn Sukonick, Jordan Velick, Andrew Vorenberg, Caroline Weinberg, Stephanie White, Kelly Wolfsheimer, Carly Wren, Katy & Jimmy Yoffy. *(We apologize for any omissions)*



Need tuition assistance? Would you like to find a way to donate to the temple?

### The Religious School Tuition Assistance Fund Can Help!

For scholarship or donor information, contact Ramona at 804.358.6757 or [r.brand@bethahabah.org](mailto:r.brand@bethahabah.org)

Suggestions, Comments, Constructive Criticism?

Please email president, Nancy Belleman at [nbelleman@verizon.net](mailto:nbelleman@verizon.net)



Photo Caption:  
Rabbi Nof and students from Or Hadash, our sister congregation in Haifa, Israel

## CLEFF NOTES FROM THE CANTOR

### The Grand Design

*A discussion of a recent New York Times Article*

By Cantor Annie L. Bornstein



An article in the New York Times dated Wednesday, September 8, 2010, presented a discussion regarding a book by Stephen Hawking, the most revered scientist since Albert Einstein. The article was about his new book, *The Grand Design*. Mr. Hawking is afflicted with Lou Gehrig's disease although his mind is totally intact. Nevertheless, it does not surprise me to hear that Mr. Hawking, a longtime professor of Mathematics at Cambridge University, has not been drawn to religion and has often been referred to as an atheist. Mr. Hawking's book apparently talks of "God-mongering" and has been seen by many as cynical and condescending. Strangely, Mr. Hawking's book ends with a line stating that the discovery of a unified theory of physics could help us to "*know the mind of God.*" Well that's ironic, isn't it...why bother to know the mind of God if God is not required in one's belief system? By the way, the idea of not needing God in one's belief system is not new. Many of the great Jewish theologians and philosophers either questioned the nature and existence of God, defined God as an "idea" or proposed that the world can be explained scientifically with verifiable ideas.

According to the article in the Times, Mr. Hawking declares that God is pretty much dead. I'll not take the time to discuss this question: if one recognizes that God is dead...then God must have existed...and therefore God is/was real. Mr. Hawking claims that his search (as to how the universe began) has resulted in the suggestion that the intervention of "God" is not required. "*The Grand Design*" apparently posits a new thesis for the "ultimate theory of everything"; the "M" theory. The theory claims that ours is not the only universe and that there are many universes which have arisen out of nothing and as a result of physical law. Mr. Hawking states that the "M Theory" would be "the unifying theory that Einstein was hoping to find" and never did.

Having not read the book (although I plan to) I wonder what we human beings have to gain by diminishing or killing God? For thousands of years, belief in God has sustained many people throughout personal tragedies, throughout national crises, wars and devastating losses. Perhaps their belief in God did not save them but the journey may have been made more hopeful by their faith.

The time of encouraging children to engage in a concept of a power greater than any or all of us - God - is fast fading. Rationalism and modernity coupled with sophistication and the shifting of priorities have left us with a society that, with fewer and fewer exceptions, is moving farther away

from spirituality and from God. There is no need for God when our faith lies in financial success, in physical things and in survival of the fittest. Now this is certainly not true for all of us but what is true is that there is no need to follow God's ethical Commandments if God does not exist. Of course, if one does not need God, one certainly does not need God to whom we pray during Worship. If we follow that line of thinking, Worship Services are anachronistic. It is no *chochma* (wisdom) to know that attendance at the Worship Services of most churches and synagogues has diminished. The worship of professional, business, status and financial success does *not* move us to *prayer*.

My question is...is this better? I cannot answer but for myself. In the end, it is a profoundly personal decision. One cannot believe in what one does not believe in. God or no God - it is a decision that merits time and thought as well as a searching of the soul.

Some spend their whole lives wrestling with this question. Others write theses and books. And still others have no need to even ask the question.

As Mr. Ferris said in his book "*The Whole Shebang*, "... religion and science don't have to be hostile to each other, but we can stop setting them up on blind dates....."



## BECOME A CHANTER WITH THE CANTOR

— POWER COURSE —

*Learn Torah Trope and its application  
to texts in only 5 sessions!*

Classes will meet on Sunday Mornings  
10:30–11:30am

October 3rd, 17th, 24th, November 7th, 14th

*Beginner's ability to read Hebrew required.*

Please call or e-mail Lori Lacy at  
804/358-6757 or [l.lacy@bethahabah.org](mailto:l.lacy@bethahabah.org)

## ONE!...TWO!!...THREE!!!...FOUR!!!!...FIVE!!!!!!...SIX POINTS!!!!!!!

A NEW MODEL FOR JEWISH SUMMER CAMPING. by Earl M. Ferguson, Founding Chairperson, 6 Points Sports Academy, A URJ Summer Camp.

Summer Camps cost lots of money to build, buy and maintain. In my research, which included trying to purchase land and camps for the former Mid Atlantic Region of the URJ, I found camps for sale for \$1 million to \$14 million. Building summer camps from the ground up is very expensive..... they can cost over \$20 million. So, when we look at the utilization of these facilities, we ask. "Can we continue to economically build summer camps for Jewish children? With camps costing what they do, does it make sense to utilize them for only 8 weeks per year?" I firmly believe that the answer to those questions is "NO". But, we know that Jewish residential summer camping works. We know that a positive summer camping experience correlates with a lifelong commitment to Reform Judaism. Therefore, we must find other more economical ways of providing the camping experience for our young people. So....what do we do?

This past summer, with support from the Jim Joseph Foundation and the Foundation for Jewish Camp, the URJ tried an experiment in Jewish Residential Summer Camping.....**6 Points Sports Academy, a brand new Jewish, sports specialty camp.** What challenges did 6 Points have? It didn't have a large lake. It didn't have individual "woody" cabins. It didn't have outdoor camping replete with sleeping bags and bugs. It didn't have meals cooked over an open fire. It didn't have a swimmable lake or a large outdoor swimming pool. It didn't have a "nature cabin", or an assembly hall for the annual musical production on parents' weekend, or other things that summer camps in Maine, New York, Wisconsin, and California have.

But what does it have? **It has a \$100 million dollar campus** ....that's right.....\$100 million!! We located 6 Points at the American Hebrew Academy (americanhebrewacademy.org) in Greensboro, North Carolina. The American Hebrew Academy ("AHA") is a pluralistic Jewish residential high school. Among other things, it has a soccer stadium. It has a lake. It has beautiful tennis courts. It has air conditioned small dorms. It has lighted baseball diamonds and soccer fields. It has an indoor pool that Michael Phelps would be happy to work out in. It has a basketball gym that LeBron James would be happy in. It has a three story indoor climbing wall. It has.....it has.....it has room for us in the summer time, as no classes are in session. Talk about a marriage made in heaven. We needed a facility.....they made good use of the incremental funds and the positive PR of additional young people using their facility.

But, how did we put a camp together on such a facility? First and foremost, the numbers work. We negotiated a fair and reasonable rental (sorry folks, the actual number is confidential). Suffice it to say, the cost for the summer was FAR less than the capital carrying cost would be for financing necessary to get much less of a facility. And, by the way, the

price included all meals, all dorms, and all athletic facilities. Again...a marriage made in heaven.

So how do you turn a beautiful residential high school made from Jerusalem Stone into a summer camp? That's done by the staff....and what a staff we had! Our Director team led by Camp Director Randy Colman, former Assistant Director of the Adolph & Rose Levis JCC, Boca Raton, FL, Shane Carr, former Assistant Director of URJ Camp Harlam, Elinor Josephson, former Camp Director at the Adolph & Rose Levis JCC, Boca Raton, FL and Herb May, former Director of URJ Crane Lake Camp. What a great combination!.....it worked! They created a program that included:

- The Jewish value of the day with corresponding value bracelets
- Sports Major Training from high school and college level coaches
- Motzi and Birkat at all meals
- Spirited and enthusiastic Song Sessions
- Sport Electives such as kayaking, rock climbing or fitness
- Birkat and Singing after dinner

And that was an ordinary day. Shabbat, of course, was something really special. It started with the singing through the camp on the way to Shabbat dinner. Then a Kabbalat Shabbat service outdoors in a wooded area of the school's campus. That was followed by a campfire...."s'mores" of course! And Saturday was a day for relaxation...separate and apart from the other days of the week. Non-competitive activities included bunk games, camp swim, slip and slide and carnival activities and most important...lots of singing... Israeli songs taught by our *shlichim* from Israel, or led by our two wonderful song leaders, and just plain relaxation.....what else is Shabbat meant to be?

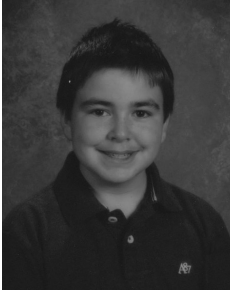
And then came Havdallah.....a very very special time.....singing, holding hands (yeah...the boys did hold hands too!), and very emotional songs and prayers making sure that everyone understood that 6 Points was indeed a Jewish camp.

Then the last night of each of the three sessions.....with each camper and counselor floating a candle on the lake..... more singing.....more hugging.....more crying (yeah...even the guys cried.....it's OK!!!).

So 6 Points was a resounding success. We exceeded our goals in attendance (as we nearly doubled our predictions). We attracted campers nationally, having campers from 25 states and four foreign countries. We provided high level sports training while incorporating fun, spirited, informal Jewish education opportunities. We had an incredible staff of young Jewish college age role models. But most importantly.....we had fun.....JEWISH FUN.

The reaction to 6 Points was indeed gratifying. Allow me to quote from several of the e mails we received from parents and campers:

## B'nai Mitzvah



### Joshua Haft

Joshua Robert Haft, the son of Kenneth and Elizabeth Haft, will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on October 2, 2010. He is the older brother of Rachel and Jacob, the grandson of Lawrence and Florence Haft, of Boca Raton, FL and Robert and Mary Chase, of Durham, NC.

Josh is enrolled in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade I.B. Program at George H. Moody Middle School. He enjoys listening to music, playing trumpet, playing soccer, and caring for his pets. For his Bar Mitzvah Project, Josh made care packages for the U.S. soldiers currently stationed in Afghanistan.



### Samuel Ryan Schmidt

Samuel Ryan Schmidt will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on October 2, 2010. He is the son of Ellen and Seth Schmidt and brother of Hank and Hannah Schmidt. His grandparents are Lori and Ira Schmidt of Jackson, New Jersey and Marion and Bob Huffman of Flat Rock, North

Carolina.

Sam is in 8<sup>th</sup> grade at Moody Middle School. He enjoys playing baseball for his school, rec and travel ball, playing the guitar and architecture. For his mitzvah project, Sam is tutoring at risk youth in an after school tutoring program through the Shady Grove YMCA. This will be Sam's second year as a volunteer with this program. He is also volunteers with the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation in Richmond.

## MAZAL TOV



### Ethan Heatwole

Ethan Heatwole will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on October 9th. Ethan is the son of Thomas and Melissa Heatwole and younger brother of Sarah. He is the grandson of Eugene and Mary Heatwole of Newport News and Charles and Donna Sheppard of Richmond.

Ethan is a 7th grade honor student at Pocahontas Middle School. Ethan is a Boy Scout and his hobbies include history, online gaming, and playing the drums. For his Mitzvah Project he participated in a walk in Baltimore to raise awareness and funds for treatment and research into peritoneal carcinomatosis, joining the fight against cancer in honor of his maternal grandfather.

His family is very proud of him and we look forward to celebrating this occasion with the congregation, friends, and family.



### Jake Zaslav

Please join our family and friends when our son, Jake Zaslav, is called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on October 9, 2010.

Jake Zaslav is a 7th grade student at Seven Hills Middle School. His interests include soccer, trumpet, electric bass, and musical theater. For his Mitzvah Project, Jake will be volunteering at the Richmond Symphony and assisting with children's activities at their Lollipops concerts series. Jake is excited to share his Bar Mitzvah day with family and friends!"

Jake is the son of Erica Mindes and Ken Zaslav, and the loving brother to Alexandra Zaslav. He is the granddaughter of Gloria and Gary Zaslav, and Marilyn (of blessed memory) and Barry Mindes. We are very proud of Jake and look forward to sharing this special occasion with our family, friends and the Beth Ahabah congregation.



## B'nai Mitzvah



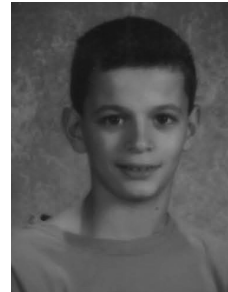
### Claire Mendelson

Claire Mendelson will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on October 16, 2010. She is the daughter of Shannon Kelley and Michael Mendelson, and the older sister of Emily and Alice.

Claire is a 7<sup>th</sup> grade honor student at Collegiate School. She enjoys playing volleyball, basketball, soccer, and piano. She loves to read in her spare time.

For her Mitzvah Project, Claire recorded books onto CDs which she donated to the Children's Hospital. This project tied in with her passion for reading and desire to help children.

Claire's Torah portion is about Abram making his journey to the Promised Land. Claire has enjoyed the journey associated with preparing for her Bat Mitzvah, and she invites all member of the Congregation to join her for Shabbat Services on Friday evening and Saturday morning to share her simcha.



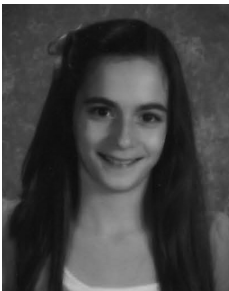
### Ethan Cohen

Ethan Cohen will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on October 23, 2010. Ethan was born in Louisville, Kentucky and has spent most of his life living in Charlottesville, Virginia.

Ethan has been a year round competitive swimmer for many years. Most recently he attended the Zone Meet in Maryland as a representative of the state of Virginia. He enjoys music and plays the clarinet and bassoon. For Ethan's Mitzvah Project, he volunteered at the Beth Sholom Skilled Nursing Facility.

Please join our family as we celebrate this special occasion.

MAZAL TOV



### Emily Cohen

Emily Cohen will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on October 23, 2010. Emily was born in Louisville, Kentucky and has lived most of her life in Charlottesville, VA.

Emily has been a competitive gymnast for the last 5 years and currently trains as a Level 8 Gymnast. She also enjoys spending time with animals. For her Mitzvah Project, she volunteered at Horses in Service – Natural Therapeutic Riding Center.

Please join our family as we celebrate this special occasion.



### Rachel Bassell

Rachel Bassell will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on October 30th 2010. Rachel is the daughter of Sharon and Don Bassell, younger sister of Rebecca. Rachel is an eighth grader at Chickahominy Middle School in Mechanicsville. Rachel enjoys Tae Kwon Do and has mastered several belts. Rachel also enjoys tennis and is an avid fan of Duke Football and Basketball. She is working at St Joseph's Villa to mentor students her own age with homework and younger children in after school programs.

Her family (including her dogs Sabrina and Macey) are very proud of her and we look forward to celebrating with Rachel and all her friends, family and congregation members.

Rachel would also wants pay a special tribute to members of her family who are no longer with us, grandparents Sybil & Arthur Bassell and Nan & Mel Goldsmith and most recently her Aunt Amy Goldsmith.

### Clergy Visits

To assure that clergy make visits to congregants in the hospital, extended care facilities and hospices, please contact the Congregation Beth Ahabah office at 804.358.6757.

## CARITAS

Beth Ahabah will again serve as an intake site for the **CARITAS** Program for the homeless. **CARITAS** stands for **Congregations Around Richmond Involved To Assure Shelter**. From Saturday, January 8, 2011 through Friday, March 11, 2011, persons seeking shelter for the night will come to our school building at approximately 5:45pm.



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

Two volunteers are needed per night. There will be **CARITAS** personnel as well as a Beth Ahabah staff member present each evening. No advanced training is needed to perform this *mitzvah*. Please consider volunteering as an individual or a family. Most Beth Ahabah volunteers agree to work the same night each week for the duration of the program. Several members who have participated in the program with their teenage 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](mailto:cgre41@yahoo.com).

## *Hebrew Cemetery Committee Grant*

The Mary Morton Parsons Foundation recently issued our historic cemetery a challenge - to raise \$50,000, by the end of May 2011, from our congregation and community. When this money is raised, the Mary Morton Parsons Foundation will "match it" with a \$50,000 grant.



Please help us raise these important funds which will enable the Hebrew Cemetery Committee to paydown loans incurred in repairing and stabilizing the grounds that were damaged by tropical storm Gaston.

Should you have any comments, questions or concerns regarding this challenge grant, please contact Russell Finer in the temple office (804-358-6757/[r.finer@bethahabah.org](mailto:r.finer@bethahabah.org)).

Your thoughtfulness and generosity will be greatly appreciated.

## THE ISRAEL CORNER: Life Over the Green Line

by Deb Lebman

In early September news of the opening of a performing arts center in Ariel was greeted by a boycott from a small group of Israeli performers. Many US performers, including several well-known Jewish performers, were quick to join the boycott although none had actually been invited to perform. The reason for the boycott: Ariel is in Samaria or as it is more commonly known, the West Bank. It is a settlement. But where is Ariel and how did it come to be? And should its cultural center be boycotted? What is life like over the green line? Interestingly, a growing segment of Israeli tourism, in which it is highly likely that none of the US signers participated, is taking people to the West Bank so that they can understand more about what life over the green line looks like. Although I have boarded the bus with plastic windows and ventured over the Green Line to meet some of the residents, I have not been to Ariel. However, it is not so difficult to learn about it (it has a web site).

Ariel, which was founded in 1978, is the capital of Samaria. It is 25 miles east of Tel Aviv and easily accessible by car or public transportation. In the eyes of the Israeli government it is a legal settlement. The governments' logic in establishing the settlements and their legality can be found on the web page of the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Their argument is based on both historical context and their interpretation of Article 49 of the Geneva Convention, which is also used to argue that the settlements are illegal. The historic argument is that many of the areas in which settlements have developed were historically home to a Jewish population, and it was not until Jordan occupied the region that Jewish settlement in Judea and Samaria was prohibited. It is important to recognize that the "green line" is the 1948 armistice line and not a recognized border. After Israel declared independence, the Arab (including Jordanian and Egyptian, but not Palestinian as there was no such "nationality" at the time) armies attacked. The West Bank (Judea and Samaria) and Gaza, were occupied by Jordan and Egypt respectively from 1948-1967. During those years Jordan prohibited Jewish settlement in Judea and Samaria which became known as the West Bank. In regard to Article 49, the Israeli government argues that it specifically refers to "forcible transfer" of the population of a state to territory which it occupied as a result of using armed force. The primary purpose of the law, they argue, was to prevent displacement of local populations. Since the Jews who move to the West Bank do so voluntarily (although government subsidies may have encouraged them to volunteer), and the settlements did not displace Arab inhabitants, the Israeli government argues that the settlement it recognizes as legal were established within international law. To quote Yesha Council Director Naftali Bennet (Haaretz, September 12, 2010): "There is enough room for Jews and Arabs for generations to come."

*6 Points Continued from Page 7...*

...(Posted in Facebook by one of the campers)... "This was the best time I ever had in my life!"

...(an e mail received from a parent of a camper) "I just wanted to let you know how impressed J and D were yesterday of 6 Points, the staff, the facilities, the food, the camaraderie and the "camp feeling.""

...(another e mail received from a camper) "My name is J, and I was a camper at 6 Points. I just wanted to let you know that I had the time of my life at 6 Point Sports Academy. I felt right at home, and I met many new friends. I did not want to leave. The counselors at 6 Points were awesome. My counselors were like brothers to me. I do plan on coming back next year for two sessions. And when I am 16 I plan on becoming a CIT..... I will spread the word about 6 Points Sports Academy to all of my Jewish friends here."

(an e mail from another parent.....this one says it all) "Wow! What a wonderful two weeks R has just completed at 6 Points Sports Academy! Thank you (and everyone else that I didn't have a chance to meet) for running such an amazing program. To see the tears running down R's face and all of her fellow campers' faces, at pick up, says a lot of the special bond that was made in those two weeks.

As I think I have told you both, our town has a very small Jewish population which is comprised of very few children. R often says, "People just don't get what being Jewish is." And I was always afraid she wasn't "into" being Jewish as much as I would have liked. Well, R kept a journal while at 6 Points and she let me read it on Sunday. Her first page was filled with descriptions of excitement about this new experience. The second page, written on the second day she was with you brought tears to my eyes. She wrote, "I am so proud to be Jewish!" How quickly she started enjoying this new bond with her religion and culture. How absolutely perfect for her - and for her father and me to know that she is enjoying her heritage so much."

There are more....many more.

So what did we prove? Did 6 Points financially succeed.... not quite yet. But with the great reputation it now has, we are confident of significantly higher enrollment next summer.... and that will economically prove what we have already proven programmatically.....that it is not necessary to spend millions of dollars to have a great, wonderful, fantastic Jewish camp. I rest my case.

For more information about 6 Points visit [6pointsacademy.org](http://6pointsacademy.org)

## OUR CONGREGANTS LIVES...

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

#### Howard Marks

*father of Karen Hofheimer  
brother of Rosalie Nachman*

#### Patricia Marks

*mother of Karen Hofheimer*

#### John Wagner

*father of Patricia Dodson*

#### Hannah Rapp

*wife of Harold Rapp  
mother of Sheri Cox*

### CONGRATULATIONS TO...

**Deborah K. Greenberg** on the marriage of her daughter, Amanda Ruth Caplan to Robert Campe Goodman, III, on August 15, 2010. Also to Amanda's grandmother, Mrs. Nathan B. Evens, the late Dr. David J. Greenberg & Dr. Nathan B. Evens. To Campe's grandfather, Julian Jacobs & the late Betty Joel Jacobs and his parents Robert & Martha Jacobs Goodman of Virginia Beach.

**Babs & Larry Jackson** on the birth of their granddaughter, Stella Xingguo Lorge who is 1 year old & just came home with her mommy & daddy from China. Stella's parents are Julie Gurdin & Jeremy Lorge of NY.

**Rabbi Beifield & Ina Ginsberg** on the birth of their grandson Yoav Hannan born in Israel on September 18, 2010. Also to parents, Ilana Kwartin & B.G. Beifield.

**Terry & Jerry Hirsch** on the marriage of their daughter, Jamie Hirsch to Todd Black on September 25, 2010.

*The Israel Corner Continued from Page...10*

Returning to Ariel, life in the city is quite diverse. It has a population of 20,000 residents and close to 10,000 students. Every segment of Israeli life is represented: religious, traditional and secular. Close to half of the city's residents are olim (recent immigrants) from Russia. Its residents live in everything from apartments to villas. Ariel has an advanced industrial center with over 150 plants and factories. It has its own radio and television stations, health care facilities, and even a first class hotel. Ariel calls itself the "smart city" because of the way it is using technology to enhance the lives of its residents. In 1982 Ariel University, which is currently home to 8500 students representing every sector of Israeli society (Jewish, Arab, secular, observant, new olim, and long term residents), was established. The students come from throughout the country, not just the West Bank. Many of the students travel from nearby Tel Aviv to attend classes there. It offers Bachelors and Masters degrees in a wide range of scientific and non-scientific fields and is geared to

## Brotherhood...

And now comes the Fall.....

A very Happy New Year to one and all! And away we go, into the swirl and excitement – and promise – of the new year.

I hope that you have had the opportunity to come to Temple during the High Holy Days, and then again during Sukkot. If you have, it's likely that you have sensed a renewed sense of energy and purpose. I know I have... every time that I have come to Beth Ahabah in the past month, it feels more vibrant, more dynamic.

This energy was certainly manifested during the raising of the Sukkahs this year. I am pleased to report that both Sukkahs were constructed, and decorated, in record time this year, by a number of participants that exceeded my experience in this project. And if you privileged to see the results of their labors, I am certain that you would agree that this year's Sukkahs were, in a word, beautiful. Thanks to everyone who contributed to this delightful project!

As we charge into October, your Brotherhood's calendar includes several "gold star" events, that I would direct your attention to. These events are all compressed into the last weekend of the month, from **October 29 through the 31<sup>st</sup>**.

Our annual Brotherhood Shabbat takes place on October 29<sup>th</sup>. Before the service, Brotherhood hosts an "all you want" pizza dinner (please be sure to reserve early with the Temple office!), and there will be an Oneg Shabbat following. This service, while a special recognition of the Men's Auxiliary here at Beth Ahabah, holds special significance for the Congregation. During this service, your Brotherhood recognizes a member of our congregation as the recipient of the **Sam Troy Award** for service "above and beyond" to both the Congregation and to the greater Jewish community of Richmond. Past honorees are not necessarily members of the Brotherhood, nor are they necessarily women, but their identity is kept in strictest secrecy until the time that the award is actually bestowed on the recipient (Believe me, the veil of secrecy surrounding the identity of the recipient is harder to break than the one that surrounds the Nobel Peace Prize). And, most importantly, this award is only made in years where the selection committee identifies a qualified candidate. I am doubly pleased to report that this year, the Sam Troy Committee has determined a recipient!

This year's **Brotherhood Shabbat** has even more special significance, as we are privileged to have as our special guest John Shallet, President of the Men of Reform Judaism. This is the first time, in the nearly 90 year history of Beth Ahabah's Brotherhood, that we have been honored with the participation of a member of the National MRJ executive board. Mr. Shallet will address the congregation during the service, and will join us for Oneg.

*Brotherhood Continues on Page 13...*

## Sisterhood...

Sisterhood has something for everyone so grab your calendar and mark the following dates to be sure you are part of the fun. Also, if you would like to help with the planning or have ideas or suggestions, please give a call to the contact listed with each event. Please plan to attend...It won't be the same without you!

**Annual Brunch on October 10<sup>th</sup>** 9:30 am– 11:30 am – Please join us for our Sisterhood Annual Brunch, in the Goldberg Auditorium. This is always a wonderful event, open to all the women of Beth Ahabah, and is a perfect opportunity to meet new friends and connect with those you haven't seen for a while. Social, educational, and creative activities are planned. Good food and great fun! For more information, please contact Katie Roeper, [Katie.Roeper@gmail.com](mailto:Katie.Roeper@gmail.com) or 539-5998.

**Saturday Evening Fundraiser on November 13<sup>th</sup>**, 7:00 pm – Looking for a fun, Jewish, hold your sides from laughter kind of evening? Check out The Jason Linett Comedy Hypnosis Show. Sisterhood and Brotherhood at Congregation Beth Ahabah are joining together to sponsor a very special Saturday Evening Fundraiser, starring a national hypnosis comedian. Featured at President Obama's Inaugural Ball, Professional Comedy Stage Hypnotist Jason Linett has performed across the country to create unforgettable experiences with entertainment that is clean, safe, and guaranteed to keep you laughing! "Audience volunteers become the stars of the show," explains Linett. "I provide entertainment that celebrates the volunteers of the show with appropriate humor. They are happy they volunteered, not embarrassed, and the audience loves it," says Linett. This evening of entertainment, which is open to the community, will include gourmet food, drinks, raffles, and more! Tickets are \$25 per person or reserve a table for all your friends for \$250. Babysitting services will also be available. For more information or to order tickets, please contact Lynn Burris at [ackmanrealty@copper.net](mailto:ackmanrealty@copper.net) or call the Temple office 358-6757.

**Donut Decorating for Chanukah Party on December 5<sup>th</sup>**, 9:30 am – Sisterhood's table at the Annual Chanukah Party is always a favorite for donut lovers! If you like donuts, icing or decorating pastries, this is a perfect place to volunteer. Please contact Rachel Schmidt at [Rachel.Schmidt@comcast.net](mailto:Rachel.Schmidt@comcast.net) or 360-7761.

**Sisterhood Shabbat, January 7<sup>th</sup>**, 7:30 pm – Sisterhood Shabbat is a very special Friday evening service, but only because it stems from the hearts of the women of Beth Ahabah. We need volunteers to contribute to the writings and illustrations. Also we hope that you will participate in the service. Please contact Rachel Schmidt at [Rachel.Schmidt@comcast.net](mailto:Rachel.Schmidt@comcast.net) or Cantor Bornstein at [Cantor@bethahabah.org](mailto:Cantor@bethahabah.org).

*Sisterhood Continues on Page 13...*

*Brotherhood Continued from Page 12...*

Mr. Shallet will also join us for Saturday Bat Mitzvah Services. Brotherhood will host a Brunch from 12:00 – 1:30 pm following this service in Joel House. All men of the Congregation are invited to meet, share a nosh and dialog with Pres. Shallet.

Sunday morning, **October 31<sup>st</sup>**, is this year's first edition of the 2010 – 2011 Brotherhood Breakfast Brunch series. Our speaker, Michael Goldfarb, the former London correspondent for National Public Radio and author of the just-published book "Emancipation", will talk about "Jewish Ghosts of Emancipation" and how he became a hunter for Jewish ghosts while researching a book about Jewish history in cities like Berlin and Vienna where Jews no longer live in great numbers. This give and take discussion is sure to be an excellent "kick off" to this year's speaker series. All are invited to attend.

That's quite enough for one month, much less one week, as I am sure you'll agree. But it just keeps going, however, with a Congregation-wide fundraiser to benefit Beth Ahabah's Capital Improvement program on November 15<sup>th</sup>. Tickets are on sale as you read this – please see a member of Brotherhood or Sisterhood for information and to purchase tickets.

So, come out and join in the excitement! As always, if you have any questions, call me on (804) 245-9211.

L' Shana Tovah and best regards,  
Sean McElgunn, president

*Sisterhood Continued from Page 12...*

**Game Night, March 5<sup>th</sup>**, 7:00 pm – Brotherhood/Sisterhood Annual Game Night, a Beth Ahabah tradition so popular that it pushed the capacity limits of the Joel house last year. Bring you favorite game and join the fun! Sandy Corbett at westiemomma@comcast.net.

**Support for Beth Ahabah College Students** – Did you know that Sisterhood sends special packages to Beth Ahabah college students to deliver a taste of the Jewish holidays while they are away from home! If you would like to help or you have a college student, please contact Laura Davidson at Lauraelaine87@aol.com to get them on the list!

## Sisterhood Gift Shop News

Beth Ahabah's own boutique of Judaica can be found in the Goldberg Auditorium! All purchases help fund the wonderful programs Sisterhood organizes during the year.



The Sisterhood Gift Shop can be visited on Sunday mornings or by appointment. Questions? Call the Temple office at 804.358.6757.

## What's Cooking?

with Rabbi Andrew Goodman



Classes will be held on Sunday mornings from 9:15am-11:45am, and are \$25 each. You are able to sign up for individual topics. There must be a minimum of 7 students in each class, and there is space for only 10 students. Please contact Tess at t.shebaylo@bethahabah.org

or 358.6757 for questions and to sign up!

**October 17** - Shabbat 2: Chicken Soup and Matzah Balls

**November 21** - Hanukkah: Latkes and Rugalach

**December 12** - Cultural Food 1: Moroccan Couscous, Hummus, and Pita



## Women's Torah Study

with  
Cantor Annie L. Bornstein



*Turn it and turn it again...for everything is in it.*  
— Pirkei Avot

### — Lunch 'n Learn —

Tuesdays from 12pm–1:00pm

*(feel free to bring your lunch)*

November 2, 9, 16

December 7, 14

January 4, 11, 18, 25

February 1, 8, 15

March 1, 8, 15, 22, 19

*No previous study needed.*

Call or e-mail l.lacy@bethahabah.org  
or 804/358-6757 to register.



## 100 Years Ago This Month

Part 1

by David Farris,  
Executive Director

In October of 2009, I wrote about the things that were going on at Beth Ahabah in that month 100 years ago. I want to do that again, but in researching old minutes I found something so relevant that I would like to deal with it before my annual 100 year look into the past.



I saw something online last week that I found fascinating. It dealt with the things the current crop of college freshmen do not know and do compared with their parents. For example, the article claimed that a large percentage of them do not know how to write in cursive. Then there were the things they can't remember, like telephones that had wires attached, not being able to go to the moon, etc. Even ballpoint pens are becoming obsolete in their view.

Other recent articles have concentrated on the inability of today's youth to communicate in anything other than short bursts such as used in cell phone text messages and on Twitter. Emails, it is said, are something today's freshmen consider almost obsolete as they are too wordy.

I was reminded of these things when I ran across a handwritten resolution (in cursive) prepared for introduction at the upcoming annual meeting of the congregation. It seems that Charles Hutzler, the Congregation's President, had been injured in an accident. The Board wished to have the congregation express its regrets and its appreciation for his services, and adopted the following resolution:

*Richmond, Va., October 9, 1910*

*Congregation Beth Ahabah, in annual meeting assembled, deeply deploras the absence of its honored president, Mr. Charles Hutzler, who is suffering the painful results of an accident. His able guidance and wise counsel are much missed, and the hearts of all its members go out to him in fervent sympathy.*

*Yet it is also with a sense of heartfelt relief that they hear that his injuries, while serious, are no longer considered dangerous, and they desire to place on record the expression of their heartfelt gratitude to our Heavenly Father that what might have been a serious calamity to our community has happily been spared us.*

*Be it therefore resolved, that we, the Congregation Beth Ahabah in meeting assembled convey to our honored President our sincere sympathy and our affectionate good*

## Jewish Women in the Arts



**Exhibition Hours: Sunday - Thursday  
10am to 3pm**

**Pictured: 2-piece Vase by Andrea Komulainen and  
Self-portrait by the late Theresa Pollak**

*wishes for his speedy recovery and restoration to his dear ones and to the community he serves so ably and conscientiously.*

*Be it also Resolved, that we give this expression of our reverent gratitude to God that in His goodness this valuable and noble servant of our loved cause is spared to us and, let us pray, for many many more years.*

Good writing, I think you will agree, but in a style not seen too much these days. Even those of us who qualify as senior citizens don't write this way except on very special occasions. Today's seniors might be inclined to leave the basic expression of our sentiments to the Hallmark Company, adding a few personal comments on the card. Maybe I shouldn't be too critical of the freshman class of 2010 for their dependence on more modern means of communication. I confess that I use email regularly, and also send text messages on my aging cell phone after having been taught to do so by my youngest daughter. I have refused, at least so far, to learn the use of Twitter. It seems to me that having to express my thoughts in 140 characters is pretty limiting. I would be afraid that it could lead to not having any thoughts longer than that at all, and some of my best ones are considerably longer!

Come by one of these days and browse through these old records for yourselves. It is "so fun", to borrow a current grammatical abuse popular with the freshman class of 2010. We are here from 10 – 3, Sunday through Thursday and at other days and times by request (so that you can bring your out-of-town visitors).

804.353.2668 • [www.bethahabah.org](http://www.bethahabah.org)  
[bama@bethahabah.org](mailto:bama@bethahabah.org)

## Barbara & William B. Thalhimer, Jr. Religious School News

### Welcome Back to School!!

by Ramona Brand  
Religious School Director

We were so excited to welcome back our students in September!!!! Read below to find out about the many exciting happenings coming this month.



Class will be preceded by an optional pizza dinner.  
Pizza dinner: 5:30pm – 6pm in the Joel House  
Class: 6:00pm – 7:15pm in the school building  
Cost: \$100.00 / Pizza money TBD and collected on first day

### First Steps into Judaism:

First Steps is a special program for three- and four-year olds. The program meets approximately two Sundays a month from 9:15-10:45, with Jon Bridge. Jon uses his variety of talents to excite preschoolers about their emerging sense of Judaism. There is special emphasis on stories and arts and crafts related to the holidays and other elements of Jewish life.

There is still room for First Steps enrollment. Contact Tess at [t.sheabaylo@bethahabah.org](mailto:t.sheabaylo@bethahabah.org) to register.

### October Happenings

October Religious School Calendar

Sundays: 3,10,17, 24, 31

First Steps: 10, 24

Midrasha Mondays: 4,11,18, 25

Midweek Hebrew Wednesdays: 6,13, 20, 27

### Class Geshers and Beth Ahabah Family Learning Academy

Grade 1 Gesher:  
October 3, 2010

Grade 2 Gesher  
October 24, 2010



All adults are welcome to join Rabbi Beifield at 9:30 in the chapel

Subject: Grade 1: Mitzvah

Grade 2: People of the Book

Grade level parents then join their students and teachers at 10:30 in the Goldberg for more learning and a hands-on project.

### Mid-Week Hebrew Available at Greatly Reduced Cost:

There is still room for enrollment

During these times of economic stress, we hope to continue to offer quality programming at affordable cost. Midweek Hebrew is available for only \$100 which is 1/3 the cost of previous years.

Students who attend Midweek Hebrew learn in smaller classes, gain greater proficiency and require less tutoring for their Bar and Bat Mitzvah preparation.

### What's New for Midrasha Mondays!!

8<sup>th</sup> Grade Moves to Monday Nights  
Core Classes and Electives

We have an exciting new program planned for Midrasha Mondays next year that is open to 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> graders! We have expanded our traditional Monday night classes to include Core Classes and Electives on a wide variety of interesting Judaic subjects. Our new rabbi, Rabbi Gallop, will be joining Rabbi Beifield and Ramona Brand in teaching Monday classes. We will also have special guest teachers throughout the year.

Our Monday Midrasha program has a full line up:

- 5:30pm – 6:30pm: Optional drop-in time in the Youth Lounge where your child can hangout, enjoy after school snacks or do homework in a friendly and casual atmosphere.
- 5:30pm – 6:30pm: Ruach Hadash rehearses twice a month in the Joel House multipurpose room.
- The optional pizza dinner begins at 6:30pm.
- Classes begin at 7pm and conclude at 8:30pm.

### 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> Grade Core Classes:

8<sup>th</sup> Grade with Rabbi Gallop

K'lal Yisrael: The Diverse People of the Jewish Community

9<sup>th</sup> Grade with Ramona Brand

L'chah Dodi: Greeting the Sabbath Bride

10<sup>th</sup> grade with Rabbi Beifield Modern Israel: Its People, Culture, History,

and Conflicts – What it all Means to Me

Electives: open to 8th-12th grade students Students will pick from one of three electives per elective session.

**Session 1:** 6 weeks, September 20 - October 25, 2010 a. Genesis: Where Did We Come From? Who Are We Now? b. Yiddish with Dick and Jane c. Zap! Pow! Bang!: Jewish Cartoonists and Their Impact on American Culture

**Session 2:** 7 weeks, November 1 – December 13, 2010 a. Jewish Ethics: What Should I Do? Learn How Judaism Shapes the Decisions We Make b. Leading the Way: Learning How to be a Jewish Advocate c. We Are What We Eat: What Makes Jewish Foods Jewish

**Session 3:** 2 weeks January 3 & 10, 2011 a. Eco Justice: What Does Judaism Say About Being an Advocate for Our Earth? Learn What Tikkun Olam Can Mean

**Session 4:** 10 weeks January 24 – April 18, 2011 a. Conversational Hebrew: Hebrew – It's Not Just for Your Bar or Bat Mitzvah b. Roots of Hatred: The Holocaust and Genocide Today c. Judaism in T.V. and Movies

**Tot Shabbat:**

A special service for our young families!! Sing and Pray with the Rabbi and Cantor. Stories, songs and crafts with Ramona. Social time with other Tot parents.



Each month Rabbi Beifield or Rabbi Gallop, and Cantor Annie will lead age appropriate services for families with children from birth to 5 years old. Snack, and a learning craft time will be lead by our Director of Education, Ramona Brand.

Tot Shabbat Open House: October 9<sup>th</sup> at 9:15am: Welcoming Guests

Fall Tot Shabbat Dates: Saturday, October 9<sup>th</sup> at 9:15am  
Saturday, November 6<sup>th</sup> at 9:15am  
Saturday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at 9:15am

**YOUTH NEWS!**

Welcome to Jon Bridge our new Jr. Youth Groups Advisor. Jon is a student at VCU and has extensive youth group experience. He currently also works at the Weinstein JCC with youth programs and will be our new First Steps teacher.

**Chaverim:** for students in grades 3-5 will meet several times a semester for social activities and fun!



**FALL FUN!**

Get lost in the corn maze at Chesterfield Berry Farm. Spend an afternoon at a Harvest Festival! Mazes, activities, pumpkins, and other activities all part of the fun.

When: October 10, 2010  
Cost: \$15.00 includes Chesterfield Berry Farm admission and pizza lunch at Beth Ahabah.  
Meet: in the Goldberg for lunch after Sunday School, leave approximately 12:30pm.  
Pick-up: 4:30pm at Chesterfield Berry Farm

We need parent drivers. To volunteer and/or to make a Reservation email Tess at t.shebaylo@bethahabah.org by Wednesday, October 6<sup>th</sup>



**JeRAFTY led Kolot Shel Shabbat**  
Rock the Shul with a JeRAFTY led Shabbat Service!

When: Friday, October 29, 2010  
Time: 6:30pm Join Brotherhood for a pizza dinner

**JeRAFTY Hang Out:**

November 7<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 to 2:00pm  
Come hang out with your friends and enjoy lunch in the Joel House Youth Lounge.

**Calling American Girl Dolls Fans!!**

Bring your American Girl Doll (or any favorite doll) and attend the American Girls Doll Book Club as we Meet Rebecca, the newest historical American Girls Doll who just happens to be Jewish. Listen to Rebecca's story and then enjoy making Judaic crafts for your dolls.



When: October 17, 24, 31, and November 7  
American Girls Doll  
Cost: \$10.00 for pizza lunch and craft materials. (covers all four sessions)  
Time: 12pm – 1pm

**Big Buddies Program**

Chaverim boys and college students from VCU's Jewish Fraternity AEPi spend some time bonding having fun over pizza, games and sports.

When: two dates TBD in October  
Cost: \$5.00 for pizza (covers both sessions)  
Time: 12pm – 1pm



Religious School News Continued from Page 16...



## JR. JERAFETY:

Jr. JeRAFTY is our new middle school group for 6th through 8th graders. This youth group meets about once a month with social activities both at and away from the synagogue. Ice-skating, cook-outs, Kolot youth services, shul-ins, food and get-togethers are all part of the fun.

### Havdallah and Hannukah

Hannukah comes early this year! Enjoy in some holiday fun with games, gifts, fun and food. We begin with a short Havdallah service.



When: November 20, 2010  
Location: Joel House  
Cost: One or more cans of food to donate to the Central Virginia Food Bank  
Time: 6pm – 9pm

### Youth Music Groups

**Ruach Hadash!!** A New Spirit! All musicians, grades 6-12, are invited to join our Youth Musical Ensemble. We will perform a variety of Jewish music from Hatikvah to Klezmer music. If you have had at least one year of instrument you are welcome to join Ruach Hadash. You will perform throughout the year at Beth Ahabah and community events. Exciting touring events this year!!!

October Rehearsals:

Sundays: 3,10, 17, 24, 31

Mondays: 11 and 25

**Etz Chayim:** Singers aged 4-11 are invited to raise their voices in song and sing in our delightful youth choir.

October Rehearsals:

Sundays: 3,10,17,24, 31

**Sim Shalom:** A new teen choir for singers ages 11-17. Audition only. October 4<sup>th</sup>, 6pm in the Guminck Chapel

## Elizabeth Thalhimer Smartt Lecture and Book Signing

A Museum & Archives Special Event  
Tuesday, November 16

On Tuesday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at 7:30 PM, the Museum & Archives will present author Elizabeth Thalhimer Smartt at an event in the Gumenick Chapel at Beth Ahabah.

Elizabeth will discuss her new book *Finding Thalhimers*, the true story of the Thalhimer family and their department stores. This multigenerational narrative weaves together history, biography, and memoir into an unforgettable portrait of an ambitious American retail family.

Guided by unwavering principles and visionary leadership, the Thalhimers store watched American history unfold, from the Civil War to the Civil Rights movement, from the arrival of ready-to-wear fashions to the rise of "big box" stores. Four generations of Thalhimers grew the business from a modest dry goods shop into a twenty-six store chain.

Intertwining a genealogical treasure hunt with a powerful and unusual family history, *Finding Thalhimers* shares a true story both celebratory and bittersweet.

Elizabeth's quest to discover more about her family roots began in 1997 during a visit with a relative in Manhattan when a scrap of paper fell out of a dusty old photo album. The handwritten note mentioned a Goetz Lazarus born in Thairenbach, Germany, who was "latterly named Goetz Thalheimer." However, no one in her family knew anything about him. This note led Elizabeth on a 12-year genealogical journey. She spent four years interviewing her grandfather, William B. Thalhimer, Jr., amassing a 400-page binder of information. Her quest culminated in a discovery in a small village near Heidelberg, Germany where she could finally verify that Goetz Thalheimer was indeed the first Thalhimer. His only son Wolff would come to open a dry goods shop in Richmond's Shockoe Bottom in 1842, and from that humble beginning a retail dynasty would continue to grow for five generations. Her book provides an inside perspective of the entire 150-year story of the Thalhimers and their beloved store.

Her book will be on sale at the event, and she will be happy to inscribe and autograph copies as requested following her talk.

The address of the Gumenick Chapel is 1113 W. Franklin Street, Richmond, VA 23220, and the entrance is at the rear of the education building in the driveway between that building and the Joel House. Parking will be available in the parking deck on Franklin Street.

## CONTRIBUTIONS

**TEMPLE FUND  
IN HONOR OF:  
Millie & Herb Heltzer's  
special anniversary**

*Ann Bendheim*

**Herb Heltzer's special birthday**

*Ann Bendheim*

**John Sternlicht & James Finley's  
marriage**

*Pamela & Steve Starling*

**Lesley & David Greenberg's  
special anniversary**

*Katy & Jimmy Yoffy*

**The birth of Sabine Grace  
Schwartz**

*Scott & Nancy Belleman*

**Dina Boettcher's  
special birthday**

*Sidney & Marjorie Gunst*

*Rhoda Thalhimer*

**High Holyday Services**

*Neil Schluskel*

**Rabbi Beifield & Ina Ginsberg's  
new grandson**

*Peter & Leta Greenberg*

**IN MEMORY OF:  
Istat Aminova, Varvara  
Krejanovskaya &  
Leonid Krejanovsky**

*Mikhail Aminov*

**Hilde Blumenthal**

*Lynn B. Stevenson*

**Steven Finer & Celia Yaffe**

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**Patricia & Howard Marks**

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*Judy & Fred Schubert*

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*Lesley & David Greenberg*

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**Margaret Goldberg Farber**

*Randy Goldberg & Jackie Goldberg Jones,  
Madison & Jasmine*

**THE RABBI'S  
PHILANTHROPIC FUND**

**These contributions were re-  
ceived in response to the An-  
nual Appeal:**

*Russ Finer*

*Claire & Bob Rosenbaum*

*Ann Bendheim*

*Mark Baron*

*Lori & Jonathan Bekenstein*

*Sara Belle & Neil November*

*Suellen & Chuck Rothenberg*

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*Leta & Peter Greenberg, in memory of*

*Miriam Fogel*

*Abby Moore*

*Edith Brenner*

*Jackie & Murray Lowenstein*

*Katy & Jimmy Yoffy*

*Joyce Rosenbaum*

*Harry Cohn, in honor of High Holyday  
Services*

*Mary Ellen Jackoway*

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*Rebecca & Adam Thalhimer*

*Julia & Seymour Einbinder*

*Hans Falck & Renate Forssmann-Falck*

**IN HONOR OF:**

**The birth of Rabbi Beifield &  
Ina Ginsberg's new grandson**

*Deborah K. Greenberg*

**IN MEMORY OF:**

**David Brenner**

*Edith Brenner*

**Patricia & Howard Marks**

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*Anne Meyers*

**David Kiken**

*Anne Meyers*

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MUSIC FUND**

**IN MEMORY OF:**

**Patricia & Howard Marks**

*Cantor Fran Goldman*

**LEWIS I. HELD  
SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

**IN MEMORY OF:**

**Lewis I. Held, my dear husband**

*Minnie C. Held*

**Jack & Ruby Cansino, my dear  
parents**

*Minnie C. Held*

*Contributions Continue on Page 19...*

*Contributions Continued from Page 18..*

**Raymond Straus**

Nancy Weissmann

**HEBREW CEMETERY FUND  
IN MEMORY OF:**

**Harriet Grandis & Jean LePage**

Betty Sue & Todd LePage

**M. David Shapiro, my father**

Bill & Kathy Wootton

**ETERNAL LIGHT FUND  
IN MEMORY OF:**

**Patricia & Howard Marks**

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**THIRD CENTURY FUND  
IN MEMORY OF:**

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**ENDOWMENT FUND  
IN MEMORY OF:**

**Patricia & Howard Marks**

Morton G. Thalhimier, Jr.

**MUSEUM & ARCHIVES  
IN HONOR OF:**

**Dina Boettcher's Special  
Birthday**

David & Wendy Cohn Miller

**Herb Heltzer's Special Birthday**

Bette R. Wallerstein

Sharyn D. Ward

**Harry L. Cohn's Special  
Birthday**

David & Wendy Cohn Miller

Dina S. Boettcher

**The Birth of**

**Sabine Grace Schwartz**

Bonnie & Mike Eisenman

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**:Patricia and Howard Marks**

Genie & George Crawford

Bonnie & Mike Eisenman

Dina Stern Boettcher

Marilyn Evens

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**Robert Tetlow**

Deborah Greenberg

*Anyone Can Sing the Notes...*

*Why Not Learn to Sing with the Pros*

— Join —

*Etz Chayim*

(ages 5-10)

*Sundays, 11:45am-12:30pm in the Chapel*

*Sim Shalom* (ages 11-18)

*Sundays, 12:30-1:30pm in the Chapel*

*Adult Volunteer Choir* (ahem...)

*Mondays, 7:00-8:30pm in the Chapel*

*and Make Artistic Music with*

*Cantor Annie Bornstein and Natan Berenshteyn*

*It's Never, Ever  
too Late to Join...*



The deadline for  
submitting information  
to the  
November issue of  
B'Yahad is  
October 10th.



*Hebrew Cemetery*

of Congregations Beth Shalom & Beth Ahabah

**It's never too early to be**

**prepared.** For more information please  
call Russell Finer or Bill Thalhimier, III at  
358.6757.

**Hebrew Cemetery Security:**  
**A uniformed police  
guard will be on duty the  
1st and 3rd Sundays  
from 12 to 3pm.**

**Beth Ahabah Cares**

*The Beth Ahabah Cares Program is here to help Temple  
members in their moments of need. If you need some help,  
please contact Cantor Annie at 804.358.6757, ext. 317, or  
cantor@bethahabah.org.*

*If you would like to support the good works of this  
program, please consider a contribution to  
Beth Ahabah Cares C/O Congregation Beth Ahabah*



Congregation Beth Ahabah  
 1111 West Franklin Street  
 Richmond, Virginia 23220  
 Telephone: (804) 358-6757  
 email: temple@bethahabah.org  
 Temple Fax: (804) 358-3451  
*Successor to K.K. Beth Shalome...1789*

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*If you have any matter that you wish to discuss with an officer of the Congregation, please contact our president, Nancy Belleman, at nbelleman@verizon.net or at 804.282.2738.*



The Brotherhood of Congregation Beth Ahabah  
 Invites you and your family to join us for

**BROTHERHOOD SHABBAT WEEKEND**

**Friday, October 29<sup>th</sup>**

*Shabbat Dinner in the Goldberg Auditorium at 6:00pm*

*Gourmet Pizza, Salad and Beverages*

*Shabbat Service in the Sanctuary at 7:30pm*

Brotherhood members will do readings and chant Torah.

The **Sam Troy Award** (person of the year) will be presented.

**John S. Shalett**, *President of our national brotherhood organization,*

*Men of Reform Judaism (MRJ), will deliver a sermon entitled*

*"Transmitting our religious values to future generations."*

*Join everyone after services for the Oneg Shabbat.*

**Saturday, October 30<sup>th</sup>**

**Saturday Worship and Bar Mitzvah Service 10:30am**

*Join us for Saturday worship as we celebrate the Bat Mitzvah of Rachel Bassell.*

*Saturday Luncheon 12:00pm*

*Join us in the Joel House. Enjoy a catered luncheon and be part of a round table discussion led by John S. Shalett, National President of Men of Reform Judaism.*

All events are free of charge. Please call the temple office at 804.358.6757 or respond to the E-vite to let us know that you will be attending the dinner and/or luncheon so that we can plan for the right amount of food.