



CONGREGATION  
BETH TORAH

Thursday, October 11th

- Rabbi's Lunch and Learn

Sunday, October 14th

- Jewish Jumpers

Friday, October 19th

- National Refugee Shabbat

Sunday, October 21st

- Jewish Jumpers
- CBT Goes to the Zoo
- Contemplation Night

Sunday, October 28th

- Annual Camp Fair

Visit

<https://bit.ly/2MXljjj>

for the complete  
Beth Torah  
October calendar



I want to express my deepest gratitude to the members of our staff, to our lay-leaders, to our volunteers and service participants whose hard work, dedication, and love, made our High Holy Day services and events meaningful and spiritually rewarding for all of us.

Hamon toddah, a million thanks!

– Rabbi Javier Cattapan

# Tekiah

ISSUE 329  
OCTOBER 2018  
TISHREI/CHESHVAN 5779

## Guest Message from Roshann Parris

Shanah Tovah, fellow congregants. Thirty years ago this year, a small group of us sat in Hal and Carol Sader's living room to dream a dream of a new congregation, a new community.

These thirty years later, we could hardly imagine this magnificent and peaceful place we share today; we could hardly imagine the impact we as a congregation could have on social justice institutions within our region, where we have together worked to repair the world we live in.

And we could only imagine that we would have the privilege of welcoming the Mayor of the largest city in our region on this, the holiest day of the Jewish year.

Mr. Mayor, in your honor, we are creating our Congregation's very first prayer for our City, inspired by you. We honor you for all you have done not just for Kansas City, but for and with the mayors of dozens of cities in the region. Indeed, you are a living example that all boats can rise under inspired leadership.

And we honor the hundreds of Mayors you've served as their national chairman as you've worked to make our country a place in which we can all—each and every one of us—feel safe...and proud...and respected...and inspired.

And so, Mr. Mayor, today, we offer our first Prayer for the City. This one's for you.

Lord, thank you for creating a passion—a fire in the belly of our City's public servants—so that we can harvest their selflessness as they seek to make for us a better region.

We pray for Mayor James and all those mayors, city council members, county executives and so many others in service to our communities, that they may be guided by both their heads and hearts as they devote themselves passion-

ately to the best interests of our community.

We pray for the remarkable, selfless men and women who put their lives on the line 24 hours a day—the police and firefighters and EMS first-responders (several who are with us this day)—not only in Greater Kansas City, but in the Carolinas and Puerto Rico and Florida and California and in the City of Chicago—each and every day.

They show up to work so that we can go to sleep each night feeling protected and safe—even as their own families go to sleep each night worrying about what morning will bring.

Robert Kennedy Jr. said “Let no one be discouraged by the belief there is nothing one person can do against the enormous array of the world's ills... Few will have the greatness to bend history, but each of us can work to change a small portion of events. And in the total of all those acts will be written the history of a generation.”

We pray that in the year ahead, each of us will find a way, just one way of returning the privilege we all have of living in this City, and in this Country. That we find a way to give back to something bigger than ourselves, something that inspires us and stirs our souls to say—I can make a difference, I MUST make a difference. I can make my village, my City, my country a better place.

In gratitude for the service of those to our City and our Country, we pray, oh Lord as we say together, Amen.

*This introduction and “Prayer for the City” was written and offered by founding member, Roshann Parris, after Kansas City Mayor Sly James spoke during Yom Kippur morning worship.*

## Our Pillars

We are a vibrant, modern  
Reform Jewish congregation  
where everyone matters.

### Congregation Beth Torah:

Embraces	Energizes
Illuminates	Inspires
Responds	Connects

### OFFICERS

President..... Barry Katz  
First Vice President..... SueAnn Strom  
Vice President..... Boyd Bolter  
Vice President..... Brandi Fisher  
Secretary ..... Genna Stowe  
Treasurer..... Howard Pitler

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BTTY Co-Presidents..... Sam Fine & Max Gates  
Immediate Past President..... Linda Zappulla

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Senior Rabbi..... Rabbi Javier Cattapan  
Founding Rabbi ..... Rabbi Mark Levin, D.D., D.H.L.  
Music Director..... Emily Tummons  
Director of Operations..... Laura Intfen  
Director of Finance ..... Tara Hyder  
Director of Lifelong Learning.... Rabbi Monica Kleinman  
Office Manager ..... Alyssa Schildhorn  
Administrative Assistant ..... Sharon Altman  
Bookkeeper..... Barbara Kitt  
Administrative Assistant ..... Rachel Bolter  
Choir Director ..... Carmen Dieker  
Tekiah Editor ..... Laura Bolter

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Facebook:

[facebook.com/CongregationBethTorah](https://facebook.com/CongregationBethTorah)



## CONGREGATION BETH TORAH ETHICAL FOOD TEAM

To the Beth Torah Community:

The Rosh Hashanah luncheon that many of us enjoyed together on September 10th was not just special because it was the first one we've had at our synagogue—thank you Rabbi Cattapan—but also because the Beth Torah Ethical Food Team, with the support of Laura Intfen, ensured that ethical concerns for our environment and animal welfare informed what we ate and what implements we used.

The utensils and plates we used were all free of petroleum-based plastics and made of all-natural and sustainable resources. They were either compostable or recyclable. One of the lunch choices (the hummus wrap) was made with no animal products, the apples were organic for better health and sustainability, and the honey was locally-sourced from the community's Mitzvah Garden.

Traditional Judaism focuses on kashrut as a way of making higher ethical choices. As Reform Jews, we look to Jewish principles of caring for and repairing the world and treating all living creatures humanely as a way of making better food choices.

Our efforts at the Rosh Hashanah Luncheon were just the first steps that we're taking for the new year. Look for more information from the committee in the coming year in the form of additional *Tekiah* articles and education sessions (for adults and children) so we can learn together as a community how we can make some small choices to contribute to a better world.

*L'shana Tova Tikatevu!*

**Beth Torah Ethical Food Team**

Susan Cohen  
Jim Decker  
Ann Elyachar  
Amy Franklin  
Don Goldman

Mitchell Krasnopoler  
Hannah Michelson  
Cindy Shames  
Marge Skikne  
Rabbi Javier Cattapan



## President's Corner

Barry Katz, President  
[bkatz12306@gmail.com](mailto:bkatz12306@gmail.com)

Name tags. It seems like such a small thing. But the effort to get them created, alphabetized, displayed, re-

trieved, re-alphabetized and redisplayed multiple times was huge. And that was just one of the countless details that went into the seamless worship that we all experienced during the recently concluded High Holy Days.

Name tags are a good place to start with this article, because they embody the concept of Relational Judaism that we hope to embrace during the coming year; and they also serve as a microcosm of the hard work and effort that go into the planning and execution of the High Holy Days. The outcome was wonderful and there are so many people to thank.

Let's start with Laura Intfen, our Director of Operations and Queen of Details. I can't cover them all, but here's a sampling of the things she makes happen that are easy to take for granted: the High Holy Day mailing that kicks things off for us, but requires weeks of effort before it hits our mailboxes, the tickets, the Book of Remembrance, baby sitting, recruiting and managing worship volunteers and ushers, parking, security, maintenance, announcement sheets, not to mention those name tags (where Laura was ably assisted by volunteers Irene Goldstein, Barb Mendelsohn, Marcia Rittmaster and Bonnie Swade). Oh, and let's not forget the Rosh Hashanah Luncheon for hundreds of people that Laura had to plan without knowing exactly how many hundreds of people would actually be attending. Well, hundreds did stay for this first ever fabulous community event and thanks to volunteers Jeff Altman, Sharon Altman and Paula Becker, it went off without a hitch.

I should also mention that in the midst of all her usual duties, Laura was responsible for overseeing the installation of the upgrade to our sound system. Upgrade seems like an understatement. The sound quality

is now dramatically better than it ever was; and that sound quality is consistent throughout the sanctuary for both music and the spoken word. We are so thankful to our member, Nina Shik, for facilitating the lead gift that enabled this project.

And then there were the amazing services that were developed with painstaking care by our worship leaders, Rabbi Cattapan, Emily Tummons and Rabbi Kleinman. Together they created a High Holy Day experience that was meaningful, inspirational and beautiful from start to finish. The musicians and singers led by Emily and Choir Director, Carmen Dieker, created an atmosphere and environment that allowed each of us to create the connection to these Holy Days that suited our individual needs.

The experience was further enhanced by sermons from Rabbi Cattapan and Rabbi Kleinman that focused on the relational aspects of our Jewish community. We'll hear more about this when Dr. Ron Wolfson, author of *Relational Judaism*, comes to visit us on December 7th. And, we were honored by the presence of Kansas City Mayor Sly James, who delivered an inspirational message on Yom Kippur morning, consistent with the spirit of the day. Many thanks to Roshann Parris for facilitating the Mayor's appearance and creating a "Prayer for the City" inspired by

the Mayor's participation in our service. I'm running out of space, but not people to thank. Laura Bolter contributed her design expertise to the look of the mailing and the announcement sheets, the Youth Group did its usual fine job coordinating the Food Drive and numerous volunteers handled ushering, participated in the services, and led study sessions on Yom Kippur. Finally, the response to our High Holy Day Appeal has been warm and generous and I very much appreciate that.

Let's keep the energy going.

### Sarah Derks, a fifteen year member of Congregation Beth Torah reflected on High Holy Days this way...

*"Some of us were talking after Break the Fast about what a lovely service it was on Yom Kippur morning. Everything about the service was perfect, from the music to the rabbi's leadership to Sly James' humility to Barry quantifying the temple's needs (\$200/membership).*

*For me, one of the most memorable and visual moments was after Sly's speech, when Rabbi Cattapan rose from his seat behind the bima and shook Sly's hand, thanking him for coming to the synagogue. It was a simple but poignant moment, when I think about it. An Argentinian and immigrant Rabbi shaking hands and embracing an African-American Mayor of an urban city in a suburban mostly white synagogue on the holiest day of the year.*

*To me, that is CBT.*

*Hope someone captured that photo."*

### *In Memoriam:*

#### ***Audree Milgram Klein Baer***

Mother and mother-in-law of  
James & Lisa Klein

#### ***Mary "Sitch" Lilly***

Loved one of Henri Goettel

#### ***David Morgenstern***

Brother and brother-in-law of  
Eric & Shanny Morgenstern

#### ***Florence Warshawsky***

Mother and mother-in-law of  
Jeffrey & Gail Ross

#### ***Sharon Golden***

Loved one of Michael Golden

### ***Torah Portion***

**October 5/6 | 27 Tishrei**  
Bereshit

**October 12/13 | 4 Cheshvan**  
Noach

**October 19/20 | 11 Cheshvan**  
Lech Lecha

**October 26/27 | 18 Cheshvan**  
Vayera

# A High Holy Day Appeal Say: “Yes” to Beth Torah

*Delivered to the congregation on Yom Kippur morning by Barry Katz*

On Passover we have the tradition of asking “the four questions”. Today we’re starting a new Yom Kippur tradition—a High Holy Day Appeal—that revolves around three questions.

The first question is “Why are we doing this appeal on Yom Kippur?” The second question is “Why do we need to do an appeal in the first place?” And the third and most important question is “Why should you and I and all of us participate in this appeal?”

As I was thinking about how to answer the first question—why do this appeal on Yom Kippur—I was reminded of Willie Sutton, the bank robber. When asked why he robbed banks, Willie answered—“Because that’s where the money is.”

And when it comes to asking Jews to support their synagogue—the ideal time to do it is on Yom Kippur—because that’s where the people are—particularly those people who have a vested interest in the success and longevity of their religious home.

With everyone here at the same time—and all of us focused on the religious aspects of our lives—I wanted to take this opportunity to ask for your help in supporting our congregation that we not only belong to—but that we essentially own.

Which brings me to the second question. Why do we need to do this at all?

Here’s why. Virtually every dollar we take in—to keep our doors open and serve our community—comes from all of us. But the revenue we currently bring in does not balance the budget.

Our membership commitments (what we used to call dues) cover only about 60% of our expenses. The rest has to come, for the most part, through fundraising.

So, my goal today is to make the case for you to increase your investment in

this communal enterprise from which we all benefit. If every one of us makes a pledge—at whatever level we can afford—that will make a huge impact on Beth Torah’s financial stability.

Which brings me to the third and most important question—“Why should you and I and all of us participate in this appeal?”

The answer to this question I think will be different for each of us—and will come from how we each individually connect to Beth Torah the institution—and Beth Torah the community.

Personally, I connect to both. It’s through Beth Torah that I connect to Jews and Judaism. This is something that was extremely important to my father—and somewhere along the way it became important to me as well. Linda and I have never had any Jewish neighbors; and Jews at Hallmark, where I work, are few and far between. This is the place where we come to get our Jewish fix.

A long time ago our kids were bar mitzvahed and confirmed here. For some that marks the end of their congregational affiliation. But, it never occurred to us to leave after those milestone events, because we still wanted to be part of a Jewish community—this Jewish community—where we feel so comfortable.

We don’t need Beth Torah every day, —but we want it to be here when we do need it—and we want it to be here for all of you when you need it. Beth Torah is a community where we can worship, educate our kids, continue our own Jewish education, celebrate, mourn, support one another, help the larger community, socialize and belong. It is worthy of our support.

So, in the spirit of community, I am asking two things of you—

First, consider how and why you are connected to Beth Torah. Is it these High

Holy Day services that our professional staff so seamlessly delivers, the music, the sermons, the view, the school, the celebrations, your friends—or it could be any of so many other things. Simply figure out what it is that makes Beth Torah a special place for you.

And then, take responsibility for preserving that connection by making an additional pledge of financial support today. It’s up to each and every one of us to unite in support of this community and ensure it’s continued viability.

We are not asking or expecting anyone to give beyond their means—but it’s our sincere hope that everyone will give something—And that the something you give will reflect your special relationship with and ownership of Beth Torah—within the limits of what you can afford. Or as Hal Sader, our founding president, likes to say: “Give until it feels good”.

As a frame of reference, if each and every Beth Torah household gives \$200 to this appeal, our projected budget deficit for the year would be erased.

We know that some can’t give that much—but others can give more. I am confident that if everyone gives what they believe is the right amount, it will all balance out in the end. 100% participation is our goal. We hope that everyone will accept this challenge to say “Yes” to Beth Torah at whatever level is comfortable for you.

So, let’s all join together today, to make a pledge that will strengthen our community—and help Beth Torah, our spiritual home—to grow, thrive and endure on into the future.

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**If you haven’t yet made your donation, you can do so on the Beth Torah website or by mailing a check to the Beth Torah office. Indicate on the check that it’s for the High Holy Day Appeal.**



Well, I've done it. My first sin since the New Year started.

I've missed the first *Tekiah* deadline of 5779 and have let my friend and our *Tekiah* editor, Laura Bolter,

down. I'm sorry. I had it all written. The big "thank you" to the staff that I work with every day.

The hours and hours that went on at the clergy level. The prayers chosen, the songs orchestrated, the flow and intent of each service thought out, worked out and rehearsed.

The hours and hours that our administrative staff put into the High Holy Days. This was the first year without Robin O'Bryan, and our new Office Manager Alyssa Schildhorn took the reins and ran with it. She did terrific. Sharon Altman stepped up her hours and Tara Hyder and Barb Kitt, our financial duo, reached in and helped in every corner where work was needing to be done.

And of course, Ulises, who worked tirelessly throughout the Holy Days because he truly loves our congregation. Ulises wants nothing more than for all of us to be proud of our building.

So my article was written, as a "behind the scenes" look. But then I sat down to reread it, and I realized that, while staff members worked hard, they did not work hard alone.

So I chose: "select all" and "delete."

I chose that because our staff list grows tremendously during the High Holy Days.

All of the musicians and the singers spend hours making sure each service offers the most spirituality possible and then work even harder to make sure that they get everything just exactly right.

The volunteers who helped with the name tags in the office, who spent hours stuffing envelopes, creating tickets, answering the phone so the staff could meet, and copying and folding announcement sheets.

The volunteer that helps every year with the Selichot flowers so that our foyer looks its very best as we host the community for this annual start to the Days of Awe.

The volunteers that say "yes" when asked to participate in the services, whether opening an ark, holding a Torah, or even reading Torah.

Then I thought about the committees and the Board of Trustees:

The High Holy Day Appeal task force members who spent hours planning a very deliberate and daring plan to introduce our first ever High Holy Day appeal.

The 30th Anniversary Committee that wanted to make sure that we remembered that our community has been together for 30 years, even and especially at this Holy time.

The Ethical Food Committee which chose our Rosh Hashanah

luncheon to introduce their important work to the community.

And the Board of Trustees, who encourage, volunteer, make phone calls to connect with congregants and are Beth Torah's best positive energy generators in the entire community.

So, yes, it takes a lot of people. But wait, there's more. The number of congregants who brought food, volunteered to help with small tasks throughout the Holy Days, participated with dedication, bolstered me or other staff members when tiredness set in, encouraged each other, sat with someone they didn't know, and did all of these things with a positive attitude and love in their heart was overwhelming and wonderful. So, this is the REAL behind the scenes.

Thank you. All of you. You are an amazing community and I don't think people tell you that enough. You show up. You support. You reach out. You say "yes."



**Pick up your form to register to vote and to receive an advance voting (mail-in) ballot on the table just inside the door at CBT.**

**ELECTION DATE**

**Tuesday, November 6th**

**DEADLINES**

**Register by Tuesday, October 16th**

**Apply for an advance (mail-in) ballot by Tuesday, October 30th**

**In-person early voting  
October 22nd – November 5th**

**Forms and all of the information you need can be found at  
<https://www.Vote.Org/state/kansas>**

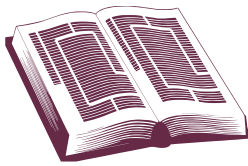


Join us as Beth Torah participates in National Refugee Shabbat on October 19th. Our first Beit Midrash evening will include worship, Shabbat dinner, and a communal program. Share your family’s journey to America and hear from others—you may be surprised what you have in common!

WELCOME TO OUR HOUSE  
ברוכים בהאים לביתינו

CALENDAR 5779

Congregation Beth Torah serves as a “home” for us in many different ways. Join us for one or all of these Erev Shabbat opportunities to make our synagogue community feel like a home!



בית מדרש

*Beit Midrash*  
House of Study

October 19, 2018  
June 7, 2019

Modern synagogues serve as a place for Jewish learning and exploration; the drive for lifelong learning connects us as a community that always seeks to increase its collective knowledge.



בית תפילה

*Beit T’filah*  
House of Prayer

February 15, 2019  
July 12/19, 2019

Synagogues function as Houses of Worship, places for Jewish people to gather with the intent of praying together as a community. Our communal rituals help us support one another in times of simcha (happiness) and times of sorrow.



בית כנסת

*Beit Keneset*  
House of Gathering

November 9, 2018  
March 29, 2019

The Modern Hebrew word for synagogue is Beit Keneset, House of Gathering, and reminds us that synagogues are a place for Jewish people to gather and create community.

Each of these Erev Shabbat experiences will begin at 6:15 p.m. with nosh, followed by an abbreviated service at 6:30 p.m.

We will adjourn to dinner and a program, followed by an oneg.

Dinners are graciously sponsored by the Senior Rabbi’s Discretionary Fund.



## Religious School

Rabbi Monica Kleinman, Director of Lifelong Learning  
[mkleinman@beth-torah.org](mailto:mkleinman@beth-torah.org)

Hello, fantastic Beth Torah families!

As I write this, we have just wrapped up our first day of Religious School. Our year is off to a great start with friends old and new, as well as Jewish learning and fun!

I want to issue HUGE thank-yous to some very special people who have helped and continue to make our school a wonderful place to be:

Michael and Daniel Ginsberg—thank you for building an **AMAZING gaga pit** for our community! Gaga is an Israeli game that has found its way into schools, camps, and playgrounds across America. If you've never seen it in action, check out the back yard on any nice Sunday when Zach Zwibelman is around—he's sure to be out there with our young friends. Thank you, Michael and Daniel, for designing and building another place for us to have fun being Jewish together.

Secondly, thank you to our anonymous donor who gifted us with a **flat-screen smart TV**! It is hanging in CR7 and is

the centerpiece of our new “media room.” Instead of our retro TV carts, we will be able to gather friends together in the media room to watch old favorites (some of those VHS tapes are classics!) as well as the latest Jewish content on Youtube, Hulu, Amazon, and Netflix. Our TAG class- Israeli Photography—will meet in this room to take advantage of the large screen and ability to analyze photographs in their original high resolution. We hope to expand our knowledge of and connection to the wider world through this wonderful technology!

Also, thank you to our new **Faculty Support committee** (name pending) for making sure that our staff knows how much the Beth Torah community values them and their impact on our Jewish future. Our teachers and *madrachim* received a seasonal “thank you” of apples, honey, and caramel pops to start off our sweet new year. Be on the lookout for more opportunities to say *todah rabah* [thank you] to those who work so hard to create and cultivate positive Jewish experiences for our young people.

Also, please mark your calendars for two great events in October:



Sunday, October 21st **CBT Families Go to the Zoo!** After Religious School stick around for pizza lunch (\$3 for two slices of pizza and a drink or fruit) and then we'll all head up to the Kansas City Zoo. Those in grades 6-12 will have a BTTY event of their own, and younger friends will travel with their families as we do a Zoo Scavenger hunt! Watch the BTTY & JYG facebook pages for more information and to RSVP for this afternoon of fun with Rabbi Cattapan, Rabbi Kleinman, Zach, Alexa, and all of our BTTY friends!

**Sunday, October 28th** for our annual **camp fair!** We will have the opportunity to speak with current campers and their families from a wide variety of Jewish camps: GUCI, Sabra, OSRUI, and more! It's never too early to start thinking about your summer plans!



## BTTY: Beth Torah Temple Youth



Hello, BTTY had lots of fun at Louisburg Cider Mill's Ciderfest on September 29th. We got to see apples being pressed into cider, saw some live music, and, of course, had lots of doughnuts! We also had a competition to see who could find Zach in the corn maze, which is a lot easier

said than done. Ciderfest continues on the weekend of the October 6th and 7th. I highly recommend going if you've never been; you definitely won't regret it! But you won't see BTTY there because Max and I are going to Camp Schwyder in the Colorado Rocky Mountains for NFTY Missouri Valley's Kickoff. It will be nice to finally see all of our NFTY friends after the long summer.

Looking ahead to the rest of October, we're actually going to have two local events. The first one is when we go to the Kansas City Zoo on Sunday, October 21st from right after Sunday

School (gets done at noon) to around 5:00 p.m. We're going to have a really fun Jewish scavenger hunt that your kid won't want to miss. It's been a while since I've got to the KC Zoo, so I know I'm looking forward to it!

The next event is BTTY's Annual Halloween Party at reStart on Sunday, October 28th. We have put this on every year since before I was even in BTTY in order to give back to the less fortunate. We host mini carnival games, Halloween-themed arts and crafts, and give away lots of candy. This takes a lot of effort to put on and we would greatly appreciate it if you are interested in helping out. We will need extra help this year because we really only have two people on the Board. We will also gladly take any donations you have (games, candy, decoration, etc.) in order to give these less-fortunate kids a really fun experience.

To get in contact with BTTY in order to be a part of any of the

*Continued at the bottom of page 10*

# Faculty Support and Appreciation Committee

Ask any parent who has or even had a child in our nationally acclaimed Weiner Religious School and they will attest to the fact that we have the BEST faculty members! Recently a few people gathered with the following goals:

Make the teachers feel appreciated for their hard work in and out of the classroom.

Insure the entire congregation recognizes these men and women so they can share their gratitude of our faculty's commitment to excellence and to our students.

We began our work by delivering apples and honey sticks to these wonderful faculty members after worship on Sunday, September 16th (Opening Day at the WRS). We are putting together a calendar of other ways to honor our faculty as well. We've already come up with some GREAT ideas!

We felt that one way to be sure they are recognized is to feature 2 or 3 teachers in each month's Tekiah (along with their photo) so you can get to know them.

This month we are featuring a long-time teacher, Henri Goettel, and our newest teacher, Michael Fine. You'll learn some basic facts about them so when you see them, we hope you'll strike up a conversation and get to know them even better. Making face-to-face connections at CBT is what it's all about!

## Henri Goettel



**What do you teach?** Hebrew!

**Where do you/your family come from?** I was born in Baltimore, MD, and lived there until I moved to the Kansas City area in 1980. David's family has lived in Independence, MO since the 1940s.

**Family Info:** My husband, David, celebrated his 70th birthday this past June. Our mischievous kitty, Smudge, is 5.

**How many years have you been teaching at CBT?** I taught Keshet, the midweek Hebrew program, for several years, beginning while Vered Harris was our education rabbi, and until the program ended. After Keshet, I taught "Let's Learn Hebrew Side by Side" to 4th/5th grade students. I began preparing those students for bar and bat mitzvah during the last school year.

**What do you like to do when you are not lesson planning or in the classroom with our students?** I participate in adult Jewish learning (with one of the rabbis every Shabbat, and with the Melton program when they offer a new class). I sing in CBT's choir. Away from CBT, I facilitate a group of 190 Jackson County (MO) high school students who practice all aspects of philanthropy. When the weather is right, I sail with David in his sailboat.

**Favorite Teaching Moment in the Weiner Religious School:** I live for students' "aha moments", when they recognize something that they've learned in one setting somewhere else in their learning or practice. I also love listening to confirmands' reflections.

## Michael Fine

**What do you teach?** 4th Grade

**Where do you/your family come from?** Dallas, TX

**Family Info:** Sisters: Katie (30), Kristin (31), Kelly (26)

**How many years have you been teaching at CBT?** This will be my first year.



**What do you like to do when you are not lesson planning or in the classroom with our students?**

I attend country music concerts, jazz shows, comedy shows, lots of live entertainment. I read on my balcony or in a nice open outdoor setting, mostly fiction. Some of my favorite authors are Charles Bukowski, Stephen King and George R.R. Martin. I listen to music in my own time, many artists from past decades that most folks my age don't know. The Doors, Willie Nelson, Johnny Cash, Aretha Franklin, and the Beatles are some of my favorites. I cook, mostly pasta and tacos. I go for a lot of walks and watch a lot of movies. I keep up with my friends back home and on extremely rare occasions attend a sporting event.

**Favorite Teaching Moment in the Weiner Religious School:** I don't have one yet, but I've got no doubt they will come.

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All are welcome to join our group. We don't have a name yet (we are working on that), but we are calling ourselves for now an Ad-Hoc Faculty Support and Appreciation Committee. If you would like to join our team, just let any one of us know!

Organizers:

Gloria Pitler & Marcia Rittmaster

Team Members: Maggie Adler, Linda Katz, Ellen Merrill, Howard Pitler, Eva Steiner, Betsy Wanger

– Marcia





**High Holy Day Music-Makers**

Beth Torah is so blessed to have so many talented congregants with generous hearts. We kick off this month's Tekiah article with a big "THANK YOU" to everyone who could be

found lending a hand to High Holy Day music preparation these last four months. You all have our most sincere appreciation.

Here are the names of the singers who served in our **High Holy Day Chorus**, which sang at our three main Evening Services:

James Appelbaum, Rachel Black, Kathleen Coenen, Todd Davisson, Sarah Derks, Carol R. Ducak, Estelle Edelbaum, Jill Fine, Mike Fine, Henri Goettel, Kris Gray, Douglas Greenwald, Barbara Gustin, Frederick Gustin, Louise Hipsh, Tim Intfen, Jim Kaplan, Elizabeth Lenz, Nicholas LeVine, Larry Myer, Stan Osman, Jeff Penner, Nina Shik, SueAnn Strom, Tom Teller, Shari A. Womack, Andrea Zwibelman, Zachary Zwibelman

Here are the names of the singers who served in our **High Holy Day Octet**, which sang at our two main Morning Services:

Rachel Black, Kris Gray, Tim Intfen, Jim Kaplan, Robert Pherigo, Nina Shik, Liz Willen, and Zachary Zwibelman

Both singing groups were conducted by Carmen Dieker, who also played harp, violin and piano throughout the High Holy Days. And both singing groups were accompanied by Nanette Kraus. Filling out our band were Randy Deutch (bass), Kevin Dolan (guitar), Brandon Draper (percussion, guitar), and Larry Figg (cello).

Many thanks to all of you who helped fill the High Holy Days with the sounds of awe, comfort, and beauty.

This photo was snapped just before the team stepped onto the bimah to lead music for "A Taste of High Holy Days" at Erev Shabbat services on Friday evening, August 31st. Here are the



names of those pictured, left to right: (top row) Liz Willen, Rachel Black, Kris Gray, Zachary Zwibelman, Robert Pherigo, Rabbi Javier Cattapan, Jim Kaplan, Tim Intfen; (middle row) Randy Deutch, Brandon Draper, Nina Shik; (bottom row) Kevin Dolan, Nanette Kraus, Carmen Dieker, Emily Tummons, Larry Figg.

**New Sound System Installed**



At our High Holy Day services, our congregation was afforded the chance to hear the prayers, the music, and the readings in a whole new way, through our new sound system. Congregants have commented on how crisp and clear the speaking is, how easy it is to hear what is happening on the bimah from wherever they may be seated in the sanctuary, and how much more balanced the sonic textures seem to be. This installation is the culmination of years of work from lay volunteers, staff members, and our board.



This vastly improved sound system would not have been possible without a generous gift from the Paul and Doris Flam Donor Advised Fund, arranged by the Shik family. Here at

*Continued on page 10*

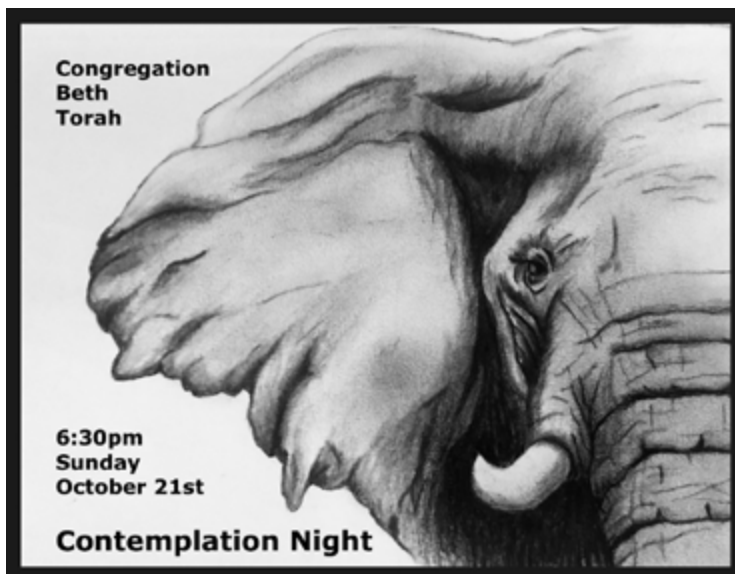
Continued from page 9

Beth Torah, we know Nina Shik as one of the founding singers in the Adult Choir, one of the founding singers of the Women's Group, one of the founding singers of the High Holy Day Octet. She and her husband David are long-time supporters of Beth Torah's historically rich music program.

Last month, Clark Johnson of Stark Raving Solutions (the installers), offered a training workshop for staff and congregants to begin to get familiar with the ins and outs of operating this new equipment. As you can see from these photos, Rabbi Kleinman, Laura Intfen, and I were joined by these congregants, all of whom volunteered their time in this hands-on learning seminar: Sam Fine, Nick Toniazzo, Glen Esser, Jim Decker, Tim Intfen.

We look forward to growing this group in the coming year, and all of us growing in our knowledge together!

### October Contemplation Night



Come join the music team for **Contemplation Night, on Sunday evening, October 21st, at 6:30 p.m.**

Below is one of the readings (by Chaim Stern) that guides us as we design these programs—we know that one of the reasons people attend Contemplation Night is a desire to reach out and connect with others within our prayer community. A palpable connection to the companions seated in the sanctuary with us, a palpable connection with the Divine, these are things we seek together at Contemplation Night.

*There are times when each of us feels lost or alone, adrift and forsaken, unable to reach those next to us, or to be reached by them.*

*And there are days and nights when existence seems to lack all purpose, and our lives seem brief sparks in an indifferent cosmos.*

*Fear and loneliness enter into the soul.*

*None of us is immune to doubt and fear; none escapes times when all seems dark and senseless.*

*Then, at the ebb-tide of the spirit, the soul cries out and reaches for companionship.*

### Sing Hanukkah Music with the Men's Group



Hanukkah season is right around the corner. E-mail me to sign up to sing with the Men's Group. We'll have two performances this season. One will be a community service project, and the date and time will be determined by participants' schedules. The other will be this year's Hanukkah moment for our congregation:

#### Shabbat Hanukkah

**Friday evening, December 7th at 6:30 p.m.**

On that night, the call time for the Men's Group will be 5:30 p.m.

Here are the rehearsal dates, all of them Sunday mornings, 11:10 a.m.–12:00 p.m.:

October 28th, November 4th, November 11th, November 18th, December 2nd, December 9th

#### Save the Date!

Plan now to bring your friends and family members to some of these larger music-related CBT events over the next year:

**Shabbat Hanukkah** on Friday December 7th (6:30 p.m.)

**Shabbat Shirah** on Friday, January 18th (6:30 p.m.)

the **Purim Spiel** on Wednesday, March 20th

the **Spring Session** on Sunday, April 7th (3:00 p.m.)

Our music program looks forward to a rich and meaningful year 5779!!

### BTTY *Continued from page 7*

events mentioned about, please contact Rabbi Monica Kleiman at [mkleinman@beth-torah.org](mailto:mkleinman@beth-torah.org) or call the Beth Torah office at 913-498-2212. You can also feel free to reach out to me at [swfine42@gmail.com](mailto:swfine42@gmail.com) with any questions or comments you may have. There's also a BTTY Facebook group you can join to stay informed of BTTY's activities and see lots of pictures from the events. If you need help joining that, please don't hesitate to reach out to one of the points of contact listed above. And make sure to stay on the lookout for future BTTY articles in the *Tekiah* to stay up-to-date with what's going on.

Until next time,

Sam

# Let's Go Gaga!

Ga, Hebrew for “hit” or “touch”, is the premise for the Israeli game Gaga Ball. To start off, the ball must touch the ground twice before it is considered in play. Once in play, the game is like dodge ball. The goal is to knock the opponents out by hitting them below the knees. It's all the rage in local schools, Jewish summer camps, and our synagogue. Before Rosh Hashanah, we had to set tables up on their sides to create the pit, so the kids could play their favorite game. Thanks to a collaboration between Daniel Ginsberg, Mike Ginsberg, Troop 61 and Zachary Zwibelman for Daniel's Eagle Scout Project, we now have a permanent 20-foot gaga pit outside by the library for all to use, the first of its in kind at any area synagogue. Not even 12 hours after its construction, the kids were already playing and enjoying. With its sturdy construction, this pit will keep the kids entertained for decades to come.



**CBT & the Weiner  
Religious School Present**

## Jewish Jumpers

קופצים  
יהודים

Looking for an interactive Jewish experience for your little one? Those between ages 2 and 4 are invited (along with a grown-up) for an hour of Jewish stories, songs, active games, and fun with June Crane!

This class is provided free of charge and open to the Jewish community, but we ask that you RSVP to Rabbi Monica Kleinman ([mkleinman@beth-torah.org](mailto:mkleinman@beth-torah.org)) or the CBT office at 913-498-2212.

**Select Sundays • 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.**

Sep. 23rd, 30th  
Oct. 14th, 21st  
Nov. 4th, 11th  
Dec. 9th, 16th

Jan. 6th, 13th, 20th    May 5th  
Feb. 3rd, 10th  
Mar. 3rd, 24th  
Apr. 7th, 14th, 28th

# • TRIBUTES •

## Beth Torah General Fund

### *In Memory Of:*

#### **Johnny Guy**

Barbara & Jesus Gutierrez

#### **Martin Bordo**

Steve Cooper

#### **Edis Parkans**

Jim & Kelly Kaplan

#### **Zita Agnes Kuhn**

Fran & Whitey Kuhn

#### **Edna A. Shaw**

Bob & Jeanne Shaw

#### **Edis Parkans**

Cindy Parkans

#### **Emery & Jimmie Taylor**

Barry & Linda Katz

#### **Marion Sobol**

Cara Sitton

#### **Mark Weingarten**

Marshall & Judith Weingarten

#### **Dick Rosenfeld**

Amy & Les Rosenfeld

#### **Mickey Kleg**

Susie & Jerry Klinock

#### **Marjorie M. Lantos**

#### **Dr. Raymond S. Lantos**

John Lantos

#### **David Morgenstern**

Michael & Jenifer Blum

### *In Honor Of:*

#### **Robin O'Bryan and her great career at CBT**

Linda & Barry Katz

## Rabbi Cattapan Discretionary Fund

Estelle Edelbaum

Sofia Gantman

Ron & Jo Ann Ginson

### *In Memory Of:*

#### **Florine F. Capper**

Gail & Larry Altman

#### **Leibert Birnbaum**

Norman Shaffer

#### **Martha Levy**

#### **Joe Levy**

Joseph & Bobbie Levy

### *In Honor Of:*

#### **The Wedding of**

#### **Lon & Suzy Lowenstein**

Eugene Leibson

### *In Appreciation Of:*

#### **Rabbi Cattapan**

Linda & Jeff Schlachter

## Rabbi Levin Discretionary Fund

### *In Memory Of:*

#### **Ross Zucker**

Marge & Barry Skikne

## Rabbi Kleinman Discretionary Fund

Greg Zarobsky

## CBT Fund for Families in Need

### *In Memory Of:*

#### **Marcy Gliszinski**

Sarah Derks

#### **David Morgenstern**

Roshann Parris & Jeff Dobbs

### *In Appreciation Of:*

#### **CBT Music Team**

Estelle Edelbaum

## Hunger Fund

### *In Memory Of:*

#### **Nathan Salz**

Maureen & Sandy Salz

#### **Gilbert Greenwald**

Doug Greenwald

Pola Greenwald

Susan & Joel Waxman

#### **David Morgenstern**

Ron & Julie Altman

### *In Appreciation Of:*

#### **CBT Office Staff including Ulises**

Estelle Edelbaum

## Educating Our Future Fund

Barry & Linda Katz

Valery & Susan Tokar

### *In Memory Of:*

#### **David Morgenstern**

Henri Goettel

Linda Zappulla

### *In Honor Of:*

#### **Alexandr Womack's adoption**

Henri Goettel

## Camp Scholarship Fund

### *In Memory Of:*

#### **Blake Ephraim**

Lon & Suzy Lowenstein

#### **Jennifer Beth Kay**

Estelle Edelbaum

## Have a Simcha to Share with the Community? Birthday, Anniversary, Amazing Accomplishment?

Please consider sponsoring an "upgrade" in someone's honor for a future Sunday morning at the Weiner Religious School!

Muffins  
Fruit Tray  
Cinnamon Rolls  
Flavored Coffee  
Flavored Cream Cheese



Share your naches and a nosh with our Beth Torah family!



You're just a scan and click away from a delicious morning!



## Jewish Summer Camp Experience Builds Jewish Identity

Studies prove that a residential (sleep over) Jewish Summer Camp experience is the BEST Jewish identity builder outside of the Jewish family!

We realize that residential Jewish summer camps are very expensive. Congregation Beth Torah wants to invest in your child's future by making a Jewish summer camper experience affordable for everyone. We would like you to consider sending your child to camp this summer by taking advantage of our generous scholarship program here at CBT. Please note that our scholarship funds are NOT limited to first time campers.

All scholarship applications are strictly confidential. While the deadline for scholarship applications is in the spring, we will be having a camp scholarship informational meeting on **Sunday, October 28th at 10:30 a.m. in the Bride's Room**. We will also be having a camp fair in the ulam that morning so you and your happy camper can ask questions about what camp might be a good fit for your family.



### Chavurah Meet and Greet

The meeting to form new chavurah groups is almost here! The date is **November 18th**. The time is 12:30 p.m. The location is Congregation Beth Torah.

Anybody who is interested in joining a chavurah should plan to be there. Meet other CBT members who are of like age and interests to form a group. This is a great way to become acquainted with other members and make new friends.

Groups meet once a month on a mutually agreeable date and time. Our own chavurah meets one Sunday a month for dinner and a presentation at a restaurant with a free private room, or in one of our homes.

When we first began, we didn't know each other, and now we've been together for 16 years. We are truly like a family. Come join us on November 18th so you can experience this with your own group.

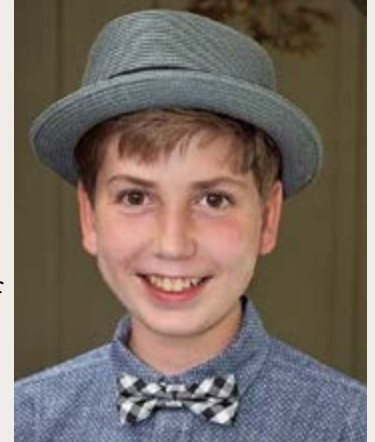
If you will be available to join us, please email us so we can plan to accommodate everyone. We are looking forward to meeting you at this gathering.

If you are interested but can't attend the meeting, please let us know. We form new chavurahs every other year, so we don't want you to have to wait 2 years for the next one!

Susie & Jerry Klinock  
[Susie.Klinock@gmail.com](mailto:Susie.Klinock@gmail.com)  
913-663-54466

## Upcoming Bar Mitzvahs

**Gabriel Diamond Decker**, son of Lainie and Jim Decker, will celebrate his Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, October 6, 2018 at Shabbat worship.



Gabriel is the brother of Isaac, and the grandson of Harry Krop and Dawn Burgess-Krop of Gainesville, Florida; Janet Krop and Larry Davis of Hollywood, Florida; and Orian and Betty Decker of Overland Park, Kansas.

He enjoys piano, drums, bass, composing, baseball, baking and board games. He is in 7th grade at Leawood Middle School, where he serves as a student ambassador. For his mitzvah project, Gabriel is collecting cooking and baking supplies to stock the Beth Torah kitchen. Extra supplies will be distributed to other organizations including reStart and JVS. Look for the designated bins at CBT and bring in new or gently used supplies.

The congregation, relatives and friends are invited to attend the Kiddush luncheon following the service.

**Jackson Hensley**, of Austin Texas, the son of Sally and Brennan Hensley, will celebrate his Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, October 13, 2018 at Shabbat worship.



Jackson is the brother of Cooper and Maddie, and the grandson of Charles (Bud) Weneck of Overland Park, Kansas; Cheri Lomonte of Austin, Texas; and Bud Hensley of Berkeley, California.

He is in 7th grade at Austin Jewish Academy and enjoys theatre, animals and art.



# Pick-a-Party!

The variety of activities and creativity of our members who are hosting the Pick-a-Party events are amazing. You won't want to MISS OUT! So, go to the following link: [beth-torah.org/30th-anniversary-pickaparty](http://beth-torah.org/30th-anniversary-pickaparty) to sign up TODAY. You'll enjoy meeting congregational members, involving a fun activity and FOOD, and have the opportunity to donate to Congregation Beth Torah. All parties are underwritten by our fabulous hosts. As a party participant, a portion of your ticket price will be considered a donation to CBT.

## **Saturday, November 3rd, 7:00 p.m. Make Your Mark—A Creative Workshop**

Linda and Barry Katz invite you to be enlivened and inspired at this hands-on workshop event that focuses on creative collaboration. This is an innovative and structured art workshop facilitated by two Hallmark Master Artists, Lynn Giunta and Craig Lueck. (Check out Instagram or Facebook to see their work.) Prompted and instructed by these experts, you will learn and explore with tools and techniques that make creating fast and fun! Come join us for dinner, drinks, the workshop and a chance to win one of the two

pieces of framed artwork that you helped to create. No artistic skill or talent is required. That will emerge as you work with your dinner companions and the talented and charming consulting artists. No supplies needed.

## **Saturday, March 23, 2019, 12:30 – 4:30 p.m. Lunch and Mahjong**

Hosted by Barbara and Fred Gustin. Enjoy Lunch and Learn to Play Mahjong; or Refresh your Skills; or Play like a pro!



## **From Strength to Strength**

**Thank you to Drs. Karen & Steve Arkin for being our  
Honorary 30th Anniversary Chair People**

**Save the Dates for these upcoming festivities  
as we continue to celebrate  
30 years of Congregation Beth Torah in 5779!**

**December 8, 2018:** We will have Dr. Ron Wolfson, inspirational author and motivation teacher, bring his warmth, insight, and humor to Beth Torah and fill our weekend with stories and best practices based on the principles of Relational Judaism. Save the date for that Erev Shabbat, December 7th for some Hanukkah lights and music, connecting with Dr. Wolfson, and some latkes!

**February 10, 2019:** For all of Beth Torah's 30 years, our Social Justice programs have been a cornerstone of our activities. Save the date of Sunday, February 10, 2019, to honor our past and explore new ways to bring some of our projects into the future. Join us for the Social Action *Panim el Panim* where we explore how to make these programs and projects even more relative in our lives and in the lives of the people we help. AND there will be a free lunch! How can you say "no?"

**April 13, 2019:** Our yearlong 30th Anniversary celebration will be drawing to a close, but not without one last big celebration:

**An Adult-Only evening of FUN! FUN! FUN!  
Great Food and Drinks • Dance to live music of the Jewbee Brothers • A Silent Auction**

**PLUS! There are still Parties to be Picked.**

Check out the [Pick-a-Party page on our website](http://beth-torah.org/30th-anniversary-pickaparty) to have some fun and meet new people in 5779.