



CONGREGATION
BETH TORAH

Sunday, December 2nd

- Consecration and Special Person Day
- Ethical Wills: How We Impart Our Values onto Future Generations with Rabbi Jon Kleinman

Friday, December 7th

- Hanukkah Worship and Scholar-in-Residence, Dr. Ron Wolfson

Saturday, December 8th

- Sichat Shabbat with Dr. Ron Wolfson

Sunday, December 9th

- Jewish Jumpers

Thursday, December 13th

- Rabbi Lunch and Learn

Saturday, December 15th

- Contemplation Night

Sunday, December 16th

- Jewish Jumpers

Weiner Religious School
Winter Break

- No Sunday classes on December 23rd and 30th.
- No TAG classes on December 19th, 26th, and January 2nd.

Because the Federal holidays of Christmas and New Year's Day fall on Tuesdays this year, the office will be closed on Monday, December 24th and December 31st.

Shabbat Schedule

- Erev Shabbat
 - Nosh: 6:00 p.m.
 - Worship: 6:30 p.m.
- Shabbat morning
 - Sichat Shabbat: 9:00 a.m.*
 - Worship: 10:30 a.m.

Tekiah

ISSUE 331
DECEMBER 2018
KISLEV/TEVET 5779

A Note from Rabbi Javier Cattapan



Jewish Values at Christmastime

Since its debut in 1956, the theater play, *The Diary of Anne Frank*, has been produced many times on stages across our country. Playwrights Frances Goodrich and Albert Hackett, long-time Hollywood writers, had little experience with a Holocaust story. Hackett once said, "We all felt we were working for a cause, not just a play."

Ten years earlier, team Goodrich and Hackett, in cooperation with a Jewish screenwriter, Joe Swarling, wrote the screenplay of the Christmas movie, *It's a Wonderful Life*. Fewer people know that the movie was based on "The Greatest Gift," a short story by Philip Van Doren Stern. Stern's father was a traveling Bavarian merchant, most likely a Jew who assimilated into the West Virginian countryside. So, as it turns out, *It's a Wonderful Life* has connections to Jews and to people of Jewish background or interested in Jewish topics.

There is, however, a deeper connection with Judaism found in the film's promotion of Jewish values. The message of the story is that one person's life is more impactful than anyone might imagine. The story is rooted in the Jewish teachings. The Talmud teaches, *kol yisrael arevim zeh ba-zeh*, meaning that we are all responsible for one another.

At one point in the movie, as George Bailey is heading out of town for his honeymoon, there is a run on the banks. He leaves his wife sitting in the back of a running taxi, and goes to the family bank where he finds anxious customers all wanting to get their deposits back. George

explains to them that they cannot have their money back because it's invested in their neighbors' houses. *Kol yisrael arevim*, "we are all responsible." George saved the bank and their houses and savings because he understood that we are all connected. George's values are relational: his welfare is tied to the welfare of all of his community.

In the movie, an angel takes George on a tour of his own town and life as if George had never been born. As a result, things are different and some very bad things happen in town. George finally understands that his role in history is essential. Bedford Falls will prosper only if people care for one another, and care for the welfare of their town.

Torah Portion

November 30/December 1 |
23 Kislev
Vayeshev

December 7/8 | 30 Kislev
Miketz

December 14/15 | 7 Tevet
Vayigash

December 21/22 | 14 Tevet
Vayechi

December 28/29 | 21 Tevet
Shemot

Our Pillars

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

Congregation Beth Torah:

Embraces **Energizes**
Illuminates **Inspires**
Responds **Connects**

OFFICERS

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

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Miccole Bowen	Amy Kane
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Todd Davison	Stephen Steigman
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Mike Ginsberg	Zach Zwibelman

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

100 Days OF Giving

This is the third year of the FUNdraiser that CBT enjoys so much. There is so much to celebrate. We invite you to join our 100 Days of Giving campaign to raise \$10,000 that supports excellence in programming: our music program, adult education, weekly nosh, oneg, Sunday breakfast and more.

100 Days of Giving began on November 23rd, and runs until March 2nd. For these 100 days, you can buy a day for \$100. Pick a day and celebrate, commemorate, remember or laugh. Many days have already been sold: past participants got first choice of the dates and now it's your turn to celebrate birthdays and anniversaries, or honor or remember a loved one.

Check the calendar on our website to see what days are still available. Don't have a date during this time? Your day's already taken? Go online and find something that tickles your funny bone—did you know?

- December 2nd is National Mutt Day.
- January 15th is National Bagel Day.
- February 17th is Random Act of Kindness Day.
- March 2nd is Dr. Seuss Day.

Decorate your day on the over-sized calendars posted in the ulam. And see your story, and the stories of our friends, brought to life on Facebook.

100 Days of Giving: Sold Dates

November

- 23 **Miccole & Nathan Bowen:** In honor of Jack's 10th birthday
- 24 **Barry & Linda Katz:** In honor of the generosity of everyone who participated in our High Holy Day Appeal
- 27 **Linda Zappulla:** In honor of Giving Tuesday
- 28 **Marcia & Larry Rittmaster:** In honor of our 53rd wedding anniversary

December

- 2 **Peter & Cindy Schmidt:** In honor of Cindy's birthday
- 7 **Alisa Kartch:** In honor of my birthday
- 8 **Rabbi Javier Cattapan & Kris Gray:** In celebration of Fado's 2nd birthday
- 16 **Andrew & Emily Kerstein:** In honor of Jonathan's 9th birthday
- 21 **The Stowe Family:** In honor of Bella's Bat Mitzvah
- 22 **Zachary Zwibelman:** It's my actual birthday!
- 27 **Mike Ginsberg:** In honor of the one year remembrance of my father, Ed Ginsberg
- 28 **Alyssa Schildhorn:** In remembrance of my mother on her birthday
- 29 **Allison Roodman:** In honor of Stella's birthday and Bat Mitzvah
- 31 **Dan & Darcy Hill:** In honor of our wedding anniversary

January

- 1 **Rabbis Jon & Monica Kleinman:** In honor of Monica's birthday

- 2 **Kerry & Robert Miller:** In honor of Oscar Miller's 16th birthday
- 3 **Lauren Aaronson & Phil Meltzer:** In honor of our wedding anniversary
- 5 **Boyd & Laura Bolter:** In honor of Laura's birthday
- 6 **Kelly Kaplan:** In honor of Jim's birthday
- 13 **Carol Ducak:** In honor of my birthday
- 20 **Pitler Family:** In honor of Tu B-Shevat, the New Year for Trees and a total lunar eclipse (maximum eclipse will be at 11:12 p.m.)
- 21 **Laura & Tim Intfen:** In honor of Martin Luther King, Jr.
- 22 **Andrew & Emily Kerstein:** In honor of Beatrice's 5th birthday
- 25 **Kerry & Robert Miller:** In honor of Greta Miller's 20th birthday

February

- 13 **Sharon & Jeff Altman:** In honor of the CBT Blood Drive: 10 years of saving lives!
- 14 **Javier Cattapan & Kris Gray:** In celebration of the 22nd anniversary of our first date
- 18 **Bobby & Mary Young:** In honor of Isaac's birthday
- 28 **Stephanie Fleetwood:** In honor of my 17th birthday

March

- 1 **Jo-Ann Harris:** In honor of my birthday



President's Corner

Barry Katz, President
bkatz12306@gmail.com

Linda and I hosted a Pick-a-Party a few weeks ago, diving deep into the pool of Relation-

al Judaism. It was a fun evening that allowed us to get better acquainted with a dozen fellow Beth Torah members. We all have bonds with each other through our shared Beth Torah experiences. But connecting to people in your (or their) home is a great way to build on those relationships in a meaningful, but different way. The thirty or so Pick-a-Parties that are taking place throughout our 30th anniversary year have provided lots of nice opportunities for this. This is definitely something to build into our congregational life on an ongoing basis.

We will all have the opportunity to learn more about Relational Judaism when Dr. Ron Wolfson comes to Beth Torah as our Scholar-in-Residence December 6th-8th. In addition to working with the Board and the Staff, Dr. Wolfson will be sharing his insights and expertise with the congregation on Friday night and Saturday morning that weekend. More details

about this are elsewhere in this Tekiah.

A little further into the future (April 13th) will be our final 30th anniversary event—a dance party featuring live music from the Jewbie Brothers playing tunes from the last 30 years—and a silent auction. The musicians include Beth Torah members Ron Altman, Jim Appelbaum, Jerry Fehr, Eric Morgestern and Larry Myer as well as Rabbi Scott White and Bart Cohn. Thanks are due to **Paula Becker** for chairing the overall event, **Susie and Jerry Klinock** for taking charge of the silent auction and **Drs. Karen and Steve Arkin**, the honorary co-chairs of the entire 30th anniversary celebration year.

Our 100 Days of Giving Campaign is just now underway. I jumped in to take one of the very first days in honor of the very generous response of our congregation to the High Holy Day Appeal. The number of individuals who donated was 138 (including a few non-members) and the amount donated was just over \$57,000. It is encouraging that so many of you were willing to say “Yes” to Beth Torah in this meaningful way (including those who made donations to the Educating our Future Campaign or oth-

er funds prior to the High Holy Days). Additional contributions to the Appeal may be made through our website.

As we learned last month, Emily Tummons has decided not to stay on as our Music Director when her contract expires on June 30th. A search committee has been formed to find her successor (see list below). In the meantime, Emily will continue to oversee our music and musicians and use her talents to enhance our worship experience. We are grateful to Emily for all she has brought to us during her tenure here, and we look forward to what she has in store for us over the next seven months.

Thank You

to this dedicated group
of volunteers who will
lead the search for a successor to
Emily Tummons:

Howard Pitler (Chairperson)
hpitler@gmail.com

Henri Goettel
henri5711@att.net

Janice Schonwetter
jschonwetter@gmail.com

Tina Shea
tshea7679@gmail.com

David Spizman
david.spizman@gmail.com

Elizabeth Willen
lizwillen70@gmail.com

Staff representation:
Laura Intfen
lintfen@beth-torah.org

Rabbi Monica Kleinman
mkleinman@beth-torah.org

Thank you to those of you
who filled out our music survey.
Look for updates from
this committee coming soon.



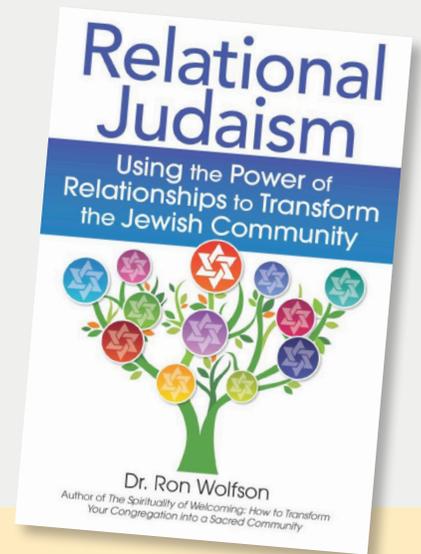


**Celebrating 30 years of Beth Torah
Continues with Our
Scholar-in-Residence
on Shabbat/Hanukkah night!**

Envisioning the Relational Synagogue of the 21st Century

We look forward to seeing you for this amazing opportunity.

For more information and to see Dr. Wolfson's biography see our website.



Dr. Wolfson will be here at Beth Torah from December 6th-8th. He will be working closely with our Board of Trustees and staff members on the 6th and the morning of the 7th to help the leadership of Beth Torah take the next steps in building connections here.

Then, on **Friday night, December 7th**, grab your menorah and some candles and plan on spending the 6th night of Hanukkah with us!

6:00 p.m. Light your menorahs while you nosh on delicious latkes with all the trimmings.

6:30 p.m. Worship with amazing music from our Men's Group and the Hanukkah Choir.

7:15 p.m. Get ready to be amazed as Dr. Wolfson presents: "Envisioning the Relational Synagogue of the 21st Century."

8:00 p.m. Oneg and Overtime with Dr. Wolfson as we enjoy some sufganiyot and other oneg treats while Dr. Wolfson answers your questions about Relational Judaism.

Shabbat morning, December 8th, 9:00 a.m. Dr. Wolfson will lead our Sichat Shabbat class in the library and teach us, "The Seven Questions You're Asked in Heaven."

Congregation Beth Torah is proud to be hosting Dr. Wolfson as part of our 30th Anniversary Celebration.

Drs. Steve and Karen Arkin, Honorary Co-Chairs

Say "yes" to Beth Torah and be a connector as we move from strength to strength and our next 30 years.



“...They will live in safety, and no one will make them afraid” – Ezekiel 34:28

Oh that this were true today. With the victims of the October 27th massacre in Pittsburgh still on our Yahrzeit list and the memories of April 13, 2014 shootings in our own back yard still emblazoned in our brains and in our hearts; we are afraid. And while there is no security blanket to be pulled tight around us to shield us from hate, doing nothing is not an option.

Four years ago, we chose to lock our doors 24/7. This was a very tough decision as it flies in the face of our desire to be open to all who want to enter. We installed security cameras front and back, installed a buzzer entry system and introduced our members to those handy dandy purple and black fobs. In the past four years, there has been some inconvenience as volunteers have needed to be at the doors and congregants having entered the building with their fobs when no staff member was here, only to set off our alarm. But it is a system we have grown used to and the complaints about these barriers have been few and far between.

But, we must do more.

The Union for Reform Judaism, Homeland Security and our own Jewish Federation of Greater Kansas City have been generous with information, webinars and articles. The lay leadership

and staff of Congregation Beth Torah are committed to the safety of everyone who enters our building. To the best of our ability, we are taking continual steps to put into action the commitment to balance a welcoming atmosphere and a safe one.

The Jewish People Policy Institute has released a **Checklist for Improving Preparedness** for Reform congregations. It includes a risk evaluation, formulation for various crisis scenarios, formulation for prevention and protections plans and real life action plans for developing community management capabilities. The document also contains implementation instructions for exercises/drills and simulation games for staff and volunteers as well as tips on development of relationships with governmental and non-governmental authorities and agencies in order to exchange information and to reach out for, or react to, help.

We have emergency procedures and plans in place, but it is time to update everything. The world is changing. At the time that this *Tekiah* article is published, I will have met with Chuck Green, who is the Director of Community Security for the Jewish Federation of Greater Kansas City. The goal of the meeting is to review the checklist together and a concrete road map of training for our staff, board and volunteers will be constructed. This is where YOU come in.

The more trained volunteers we have that understand the motto “see something, say something” and what a suspicious person and/or package looks like and how to report it and keep yourself safe and your neighbor safe, the more empowered we are as a community. There will be some training announced over the next few months in the *Tekiah* and in our E-News blast. If you are interested in participating in any of these trainings, when you see one announced, then sign up.

Thank you to everyone who showed up the weekend after the Pittsburgh shooting. We gathered with strength on Erev Shabbat with about 380 Beth Torah members and from the community at large. The support both Friday night, and Shabbat morning, when we had about 130 attendees, was amazing and hope-filled. We are stronger together.

And, those who #ShowedUpForShabbat felt it.





Social Justice abounds at Beth Torah!

I am so delighted to highlight just some of the wonderful acts of loving kindness happening at Beth Torah.

Our younger grades are passionately working to make the world around them a better place. Some of our accomplishments this fall include:

- Words of support to congregants at Congregation Tree of Life in Squirrel Hill, Pennsylvania;
- Packing treat bags for BTTY's annual reStart Halloween party;
- Learning about shiva and how we can comfort those who have lost a loved one;
- Exploring our role as partners with God in making our world a place we are proud of.

At TAG we:

- pack bags to provide food for children whose households are food insecure;
- are learning about innovations from Israel that help people and the environment;
- learning about Judaism's principles of inclusion compassion and how we can bring those values into our world.

Our adults are doing some amazing work, as

well! A HUGE thank you goes out to Marcia Rittmaster, who spearheaded our Voter to Voter program, making voter registration and voting accessible to many. After things have quieted down we will be able to see the direct results of our impact- how many of those Marcia and her team reached out to actually submitted a ballot!

We raised awareness of refugee and immigration challenges at our first Beit Midrash Shabbat evening, and shared a Beit Keneset night learning about how to organize around a cause we're passionate about.

Our Ethical Food Team is taking their ideas from plans to reality—in December the team will work with our teens to discuss how to make good choices when deciding what to eat and how. Each decision we make reflects our values, and we want to provide as many opportunities as possible to make a positive choice!

Looking for a volunteer opportunity on Christmas? A team is getting together to volunteer at an elder care facility and bring some brightness to those staying inpatient that day. Contact Scott Franklin, or shoot me

an email and I'm happy to keep you in the loop as we know more!

The Refugee

Birthday Party is coming up sooner than we think! Please donate gifts or volunteer to help wrap presents or throw the party—you can visit <http://tiny.cc/Bday2019> for more details. Please purchase an extra present this Hanukkah season for a child who may have never received a birthday gift.

Finding this intriguing? Want to learn more about ways to make the world better with Beth Torah? **Mark your calendar for Sunday, February 10th** for a Social Justice event to see some of the amazing things your Beth Torah friends are doing! We will celebrate our past accomplishments and look towards building a better future. Entitled *Panim l'panim* (Face to Face), you'll get to see the faces and hear the stories of Beth Torah's own who are working to make our world a better place for all. Are you interested in showcasing your own initiative? Contact Marcia Rittmaster for more information!



BTTY

We had a great time at NFTY's Fall Chavurah! It was time well spent hanging out with old friends as well

as meeting new ones; we even met three nice people from Iowa who were coming to their first NFTY event. This is the first time I can remember that Iowa sent a delegation, so that was pretty special. We filled our time with programs giving us a new perspective on the consequences of our choices, animal rights, Israel, civic engagement, and Camp Rainbow. Denver and St. Louis also bring their *Shinshin* (Israeli youth ambassadors) to NFTY events, and it's always fun to get to see them.

Our next event was another Date Night Babysitting. It was a successful night full of arts and crafts, watching the movie *Wreck it Ralph*, decorating cookies, and a whole lot of gaga ball. We're excited to continue

fundraising to support our great programming. Last year we used the money to go to City Museum in St. Louis, and we hope to do something similar again this year. Make sure to stay on the lookout for future babysitting events in order to get some much-deserved R&R and support the youth group!

Our only event in December is ice skating at Crown Center on Saturday, December 1st from 3:00-6:00 p.m. We'll meet at Beth Torah and arrange for rides to Crown Center. Admission is \$7 and skate rental is \$3, but you may bring your own skates. Please contact Rabbi Kleinman at mkleinman@beth-torah.org, or call the office at 913-498-2212 to RSVP if you are interested, so that we can make sure we have enough cars, and anyone in 6th-12th grade is welcome to attend. We try to do this one every year because it's so fun; you won't want to miss it!

If you have a 7th or 8th grader, mark your calendars for March 8th-10th for JYG

Chavurah right here in Independence! The weekend is a wonderful opportunity for 7th and 8th grade Reform Jewish youth in the region to join together for a weekend of fun and learning. We will spend the weekend celebrating Shabbat, participating in fun programs, and making new friends. Registration opens on January 7th. If you have any questions about NFTY Missouri Valley, please don't hesitate to ask. We would love a great Beth Torah turnout!

If you have any questions about JYG or BTTY, you can contact one of the above contacts, or you can reach me at swfine42@gmail.com. Make sure to join the BTTY Facebook group if you're not already a part of it and want to keep up-to-date with all we're doing. We also have a Remind account set up that texts out reminders. If you're interested in joining that, please text "@bttty5779" to 81010. Have a happy Hanukkah!

Until next time, Sam

Faculty Support and Appreciation Committee

Our “faculty support” committee finally has a name—and some NEW projects. Thanks to Rabbi Monica Kleinman for suggesting *Chevrei Ha Tzevet* (loosely translated “A Team of Friends”) as the official name for our group. We think it’s a perfect description.

We are excited to share profiles of two more faculty members this month. Meet Rachel Bolter and Elaine Tobias.



RACHEL BOLTER

Grade(s) you teach/what is your role at the WRS? Currently, I teach Rosh Hodesh: It’s a Girl Thing! Rosh Hodesh is a community-wide program for 7th and 8th grade Jewish girls. This year, we have fifteen girls from various synagogues participating. In addition, I am the Religious School Administrator for Beth Torah. You can find me at the front desk in the office fifteen hours of the week. In the past, I have taught 5th grade, served as the Hebrew through Movement teacher and the TAG Administrator, and was a Madricha for various grades throughout all four years of high school.

Where are you/your family from? I’ve lived in Lenexa, Kansas for my entire life aside from a few short interludes! I lived in Lawrence while I went to KU and for a year after graduating. And, of course, I spent several summers at GUCI in Zionsville, Indiana and a summer at Kutz in Warwick, New York. Last year, I completed a 23andMe DNA kit which confirmed my Ashkenazi Jewish ancestry!

Family info (spouse, children – names & ages): I’m single as a pringle but I have a wonderfully supporting family. My “fur baby” is Archer... a crazy, black and white Havanese-Poodle mix. In addition to him, I’m the daughter of Boyd and Laura Bolter, both VERY involved members of Beth Torah. Hannah is my older sister and she is married to Dann. They have a 3-year-old daughter named Amelia who is the smartest, goofiest niece a girl could ask for. If you’ve been around Beth Torah for quite a while, you may have known my amazing grandmother, Anne Jacobs, who I miss every day.

How many years have you been teaching at CBT? Similar to others who have answered this question, that’s a bit hard to determine. I began as a Madricha in 2005 during my freshman year of high school. I was a Madricha at both Sunday School and Hebrew School. I continued to do that throughout high school, and at some point, I co-taught a year of Sunday School with my sister. When Beth Torah implemented Hebrew through Movement, I was asked to be the coordinator for that program. For one year, I served as the administrator for TAG on Wednesday nights. Finally, this year is my second as the Rosh Hodesh Facilitator. So, all in all it seems like it’s been about ten years!

What do you like to do when you are not lesson planning or in the classroom with our students? I’m studying at UMKC to get my master’s degree in Counseling. My classes are at night so during the day, I’m working two part-time jobs. As I mentioned previously, I am the Religious School Administrator here at CBT. I also work at the Jewish Community Center as the Administrative Assistant for Camp and School-Age Services. Aside from work, I enjoy spending time with my family, coloring, listening to music and, honestly, I like studying for my classes!

Favorite teaching moment in the Weiner Religious School: Several years ago, I taught an Israeli Dancing chug during Sunday School. It was so amazing to be able to engage the kids, teach them about Israel and have fun all at the same time!



ELAINE TOBIAS

Grade(s) you teach/your role at the WRS? Library and Madrichim Coordinator

Previously taught 5th and then 6th grade until 6th grade moved to Wednesday nights.

Where are you/your family from? I was born and graduated high school in Wisconsin, but after about 15 years on the east coast, I was transferred here to the Kansas City area in 1992. Both of my sons were born in Connecticut, but we moved here when they were in elementary school.

Family info (spouse, children – names & ages): My oldest son, Aaron, lives in downtown Kansas City and, at 35, seems to be a determined bachelor. Matt is 32 and married to the wonderful Azia Tobias. You may see her on Sunday mornings as a para chasing Alex around the synagogue.

Both Aaron and Matt have a legacy at Beth Torah. Aaron was the first b’nai mitzvah to include the *avot v’imahot* in Shabbat morning services and had his Eagle Scout ceremony at CBT, and Matt is known as the young man who almost dropped the Torah.

Continued on page 8

Continued from page 7

How many years have you been teaching at CBT? I honestly don't remember whether exactly when I started, but it was either 2000 or 2001.

What do you like to do when you are not lesson planning or in the classroom with our students? During the day, you will find me working in a food plant or designing food systems for various clients. I enjoy reading (I'm working my way through Anne McCaffrey's Pern books in chronological order right now), crocheting, sewing, embroidery and spending time with family.

Favorite teaching moment in the Weiner Religious School: By far, the most memorable event (which still gives me goosebumps when I think about it), was one of our Exodus re-enactments. For years, we re-enacted the Exodus story walking around the area and recreating various activities the Israelites did. Down by the creek, our "Moses" would ask God to part the sea. One dreary, overcast Sunday, Liam Nielsenschultz was our Moses and when he asked God to let us cross, the sun suddenly came out

and shown on the creek. There was a collective gasp from all of us.

Although that was the most memorable, I enjoy being around the learners every Sunday. It continues to be a stimulating experience for me.

• • •

In addition to sharing these profiles, our committee has cooked up some Hanukkah surprises for teachers and madrichim and will be marking the birthdays of these great individuals, thanks to the baking talents of Ellen Merrill. If you'd like to join our little group (because everyone needs a few more friends), you are always welcome. Our goal is simple – we are working hard to make sure that everyone knows what a knowledgeable, caring and talented group of individuals are supporting the Jewish education of every single student in our Weiner Religious School. We want to be sure they know how much they are appreciated!

Your *Chevrei Ha Tzevet*,
Maggie Adler, Ellen Merrill,
Gloria Pitler, Marcia Rittmaster and
Eva Steiner

In Memoriam:

William Ivan Palmer I
Grandfather of Shari Womack

Rowena Marcella Jacobs
Mother and mother-in-law of
Annette and Joel Fish

Dorothy Kaufman
Mother and mother-in-law of
Denise and Steve Ellenberg and
grandmother to Blaire Ellenberg,
Grant Ellenberg, and Brian Perner

Sam Zavelo
Husband of Donna Zavelo,
father and father-in-law of
Scott and Kim Zavelo, and
brother-in-law of Paul Wacknov

Robert Worthly
Brother of Beth Oberman

Mazel tov to:

Sandi Miller & Chuck Cantor
on the birth of
their first grandchild.
Sephira MiriAish Short
was born on October 31, 2018
to Rabbi Rachel and Kelly Short.

Ed & Sandi Fried
on the marriage of their son,
Josh Fried, to Erin Fried

Wizards Wanted! Hogwarts is Hiring!

The Harry Potter Pick-a-Party is scheduled for
Saturday, March 30th, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.

Hogwarts is hiring (at a pay rate of \$0) volunteer prefects
and professors for the following positions:

Prefects (4 needed)

Divination

Transfiguration

Charms

The Owlery

House Elves

Honeydukes Barwitch

Defense Against the Dark Arts

The position of Potions Master is Filled.

Applicants should send an owl (or email) to the Headmaster,
Emily Kerstein at kersteins@hotmail.com. All new hires
will be required to arrive early and stay late to receive their
lesson plans, set up, and break down. Please bring your own
robes If you have them!

Already applied for a position? Please confirm your contact
information with the Headmaster and that you will be avail-
able for the party.

If this sounds like fun and your child has not gotten his or
her Hogwarts Letter, you can still register for the Harry
Potter Pick-a-Party on the CBT website. Recommended
ages for students is 6-10 years old but we will accept
talented witches and wizards of any age.



At the latter edge of fall this year, our CBT Men's Group held a bonfire. The weather was in the high 60s, with an invigorating breeze. It was a wonderful opportunity to just "hang out," and enjoy each other's company. As Todd Davisson put it, "When you strike a match, or two, of human connection and shared spirit, you never know just what kind of fire you might inspire."

Men's Group members Mike Fine and Tim Intfen joined Todd in planning everything for this bonfire, including making the hot apple cider, delegating who brought what snacks and supplies, and setting everything up. We all hung out for a good while, making the fire, making the S'mores and chatting. Then we did Havdalah, then hung out some more, sang a bit, kept stoking the fire.

Here are some thoughts from some of the singers who were there!



John Lantos: Our bonfire "occurred, coincidentally, on the evening of the shooting at the Tree



of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh. It was comforting and deeply moving to be there that night, breaking up the firewood for kindling, building the fire, and then being together, showing strength and solidarity in the face of hatred and evil."

Chuck Cantor: "As someone once said, 'Light a campfire and everyone's a storyteller.' The Havdalah bonfire was no exception, with people sharing stories and memories under a beautiful moon. Likewise, the Men's Group has been adding to the story of Beth Torah since its inception, and continues to add to our congregation's life."

Tim Intfen: "The sun was starting to set, and fire-building skills learned in Scouting or summer camp bubbled to the surface... The first stars were out, and we all felt comfort. Sometimes we talked. Sometimes we fell silent. But mostly, we set our marshmallows on fire and smashed them into graham crackers with pieces of chocolate, followed by some hot cider. John played familiar tunes on the guitar, while Ron drummed on the tof."

Larry Myer: "It was a great opportunity to spend time with everyone in a non-musical, non-rehearsal-type environment . . . It was an evening of great conversation, snacks, and getting to know each other a little better."

Mike Fine: "Since our group began in 2015 I have grown both as a singer and as a person. I have made life-long friends, and the bonfire was just the culmination of this great experience. From the S'mores, and Havdalah under the stars, to singing around the campfire, it was just a perfect night."

Stan Osman: "I arrived to a roaring bonfire,

smiling faces, and welcoming looks. And then there was the food! Was this a family gathering? A Chiefs tailgate party? No, it was



actually the CBT Men's Group bonfire, organized by Emily and a few members of the group!"

Todd Davisson: "It seems so fitting that Larry Myer commented that night, 'It takes a choir to make a fire.' He's right. We had a wonderful evening that Saturday night, looking back over the past three years, and appreciating what each person has brought to our group."



This bonfire was indeed a good chance to take a look back over the last three years together, and relive some great memories, like our serenading visits to Village Shalom, Spring Sessions, High Holy Days, and other moments in the sun. At one

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point in the evening, I read aloud to them from my board report of exactly three years ago. In that report, I had referred to Rav Kook's teaching that every soul is a flame of God, pointing out that when two candles are brought close together, flames actually start to lean toward each other, becoming one fire. Our souls can do this too, if we just get together!

In that board report of 2015, I went on to say: "The second they walked in the door for our first MG rehearsal, you could

tell they instinctively knew our unspoken mission: to make holy fire. The energy is so high, and the warmth and camaraderie that this group generates together could keep the building heated until next February. I am delighted to see this explosion of high morale, of fun, of not taking ourselves too seriously, and in that process actually accomplishing some very serious work of bonding, lifting each other up, making new friends, laughing, and sensing the unifying pleasure of smashingly good human singing. **May the fire spread.**"

Who doesn't love a FREE LUNCH?

Help us celebrate 30 Years of Social Action at
Congregation Beth Torah

on **Sunday, February 10, 2019 from noon-1:30 p.m.**

We'll begin with a delicious lunch prepared by master chefs Adrienne Applebaum and Susan Waxman and spend just a few minutes celebrating our past successes. Most importantly, everyone will have a chance to help us take Social Action to the next level through creative "relational" projects that will help our congregation and our community.

No RSVPs are necessary.
Watch for more information.

Contemplation Night

**Saturday
December 15th
6:30pm
Congregation Beth Torah**



Not coincidentally, our 30th year of “January at reStart” coincides with the congregation’s 30th anniversary celebration. Our commitment to this facility and its residents represents our longest and most popular social action program. More than 120 volunteers prepare lunch and dinner at reStart for families that are seeking long-term housing.

reStart has evolved from a shelter for homeless men and women to a facility that provides workplace skills for residents. The organization’s goal is to assist residents in securing permanent housing. In 2017 the organization was able to place 879 individuals in permanent housing, including 144 veterans. With the mission of “empowering people and ending homelessness,” reStart has evolved from a shelter for homeless men and women to a facility that provides workplace skills for residents.

Our Role at reStart

The weekend of January 5th-6th and consecutive weekends that month Beth Torah prepares and serves lunch and dinner at the facility. Our congregation purchases all the food consumed in January for reStart. This is a fun and rewarding project for families, chavurot, or individual members and their friends.

Extensive remodeling of the kitchen and dining areas occurred several years ago. Gone are the leaky pipes, the bright orange cone covering the kitchen drain cleanout, and a dining room with missing floor tiles. The kitchen sparkles with new and additional equipment. The dining hall is beautifully lit with a restaurant style set-up to replace the institutional arrangement of long tables. In summer, a patio with barbecue grills is available outside the dining facility.

Shift Times

All food for the month is purchased by Beth Torah and prepared at reStart. We have a lunch shift (9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.) and a dinner shift that begins at 2:00 p.m. and ends at 6:30 p.m. We need a total of six people per shift. Each shift must have three adult volunteers. Children age 10 and over are welcome to participate with their families. To sign up a group, please get a commitment from each group member to insure there are no conflicts for that time slot. More than a week before your shift, Sharon Altman will send you directions and other logistical information that you need.

Many Beth Torah members are unable to commit to a specific time in advance because of personal or business schedule uncertainties. We welcome those folks to volunteer on a substitute list should a scheduled member not be able to attend. Naturally, if you have a conflict when

called, you can certainly decline.

For a variety of reasons, other CBT members are not able to attend but would like to be involved with Beth Torah’s signature project. If you like to bake, we are always in need of desserts. Not baked Alaska, though, but cookies, cupcakes, and brownies that residents can take back to their rooms. Drop them off at Beth Torah and your sweet offering will be transported to reStart.

Sign-Up!

For 28 consecutive years, the congregation has prepared and served meals for the month of January at this shelter. To participate in this social justice project, CBT members can sign-up for “January at reStart” through a link on the home page of the Beth Torah website or by contacting Scott Franklin at sfranklin8@att.net.



Hanukkah Blessings

Candles are added to the *hanukkiyah* (menorah) from right to left but are kindled from left to right. The newest candle is lit first. (On the Shabbat of Hanukkah, kindle the Hanukkah lights first and then the Shabbat candles.)

Light the *shamash* (the helper candle) first, using it to kindle the rest of the Hanukkah lights. As you do, say or sing:

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ לְהַדְלִיק נֵר שֶׁל חֲנֻכָּה.

Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech haolam, asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav v'tsivanu l'hadlik ner shel Hanukkah.

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of all, who hallows us with mitzvot, commanding us to kindle the Hanukkah lights.

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, שֶׁעָשָׂה נִסִּים
לְאַבוֹתֵינוּ בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם בְּזִמְנֵי הַזֶּה.

Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech haolam, she-asah nisim laavoteinu v'imoteinu bayamim hahaeim baz'man hazeh.

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of all, who performed wondrous deeds for our ancestors in days of old at this season.

For first night only:

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, שֶׁהַחַיִּינוּ וְקִיַּמְנוּ
וְהַגִּיעָנוּ לַזִּמְנֵי הַזֶּה.

Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech haolam, shehecheyanu v'kiy'manu v'higianu laz'man hazeh.

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of all, for giving us life, for sustaining us, and for enabling us to reach this season.

Hanerot Halalu

We kindle these lights because of the wondrous deliverance You performed for our ancestors. During these eight days of Hanukkah, these lights are sacred; we are not to use them but only to behold them, so that their glow may rouse us to give thanks for Your wondrous acts of deliverance.

• TRIBUTES •

Beth Torah General Fund

Ronald Zipper
Rabbi Levin & Kacy Levin

In Memory Of:

Pat Sylvia

Randi & Bill Lefko
Karen Loggia & David Spizman
Mel & Sylvia Cosner

Joe Optican

Richard Optican

Sigmund Kaufman

Julius Stern

Judy & Marshall Weingarten

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In Memory Of:

Hadassah Salz

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Educating Our Future Fund

Donna Gould

In Memory Of:

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SueAnn Strom

David Morgenstern

Sharon & Jeff Altman

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Henri Goettel

Anne Levy

Margie & Steve Cooper

Dorothy Kaufman

Judy & Lloyd Hellman
Henri Goettel

In Honor Of:

John Lantos running in the Jerusalem Marathon

Martha Gershun & Don Goldman

Donna Gould being among the “Inaugural 70 over 70” honored by Shepherds Center of KC Central

The Marriage of Ashley & Josh Katz

Henri & David Goettel’s 40th Wedding Anniversary

Raymond Antoniewicz’s Bar Mitzvah

Bella Stowe’s Upcoming Bat Mitzvah

Margie & Steve Cooper

Music & Choir Fund

In Memory Of:

Everett Evnen

Dr. Jim & Kelly Kaplan
Emily Tummons

In Honor Of:

The Marriage of Ashley & Josh Katz

Rabbi Vered Harris & Benji Harris

The birth of our granddaughter, Sephira Short

Chuck & Sandi Cantor

Amy Dennis Pierron Music Fund

In Memory Of:

Rowena Jacobs

Jon & Sandy Gale

Joel H. Winston Social Justice Fund

Edith Zucker

Marge & Barry Skikne

Blood Drive

Thank you to everyone who
donated blood in November.
Thirty one units of blood were
collected and we welcomed a
first time donor!

Our next blood drive will be
Wednesday, February 13th.
Look for more information as
that date gets close so you too
can be a life saver.



Upcoming Bar and Bat Mitzvah Dates



Eli Morris Maker will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah at Shabbat worship on Saturday, December 8, 2018 at 10:30 a.m. Eli is a seventh grader at Lakewood Middle School. He is a Jr. Thespian and been in many plays and musicals at The Culture House and Lakewood Middle School. Eli represented Kansas City in the Arts Fest at the Maccabi Games last summer while competing in improv. Eli also enjoys art, cooking, playing video games, and spending time with family and friends. Eli is the son of Stephanie Kolb and Josh Maker. He is the grandson of Sharon and Milton Katz of Overland Park, KS and Pauline and Larry Maker of Toronto. Eli is the brother of Asa Maker, Shia Kolb, Ezra, Noa, and Hannah Maker. For Eli's mitzvah project, he chose to give back to Congregation Beth Torah. With the help of his step-grandpa, Natan Kolb, he built two new picnic benches outside for everyone to enjoy. The congregation, family, and friends are invited to attend the kiddush luncheon following the service.



Bella Charna Stowe, daughter of Andrew and Genna Stowe, will celebrate becoming a Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, December 22, 2018 during Shabbat worship.

Bella is the sister of Nathan, and the granddaughter of Larry and Ann Blumberg (Des Moines, Iowa), David and Marilyn Stowe (Destin, Florida), and Susan Rush (Overland Park).

Bella is in 7th grade at Indian Woods Middle School. She loves to sing, and has performed many times at CBT. She also performs with the Allegro choir of Kansas City. She enjoys reading, baking, and animals.

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



Estella Rachel Roodman will celebrate becoming a Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, December 29th (her actual 13th birthday), 2018 at Shabbat worship.

Stella is the daughter of Allison Roodman. She is the granddaughter of Stan Roodman and Estelle Roodman of blessed memory. She considers Roberta Berg to be the grandmother she never got to have. She is a 7th-grader at Academie Lafayette, a French immersion charter school in Kansas City, MO. She is fluent in French (and learning Spanish) and enjoyed going to France in May and staying with a host family for two weeks. She is devoted to her dog Turtle and our late dog Sam. She loves swimming, bicycling, ice skating, Girl Scouts and basketball. She is currently on her middle school girls basketball team and enjoys playing the position her coach calls "a tree." Stella enjoys being tall and getting things off high shelves. She has attended Camp Encourage, a camp for kids with Autism Spectrum Disorder, as a peer model for the past two summers. She is very helpful to her mom and her friends and enjoys being a prepared camper. She enjoys TAG on Wednesday evenings and volunteering as a madricha on Sunday mornings. She loves playing with young children. She has many half-siblings and was fortunate enough to spend time with sisters Olivia, Miranda and Anya and brother Lazlo this past summer. The congregation is invited to join the family and friends at worship and for the kiddush luncheon that follows.

HAVE YOU HEARD THE NEWS?

As part of CBT's 30th anniversary celebration, there will be a silent auction next April. The auction committee has begun work in preparation for the big event. We are asking congregation members for donations of new merchandise and services. We need items in ALL price ranges. If anyone has a big ticket item to donate, such as the use of a condo, that would be wonderful! If you have something to donate, please contact us as soon as possible.

Susie & Jerry Klinock
Silent Auction Chairmen

913-663-5446
Susie.Klinock@gmail.com

• COMMUNITY NEWS •

A CELEBRATION OF LIGHTS FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

HANUKKAH

GLOW PARTY

BEYACHAD CHOEGIM / TOGETHER WE CELEBRATE

SUNDAY, DEC. 9 | 4-6 PM

DRESS IN WHITE + LIGHT UP THE NIGHT!
 MENORAH LIGHTING / DJ DANCE PARTY
 GAMES / CRAFTS / PHOTO BOOTH
 SUFGANIYOT / HOT CHOCOLATE BAR +
 KOSHER SNACKS

REGISTER (\$15/FAMILY)
 THEJCK.ORG/GLOW

First Birthdays: A Party for Resettled Refugees

Learn how to donate gifts
and volunteer at:

* **Sunday January 20th,**
2:00-4:00 p.m.

<http://tiny.cc/Bday2019>

Della Lamb Community Center
 500 Woodland Ave, KCMO

Saturday, January 26, 2019
 Campus Social Hall
 Doors open 7:00 pm
 Game begins at 7:30 pm sharp!

Master and Mistress of Ceremonies
Jake and Jennifer Schlozman

RECRUIT YOUR TEAM NOW!

- \$96 team (up to 8)/\$12 person
- Pre-registration + payment required by noon, Jan 23
- Register TheJCK.org/TriviaBowl or (913) 327.8007.

Need childcare? We've got you covered. Call (913) 327.4693

TEAM TRIVIA BOWL

XVIII

WE are
 THE
 COMMUNITY
 We
 FEED

AND THE WORK OF
 TZEDAKAH SHALL BRING PEACE.

ISAIAH 32:17