



THE REFLECTOR

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VHM dedicates profound Auschwitz Exhibit on Holocaust Remembrance Day



Tim Hensley, director of collections and curator of the Virginia Holocaust Museum, led the effort to create the new exhibit. He was the guest speaker at the Yom Hashoah program and explained the process for creating the enormous exhibit.

On Sunday, April 19, the Virginia Holocaust Museum formally dedicated its new one-of-a-kind "Auschwitz Oświęcim" Exhibit and welcomed about 200 community members and Survivors including Auschwitz Survivor Clara Daniels.

Community members also held a solemn Yom Hashoah Service of Remembrance as Survivors and their family members lighted six candles to honor the memories of the six million Jews murdered by the Nazis.

Dr. Charles Sydnor, CEO and executive director of the museum, welcomed the community members and special guests and noted, "This is by far the most significant undertaking at our museum since the construction of the Nuremberg Courtroom exhibit."

Participating in the ribbon-cutting and formal dedication were Daniels, Sydnor, Joe Brodecki, the son of Auschwitz Survivor Bud Brodecki; and Kathryn Curtis of the Dominion Foundation, one of the major underwriters of the exhibit.

In his brief remarks after the ribbon cutting, Joe Brodecki said his parents were not able to travel to Richmond but his mother, Sonya, also a Survivor, sends "her love" to everyone in Richmond where they lived for more than 60 years. The younger Brodecki said he was born in a displaced persons camp and did not have any memory of this camp. He shared some comments his father offered for him to tell the community. "Who were

Exhibit *More on page 20*



Clara Daniels, 91, a Survivor of Auschwitz, stands with her granddaughter in front of a panel with her quotation at the official opening of the Auschwitz Exhibit at the Virginia Holocaust Museum April 19.

Dan Siegel to receive DCSA

Longtime community leader and volunteer Dan Siegel will receive the Jewish Community Federation of Richmond's Distinguished Community Service Award at the joint annual meeting on May 28 at the Weinstein JCC.

Siegel, an attorney and principal at Sands Anderson, will be honored for his dedicated and tireless efforts in the Jewish and general community. He has volunteered extensively with the JCFR, Beth Sholom Lifecare Community, Congregation Or Ami and other organizations.

He is a past president of the JCFR where he led the organization from 2004-2005. Siegel has been a dedicated volunteer on the Annual Campaign since 1983, and served as General Campaign Chair and Men's Division Chair. He is a member of the Board of Directors and Executive Committee

and a past member of the Allocations Committee. He received a President's Award in 1999 and was a member of a past Young Leadership Class of the JCFR.

Siegel is a past chair of the Board of Governors of BSLC and past treasurer and chair of the finance committee of the Beth Sholom Home. He has been active with BSLC for many years in various capacities and committees including serving on Beth Sholom Home's board in 1985-87.

For details on the Annual Meeting, see the article on Page 3 of this issue.



Dan Siegel



Shannon Hahn and Yonatan Barlev at Happy Hour at Rock Bottom Brewery on Feb. 11.



Ian James and Wes Simon at Shabbat Dinner Jan. 30 at the home of Gary Goldberg and Deborah Minden.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- **May 3 | 10:30 a.m.**
Hadassah General Meeting
Weinstein JCC
- **May 14 | 7 p.m.**
Patrons of the Arts: 'QuinTango'
Weinstein JCC
- **May 19 | 5:30 p.m.**
Weinstein JCC Annual Meeting
Weinstein JCC
- **May 21 | 7 p.m.**
JFS: 'Draw Back the Curtain'
Weinstein JCC
- **May 28 | 5:30 p.m.**
JCFR/RJF Joint Annual Meeting
Weinstein JCC
- **May 31 | 6 p.m.**
RTA Lev Nadiv Gala
Weinstein JCC

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

Network JCFR has an exciting year, many new activities

This has been a very exciting year for Network JCFR led by Melanie Phillips, young leadership director. From new and innovative events, to tried and true events bringing crowds of over 40 participants, the Jewish Community Federation of Richmond is thrilled at the growing young adult division. Phillips said, "Last summer, we had our first kickball team participate in River City Sports and Social Club social league. Though we weren't highly skilled, we had a great time and it was a fun way to get people from all different Jewish backgrounds together for a fun summer!"

She continued, "Throughout the fall we had many different events from Sukkah Decorating at Beth Sholom Lifecare Community to a Happy Hour and Trivia Night at some of Richmond's new and upcoming breweries, and monthly home-hosted Shabbat dinners.

"In November, we had the privilege of bringing a Young Leadership cohort with us to Jewish Federation of North America's General Assembly. Not only were we participating in many different sessions and learning more about the amazing work being done by Federations all over the world, our own Network

JCFR participant Shannon Hahn was part of the opening plenary. Shannon spoke about her transformative Birthright Israel experience and how it led to her involvement in JCFR. She has become a very active member and a great face of the Federation outside of our events.

"Of her time with Network JCFR, Shannon said, '...when I got back from my Birthright trip I knew that I wanted to strengthen my ties to the Richmond Jewish community, but having grown up in a non-practicing mixed faith home I wasn't sure where to start. After a few days of asking around I was connected with Melanie who welcomed me to attend a bar trivia happy hour event that was taking place that very week. Ever since I've attended every event I possibly could. Network JCFR has not only aided in strengthening my community ties, but has also helped me to meet some of my best friends.'"

The YAD Campaign exceeded its goal by raising \$87,196 for the Annual Campaign that is \$14,928 more than was raised last year.

"We had the pleasure of bringing Shaun Goldstone from the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee to discuss the amazing work being done in Ethiopia," said Phillips.

"With an Ethiopian-themed night catered by Addis Ethiopian Restaurant, it was a powerful event. Shaun did such an amazing job and it even brought more attention to the Susan and Mark Sisisky JDC Global Enrichment Fund of Richmond Jewish Foundation."

She added, "Matt Kaplan, our Young Leadership Committee co-chair, enjoyed the event so much he decided to apply for and was accepted to the participate in a JDC Entwine trip through the fund.

"Shaun Goldstone's presentation of the work that JDC does opened my eyes to new and different ways the Jewish community can respond to humanitarian needs around the world," said Kaplan.

Overall, Network JCFR had a busy year of growth and engagement in the Young Adult Division. As the year wraps up, Network JCFR participants are sad and happy for Phillips who is leaving JCFR and Richmond to study in Boston and obtain an MBA/MA in Jewish Professional Leadership from Brandeis University. She has put in a tremendous amount of work to continue to develop and enhance our Jewish Engagement among Young Professionals and has been

extremely successful during her two years with everyone at JCFR. We are sad to see her leave but are excited to see where her education will take her in the future.

For details on Network JCFR before a new staff member arrives, call Sara Rosenbaum at (804) 545-8629.



Network JCFR participants at a Shabbat Dinner at the home of Rebecca Kalman-Winston and David Winston.



Abby Moore hosted a Shabbat Dinner for Network JCFR participants. At the event are (from left) Shir Bodner, Greg Serkin, Abby Moore, Melanie Becker, Edan Lichtenstein and Ethan Litvin.

THE REFLECTOR

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

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We welcome new leaders

By Samuel Asher

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, JCFR &

Last summer I was accepted into Leadership Metro Richmond, the region's community leadership development organization. It has been my pleasure to participate in the Leadership Quest Class of 2015.

Leadership Quest connects a diverse group of 65 community leaders, increases their knowledge and perspectives on regional issues and inspires them to embrace inclusion, collaboration and leadership. This bridge to LMR membership is a 10-month program that provides participants with tools that are essential for community leadership; with opportunities to interact and dialogue with experts and decision makers who shape issues critical to our region; and prepares participants to meet the challenges of ambiguity through an immersion project experience.

Leadership Quest began with a weekend retreat in Williamsburg. Retreat topics included leadership discussions and civic engagement, the history and demographics of Greater Richmond and more.

Monthly, all-day workshops have included discussions and forums on corporate/non-profit collaborations; inter-governmental collaboration; regional cooperation; regional transportation issues; the arts in Richmond, education and the inter-section of education, housing and race; urban core renewal and regional planning.

Throughout the Leadership Quest program, new technologies for change were shared with participants by excellent trainers and consultants. On May 6, our "immersion group" will present on the topic: "Leveraging the Strength

of the Philanthropic Community in the Age of the Millennial."

Many of our JCFR leaders are aware that Richmond has a long and proud history of strong nonprofit agencies and companies that have created a wonderful culture of giving and participation in many worthy causes. JCFR ranks in the top ten of Intermediate communities in Jewish Federation campaign achievement. Our reputation for community planning and outreach methodologies is at the top of the mark. Our Israel and Overseas mission participation is one of the best in the country, as is our emphasis on young leadership development through our Network JCFR and our Community Leadership Institute and Senior Leadership Institute.

Without giving away the conclusions drawn by our Immersion Group of LMR, before May 6, there is no doubt that corporations, nonprofits, B corporations and even governmental agencies need to invest in the future by recruiting and training the next generation of leaders. We will make a presentation on how and why this should happen.

Later in May, our community will celebrate the Joint Annual Meeting of the Jewish Community Federation of Richmond and the Richmond Jewish Foundation. The Federation's Distinguished Community Service Award will be presented to Dan Siegel and the Foundation's Meyers award will be presented to Charles and Yvonne Gold. The Foundation also also be presenting, for the first time, the Jack Paul Fine Mitzvah Society Award to Seth Kaplan. There will be an installation of new Board members and JCFR will celebrate the graduation of another class of the latest Leadership Institute. We stand on the shoulders of the leaders who came before us and we welcome the new leaders who will take their own places in the leadership ranks. Kadima – Forward We Go!!!

As always, I welcome comments and feel free to email me at sasher@jewishrichmond.org.

Proposed new JCFR officers, board members

The JCFR Nominating Committee, chaired by Nathan Shor, has proposed the following slate of officers:

President: Richard Samet; Vice President: Stuart Siegel; Vice President: Seth Kaplan; Secretary/Treasurer: Michael Sievers; Assistant Treasurer, Deane Dubansky; Immediate Past President: Nathan Shor; Honorary Vice Presidents: Ric Arenstein, Jerry Gumenick (OBM), Neil November and Mark Sisisky; and General Campaign Chair: Nannette Shor.

Nominated to serve as new members of the board are: Ellen Renee Adams, Susan Adolf, Yael Fletcher, Matt Kaplan and Josh Rubinstein. Nominated to serve a second term are: Steve Gillispie, Gary Goldberg, Howard Goldfine, Frances Goldman, Amy Nisenson, Michael Plotkin, Elise Scherr and Jim Weinberg.

These individuals will be elected and installed at the joint agency annual meeting on Thursday, May 28, 5:30 p.m., at Weinstein JCC.

Joint JCFR, RJJF Annual Meeting on May 28

On May 28, The Jewish Community Federation of Richmond and Richmond Jewish Foundation will hold their joint annual meeting.

The meeting will feature agency reports by President Richard Samet and CEO Samuel Asher of the JCFR and Chairman Jim Weinberg and President Robert Nomberg of the RJJF.

Awards will be presented to outstanding community volunteers including Dan Siegel, Charles and Yvonne Gold and Seth

Kaplan. (See article on page 5 for the RJJF awards.)

Each of the agencies will install new board members.

Please join community members for this event. The reception begins at 5:30 p.m. and the meeting begins at 6 p.m. in the Israel November Auditorium.

To RSVP, contact Diane Munsey at (804) 545-8654 or dmunsey@jewishrichmond.org.



Religious school students from area middle schools take part in education program at Virginia Holocaust Museum on March 22.

RCJE sponsors VHM program for students

On Sunday, March 22, more than 60 Richmond middle school students representing area religious schools convened at the Virginia Holocaust Museum for an annual program sponsored by the Richmond Council of Jewish Education.

Each year, RCJE strives to offer programs beyond the classrooms for the Richmond Jewish community.

During the session, Dr. Charles Sydnor, CEO and executive director of the museum, spoke to the group about the Nuremberg trial and the permanent exhibit at the museum. A highly respected historian of the Holocaust and World War II, he provided the United States Department of Justice and its Office of Special

Investigations with expert testimony in twenty-one court cases involving former SS concentration camp guards and Nazi death camp collaborators.

RCJE, an ad hoc committee of the Jewish Community Federation of Richmond, provides financial support for educational opportunities for the greater Richmond Jewish community. It strives to provide collaborative community educational programming and opportunities for religious, educational, cultural and professional development.

For details, contact Sara Rosenbaum at (804) 545-8629 or srosenbaum@jewishrichmond.org.

Kroger Community Rewards Program starts

Kroger has begun a Kroger Community Rewards Program for nonprofits and the JCFR has joined. The monies raised will help fund community programs. Community members can enroll online at any time at krogercommunityrewards.com.

How to sign up

Be sure to have your Kroger Plus card handy and register this card. If you do not have a Kroger Plus card, stop by the customer service desk at any Kroger.

After entering the website, look for the SIGN UP TODAY in the 'New Customer?' box. You will need to sign up by entering zip code, clicking on your favorite store, entering your email address and creating a password, agreeing to the terms and conditions.

You will then get a message to check your email inbox and click on the link within the body of the email. Click on My Account and use your email address and password to proceed to the next step.

Click on Edit Kroger Community Rewards information and input your Kroger Plus card number.

Update or confirm your information. Then Search for the Jewish Community Federation of Richmond by selecting from a list and click on confirm.

To verify you are enrolled correctly, you will see the JCFR's name on the right side of your information page.

Remember, purchases will not count for the JCFR until after you register your number.

Do you use your phone number at the register? Call (800) 576-4377, select option 4 to get your Kroger Plus card number.

Members must swipe their registered Kroger Plus card or use the phone number that is related to their registered Kroger Plus card when shopping for each purchase to count.



MAKE ISRAEL A DESTINATION THIS YEAR AND NEXT!

The Jewish Community Federation of Richmond is planning three different Israel experiences. Why not consider being part of one of these truly life-changing trips with other community members.

...

Campaign Workers Mission July 6-12, 2015

Be part of this Mission! Join many campaign volunteers and Federation leadership from across North America to sharpen your solicitation skills and see first-hand how the dollars raised locally impact and benefit those in need.

...

Interfaith Trip to Israel III January 17-27, 2016

In partnership with the First Presbyterian Church of Virginia Beach, we will experience the most important sites in Northern Israel, Jerusalem and nearby areas from both a Jewish and Christian perspective.

...

Israel Food & Wine Adventure October 26 - November 3, 2016

Experience gourmet Israel for a fun-packed experience of culinary delights and wine that will satisfy your appetite and curiosity.

**For details on all of these experiences, contact:
Matt Langsam at (804) 545-8652
or mlangsam@jewishrichmond.org**



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Golds and Kaplan to receive RJF honors on May 28



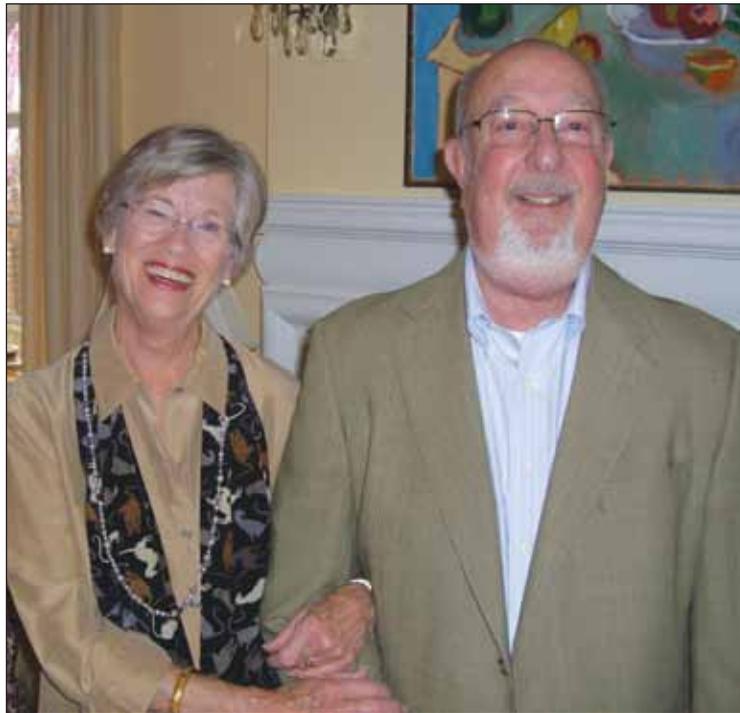
By Robert Nomberg
PRESIDENT & CEO, RJF

Recognizing that human resources are vital to the attraction of fiscal resources, Sidney* Meyers and his wife, Anne, created an award to be presented to community members who have made outstanding local and national contributions to the field of Jewish endowments. The Meyers believed that the award would encourage others to become involved and benefit the community. The Anne and S. Sidney Meyers Endowment Achievement Award is a fitting memorial to Sidney's devotion. Each time it is presented, it reminds us all of his dedication and commitment to the Richmond Jewish community.

This year's Anne and S. Sidney Meyers Endowment Achievement Award is presented to Yvonne and Charles Gold. The Golds have been one of Richmond Jewish Foundation's most long-standing and ardent supporters. They have been active donors for close to thirty years and created one of the Foundation's first donor advised funds.

The Golds routinely donate to and recommend from their donor advised fund supporting several dozen Jewish, Christian and secular organizations in Richmond. The Golds plan to continue their generous philanthropy after their lifetimes by supporting several organizations through their estate including the Foundation's Genesis Fund.

The Meyers Award was created to honor not only those



Ivonne and Charles Gold will receive The Anne and S. Sidney Meyers Endowment Achievement Award on May 29.

who financially support the Foundation, but also to those who provide leadership. For almost a decade Charles chaired the Foundation's Investment Committee, overseeing growth from \$8 million to approximately \$20 million in assets under management. He later volunteered as the committee's professional advisor.

The Golds embody the spirit of enduring legacies and they are outstanding contributors to the field of Jewish endowments.

Richmond Jewish Foundation is privileged to have so many talented professionals using their skills to secure a brighter future for Judaism in our community and beyond. Lawyers, financial consultants, estate planners, accountants, and business professionals in the metro Richmond area are called to serve on the RJF Professional Advisory Committee (RPAC), a recent creation of Jim Weinberg and the RJF Board of Directors. RPAC is chaired by Frances Goldman. The mission of RPAC is:

- To educate professionals from a variety of disciplines about planned giving opportunities for clients and to provide them with a forum for networking;
- To encourage professionals to promote the concept of planned giving and to educate potential donors about its benefits; and
- To help advisors enhance skills through seminars featuring nationally recognized and local planned giving, estate planning and financial experts.

RPAC has created the Jack Paul Fine Mitzvah Society Award to honor local estate planning professionals committed to philanthropic giving and the future of the Jewish community and who have been instrumental in referring donors to RJF.

Jack Paul Fine (OBM) loved his family, his community and his profession. His fingerprints are on dozens of funds created at RJF. He served as chairman of RJF from 1996 – 1998 and received the Anne & S. Sidney Meyers Endowment Achievement Award in 2002. The Jack Paul Fine



Seth Kaplan

Mitzvah Society Award is a fitting tribute to Jack's devotion to his profession and to the strength and continuity of Richmond's Jewish community.

The first recipient of the RPAC Jack Paul Fine Mitzvah Society Award is Seth Kaplan. Seth has been instrumental in referring multiple clients to Richmond Jewish Foundation to create both donor advised funds and permanent endowments.

Professionally, Seth is a Certified Financial Planner and Certified Portfolio Manager with over 25 years of industry experience. He believes his role is to provide investment management consistent with the life goals and financial needs of

his clients. He applies these skills to families, non-profit, corporate, and trust clients to help them fulfill their responsibilities as fiduciaries. Seth joined Morgan Stanley in 1999.

Personally, Seth serves with RJF as a member of the Investment Committee. As an active volunteer in the community with the Jewish Community Federation of Richmond where he serves on the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors, Seth is instrumental in creating positive change with his fresh visions of the future. Seth and his

wife Lisa have two children, Rachel and Joshua, who annually meet with their attorney and the RJF staff to jointly discuss making recommendations from the family's donor advised fund to support the charities of their choice.

Please join the Richmond Jewish Foundation board and staff in congratulating these community leaders and their families as we celebrate at the May 28 joint annual meeting with the JCFR. The cocktail reception begins at 5:30 p.m. with the meeting at 6 p.m.

For more information, call (804) 545-8656 or email Robert@rjfoundation.org.

Advertise in The Reflector!

The Reflector is the most cost-effective way to reach Richmond's most affluent, quality conscious families. We deliver directly to approximately 3,500 households - reaching about 10,000 people in the Richmond-Metro area.

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Rod Brinks (804) 545-8655
rbrinks@jewishrichmond.org



Patrons of the Arts season finale— 'QuinTango' set for May 14

The fifth season of Patrons of the Arts at the Weinstein JCC has been momentous. With multiple sold out events and hundreds of new attendees, the fifth anniversary could not have been sweeter.

This year-long celebration will come to a close on May 14 at 7 p.m., with Northern Virginia based "QuinTango" – made possible through the support of the Virginia Commission for the Arts and The Pemberton at University Park.

"QuinTango," a chamber Tango quintet (two violins, bass, cello and piano) has brought thousands of new fans to the music of Tango by engaging audiences with their sizzling Tangos with engaging narratives about Eastern European immigrants in Argentina; how a Shabbos goy became one of the greatest names in Tango, how the violin found its Tango groove, and how Tango both benefited from and contributed to the creation of the second largest Jewish community in the New World.

In keeping with their mission to bring Tango to new audiences, "QuinTango" concerts blend musicianship, audience connection, and great storytelling. Attendees leave a performance with not only a newfound love of Tango, but with an understanding of the heart and history of this art form. All the repertoire is originally created



The group, 'QuinTango,' will perform as the final event for the 2014-15 Patrons of the Arts season.

for the group with most of the musical arrangements crafted by top-ranking Tango composers in Argentina.

This exciting and innovative performance will be followed by a new and renewing Patrons of the Arts Reception, where attendees will have the opportunity to schmooze with refreshments, hear some of the exciting key pieces of the 2015-2016 Patrons of the Arts season and become a Patron again or for the very first time.

Contact Lisa Looney at (804) 545-8608 or llooney@weinsteinjcc.org for tickets or to inquire about becoming a Patron of the Arts.

JFT's 'Visiting Mr. Green' runs April 29 to May 10

The Weinstein JCC's Jewish Family Theatre will close the 2014-2015 season with the critically acclaimed play "Visiting Mr. Green," sponsored by Earl and Linda Ferguson and written by Jeff Baron.

Directed by JFT Artistic Director Debra Clinton – the production tells the story of Mr. Green, an elderly retired dry cleaner, who wanders into New York traffic and is almost hit by a car driven by Ross Gardiner, a corporate executive. The younger man is given the community service of helping the recent widower once a week for six months.

What starts as a comedy about two men who do not want to be in the same room together, becomes a gripping and moving drama as they get to know each other, come to care about each other, and open old wounds they've been hiding and nursing for years.



Translated into 22 languages, with over 200 productions in large and small venues, "Visiting Mr. Green" has won numerous Best Play and Best Actor awards.

The show runs on selected dates and times from April 29 at 7:30 p.m. through May 10 at 2 p.m. It is a wonderful way to spend Mother's Day.

Contact Lisa Looney for tickets at (804) 545-8608 or llooney@weinsteinjcc.org or purchase online at www.weinsteinjcc.org.



18th Annual
Jewish Community
Golf & Tennis Classic

Take a Swing for our Community!

at the

18th Annual Jewish Community Golf & Tennis Classic

To benefit Beth Sholom Lifecare Community,
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Monday, June 1 • Jefferson Lakeside Country Club

Round Robin Doubles
Play starts 9:30 • Awards Lunch Noon
\$75/player

Captain's Choice with Multiple Flights
Shotgun Start 1:00 • Awards Dinner 6:15 • \$180/player

Tennis registration and breakfast starts at 9AM

Golf registration and lunch starts at 11:30AM



Reserve your spot today! Sponsorship opportunities begin at just \$325 Call Jay Jacobs at 545.8643

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Preschoolers celebrate an interactive Passover

In celebration of the recent holiday, the children in Ann Marie Benson's and Ashby Moncure's three-year-old Weinstein JCC Preschool class were fortunate to experience a very hands-on Passover education.

After becoming familiar with the story of the Exodus, the children engaged their parents in preparation for their formal class Seder. Parental involvement and collaboration is a key component of the Weinstein JCC Preschool. Parents were responsible for signing up for every aspect of the Seder, from the matzoh to sewing reclining Seder pillows for every child and the children spent days cooking in the Kosher Kitchen and preparing the tables for the Seder meal.

The parents and children were asked to shop together and/or create together all the necessary items and proudly brought them in to assist in the traditional preparation, thus making the experience especially meaningful for both the children and the parents. Everyone dressed up for the occasion and looked especially adorable. The children were very knowledgeable of the Passover story and on the day of the classroom Seder, their pictorial children's Haggadah offered each child the opportunity to follow along with



Anne Marie Benson (right) and Ashby Moncure's three-year-old class celebrate with their special Passover Seder.

the true "feeling" of the story from start to finish. The children participated in the traditional hunt for the affikomen and after it was found, they walked through the "Red Sea" and once on the other side, they danced to Miriam's song in gleeful celebration!

Passover is a special time to reflect and celebrate as a family. The children and parents in Benson's and Moncure's class will long remember this beautiful Weinstein JCC Preschool family experience!

For more details about Weinstein JCC Preschool, contact Donna Peters at (804) 545-8617.

Get Ready for the Israeli Scouts Caravan in June !



The Tzofim Friendship Caravan is gearing up to visit the United States this summer and will be coming to the Richmond community in June. Mark calendars for the Israeli Friendship Caravan Community Show on Thursday, June 25 at 7 p.m., at the Weinstein JCC.

The show is free and open to the public. Come early and enjoy the authentic Israeli cuisine courtesy of Yossi Goel at the Israel Café beginning at 5:30 p.m. Food available for purchase will include Middle Eastern favorites such as shwarma and falafel, along with kid-friendly options.

The caravan consists of 5 boys and 5 girls who bring with them their love of Israel and desire to spread the word of peace. During their visit, they will spend time at both Camp Hilbert and Camp Ganim, as well as perform for audiences at various community organizations around Richmond.

Each year the Weinstein JCC, along with two dedicated volunteers, Gary Weiner and Kim Goldstein, strive to bring the Israeli Friendship Caravan to Richmond. This visit is made possible, in part, through generous donations from individuals and businesses in the community. Special thanks to Allianz Global Assistance, The Eddie Lapkin Israel Scout Fund at the Richmond Jewish Foundation, and Kim and Alan Goldstein for their support.

Interested in hosting an Israeli Scout? Contact Leslie McGuigan, special events coordinator, at lmcguigan@weinsteinjcc.org or (804) 545-8659.



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

Thanks to our members and supporters, we've knocked it out of the ballpark!

Come celebrate our grand slam year at our 2015 Annual Meeting

Enjoy delicious concessions as we introduce our new lineup (Board of Directors), announce our MVP's (Annual Award winners) and prepare for another winning season.



Game Day
May 19
Game Time
5:30-7 p.m.
Field
Weinstein JCC

Free and open to the community

5403 Monument Ave.
weinsteinjcc.org

Call Pat at 545.8604 to reserve your seat!

We're wrapping up another outstanding Patrons of the Arts season ...

Don't miss the exciting finale

Renew your sponsorship for next season while you're there!

QuinTango
May 14 at 7PM

weinsteinjcc.org
545.8608





Raising the Israeli flag is just one of the every day morning activities at Camp Ganim.

**Rudlin Torah Academy and Weinstein JCC
Run-A-Latke
at Weinstein JCC
June 7, 8:30 a.m.
For details, see page 12**

CHARLES **CB** BARKER presents Celebrate **2ND** ISRAEL

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Day Camps offer summer experiences for all ages

Get ready to jump into a summer of adventure and fun. With just weeks to go, the Weinstein JCC camp staff have been hard at work preparing to make this year's summer season the greatest yet.

Camp Hilbert (K-10) and Camp Ganim (preschool) offer traditional summer activities in a nature-based day camp program, which inspire children with a love of nature and the outdoors. Specialty Camps (K-8) offer over 30 camps in the areas of sports, fine arts, wellness, inclusion and academics. Weinstein JCC camps are unique because of the emphasis on developing independence, a sense of exploration and creativity in their campers, all in a Jewish environment.

Children build confidence through skill development and collaboration, and form new lifelong friendships as a result of their teamwork and cooperation.

Whether a child is developing his or her artistic talents, perfecting athletic skills, learning to swim, digging in the gardens or building friendships – every camp experience will create lasting memories and provide a summer filled with fun, learning and laughter. Camp Hilbert and Camp Ganim also offer an aquatics aspect, whether it's swim lessons or free swim, so every camper



Children enjoy the water feature on the Weinstein JCC playground.

should bring their suits for their regular swim time in our state-of-the-art pools.

Don't let your child stay indoors this summer-let them explore all that summer has to offer under the watchful and caring guidance of Weinstein JCC staff and camp counselors. They will thank you for giving them the best and most active summer ever!

For more information on all camps, contact Camp Hilbert Director Josh Shenker at the Weinstein JCC at (804) 545-8650 or jwshenker@weinsteinjcc.org.

5400 Men's Club

May 4 - Jeffrey M. Gallagher, Virginia Bio, "The Future of Technology and Industry in the Commonwealth."

May 11 - Noon: JFS and Weinstein JCC program, Food for Thought: Noon-1pm; Janet Singletary Thomas, American Heart Association volunteer, "National Stroke Awareness month; "What My Body Is Telling Me: Stroke Causes, Warning Signs and Post Care."

May 18 - Joseph DiPiro: dean, Pharmacy School, MCV-VCU, "An Overview of Prescription Medications and Pharmacy in 2015."

The schedule also is for the Women's Room programs.

The 5400 Men's Club and Women's Room welcome new members. Meetings are held weekly at the Weinstein JCC. For details, call (804) 804-285-0098.

Russian Victory Day: May 3

The Weinstein JCC invites community members to celebrate the 70th Anniversary of the Russian Victory Day and honor our local Russian veterans. Join others on Sunday, May 3 at 11:30 a.m. at the Weinstein JCC in the Sisisky Family Community Room.

The free special program includes Russian songs, video, stories, dancing and food. If you are Russian or just interested in the Russian culture, you will really enjoy this special celebration.

This program is co-sponsored by Jewish Family Services and open to the community.

For details and reservations, contact Shari Menlowe-Barck at (804) 545-8611.

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(From left) Rina Manelis, Ira Korshin and Rita Desyatnik celebrating at Korshin's wedding. The Stories of Manelis and Korshin are shared in "Draw Back the Curtain" that will be screened at the Weinstein JCC on May 21.

Our history, ourselves: the journey of 'Draw Back the Curtain'

Draw Back the Curtain
May 21, 7 p.m.
Weinstein JCC
Registration Required

Draw Back the Curtain is a project that has taken a journey of its own, in preserving the history of the brave Jewish families who emigrated from the Former Soviet Union to Richmond in the 1990s.

Jewish Family Services can think of no better way to celebrate Jewish-American Heritage month than with a screening of the film on May 21, 7 p.m., at the Weinstein JCC, accompanied by a special exhibit presented with the Jewish Community Federation of Richmond.

The film is a collaborative effort between University of Richmond Hillel students and JFS. Telling this story was important, given the significance the resettlement had on the Richmond community.

Beth Ahabah Museum Archives Researcher Bonnie Eisenman said, "The Russian Resettlement program of 1989-2001 gave the Jewish community of Richmond a unity of purpose that I'm not sure they had experienced before." She

added, "It was exciting, energizing and fulfilling to be actively involved in helping people create new lives for themselves."

For Ira Korshin and Rina Manelis, sharing their stories in the film has been a moving and meaningful experience. The two met at Camp Hilbert, bonding over their shared language and experiences as young émigrés. Their friendship blossomed at RTA and is still strong today.

The friends both remember challenges of their move, as their parents worked hard to learn a new language, find jobs and acclimatize to American culture. Resettlement volunteers helped families find housing, furniture and schooling for their children, and provided emotional support, as they navigated a completely new world.

Overwhelmingly, Korshin and Manelis have positive memories of their first years in Richmond, beginning a life-long journey of learning about their Jewish heritage.

Many émigré families were not used to the freedom to explore the cultural and religious aspects of their Jewish identity, given the prejudice and isolation they had experienced in the FSU.

The resettlement program helped families and children experience all that the Jewish community in Richmond had to offer.

As Manelis noted, "having the opportunity to immigrate to the United States changed my life completely. Being a U.S. citizen and all the freedom, opportunity, and good fortune it accords, is not my birthright; I am very grateful for the activists, volunteers and supporters who made our immigration possible for us."

Draw Back the Curtain captures one of the most challenging and exciting moments in Jewish-American history, and is a testament to the struggles and successes of the families who emigrated. As Korshin said, "I want my kids to know that they are members of this great race. With that comes responsibility, the freedom to be unafraid, and act courageously when faced with a challenge, much like our grandparents and parents did."

Korshin and Manelis appreciate the opportunity they had to share their stories in *Draw Back the Curtain*, rekindling old friendships and building new ones. They hope that other Jewish families

will be inspired by the film to continue strengthening the vibrant Richmond Jewish community. "I was able learn more about my identity and began to feel a sense of belonging," Manelis said of her experience.

Sharing these stories is a vital part of celebrating a collective heritage. As Eisenman said, "We would do a disservice to all the people who worked so hard to create good lives for themselves, their families and their communities if we were to forget all the good that they accomplished."

Tickets to the May screening are free, but RSVPs are required. Interested? Check out www.jfsrichmond.org or www.drawbackthecurtain.com for your free ticket, and more information on the project. The film has also been chosen as a participant in the "Flickers: Rhode Island International Festival" and will be shown on WCVE PBS this June.

For more information, call JFS at (804) 282-5644.



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

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December 15, 1989

The Russians Are Here—Richmonders March; Soviet Family Arrives

Alexandr Blinov's sparkling grey eyes, soft spoken manner, and jovial presence give him the appearance of a man to whom life has been kind. Appearances are deceiving. A former Soviet refusenik now living in Israel, Blinov's casual recitation of his personal history contrasts ironically with the bitter realities of his quest for freedom and the uncertainty his free future now holds.

Blinov recently spent a week in Richmond where he was reunited with several community members who had visited him in Leningrad during his years of refusal and in Israel after his arrival who had worked here on his, and his fellow refusenik's, behalf. The trip fulfilled his promise to come here and personally thank them, and the entire Richmond Jewish community, for their friendship and assistance.

"I tell you true," he said in his halting, self-taught, English, "I wanted first to be free. I knew little of being Jewish. Where I would be free was not so important to me in 1975 when I first applied to immigrate. It wasn't until I was visited by American Jews, English Jews, and a few Canadian Jews, that being free to be Jewish became as big a part of my dreams of freedom."

Well educated, Blinov was an engineer in the naval shipyards in Leningrad. He specialized in boilers and his work involved the construction of systems used in nuclear submarines. "I did have 'secret'

job," he explained, "so I expected that I would not be allowed to leave right away. They (Russian authorities) told me that it would be ten years. I understood that." What he did not expect was the pressure that the Russian hierarchy would bring to bear on him once he expressed his desire to leave.

"I did not resign my job at first," he said. "I thought I could still work at the shipyard but in something not secret. But, it was demanded that I resign my position. So, I became foreman in a laundry factory. It was not a good job. Still, you need to work to be able to make money to live." As the first years passed, harassment became a fact of life. Blinov's telephone was tapped, his mail examined, and the questionings he endured from emigration officials became increasingly discouraging. "I came to realize, soon, that the ten year waiting period was time I would have to spend before my application would begin to be considered. I worry that me and my wife and daughter would never be allowed to leave."

Jewish groups outside of the Soviet Union learned of Blinov through friends of his who had already left. "I be frank with you, I was happy to hear from them, even though I was not good Jew. I did not know what it meant to be Jewish," he said. "At first, I thought only it would help me to get out if these people worked outside Russia to make the government let us go. You



PHOTO BY KEVIN MOWLEY - THE RICHMOND NEWSPAPERS

MARCH FOR FREEDOM – (left to right) Alexandr Blinov, Helen Horwitz, Walter Rabhan, and Robert Hyman led a march down Monument Avenue on December 3 as part of the Passage to Freedom campaign.

must understand," he continued, "I felt I was a good Russian citizen and for me, Jew was only a word on my identity papers. Yes, I knew that anti-semitism was a problem in Russia, in Leningrad we had group called Patriot Society that even published anti-semitic book which

government officials allowed, but for me, it was not problem that touched me."

Blinov became a part of the active refusenik network. He kept in close contact with others in refusal, sharing information and drawing strength from appreciation
Continued on page 11



PHOTO BY BOB BROWN - THE RICHMOND NEWSPAPERS

STARTING A NEW LIFE – Richmonders Irina and Alex Piven (left) escort Uri Liburkin; his wife, Olga; and their children, Alice and Dennis, after the Soviet family arrived here from Rome.

Campaign Countdown

Only 15 Days Remaining

"With less than three weeks remaining in the 1990 Jewish Welfare Fund Campaign, workers have put forth a final full court press to ensure a timely completion," stated Campaign Chairman, Stuart Siegel.

Women's Division Chairman, Gail Plotkin, explained, "We are still very concerned about our ability to reach our Campaign goal of \$2.9 million. As of today, it appears we will fall short by at least \$50,000-\$100,000."

"In addition to our Regular Campaign, our Passage to Freedom Campaign to help resettle Soviet Jews in freedom has received pledges of \$210,000, short of its \$285,000 goal," stated Federation President, Walter Rabhan.

"We ask every member of the Jewish

community to consider the Jews in Richmond, Israel and around the world who may not receive essential services as a result of fewer allocable dollars," Rabhan added.

If you have not yet made your 1990 commitment or would like to add to your pledge, please contact the Federation office at 288-0045.

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Operation Exodus Made It Possible

This front page from the Dec. 15, 1989, *Reflector*, illustrated how the Jewish community boldly stepped up to support Soviet families for the Passage to Freedom Campaign and a March for Freedom in Richmond. In the photo, Alexander Blinov (left with a torch), once a refusenik in the Soviet Union; JCFR President Dr. Walter Rabhan (center with a torch); community leader and JCFR President-Elect Helen Horwitz and JCFR Executive Director Robert Hyman led a march down Monument Avenue as part of the Passage to Freedom campaign on Dec. 3, 1989. Blinov, then living in Israel, journeyed to Richmond to support the campaign efforts to raise money to resettle Soviet Jews in the U.S. and Israel.

More than 800 new Americans were brought into the mainstream of Jewish life during the decade-long Russian Resettlement program in Richmond.

In announcing the formal resettlement program would end on March 31, 2000, JCFR President Stewart Kasen said in the July 1 *Reflector*, "Our total program was acknowledged as one of the finest in the country and we congratulate and thank all of those who played a part – Jewish Family Services, the Jewish Community Center, Rudlin Torah Academy, Beth Sholom Home, all the Synagogues and the hundreds of volunteers who gave so unselfishly of their time and energy deserve all the credit."

Community members contributed \$258,000 in the Passage to Freedom Campaign and \$2.37 million and \$1.4 million, respectfully, in the two Operation Exodus campaigns conducted by the JCFR. This supported Overseas and Richmond Resettlement Programs.

Robert Hyman, JCFR executive director during this period confirmed the total raised recently, and recalled, "I was privileged to work with Mr. and Mrs. Charles Thalhimer (o.b.m.) who were leaders of the Operation Exodus Campaign in 1990 as well as Dr. Walter Rabhan, who was president. Mr. and Mrs. Thalhimer ran a terrific campaign. I recall a lead-off parlor meeting at Sidney (o.b.m.) and Frances Lewis' home that Neil November helped facilitate. The Thalhimer's hosted a fundraiser, too. Charles worked morning, noon and night. I also recall a fundraiser hosted by Jerry Gumenick (o.b.m.) in his home. They were wonderful people backed by an equally wonderful community. I was blessed to have been part of that era in that community."

When JCFR changed the world: The 25th Anniversary of advocacy, fundraising efforts for Operation Exodus

The Jewish Community Federation of Richmond, along with other Jewish Federations and agencies around the country, are joining a celebration of the 25th anniversary of Operation Exodus, an historic and proud moment in history that demonstrated the power of the Federation movement to initiate change in the world.

From 1990-1997, the national Operation Exodus campaign successfully raised \$1 billion to rescue and resettle more than 1 million Soviet Jews in Israel and North America.

On the eve of the meeting between Former Soviet Premier Mikhail Gorbachev and U.S. President Ronald Reagan, approximately 250,000 demonstrators rallied for Gorbachev to extend his policy of “glasnost” to Soviet Jews, putting an end to their forced assimilation and allowing for immigration.

Local efforts were similarly impressive.

Federation’s then-President, Dr. Walter Rabhan, recently recalled the massive community mobilization effort on JCFR’s part, both in the realm of advocacy and fundraising. “When news of the refuseniks made the airwaves,” Dr. Rabhan said, “we began an immediate and decisive response advocating for the release of Soviet Jewry in 1987. The first effort involved a solidarity mission to the FSU with 14 Richmonders, including former Lt. Gov. L. Douglas Wilder.”

On Oct. 18, 1987, Federation held the Simchat Torah Rally for Soviet Jews, and on June 10 of the same year, it hosted the Operation Exodus Phone-a-thon. Local marches were held leading up to the national march on Washington on Dec. 6, 1987 called “Freedom Sunday for Soviet Jews.”

Rabhan said, “Two hundred Richmonders were part of ‘Freedom Sunday for Soviet Jews.’ Up until this time, this was the largest Jewish rally on Washington. For the first time since the Yom Kippur War, religious schools were canceled so that children could attend the march. Community rabbis signed a solidarity letter in support of the march. But while the march was important, it was only one of several efforts before and after that resulted in the resettlement of Russian Jewish families.”

In 1989, the Federation began the Passage to Freedom Campaign. It raised over \$258,000 to support immigration

www.JewishRichmond.org



JCFR President Dr. Walter Rabhan (far right) welcomes new Russian families to Richmond and presents each with a Mezuzah for their homes at JCFR Annual Meeting in 1990. The event was a community-wide Celebration of Freedom for the new arrivals. Photo by Ben Greenberg

from the FSU. Dr. Rabhan said, “Later, Operation Exodus, locally, raised an astounding \$2.3 million.” He added, “This is the result of the entire community. We couldn’t have done it without the support of everyone involved. Our Co-Chairs, Mr. & Mrs. Charles Thalhimier and Mr. & Mrs. Harry Grandis, led our advocacy and fundraising efforts in Richmond.”

In May 1990, 50 families were resettled in the Richmond area and were supplied with food, clothing, furniture and necessities to become successful and independent American citizens. Jewish Family Services, a beneficiary agency of the JCFR, worked closely with Federation to offer critical support to the families.

In 2014, JFS, collaborating with the University of Richmond Hillel, produced a documentary about the families, “Draw Back the Curtain.” In coordination with Jewish American Heritage Month, the free film will be shown to the public on Thursday, May 21, 7-9 p.m., at the Weinstein JCC. A display chronicling JCFR’s advocacy and fundraising effort will hang in the gallery entrance.

The path to freedom for Soviet Jewry is a remarkable story of the power of the individual and the power of our collective Federation movement, including the Jewish Community Federation of Richmond.

For more, watch for posts on the Federation Facebook page and visit www.jewishrichmond.org

July 1, 2000 *Reflector*

Editorial: A Decade of Success; A Commitment to the Future

In the past decade, more than 800 Jewish refugees from the former Soviet Union (FSU) have begun new lives as free men and women right here in our community. The generosity of thousands of members of Richmond’s Jewish community helped to make this modern day exodus a resounding success.

Two special campaigns, Operation Exodus Land II, conducted barely three years apart in the early 1990’s, provided the financial resources necessary to make resettlement activities here possible. These funds, coupled with the professional expertise of Jewish Family Services, and the dedicated support of hundreds of volunteers throughout the community, made Richmond’s resettlement effort one of the leading programs in the entire nation. It is an achievement of which we may all be justifiably proud.

In the last several years, Western immigration from the FSU has begun to decrease rapidly. There are several contributing factors. First, the majority who wished to leave has already done so. Second, Jewish life in those countries has enjoyed a grand resurgence. That is due in large part to the efforts of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee and the Jewish Agency for Israel. Both of those organizations, supported by our contributions to the annual Jewish Welfare Fund Campaign, have worked long and hard to help those wishing to remain to build meaningful

Jewish lives. Finally, more emigrants are choosing to make aliyah and begin new lives in Israel than are seeking to come here.

For these reasons, after a lengthy study, it has been decided to bring Richmond’s resettlement program to a close. When the 20 to 25 family reunification cases now in the pipeline are concluded by year end and the Operation Exodus funds are exhausted, the formal Russian Resettlement Program will close its doors. However, service to that constituency will continue through the regular programs of Richmond’s Jewish agencies supported by the annual Jewish Welfare Fund Campaign.

The successful conclusion of this effort continues our community’s admirable record of responsiveness to those in need anywhere in the world. We are committed to continue that tradition whenever and wherever the need arises in the future.



The Reflector

The Voice of Richmond’s Jewish Community

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

The Reflector is published by the Jewish Community Federation of Richmond twice monthly from August through June and once during the month of June. 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. Call for information about advertising in The

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The Jewish Community Federation of Richmond
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**Jewish American Heritage Month
Draw Back the Curtain
Free Screening
Weinstein JCC
Thursday, May 21, 7-9 p.m.**

The Weinstein JCC and Jewish Family Services partner for a celebration of Jewish American Heritage month with a screening of *Draw Back the Curtain*, an exhibit in the Sara D. November Art Gallery and a reception with live music. From the late 1980s through the 1990s, the Former Soviet Union allowed more than 1 million FSU Jews to immigrate to America and Israel. During Operation Exodus, the Richmond Jewish community came together to welcome more than 800 refugees.

The film and exhibit honor this Jewish-American immigrant story and provide the framework to celebrate the courageous journey of Jews throughout the ages who have stood, fought, and many times lost everything to start again in the name of their beliefs. To register to see the film and and more, visit <http://drawbackthecurtain.richmond.edu>.

Operation Exodus Timeline

- 9/1987 – JCFR Solidarity Mission to FSU
- 10/18/87 – Simchat Torah Rally for Soviet Jews
- 12/6/87 – March on Washington, “Freedom Sunday for Soviet Jews”
- 12/89 – Local March to free Soviet Jews
- 12/89 – JFS President Karen Newman stated in Federation board minutes 221 people have been resettled in Richmond with three new births
- 1989 – Passage to Freedom raises \$258,000
- 12/1-2/89 – Passage to Freedom Shabbat
- 12/3/89 – Passage to Freedom Community Rally
- 1990 – Operation Exodus – raised a total of \$2.37 million, Co-Chaired by Mr. & Mrs. Charles Thalhimier and Mr. & Mrs. Harry Grandis
- 5/90 – 50 new Russian families resettle in Richmond
- 6/10/90 – JCFR holds Freedom Sunday
- 1992 – 1 million people immigrated from FSU to Israel and rest of the world. Over \$4 million was raised in support of Overseas & Richmond Resettlement programs.
- 1993 – Operation Exodus II raises \$1.4 million
- 3-31-01 – Richmond’s resettlement program ends with more than 800 refugees from the FSU resettled during the program’s decade of service. (See comments on Page 10 about Operation Exodus from former JCFR Executive Director Robert Hyman)

ABCD Award to recognize Rebecca Kalman-Winston on May 31

*RTA Lev Nadiv Gala
May 31, 6 p.m.
Weinstein JCC*

The award is called “ABCD – Above and Beyond the Call of Duty,” but for Rebecca Kalman-Winston it’s anything but. It’s just what she does.

“Rebecca has been there whenever Rudlin Torah Academy needed her,” said RTA President Brian Greene. “In fact, she usually steps forward to volunteer before she is asked.”

On May 31, at 6 p.m., RTA will honor her with the ABCD Award during the Lev Nadiv Gala at the Weinstein JCC. The Chesed Award will go to Ellen Renee Adams, and the Years of Dedication Award will be given to Susan Schaefer, a teacher at the school for 20 years. The keynote speaker is David Krohn, a baritone opera singer originally from Hampton Roads and now with the Houston Grand Opera, who will perform and talk about Yiddish music and its role in education.

Kalman-Winston is an alumni of RTA, as well as a past president. She has previously co-chaired the school’s 5K event, the Run-a-Latke, and run numerous committees for Shalach Manot, recruitment, fundraising, and the awards dinner itself; she is currently its bingo volunteer coordinator. She is an unflagging ambassador for the school, even buttonholing new moms in the gym to urge them to consider sending their children to RTA.

She said it all goes back to her own experience at the



Rebecca Kalman-Winston

day school.

“I would not know what I know about Judaism had I not gone to the day school,” she said. “I feel very fortunate that I had a Jewish education. I think it’s hard for adults to really know their religion if they haven’t had that experience when they were young.”

Kalman-Winston grew up in Richmond, the daughter of Malcolm and Willa Kalman. She earned her BA in sociology and English from Brandeis University, and met her husband, David Winston, while she was in Massachusetts. She lived there and in South Florida before returning to Richmond in 2003.

In addition to all of her volunteer work at RTA, Kalman-Winston serves on the boards of the Jewish Community Federation of Richmond and Jewish Family Services. She is a life member of Hadassah and recently become a court-appointed

special advocate, representing the interests of abused and neglected children in the Henrico County court system. Her real cause, essentially, is the continuity and prosperity of the Richmond Jewish community, and she sees RTA as vital to that goal.

“Don’t we have to do everything we can in the Jewish community to keep our day school going?” she said. “Nothing else is comparable.”

“I find that when you hit milestones in your life, whether it’s getting married or the loss of a loved one, if you don’t know enough about how your religion operates, you don’t know what to return to, where to look. You won’t know enough to experience that fully and move on.”

Located at 3809 Patterson Ave., Richmond, Rudlin Torah Academy is in its 49th year of providing quality full-time elementary education to Jewish children in the Richmond area. It was chartered in 1966 as the Richmond Hebrew Day School. The Academy is accredited by the Virginia Association of Independent Schools. RTA students continue to excel in national standardized testing with classes generally performing above the 90th percentile.

For more information about the Lev Nadiv Gala, call (804) 353-1110. Tickets are \$125 per person.

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



Nutzy, the Flying Squirrel, greets finishers at a previous Run-A-Latke 5K. The 2015 event is at the Weinstein JCC on Sunday, June 7.

Run-A-Latke set for June 7 at Weinstein JCC

With warmer weather here, it is time to get out and get moving. A great way for community members kick-start their summertime exercise program is to start training for the Run-A-Latke to benefit the Rudlin Torah Academy and Weinstein JCC.

Scheduled for Sunday, June 7, the event will be a morning of fun and exercise for the entire family. The “One-Miler” takes off at 8:30 a.m. and the 5K at 9 a.m. The 5K is a slightly hilly, out-and-back course, with police and volunteer control. Both runs start and end at the Weinstein JCC.

After the run, participants are invited



to enjoy a hot dog cookout, awards ceremony, inflatables, and, of course, potato latkes.

Cost for the “One-Miler” is \$20, the 5K is \$35, and a family of four for the 5K is \$120. The race fee includes a shirt, a bag and more, plus

the cookout, finishing medal and after-race festivities.

To register, visit www.raceit.org, www.rudlin.com or www.weinsteinjcc.org. Sponsorship opportunities are available and begin at \$250.00.

For additional information, contact Alison Snyder at (804) 545-8638.



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Woods residents stay active



Resident Council volunteers serve up bagels and lox at the Woods' Shamrock Day. (from left) Charlotte Silver, Pearl Freeto and Dorothy Handelsman.



The residents of Beth Sholom Woods "dive" in a shark cage to view the movie "Great White Sharks" in the Science Museum of Virginia's IMAX Dome in Richmond. (From left/front) Ceal Moskowitz, Dorothy Handelsman, Linda Solomonova and Don Kanuk; (back) Willie Feldman, Zina Sukharevich, Carole Richards and employee Ginny Potteiger.



An example of a typical Tray Play activity used with residents at the Gardens and Parkside.

Residents benefit from sensory stimulating program

The benefits of sensory stimulation for people with Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia include an improved mood and self-esteem as well as provide increased social interaction and engagement. In addition, individuals with memory impairments may enjoy a greater degree of relaxation and creativity, all of which enhance their overall quality of life. Sensory stimulation can be thought, quite simply, to be anything that stimulates one of our five senses.

At Beth Sholom Gardens and Parkside, a special sensory stimulating activity is conducted monthly by Charlottesville volunteer Nicole Root. The activity is called Tray Play. Root brings in many different items based on

a theme, quite often, animals. Most residents can relate to and recognize animals. Each month is a different menagerie ranging from owls to penguins to woodland animals.

All of the items the volunteer brings have a different tactile sensation, thus stimulating the residents' sense of touch. The residents are given different items, one at a time, and they have the freedom to arrange their materials however they please.

At the close of each session, Root heats washcloths in lavender oil for the residents to wipe their hands and face and experience the wonderful aroma. This final soothing activity leaves the resident group members feeling calm and relaxed.

A good time is had by all.



Thanks to a grant from the Ernst and Anne Fischer Older Adult Fund of the Richmond Jewish Foundation, the residents of Beth Sholom Woods have been enjoying a variety of events.

Past events include the Hanukkah Dinner and Show at the Weinstein JCC, the Glorious Christmas Nights at the West End Assembly of God, special exhibits at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts and Henrico Theatre productions at the Glen Allen Cultural Arts Center.

Recently, residents ventured into a shark cage to descend in the Science Museum of Virginia to watch the IMAX Dome movie on sharks. More outings this spring are planned with the Woods Resident Council.

The RJF administers the Ernst and Anne Fischer Grant for Older Adults. This is the second time the Woods received support for cultural enrichment from the fund.

"If it weren't for this grant, many of our residents would not be able to attend some of the wonderful things our community has to offer," said Ceal Moskowitz, president of the Woods Resident Council.

In addition to attending popular outings, the council plans many of the activities at the Woods, sending get-well cards, coordinating holiday parties, organizing and holding monthly entertainment and socials, and planning and holding bake and yard sales. They volunteer to answer phones, sell stamps, give tours and more. Some help to monitor the hallways during a fire drill.

Most importantly, the residents visited with other residents who are temporarily

rehabilitating or have moved to a different level of care on campus. The active council members can be counted on to keep a strong connection with current and former residents.

"When I walked into the lobby of our Healthcare Center one morning, I thought I was at the Woods because so many residents were visiting our residents here," said Mark Finkel, CEO of the Beth Sholom Lifecare Community.

The Woods, which opened its doors in 1981, will celebrate its 34th anniversary later this summer.

"Being at the Woods is really a blessing. Even though our lives have changed because many of us have down-sized into an apartment, we still have that opportunity to meet new people, attend field trips, strengthen our ties with one another, and remain active," she continued.

Moskowitz added, "This grant is just great for many of our residents and is another benefit of living at the Woods."

Beth Sholom Woods is the apartment building for adults, age 62 or older. The age factor is waived for those who have a physical, mobility disability requiring the features of its barrier-free, handicapped units.

The approximate waiting time is nine months and three years, respectively. Rents are based on income, and tenants who qualify may receive rental subsidies. Standard utilities are included with the rent.

For more information, call the Woods Office at (804) 741-4691 or email sberinato@bslcc.org



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



(From left) Hudi, Miri, Chaviva, Tamima and Darryl Goldsmith pose in front of the donated cookies for Home Again, a transition program for homeless veterans.

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Girl Scouts have cookies

On Sunday, March 22, the leaders and girls of Troop 4613 opened their first cookie booth sale of the year. The sun was shining brightly, and the air was warm with a hint of spring – yet customers seemed scarce. The girls’ spirits did not dampen; they stayed focused on their goal.

Pretty soon customers drove up and pulled to the curb, and calling out, “Do you have any Thin Mints?” You may think that strange; but when it comes to selling Girl Scout Cookies, the girls are used to this scenario playing throughout their sales.

Girl Scout Cookies – like Girl Scouts themselves – are loyal, and it seems repeat customers stop by to support the Troop. Many faces look familiar, like the generous man who runs for health and exercise who last year bought over 20 boxes from the girls’ cookie sale (as well as from their nut and chocolate sale). The girls also meet former Girl Scouts, some of whom share stories of their happy memories of scouting; many former leaders and parents of former Girl Scouts stop by.

Since the girls requested to work with the military again this year, potential cookie customers were asked to donate cookies to HomeAgain (a highly successful program helping to transition homeless veterans into their own homes and



(From left) Emma, Sophie and Amalya are ready to sell cookies for Troop 4613.

help them find jobs). Customers’ generosity was wonderful! At the end of the day’s booth sale, the representative from HomeAgain, Darryl Goldsmith, came by with his son to collect more than fifty boxes of cookies for the veterans!

Troop 4613 has at least two more booth sales to go, so there is still plenty of time if community members wish to donate boxes of yummy Girl Scout cookies to HomeAgain. Look for the Scouts Sundays from 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. at A C Moore Short Pump.

To all of you who have already bought cookies from Troop 4613, the girls say “Thank you for your support!”

To take advantage of all that Scouting offers, contact KBI, the Scouts’ Sponsor Organization, at (804) 288-7953 or KBI@kbirichmond.com.

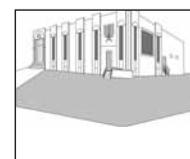
Traditionally untraditional: KBI’s English beginners’ Service

By Jason Caplan

There is an age-old Synagogue dilemma that finally has a modern solution - here is the issue - you want to participate in Shabbat services, but you’ve already been sitting all week at your desk and you want to talk with friends and learn great ideas! What to do?

The KBI Beginner’s Minyan set out to answer that challenge. We started with the question. How much praying, schmoozing, learning, and laughing can we fit into 2 hours on a Shabbat morning? The process of answering that question has been the thrill of a lifetime for me as I work through all the issues with our spiritual leader, Rabbi Dovid Asher. I met with lay leaders, such as Drew Alexander and Donna Rubin, along with Rabbinic Intern, Don Cantor. Each person wanted to teach a unique topic before we started the actual service.

Beginning at 9:30 am, Donna leads a women’s class on the meaning, structure, and message of King David’s Tehillim. Drew Alexander teaches the parsha of the week. Rabbinic Intern,



Don Cantor, highlights key teachings within the Siddur and Prayer Service. Each class is filled with dialogue, questions, ideas, and discussion. I lead the prayer service that follows and uses our booklet of the key Shabbat prayers transliterated into English.

After the beginner’s service we move into a 2nd room filled with cookies, jellybeans, humus, and beverages! We go around the room, as each person builds on ideas from the weekly parsha or a great Jewish thinker.

I have heard the most incredible ideas and insights from this group. It’s a very intelligent and diverse group of people from all ages and all professions, who are there to engage, discuss, and say l’chaim.

At the conclusion of the activity, Rabbi Dovid Asher visits to hear the highlights of the discussion and contributes his pertinent thoughts and inspired ideas.

If you have been looking for a Shabbat program that is highly interactive, intellectually vibrant, and fun, please visit us at KBI, in the Weger Chapel.

For information, call the Temple office at (804) 288-7953.



Looking back and anticipating ahead



Students enjoy and learn during a school re-enactment of the Passover story at Temple Beth-El Religious School during April.

By Hazzan Marian Turk

DIRECTOR OF CONGREGATIONAL LEARNING AND MUSIC
TEMPLE BETH-EL

Religious school at Temple Beth-El is winding down for the year. Our students have sung, danced, and jumped their way into a new understanding and love of Hebrew by way of our Hebrew Through Movement teaching methodology. They have explored and experienced the Jewish holidays through our holiday workshops, carnivals, and re-enactment of the Passover story. They have celebrated with residents of Beth Shalom and learned what it means to do g'milut hasadim, acts of lovingkindness.

We are in the midst of planning an even more exciting year for our students next year, with more music, more g'milut hasadim, and more fun. One of the most fun programs at Temple Beth-El Religious School is our Pre-K program for 3-5 year olds. With the expert guidance of our teacher Laurie Kaplan, our youngest students explore their way to an early love of Jewish learning and community. And the best part is that for the 2015-

2016 year, our Pre-K program is free to the first 6 enrollees. We hope you will take advantage of this wonderful opportunity, enroll your little one, and find your family's home at Temple Beth-El.

Our newly expanded Tot Shabbat program is in full swing, and we hope you will join us on May 2, 9, 23, and 30 for our Shabbat morning service for kids from infants to 5. Parents are welcome to join—we meet in the Kiddush Room at 11:15 am at Beth-El at 3330 Grove Ave. Our Tot Shabbat service is led by early childhood professionals and is chock full of singing, stories, and activities for your little ones. You won't want to miss it.

Are you looking for a caring, dynamic environment for your child to receive a meaningful Jewish education? We hope you will consider Temple Beth-El Religious School.

For information or to take a tour of the school, contact Hazzan Marian Turk at hazzan.turk@bethelrichmond.org or at (804) 814-3582.

Temple Beth-El's May events

May Events

Celebrate Lag B'Omer on Wednesday, May 6, 7:30 p.m. with Rabbi and Adira Knopf, who will host a Bonfire for Young Professionals at their home, 3919 Hanover Ave.

Open to members and nonmembers, singles and couples, in their 20s and 30s. With great music, short and sweet learning and free admission. RSVP to Rabbi Knopf at rabbi.knopf@bethelrichmond.org

Friday, May 8 at 6 p.m. is "Casual Friday" Shabbat services followed by an Israeli Dinner at 3330 Grove Ave. The menu includes falafel, Israeli salad, eggplant salad, babaganoush, hummus, tahini, pita bread, olives, and assorted desserts. Adult members are \$17; nonmembers \$20; children, ages 5-12, \$6; children 4 and under are free.

Call the office at (804) 355-3564 by May 4 to reserve a spot.

Friday, May 15 will bring **Confirmation of the Religious School** 10th graders; 6 p.m. at 3330 Grove Ave.

There will be a special **Meditation Minyan** on Saturday, May 16. Open your mind and lift up your spirit. Join Rabbi Knopf and Hazzan Marian Turk for Shabbat morning meditation in lieu of the traditional Shabbat morning services. Open to all ages and stages. Combining a mixture of Kabbalistic, Zen, and Kirtan practices, this program will offer awareness and reflection. Services at 10 a.m., 3330 Grove Ave. Families can take advantage of Minyan Mitsun (ages 6-10) at 11:15 a.m. in the Okun Chapel). Coffee Klatch in the Sanctuary foyer sponsored by Sisterhood.

Friday, May 29 brings the annual **Beth-El Sisterhood Installation** during Erev Shabbat Services at 3330 Grove Ave. Festivities begin at 5:15 p.m. with a Pre-Neg. Saturday's shabbat services on May 30 will include a Coffee Klatch.

Travel to Israel with Rabbi and Adira Knopf

Beth-El is organizing a trip to Israel, June 9-29, 2016. Questions answered at an informational meeting on Wednesday, May 13, 6:30 p.m. at the religious school, 601 N. Parham Rd. Trip details are online at <http://www.daatravel.com/temple-beth-el-trip-to-israel-program.aspx>.

Temple Beth-El May Adult Education: Kashrut Laws and Applications

The sessions are set for two Mondays: May 4 and 18, 7-9 p.m., in the Kiddush Room at 3330 Grove Ave., taught by the Rabbi. Ever want to learn more about the whys and hows of kashrut, the Jewish laws of cooking and eating? Join members and guests to enhance kashrut knowledge and skills. The class will explore the background of the dietary laws and engage in "hands-on" instruction in all areas of kosher food.

For details on all Temple activities, call (804) 355-3564.

Rabbi Knopf named 'Inspiring Rabbi'

Temple Beth-El's Rabbi Michael Knopf has been named one of "America's Most Inspiring Rabbis" by the *Jewish Daily Forward*

In their annual list of "Inspiring Rabbis," The publication included the Rabbi among 32 other Rabbis across the U.S. They are nominated by congregants, and the following submission is one nomination that the *Jewish Daily Forward* published.

"Rabbi Knopf has been our religious leader at Temple Beth-El for just six months and Judaism is COOL! Inspiring sermons about Moses and Bruce Springsteen; reading the Megillah at a Purim party that featured dancing to 1980s music; the band Menches of Richmond performing live music at Friday night services; dress-down Shabbat services; toys in the sanctuary for the little ones to play with — Rabbi Knopf is working hard to expand our congregation and to make Judaism welcome to all. He will soon be officiating the first marriage of a same sex couple in our temple's history. His number one priority is to make our temple most welcoming to interfaith couples, and has expanded what a non-Jewish partner may do in the sanctuary during their children's b'nai mitzvah. He is the ultimate community leader. In just half a year, he has transformed Temple Beth-El. We know the best is yet to come."

— Michael Edelstein + 21 other nominations

Read more at <http://forward.com/specials/americas-most-inspiring-rabbis-2015/>



Rabbi Michael Knopf

Final luncheon of the season Temple Beth El Sisterhood

Join members and guests Wednesday, May 20, at noon to highlight the Torah Fund Donors and welcome Rita Wertlieb, past immediate president of the Women's League for Conservative Judaism for a presentation, "The Modern Woman's Role in the Conservative Movement." The event will be held at Temple Beth El's Grove Avenue Social Hall. Open to the public.

The cost for sisterhood members is \$10 and 15 for all others. This can be paid at the door but RSVP by Friday, May 15.

For questions, contact tbesisterhood1@gmail.com or call the Temple Office at (804) 355-3564.



Turf Fire and Klezm'Or'Ami'm helped OATY (Or Ami Temple Youth group) raise more than \$300 for local programs and an Israeli orphanage at an OATY Coffeehouse in March.

Or Ami May happenings

Or Amians will be busy in May.

Reel Theology

This month's Reel Theology is Sunday, May 17, 6-8 p.m. and features the film "Bethlehem" (2013). This award-winning movie tells the story of the complex relationship between an Israeli Secret Service officer and his teenage Palestinian informant. Rabbi Ahuva Zaches will lead a discussion immediately after. It's all free; bring a snack to share with others.

Tikkun Olam

Tikkun olam is an important part of Or Ami's mission. On Monday, May 18, volunteers from Or Ami will help their friends at Trinity United Methodist Church as they prepare to host 30 CARITAS guests. Or Ami volunteers and the church group volunteers will prepare dinner and make and pack brown bag lunches. Or Ami children will play with the youth from



Or Ami celebrated Pesach on the evening of April 3 with a potluck Seder followed by a brief Friday night service. More than 100 members and visitors joined the event for a memorable evening of prayer

the church. To help families in crisis, email office@or-ami.com with "Caritas" in the subject line.

And, of course, everyone is welcome to join members and guests for Shabbat services at 7.30 p.m. on Friday evenings. We look forward to seeing you soon!

For details on Or Ami, visit www.or-ami.com or contact office@or-ami.com.

Or Atid happenings

"Your Sustaining Share" Membership to Begin July 1

It's official. After months of research, study and discussions, the Board of Governors at Congregation Or Atid voted unanimously to replace its traditional dues structure with a progressive model based on Judaic perspectives and teachings. "Your Sustaining Share" will begin with the fiscal year on July 1, 2015, embracing the philosophy of a true congregational community.

In some Jewish communities the new pledge system has been termed *t'rumot halev* or "gifts of the heart." It is about making a pledge from the heart, rather than paying a bill. When overlaid with Or Atid's overarching theme of caring for our own community's Mishpacha, it's only natural that this new voluntary pledge approach will be Or Atid's – Light of the Future. In this new model, congregants will be asked to pledge the amount they will be able to contribute for the upcoming year each January with monthly or one-time billing options available.

Or Atid will be joining with approximately 30 Conservative and Reform congregations across the country who have decided to eliminate a "mandatory" dues policy to step up and adopt this community friendly approach. Consistent with its progressive history originating from the inception of the Synagogue 30 years ago, Congregation Or Atid will again be pioneers paving a new direction. Or Atid believes the "Your Sustaining Share"

program will be the first voluntary pledging approach adopted by a Synagogue in Virginia.

Or Atid is pleased members of the Richmond Jewish community will never again feel daunted by the financial process inherent with the old membership dues structure.

Never again will congregants with financial issues be put in the position of asking for a special arrangement. When you are part of a Mishpacha, and you have the ability to help, you inherently feel the need to help out your own, because nobody else will.

The congregation hopes that those Jews in our community who are seeking a stress-free and open community experience will look to join Congregation Or Atid and become part of its community.

In fact, anyone wishing to join before the fiscal year is welcome to do so without paying any dues or sustaining share until the new fiscal year on July 1, 2015.

Those interested should call the Synagogue at (804) 741-4747.

Congregation Or Atid Adult Education Explores Contemporary Issues

A day doesn't go by when there isn't an article about perceptions of Jews throughout the world or about LGBTQ issues. Or Atid has crafted two different adult education series around these contemporary conversations. First, on Saturday, May 2

Or Atid *More on page 18*

Social Justice speaker, program at Beth Ahabah June 12

Dr. Thad Williamson, the University of Richmond professor who is leading Richmond Mayor Dwight Jones' anti-poverty effort, will speak at Congregation Beth Ahabah on Friday June 12 as part of the Synagogue's Council for Social Justice outreach program. This will be during Friday night service at 7:30 p.m.

Williamson, a Harvard-trained associate professor of Leadership Studies and Philosophy, Politics, Economics and Law, is on leave from the university while he acts as the first person to oversee Richmond's Office of Community Wealth-Building. Jones established the office to focus on initiatives that would combat persistent poverty in the city's neighborhoods.

Among the goals he has identified are improving the city's job training strategies, changing the negative perceptions that Richmond residents have of themselves and of their neigh-

bors, and identifying the city's community assets.

Congregation Beth Ahabah and the Council for Social Justice invited Williamson to address how the Synagogue's members, among them Williamson's own family, can help bring about change in the city.

For details, call (804) 358-6757.



Dr. Thad Williamson



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(Back to front)- James Riley, Evelyn Windmueller, Susanne Shilling, Sidney Sperberg and Helen Gutworth (foreground) enjoy a delicious meal at Bakers Crust Restaurant as part of Richmond Hadassah's Dining Out program. A percentage of their meal cost is donated to Hadassah.

Photos courtesy of Victoria Kaplan.

Lunch & Learn: May 20

On May 20, 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., Richmond Hadassah and the Weinstein JCC will present a Lunch & Learn session with Dr. Leah Sievers at the Weinstein JCC.

Sievers' research includes Jewish and Christian ethics, museology, the ethics of memory and Holocaust studies and she is the executive consultant for the Virginia Holocaust Museum. She recently completed her doctoral degree in the Department of Religious Studies at University of Virginia.

Bring a lunch or buy it from the café. Coffee will be served.

For details, contact, Erin Mahone at (804) 545-8644.

Save the Date: General Meeting - May 3

Hadassah will hold a General Meeting on May 3 at 10:30 a.m. at the Weinstein JCC. Details to be announced (see informational block on far right of this page.)

Hadassah Book Club: No May meeting.



Joshua Bailey

On April 15, Hadassah held a shocking and informative program about Human Trafficking worldwide and here in Virginia. At this Lunch & Learn session, the guest speaker was Joshua Bailey, co-founder and CEO of Gray Haven - Virginia's first drop-in center to serve as a safe place for victims of human trafficking. He explained the perils of this terrible issue. It was sponsored by Richmond Hadassah and the Weinstein JCC and members and guests learned more about this difficult and heart-wrenching subject.

Richmond Hadassah leaders at Tri-Region Conference

Eight Hadassah leaders from Richmond were part of the Super South Tri-Region conference in New Orleans April 17-19. The new "Super South" Hadassah hub is the first in the nation and combines the Southern Seaboard, Southern and Southeastern regions that reaches from Virginia to Louisiana.

The "Big Easy Conference" brought in national speakers, regional leaders and local participants for a weekend of learning, networking and training. The conference concluded with a guided tour of Jewish New Orleans.

Attending from Richmond were Gail Moskowitz - incoming Southern Seaboard Regional president and a coordinator for the conference; Debbie Friedman - a national Hadassah board member and presenter at the conference; Robin Jackson and Rebecca Young - Richmond Chapter co-presidents, Sally Goldberg, Victoria Caplan, Evelyn Windmueller and Fran Broeder.

The focus of the conference was viewing Hadassah as a cause-driven and social action organization. Speakers talked about the new PRAZE division of Hadassah that is PRogramming, Advocacy, Zionism and



(From left) Rebecca Young and Robin Jackson hold the three certificates Richmond Hadassah received "For Advancing Both Fundraising and Tower Goals," "For Achieving 103% of their Fundraising Goal" and "For Achieving 114% of their Tower Goals."

Education - all main focuses of Hadassah.

Local leaders hope to implement some of what they learned and share it at the May 3 general meeting which is open to all members.

Everything You Always
♥ Wanted to Know
 About Hadassah in a
Speed Dating Way!

Richmond Hadassah Chapter General Meeting
 Sunday, May 3; 10:30 am
 Weinstein JCC

Short business meeting and then it's a date with Hadassah (5 minutes per topic)! When you leave, you will know all about:

- Cards, Trees and Certificates-What do they support?
- What is a Founder, Keeper and Heroine and how do I become one?
- What does Hadassah Hospital do in Israel and does it do anything in the United States?
- What's new at Hadassah Hospital?
- ... and more answers to the things you don't know about Hadassah!



Gila Chapter of Jewish Women International (JWI) is proud to announce the winner of the 2015 Sofie Stahl Memorial Award is Sarah Rubin, the 46th recipient. Originally created by The Day chapter of JWI (then B'nai B'rith Women) and the Stahl Family, the annual award, voted by previous years' recipients, honors a Jewish woman whose volunteerism demonstrates a life-long commitment to helping those in the Richmond area.

As her nomination stated, "...she is a Mensch, in the full, true meaning of that word. She has been and continues to be an extraor-

dinary role model of the Jewish mother, wife, congregant, and Jewish community member."

It continued, "No matter what she does, she doesn't simply do it and then move on. Starting with her father before her, Mrs Rubin's long traditions are those of inclusion. Especially for anyone with no place to go, she has ensured there "would always be room at the table", her home one where everyone loves to be together for any event – Jewish and secular."

In her volunteer activities, she has touched many in our community and beyond. It would be repetitious to state each time one of her volunteer activities is mentioned, but she has spent many years in donating her time and service. For Temple Beth El which honored her as Kallah Maferet, she currently is Director of the Beth El Cemetery Corporation and

has served as secretary of the same.

Evidence of the importance she places on Jewish education, she has worked on the Education Committee, tutored children and adults in Hebrew, and taught religious school (23 years). A life member and still active in Richmond Chapter of Hadassah, Rubin continues to be the JNF chair – Israel is thankful for the many trees she has sold – and she passes on the volunteer tradition by giving life memberships to many in her family. Jewish Women's Club has benefitted from her leadership in her past presidency and long-standing membership.

The recipient has requested that no reception take place this year. However, as in past years, donations still may be made in Sarah Rubin's honor to benefit Jewish Women International children's libraries including Richmond's

Safe Harbor. A suggested donation of \$36 or a Gold (\$50) or Platinum (\$100) level is most appreciated. Checks (payable to JWI) should be mailed by to JWI, c/o Arlene Slutzah, 4907 Daffodil Circle, Glen Allen, VA 23060.

For more information contact Slutzah at (804) 747-0765 or arlene4907@gmail.com.

Founded in 1897, JWI is the leading Jewish organization empowering women and girls through economic literacy; community training; healthy relationship education; and the proliferation of women's leadership. Jewish Women International's innovative programs, advocacy, and philanthropic initiatives protect the fundamental rights of all girls and women to live in safe homes, thrive in healthy relationships, and realize the full potential of their personal strength.

Hospital Hospitality House becomes The Doorways

Hospital Hospitality House unveiled its new name in mid-April - The Doorways, a Richmond facility providing temporary, low-cost lodging for patients and their families who travel from out of town to get medical care.

At the end of a long day, there's nothing like walking through the door into the comfort of home; a restful safe haven where body, mind and spirit can relax and renew.

Since 1984, it's been the mission of the Hospital Hospitality House of Richmond, its generous partners, staff and volunteers, to provide this same refuge and respite to patients and families experiencing medical crisis far from home. In those 30 years, over 148,000 guests have come through their doors to receive

compassion, hope and support in their time of uncertainty and need.

It paused in 2014 to carefully consider these changes and what they must do to prepare for the next 30 years while preserving the traditions set forth by their founders and loyal supporters. It starts with changing the name of Hospital Hospitality House.

The new name is part of their enhanced brand identity adopted in 2014 as a result of the extensive research and strategic planning led by its Board of Directors and the thoughtful input from its stakeholders.

"Our tag line, which is really what brings it home, is 'between healing and home,'" said Stacy Brinkley, president and CEO of The

Doorways. "We are an old Days Inn. So as you see the building from the outside, it's rows of doors. The feeling is that behind every doorway is a story. It changes all the time. The tag line, 'between healing and home' — we're not a medical facility and we're not their home, but we're helping them between healing and home," Brinkley said.

Since the MCV Hospital Auxiliary founded the House in 1984, The Doorways has always kept pace with the changing needs of its guests. What started in an 8-room, 19th-century brownstone evolved into the 112-room facility it is today, making it one of the oldest guest homes in the U.S., the third largest in the country and the largest that operates solely on donations.



Or Atid

Continued from page 14



at 6 p.m. at Or Atid, Richmond. Jews are invited to join the congregation for a viewing of a local student's recent senior speech on his Jewish experience growing up as a Collegiate School student. A dairy potluck dinner will accompany the conversation about individual and collective experiences of being Jewish in a predominantly Christian society. As the congregation and greater Jewish community embarks on this exploration, Rabbi Royi Shaffin recommends the recently published, *Anti-Judaism: the Western Tradition*, by University of Chicago historian David Nirenberg (W.W. Norton, New York, 2013). According to the *Sunday Times of London*, "this is a book that will – and should – stop you in your tracks." Stay tuned for the location, date and time of the second installment, "Christian Anti-Semitism and Philo-Semitism, Through the Eyes of a Baptist Minister."

As most major religions continue to discuss the impact of recent changes in secular perspectives and legal rulings with regard to marriage equality for the LGBTQ population, Congregation Or Atid recognizes the need for education around

this topic. The first installment in March was a showing of the film "Trembling before G-d," a documentary by Sandi Simcha DuBowski about the Orthodox community's response to same-sex relationships. On Saturday, June 6, 6 p.m. (location TBA; call the office at (804) 740-4747), the community is welcome to join Rabbi Shaffin for the second installment in this yearlong study, when he will present, "The X-rated Bible." Bring a kosher dairy dish to share for this Spiritual Nosh. The Rabbi will discuss rabbinic attitudes to homosexuality and heterosexuality as found in biblical literature.

Bagels and Bible series

Or Atid also continues its monthly Bagels and Bible series on May 30 at 9:30 a.m. Bagels, coffee, schmoozing, and discussion will be in abundance as participants discuss the day's readings – Parashat Nasso, Numbers 4:21-7:89 (the gifts of the people to the tabernacle and the priestly blessings) and Haftarah Judges 13:2-25 (the birth of Samson).

No reservations are necessary for any of the programs.

We have been here for a very long time!

By David B. Farris
Executive Director,
Beth Ahabah Museum & Archives

We know the name of the first Jew who came to America. He was a metallurgist from Prague named Joachim Gaunse, or Jacob Gans. He came in 1585 as a member of



Sir Walter Raleigh

Sir Walter Raleigh's Roanoke Expedition, which came to be known as the "Lost Colony." You may recall from your student days that one of the leaders of the expedition went back to England for supplies and more colonists, returning to find the colony empty and no

sign of the colonists.

There are many theories about what happened to them. It is possible that they simply left Roanoke Island and resettled around the Chesapeake Bay. Disease and natural disasters (like hurricanes) have been considered, but are less likely. It is possible that they simply moved in with and blended into the native population, and there is a DNA analysis project underway that seeks to confirm or deny this theory.

The most probable of the theories is that the colonists were killed by the Native Americans. There was definitely bad blood between them, and it is unlikely that anything would have happened to improve their relations while their leader was absent. The recent discovery of an old map in England raises another possibility. It shows a fort on a headland at the westernmost end of Albemarle Sound, North of Roanoke Island. Maybe they went inland to escape the storms and mosquitos.

We are more familiar with Jamestown than with the Roanoke colony, as Jamestown has benefited from extensive research and writing, both scholarly and otherwise, for many years. In 1621, the settlers arriving there included Elias Legardo, age 38.



In 1648, A Jew named John Levy received a land grant on 200 acres in nearby James City County. Back then it was called a "patent," and such a grant guaranteed that all prior title conflicts, if any, had been resolved. Levy, then, had absolute title to his land, which was located on the main branch of Powell's Creek. Ten years later, in 1658, there are records of a man named David Ferera doing business as a tobacco merchant along the east coast, and probably in Virginia. Records show that a man named Moses Nehemiah was involved in a lawsuit in York County in that same year. There were no Jewish communities until just before the Revolution – only mention of individuals.

Historically, Jews were not farmers. Instead, they were merchants or artisans who needed business centers to welcome them instead of farms or plantations. Virginia was an agricultural place in colonial times, and the cities we know today were nothing more than villages back then. This created an environment for individual entrepreneurs such as the aforementioned Mr. Ferera, but not for the numbers of merchants and others who would come in the following century.

Let's always remember that we are not newcomers here. On the contrary, our people were some of the oldest and most respectable citizens of Virginia!

Please come and enjoy our exhibits and displayed items at the Beth Ahabah Museum and Archives. We are located at 1109 West Franklin St. and are open from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., Sunday-Thursday. Admission is free, but donations are happily accepted.

For more information, call (804) 353-2668.

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Survivor Alex Keisch lights the sixth candle during Yom Hashoah Remembrance service.

these people who built Auschwitz? Who were the architects? Who were the builders? Who drove the trains? Who built the ovens? Who planned all the details? It took millions of people to make the Holocaust.”

The senior Brodecki was in 8 concentration camps during the Holocaust and was first interred in Auschwitz where he received #98639 on his left arm. Auschwitz was the only camp that burnt numbers on its captors.

Brodecki also read from an April 18 *Washington Post* commentary by James B. Comey, director of the FBI, who spoke at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum on April 15, “I believe that the Holocaust is the most significant event in human history. It is, of course, significant because it was the most horrific display in the world history of inhumanity, one that simply defies words and challenge meaning.” Comey wrote.

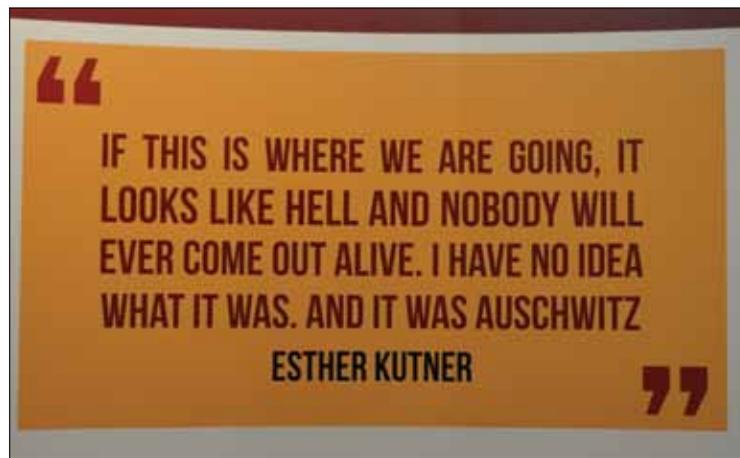
Daniels, 91, who survived more than a year-and-a-half in Auschwitz and Dachau, and is the sole survivor of her family, noted, “They all knew about the death camps.” She lit the 4th candle during the Remembrance Service assisted by her granddaughter.

During the Remembrance Service, Tim Hensley, the director of collections and curator of the museum, spoke to the community members about how the exhibit was planned and created.

Sydnor credited Hensley with “an imaginative grasp in translating the complex subject matter into an exceptional exhibit. Over the past year, he and the staff have created one of the most outstanding, singular, definitive exhibits this museum has – or will have.”

Hensley said, “The experiences of the Auschwitz Survivors who settled in Virginia are a prominent feature of the exhibit. Their vivid first-person oral histories – accompanied by videos, photographs, documents, other artifacts, and music – taken together provides an enduring record of what life and death were like for the inmates trapped in the largest, and most terrible of the Nazi concentration camps.”

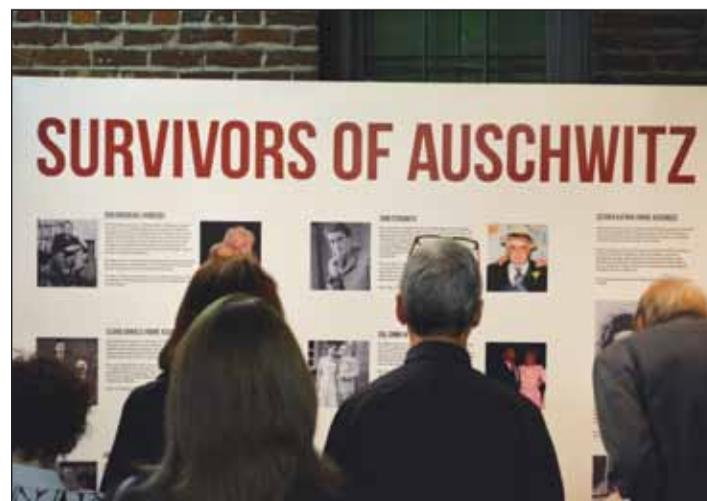
These include Bud Brodecki, Clara Daniels, Jake Fayman, Sam Itzkowitz, Esther Kutner, Leo



The exhibit features short narratives by Auschwitz Survivors who settled in Richmond including Esther Kutner (obm).



(From left) Joe Brodecki, son of Auschwitz Survivor Bud Brodecki; and Dr. Charles Sydnor, CEO, of the Virginia Holocaust Museum, stand near one of the exhibit panels in the new Auschwitz Exhibit.



Community members view the panel featuring the names and short biographies on six Auschwitz Survivors who settled in Richmond.

Kutner, Ted Lehman and Sol Zimm. We had enough information on them -- this was the catalyst for designing the exhibit,” he said.

About one-third of the exhibit is a general Auschwitz background narrative divided into the three main camps. “Throughout the exhibit,” he said, “there are large visual boards with quotes and short narratives from our local Auschwitz Survivors.”

Hensley said, “This is an enormous exhibit with 19 large panels all 7-feet high. It would fill the Synagogue we are sitting in today. Many



Some of nearly 200 people who toured the new Holocaust Exhibit after the dedication.



(From left) Helen and Halina Zimm, both Survivors. They are in front of a panel with biographical details on the Richmond Auschwitz Survivors including Sol Zimm (obm), husband of Helen.

of the photographs are 10-20 feet long.”

This exhibit concept has been several years in the works and meets a longtime museum goal of having a traveling exhibit that is both cost effective and scalable to eventually loan to other museums. He said it can be divided into particular sections to meet the needs of small and large museums. It has vinyl panels and the collapsible frames are locked securely into position to hold the panels.

Hensley thanked the group of companies and individuals who provided the resources the museum needed to design and build the exhibit. They are: Dominion, Weinstein Properties, Earl and Linda Ferguson, Jay and Marilyn Weinberg, Katheryn and Christopher Curtis, Wells Fargo Corporate Giving, Ken Dye and Sam Seeley, Miriam and Daniel Davidow, GlaxoSmithKline Foundation, James and Suzanne Monroe, Abby Moore, Charlie and Joanne Sydnor, Rudy and Esther Bunzl, Richmond First Club and Richard and Ellen November.

Following his remarks, the community moved upstairs to the new exhibit hall on the second floor and witnessed the dedication. They walked silently through the hall viewing the exhibit.

The exhibit will be on display until Dec. 30 when it will be dismantled and ready to travel in 2016 to museums across the U.S. A documentary also is planned.

The museum is located at 2000 E. Cary St., which offers free, ample off-street, lighted parking. For details, on this exhibit and other museum events, call (804) 257-5400. Also visit, www.va-holocaust.com.