



THE REFLECTOR

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in this ISSUE

FEDERATION



Elise Scherr to be Honored

PAGE 3

AGENCIES



Explosive Growth

PAGE 7

COMMUNITY



Night of Pogroms

PAGE 12

TABLE OF CONTENTS

FEDERATION	2
AGENCIES	5
HADASSAH	7
SYNAGOGUES	8
FOUNDATION	10
COMMUNITY	12

Community Members Updated on Middle East Developments at Annual Grand Event



(Front Row) Guest Speaker Dr. Stephen Berk along with Leah Sievers and Marcus Weinstein. (Standing/ From left) Mark Manevich, Madelaine Kramer, Michael Sievers, Linda Seeman, Carole Weinstein and Rhona and Irv Blank.



(From left) Mark Sisisky, Grand Event chair, and Mark Manevich and Madelaine Kramer.

At the 16th Annual Grand Event on Sept. 13, more than 175 community members were updated on current developments in the Middle East and heard the inspiring history and accomplishments of Israel by guest speaker Dr. Stephen Berk, an eminent scholar on Israel, the Holocaust and world Jewry.

Mark and Susan Sisisky and Michael and Leah Sievers chaired this premiere event held at the Virginia Historical Society, which kicked off the 2013 Annual Campaign. During the evening Federation leadership also outlined the impact of the Federation, focusing on its fundamental tenant, "No One Builds Community Like Federation."

Berk, the Henry and Sally Schaffer Professor of Holocaust Studies at Union College, opened his remarks by noting, "You cannot explain the present by the present. Everything has a past."

He added, "This is a bad time for Jews in Israel and many other places around the world and it's not 1938. Israel is a good country in a bad neighborhood and it's getting worse."

His appearance came two days after the terrorist attacks in Benghazi, Libya, that killed four U.S. State Department people, including Ambassador J. Christopher Stevens. In addition there was an upheaval of anti-American violence across the Muslim world that continues, triggered by an anti-Islam video.

"Who would have thought that 20 years ago the Internet would serve as a lightning rod for a video," he said.

Berk emphasized that the conflicts in the Middle East are not just between Arabs and the Jews, although the hatred of the Jews and Judaism is a fundamental credo among many Muslims. "But don't minimize the religious dimension."

Over the course of 45 minutes, he provided a detailed and often blunt assessment of recent developments and conflict in Egypt, Syria, Lebanon,

Grand Event More on page 12

New Collaborative Program

J-LIFE Adult Ed Starts in October



Jewish Learning is for Everyone (J-LIFE), a new collaborative program between all the Richmond synagogues, the Weinstein JCC and the Jewish Community Federation of Richmond, will kick off a five-week program on Thursday, Oct. 11.

For the first four weeks (Oct. 11-Nov 1) participants will have the opportunity to delve into specific topics and the fifth session (Nov. 15) will feature a panel discussion between community Rabbis on *Is the Election Good for the Jews?*

Come on Oct. 11 and choose one topic to delve into for four consecutive weeks.

Discover interesting facts you never knew as you study with our community Rabbis and educators. This new collaborative community program is designed to enhance adult Jewish learning in the community.

Each program will be held from 7-8:30 p.m. at the Weinstein JCC. \$18 will cover the cost for all five weeks - Thursdays, Oct. 11, 18, 25 and Nov. 1 and the final Panel Discussion on Nov. 15.

To register visit weinsteinjcc.org and for more information call 804-285-6500.

J-LIFE is a program of RESHET and the Jewish Learning Venture - an initiative to engage the community in Jewish life and learning.

Course Options:

Ethics of our Fathers: Two Perspectives on Ancient Wisdom - With Rabbi Martin Beifield, Jr., of Beth Ahabah and Rabbi Yossel Kranz of Chabad of Virginia. Hear two perspectives on these ancient wisdoms and learn how the sages of old still have a lot to teach us.

The Bible: Myth or History? With Rabbi Royi Shaffin of Congregation Or Atid. Explore the Hebrew Bible (Tanakh) through archaeology, comparative religious literature and rabbinic commentary in an attempt

to decipher whether it is a book of myths or history as it happened.

Judaism and Afterlife - With Rabbi Dennis Beck-Berman of Brith Achim, explore a variety of Jewish beliefs about the Afterlife from a traditional as well as a modern perspective: the eternal soul, final judgment, heaven and hell, reincarnation, the messianic age, and others.

Ancient Lust: Gender and Sexuality in the Book of Genesis. With Shoshanna Schechter-Shaffin, Weinstein JCC. Even in the modern world, many of our cultural assumptions regarding gender, marriage, and sexuality are based on teachings from the book of Genesis.

Nov. 15 - Panel Discussion: Was the Election Good for the Jews? Led by: Rabbi Gary Creditor of Beth-El, Rabbi Jesse Gallop of Beth Ahabah, Rabbi Ben Romer of Or Ami and Rabbi Dovid Asher of Keneseth Beth Israel.

Starting Off Strong in 5773



(Right) Jennifer Koch, Holistic Health coach, leading Network JCFR through a grocery store tour.



(From left) Evan Weiner, Danielle Aaronson, Holly Moskowitz, Jewish Musician Matisyahu Geri Stahl, Rebecca Kagan and Erica Kagan backstage at the Matisyahu Concert.



(From left) Alissa Aronovici, Tanisha Henson and Richard Freedman at the Grand Event.

Network JCFR sends wishes for a sweet and healthy New Year to the RVA community and extends the opportunity for any young professional who has yet to take advantage of our outstanding array of programming to join in.

Our events are casual and comfortable.

Make it YOUR New Year resolution to get involved, make a difference, and connect!

Network JCFR October Schedule

Richmond Symphony: Song and Serenade: *Thursday, Oct. 4, 6:30 p.m.* at CenterStage (600 E. Grace Street). The Richmond Symphony will perform a casual, one-hour version of the Metro Collection program. Discounted tickets (\$18) can be purchased online (see Facebook or emails for link).

Sukkot Shabbat Dinner: *Friday, Oct. 5, 7 p.m.* at the Adolf Residence (RSVP for address). Join us for a Shabbat Dinner in the Sukkah. RSVP required.

Trivia: Community Edition: *Monday, Oct. 15, 7 p.m.* at Mekong (6004 W. Broad Street). Play a fast-paced game of community trivia! Free drinks for the winning team.

Mini-Golf: *Thursday, Oct. 18, 6 p.m.* at Bogeys Sports Park (1675 Ashland Road). See if you can sink a hole-in-one. \$6.50 per round.

Happy Hour: *Wednesday, Oct. 24, 7:30 p.m.* at The Blue Goat (5710 Grove Avenue). Appetizers and connections on us, drinks on you. Come network, connect and socialize.

If you have questions, are interested in hosting an event, or know a young professional who I should reach out to, please contact Danielle Aaronson at daaronson@jewishrichmond.org or 804.545.8626.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

• **October 11** | 7:30 a.m.
RJF Annual Hirschler Seminar
With Brian Sagrestano, JD, CFRE
Weinstein JCC

• **October 11** | 7 p.m.
J-LIFE Adult Education Kickoff
First of Five Weekly Sessions
Weinstein JCC

• **October 14** | 12 p.m.
Beth Sholom Annual Meeting
Beth Sholom Lifecare Community

• **October 14** | 3:30 p.m.
Patron of the Arts Kickoff
Sponsored by Hadassah
Modlin Center for the Arts, UR

• **October 22** | 6:30 p.m.
Lion of Judah/Pomegranate Event
Details to follow

• **November 11-13**
JFNA General Assembly (GA)
Baltimore

Visit jewishrichmond.org for a complete calendar of Jewish community events.

Shalom Newcomers



Newcomers meet with synagogue, local agency and organization representatives.

On Aug. 22, the Federation welcomed newcomers to meet local Jewish agency and synagogue representatives at the Annual Shalom Richmond Newcomers Event.

This annual event is held prior to the High Holidays to help newcomers get acclimated to the community.

Remember to Vote!

As the Nov. 6 presidential election nears, the Jewish Community Federation of Richmond reminds community members that Oct. 15 is the deadline to register to vote or update your name and address with your local city or county registrar.

The Federation encourages community members to follow the election as carefully as possible and learn about the candidates' positions on issues important to them. To read Jewish perspectives on the two presidential candidates, here are links to the National Jewish Democratic Council (<http://www.njdc.org/>) and the Republican Jewish Coalition (<http://www.rjchq.org/>).

We urge community members to vote on Nov. 6. For questions, call the Virginia State Board of Elections at 1-800-552-9745 or visit www.sbe.virginia.gov.

THE REFLECTOR

הנה מה טוב ומה נעים
שבת אחים גם יחד
*How good & pleasant it is
for brethren to dwell in unity.*

The *Reflector* is published monthly by the Jewish Community Federation of Richmond. Copy must be received two and a half weeks prior to the date of publication. The *Reflector* reserves the right to edit or refuse any copy or advertisement submitted. Views expressed by guest writers and reader's letters do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Jewish Community Federation of Richmond.

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Elise Scherr to Receive L'Dor V'Dor Honor on November 4



Elise Scherr

The Jewish Community Federation of Richmond will hold its annual L'Dor V'Dor Woman of Valor Event on Sunday, Nov. 4 at 6 p.m.

Longtime volunteer Elise Scherr will be honored with the Woman of Valor Award.

The event will be held at Parkside at the Beth Sholom Lifecare Community.

She has been a tireless community volunteer in various capacities for many years and has received a number of honors from the Federation, Beth Sholom Home and others.

She is a past member of the JCFR board of directors, served on its Allocations Committee and is a longtime Campaign volunteer. She received the Schwarzschild Outstanding Campaign Worker Award – Women's Division – in 2004 and 2011. In 1975, she traveled to Israel on the JCFR's Koach Young Leadership Mission.

A valued and longtime volunteer at Beth

Sholom Home, Scherr is past president of Beth Sholom Woods and past secretary of the Executive Board. In 2001, she received the Distinguished Service Award - Beth Sholom Home.

She is a Hadassah Life Member and was co-vice-president of Shalom Hadassah. In addition, Scherr is a past president of the Jewish Woman's Club.

At Congregation Beth Ahabah, she is past president of Beth Ahabah Sisterhood and was a representative on the Board of Managers.

Scherr was co-owner of Just the Right Thing and the Best of Everything, a fine jewelry and gift boutique in Richmond for a number of years.

She is devoted to her family and has been married to Irving for 56 years. They have three children, Beth, Melissa and her husband, Andy Brownstein; her son, Jay and his wife, Audrey, and 3 granddaughters, Ellen, Alexandra and Olivia.

The local Woman of Valor Award is presented annually at the L'Dor V'Dor event. Past award recipients include: Selma Brown, Deane Dubansky, Bea Fine, Anne Fischer (OBM), Edith Glock, Helen Horwitz, Willa Kalman, Amy Krumbein, Hedy Lapkin, Jeanette Lipman, Pearl Karp Markham, Bertha Meyer (OBM), Sara Belle November, Catherine Plotkin, Shirley Plotkin, Fran Raphael, Barbara Shocket, Carole Weinstein, Hortense Wolf (OBM) and Helen Zimm.

The L'Dor V'Dor event welcomes women who make a minimum gift of \$365 to the 2013 Annual Campaign or \$100 if under 35 years old.

For more information, contact Matt Langsam at 545-8652 or mlangsam@jewishrichmond.org.

focus on FEDERATION

Doing Jewish



By Samuel Asher
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, JCFR

We are now in the Yomim Noraim, the Days of Awe, which begin on Rosh Hashanah and end on Yom Kippur. It's a time of introspection. The ten days following Rosh Hashanah are penitential days, culminating with Yom Kippur - the Day of Atonement - the holiest and most solemn day in the Jewish religion.

In this time of introspection we ask questions about our relationships. Have I been a good father, a good husband and a good friend? Have I done enough to help my community and educate others about Judaism, Israel and the importance of Tzedakah? Could I have been more generous with my Tzedakah? And for those who work with our Jewish Community Relations Committee, have we done enough to keep our community informed? The world is changing and Israel education has become an even higher priority.

Parsha Nitzavim Vayelech, read around the High Holidays, is an important part of the Tanach. Its message is that, as Jews, we have free will. We can elect to do good or do evil. Simply put, we can choose life or death. The full verse of Deuteronomy 30:19 reads: "See, I set before you this day life and death, the blessing and the curse: therefore choose life - that you may live, you and your offspring."

G-d's directive is clear. The world will be good and bad. G-d encourages us to choose the good, but in the end it is up to each of us to choose our own path. Unfortunately, in today's world what is good and bad about our choices with respect to being Jewish isn't always clear.

We choose not only to be good members of the general community, but also to be good members of our community. I am reminded of the story of the Jewish Community in Baltimore and its Associated Jewish Charities (now the Federation). The Federation was long established when they and others in Baltimore helped create the United Way in Baltimore.

So, we have a history of working both sides of the fence, so to speak. We sit on the Museum Board and on the Weinstein JCC Board. We raise money for the United Way and the Federation.

The real challenge for us is that so many Jewish people today have not chosen to be a part of the Jewish community. There are people who participate in Jewish population studies who check the box "just Jewish." That may mean that they do not go to services, but belong to the JCC. It may mean that they go to services, but don't give to Federation. It may also mean that they were born Jewish, but have no connection to the Jewish community.

We have had many discussions around the Federation Board room table about trying to get people more involved in the Jewish community. Our Data Project has been geared to enticing participants from one entry point in the community to consider taking part in other activities in the community.

When the Parsha entreats us to "choose life" it's not just about being good. It's about "Choosing to do Jewish." It's about choosing the JCC instead of the local gym. It's about traveling to Israel on a Federation mission and not just taking a trip. It's about lighting candles on Friday night and joining a synagogue. It's about volunteering at Beth Sholom Home. It's about telling young people to get involved with Network JCFR and financially supporting Jewish causes as your first choice with your philanthropic dollars.

People in leadership have to choose doing Jewish and they have to pass this down to the next generation. Our Network JCFR is making Federation relevant to today's young people. Our Community Leadership Institute is a capstone course for people between the ages of 25-55, designed to solidify their leadership in our agencies, synagogues and Federation.

Nathan Shor's mantra as our new president is to make sure that we are welcoming and doing our utmost to reach out to members of the Jewish community and bring them into our activities. That's why we take great pride in our Enterprise Circle, Shalom Newcomers, PJ Library and the Richmond Jewish Coalition for Literacy.

Another way to get involved is to attend the JFNA General Assembly in Baltimore on Nov. 11-13. The Jewish Federations have been meeting at General Assemblies for more than 80 years to network, learn from each other and interface with world leaders. The program features themes that are timely and highly relevant to the Jewish community. But the GA is more than workshops and addresses by world leaders. It's a chance for members of the Jewish community to come together, spend time with old friends and colleagues and connect with new ones. This year we are extremely fortunate to be able to offer a \$300 per-person subsidy to offset the cost of registration made possible by the Richmond Jewish Foundation. I hope you will join me at this incredible program. You can register at www.generalassembly.org.

Wishing all of you a happy and healthy Jewish New Year!!!

As we enter 5773, we are doing good work. We choose life for our community and for Jews around the world.

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Special Thanks

Our special thanks and appreciation for all your thoughtful calls, cards, visits, prayers and generosity to wish Marty a speedy recovery from heart surgery, and for your support and kindness to me. Thankfully all of the above certainly helped us get through the worst part and now Marty is really on the way to getting well. We love you for caring.

Pat and Marty Janner

General Assembly: Nov. 11-13

Thousands of Jews from across North America & around the world will gather for The Jewish Federations of North America's 2012 General Assembly (GA) in Baltimore on Nov. 11-13.

A subsidy of \$300 per person has been set aside by the Richmond Jewish Foundation to offset the cost of registration. In addition, round-trip transportation will be provided

free of charge by JCFR for anyone who wants to ride as a group.

Registration is now open at <http://www.generalassembly.org/index.php>

For more information about how you can join the Richmond delegation, contact Ellen Moncure at emoncure@jewishrichmond.org or 804-545-8625.

Swansboro Welcomes New Principal

Swansboro Elementary School is in the hands of a new leader, Herman Mizell, who came from Great Bridge High School in Chesapeake. The mentors of Richmond Jewish Coalition of Literacy (RJCL) look forward to the energy and creativity the new principal brings. RJCL would like to introduce him to our community with 10 questions.

1. Where are you from? I am a native of Suffolk, Virginia.

2. Where did you go to school? I obtained a BA in English from Norfolk State University, a Master of Education in



Herman Mizell

Administration and Supervision from Virginia State University, and I have completed all but my dissertation (which I am currently writing) to complete my doctorate in Educational Leadership from NOVA Southeastern University.

3. What are you looking forward to most about being at Swansboro? I am looking forward to working with the students. Having taught and served as an administrator in middle and high school, I know what skill sets it takes for students to meet success at those levels and beyond. I will aid my teachers in preparing Swansboro's students so that, they can access and navigate the WORLD.

4. What are your hobbies and interests outside of school? Reading, writing, speaking, dancing and traveling.

5. What is your favorite book? And what is the last book you've read? As a teacher of English and an advocate for literacy, I have too many favorite books. Nonfiction is my favorite genre. The last book I read was "Leading Change Step-by-Step" by Jody Spiro.

6. Who is your role model or mentor? I have several. I will sum it up by saying "movers and shakers" in our world for the good.

7. Where is your favorite vacation spot? My favorite vacation spot is anywhere as long as I am with family and/or friends enjoying myself. No particular place comes to mind.

8. What do you think you'll like most about living in Richmond? I will like working with Richmond Public Schools' students. Hopefully, I will leave an indelible impact on the lives of the students I encounter.

9. What are you looking forward to most about working with the RJCL? I look forward to working with RJCL to guide and support our students, opening their eyes to new possibilities. In sum, I look forward to fostering and maintaining a positive working relationship, as we are appreciative of RJCL for utilizing their skills and resources to help our students succeed.

10. Tell us one thing that the students and teachers don't know about you? I am an orator; I excelled in public speaking in high school and college. I have won numerous oratorical contests on the state and national level.

To learn more about mentoring at Swansboro, contact Diane Munsey at 545-8654 or dmunsey@jewishrichmond.org; or Claudia Biegler at claudiabiegler@gmail.com.

Henrico Schools Closed on Yom Yippur

Thanks to the efforts of Rena Berlin at the Virginia Holocaust Museum working with Henrico County Schools over many constructive meetings for a period of time, Wednesday, Oct. 26 (Yom Kippur) was a day off for Henrico children.

Berlin noted, "This means so much to Jewish families, Jewish teachers and staff. The credit really goes to Dr. Patrick Kinlaw, deputy superintendent, for working with community members on this and understanding the importance to the Jewish community."

She has served on a general committee for several years working on many other activities but this a special project for her. After this committee approved, the full Board approved.

Jewish Education Classes Starting in October

The Weinstein JCC plans several new Jewish education classes.

Beginner Hebrew

Have you always wanted to learn Hebrew but don't know where to start? Now is your chance. This eight-week class is designed for true Hebrew beginners with little or no Hebrew background and will focus on reading and basic vocabulary. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to learn the ancient Jewish language that is still spoken in modern Israel today!

Richard Goldberg, Instructor: Mondays, Oct. 15 - Dec. 3, 8-9:30 p.m., \$60 for members/\$75 for non-members.

The Apocryphal Texts

The Book of the Maccabees, The Story of Susannah and The Book of Enoch are all ancient

Jewish books written in Hebrew that date to the same period as many later Biblical books, but were not included in the Torah that we have today.

In this class, attendees will explore these texts first hand, while taking an in-depth look at the fascinating period of Second Temple Judaism and the Dead Sea Scrolls.

Shoshanna Schechter-Shaffin, Instructor: Tuesdays, Oct. 16 - Nov. 20, 12:15-1:15 p.m. (Please bring a bag lunch.); \$60 for members/\$75 for non-members.

For more information, call 285-6500.



The Weinstein JCC is supported, in part, by a generous contribution from the Jewish Community Federation of Richmond.

2nd Annual Men's Poker Night Out at the Weinstein JCC

Take a break from your weekly home poker game and come join other men at the Weinstein JCC for an evening of fun.

Join the group on Wednesday, Oct. 24 at 6 p.m., for a night of great poker, food, drink and socializing. Tables will feature a maximum of eight players randomly picked. The cost per-player includes: professional tournament director, tournament entry fee, all cards and chips and "bar food" catered

by Kenny Bendheim. Great prizes will be awarded and all additional proceeds will go to aid the Weinstein JCC Senior Adult programs.

The cost is \$40 per person (Re-entries will be \$40.) For online registration visit: www.weinsteinjcc.org/class/2nd-annual-mens-poker-night. To register by phone, contact Shari Menlowe-Barck at (804) 545-8611. You must be 21 or older to enter.

Intergenerational Shabbat Dinner

On Friday, Oct. 19 at 5:30 p.m., join other community members at the Weinstein JCC for a Shabbat experience, when the active senior adults and the students from VCU Hillel join together for song, spirit, friendship and a festive kosher meal catered by Yossi Goel.

The cost is \$12 for members/\$14 non-members. Low-cost transportation from your home is available.

For information, contact Shari Menlowe-Barck at 545-8611. For registration, contact the Weinstein JCC front desk at 285-6500.

5400 Men's Club, Women's Room

Men's Club

Oct. 15 - Stephen Northrup, executive director, Virginians For Alternatives to the Death Penalty. (Joint meeting)

Oct. 22 - Jack Martin, Court-Appointed Counsel.

Oct. 29 - Dr. David Latane, VCU, "Charles Dickens as a Young Man in London."

Women's Room

Oct. 15 - Stephen Northrup, executive director, Virginians For Alternatives to the Death Penalty. (Joint Meeting)

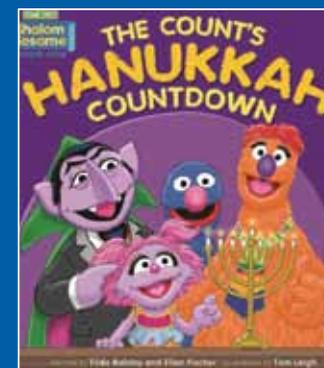
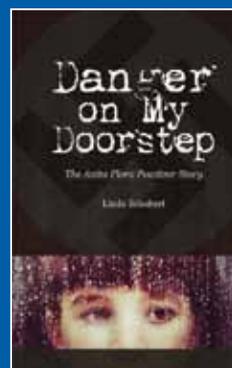
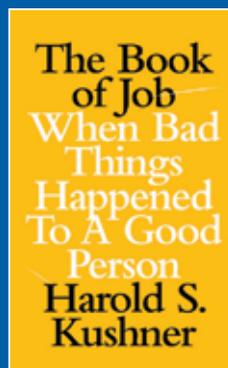
Oct. 22 - Leah Skaist: Teacher, Rudlin Torah Academy: A Jewish Women's Topic."

Oct. 29 - Brooke Spieldenner, West End Library, "The Fabulous 50's,"

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Grandparents' Day



(From left) Margaret Gustafson and Eleanor Weinstein along with a relative.

Beth Sholom Lifecare Community recently celebrated Grandparents' Day in the multipurpose room at Parkside. Residents from the Gardens and Parkside enjoyed a performance by Bob Mckessor.

Many families and grandchildren attended. The most popular activity was the cookie decoration station, where the kids loved to decorate their desserts and pass them out to all of the residents.



Beth Sholom Home is supported, in part, by a generous contribution from the Jewish Community Federation of Richmond.



Dorothy Pickett enjoys her day with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Beth Sholom Home Celebration

Residents, family members, grandchildren and staff had a blast at the Beth Sholom Home's Grandparents' day celebration too.

This special event was held in the Multi Purpose Room, where residents enjoyed entertainment by "In the Mood Dancers." The dancers put on a great show and the residents loved watching them perform all of their musical numbers. In addition to great entertainment, everyone was treated to delicious hors d'oeuvres.

Fun was had by all. Everyone is looking forward to the next Grandparents' Day Celebration.

Help Wanted - Daffodil Bulbs

Beth Sholom would like to plant 1,000 daffodil bulbs this fall and needs help from the community.

Why 1,000 bulbs? If you think of all the people who over the years have volunteered on our board or campus from when Beth Sholom Home first started 60 years ago to today, there are so many people to thank.

How can we ever show appreciation for everyone from the Auxiliary and others who have worked tirelessly over the years to care for residents and make the Beth Sholom Campus the outstanding place it is today for senior care?

Why daffodils? Daffodils are synonymous with spring as they "spring" up from the ground. They give all of us faith in new beginnings and re-bloom year after year. Daffodils, also called Narcissus, are incredibly hardy, not tasty to voles, moles or insects and multiply on their own. They come in all different colors, shapes, sizes and fragrances, but all are beautiful in their own way.

Beth Sholom really wants to light up the campus and give residents, staff and guests more reasons to go outside and walk the

grounds. It will also give extra reason for families to wheel their loved ones outside to admire nature at one of the prettiest times of the year.

In years to come, we will cut some of these flowers and bring indoors to our residents during spring season for their daily enjoyment.

Contributions can be made to purchase daffodils to honor the service of others, to commemorate a wonderful occasion, birthday or anniversary etc.

Bulb prices are 18 for a \$36 donation. Beth Sholom will also need lots of help to plant them in the fall. So buy some bulbs and sign up to be placed on our email list for planting date schedules.

Please send in your checks - Attn: Selma Harlow, Beth Sholom, 1600 John Rolfe Parkway, 23238 and send an email to: Mark@RoadToCool.com. Be sure to mark the subject "Beth Sholom" so you will be put on our email list to help plant in the fall. Thanks and we hope to see you out here.

For more information, contact Selma Harlow at 804.421.5142.

The Best Kept Secret in Richmond (but you can tell)



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Join now for \$1 registration and your first month free. Call 285.6500 today.



Making the Most of School Days

Now that school's back in session, here are a few tips from Jill Campbell, JFS' child, adolescent, and family therapist, to make them more manageable.



Jill Campbell

Get health checkups: If you have concerns about your child's physical or emotional health or development, talk with your pediatrician. Your child will benefit by addressing problems early, and his/her teachers will thank you.

Stick to a schedule: With all the activities children are involved in these days, it's easy to lose track of time. Carve out time for studying, eating real meals, relaxing, and sleeping.

Overcome anxiety: Children can be fearful of a new school or teacher. If your child was bullied or teased or had a bad academic experience the previous school year, he/she could experience anxiety about school. You can help by maintaining open communication with your child about these and other potential stressors.

Keep kids engaged: During middle school years especially, children can get distracted and lose their academic focus. Stress that learning is just as important as socializing. Encourage your child to be curious.

Let teachers know you care: Talk with your child's teachers regularly. If your schedule permits, consider volunteering in the classroom or with the PTA/PTO.

Matt Stone, JFS Psychology Intern

Every year, JFS welcomes doctoral candidates in Psychology to the staff as part of the Central Virginia Consortium (CVC).



Matt Stone

Matt Stone, MA, is the JFS intern for 2012-2013. His work at JFS includes individuals and couples psychotherapy and psychological assessments. Stone's previous clinical training includes three full-year part-time practicums with the Washington D.C., Superior Court's Child Guidance Clinic, Children's National Medical Center Safe Concussion Outcome Recovery and Education (SCORE) clinic, and the University Counseling Center at The Catholic University of America.



Jewish Family Services is supported, in part, by a generous contribution from the Jewish Community Federation of Richmond.



Explosive Enrollment Growth at RTA



RTA students at the Milton and Sadie Bernstein campus in Goochland County.



The students at the Benjamin & Lillian Rochkind Yeshiva of Virginia.

Rudlin Torah Academy (RTA) has experienced explosive enrollment growth as 36 new students joined RTA and its two high school divisions, Yeshiva of Virginia and Shaarei Torah.

In addition to the incoming kindergarten class, new students were welcomed into grades

1, 2, 3, 5, and 7, 9, 10, 11, and 12.

For more information on the school, call the school at 784-9050.



Rudlin Torah Academy is supported, in part, by a generous contribution from the Jewish Community Federation of Richmond.

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HADASSAH



Hadassah Happenings

To celebrate Sukkot, Richmond Hadassah will meet with the residents of Beth Shalom Parkside, Gardens and the Home to plant new flowers to grace and renew their garden.

This joyful occasion will take place on Sunday, Oct. 7 at 10:30 a.m., at

the Gardens. This will be a wonderful opportunity to interact with the residents. Light refreshments will be served. Hadassah is asking for donations of \$5 to offset the cost of the plantings.

For more information, contact Susan Adolf at shoozie@aol.com or 741 4900.

in our SYNAGOGUES

Scouting is in full force. Excitement is contagious.

Boy Scout Troop 613 has new members; Mordechai Miller and Yossi Collins. Senior Patrol Leader Charles Alexander called a Patrol Leader's Conference to plan an exciting fun-filled year with assistance from Scout Master Russ Stein, Assistant Scout Masters Drew Alexander and Ben Melton, Junior Assistant Scout Master Josh Black and Quarter Master Asher Ackman. They also outlined a plan to help all scouts attain their next rank by the end of this scouting year.

In Cub Scout news, welcome to Shachar Cahana and Noam Cahana. The Cahanas recently relocated to Virginia and were

Scouts Begin Exciting Year

thrilled to find Jewish Cub Scouting here. Our Bears from last year are now new Webelos. We-Be-Los from "We'll Be Loyal Scouts" is one rank closer to Boy Scouts.

Den Leaders have planned an active year to include camping with the Boy Scouts in preparation for their cross over ceremony to Troop 613 at the Blue & Gold Banquet in February 2013.

As for the Girl Scouts of Troop 4613, the Brownies, Juniors and Cadettes together will choose and begin work on their *Journeys*. The Girl Scout Journey is a major part of the Girl Scout experience striving to attain specific goals and along the way earns an array of awards for each goal accomplished.

Or Atid Welcomes Jay Ipson

Congregation Or Atid welcomed Jay M. Ipson, co-founder of the Virginia Holocaust Museum, to speak at its Selichot dinner on Saturday, Sept. 8.

Ipson shared many of his memories as a child in Europe. Congregants were moved by his experiences at the hands of the Nazis in the ghettos and hiding on farms

underground. His family's inspirational story reminded those attending that forgetting the past is surely an invitation for history to repeat itself.

He responded to questions involving current world and national politics, explaining some of his views and projects for which he is advocating.



New Noah's Ark, Shabbat in the Park Beth Ahabah Plans New Activities

Beth Ahabah's Director of Education Ramona Brand leads a new playgroup for tots and their parents, grandparents or care-givers.

Noah's Ark meets once a month on Wednesday mornings at Congregation Beth Ahabah Religious School. Stories, crafts, music, games, snacks and social time are all part of the fun. Play sessions are designed to provide a warm introduction to the synagogue, Shabbat, holidays and Judaism. Open to all members of the community.

Come join Noah's Ark on Wednesday, Oct. 10 at 10 a.m. in the Sunday school library.

RSVP to Ramona Brand at r.brand@bethahabah.org or call 804-358.6757.

Come and celebrate a song-filled musical Shabbat in the Park at Deep Run Park Recreational Center, Ridgefield Parkway, on Friday, Oct. 26 at 5:30 p.m.

A camp-style Shabbat with Rabbi Jesse Gallop, Hannah Piracha and members of the youth musical ensemble, Ruach Chadash, will put you in the Shabbat spirit.

Enjoy services under the stars. (we'll move inside in case of rain.). An ice-cream social Oneg will follow with a song-session. Bring your own picnic basket dinner, lawn chairs or a comfortable blanket. Services will be at 6:30 p.m. followed by Oneg and song session.

For information, contact Rabbi Gallop at rabbi.gallop@bethahabah.org or Ramona Brand at r.brand@bethahabah.org.



Or Ami's Reel Theology

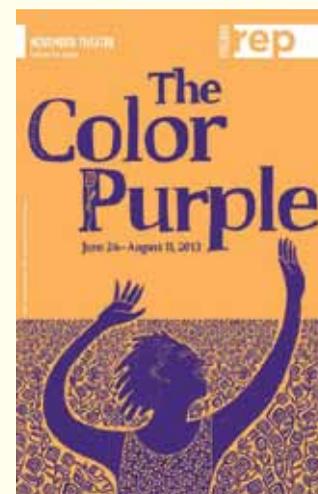
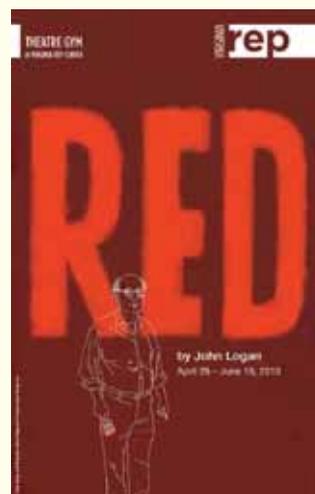
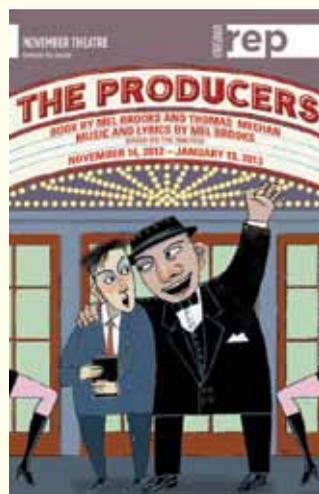
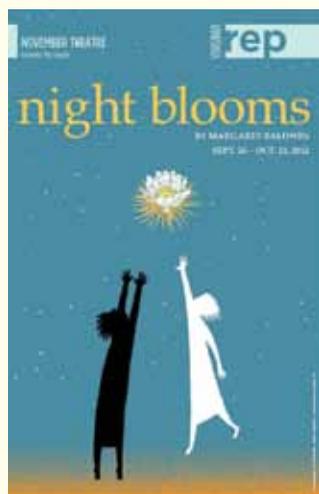
Congregation Or Ami presents: Reel Theology: "The Ides of March" on Oct. 21. Potluck, screening and discussion of political drama starring George Clooney and Ryan Gosling at 6 p.m. It's free and no reservation is necessary. The program is at Or Ami, 9400 Huguenot Road. For details, call 804-272-0017; office@or-ami.com, <http://www.or-ami.com>.

Sara Belle and Neil November
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2012-2013

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School is in Full Swing at Beth-El

Autumn is in the air, the holidays are coming to a close and school is in full swing at Temple Beth-El.



In September, Beth-El had its annual Rosh Hashanah fair where students tasted pomegranates, learned to blow the shofar and rocked out to some fun High Holiday songs.

On Oct. 3, the "Pizza in the Hut" event was held in the Sukkah, and the 5th grade class will visit Beth Sholom on Sunday, Oct. 14. On Friday, Oct. 5, the kindergarten and first-grade students will celebrate their consecration at Temple Beth-El's New Member Shabbat Dinner, which will be a

beautiful event for the entire community.

If you have a pre-school-aged child and are looking for a fun introduction to religious school, there is still room in the pre-K program. The program meets once a month for ages 3-5. Participants will learn about Jewish holidays and culture through song, play and crafts.

School at Beth-El has gotten off to a great start, and everyone is looking forward to a fun year of meaningful learning. If you would like any information about Religious School, contact Hazzan Marian Turk at hazzan.turk@bethelrichmond.org. If you are interested in joining us for our Shabbat dinner on Oct. 5, contact the Temple Beth-El office at 804-355-3564.

Prepare to be Inspired: An Intimate Evening with the Richmond Symphony

Spend the evening with the Richmond Symphony in support of Temple Beth-El and VCU Massey Cancer Center at a community-wide event on Saturday, Nov. 10, at 8 p.m. The performance will be followed by an elegant champagne and dessert reception.

The Richmond Symphony, conducted by Steven Smith, music director, will perform at Temple Beth-El in the Main Sanctuary. Hear the symphony play compositions by Bernstein (*America* from *West Side Story*), Gershwin (*Lullaby*), Copland (*Hoe-Down* from *Rodeo*), Debussy (*Clair de Lune*), as well as pieces by Mozart, Mendelssohn, Faure, and Schubert.

All are welcome. Invite family and

friends to join our community for an evening listening to inspiring music performed by an outstanding symphony in an acoustically magnificent setting while raising funds to benefit the good works of Temple Beth-El and VCU Massey Cancer Center. Tickets are available for purchase at \$40 and \$100.

Sponsorships starting at \$500, include premium concert tickets and pre-concert dinner with the Richmond Symphony's music director. Inquire at the Temple office at 804-355-3564.

For information visit bethelrichmond.org. Beth-El is a thriving synagogue in the heart of the Museum District.

Men's Club Plans Speaker Brunch

The Beth-El Men's Club is sponsoring a speaker brunch, which is open to the public, on Sunday, Nov. 4, at the Brown Religious School on Parham Road.

The speaker is Andy Gershman, former member of Temple Beth-El, now living in Maryland. He will talk about his experiences

in Israel as a host of an American sports talk show, founder of Israel Sports Radio and his subsequent articles about Jewish athletes in a number of Jewish publications. Since returning, he has written "Modern Day Maccabees."

For information, call 355-3564.



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to be
Inspired

8 p.m. | Saturday, November 10, 2012



Spend an intimate evening with the Richmond Symphony!

The Richmond Symphony conducted by Steven Smith, music director, will perform at Temple Beth-El, 3330 Grove Avenue in the sanctuary.

This fundraiser in conjunction with VCU Massey Cancer Center will be followed by an elegant champagne and dessert reception.

Hear the symphony perform compositions by Bernstein, Gershwin, Copland, Debussy, Mozart, Mendelssohn and more.

Tickets - \$40 and \$100.

Sponsorships starting at \$500, which include premium concert tickets and pre-concert dinner with symphony conductor.

For more information call Temple Beth-El at 804-355-3564 or visit bethelrichmond.org



Program, dates and artists are subject to change.



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Accepting New Patients

New State Law “Turbo-Charges” Contributions

Editor's Note: This guest column was written by Stuart Cantor, past chair of the RJF.

This past spring the General Assembly passed legislation that was signed into law by Gov. Bob McDonnell creating the Educational Opportunity Tax Credit. This 65% state tax credit was established to create need-based scholarship funds for Virginia children in grades K – 12 to attend private schools. Available to both individuals and corporations, this credit, combined with the federal charitable tax deduction, provides a mechanism for individual donors to “supercharge” the impact of their donations.

By combining the sixty five percent state tax credit with the federal charitable deduction, an individual donor who pays the federal alternative minimum tax can make a significant donation with almost no net cost. See sample analysis of a \$10,000 donation below:

Donation Amount	Amount
	10,000.00
Tax Savings	
State Tax Credit (65%)	(6,500.00)
Federal Tax Savings at 28% Rate	(2,800.00)
State Tax Savings at 5.25% Rate	(525.00)
Total Savings	(9,825.00)
Net Cost of \$10,000 Donation	175.00

Source: American Federation for Children. Please consult your tax advisor for your specific situation.

The program, which is still subject to final regulations currently being developed, is scheduled to start in calendar year 2013. Donations made in 2013 will be eligible for state tax credits in 2014, so donors will need to consider the timing issues when making these donations. The state tax credits can be carried forward.

Using these credits, a donor can turn a relatively modest contribution into a significant donation. The Rudlin Torah Academy (RTA) is excited about working with

focus on FOUNDATION

donors to make these funds a reality. This new source of funding is an opportunity to help new parents handle tuition costs that can often be a significant burden on families and a chance to significantly grow future enrollment at the school. The school year starting in September 2013 will be the first year that students and their parents can take advantage of this scholarship.

To receive the state tax credit, donors will make their contributions to approved scholarship funds. These funds will then distribute the monies to Virginia private schools as tuition payments for eligible students. RTA hopes to work with the Richmond Jewish Foundation (RJF) to administer these scholarship funds to benefit RTA and other schools. RJF, together with your tax advisor, can provide you guidance in understanding this program.

Eligibility guidelines for students to take advantage of these scholarship funds are based on family income. Families with incomes less than 300% of the federal poverty level are eligible. For example, a family of five with annual income of less than \$81,030 would be eligible. In addition a student must be new to the private school system in order to qualify. Any child (whose family meets the income guidelines) entering kindergarten or first grade and any child previously in a public school would qualify. To protect the state's budget goals, maximum per student scholarship amounts are tied to the state's per pupil funding formula for public schools.

The state has instituted an initial annual statewide cap of \$25 million for these donations. The tax credits will be issued on a first come, first-served basis. It is anticipated that the tax credits will go quickly, so donors should make plans before year end to insure that the credits will be available.

Please contact RTA for assistance in obtaining the credits at 804-784-9050.



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From Hurt to Healing: Forgiveness and Hope in Metropolitan Richmond

with Dr. John Kinney and Rev. Ben Campbell

Thursday, November 15, 2012
7 p.m. • Ukrop Auditorium
Robins School of Business

This year's Weinstein-Rosenthal Forum will consider how metropolitan Richmond can be a model of racial, religious, and economic healing, and how our ideas of forgiveness are shaped.

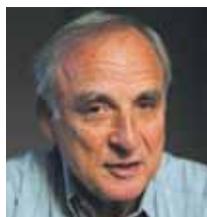
A reception will follow in Queally Hall lobby.

For more information and ideas on getting involved in the conversation, visit chaplancy.richmond.edu/weinstein-rosenthal.



Dr. John W. Kinney

Dean of the School of Theology
at Virginia Union University



The Rev. Benjamin P. Campbell

Pastoral Director
of Richmond Hill



The annual Weinstein-Rosenthal Forum is sponsored by the University of Richmond's Office of the Chaplaincy and funded by the Weinstein and Rosenthal families.

Night of Pogroms Commemoration: Nov. 11



(From left) Irena Korshin, Mark Binshtok and Geri Stahl wait to light a candle at the 2011 Memorial Service.

On Sunday, Nov. 11, at 2 p.m., a 45-minute seated outdoor memorial service will take place at Emek Sholom Holocaust Memorial Cemetery in Forest Lawn Cemetery on Richmond's Northside.

Speakers will include Winfred Loria and

David B. Robinson. They will share experiences of their fathers who were servicemen in the U.S. Army and helped liberate concentration camp survivors.

Other participants include Rabbi Andrew Goodman, director of Jewish life and University of Richmond campus Rabbi; and Rabbi-Cantor Annie Bornstein of Congregation Beth Ahabah.

The service will include family speaker Edith Levin, Russian military veterans of WWII and a candle lighting ceremony for the 459 victims of the Holocaust who are memorialized at Emek Sholom Holocaust Memorial Cemetery. The names also appear on the website: www.emeksholomcemeteryrichmond.org.

The public is invited. For information, contact Inge Horowitz at 358-2720 or 873-2761.

Never Again Award



Gracie DeSantis

The Board of Emek Sholom Holocaust Memorial Cemetery is offering the "Never Again" Award once more in 2012.

The "Never Again" Award in the amount of \$300 is awarded to a Virginia High School student who composes the best essay (500 words or less and in the student's own words) on this year's topic, "Never Again - What We Can Do Today To Stop Genocide in the

Democratic Republic of the Congo."

Gracie DeSantis, Clover Hill High School, was the 2011 winner.

The winner must be prepared to read the essay at the annual program commemorating Kristallnacht - The Night of Pogroms on Nov. 11 at 2 p.m. The entry should include an explanation of what attendees can do to help alleviate issues including rape as a tool of war and acts of genocide over conflict minerals. These suggestions should be submitted in writing on a separate page, which will be duplicated and distributed to program attendees in a handout.

Submissions will be evaluated on presentation, understanding of the dynamics of genocide or state-sponsored oppression in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, following instructions, and the practical impact of the suggestion page.

All submissions and the application cover sheet must be received by Oct. 26 at 6 p.m. Send to estherwindmueller@gmail.com.

For more information, call her at 804-426-2321.

Good luck to all participants.



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Grand Event

Continued from page 1



(From left) JCFR CEO Samuel Asher and Sara Belle and Neil November.

Libya and other Arab countries. Berk described the differences and "ferocious conflict" among the Sunni Muslims and Shiite Muslims in the Arab countries as well as the long hatred in Syria among the minority Alawites and the Sunni Muslims.

Berk said Egypt was the most important of the Arab countries, noting, "Will the Arab Spring turn into an Arab Winter?" He offered that many hoped Egypt was moving towards a successful democracy from an autocracy, but he believes it's far too early to reach any conclusions. He questioned this rationale since the Muslim Brotherhood was anti-Israel, anti-Zionist and anti-Semitic. "In addition, will they respect the Camp David Accords?"

He also offered an assessment of nuclear developments in Iran and raised a number of concerns that the current embargo will not work. He noted that China, Russia and India are not participants. "Everyone agrees that Iran wants a nuclear weapon. In Israel today, there is a great debate raging among Jews on what to do. Within 12-18 months, someone will have to make a decision to strike Iran."

Berk said Israel could delay Iran's nuclear program with a first strike, but "only the U.S. has the capability to destroy it. Should they do it? This is a very, very tough call."

The speaker noted that Israel has been the ultimate place for oppressed Jews from everywhere for a century. "Any Jew, no matter their situation, will be accepted." He saluted the advancements in technology made in Israel. Israel is the silicon-valley east."

Berk praised the work of the Federation. "Federations have raised billions to help Israel and Jews all over the world. We are the envy of every non-profit group. Over time, we have survived the worst. The Jewish people are alive and vibrant."

Earlier in the evening, Mark Sisisky welcomed the community members and thanked them for their support of Jews in Richmond and the U.S., in Israel and around the world. "There is one thing we have in common - Federation. He recognized the local agencies that help "Jews in need."

JCFR President Nathan Shor, noted,



(From left) Mark Sternheimer and JCFR President Nathan Shor.



Michael Sievers and Susan Sisisky were chairs of the Grand Event together with spouses, Leah and Mark.



Bob and Shirley Reinhard.

"The Federation does so much more than raise money. We are community builders. The work of Federation is always critical but never more so than during difficult times such as these."

Campaign Chair Matt Grossman announced that the Campaign has raised more than \$1.1 million to date. The goal for the 2013 Annual Campaign for the community is \$3 million. Attendees also saw the Jewish Federations of North America 2013 campaign video that showcases the work of Federations. To view, visit www.jewishrichmond.org

For Campaign information, contact Matt Langsam at 545-8652 or mlangsam@jewishrichmond.org