Buenos Aires is the home of about two hundred thousand Jews, making it the largest Jewish community in Latin and South America and one of the largest in the world. In 1992 the Israeli embassy in Buenos Aires was the target of a terrorist attack. A suicide bomber drove a truck into the embassy compound, murdering twenty-nine people and wounding hundreds, many of whom were children. In 1994 the Jewish community center in Buenos Aires, known by its acronym AMIA, was the target of a terrorist attack which murdered eighty-five people and injured many hundreds. It was and remains the worst terrorist attack in Argentina’s history.

In 2002, I traveled to Buenos Aires on a Federations of North America mission. The country was in the midst of a terrible depression and many in the Jewish community were suffering. The economy had been on shaky grounds for a few years but there had been a sudden, catastrophic collapse. It was common to hear people refer to the “sudden poor,” a reference to those who had just recently been living comfortable, middle and upper middle class lives and who were suddenly practically destitute. Many Jewish businesses went bankrupt and families lost their jobs, their savings, and even their homes. Many Jewish communal agencies were closing for lack of funds and the number of Jewish schools, once bursting with students, was reduced by half. The Jews seemed to be living in a daze, shocked at the sudden and incomprehensible turn of events.

In the eight to ten years between the bombings and our visit, the community had rebuilt the destroyed buildings. But in many ways they had never overcome a feeling of unease over their sense of security and what the future held for them. The depression, with its severe impact on the Jewish community, compounded their anxiety and turmoil.

As if these blows were not enough, the investigations into the bombings were characterized by errors, mistakes, and false leads. There seemed to be no resolution in sight. Then about ten years ago Alberto Nisman took over the investigation. He uncovered evidence that Iranian agents had master-minded the attacks and used Hezbollah terrorists to implement the plan. Naturally the Iranian government was furious and threatened Nisman. Today few doubt Iran’s and Hezbollah’s culpability though none have ever been brought to justice. He also discovered that Carlos Menem, the president of Argentina at the time of the AMIA bombing, had covered-up Iran’s involvement. More recently he uncovered evidence that Cristina Kirchner, the current president of Argentina, and the current Foreign Minister, while engaging in an eventually failed scheme to cut a deal with Iran over oil, had also covered-up Iran’s involvement in the bombing.

The day before he was scheduled to appear before a congressional committee to present his findings about President Kirchner, Nisman was found in his home fatally shot to death. It was made to appear as a suicide. At first the government supported the suicide story but, faced with no apparent evidence coupled with widespread suspicion about the truthfulness of the story, it has quietly...

The Rabbi’s Article Continues on Page 3
Generations Capital and Endowment Campaign Update
By Linda and Earl Ferguson, Katie and Ken Roeper, Nancy Belleman

If you’ve wondered lately, why you have not heard more about Generations Capital and Endowment Campaign, it’s because we’ve been in what is often referred to as the “Quiet Phase” of a campaign. But watch out, because the volume is about to crank up!

We began Generations with a lot of talk – first with congregational meetings last Spring, then with charrettes over the Summer, and finally with tours of our campus on Rosh Hashanah. Our dialogue, which has been both thought-provoking and inspirational, will serve as the foundation for Beth Ahabah’s transformation.

This Visionary Phase was critical to involve as many congregants as possible in the exchange of ideas and the development of the long-term vision for our community. Because the results of this Campaign will impact all of us, and our children, and their children, it is vitally important that all of our voices be heard.

The Campaign structure set the stage, with 34 individuals involved in Campaign management on one or more standing committees. Additionally, last Spring, 58 congregants attended introductory meetings about the Campaign. In July, August and September, a series of charrettes, facilitated by world-class architect Salo Levinas, engaged over 150 congregants in discussions about religious practices, Jewish education, family connections, brotherhood and sisterhood, the cemetery, the museum and archives, and the overall use of our buildings and grounds. The process continued with dream-building over the High Holy Days, with tours of the campus on Rosh Hashanah and Dream Cards, soliciting additional transformational ideas. Altogether, over 200 families have made their voices heard since Generations was first introduced.

Then things went quiet. Why? To give the architect time to process everything he heard; to give the Steering Committee time to develop a framework for running the Campaign; to give the Trustees and Board time to develop policies that will effectively guide the fundraising and fiduciary responsibilities related to construction. Additionally, committees have been meeting to explore the envisioned transformations that are not directly tied to construction, such as technology, communication, staffing, and education.

Truthfully, it hasn’t been completely quiet during this Phase. The clergy and lay leaders have engaged in conversations with individuals and families, who may have interest in making a transformative gift, and with Board members, Trustees, past Presidents and staff, with a goal of achieving 100% participation from Temple leadership prior to the Campaign launch.

What’s next? This Spring, committees are finalizing the communication plan, preparing materials, securing transformational gifts and training ambassadors. We will use what we have learned over the past twelve months to set the Campaign goal and launch Generations in June. As we gear up for the launch, let’s revisit our hopes and dreams for our congregation - not just for our buildings, services, programs and operations, but most importantly for our people.

All questions, thoughts and ideas are important. To share them, please contact a member of the Generations Steering Committee.

Generations Steering Committee
Linda and Earl Ferguson (chairs)
egerfuson@artcraftmanagement.com
lindaferguson99@gmail.com
Katie and Ken Roeper (chairs)
Roepers@comcast.net
Katie.Roeper@gmail.com
Nancy Belleman (co-chair)
nbelleman@gmail.com
Rabbi Beifield
Rabbi@Bethahabah.org
Scott Belleman
sbelleman@gmail.com
Richard Birnbaum
rb@vtencp.com
Robert Freed
rfreed@freshlaw.com
Mike Mendelson
mike.mendelson@mac.com
Dena Neuwirth
dcnuewirth@hotmail.com
Larry Salzman
lsalzman@salzmanrealestate.net
Cullen Seltzer
cseltzer@gmail.com
Chuck Rothenberg
CRobin@hf-law.com
Jim Weinberg
Jlweinberg@hf-law.com
Linda Wren
WrenLinda@gmail.com
CHILDREN LEARN WHAT THEY LIVE
by Russell M. Finer, FSA

As we prepare to spend time with our family and friends this Passover season I would like to share a short reading with you:

Children Learn What They Live

If a child learns with criticism, (s) he learns to condemn.
If a child lives with hostility, (s) he learns to fight.
If a child lives with ridicule, (s) he learns to be shy.
If a child lives with shame, (s) he learns to feel guilty.
If a child lives with tolerance, (s) he learns to be patient.
If a child lives with encouragement, (s) he learns confidence.
If a child lives with praise, (s) he learns to appreciate.
If a child lives with fairness, (s) he learns justice.
If a child lives with security, (s) he learns to have faith.
If a child lives with approval, (s) he learns to like him (her) self.
If a child lives with acceptance & friends, (s) he learns to find love in the world.

CBA’S SENIOR BRIDGE PROGRAM
by Rachel Cohen Schmidt

Beth Ahabah’s Senior Bridge Program is setting the foundation for continuity of relationships with our senior population. Volunteers are making visits and phone calls to seniors who are still in the Richmond area and those who have moved to be closer to family. The connections being made are solidifying the relationships our volunteers have to our congregation.

Below are comments from our volunteer’s monthly reports:

- Helped with a few things at Mr. C’s house then went to eat at a Mexican Restaurant.
- Visited Mrs. N @ Westport Nursing home who was enjoying a game of Bingo. My next visit found Mrs. N reading the newspaper and spoke about her interest in art and her gardens.
- I spoke briefly with Helen and Bob who are doing fine. They were disinterested in meeting for lunch but Bob said “Keep Calling” so that is the plan.
- Coincidentally, Bob knows about another senior being served by another Senior Bridge volunteer. Plans are in place for a four-way-get-together.
- Talked with my senior and learned about each other. Agreed that we should maintain contacts and stated that he would enjoy going out to lunch.
- I learned that my senior served in the Army but had a bad experience that he attributed to anti-Semitism.
- I spoke with my senior today who brightened up as we talked.

If you know a senior who could benefit from this program or if you would like to volunteer, please contact me at rachelcohenschmidt@gmail.com

Thank you!

The Rabbi’s Article Continued from Page 1

backed away from it. As I am writing this we still have no explanation for his death.

Alberto Nisman was a courageous investigator who relentlessly pursued these crimes. He endured death threats and repeated efforts to intimidate him. He deserves justice, the Jewish community of Argentina deserves justice, and the people of Argentina deserve justice. And, yes, Alberto Nisman, himself, was Jewish.

“Two Religious Traditions and a Future of Change”

Beth Ahabah and St. James’s present a two-part series on the future of Judaism and Christianity in America

Wednesday April 22nd
7:00 - 8:30 pm
in the Joel House

Wednesday, April 29
6:00 pm
Dinner in the Michaux House at St. James’s
7:00 - 8:30 pm
in the Joel House
by Terry L. Schultz

Spring is almost here and we are happy to announce our new Mitzvah Program for Beth Ahabah! Instead of one dedicated Mitzvah Day, “Spring Into Action” offers several exciting mitzvah projects for you to participate in. In the past, our synagogue has been a leader in social action activities, and this year, as something new, we have scheduled mitzvah programs during March and April, with a celebration scheduled for Sunday, April 19th. Please plan to sign up for one or more of our programs and become a “mitzvah hero” today!

“There is joy for people who make plans to do good.” Proverbs 12:20.

Wednesday, March 25th:
“National Uplift Project”
Co-sponsored by Congregation Beth Ahabah and Hadassah. Come learn about breast cancer from Henrico Doctors own Meg Helsley, Oncology Clinical Nurse Specialist, and Dr. Leslie Cohen, Plastic and Reconstruction Surgeon.

Join us as we participate in this interactive project to design bras to "bust out cancer!" Please plan to RSVP as soon as possible, as space is limited, to Terry Schultz at tschultzw3@yahoo.com or Rebecca Young at Rebecca.a.young@gmail.com. This program will be held in the JCC Sisisky Room from 5:30-7:00pm. Donations are greatly appreciated.

Sunday, April 19th:
Ruach Chadash will perform “Live at Beth Sholom Home!” Contact Ramona Brand for more information at r.brand@bethahabah.org. (No sign-up for this activity)

Sunday, April 19th: “Stop Hunger Now!”
Sponsored by the Council for Social Justice. This major project will be held in the Goldburg Auditorium (time TBA). Participants of all ages are invited to put together dehydrated, high protein, nutritious food packages to be shipped to those in need both in our country and developing countries around the world. Donations are greatly appreciated and can be sent directly to Stop Hunger Now or brought to Beth Ahabah. Contact Sharon Brager at sbrager@comcast.net or Sarah Kim at sarahkim7@comcast.net.

Monday, April 13th: Midrasha Teen Projects
Sponsored by Family Connection, will be held at Congregation Beth Ahabah. Teens will be making NICU blankets, welcome packets for homeless shelter children, and baking casseroles for a homeless shelter. Contact Rebecca Field at rebeccaffieldgraphy@gmail.com for more information.

Sunday, March 22th: Caritas Build
Caritas Build is sponsored by Brotherhood. Anyone is welcome to join in the fun from 8 am to 12 noon in the Goldburg Auditorium. Contact John Marshak at jjmarshak@vcu.edu

Ongoing: YMCA Sheet Collection
Sisterhood is collecting sheets for the YMCA to aid victims of domestic abuse. There will be collection boxes in various spots around Beth Ahabah. More details to follow.
FAITH IS PACKING YOUR TIMBREL

“And Miriam the prophet took her timbrel in her hand, and all the women followed her just as she had planned.”

These words of song, made popular by Debbie Friedman, recount the rejoicing of the women upon the Israelites crossing the Red Sea, escaping both slavery and death at the hands of the pursuing Egyptian army. The image of Miriam and the women beating drums, dancing and singing depicts a powerful release after the tension of the preceding story. The timbrel, or “tof” as it is called in Hebrew, is one of the most ancient musical instruments mentioned in the Torah. A small hand drum played by women, it was used to announce and celebrate joyous events, military victories and was played during times of worship to God. The events of the moment of passage through the Red Sea roll all three into one.

In the blog article Faith is Packing your Timbrel, Melissa Scholten-Gutierrez, says that the faith of Miriam and the women is such that “the women knew (or maybe just hoped) that Moses was right, and there was a higher power who would safely lead them out of Egypt, that the slavery was ending for good, and there would be a reason to celebrate again. ...They left in such haste that they didn’t do many things (perhaps most famously, letting their bread bake to completion), but they remembered their timbrels. Something so seemingly frivolous was not left behind to leave things to chance. They took their timbrels along in their precious and limited cargo space.... I imagine a few women running amongst the Israelites saying “don’t forget your timbrel!” as they busily prepared to flee Egypt.”

At Passover we celebrate, among other things, the belief that no matter how dark or dire a situation we may find ourselves in, with faith, we can cross that Red Sea and find celebration on the other side. As we sit around our Seder tables, we too, like Miriam, can lift our timbrels and “raise our voices in praise and might”.

http://jwa.org/blog/faith-is-packing-your-timbrel

TOT Shabbat
Saturday, April 18th
9:00 – 10:30 am in the Gumenick Chapel

Don’t miss our final Tot Shabbat of the year!!

For our young congregants who are aged 18 months to 5 years, we have special services designed to give them a fun and warm introduction to the synagogue, to Shabbat, to the holidays, and to Judaism. A family friendly service with music and movement begins at 9:00 am on Saturday mornings. The service is followed with an activity hour that includes stories, songs, crafts, snacks and social time in the Joel House.

Mitzvah Day
Sunday: April 19th

A special day of learning, caring and Tikkun Olam projects. Please note the special schedule below:

9:15 – 10:30 am learning sessions and projects in classrooms
10:30 – 11:00 am Mitzvah Day assemblies for students
11:00 am – dismissal Mitzvah Day projects

Please see the Mitzvah Day information for more details.
**GRADE 4 FIELD TRIP TO KROGER**
Sunday, April 26th

Fourth graders will walk to the Kroger on Lombardy Street for a morning of interactive fun. *Heksher* hunts, Hebrew food word scavenger searches, and real-life understanding of Jewish values regarding food, eating and growing are combined for a memorable experiential class. Grade 4 parents are welcome to accompany their student on this trip.

**INTRODUCING THE NEW “GOLDBURG GALLERY”**

Religious School Students Create Visual Decorative Art

Our Goldburg Auditorium has become the “Goldburg Gallery” over the course of the year with the addition of some beautiful artwork from our students. The increasing focus on experiential education has resulted in some colorful additions to the walls of our social hall. Two art exhibitions are on display in the Goldburg Auditorium and will remain on display through late May.

One display, called Our World Through a Jewish Lens, involved 8th, 9th and 10th graders in the Monday night *Midrasha* program. They participated this past fall in a photography project, with their teacher and Education Director, Ramona Brand, which asked students to use their camera or cell phones to capture moments that represented their Jewish life inside the synagogue, at home or with friends. Students were asked to think about what constituted a “Jewish Photograph”. During the elective class students looked at Jewish photos, both vintage and contemporary. They had an opportunity to examine photos with “Jewish subjects” and secular photos taken by Jewish photographers. Students were challenged to document both Jewish and daily life events and shared them during class-time for peer reviewing. Wonderful discussions evolved about the photos, and the meanings behind them. Each student chose two of their own favorite pictures to be framed and displayed here. The teens enjoyed the project and were challenged to view the world around them with fresh connection to their Jewish values.

The second and newer exhibition, located in the alcove at the far side of the social hall, is the creation of 4th and 5th graders who participated in a three week Sunday morning elective intensive class called, Picturing our Story. The students who engaged in this workshop fashioned a fabric mural depicting Jewish Life Cycle events.

**BETH AHAHABAH TEENS**
by Rachel Wolman,
Teen Engagement Specialist

There’s a lot of exciting events coming up for our Beth Ahabah teens. The first event in April is our Monday Night Teen Mitzvah Day project, 4/13/15. We will be making baby blankets, welcome packages for homeless youth, and dinners for a local men’s shelter. Secondly, our last NFTY-MAR event of the year is coming up on April 24-26, 2015 at the beautiful Capital Camps and Retreat Center located in Waynesboro, PA. In May we have our teen hang out lock in happening May 2-3, 2015 at the Temple. We are going to play flashlight tag, decorate cookies, and watch an awesome movie. Then we have our Confirmation Service May 15, followed by our annual Kings Dominion trip on May 16. We are excited to see our teens over the next two months!
B’nei Mitzvah

MICHAEL BOSWELL
April 18, 2015

Michael Boswell, son of Cindy Boswell and Rob Boswell, will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on April 18, 2015. He is the younger brother of Robert Boswell, and the grandson of Susan and Howard Spielberg and Fran and Fred Boswell.

Michael is a seventh grade honor student at Chickahominy Middle School and he enjoys being on the Chickahominy archery team. For his Mitzvah Project, Michael has been volunteering his time and compassion to work with the dogs at BARK – Bandit’s Adoption and Rescue of K-9’s.

Michael’s family is very proud of him and looks forward to celebrating with family, friends and the congregation.

MICHAEL STEIN
April 25, 2015

Michael Liam Stein will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on April 25, 2015. He is the son of Beth and David Stein and younger brother of Ethan Stein. Michael is a seventh grade honors student at The Steward School. He is an avid reader and hopes to pass along his passion through his Mitzvah Project.

Michael is collecting books for his Mitzvah Project and he will be donating them to several underprivileged schools. He plans to go to these schools and read to the children. Overall, his goal is to collect over 1000 books. Michael enjoys longboarding, music, and spending time with his friends and the family dog Rosie.

Michael’s family is very proud of how hard he has been working toward his Bar Mitzvah and Mitzvah Project.

KATHERINE PAIGE SCHER
May 2, 2015

Katie Scher will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on May 2, 2015. Katie is the daughter of Charley and Anne Scher and younger sister of Owen. Her grandparents are Norman and Joyce Scher of Richmond, and Nancy and the late Jack Gaines of Maurytown, Virginia.

Katie is a 7th grade honor student at Collegiate School. She enjoys gymnastics as well as playing field hockey, basketball, and lacrosse. She also loves reading, writing, music, fashion, and interior design. For her Mitzvah Project, Katie volunteered for the Hospital Hospitality House, conducting a coffee and ready to eat meal drive for the patients and their family members who stay there.

Katie and her family look forward to celebrating this joyous occasion with friends, extended family, and members of the congregation.

Gifts That Make A Difference...Simchah or Remembrance

Charitable Giving in honor of or in memory of a loved one is an important tradition for the Beth Ahabah congregation. Making a gift to the temple offers a positive way to affirm your values and priorities and protect our future Jewish way of life. Honoring a friend or loved one through charitable gifts is often an especially meaningful act of paying tribute to someone special, while assuring that worthwhile giving continues to influence our children, grandchildren and the world around us.

Beth Ahabah has a wide range of donation opportunities available. The list can be viewed on the Temple website or you can call the Temple office at 804.358.6757.
Applications for interest-free loans for post-secondary education (college, graduate school and vocational programs) will be available to Jewish students in your area for the 2015-2016 school year from the Jewish Education Loan Fund (JELF). The loan application will be available through April 30 on JELF’s website: www.jelf.org.

JELF loans are need-based and offer “last-dollar” financing, meaning that JELF provides the final dollars that bridge the gap between a student’s total financial resources and the cost of attending school. Applicants must be enrolled full-time in a program leading to a degree or certificate at an accredited institution located in the United States, be a U.S. citizen or have lawful immigration status in the U.S., and be able to demonstrate financial need (FAFSA application required). For more information, contact info@jelf.org or call 770.396.3080.

NEW TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD?

If someone Jewish you know is new to the Richmond community and might be interested in finding out about Congregation Beth Ahabah, please contact Russ Finer at the temple office 804.358.6757, ext. 302 or at r.finer@bethahabah.org so he can send them an information package.

Thank you!

YOM HaSHOAH
April 16, 2015

Yom HaShoah History
Yom HaShoah, also known as Holocaust Remembrance Day, occurs on the 27th of Nisan. Shoah, which means catastrophe or utter destruction in Hebrew, refers to the atrocities that were committed against the Jewish people during World War II. This is a memorial day for those who died in the Shoah.

The Shoah (also known as the Holocaust, from a Greek word meaning “sacrifice by fire,”) was initiated by the members of the National Socialist (Nazi) Party, which seized power in Germany in 1933. The Nazis believed in a doctrine of racial superiority, centering around the idea that that people of Northern European descent were somehow better than members of all other races – especially the Jews, who were “unworthy of life.”

After taking power, the Nazis gradually restricted the rights of German Jewish citizens and encouraged their followers to commit acts of violence and destruction against Jews and their property. During World War II (1939-1945), the Nazis implemented their “final solution,” a plan to concentrate and annihilate all European Jews. Jews were first crammed together in ghettos and slave-labor camps, where disease, brutality, and malnutrition ran rampant. Eventually, they were sent to death camps, where millions were murdered in special facilities designed to kill a tremendous number of people over a brief period of time. In addition to the six million Jews who died - two-thirds of the European Jewish population - the Nazis also killed millions of others, including Roma (Gypsies) and Slavs, political and religious dissidents, the handi-

capped, and gays and lesbians.

Today, many commemorate Yom HaShoah by lighting yellow candles in order to keep the memories of the victims alive (the Men of Reform Judaism co-sponsors such a program). Most synagogues and Jewish communities gather together to commemorate the day through worship, music and the stories from survivors. http://www.reformjudaism.org/yom-hashoah-history

REMEMBER CONGREGATION BETH AHABAH IN YOUR ESTATE PLANNING

If Congregation Beth Ahabah makes a difference in your life, we gratefully ask that you think of Beth Ahabah when deciding your estate plans. A bequest or legacy in your will is a wonderful way to express your appreciation to the temple.

Thank you for thinking of Congregation Beth Ahabah. To discuss your plans, please contact Executive Director, Russell M. Finer, at 804.358.6757 ext. 302 or r.finer@bethahabah.org.
Celebrating Passover at home each year can be one of the most meaningful, enjoyable, and memorable Jewish experiences of a lifetime. It involves two parts. One is the *seder*; the other is the food that we eat (or don’t eat) during Passover’s seven days. First the *seder.* Passover has several important themes. Among them are the exodus of the ancient Hebrews from Egyptian slavery; the meaning of freedom; and the cycle of nature and rebirth of spring. With prayer, music, readings, and symbolic foods, the *seder* explains all of this in rich, step-by-step detail. Participating in a *seder* is the essential ingredient of Passover observance.

**Seder Setup**

At each *seder,* participants eat several foods which symbolize different themes associated with Passover. The *Haggadah* clearly explains what each means and when to eat what.

All of the symbolic foods are also placed on a “*seder plate*” which the leader refers to at the appropriate times. While one can use any plate for this, many families own ceremonial *seder* plates which are used just at Passover time. Incidentally, *seder* plates make wonderful gifts, especially for weddings.

In preparing for the *seder,* one must have enough of the ceremonial foods for each participant. If there are many people, it may take a long time to pass the dishes and serve everybody. Instead, it might be helpful to prepare smaller, individual *seder* plates at each person’s place.

Regardless of how you prepare, here’s what you need:

**Matzah**

Three full-sized pieces go on a plate (some people have special ceremonial plates for this, too) next to the *seder* plate. When the *Haggadah* tells the leader to break the middle *Matzah* and hide one half as the *afikomen*, it is referring to the *Matzah* on this plate. In addition, each participant will need four bite-sized pieces during the *seder*.

**Parsley**

Everybody needs one sprig which is dipped into salt water. Some people have bowls of salt water on the table, others “pre-dip” the parsley. In addition, a sprig of parsley goes on the *seder* plate.

**Bitter Herbs**

This is horseradish. Each person needs two small pieces. In addition, a large slice of the root goes on the *seder* plate.

**Charoset**

This is more commonly pronounced with the old fashioned spelling: *charoses.* The accent for both is on the middle syllable. *Charoset* is a mixture of chopped apples, raisins, nuts, cinnamon, and wine. Some people make it as a paste but most just chop the apples into small pieces. Each person only needs a spoonful but many families place bowls on the table for later. In addition, *Charoset* goes on the *seder* plate.

**Wine**

Traditionally, people drink four cups of wine during the *seder.* These days one sets a better example for children by sipping four times. The *Haggadah* tells you when to do this and when only to raise the cup and replace it untasted. One also places a ceremonial cup on the table for the prophet Elijah. After dinner, the *seder* explains the meaning.

The large *seder* plate also contains two other ceremonial items. One is a roasted egg, which just sits on the plate and is not explained. Some families give each participant a hard boiled egg but don’t look too hard for directions about eating it. The *Haggadah* won’t tell you. The other is a roasted lamb shank the meaning of which is contained in the *seder*.

The parsley is dipped and eaten early in the *seder.* Later people eat a piece of *Matzah* alone, then a piece of horseradish with *Matzah,* then a *Matzah* sandwich of horseradish and *Charoset.* Except for the sandwich, there is a prayer for each. The *Haggadah* will guide you through all along the way.

**Haggadah**

Everybody attending the *seder* needs a *Haggadah* so they can follow along and actively participate. One person serves as leader and should plan out the service in advance. The *Haggadah* is a mini-library; the leader should pick and choose keeping in mind the length of the *seder* and who is at the table. There are lots of different
Haggadahs and it can be a challenge to find one which is appropriate for your group. The Internet is the place to go.

Now, the foods we eat and don’t eat all week. The rules are fairly simple and straightforward but when it comes to eating, each family “dots its own i’s and crosses its own t’s.” During Passover we do eat Matzah. We don’t eat chametz - bread, cake, pasta, and cereals. More precisely, we do not eat foods which are leavened or made from five leavened grains: wheat, corn, oats, rye, and spelts (don’t ask!). Some people don’t eat legumes because they swell up when cooked, i.e. they act like a leavened product. Most people, including Israelis, eat legumes.

There are lots of variations and extensions of these rules and anyone who wants to know more should call the Temple office which will put you in touch with one of our designated Passover maven.

To find relevance and personal connections to the Passover story.

Together with your children, watch the Shalom Sesame videos to explore the retelling of the story of Passover. Then try some of the discussion ideas and activities below recommended by Reform Jewish educators to further extend the lessons learned in the videos. If you wish, share your experiences and ideas in the comments sections below!

Discuss
That is the question. The seder is not just a meal, it’s an event! People at the seder are encouraged to do more than just read from the Haggadah; it is part of the tradition—and the fun—to ask questions and add your own commentary. The four questions read at the seder are not meant to be the only questions of the night, but rather the warm-up questions. Everyone can ask questions, young and old; you can ask about the story, the customs of the seder, and how the story is relevant today.

As if you were in Egypt. It’s important to try to put ourselves in the shoes (or sandals!) of our ancestors in order to truly appreciate one of the central messages of Passover: empathy. How do you think it felt for the people to leave Egypt after living there for so many years? Why do you think it was so hard for the Pharaoh to let them go? If you had lived in Egypt and had to leave in a hurry, what do you think you would have taken with you?

Activities
Leaving in a hurry. Yes, it can sometimes (okay, often) be a challenge to find new ways to keep your kids engaged during the seder. Try this to help them understand the struggle and the journey out of Egypt: Give them knapsacks and ask them to fill them with their favorite toys in thirty seconds. Ask them why they chose what they did. How did it feel to have to pack up so quickly? What might they miss?

Asking questions. The Passover story unfolds at the seder table through questions. Write down some questions on index cards that you can share with your kids. Let them pick a card and you read the question—the answers are less important than the questions themselves, so ask your children what questions they have, and add them to your list.

Storytelling chain. Try telling the Passover story in a storytelling chain. You can begin, then go around the table, in turn, with each person continuing to tell the story. You may be surprised at how each retelling is slightly different! Once you’ve told the story, see if you can “see yourselves as if you left Egypt” and talk about favorite Passover characters. Ask what the children think it felt like for the Israelites to leave their home in such a hurry.

Watch
The Shalom Sesame Passover videos with your children on YouTube at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kcSX2USdZl4

http://www.reformjudaism.org/celebrating-passover-shalom-sesame-story-exodus
You are Invited to
Beth Ahabah’s Annual
Congregational Dinner
and Annual Meeting
Friday, May 8, 2015
beginning at 6:00pm

A Delicious Dinner will be served during the Meeting
You do not need to attend the dinner to participate in the meeting.

Installation of Officers,
Board of Managers and Trustees,
and presentation of the
Lewis I. Held Award will take place
during the Shabbat Service.

The cost of the dinner is $5.00 per person
with a family maximum of $20.00.
Payment must be received with
reservation. You may either mail your
reservation with payment to the Temple
office, call the office with credit card
information or make your reservation
online at www.bethahabah.org.

Please RSVP with payment
no later than May 1, 2015
DONATIONS

TEMPLE FUND
John Urbach
Helen Kornblau

IN HONOR OF:
Elliot Fox’s special birthday
Lesley & David Greenberg
Carol Ann Callahan’s special birthday
Ken & Katie Roeper
Rena & Bert Berlin’s new home
Ken & Katie Roeper
Rebecca Field’s REB Award for Teaching Excellence
Ken & Katie Roeper
Jim Schuyler’s Governor’s appointment
Ken & Katie Roeper
IN MEMORY OF:
Rose Goldstein
Judith & Ike Koziol
Harry Stillerman
Fern Stillerman Cohen
Dr. Barry Zeichner
Terry & Jerry Hirsch
Rae Krupnik
Ellen Gerszten
Shirley Kahn
Howard & Mary Jo Kahn
Barney Webber
Arlyn, Adrienne, Joe, Michael & Stefany
Lucille Baron
Mark Baron
Leon Rudnick
Alan Rudnick & Marc Villamiel
Sophie Landsisberg
Bernice Slipow & Family
Dr. David Grandis
Lesley & David Greenberg
Gail & Al Werner
Charles Norris
Elise & Irving Scherr
Karen & Walter Emroch
Jonathan & Anne Marie Perel
Eve T. Painter
13 Class
Ruth Blumenfeld &
Louis Blumenfeld
Harold Blumenfeld
Marian Myers
Billy & Sallie Thalhimer, Bobby & Marilyn Thalhimer & Barbara Thalhimer
Frieda Gleberman
Neil Gleberman
Abe Lubman & Rebecca Lubman
Shelly & Sherman Lubman
Marian H. Myers
Mrs. Christina Myers
Matthew Myers
Jonathan Myers, D.V.M.
Pamela Katz
Lesley & David Greenberg
Michael Gardner
Janice & Robert Freed
Ken & Katie Roeper
Harold Abrams, my father
Anne Schwartz
Rhoda Fine Ebert
Barbara Ebert
Goldie Grossman & Goldie Koziol
Judith & Ike Koziol
Stephen R. Koller
Miriam Pizzani, MD
Joseph C. Finer
Allen Finer
Sylvia Lerner
Ellen & Brian Glass
Douglas Smith
Francine & Norman Morgan
Jerome H. Berenson
Carolyn S. Berenson
Fannie S. Rosenthal
Carolyn S. Berenson
Samuel J. Michael, my father
Sherlee Michael
Jack A. Gaines
Ken & Katie Roeper
Samuel I. White
Eric D. White
Ralph G. Phipps
Pamela & Michael Zell
Evelyn Rogers
Charles Rogers
Pearl Hiller & Audrey Danoff
David & Ruby Jo Hiller
Boris Kogan
The Kogan & Dolganski Families
Dave Olshansky &
Charles Olshansky
Ken & Karen Olshansky
Irwin Lynn
Vicki & Miles Lynn

THE RABBI’S PHILANTHROPIC FUND
These contributions were received in response to the Annual Appeal:
Claudette & Jonathan Lewis
Heidi Levinson
IN APPRECIATION OF:
Rabbi Beifield
Sol & Marc Axel and Madge Lee Spector
IN HONOR OF:
Nancy Meyer
The Meyer Foundation
Marissa Fitzgerald & Michael Barrera’s marriage
Debbie & Bob Fitzgerald
IN MEMORY OF:
Mother of Nick Greenfield
Ellen & Steve Brothers
Lucille R. Meyer
Rose K. Binder
Milton Meyer, Sr.
Milton Meyer, Jr.
Mildred B. Meyer
The Milton M. Meyer, Jr. & Mildred B. Meyer Foundation
M. David Grandis
Susan & Ronnie Adolf
Shirley Plotkin
Cathy Daniel & Family
Dawn Lynn
Vicki Lynn

CANTOR GOLDMAN MUSIC FUND
IN MEMORY OF:
David Grandis
Muriel Scoler
Fern Cohen
Veronica Kondrashina
Natan & Valeria Berenshtein

Donations Continue on Page 13
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.

Thinking of Buying or Selling? Call me 1st!

DO WE HAVE YOUR CORRECT CONTACT INFORMATION?

If you’ve recently moved or changed your email address, please contact the Temple office at 804.358.6757 to make sure our records are up-to-date. Thank you.
PAY EQUITY
by Beryl Holzbach

And the Oscar goes to...By the time you read this, the 87th Academy Awards will be a dim memory for most of us. One moment that I will not forget is Patricia Arquette’s acceptance speech. She chose to use her platform to further the cause of Women’s rights by saying “It’s our time to have wage equality once and for all, and equal rights for women in the United States of America.”

While legislation exists to try to help achieve this goal, there is still a long way to go to achieve pay equality. According to the National Women’s Law Center, “in the United States today, women on average earn 78 cents for every dollar their male counterparts make. The disparity is even greater for women of color. African American women make on average 64 cents on the dollar and for Latina women, it is 54 cents.”

This coming spring, Women of Reform Judaism (of which Beth Ahabah Sisterhood is a member), will spearhead a campaign to support pay equality. WRJ is providing material and resources which we can use to help promote this important agenda within our Temple and community. Within the next month I will place the WRJ information on our Sisterhood blog that is located on Beth Ahabah’s website.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
Our Sisterhood Shabbat service guest speaker was Rachel Solomon from the Richmond YWCA. She spoke on the incidence of domestic and intimate partner violence in Richmond and the resources the YWCA provides for survivors and their families.

During the month of March Beth Ahabah WRJ conducted a linen drive to collect sheet sets for use in the YWCA’s shelters.

HALF THE SKY UPDATE
Thanks to your generous donations, we are currently sponsoring 5 girls in the Girls Be Ambitious program. To date we have raised $2,233 for our build a classroom fund.

TEMPLE ACTIVITIES
Over the past few months Beth Ahabah WRJ participated in the following activities:

- Prepared dinner for the Midrasha class
- Helped the Religious School students with their Life Cycle tapestry project
- Provided baked goods for Friday night Onegs
- Along with Brotherhood, helped with the ICC Purim party
- Provided and served goodies at the Beth Ahabah Purim Schpiel
- Provided Hamantaschen for the joint Beth Ahabah/Beth El Purim
- Made a contribution to High Holy Day Prayer book Fund
- Three Sisterhood members attended the WRJ Fried Leadership conference held in Austin, Texas
BROTHERHOOD
by John Marshak, President

As many organizations do at this time, Brotherhood is now beginning to look to next year. We are considering the selection of leadership for the next two-year term. We are looking to change/add some of our activities. We are looking to not only increase our membership, but to increase our services to members by our selection of activities. Thus I make this appeal:

Consider not only supporting us by paying dues, but by giving us input as to what we can do for you or what you think we could be doing.

Whether it is meeting an unmet community need of which you are aware or participating in some activity with fellow Jews which cannot be enjoyed by just one person, or maybe you want to contribute your time to help others, give us your ideas. We currently work to provide for the greater Richmond community with our support of CARITAS, provide for the greater Richmond Jewish community with such things as the children’s Purim carnival at the JCC and our Beth Ahabah family with such things as the beginning of religious school, congregational picnic and Sukkah building. However, we are looking to re-invigorate our array of activities.

Contact me personally or electronically at doc.marshak@gmail.com or any active Brotherhood member with your thoughts.

TREASURES FROM THE MUSEUM & ARCHIVES COLLECTION

Coin Silver Salt Shaker made by Silversmith Louis Hyman, c. 1850

Silversmith Lewis Hyman created this coin silver salt shaker around 1850. The importance of salt as a condiment is stressed in the Torah. Leviticus 2:13 describes the use of salt as part of the offerings to the Lord. It became customary to put salt on the bread over which the Shabbat blessing was recited.

RICHMOND JEWISH TRIVIA:

During the Civil War, silversmith Lewis Hyman decided to move to the North. In the spring of 1864 he resigned his position as treasurer of K.K. Beth Shalome, converted all his property and household goods into gold, and left Richmond with his family. While passing the Confederate pickets near Strasburg, Virginia, the family was robbed of all their possessions and arrived in New York penniless. The robbery was well publicized and the Hyman family was criticized for being disloyal to the Confederacy.

Volunteer at BAM&A

BAM&A depends on volunteers like you who love history and are interested in learning more about the history of the Richmond Jewish community. Help catalog and file or assist with other needed tasks. For more info about the volunteer opportunities at BAM&A, call David Farris at 804.353.2668.

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IN SYMPATHY TO THE
FAMILIES OF.....
Dr. M. David Grandis
husband of Carolyn Grandis
father of Alyce Copeland
Michael Gardner
brother of David (Debra) Gardner
Jack A. Gaines
father of Anne (Charley) Scher
Pamela Katz
wife of Jonas Katz
Douglas Smith
husband of Sharon Smith
Gerald Leinwand
father of Roberta (Peter) Opper
Boris Kogan
uncle of Zhanna (Yevgeniy) Dolganski
Michael Brachfeld
cousin of Margie (Bill) Walsh
Rosalie Koslow
mother of Mark (Susan Gaible) Koslow

CONGRATULATIONS TO......
Marianne & Ted Metzger on the
birth of their grandchildren, Samuel
Caylor Tate & Shirley Louise Tate,
born January 20, 2015. Also to the
aunt & uncle, Jocelyn & Andy
Vorenberg & parents, Emily & Jim
Tate.

Janice & Robert Freed on the birth
of their grandson, James (Cash)
Also to the parents, Daniel Freed &
Sihler Branch

TAKE STEPS FOR CROHN’S & COLITIS
by Greg Stutman
I am proud of my Jewish ancestry –
the holidays, the traditions, and the
guilt should I forget to call my Bubby!
One thing I can do without, how-
ever, is the high incidence of Crohn’s
disease among the Jewish population.
My symptoms began when I least
expected and before I knew it, I was
without 18 inches of my lower intesti-
tine and colon – the result of surgery,
which is a fate most Crohn’s patients
face.

I write this article, not for sympathy,
but to raise awareness and to make
others who suffer from Crohn’s &
Colitis know that they have a friend
here in the RVA community. In fact,
the local Crohn’s & Colitis community
is growing and resources are present
for those who need them. I had the
pleasure of participating in the “TAKE
Steps for Crohn’s & Colitis” event last
year, which is a casual walk in Inns-
brook to raise funds and awareness.
This year’s event is on Sunday April
26, 2015.

Having a Moving Experience?
If you’re hanging your mezuzah on a
new doorpost, please be sure to let us
know right away. That will keep the Bulle-
tin and other mailings coming to you
promptly—and save us postal fees.
We want to keep you posted!

I can guarantee that most of you
know someone who has been affect-
ed by the disease. Overall, 1.6 million
Americans or 1 in 200 people
have Crohn’s or ulcerative colitis.

Here’s your chance to help make
a difference. The Crohn’s & Colitis
Foundation of America can use your
support, whether taking part in the
walk, donating to the cause, or simply
spreading the word. I hope to see
you all on April 26! Thank you.

To find out more, please contact
Jamie Pugh, Take Steps Walk Manager
(jpugh@ccfa.org) and check out www.
cctakesteps.org/Richmond. You can
also contact me at
gregstutman@hotmail.com.

Please Join Us...
TAKE STEPS
April 26, 2015
Innsbrook North Shore Commons
For details visit:
www.cctakesteps.org/Richmond

Passover begins on Friday
night, Shabbat, April 3rd
May is American Jewish Heritage Month, which is a good time to dig a little deeper in Richmond’s Jewish heritage.

Bonnie Eisenman recently set about filing the obituary of Sam C. Brown, Jr., who passed away on February 12th of this year at age 89. In preparing to properly file it, she discovered that there were actually two Sam Browns in Richmond, each Jewish, each married to wives named Rose or Rosa, and each having lived lives of service to others. While their names were the same, their lives followed very different paths.

Sam C. Brown, Jr. served with distinction in WWII, and became an engineer who developed, built and managed power generation and environmental technologies still in use today. He and his wife Rose and their two children lived in Richmond, where they were members of Beth Ahabah. He started as an efficiency engineer with Virginia Power and retired 35 years later as a Senior Vice President. After his retirement from Dominion Resources, he served as Chairman of the Air Pollution Control Board for the State of Virginia. He was also a founding member of the Science Museum of Virginia, and was a tireless fundraiser for countless charities. He lived in South Carolina, and was interred there.

Samuel Brown, who died in May of 2000, was born in Russia as Solomon Bron-Weber in 1894. His ambition was to become a tailor, a goal that he achieved by age 16. At 17 and about to be drafted into the Czar’s army, he knew that it was time to leave Russia and chose to come to America to join relatives. He came in an American-style suit that he made himself, and settled first in Philadelphia where he was a success. His new name, by the way, came from one of those Ellis Island naming experiences when immigration officers tried to Americanize a name that was totally foreign to their ears. New York offered more opportunity, and after a time there he moved on to Washington where he dressed the famous and powerful. In WWI, he served as an interpreter for visiting Russians. Around then he married his wife Rosa, and they had two children. He came to Richmond in 1922 to open his own shop, and in 1924 was hired by Isaac Thalhimer to be that store’s first tailor. He stayed at Thalhimers until he retired in 1992 at age 98, and lived another seven years following retirement. Just before his death he spoke about his good life for an article in the Richmond Times-Dispatch, saying “I had a nice life, so sweet life. Long life.” His lifetime was 105 years! He and his family were members of Temple Beth-El.

These are just two of the wonderful stories to be discovered in our Archives. Pay us a visit any Monday-Thursday between 10 and 3. We are located at 1109 W. Franklin, two door east of the Sanctuary.
WHO'S WHO: JAMES SCHUYLER

Compliments to Congregation Beth Ahabah member James (Jim) Schuyler on his appointment to Governor Terry McAuliffe’s newly formed LGBT Tourism Task Force. The task force will focus on showcasing Virginia as an LGBT-friendly tourism destination.

The task force, led by Secretary Maurice Jones, is comprised of industry stakeholders, LGBT community members and business owners. The group will make recommendations on how to make Virginia even more welcoming to the LGBT community. Said Governor McAuliffe, “We’re unified by one common goal: to make Virginia a better place to live, work, play, and raise a family,” said Governor McAuliffe. “Tourism plays an important role in attaining that goal, building communities, and helping drive the new Virginia economy. We have an opportunity to build upon the progress Virginia made this year in achieving marriage equality and ensure that visitors across the globe know that the Commonwealth is open and welcoming to all. Not only will this task force focus on showcasing Virginia as an LGBT friendly destination, it will also work to maximize tourism growth in Virginia with all communities, nationally and internationally.”

By day, Jim serves as the Executive Director of Virginia Community Action Partnership (VACAP) a statewide membership association for Virginia’s 31 non-profit private and public community action agencies—agencies that are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other as they move from poverty to self-sufficiency.

Jim is a graduate of New York University and Harvard Law School. During his career he has served as an attorney and lobbyist in the New York City Mayor’s Office; as Counsel to the U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Housing and Urban Affairs, as Legislative Counsel to the National Association of Home Builders; as a partner in a law firm and as principal in his own lobbying and strategic planning firm.

Jim moved to Richmond in 2001 and served as Interim Executive Director of Equality Virginia and Executive Director of the Beth Ahabah Museum & Archives. He currently serves on the Temple’s Board of Managers. Jim lives with his husband Frank Dellinger in the Huguenot Farms neighborhood of Richmond.

If you have any ideas you’d like to share with the Task Force, please contact Jim at jschuyler@verizon.net.

A Passover Treasure:
The Franzblau Matzah Cover

This is a hand embroidered cotton matzah cover from the home of Mrs. Reba Cohn Franzblau. It shows the symbols of Passover and would have been used on the Seder table. The inscriptions relating to each symbol are in both Hebrew and English.

Reba Cohn Franzblau was the daughter of Joseph Cohn, who had the distinction of being the last reader at K.K. Beth Sholome before it closed its doors in 1898. Her husband was Rabbi Isadore Franzblau, who served as the assistant rabbi at Congregation Beth Ahabah from 1927 to 1929.

From the Beth Ahabah Museum & Archives collection of Religious objects.
**COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

April 2015  Schedule of *Shabbat* & Holiday Worship

**Wednesday, April 1**  Midweek Hebrew  
5:30 PM

**Friday, April 3**  *Pesach Shabbat* Service in Gumenick Chapel  
*6:00 PM

**Friday, April 10**  *Shabbat* Service in Gumenick Chapel  
7:30 PM

**Monday, April 13**  *Midrasha* 10th Grade Only  
6:30PM

**Wednesday, April 15**  Midweek Hebrew  
5:30 PM

**Friday, April 17**  *Yom ha Shoah* Commemoration *Shabbat*  
Service w/Adult Choir  
7:30 PM

**Saturday, April 18**  Little Latkes–Tot *Shabbat*  
9:00 AM  
**Bar Mitzvah:** Michael Boswell  
10:30 AM

**Sunday, April 19**  Religious School & Mitzvah Day  
9:15 AM

**Monday, April 20**  *Midrasha* 10th Grade Only  
6:30PM

**Wednesday, April 22**  Midweek Hebrew  
5:30 PM

**Friday, April 24**  *Shabbat* Service  
7:30 PM

**Saturday, April 25**  
**Bar Mitzvah:** Michael Stein  
10:30 AM

**Sunday, April 26**  Religious School  
9:15 AM

**Monday, April 27**  *Midrasha* 10th Grade Only  
6:30PM

**Wednesday, April 29**  Midweek Hebrew  
5:30 PM

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

**Saturday, May 2**  
**Bat Mitzvah:** Katherine Scher  
10:30 AM

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**Wishing you, your family and friends**  
a joyous and beautiful [Passover](https://www.bethahabah.org)

The officers, board of managers, trustees, clergy  
and staff of Congregation Beth Ahabah

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**B’Yachad**  
**DEADLINES**  
For **EDITORIAL & ADVERTISING**  
- May/June: due Friday, March 20  
- July/August: due Friday, May 22  
- September: due Friday, July 24

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

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

Yom HaShoah is the day when we remember the victims of the Holocaust. It is the day of remembrance and is observed on the 27th day of the Hebrew month of Nisan, a week after the seventh day of Passover and a week before Yom HaZikaron (Memorial Day for Israel’s fallen soldiers). The commemoration was selected by the Israeli Parliament (the Knesset) on April 12, 1951.

American Jews observe Yom HaShoah in various ways including synagogue services. We generally recite the Kaddish (prayer for the dead) and often survivors themselves speak to us of their experiences. The overwhelming theme is remembering...recalling the victims and remembering so that this tragic atrocity can never happen again.

This year we will commemorate Yom HaShoah with music presented by Jocelyn Adelman and the Beth Ahabah Adult Choir.

Please Join Us for Shabbat Services on Friday, April 17, 2015